



DACOWITS: Articles of Interest

WELLNESS

[Poor Fitness In Military Poses Peril, Report Says](#)

(18 Sept.) *New York Times*, By Ron Nixon

“More men were found to be overweight than women, 13.5 percent compared with 6.4 percent.”

[Navy Brings Sexual Assault Prevention Workshop To Norfolk](#)

(18 Sept.) *WAVY ABC News*, By Deanna LeBlanc

“The Navy has a new plan to turn the tide on sexual assaults within the military...”

[Military Families Are Most Worried About Pay And Benefits](#)

(18 Sept.) *Government Executive*, By Kellie Lunney

“The Defense Department’s planned force reduction after 13 years of war and sequestration is driving the anxiety many military families feel over their short- and long-term financial future, the survey found.”

[Navy Has The Talk ... About Sex ... And Respect](#)

(21 Sept.) *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, By Dianna Cahn

“...a woman who is sexually assertive is not a slut. She’s a woman. We have to stop calling people names for being human beings.”

[Verdicts In August Courts-Martial](#)

(22 Sept.) *Navy Times*

The Navy has published* the results of special and general courts-martial tried in August – 23 verdicts in all. (*Note: Published results of court martial hearings now list name of offenders.)

[Army: It's Good News That Sexual Assault Reports Are Up](#)

(26 Sept.) *Stars and Stripes*, By Matt Millham

“Reports of sexual assaults in U.S. Army Europe jumped 131 percent in fiscal 2013.”

[Services for Female Veterans Fall Short](#)

(24 Sept.) *Associated Press*, By Matthew Daly

“The report, released Wednesday by the Disabled American Veterans, identified serious gender gaps in virtually every program serving veterans, including health care, job training, finance, housing, social issues and combatting sexual assault.”

Forcewide Sexual Assault Survey

(29 Sept.) *Navy Times*, Andrew Tilghman <Link unavailable>

In recent weeks, hundreds of thousands of service members saw an innocuous-looking email pop into their official inbox urging their participation in a “workplace study and survey.” Those who clicked the link found questions focusing on issues of sexual assault – in explicit and graphic detail. The official survey is actually part of a forcewide campaign to get fresh input on what life is really like in military offices and workplaces around the world. Here are five things to know:

1. You Choose Where To Respond. The Web-based survey, launched in August, is designed so troops can forward the email invite to their own smartphone or home computer and complete it in a setting of their choice. The survey, commissioned by the Pentagon’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office and conducted by the Rand Corp., is confidential and should take about 10 minutes to complete.

2. 550,000 Asked To Participate. Survey invites went out to more than 550,000 service members, including all women and about 20 percent of men selected at random. It was sent to enlisted members as well as officers up through the O-6 paygrade.

Unit-level leaders are encouraging their troops to take it regardless of whether they’ve personally experienced a sexual assault. Service members who did not get an invite but want to participate can contact support@randmilitarystudy.org to request login information.

3. Questions Are Explicit. Many of the questions ask respondents to describe in great detail any experience they may have had with sexual assault or harassment. Questions reference specific body parts and aim to capture a full picture of the type and nature of sex assaults that may be occurring in military workplaces. Army Maj. James Brindle, a Pentagon spokesman, acknowledged that some questions “are of an adult nature,” but “identifying problems in the workplace sometimes requires frank and honest discussion.”

4. Future Policy Affected. The survey initially was requested by President Obama last year after he ordered Pentagon leaders to place a new priority on the issue of sexual assault. The results will likely influence future policy decisions and help shape efforts to prevent and respond to sex assaults. The goal, Brindle said, “is to discover gaps so we can reassess our efforts and ultimately solve problems that exist in the workplace.” Results will go to the White House in December as part of a broader report on the military’s sex assault response efforts.

5. Focusing On Details. This is the Defense Department’s most far reaching effort to date to get reliable data on the nature and prevalence of sexual assault in the military. Previous forcewide surveys have included limited questions. In 2012, for example, a “Workplace and Gender Relations Survey” asked whether individual troops had experienced “unwanted sexual touching” in the past 12 months. About 6.1 percent of women and 1.2 percent of men said yes. But that data was criticized in part due to the ambiguous wording of the question, which ostensibly ran the gamut from rape to an inappropriate slap on the butt.

ASSIGNMENTS

[Selfish? Officer's take on women in combat raises outcry](#)

(17 Sept.) *Marines Corps Times*, By Hope Hodge Seck

“Serrano showed as much sexism toward men as women, she said, by depicting male Marines as driven by their sex drives and unable to distinguish between right and wrong while calling female troops selfish and career-focused.”

[Meet The Highest-Ranking Woman In U.S. Naval History](#)

(Sept. Issue) *Glamour Magazine*, By Tara Bahrapour

“When Michelle Howard, a vice admiral, was summoned last year by the head of the Navy, she thought he’d be discussing a new assignment. Instead, he wanted to nominate her to the rank of four-star admiral – a position no woman in U.S. naval history had ever achieved.”

[New Dacowits Chair Announced](#)

(19 Sept.) *DoD News*

The Department of Defense announced that effective today, retired Lt. Gen. Frances C. Wilson, U.S. Marine Corps, will serve as the chairperson of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).

[Pentagon Approves Pay Boost For Long Deployments](#)

(19 Sept.) *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, By Corinne Reilly

“The Pentagon on Wednesday approved a bonus for sailors and Marines deployed longer than 220 consecutive days. For each day they’re away beyond that, service members will receive an additional \$16.50.”

[Confidence course brings female Soldiers together](#)

(19 Sept.) *DVIDS*, By Sgt. Cody Quinn

“Female Soldiers...sweated, learned and bonded during a Sisters in Arms confidence course event ...”

[Dunford's Battles: New Missions, Budget Cuts, And A Tough Decision In 2015](#)

(22 Sept.) *Defense News*, By Hope Hodge Seck

“When Gen. Dunford becomes commandant of the Marine Corps, he’ll inherit...a host of uncertainties – about the Marine Corps’ future...and its physical requirements for service as new combat jobs open to women.

EXTRA

More Israeli female soldiers fought in Gaza than in past wars, but some say not enough

(19 Sept.) The Washington Post, By Ruth Eglash

“About 50 Israeli women served inside Gaza, the highest number yet during an Israeli conflict. But their prominence has renewed debate about the position of women in the nation’s army, with critics saying the percentage of combat roles filled by women — about 3.3 — is too low for a military that prides itself on being one of the world’s only with mandatory service for men and women.”

Female Vets Feel Left Behind

(24 Sept.) Wall Street Journal, By Ben Kesling

“...recently discharged female vets faced a 9.3% unemployment rate at the end of 2013, compared with 8% among male vets, according to the report.”

To Keep Up With 21st Century Threats, The Military Needs To Modernize Its Hiring

(23 Sept.) Washington Post, By Renee Squire

“The world is changing rapidly, with technology at the forefront. It once was possible to hire military personnel young and teach them to be experts in a single skill over a 20- to 30-year career. But today this approach isolates the military from society, limiting its expertise with cutting-edge technology and reducing the diversity of its thinking.”

The sexual threats against Emma Watson are an attack on every woman

(23 Sept.) Vox Media, by Amanda Taub

“On September 21, actress and UN Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson stood up at the UN Headquarters in New York City and delivered a powerful speech condemning the harm that gender discrimination causes to both men and women...”

UAE's 1st Female Fighter Pilot Carried Out Strikes

(25 Sept.) Associated Press, By Adam Schreck

“The first female air force pilot in the United Arab Emirates led airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Syria earlier this week...”