



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 25 June – 8 July 2016

RESEARCH STUDIES

1. [Assessing the Implications of Allowing Transgender Personnel to Serve Openly](#)

(June 2016) RAND Report

Recent U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) policy banned transgender personnel from serving openly in the military. Potential changes to this policy, raised questions regarding access to gender transition-related health care, the range of transition-related health care treatments that DoD will need to provide, the potential costs associated with these treatments, and the impact of these health care needs on force readiness and the deployability of transgender service members. A RAND study identified the health care needs of the transgender population and transgender service members in particular. It also examined the costs of covering transition-related treatments, assessed the potential readiness implications of a policy change, and reviewed the experiences of foreign militaries that permit transgender service members to serve openly.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

2. [Coast Guard Academy sets record for female enrollment](#)

(27 Jun) Associated Press, By Michael Melia

Forty years after military service academies opened their doors to women, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy marked the milestone at a ceremony Monday as it welcomes a class with a record 38 percent of female cadets.

3. [Induction Day 2016: Naval Academy Class Of 2020 Includes Largest Number Of Women](#)

(1 Jul) Capital Gazette, By Meredith Newman

Like the other fidgeting, incoming freshmen around her, Katie Barrett stood quietly next to her mom Thursday with her backpack in hand, counting down the seconds until she was a plebe.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

4. [Flag Officer Assignments](#). Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced today that the president has made the following nominations:

- Navy Capt. Tina A. Davidson for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Davidson is currently serving as deputy director, Medical Resources, Plans and Policy Division, N0931, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia.
- Navy Capt. Stephanie T. Keck for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Keck is currently serving as chief, Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group Fellow, Newport, Rhode Island.

5. [Ban On Transgender Troops To Be Lifted July 1](#)

(24 Jun) USA Today, By Tom Vanden Brook

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon plans to announce the repeal of its ban on transgender service members July 1, a controversial decision that would end nearly a year of internal wrangling among the services on how to allow those troops to serve openly, according to Defense officials.

6. [Marines reignite debate on women in combat](#)

(25 Jun) The Hill, By Rebecca Kneel

Lawmakers are treading cautiously after news that a majority of female Marine recruits are failing the tests to get into newly open combat jobs.

7. [Uncharted Territory: Recent Naval Academy graduate's career stalled by Defense Department transgender policy](#)
(26 Jun) *Capital Gazette*, By Christine Jedra
Marberry is one of an estimated 15,500 soldiers, airmen, Marines and sailors waiting to find out if they'll be permitted to serve their country as the gender they identify with. Medical regulations banning transgender service are still in place, but military separations have been effectively halted.
8. [Will Drafting Women Survive Final NDAA Negotiations?](#)
(27 Jun) *Politico*, By Jeremy Herb and Connor O'Brien
The decision by Congress to require women to register for the draft is likely to come down to some old-fashioned, endgame horse trading.
9. [Challenges For Navy Women, U.S. Officer Says](#)
(27 Jun) *Radio New Zealand*, By Kate Pereyra Garcia
Things have improved greatly for women in the Navy, but there are still challenges, including getting more women into leadership roles, a visiting top American sailor says.
10. [The Marines will remove the word 'man' from these 19 job titles](#)
(27 Jun) *Marine Corps Times*, By Gina Harkins
Thousands of Marines serving throughout the infantry and in other key positions are about to get new gender-neutral job titles, but the service's top leaders are pushing to leave the word "man" in some of its most iconic occupations.
11. [Women and the Draft: They're Divided Over Registration](#)
(28 Jun) *CQ Roll Call*, By Stephanie Akin
With Congress lined up for a battle over whether women should be required to register for the draft, there's one group that is solidly against the idea, a new poll suggests: women themselves.
12. [Five things to watch for in the Pentagon's new transgender policy](#)
(29 Jun) *Military Times*, By Andrew Tilghman
Many service members and advocates are eager to see the new policy's details and how the Defense Department plans to tackle an array of potentially thorny issues as it's rolled out across the force. Here are five key items to watch for.
13. [Airmen say they don't mind gender-specific title](#)
(29 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Slobodan Lekic
The Navy may be scuttling "yeoman" and the Marines ditching "infantryman" in favor of "infantry Marine." For the time being, however, airmen will stay airmen, and many Air Force folks in the ranks think that's just fine.
14. [Military seeks more time on transgender policy](#)
(30 Jun) *Associated Press*, By Lolita C. Baldor
Senior military leaders expressed deep concerns this week that the launch of new Pentagon rules allowing transgender service members to serve openly in the U.S. military is moving too quickly, arguing that a number of details and questions must still be resolved, several senior U.S. officials told The Associated Press.
15. [Marine drill instructors at Parris Island are under investigation for hazing, abuse at boot camp](#)
(30 Jun) *Marine Corps Times*, By Jeff Schogol
More than a dozen drill instructors at Marine Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, are under investigation for violating orders on hazing, abuse and lack of proper supervision three months after a 20-year-old recruit died during boot camp.
16. [Secretary of Defense Ash Carter Announces Policy for Transgender Service Members](#)
(30 Jun) *DoD Immediate Release (No. NR-246-16)*
The DoD policy announced today also establishes a construct by which service members may transition gender while serving, sets standards for medical care and outlines responsibilities for military services and commanders to develop and implement guidance, training and specific policies in the near and long-term.
17. [Transgender Service Members Can Now Serve Openly, Carter Announces](#)
(30 Jun) *DoD News, Defense Media Activity*, By Terri Moon Cronk
Transgender service members in the U.S. military can now openly serve their country without fear of retribution, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced today, a policy decision that overturns the ban on transgender service

