



DACOWITS: Articles of Interest 19 June 2015

WELLNESS

[SECNAV orders review of fitness, advancement changes](#)

(12 Jun) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram

Child care for active-duty women and families is one of the foremost retention concerns that Navy officials say they hear. The services must provide more flexibility for sailors and Marines with newborn children, according to the ALNAV. In his speech, [SECNAV] Mabus announced the service is proposing legislation to double paid maternity leave from 6 to 12 weeks. In addition, Mabus wrote, a new DoD policy will allow the services to ensure more dual military couples are co-located. Officials say they are working out the details.

[Arming the Kurds, sex assault top Tuesday's defense debate](#)

(16 Jun) Washington Examiner, By Charles Hoskinson

Senators will also take up two controversial amendments: one involving directly arming Iraqi Kurds in the North and another changing the way the military handles sex assault cases.

[Online Conduct -- "Think, Type, Post"](#)

(16 Jun) STAND TO! Edition

The U.S. Army defines online conduct as the use of electronic communications that is consistent with Army Values and Standards of Conduct. Online misconduct is the use of electronic communication to inflict harm; examples include, but are not limited to: harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, or any other types of misconduct that undermines dignity and respect.

[Army releases verdicts of May courts-martial](#)

(16 Jun) Army Times

The Army on Tuesday released a summary report of 67 verdicts from May courts-martial, including nine cases in which the accused soldier was acquitted of all charges.

[May courts-martial results announced](#)

(16 Jun) Navy Times

The Navy has released results of special and general courts-martial for May. The cases are listed by the Navy Region in which they were tried.

[Career intermission applications start July 1](#)

(16 Jun) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey

Airmen who hope to take up to three years off from the Air Force can apply for a sabbatical program beginning July 1.

[Military sexual assault reform plan fails again](#)

(18 Jun) Military Times, By Leo Shane III

For the second year in a row, a plan to remove sexual assault crimes from the military justice chain of command failed to pass the Senate despite more lawmakers backing the idea than opposing it.

ASSIGNMENTS

[Military: More Women Needed In Uniform](#)

(13 Jun) San Diego Union Tribune, By Gretel C. Kovach

"Women sometimes in their units feel very isolated. Part of the purpose of this leadership symposium is bringing women together so they can have a network," said Rear Adm. Cari Thomas, incoming assistant commandant of the Coast Guard for human resources.

[Army Offers 3-Year Career Sabbaticals to Keep Top Soldiers](#)

(13 Jun) Military.Com, By Matthew Cox

The U.S. Army is now allowing a small numbers of soldiers, both officer and enlisted, to take up to a three-year sabbatical from service to pursue educational or other personal challenges to avoid losing top soldiers to the civilian world.

[This history-making female pilot is making a difference](#)

(16 Jun) The Washington Post, By Petula Dvorak

The most shocking thing about flying with Capt. Katie Higgins isn't surviving three G's when she rockets her monster airplane into the sky at 375 miles per hour...the thing that makes your mouth drop is hearing Higgins tell you about the 1940s attitudes she slams into when she's on the ground.

[Whitman selected for PACFLT's top enlisted job](#)

(17 Jun) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram

Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott Swift announced his selection of Force Master Chief (SW/AW) Susan Whitman as the 17th fleet master chief of Pacific Fleet on Wednesday.

[Combat engineer specialty opens to women soldiers](#)

(18 Jun) Army Times, By Jim Tice

The Army has taken a major step toward eliminating combat exclusion policies for women by opening some 20,000 combat engineer and associated skill positions to female enlisted soldiers of the active and reserve components.

[Measuring War's Impact On Women](#)

(18 Jun) Time, By Mark Thompson

First-Ever Book On The Topic Assesses How Female Troops Fare

EXTRA

[World War II women recognized on 'honor flight'](#)

(9 Jun) The Courier Journal, By Chris Kenning

The wartime experiences of female World War II veterans — from nurses to code-breakers to mechanics — are often overshadowed by those of male combat veterans. But they're now being highlighted in Kentucky, where Gov. Steve Beshear has designated 2015 as the year of the woman veteran.

[Facts About Women In The Military That Bring New Meaning To "We Can Do It!"](#)

(11 Jun) Bustle, By Anna Parsons

It's hardly breaking news, but it bears repeating: women are integral to the U.S. military, and they always have been.

[Prosthetics with pizzazz for female veterans spotlighted at D.C. festival](#)

(12 June) The Washington Post, By Fredrick Kunkle

"More and more, there are women in combat who are coming back" injured, said Andrea Ippolito, a presidential innovation fellow at Veterans Affairs. Ippolito also said female amputees have trouble finding artificial limbs that fit their smaller bodies, including narrower shoulders and wider hips."

[When Americans think of vets, they rarely think of women](#)

(13 Jun) Sun Herald

Women have fought on the front lines as combat pilots and military police platoon leaders. They have received Silver Stars and Bronze Stars for Valor. Some have even joined special operations forces on combat missions. Yet when people think of veterans, they rarely think of women.

[Home Free: Female Veterans Find Fresh Start in Los Angeles Housing Community](#)

(14 Jun) The Daily Signal, By Madaline Donnelly

"This community [of female veterans] is often overlooked, and that's what we realized," Covington says. "Initially, the vision was for women veterans, period, but that's kind of touchy in terms of fair housing. So that's why we're trying to get preferences in place to prioritize this demographic."

[Rodeo royalty: 1LT's title offers 'amazing opportunity'](#)

(17 Jun) Army Times, By Kevin Lilley

First Lt. Devin Redding, budget officer for Fort Bragg-based 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), helped reform North Carolina's Miss Rodeo organization in 2015, after the state had gone several years without crowning a rodeo queen.

