



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 2-22 September 2017

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### DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [Back-breaking labor helped these four-star generals on their way](#)

*(31 Aug) Reuters, By Chris Taylor*

Four-star general, Air Force; former commander, Air Force Materiel Command. First job: Cutting apricots.

### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

2. [To keep pilots from quitting, the Air Force will let some stay in assignments longer](#)

*(7 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*

The Air Force on Thursday began allowing some experienced fighter pilots and weapon systems officers to stay in their assignments for three more years, as part of its ongoing effort to stop an alarming pilot exodus.

3. [Recruiting a generation with no memory of Sept. 11](#)

*(11 Sep) Military Times, By Tara Copp*

Besides the unusual element of having all of the siblings from one family enlist together, there's something else that sets them apart from the millennial-generation recruits who have signed up over the last decade: They have no memories of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

4. [Marine recruits can earn \\$5,000 to go infantry for six years](#)

*(13 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol*

Once again, the Marine Corps is offering \$5,000 to recruits who sign six-year contracts for infantry jobs.

5. [Senators introduce new legislation to stop military transgender ban](#)

*(16 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*

A bipartisan group of senators on Friday introduced new legislation to block military leaders from dismissing any transgender troops and to speed up a Pentagon review into accessions of new transgender recruits.

6. [Air Force secretary: 'We are a service that is too small'](#)

*(18 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*

As the Air Force marks its 70th birthday, it's facing a series of challenges unlike any other in its history.

7. [AETC gears up to help rebuild the Air Force's manning levels](#)

*(18 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*

The Air Force faces a tall order: Get its end strength up to 350,000 by the mid-2020s after years of manning cuts.

### EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

8. [Mattis' transgender policy review is just 'following orders'](#)

*(30 Aug) Federal News Radio, By Scott Maucione*

Defense Secretary James Mattis is doing exactly what President Donald Trump asked of him in ordering a review of the transgender troop ban in the military, analysts say.

9. [\*\*The Marine Corps Is Closer Than Ever To Graduating Its First Female Infantry Officer\*\*](#)  
*(6 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Jared Keller*  
A Marine on track to become the branch's first female infantry officer has managed to overcome the obstacles that have felled her predecessors since the Corps opened its notoriously intense 13-week course to women in 2012, several Marine Corps officials told Task & Purpose.
10. [\*\*Tougher PFT means fewer Marines earning top scores\*\*](#)  
*(6 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol*  
Fewer Marines are getting first-class scores on the Physical Fitness Test since changes took effect in January, but that is because the test is harder, not because Marines are weaker, a Corps official said.
11. [\*\*Female Marines are rocking pullups on the new PFT\*\*](#)  
*(6 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol*  
Some Marines have doubted whether women have the upper body strength needed to do pullups properly, but data from the latest Physical Fitness Tests is proving otherwise.
12. [\*\*Nearly 10,000 Female Marines Opt for Pull Ups in New Fitness Test\*\*](#)  
*(7 Sep) Military.com, By Hope Hedge Seck*  
Just three years after the Marine Corps acknowledged fewer than half of female recruits in boot camp couldn't complete three pull ups, some 65 percent of all female Marines voluntarily performed pull ups in their annual physical fitness test this year, officials said.
13. [\*\*Latest female airman to start TACP training dropped out on the third day\*\*](#)  
*(13 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*  
The latest female airman to attempt to become a tactical air control party airman dropped out on her third day of training.
14. [\*\*Flag Officer Assignment\*\*](#)  
*(15 Sep) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-328-17)*  
Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson announced today the following assignment: Navy Reserve Capt. Jacquelyn McClelland, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as reserve director, Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. McClelland is currently serving as logistics officer, Navy Reserve, Naval Supply Systems Command, Global Logistics Support Headquarters, San Diego, California.
15. [\*\*Secretary Mattis Issues Interim Guidance on Transgender Personnel Service\*\*](#)  
*(18 Sep) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Terri Moon Cronk*  
Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has issued interim guidance on military service by transgender individuals based on direction received from a presidential memorandum, Defense Department officials said today.
16. [\*\*1 Woman Still in Air Force SpecOps Training: General\*\*](#)  
*(19 Sep) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk*  
One woman remains in training to become a battlefield Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) specialist, one of several special operations jobs in the Air Force, the head of Air Education and Training Command said Tuesday.
17. [\*\*Marines ask industry for lighter body armor plates\*\*](#)  
*(20 Sep) Defense News, By Jeff Schogol*  
The Marine Corps has a weight problem.
18. [\*\*How do you improve at pullups?\*\*](#)  
*(20 Sep) Marine Corps Times (Video Clip)*  
Military Times Executive Editor Tony Lombardo asks for pullup tips at the 2017 Modern Day Marine expo.
19. [\*\*For the first time, the Marine Corps plans to have a female infantry officer among its ranks\*\*](#)  
*(21 Sep) Washington Post, By Dan Lamothe*  
In a historic first, the Marine Corps plans to assign a female officer to the infantry following her anticipated graduation from its grueling training program, service officials said Thursday.

