



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 18 February – 3 March 2017

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [More Female, Minority Officers Join as Marine Corps Stresses Diversity](#)
(22 Feb) *Military.com*, By Hope Hodge Seck
The officer ranks of the Marine Corps are looking a little less white and male as the historically homogenous service makes a new push to attract diverse talent.
2. [In Marine Corps, long-outdated job descriptions cause recruiting, retention challenges](#)
(23 Feb) *Federal News Radio*, By Jared Serbu
The Marine Corps is in the midst of a sweeping review of its information technology workforce, the early results of which have confirmed what top officials suspected: many employees' official position descriptions don't have much to do with what they actually do for a living.
3. [Recruit the selfish: Stress individual opportunity to grow the force](#)
(26 Feb) *Military Times*, By Oren Hammerquist
Historical successes, and failures, in a variety of recruiting campaigns show that military branches should stress personal benefits of service when it comes to marketing themselves to potential members. This may be done overtly in recruiting centers and covertly by improving the image of the military to civilians. In doing so, we must choose symbols and benefits most likely to resonate with both the potential recruit and his or her family.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

4. [Flag Officer Assignment](#). Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignment: Rear Adm. (lower half) Danelle M. Barrett will be assigned as director, Navy Cyber Security Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia. Barrett is currently serving as deputy director, Operations, J3, U.S. Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Maryland.
5. [7 Things Women Are Expected To Justify At Work That Men Just Aren't](#)
(3 Feb) *Bustle*, By Claire Warner
It can be hard for women in the workplace to get across how deeply gender — or more accurately, cultural expectations *tied* to gender — influences their careers...women's personal decisions are heavily scrutinized at work in a way that men's simply aren't, especially when it comes to having children.
6. [Air National Guard vet fights for women's rights in U.S. military after heroics in Afghanistan](#)
(18 Feb) *Daily News*, By Rich Schapiro
Maj. Mary Jennings Hegar, covered in blood and hanging off an Army rescue helicopter, saw the muzzle flash of a Taliban fighter and laid down a dozen glorious rounds of return fire. But her most remarkable act of bravery came after she returned home, when the Texas native took a powerful stand against the military's ban on women in combat.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

7. [Army vows child care will continue, despite hiring freeze](#)
(22 Feb) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
After two Army installations decided to cut back on some of their child care services, the Army has taken "corrective action" to ensure that those services will continue without interruption, officials announced late Wednesday.

8. [**Pentagon: Military child care cuts may have been mistakes**](#)
(22 Feb) Associated Press
The Pentagon said Tuesday that cuts to military child care programs at two Army bases may have been unnecessary.
9. [**The Challenge of Accessing Birth Control in the Military**](#)
(23 Feb) The Atlantic, By Leslie Nemo
Many women want to stop their periods while in the field, but getting the means to do so can be difficult.
10. [**Army approves exemptions for two bases to hire childcare workers**](#)
(23 Feb) The Hill, By Rebecca Kheel
Two Army bases that planned on curtailing childcare services because of a federal hiring freeze have been given approval to fill 75 open jobs, Army Installation Management Command said Thursday.
11. [**Air Force tech sergeant's sexual assault sentence called lenient**](#)
(26 Feb) Associated Press
An Air Force noncommissioned officer convicted of misconduct with eight women, including three who accused him of sexually assaulting them, was sentenced to three months confinement and another month of hard labor, a punishment a victims' rights advocate called "shockingly light."

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

12. [**U.S. Coast Guard helicopter pilot La'Shanda Holmes defies odds, expectations to break barriers**](#)
(14 Feb) Howard University News Service, By Rushawn Walters
Growing up poor and abandoned Fayetteville, North Carolina, La'Shanda Holmes had no idea where her life would take her, certainly not to a career as a helicopter pilot for the U.S. Coast Guard and a position with NASA.
13. [**Navy: Arrest of AWOL sailor, a new mother, was 'last resort'**](#)
(26 Feb) Associated Press
A 24-year-old U.S. Navy sailor who had a baby in August was arrested and remains on a military hold after being accused of deserting her post, court records show.
14. [**Hundreds Mourn Veteran Who Warned of 'Burn Pit' Hazards**](#)
(26 Feb) Star Tribune, By Mark Brunswick
National Guard veteran Amie Muller believed deployments to Iraq caused the cancer that killed her. She worked and lived next to burn pits that billowed toxic smoke night and day at an air base in northern Iraq. After returning to Minnesota, she began experiencing health problems usually not seen in a woman in her 30s.
15. [**The Army's first black, female 3-star was inspired to serve by her father — and Star Trek**](#)
(27 Feb) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
Lt. Gen. Nadja West is the youngest of 12 adopted children — 10 of whom joined the Army — raised by a logistics warrant officer and his journalist-activist wife.
16. [**Face of Defense: Soldier's Loss Leads to Powerlifting Triumph**](#)
(1 Mar) U.S. Central Command, By Thomas Gagnier
A mother of three, [Army Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer] Palacios trains first thing in the morning while maintaining a bustling daily schedule. She decided to enter her first competitive powerlifting tournament over Christmas last year.
17. [**Face of Defense: Airman Makes New Life After Family's Abuse**](#)
(2 Mar) 92nd Air Refueling Wing, By Air Force Airman 1st Class Ryan Lackey
"Joining the Air Force is the best decision I made, and it's been good to me," [Air Force Tech. Sgt. Chandra] Towns said. "It has given me a sense of purpose and meaning to my life, as well as a connection with others I didn't have before."

WOMEN VETERANS

18. [The Path Home for Women Veterans](#)

(21 Feb) The Huffington Post, By Lily Casura

The comments are a striking collection of profound, succinct appraisals as seen through women veterans' eyes of the challenges they've had with precarious housing or homelessness — problems which appear to plague the women veteran's community, irrespective of their branch, combat era, or even length of time in the military.

19. [Female veterans honor sister World War II veteran](#)

(28 Feb) WHAS, By Micheala Macdonald

With a folded flag gracing her casket, family and friends gathered to say their final goodbye to 98-year-old World War II veteran Dorothy Hall.

20. [Fighting With Funny](#)

(1 Mar) AmericanGrit.com, By Theresa Potratz

Jas Boothe, a major in the Army Reserves, most recent project focuses on the entire veteran community. "Discharged" takes the stage as an animated comedy described as the love child of "Family Guy," "Friends," and "Full Metal Jacket" all rolled into one, and aimed at providing relief for her brothers and sisters in need of a laugh.

SPECIAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT

21. [Celebrating the First Enlisted Women](#)

A special Women's History Month celebration and exhibit unveiling titled, "Celebrating the First Enlisted Women," will be held at the Women's Memorial on Tuesday, 21 March, 2017, at 2pm. This event will commemorate the historic enlistment of Loretta P. Walsh, the first woman to officially enlist in the military and become the Navy's first female Chief Petty Officer – 100 years ago. This event is being hosted by the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services ([DACOWITS](#)) and the VA's Center for Women Veterans ([CWV](#)), in collaboration with the [Women's Memorial](#).