SECNAV orders review of fitness, advancement changes

(12 Jun) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram

A month after Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced far-reaching personnel policy moves in a speech at the Naval Academy, he released an ALNAV to the Navy and Marine Corps that adds new details and deadlines.

Officials say the purpose of his ALNAV message, published Friday, is to "codify" many of the new initiatives announced in the Annapolis speech and set formal goals and timelines for much of what he announced.

"We are moving forward with multiple initiatives that will impact every sailor and Marine," Mabus said in the ALNAV 050/15 message. "Some will be implemented immediately, others in the coming months and years."

Some goals — and how the service will deliver on them — remain murky, such as Mabus' call to make women a quarter of the Navy and Marine Corps, a landmark change that will require more recruiting and much better retention. Personnel officials say he's not backing down, and details on this initiative are expected to be revealed in an upcoming message.

General military training

Both the Navy and Marine Corps are responsible for blocks of mandatory training each year. Sailors have both Navy and DoD-mandated training topics that must be addressed periodically. But Mabus sees these requirements as a distraction to commanders. In the past two years, the number of big Navy-mandated topics has dropped.

"The elementary, repetitious and time-consuming tasks of General Military Training just don't achieve that end and eat into COs' ability to spend more of their precious time training to fight and win," he said May 13. "Therefore, I am ending GMT as we know it. Beginning June 1st, we will stop all Department of the Navy-directed GMT on Navy Knowledge Online."

Officials say the deadline set by Mabus was met, at least for Navy-mandated GMT. Now COs can decide what training to mandate, based on the command's training needs. They can also decide whether training is done online or in a classroom.

"Effective immediately, the Services [i.e., commanders] will be responsible for Department of the Navy directed annual training on Navy Knowledge Online and MarineNet," the message states. "We will also begin working with the Secretary of Defense to modify DoD-required training so that Commanders can conduct training as they see the need, giving them more choice in how training is delivered, and what type of training is delivered."

Personnel officials say those discussions could result in new ways to deliver the training, such as interactive games.

Fitness

Mabus has ordered a comprehensive review of the Navy and Marine Corps' fitness programs.

Mabus' speech called the Navy's physical fitness test "a high-stakes, bi-annual crucible that often results in sailors resorting to drastic, unhealthy measures" to ensure they pass.

And the fitness assessments, both the test and the body composition," often inaccurately assess one aspect of overall fitness," he said. "We will instead focus on evaluating health, not shape."

Fitness requirements should "properly measure the conditioning required to complete the specific mission," according to the ALNAV. "They will integrate spot checks between test cycles and [ensure] there are programs in place to recognize individuals for superior physical achievement, including documented performance on fitness reports and evals."

The Navy is planning to try new methods of assessing body composition and will look into a ribbon or medal to recognize superior fitness, something service officials have long fought.

By the end of 2015, Mabus wants new programs in place that "promote a year-round culture of health and fitness."

The message gives the Navy and Marine Corps 60 days to have their plans on Mabus' desk.

Navy personnel officials say their proposal is nearly done and could be delivered to the secretary ahead of schedule.

In the meantime, Mabus wants the services to adjust fitness center hours to improve access, especially for those who get to work early or stay late.

He also wants the Navy and Marine Corps to revamp their chow halls to "provide more healthy eating options at sea and shore facilities."

In the speech, he said the dietary effort will start in fiscal 2016, with one sea-based and one shore dining facility experimenting with more healthy food. This effort will be discussed in future messages, sources said.

More child care

Child care for active-duty women and families is one of the foremost retention concerns that Navy officials say they hear.

"We've already established 24/7 child care development centers in three fleet concentration areas," Mabus said in his speech.

While it's not feasible to do that for every center, officials say, the service would like to gradually expand in that direction. Starting Oct. 1, all of the services' child care facilities will be open four more hours each day, two hours earlier and two hours later.

The services must provide more flexibility for sailors and Marines with newborn children, according to the ALNAV. In his speech, Mabus announced the service is proposing legislation to double paid maternity leave from 6 to 12 weeks. In addition, service officials plan to change policy to "better support paternity and adoption leave," though the ALNAV doesn't state how this will happen.

In addition, Mabus wrote, a new DoD policy will allow the services to ensure more dual military couples are co-located. Officials say they are working out the details.

Spot advancement

On July 1, the Command Advancement Program will become the Meritorious Advancement Program, officials tell Navy Times, and the first spot advancement "season" will begin. Skippers of sea duty commands can spot advance their best sailors to E-4, E-5 and E-6 in the three-month window that ends Sept. 30. .

An even bigger change is in the works.

By October, the Navy will have a plan in place to expand the number of spot advancement quotas to 5 percent of the total operational force, including those on shore duty.

"Marine Corps will continue to maximize its use of Meritorious Promotion Boards," Mabus wrote. Sources tell Navy Times, the Corps' already meritoriously promotes to nearly the 5 percent figure.

To maximize advancements by fleet and Corps leaders, Mabus is directing each of the services to recycle unused quotas, so that slots unused by one command can be used by another command in the same season.

"Each of the services will have the ability to redistribute quotas as required to ensure that no quota goes unfilled," Mabus wrote. "This change will potentially result in a commanding officer's ability to return unused meritorious promotion quotas or petition for more."

Officer personnel changes

Changes to officer personnel management will start soon with the establishment of an Office of Talent Optimization at the Naval Academy by September.

This office will align military needs with "current and future educational and labor market conditions."

Though based at Annapolis, this effort to revamp an officer's initial assignments could eventually reach beyond the banks of the Severn River.

Eventually, this could also "inform the assignment process for sailors and Marines entering the service from other commissioning sources."

Mabus also wants to ditch the long-standing policies of year-groups and other hard and fast milestones that have made the officer corps a rigid, "up or out" system.

