



DACOWITS: Articles of Interest

WELLNESS

[How the USS Abraham Lincoln Combats Sexual Assault](#)

(3 Feb.) *All Hands*, By MC3 Evan Parker

Capt. Ron Ravelo, commanding officer of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), held a two-day all hands call for Lincoln Sailors at Naval Station Norfolk, Jan. 21-22.

[Military Lawyers Lose The 'Good Soldier' Defense](#)

(9 Feb.) *Stars and Stripes*, By Nancy Montgomery

Unlike their civilian counterparts, military criminal defendants had recourse to 'the good soldier defense' to try to persuade courts-martial judges and juries. As part of reforms to address sexual assault that were included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, Congress restricted using military character evidence, bringing courts-martial more in line with civilian courts' rules of evidence.

[Bill aims to improve fertility services for injured troops](#)

(11 Feb.) *Military Times*, By Patricia Kime

Legislation has been reintroduced in Congress to expand fertility services for severely injured troops and female veterans, to include advanced reproductive health treatments and adoption services for those who can't have children biologically.

[Fewer Reported Sex Assaults At Military Schools](#)

(11 Feb.) *Associated Press*, By Lolita C. Baldor

The number of reported sexual assaults involving students at three military service academies went down in the most recent school year, capping a year that saw the military continue to struggle with high-profile cases among leaders and in the schools.

[Sexual Assault Rates Decrease at Military Service Academies](#)

(11 Feb.) *DoD News*, By Claudette Roulo

Rates of unwanted sexual contact at the military service academies declined in 2014, according to a report released today by the Defense Department.

- The report is available online at http://sapr.mil/public/docs/reports/MSA/APY_13-14_MSA_Report.pdf.
- Fact sheet on the report is available online at http://sapr.mil/public/docs/reports/MSA/APY_13-14_MSA_Report_Fact_Sheet.pdf.
- The SECDEF initiatives are available online at http://sapr.mil/public/docs/reports/MSA/APY_13-14_MSA_Report_SecDef_Initiatives.pdf.

[New bill aims to help breastfeeding military moms](#)

(11 Feb.) *News Channel 3*, By Beverly Kidd

"The Defense Health Agency and the TRICARE Health Plan are actively developing a plan to allow TRICARE to cover these important supplies and services for new mothers. We expect to complete the new policy within the next few months."

[A Military Model For Sexual-Assault Prevention](#)

(12 Feb.) *Washington Post*, By Nick Anderson

Colleges scrambling to develop lessons in sexual-assault prevention could glean ideas from what might be considered an unlikely source: the nation's military service academies.

[House Bill Calls For DoD To Publish Names Of Military Sex Offenders](#)

(12 Feb.) *Stars and Stripes*, By Travis J. Tritten

The Defense Department would be required to publish a database of all convicted military sex offenders under new legislation introduced Thursday by House lawmakers.

ASSIGNMENTS

[19 percent pass rate for women in Ranger prep](#)

(6 Feb.) *Army Times*, By Michelle Tan

Five female soldiers successfully completed the Ranger Training Assessment Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, moving them one step closer to attending the Army's storied Ranger School this spring.

[Navy Plans To Augment Pearl Fleet By Two Ships](#)

(7 Feb.) *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, By William Cole

"We've had women in the Navy for over 30 years," [CNO] Greenert responded, to applause. "My point is, we've worked through these things before, and there's been doubt and wonder because its change and I understand that." Greenert also said considering the population of the United States, "we need women in the Navy. We need many more than we have."

[Blowing down barriers: Female first sergeant takes charge of combat engineer company](#)

(8 Feb.) *DVIDS*, By Sgt. 1st Class Michel Sauret

[1st Sgt. Raquel Steckman's] appointment marks another barrier breached in the integration process of women in combat units. There are more than 20,500 combat engineers across the Army, and currently none of them are women. The position is expected to open to females once a congressional notification from the Secretary of Defense makes it official. It will become one of 14 combat-specific military occupational specialties (MOS) that have been exclusive to males until now.

[Face of Defense: U-2 Pilot Blazes Trail](#)

(12 Feb.) *DoD News*, By Air Force Senior Airman Bobby Cummings

As a child, Air Force Lt. Col. Merryl Tengesdal imagined flying among the stars, thousands of miles above the Earth's surface. Today, she is one of eight female pilots ever to fly the U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft and the only black female pilot in U-2 history.

EXTRA

[ACLU, military women's group sue Defense Department for Naval Academy records on female midshipmen](#)

(3 Feb.) *The Baltimore Sun*, By Ian Duncan

Advocates for military women are suing the Department of Defense for information about how the Naval Academy and the other military service academies recruit female students — part of a campaign, they say, to expose ongoing gender bias at the elite training grounds for the nation's officer corps.

[The Problem With Calling Women 'Females'](#)

(5 Feb.) *Jezebel*, By Kara Brown

"When you refer to a woman as a female, you're ignoring the fact that she is a female human," write Nigatu and Clayton, pointing out the connotation that follows: "It reduces a woman to her reproductive parts and abilities." The focus shifts away from the personal and onto her qualities as an object—qualities that have, historically, not been used in the best interest of women.

[Margaret Atwood visits West Point for a frank conversation on gender, politics and oppression](#)

(8 Feb.) *Salon*, By Laura Miller

"West Point's current student body is only 22 percent female, but that's an improvement on past years. To walk its halls is to enter a realm of testosterone and old-fashioned manners. A woman of a certain age (say, over 30) can expect to hear more ma'ams there in one afternoon than in a lifetime of visits to dress shops."

[Why Changing The Female Marine Corps Uniform Is A Mistake](#)

(9 Feb.) *Task & Purpose*, By Nicole V. Bastian and Mabel B. Annunziata

Female Marines have long been valued for what they bring to the fight in terms of diversity, ability, and service. Yet recently, a push to masculinize female Marines has hit the Corps. The stripping of female Marines' femininity comes from an initiative being considered by the Marine Corps Uniform Board to change the female dress blue uniform.

[Va. bill would let moms breastfeed anywhere](#)

(10 Feb.) *HLN*, By Alexandria Thomas

Virginia legislators have just passed a bill that would allow women to breastfeed anywhere they're allowed to be by law, including inside private businesses.

Senate Confirms Carter as 25th Secretary of Defense

(12 Feb.) DoD News, By Cheryl Pellerin

The U.S. Senate confirmed former Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter as the 25th secretary of defense.

Coast Guard Leader Celebrates, Champions Diversity

(12 Feb.) DoD News, By Shannon Collins

“Talent is gender- and color-blind and in order to have the best possible workforce we can’t afford not to include everyone in it,” stated Terri A. Dickerson, the Director of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Office of Civil Rights.

UPCOMING EVENT

Officer Women Leadership Symposium: The Officer Women Leadership Symposium (OWLS) 6-7 March, 2015, will include workshops, panel discussions and keynotes from prominent leaders and experts sharing leadership insights and stimulating discussion on hot topics. Participants will have great opportunities for mentorship, while connecting with women from every level of leadership from all the services. Events are held at the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.