18. [Here are the new rules for transgender troops](#)
(30 Jun) *Military Times*, By Andrew Tilghman
Transgender people can serve openly in the U.S. military, effective immediately.
19. [Naval Academy Museum Commemorates 40 Years Of Female Midshipmen](#)
(30 Jun) *Capital Gazette*, By Christina Jedra
Thursday marks 40 years since women were inducted into U.S. service academies.
20. [Transgender Troops Protected At Last](#)
(30 Jun) *New York Times*, By Editorial Board
Shortly after the Pentagon began allowing openly gay people to serve in the military in 2011, a small group of transgender veterans quietly began to plan for the next battle. They thought it would take 15 years, perhaps more, for the military to openly accept transgender people in uniform.
21. [Will the military see a surge in transgender troops? Not likely.](#)
(2 Jul) *Military Times*, By Andrew Tilghman
There were big fears inside the Pentagon throughout the past year: Transgender teens will be lining up outside recruiting stations; the military services will see an influx of first-term enlistees seeking sex-change operations; the new policy offering health care for gender dysphoria would make the U.S. military the most popular employer among transgender people.
22. [Equipment 'challenges' delay forcewide launch of recruit fitness test](#)
(3 Jul) *Army Times*, By Kevin Lilley
Citing equipment issues, the Army has pushed back the forcewide rollout of a test that will determine the fitness level of recruits and could limit their job options, depending on their scores.
23. [11 things Marines need to know about the Corps' new fitness rules](#)
(3 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By Lance M. Bacon and Gina Harkins
The Marine Corps' new fitness rules are out, and they include some revolutionary changes to the way the service measures strength and body fat.
24. [Naval Academy Signals Readiness To Accept New Pentagon Transgender Policies](#)
(4 Jul) *Daily Caller*, By Jonah Bennett
Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced Thursday the repeal of the ban on transgenders serving openly, and now the Naval Academy is signaling readiness to accept the Pentagon's direction.
25. [Why the Marines decided to allow heavier women \(and men in some cases\) to serve](#)
(5 Jul) *Washington Post*, By Dan Lamothe
Female Marines will be allowed to weigh five to seven pounds more than before for each inch of their height, according to new guidelines published by the service. A 5-foot-6 woman, for example, was previously allowed to weigh up to 155 pounds, but can now be 161. A 5-foot-9 woman was allowed to be up to 169 pounds, but can now be 176.
26. [Drowning Death Of Navy SEAL Trainee Ruled A Homicide By Medical Examiner](#)
(6 Jul) *Washington Post*, By Dan Lamothe and Thomas Gibbons-Neff
The drowning death of a U.S. sailor in Navy SEAL training has been ruled a homicide, with a medical examiner in San Diego determining that a SEAL instructor dunked the sailor in a swimming pool at least twice despite prohibitions against doing so.
27. [Will recent deaths tame Navy SEAL training?](#)
(7 Jul) *Christian Science Monitor*, By Aidan Quigley
During his first week of Navy SEAL training, James Derek Lovelace died after he was pushed underwater by an instructor during training in a large pool.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