Mabus also wants to ditch the long-standing practice of tying promotion opportunities to year-groups, as well as required

milestones, that have made the officer corps a rigid "up or out" community.

"We will work to find places to more closely align promotion timing to performance, experience and achievement of community career milestones."

Instead of a rigid set of the mandatory career milestones that exist today in all officer communities, what Mabus wants is a way to take into account the "total officer" when looking at promotions.

"We will identify opportunities to consider factors such as unique career experiences and niche talents, to ensure best and fully qualified officers are promoted with consideration for current abilities and talents, rather than placement in a particular promotion zone," according to the message.

New opportunities

Mabus wants a modern Navy featuring the best available technology in sea, subsea and air platforms, and a personnel system to match, one that provides more career flexibility.

This is seen as a key factor in future retention — especially for women — something the service must have to compete with private sector companies that can often pay more and that already provide more flexible career choices.

To do this, he wants to offer more sabbaticals and a robust internship program that will allow officers to mingle with corporate counterparts to learn and bring back best practices back.

"Our structured career paths often cause us to lose high quality people who find greater flexibility and options to succeed outside of naval service," Mabus wrote. "We have made a concentrated effort to expand career flexibility in several different areas."

Mabus would like to see more sailors take advantage of the Career Intermission Program, which allows them to take up to three years off.

"My intention is to expand this program ten-fold, growing the number from 40 to 400, after we receive congressional approval," he said.

Another enticement is expanding graduate school opportunities for officers.

"By October 1, we are sending two additional top-performing officers to graduate education at leading universities, with plans to expand to 30 additional officers per year beginning in the Fall of 2016," Mabus said in the message.

Diversity goals

Mabus said in his speech that he wants a more diverse force and, specifically, he wants to increase the numbers of women.

He'd like to see women comprise a quarter of the Navy, and of every fleet, by 2025. In addition, he says he wants every operational billet to be open to women as well — giving them an equal footing in the service as men.

Arming the Kurds, sex assault top Tuesday's defense debate

(16 Jun) *Washington Examiner*, By Charles Hoskinson

The annual defense policy bill faces a key test Tuesday, with senators deciding whether to limit debate and clear the way for a final passage vote by the end of the week.

Senators will also take up two controversial amendments: one involving directly arming Iraqi Kurds in the North and another changing the way the military handles sex assault cases.

Democrats appear unlikely to block the bill from advancing, in spite of a White House veto threat and widespread dislike among them for a controversial plan to shift \$38 billion in funding for operations and maintenance to a war account that's not subject to mandatory spending caps. Democratic leaders, backed by the White House, have revolted against the plan, demanding instead a budget deal that would lift those caps permanently.

"It's a lot easier to draw a line on the appropriations bills than it is on the authorization bills," Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., told reporters Monday. "I think there's a lot of my colleagues who want to fight this fight once rather than twice."

The bill sets policy for the Pentagon for fiscal 2016, including which weapons to buy and how much troops are paid. It also includes a provision that would give individual service chiefs more power over weapons-buying decisions and create other new measures to increase accountability. Reforming the acquisition process is a major concern of Armed Services Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., who called the change "vital."

Still there are several contentious issues yet to be resolved in the legislation, especially the two amendments. One measure is from Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, that would authorize the Obama administration to supply arms directly to Iraqi Kurds, and another from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., that would remove the authority to prosecute sexual assaults from the military chain of command.

Ernst's amendment, which is backed by Democrat Barbara Boxer of California, along with GOP presidential candidates

But the message doesn't detail how the service will achieve these goals, which would require a sea change in female recruiting and retention. Details on this initiative are likely in later messages, officials say.

<http://www.navytimes.com/story/military/careers/2015/06/12/navy-personnel-initiatives-mabus-alnav/71017838/>

Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio, mirrors a provision in the House-passed version of the bill that would authorize a percentage of U.S. arms shipments to be sent directly to Kurdish forces, bypassing Baghdad.

Supporters of the idea say the Shiite-majority government in Baghdad is hurting the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria by shortchanging the independence-minded Kurds and Sunni Arab tribal forces from their share of U.S.-supplied weapons. But the White House and the Iraqi government oppose the move as a threat to Iraq's unity.

The Pentagon announced last week that it would supply weapons to the Sunnis, but is doing so through the government in Baghdad.

Gillibrand's amendment on sex assault is a repeat of legislation that fell five votes short of the 60-vote threshold last year, over concerns that the change would weaken commanders' authority.

Murphy, backed by several other Democrats and Republican Rand Paul of Kentucky, also is seeking to have senators vote on his proposal to bar nearly all uses of ground combat troops in the fight against the Islamic State. That issue is a major sticking point in the stalled effort to have Congress consider a new war authorization.

"I understand that it's going to be tough to get a vote on this amendment ... but this issue isn't going away," Murphy said, noting that even though Obama has so far refused to commit U.S. combat troops to the fight, a future president may do so unless Congress acts.

The House passed its version of the bill on May 15. If the two chambers can resolve their differences and overcome Obama's veto threat by the end of September, it would be the first time since 1997 that a policy bill would become law in time for the start of the new fiscal year.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/article/2566318>

Online Conduct -- "Think, Type, Post"

(16 Jun) *STAND TO! Edition*

What is it?

The U.S. Army defines **online conduct** as the use of electronic communications in an official or personal capacity that is consistent with Army Values and Standards of Conduct.

Online misconduct is the use of electronic communication to inflict harm; examples include, but are not limited to: harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, or any other types of misconduct that undermines dignity and respect.

Electronic communications is considered the transfer of information (signs, texts, images, sounds, or data) transmitted by computer, phone or other electronic device. Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: text messages, emails, chats, instant messaging, screensavers, blogs, social media sites, electronic device applications, and web/video conferencing.

What has the Army done?