20. [First female Marine to graduate from Infantry Officer Course](#)  
(21 Sep) *Marine Corps Times*, By Jeff Schogol  
A female infantry officer will make history next week when she becomes the first woman to graduate from the Marine Corps' grueling 84-day Infantry Officer Course, Marine Corps Times has confirmed.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

21. [Parents Camp Out For Daycare Spots, But No We Don't Need Childcare Reform](#)  
(1 Sep) *New York Daily News*, By Laura Dimon  
Dozens of parents hoping to get their tots into a top-notch daycare program were gearing up to sleep on the street outside the Greenpoint YMCA Thursday night in order to get a decent shot at the morning sign-up.
22. [Senator says sexual assault remains pervasive in US military](#)  
(12 Sep) *The Associated Press*, By Richard Lardner  
Sexual assault in the U.S. armed forces remains pervasive despite the military's attempts to eradicate sex crimes from the ranks, according to a new report by a Senate Democrat who has been critical of the Pentagon's efforts.
23. [No charges for Army battalion commander fired amid sexual assault investigation](#)  
(16 Sep) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers  
The head of a Georgia-based battalion that trains National Guard and Army Reserve units has been relieved of command after accusations that he had been sexually assaulting the unit's sexual assault response coordinator, according to documents obtained by Army Times.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

24. [Puerto Rican "Ramba" is first to become general officer in U.S. Army Reserve](#)  
(31 Aug) *Army News*, By Master Sgt. Michel Sauret  
Before they called her general, they called her "Ramba" in Puerto Rico -- the female version of Rambo. The nickname began in 1987, when Irene Miller was an ROTC cadet. Physical fitness and obstacle courses were a breeze to her. That's because Cadet Miller ran everywhere.
25. [Face of Defense: Fourth-Generation Paratrooper Continues Family's Legacy](#)  
(1 Sep) *Maneuver Center of Excellence*, By Megan Garcia  
Of the 30 females who started this journey in Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Cadet Meghan Copenhaver is one of the 12 to make it to graduation. Nonetheless, it's not the number 30 or the number 12 that sets this particular female apart from her peers; it's the number four. Copenhaver is the Army's first fourth-generation paratrooper.
26. [Face of Defense: Recruiter Overcomes Adversity to Find Success](#)  
(6 Sep) *U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Phoenix*, By Alun Thomas  
As a female recruiter, Army Staff Sgt. Jennifer Kirim said, she was apprehensive how she would be perceived when beginning her assignment, but that her gender has proven to be no barrier whatsoever. "I've come to find out being a female recruiter is positive, because female recruits feel comfortable talking to you," she said. "The males do too, because they aren't as intimidated."
27. [Face of Defense: Cyber Soldier Makes Transition to Cavalry Scout](#)  
(8 Sep) *780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)*, By Steven Stover  
— Army Sgt. Brittany Wildman from Woodstock, Ohio, joined the Army to protect her family and to safeguard her country's way of life. However, she quickly learned that a desk job was not her style.
28. [Air Force report: Airman died after bomb rack unit fell, struck her head](#)  
(12 Sep) *Air Force Times*, By Charlsy Panzino  
An Air Force investigation report has determined that the misalignment and subsequent fall of a bomb rack unit caused the death of an airman in the early morning hours of March 22 in Southwest Asia.

29. [Face of Defense: Volunteer Devotes Time to Keep Fellow Airmen Safe](#)  
(14 Sep) 30th Space Wing, By Air Force Senior Airman Robert Volio  
Air Force Senior Airman Lanimarie Baclian, an Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteer, is always happy to answer her phone.
30. [Heart-wrenching moment fallen Sailor is returned home](#)  
(16 Sep) Daily Mail, By Daniel Roth  
The moment a fallen sailor was returned to her family in Oklahoma was so overwhelming for passengers on a commercial flight it brought nearly everyone to tears.
31. [Face of Defense: Citizen-Soldier Applies Skills to Military, Civilian Jobs](#)  
(19 Sep) 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, By Army Sgt. Zane Craig  
Army Spc. Breyonna Chester, a resident of Philadelphia, serves as a motor transport operator with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Detachment 1, 1067th Transportation Company, 213th Regional Support Group.
32. [Face of Defense: Marine Works Hard to Stay Fit at Sea](#)  
(20 Sep) 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, By Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jonah Base  
Once Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Cary Chase started working out with Sgt. Theresa Batt, a finance technician with CLB-31, from Cleveland, Ohio, Batt said she learned how to be a stronger leader, inside and outside the gym, taking her time to provide mentorship and guidance to her Marines to support their personal and professional goals.

## WOMEN VETERANS

33. [Former VA worker convicted of sexual battery of patients](#)  
(31 Aug) The Associated Press  
A former physician assistant who told investigators he didn't "have any business in medicine" has been convicted of sexually abusing patients at a Veteran's Administration hospital in Kansas.
34. [Marion VA Chief of Volunteer Services arrested on felony criminal sexual assault, abuse charges](#)  
(1 Sep) The Southern, By Barb Eidlin  
The Chief of Volunteer Services for the Marion VA, Douglas E. Bowers, 55, of Cape Girardeau, was arrested Aug. 22 after felony criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual abuse charges were issued by the Williamson County State's Attorney's office.
35. ['I'm honored, but boy I was hoping there'd be more;' 1 female veteran on Never Forgotten Honor Flight](#)  
(13 Sep) WSAW, By Maria Szatkowski  
"I was in the Marine Corps right at the start of the war, 1941, and what can I say I was in there for about four 4 years. That's all of that part of it," said Kay Rusch. Rusch served during WWII and said she had no problems being a female in the military at the time.