



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 9-21 December 2017

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [The Recruiters: Searching For The Next Generation Of Warfighters In A Divided America](#)**
(28 Nov) Task and Purpose, By Adam Linehan
Since the draft was ended in 1973, recruiting has become one of the most important jobs in the military. For the Army, it's imperative. While the Marine Corps prides itself on being lean, mean, and agile, and the Navy and Air Force increasingly rely on unmanned vehicles and long-range munitions, the Army's greatest contribution to the battlefield is, and always has been, people.
- [DoD Complying with Court Orders to Access Transgender Persons into the Military](#)**
(11 Dec) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-417-17)
DoD Complying with Court Orders to Access Transgender Persons into the Military As required by recent federal district court orders, the Department of Defense recently announced it will begin processing transgender applicants for military service on January 1, 2018. This policy will be implemented while the Department of Justice appeals those court orders.
- [The Pentagon says it has to train 23,000 personnel by Jan. 1 to prepare for transgender recruits](#)**
(12 Dec) Washington Examiner, By Travis J. Tritten
The Pentagon needs to prepare more than 23,000 personnel to begin accepting the Defense Department's first transgender recruits on Jan. 1 following a court order, according to a top human resources official.
- [Tech-Oriented Students Learn About DoD IT Opportunities](#)**
(13 Dec) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Terri Moon Cronk
A group of about 60 high school students visited the Pentagon Dec. 11 to learn about future employment opportunities with the Defense Department in the information technology field.
- [Air Force recruiter convicted of sexual assault freed more than 20 years early](#)**
(16 Dec) Air Force Times, By Kyle Rempfer
A former Air Force recruiter who was sent to prison for sexually assaulting high school girls was released Wednesday after serving only four and half years of his 27-year sentence.
- [The Pentagon's claim that it needs to train 23,000 personnel to accept transgender recruits is 'suspicious,' former military surgeons general say](#)**
(18 Dec) Washington Examiner, By Travis J. Tritten
The Trump administration's claim that it would struggle to train tens of thousands of personnel by Jan. 1 in order to process new transgender recruits, and the rush to do that could damage the military, is "suspicious," according to a policy paper by three former top military medical officials.
- [Blended Military Retirement System to Take Effect Jan. 1](#)**
(19 Dec) DoD News, Defense Media Activity
One of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits over the last 70 years goes into effect Jan. 1 with the implementation of the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System, known as BRS.
- [This young man is transgender, and ready to enlist Jan. 1](#)**
(20 Dec) Military Times, By Tara Copp
Nicolas Talbott is openly transgender. Come Jan. 1, if the courts allow, he will enlist in the U.S. military.

9. [Growing Navy raises up-or-out caps to boost end strength](#)
(19 Dec) *Navy Times*, By Mark D. Faram
Needing to fill critical billets and grow by 4,000 enlisted sailors by next fall, the Navy has extended up-or-out limits for junior enlisted sailors and also cancelled its early out programs.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

10. [Marines: New electronic warfare tech can't lead to 40 lb packs](#)
(8 Dec) *C4ISRNET*, By Mark Pomerleau
The Marine Corps - much like their land warfare brethren in the Army - are looking to improve their electronic warfare capabilities in the face of emerging and sophisticated threats in this space.
11. [Health experts warn concussions present major challenges to military health](#)
(14 Dec) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
Concussions may be among the most common and least understood military injuries, with identification of so-called "mild" traumatic brain damage a major challenge to combating the problem, health experts warned lawmakers on Wednesday.
12. [From Princesses to Generals: Leia and the Evolution of Women at War](#)
(14 Dec) *Modern War Institute*, By Erica Iverson and ML Cavanaugh
Over the forty years of the *Star Wars* franchise, Leia went from princess to general at the same time American military women were looking to wield their own weapons. It wasn't easy, but both found their swords. And they're not done fighting.
13. [Turkish Armed Forces seeks female fighters](#)
(18 Dec) *Al-Monitor*, By Amberin Zaman
The move is set to dramatically boost the share of women in the gendarmerie forces from its current 1% to 10%, and within the Turkish Armed Forces as a whole. As of 2013, the last year of official data, there were only 1,345 female commissioned officers and 370 noncommissioned ones out of a total of 723,741 military personnel in Turkey.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