The Army has initiated a campaign to educate and inform the Army Family on the proper use of electronic communications. The Army understands the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect -- it is part of the Army being trusted professionals. Being online does not change this. The Army is reinforcing a climate where members of the Army Team -- including current and future Soldiers, Army civilians, contractors, and Family members -- understand that online misconduct is inconsistent with Army Values.

Why is it important to the Army?

Army senior leaders know that awareness must be raised and that as members of the Army team, the individual interactions offline and online are reflections of the Army and the values it upholds. It is crucial that the Army Family act responsibly and understand that the Army standards of conduct apply to all aspects of our life, including online conduct. Harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, and any other type of misconduct that undermines dignity and respect

Army releases verdicts of May courts-martial

(16 Jun) Army Times

The Army on Tuesday released a summary report of 67 verdicts from May courts-martial, including nine cases in which the accused soldier was acquitted of all charges.

Results of those cases, organized by judicial circuit:

First judicial circuit (Northeast and mid-Atlantic states)

- On May 1 at a special court-martial at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Spc. Ronnie T. Williams was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of five specifications of assault consummated by battery. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 10 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 4 at a general court-martial at Fort Campbell, Spc. David L. Ousnamer was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of sexual abuse of a child. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to forfeit \$1,200 pay per month for 60 months, to be confined for 60 months and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 13 at a general court-martial at Fort Campbell, Pvt. Jameson T. Hazelbower was convicted by a military judge, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of desertion, four specifications of rape, two specifications of rape of a child, two specifications of sexual abuse of a child, one specification of sexual assault of a child and one specification of possession of child pornography. The military judge sentenced the accused to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 50 years and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 21 at a general court-martial at Fort Campbell, Spc. Cezar M. Lazcano was convicted by a military panel, contrary to his plea, of one specification of sexual assault. The members sentenced the accused to be reduced to the

are not consistent with Army Values. Individuals who participate in or condone misconduct, whether offline or online, may be subject to criminal, disciplinary, and/or administrative action.

What efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

The Army will modify future Army regulation updates to further clarify electronic communications and online conduct. Current contracts and agreements already contain language that covers misconduct; future updates beyond 2016 will further clarify electronic communications and online conduct. The Army will also modify the standardized Army program of instruction and training plans on equal opportunity, equal employment opportunity, and treatment of persons to include discussion points and vignettes with respect to electronic communications and online conduct.

http://www.army.mil/standto/archive_2015-06-16/?s_cid=standto

grade of E-1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for three years, and to a dishonorable discharge.

- On May 28 at a general court-martial at Fort Campbell, Sgt. 1st Class Giovanni Pimentel was convicted by a military judge, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of violation of a lawful general regulation and two specifications of sexual assault. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 36 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.

Second judicial circuit (Southeast)

- On May 4 at a general court-martial at Fort Rucker, Alabama, a private first class was acquitted by a military judge of one specification of sexual assault.
- On May 6 at a general court-martial at Fort Stewart, Georgia, Sgt. Brian G. Short was convicted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted members of four specifications of assault. The members sentenced the accused to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 6 at a general court-martial at Fort Benning, Georgia, Pvt. Kody R. Vanlangen was convicted by a military judge of one specification of failure to obey a lawful order, one specification of the wrongful use of cocaine and two specifications communicating a threat. The military judge sentenced the accused to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for eight months, and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 6 at a special court-martial at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Pfc. Brandon Wright was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of absence without leave terminated by apprehension. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for four months and to a bad-conduct discharge.

- On May 12 at a special court-martial at Fort Bragg, Pfc. Eric P. Alfaro was convicted by a military judge, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of assault with an unloaded firearm, two specifications of child endangerment and one specification of communicating a threat. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1 and to be confined for five months.
- On May 12 at a general court-martial at Fort Bragg, a staff sergeant was acquitted by a military judge of one specification of willful disobedience of a superior commissioned officer, one specification of failure to obey a lawful order, one specification of false official statement and one specification of rape of child.
- On May 14 at a general court-martial at Fort Stewart, WO1 Jeremy A. Burr was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of three specifications of absence without leave and one specification of the wrongful use of a controlled substance. The military judge sentenced the accused to forfeit \$2,000 pay per month for four months and to be confined for 170 days.
- On May 15 at a general court-martial at Fort Bragg, Sgt. William E. Gorham Jr. was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of cruelty and maltreatment of subordinates and two specifications of assault consummated by a battery. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 15 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 18 at a general court-martial at Fort Stewart, a staff sergeant was acquitted by a military judge of three specifications of larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500 and three specifications of making fraudulent claims against the U.S.
- On May 20 at a special court-martial at Fort Benning, Spc. Luis J. Alvin was convicted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted members of one specification of the wrongful use of cocaine. The members sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1 and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 28 at a general court-martial at Fort Bragg, CW2 Randy E. Jones was convicted by a military judge, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500 and one specification of larceny of military property of a value of less than \$500. The accused was acquitted of one specification of conspiracy to commit larceny of military property. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reprimanded, to be confined for 17 days and to be dismissed from the service.
- On May 29 at a general court-martial at Fort Stewart, 1st Lt. Steven T. Thompson was convicted by a military judge, contrary to his pleas, of two specifications of a sex-related offense and one specification of indecent exposure. The military judge sentenced the accused to be dismissed from the service.
- On May 29 at a special court-martial at Fort Bragg, Pfc. Darryl Wellington was convicted by a military judge, contrary to his plea, of one specification of abusive sexual contact. The accused was acquitted of one specification of abusive sexual contact. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to forfeit \$750

pay per month for three months and to be confined for three months.

- On May 30 at a general court-martial at Fort Benning, a captain was acquitted by a military panel composed of officer members of three specifications of sexual assault, one specification of forcible sodomy and five specifications of assault.