28. [DoD to Issue Revamped Spouse Transition Program](#)
(25 Jun) *Military.com*, By Amy Bushatz
A program being overhauled by the Defense Department aims to arm military spouses with tools to help their families' transitions out of the military and back into civilian life.

29. [A sex misconduct case exposes flaws in how the Naval Academy scrutinizes instructors](#)
 (25 Jun) *Washington Post*, By John Woodrow Cox
 The pervasiveness of sexual assault among cadets and midshipmen at the Naval Academy, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the Air Force Academy — training grounds for the country’s military leaders — has come under intense scrutiny in recent years. But what has received far less public attention is the potential threat of misbehavior posed by staff.
30. [The STAGGERING Truth About Female Veteran Suicide](#)
 (27 Jun) *InMilitary.Com*, By Wes O'Donnell
 Women veterans ages 18 to 29 kill themselves at nearly 12 times the rate of non-veterans.
31. [Transition issues such as class and sports placement persist for military kids](#)
 (1 Jul) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
 Some military children are experiencing persistent Issues when they transition from one state to another with their families — whether it's eligibility for sports teams, acceptance of credits from previous schools, or placement in programs such as gifted and talented, according to a discussion during a packed session at the National Training Seminar of the Military Child Education Coalition.
32. [New VA study finds 20 veterans commit suicide each day](#)
 (7 Jul) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III and Patricia Kime
 Roughly 20 veterans a day commit suicide nationwide, according to new data from the Department of Veterans Affairs — a figure that dispels the often quoted, but problematic, “22 a day” estimate yet solidifies the disturbing mental health crisis the number implied.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS/MEDIA

33. [Face of Defense: Soldier Experiences Teamwork at Her First Annual Training](#)
 (1 Jul) *DoD News*, By Army Sgt. Odaliska Almonte
 Among the soldiers building their disaster response skills was Army Pvt. Noel Weeks, who joined the North Carolina Army National Guard in 2015 -- meaning that the exercise here was her first experience of annual training.
34. [Coast Guardsman of the Year awardee worked tirelessly to help her shipmates](#)
 (5 Jul) *Navy Times*, By Meghann Myers
 Lt. Cmdr. Megan Drewniak joined the Coast Guard specifically to make others' lives better. Twelve years later, she has distinguished herself as an officer who not only gets the job done, but who takes charge to ensure the well-being of her shipmates.
35. [Army investigating death of Fort Bragg soldier](#)
 (7 Jul) *Army Times*, By Michelle Tan
 The Army is investigating the death of a soldier from the 82nd Airborne Division who was found dead Wednesday at her on-post residence.

WOMEN VETERANS

36. [Female vets are still battling for respect, after having served their country](#)
 (2 Jul) *Daily Messenger*, By Hannah Hayes
 This stigmatized profiling of female veterans is not at all unusual, [Rena] Nessler said, both from fellow veterans and the public as a whole.
37. [Former Gitmo Guard Advances in Ms. Veteran America Contest](#)
 (5 Jul) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, By Michaëlle Bond
 An Army veteran and former Guantanamo Bay guard from Montgomery County has been named one of 25 finalists in a contest that celebrates "the woman behind the uniform."