14. [Navy officer disputes attempted rape charge with 'bizarre' defense](#)
(7 Dec) *Navy Times*, By Jon Simkins
A Navy officer charged with attempted rape testified Wednesday in San Diego Superior Court that when his accuser said "no," he thought that she actually meant, "keep going," according to a news report.
15. [Air Force: Fired commander tried to hide relationship with enlisted airman](#)
(7 Dec) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
Lt. Col. Mario Verrett's April firing from squadron command occurred days after it emerged that he pushed an enlisted airman under his command to lie to investigators about their sexual relationship.
16. [Air Force Academy's embattled former sexual assault coordinator speaks out](#)
(11 Dec) *Air Force Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
Following her dismissal for being "derelict in the performance of [her] duties," the Air Force Academy's former sexual assault response coordinator raised her own concerns Monday about the institution's handling of sexual assault cases.
17. [Former Air Force Academy official alleges sexual assault cover-ups](#)
(12 Dec) *CBS News (Video)*
Teresa Beasley, the academy's former top official on sexual assault prevention and response, reveals troubling information about the way she says cases were handled – and the academy is now responding to our reporting. Beasley also told us she believes the academy has covered up the circumstances surrounding two violent attacks on female cadets that occurred in December 2014 and January 2015 on the public running and biking trail behind the academy.

18. [Mistrial in ex-Navy commander's attempted rape trial](#)
(13 Dec) *The Associated Press*
A deadlocked jury has led to a mistrial in the case of a former Navy commander charged with the attempted rape of a junior officer in San Diego.
19. [Fired wing commander under investigation for alleged sexual misconduct](#)
(14 Dec) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
Col. John Howard, who was fired earlier this week from command of the 375th Air Mobility Wing at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, is under investigation for alleged sexual misconduct, the base announced Wednesday.
20. [Air Force Academy restructuring, expanding office handling sexual assaults](#)
(18 Dec) *CBS News*
The United States Air Force Academy says it's rebuilding its sexual assault prevention and response office after a scathing internal report.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

21. [Face of Defense: Strong-Willed Soldier Gives Cancer the Boot](#)
(8 Dec) *U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command*, By Annette P. Gomes
Described as strong, smart, driven and determined -- one would be surprised to find Army Spc. Courtney Jones doesn't don a Wonder Woman costume, but she displays her red, white and blue human spirit through the Army uniform she wears.
22. [Face of Defense: Navy Recruiter Credits Success to Hard Work](#)
(11 Dec) *Navy Recruiting District San Antonio*, By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Giselle Christmas
Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jalisa Green, a gas turbine system technician, said she longed to travel and see the world beyond her hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and that joining the Navy would give her that opportunity.
23. [Face of Defense: Embarkation Marine Lives in the Details](#)
(13 Dec) *31st Marine Expeditionary Unit*, By Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jonah Base
Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Vivianlee Aguero thrives in a high operational tempo. "I love putting all of my effort into my job, because I can see it in the product," she said. "Staying motivated and pushing through the busiest work times is the most satisfying feeling once it's done."

WOMEN VETERANS

24. [Profile of Women Veterans](#)
(Dec 2016) *National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics*
According to ACS data, women Veterans are significantly different than men Veterans.
25. [Making VA Health Care More Welcoming To Female Veterans](#)
(6 Dec) *KPCC Report*, By Libby Denkmann (Audio Clip)
Research shows women veterans don't use VA health care at the same rate as men, and many report delayed or unmet health needs. A group of nonprofits is testing a new program in Los Angeles meant to overcome the barriers that keep female veterans from seeking help.
26. [Veterans groups sue the military for sexual assault records](#)
(17 Dec) *Military Times*, By Kyle Kempfer
Two veterans groups have filed a lawsuit against the Defense Department and Department of Homeland Security, alleging that the government is illegally denying records requests involving sexual assault and harassment cases. The groups hope legal action will compel the release of records related to gender disparities within the military justice system, as well as the military record correction boards' alleged mishandling of cases involving sexual assault and harassment.