Third judicial circuit (Southwest and Midwest)

- On May 4 at a general court-martial at Fort Hood, Texas, Spc. Alan G. Butler was convicted by a military judge of one specification of accessory after the fact, one specification of obstruction of justice and one specification of adultery. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to E-1, to be confined for four years and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 5 at a special court-martial at Fort Hood, Pvt. Desmun J. Chandler was convicted by a military judge of two specifications of absence without leave and six specifications of failure to report. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 105 days and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 5 at a general court-martial at Fort Polk, Louisiana, Spc. Anthony T. Davenport was convicted by a military judge of one specification of distribution of child pornography, two specifications of possession of child pornography and two specifications of wrongful possession of child erotica. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 21 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 7 at a general court-martial at Fort Hood, Spc. Max S. Maydoney was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of four specifications of sexual assault, one specification of abusive sexual contact and one specification of assault consummated by battery. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for six years and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 8 at a general court-martial at Fort Hood, Spc. Brandon C. Patterson was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of rape of a child and one specification of forcible sodomy of a child. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 16 years and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 11 at a general court-martial at Fort Hood, Pfc. Michel Dieujuste was convicted by a military judge of one specification of assault and one specification of communicating a threat. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 33 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 11 at a special court-martial at Fort Hood, Spc. Paris A. Robertson was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of failure to obey a lawful general order, one specification of failure to obey a lawful order, one specification of resisting apprehension, one specification of assault consummated by a battery, and one specification of drunk and disorderly conduct. The military judge sentenced the accused to be

reduced to the grade of E-1 and to be confined for 60 days.

- On May 14 at a general court-martial at Fort Hood, Staff Sgt. Timothy R. Bennett was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of conspiracy, three specifications of false official statement and one specification of wrongful appropriation. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-3 and to be confined for 179 days.
- On May 15 at a general court-martial at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Maj. William A. Biggs Jr. was convicted by a military judge of one specification of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman for sending sexually charged and inappropriate text messages to a minor. The military judge sentenced the accused to be dismissed from the service.
- On May 18 at a general court-martial at Fort Riley, Kansas, Pvt. Randy Reyes was convicted by a military judge of three specifications of sex-related offenses with a child. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 120 days and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 19 at a general court-martial at Fort Polk, Spc. Jeremy C. Bardin was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of conspiracy to commit larceny, two specifications of false official statement, seven specifications of larceny and one specification of soliciting another to commit an offense. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 30 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 20 at a special court-martial at Fort Leavenworth, Sgt. 1st Class Rebecca L. Hamby was convicted by a military judge of one specification of assault with a firearm and one specification of communicating a threat. The accused was acquitted of one specification of aggravated assault and one specification of housebreaking. The military judge sentenced the accused to perform 30 days hard labor without confinement.
- On May 21 at a general court-martial at Fort Hood, Staff Sgt. Timothy R. Slack was convicted by a military panel composed of officer members of one specification of conspiracy, one specification of aggravated sexual assault and one specification of an indecent act. The members sentenced the accused to be reprimanded, to be confined for three months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 26 at a general court-martial at Fort Polk, Master Sgt. Walter L. Graham Jr. was convicted by a military judge of one specification of false official statement, six specifications of rape of a child, one specification of sexual abuse of a child and three specifications of forcible sodomy of a child. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 51 years and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 26 at a general court-martial at Fort Hood, Sgt. Timothy L. Lawrence was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of sexual assault, one specification of abusive sexual contact, one specification of maltreatment and one specification of obstruction of justice. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 36 months and to a dishonorable discharge.

- On May 26 at a general court-martial at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Pfc. Johnathon R. Tremper was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of the wrongful use of a controlled substance and one specification of the wrongful distribution of a controlled substance. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced the grade of E-1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 12 months, and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 28 at a general court-martial at Fort Polk, Pvt. Joshua R. Luna was convicted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted members of one specification of desertion, one specification of absence without leave and two specifications of assault consummated by a battery. The members sentenced the accused to be confined for eight months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 29 at a general court-martial at Fort Hood, Staff Sgt. Michael C. Gleason was convicted by a military panel composed of officer members, contrary to his pleas, of two specifications of aggravated assault, six specifications of assault consummated by a battery, one specification of interfering with an emergency phone call and one specification of adultery. The members sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for seven years and to a dishonorable discharge.

Fourth Judicial Circuit (Far West and Far East)

- On May 5 at a general court-martial at Camp Casey, South Korea, Spc. James J. Maxwell was convicted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted members of one specification of false official statement, one specification of aggravated assault and one specification of assault consummated by a battery. The members sentenced the accused to be reduced the grade of E-1, to forfeit \$1,031 pay per month for 12 months and to be confined for five months.
- On May 6 at a general court-martial at Fort Bliss, Texas, a specialist was acquitted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted members of two specifications of sexual assault, two specifications of aggravated sexual contact and one specification of providing alcohol to a minor.
- On May 7 at a special court-martial at Army Garrison Yongsan, South Korea, a sergeant first class was acquitted by a military judge of two specifications of false official statement, one specification of larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500 and one specification of submitting a fraudulent travel voucher.
- On May 7 at a general court-martial at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Pvt. Geoffrey A. Thompson was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of failure to obey a lawful general order, two specifications of wrongful use of a controlled substance, three specifications of possession of a controlled substance, one specification of aggravated sexual assault, two specifications of larceny and one specification of housebreaking. The military judge sentenced the accused to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 13 years, and to a dishonorable discharge.

