

Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Support Services, 2013–2015

Client: U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense

Overview

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) provides advice and recommendations on matters and policies relating to the recruitment and retention, treatment, employment, integration, and well-being of women in the Armed Forces. Under this contract, Insight provides research support to DACOWITS members and staff, with the goal of preparing and submitting the DACOWITS annual report. Each year, DACOWITS selects specific topics for study and gathers information from both primary and secondary sources on these topics. These sources include briefings from military representatives and subject matter experts, data and other information collected during site visits from focus groups and interactions with Service members, and literature reviews.

In 2014, DACOWITS conducted 40 focus groups at 8 military installations across the country. Insight collected and analyzed these

qualitative and quantitative data to support the recommendations DACOWITS put forth in its annual report. As part of this process, Insight transcribed minutes from each focus group and analyzed the data for Committee members to use to inform their recommendations. Insight also produced the annual report for DACOWITS that outlines its recommendations, reasoning, summaries of briefings it received over the year, focus group findings, and a review of recent relevant literature.

Insight has supported DACOWITS research on the following topics:

- Sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention and response
- Reproductive healthcare
- Career accessions of enlisted women
- Effective and full integration of women into previously closed positions and units
- Career progression and mentoring

The report provides DACOWITS' recommendations, which have been instrumental in effecting changes to laws and policies pertaining to military women over the past 60 years.

Products

Briefing to DACOWITS Committee in June 2014 to summarize installation visits and focus group findings; annual reports (2014, 2015, 2016) available at <http://dacowits.defense.gov/ReportsMeetings.aspx>

