

## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Support Services: 2016–2018

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. To prepare the annual report, DACOWITS gathers diverse information through literature reviews, briefings with military representatives and subject matter experts, and data collected from interactions with Service members, including approximately 60 focus groups per year. The information collected relates to sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention and response, reproductive healthcare, recruitment and retention of women, effective and full integration of women into previously closed positions and units, career progression and mentoring,

and childcare, among many other themes. DACOWITS' resulting recommendations have been instrumental in effecting changes to laws and policies pertaining to military women over the past 60 years.

For this project, Insight—

- Collected and analyzed focus group data
- Prepared a comprehensive focus group report
- Produced DACOWITS' annual report, compiling recommendations and supporting evidence in a comprehensive document for the Secretary of Defense and other Department of Defense decisionmakers
- Delivered training to DACOWITS' members on research practices and procedures
- Conducted ad hoc literature reviews
- Supported DACOWITS' quarterly business meetings, transcribing minutes and providing research expertise

### Products

Annual Reports for 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 available at <http://dacowits.defense.gov/ReportsMeetings.aspx>

2016 Focus Group, 2017 Focus Group Report, 2018 Focus Group Report