- On May 11 at a special court-martial at Fort Carson, Colorado, Pvt. Jared L. MacDaniels was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of absence without leave, one specification of failure to obey a general order and two specifications of wrongful use of a controlled substance. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for nine months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 11 at a special court-martial at Camp Henry, South Korea, Pvt. Dominique A. Smith was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of failure to obey an order and one specification of indecent exposure. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for four months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 12 at a general court-martial at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Pvt. Thomas B. Epley was convicted by a military judge of two specifications of absence without leave. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for four months, to forfeit all pay and allowances, and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 12 at a special court-martial at Fort Carson, Spc. Tyler S. Murphy was convicted by a military judge of one specification of selling military property of a value of more than \$500 and one specification of larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for five months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 12 at a general court-martial at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, Sgt. Meshelle L. Shirk was convicted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted members of two specifications of larceny. The members sentenced the accused to be reprimanded, to be reduced to the grade of E-3, to forfeit \$500 pay per month for six months and to be confined for 45 days.
- On May 13 at a general court-martial at Fort Irwin, California, a private first class was acquitted by a military panel composed of officer members of one specification of sexual assault.
- On May 13 at a general court-martial at Fort Carson, Colorado, Pvt. Paul J. McCafferty was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of three specifications of absence without leave and two specifications of the wrongful use of a controlled substance. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for seven months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 14 at a special court-martial at Wheeler Army Airfield, Staff Sgt. Ace J. Estiamba was convicted by a military judge of two specifications of assault consummated by a battery. The military judge sentenced the accused to forfeit \$500 pay per month for four months and to be restricted for 45 days to the limits of Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield.
- On May 14 at a general court-martial at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Staff Sgt. Christopher H. Mason was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specifications of receiving child pornography. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 12 months and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 19 at a general court-martial at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Pfc. Jerrod I. Reed was convicted by a military judge of one specification of sexual assault. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for a year and five months, and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 19 at a general court-martial at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Pfc. Edgardo J. Figueroa was convicted by a military panel, contrary to his plea, of one specification of adultery. The accused was acquitted of one specification of a sex-related offense. The members sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1 and to forfeit \$300 pay per month for two months.
- On May 20 at a general court-martial at Fort Bliss, Staff Sgt. Adam Bigelow was convicted by a military judge of one specification of wrongful receipt of child pornography, two specifications of solicitation to distribute child pornography, two specifications of solicitation of production of child pornography and two specifications of communication of indecent language. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 26 months and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 21 at a general court-martial at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Spc. Braeden J. Torgensen was convicted by a military judge of one specification of possession of a controlled substance and one specification of assault upon a person in the execution of law enforcement duties. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 90 days and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 26 at a general court-martial at Fort Bliss, Pvt. Ricky X. Diamon was convicted by a military judge of one specification of false official statement and one specification of sexual assault. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 12 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 27 at a general court-martial at Fort Wainwright, Pvt. Joselito Arroyo Jr. was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of false official statement, one specification of sexual assault of a child and one specification of sexual abuse of a child. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for six months and to a dishonorable discharge.
- On May 27 at a general court-martial at Fort Irwin, a specialist was acquitted by a military panel composed of officer members of three specifications of sexual assault, one specification of assault consummated by a battery and one specification of obstruction of justice.
- On May 28 at a general court-martial at Fort Wainwright, Spc. Ahessan H. Ali was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of possession of child pornography. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1 and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 28 at a general court-martial at Army Garrison Yongsan, a private first class was acquitted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted members of four specifications of sexual assault.

- On May 29 at a special court-martial at Fort Bliss, Spc. Corey R. Hall was convicted by a military judge of one specification of false official statement and one specification of assault consummated by battery. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for four months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 29 at a general court-martial at Fort Carson, Spc. Casey A. Phillips was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of attempt to sell military property of a value of more than \$500, one specification of conspiracy to commit larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500, three specifications of false official statement, one specification of willfully damaging military property of a value of less than \$500, one specification of willfully damaging military property of a value of more than \$500, three specifications of larceny of nonmilitary property of a value of less than \$500, one specification of larceny of nonmilitary property of some value, one specification of larceny of military property of a value of less than \$500, two specifications of larceny of military property of a value of more than \$500 and one specification of forgery. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 30 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 29 at a general court-martial at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Pvt. Clayton F. Weeks was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of attempted manufacture of methamphetamine, seven specifications of absence without leave, one specification of willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, three specifications of disobeying a noncommissioned officer and one specification of wrongful use of controlled substances. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 18 months and to a bad-conduct discharge.

Fifth judicial circuit (Europe and southwest Asia)

- On May 7 at a general court-martial at Ansbach, Germany, Pvt. Aarron D. Buckner was convicted by a military judge of one specification of possession of child pornography. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for six months and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 14 at a general court-martial at Kaiserslautern, Germany, Staff Sgt. Nicholas A. Cole was convicted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted members of one specification of adultery. The members sentenced the accused to be reprimanded, to be reduced to the grade of E-3, to forfeit \$1,000 pay per month for three months and to perform hard labor without confinement for 45 days.
- On May 14 at a general court-martial at Vilseck, Germany, Sgt. Aaron W. Long was convicted by a military judge of one specification of attempted sexual assault, one specification of maltreatment of a subordinate and one specification of sexual assault. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reprimanded, to be reduced to the grade of E-1 and to a bad-conduct discharge.
- On May 19 at a general court-martial at Vicenza, Italy, Sgt. Jonathon D. Snelling was convicted by a military judge of two specifications of violating a lawful general regulation. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reprimanded, to be reduced to the grade of E-3, to forfeit \$500 pay per month for six months and to perform hard labor without confinement for 45 days.
- On May 28 at a general court-martial at Kaiserslautern, Sgt. Erik S. Mauff was convicted by a military judge of one specification of aggravated sexual contact of a child and six specifications of sexual abuse of a child. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for eight years and to a dishonorable discharge.

