



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

INFO MEMO

March 14, 2005 – 5:30 PM

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: DR. DAVID S. C. CHU, USD(P&R)

SUBJECT: *David S.C. Chu 14 March 05*
Women in the Army (WITA) Policy

- The issue involves the Army's plan for its Forward Support Companies, and how these will report to a more senior commander in the new modular structure. The companies support the brigade, and will be organized in a battalion reporting to the brigade commander.
- The Army plan is consistent with DoD policy, and applicable statutes.
- The complication is the Army's earlier (unnecessary) elaboration of Departmental policy, which could be read as challenging its planned arrangement.
- We will seek to determine tomorrow if the Army has changed its documentation since Secretary Harvey's hearing in a way that would lend credence to the charges in the media.
- The Army's point paper is attached.

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OSD 05036-05

INFORMATION PAPER

DAPE-HR-IR
14 March 2005

SUBJECT: Women in the Army (WITA) Policy

1. Purpose: To provide information regarding women in the Army and the Army's assignment policy on women.
2. Facts:
 - a. The article "Army Revised Rules For Women: Change followed Harvey letters," printed in the Washington Times, March 14, 2005, contains errors regarding operational concepts in modularity.
 - b. The Army has not changed and has determined it will not change its policy regarding the assignment of women Soldiers.
 - c. Department of Defense policy (1994) prohibits the assignment of women to units below the brigade level whose primary mission is direct ground combat. Army policy (1992) further prohibits the assignment of women to positions or units which routinely collocate with those units assigned a direct ground combat mission. In the event of hostilities, women Soldiers will remain with their assigned units and continue to perform their assigned mission.
 - d. A Forward Support Company (FSC) has the mission to provide direct and habitual combat service support to itself and the supported combat battalion.
 - e. The emerging transforming brigade concept provides that all FSCs, which are assigned and organic to Brigade Support Battalions, are open to women. The capacity of these FSCs does not differ from that of the forward support teams of the Forward Support Battalions that were made available to women on 1 October 1994 by the Secretary of the **Army**.
 - f. Notwithstanding these policies and corresponding assignments, all Soldiers, while performing their assigned duties, may come into harm's way and, consequently, must defend themselves. For this reason, all Soldiers regardless of gender are equipped, trained, and prepared to defend themselves.

MAJ Jackson/DAPE-HR-IR/696-5 145

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