<http://www.armytimes.com/story/military/crime/2015/06/16/cmj-military-court-justice/28811089/>

May courts-martial results announced

(16 Jun) Navy Times

The Navy has released results of special and general courts-martial for May. The cases are listed by the Navy Region in which they were tried.

NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC

General court-martial

- In Norfolk, Virginia, Lt Cmdr. La Tonya Alexander was tried for violating a general order, false official statement and conduct unbecoming an officer. On May 7, the military judge returned a verdict of guilty of false official statement and sentenced her to forfeit \$2,500 per month for three months.

Special courts-martial

- In Norfolk, an E-5 was tried for sexual assault. On May 21, a panel of members returned a verdict of not guilty.
- In Great Lakes, Illinois, AO1 Dustin B. Holdaway pleaded guilty to assault consummated by a battery. On May 27, the military judge sentenced him to a reprimand and hard labor without confinement for 30 days.
- In Norfolk, an E-6 was tried for dereliction of duty and abusive sexual contact. On May 28, a panel of members returned a verdict of not guilty.

NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST

General court-martial

- In Mayport, Florida, MT2 Charles Greaves pleaded guilty to disrespect toward superior commissioned officers, violation of a lawful general regulation and indecent visual recording. On May 26, the military judge sentenced him to a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction in grade to E-2 and confinement for four years.

Special courts-martial

- In Jacksonville, Florida, EMFR Anthony K. Telemacque pleaded guilty to unauthorized absence, escape from custody and wrongful use of marijuana. On May 18, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of \$1,000 per month for three months, and confinement for 90 days.
- In Mayport, ET2 Joseph Bradley pleaded guilty to indecent visual broadcasting or distribution. On May 27, the military judge sentenced him to forfeit \$750 per month for four months, reduction in grade to E-3, and confinement for four months.

NAVY REGION NORTHWEST

General courts-martial

- In Bremerton, Washington, ATC Matthew Beltran was tried for attempted sexual assault of a child and attempted sexual abuse of a child. On May 15, the panel of members returned a verdict of guilty to all charges and sentenced him to a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for five years.
- In Bremerton, EM3 Renee Diaz pleaded guilty to indecent visual recording. On May 19, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction in grade to E-1, and confinement for 14 months.

Special courts-martial

- In Bremerton, SN David Bryant pleaded guilty to damaging military property, damaging other property, and drunken operation of a vehicle. On May 12, the military judge sentenced him to a fine of \$5,000 and confinement for 135 days.
- In Bremerton, MM2 Joseph Johnson pleaded guilty to larceny. On May 18, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, reduction in grade to E-1, a fine of \$4,000, and confinement for 90 days.

- In Bremerton, HM1 Chase William Crum pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty, wrongful use and introduction of a controlled substance, and larceny. On May 20, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, reduction in grade to E-1, and confinement for 70 days.
- In Bremerton, ASAA Enrique Morales pleaded guilty to wrongful use of a controlled substance. On May 20, the military judge sentenced him to forfeit \$900 per month for three months, reduction in grade to E-1, restriction for 30 days, and confinement for 30 days.
- In Bremerton, AOAA Matthew Church pleaded guilty to larceny. On May 21, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of \$500 per month for four months, reduction in grade to E-1, and confinement for 155 days.

NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST

General courts-martial

- In San Diego, an E-5 was tried for sexual assault of a child. On May 20, a panel of members returned a verdict of not guilty.
- In San Diego, CTTSN Sam Dickson Jr. pleaded guilty to aggravated assault of a child. On May 28, the military judge sentenced him to a dishonorable discharge, reduction in grade to E-1, and confinement for 54 months.

Special courts-martial

- In San Diego, SHSN Enrique Vazquez pleaded guilty to attempted larceny and larceny. On May 13, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, a fine of \$5,000, and confinement for 180 days.
- In San Diego, AN Joshua Stanton pleaded guilty to conspiracy, wrongful use, possession and distribution of a controlled substance, unauthorized absence, violating a general order, and attempted escape from custody. On May 14, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, reduction in grade to E-1, and confinement for nine months.
- In San Diego, MMFN Frankie Ortiz pleaded guilty to wrongful use and distribution of a controlled substance. On May 15, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, reduction in grade to E-1, and confinement for 180 days.

NAVY REGION HAWAII

General court-martial

- In Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, AT3 Daniel Tiller pleaded guilty to sexual assaults and indecent exposure. On May 1, the military judge sentenced him to a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction in grade to E-1, and confinement for 100 months.

Special court-martial

- In Pearl Harbor, ET3 John Webb pleaded guilty to false official statement, wrongful possession of a controlled substance, and breaking restriction. On May 15, the military judge sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of \$1000 per month for

Career intermission applications start July 1

(16 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey

Airmen who hope to take up to three years off from the Air Force can apply for a sabbatical program beginning July 1.

The application window for the second round of the Career Intermission Program will close Aug. 31, and the panel that will choose up to 20 officers and 20 enlisted airmen will convene Sept. 29. Selected airmen will begin their sabbaticals in 2016.

The Air Force on March 2 announced that 32 airmen — 14 officers and 18 enlisted — had been selected to take part in the first round of CIP, and to take between one year to three years off. Of those, about 70 percent temporarily left the Air Force.

One of those airmen, C-21 pilot Capt. Shannon Williams, gave birth to her first daughter in February, and is planning to use her three years off to raise her. She hopes to have a second child, and because the CIP program will make it easier to start a family, Williams said she plans to stay in the Air Force for a full 20-year career.

The Air Force first announced the CIP program last year, which is also being used by the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. In a March speech on diversity, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James lauded the program and said she wanted to expand it beyond the current 40-airman maximum. Defense

Military sexual assault reform plan fails again

(18 Jun) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III

For the second year in a row, a plan to remove sexual assault crimes from the military justice chain of command failed to pass the Senate despite more lawmakers backing the idea than opposing it.

The measure, sponsored by New York Democrat Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, was backed by 49 other senators but failed to pick up the 60 votes needed to be added to the annual defense authorization bill. Forty-nine senators opposed the change.

three months, reduction in grade to E-1, and confinement for three months.

NAVY REGION EUROPE, AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA

General court-martial

- In Rota, Spain, IT1 Federick Gonzalez was tried for drunken operation of a vehicle and negligent homicide. On May 20, the military judge returned a verdict of guilty of all charges and sentenced him to a bad conduct discharge and confinement for 12 months.

<http://www.navytimes.com/story/military/2015/06/16/general-special-court-martial-results-may/71272244/>

Secretary Ash Carter also said that month that such programs should be improved and expanded.

The Pentagon asked Congress to strike the current 40-service member limit on the program for all services in a proposed amendment to the fiscal 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

Under the program, airmen enter the Individual Ready Reserve and continue to receive their usual medical and dental coverage, as well as exchange and commissary benefits. They also receive a stipend of one-fifteenth of their usual monthly basic pay. The Air Force will pay to move an airman from his or her duty station to any location in the U.S., and then move the airman to his or her follow-on base at the end of the program. The airmen are required to check in with the CIP's program manager once a month. They are required to maintain their health, fitness and other standards while on a break, and to be ready to fully resume their duties.

When the CIP airmen return to the Air Force, they will have to spend twice as long in active-duty status as they spent in CIP, meaning someone who takes three years off would have to serve at least six years after coming back to the Air Force.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/story/military/2015/06/16/career-intermission-applications-start-july-1/28801583/>

A similar effort in spring 2014 fell five votes short of passage.

Despite the continued setbacks, Gillibrand vowed to continue pushing for the change.

"American military, if they do these reforms, will have fewer dangerous criminals and far more heroes," she said before Tuesday's vote. "The brave men and women we send to war to

keep us safe deserve nothing less than a justice system equal to their sacrifice."

Gillibrand's reform plan has been divisive across Senate party lines, with several Republicans breaking ranks to support the changes and fellow Democrat Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri leading the charge against the moves.

Military leaders have argued that separating sexual assault cases from the rest of the military justice system would give commanders less incentive to root out the crimes and would work against other efforts to enact cultural changes within the military.

"Every aspect of the chain of command is responsible," McCaskill said Tuesday. "It is their job to train troops, to maintain good order and discipline to prevent rapes and crimes being committed under their command, and to punish retaliation."

Military: More Women Needed In Uniform

(13 Jun) San Diego Union Tribune, By Gretel C. Kovach
Vice Adm. William Moran felt intimidated when he stepped in front of a large crowd of military women.

"I really am uncomfortable," the Navy chief of personnel said, speaking to nearly 800 female service members in San Diego last week for the 28th annual Joint Women's Leadership Symposium.

As one in a handful of men present, the three-star admiral was vastly outnumbered.

"This is what women feel like when they walk into most of our ships," Moran said. "Diversity – whether it's gender, whether it's race, whether it's background or experience – is so fundamental to our ability to be successful.

"We can't solve our challenges, we can't look to the future, without your input."

The military needs more women, Moran and a host of military and defense leaders said at the two-day event that ended Friday.

Recruiting and retaining a greater concentration of female troops will help the armed forces combat sexual assault, integrate combat units, diversify thinking, and create a more professional work environment attractive to the millennial generation, according to speakers at the symposium hosted by the Sea Service Leadership Association.

It included female troops from all five service branches and the National Guard in what is billed as the largest gathering of military women worldwide.

"Women sometimes in their units feel very isolated. Part of the purpose of this leadership symposium is bringing women together so they can have a network," said Rear Adm. Cari Thomas, incoming assistant commandant of the Coast Guard for human resources.

But Gillibrand charged that the rate of assaults in the military has experienced virtually no change over the last four years, with an average of 52 new cases a day.

A Pentagon survey released in May estimated the military saw more than 19,000 sexual assaults last year, with more than half involving male-on-male crimes.

"No one should have to suffer the chain of command when they report these crimes," Gillibrand said. "Retaliation happens so often that a majority of these assaults go unreported. Every military victim of sexual assault deserves due process, professional treatment by a trained military official at each opportunity to seek and receive justice."

Congress has passed a host of related sexual assault reforms in recent years separate from Gillibrand's measure, including new laws aimed at stopping retaliation for reporting crimes and new legal resources for victims of such attacks.

<http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/crime/2015/06/16/nda-gillibrand-sex-assault/28814451/>

In her career, Thomas was always the only woman stationed on ship.

Moran went 27 years in the Navy before the P3 pilot encountered his first female boss. Today about 18 percent of the Navy is female, slightly higher than the average across the services of about 15 percent.

To normalize workplace relations, move beyond tokenism and overcome stereotypes, the Navy needs a "critical mass" of at least 25 percent women, including the same proportion aboard each ship and squadron, Adm. Michelle Howard, the Navy's No. 2 officer, has said.

The Navy is hitting that target now with new recruits, 25 percent of whom are female. At the Naval Academy, 22 percent of midshipmen are women.

The numbers fall off steeply in the higher ranks because women leave the services at more than twice the rate of men, Moran said. For instance, 9.13 percent of Navy flag officers are female, or 20 out of 219 admirals. The highest enlisted rank, master chief petty officer, is 6.51 percent female.

To prime the pump on the recruiting side, the Pentagon is rolling out a new ad campaign focusing on young women who desire to take pride in their work. "You have a calling. We have an answer," the narrator says, as a girl on a stand-up paddle board plunges into the ocean and sees her doppelgänger as a Navy diver.

"It's critical as you all move forward in your careers that we find that next generation to backfill you, that next generation of women leaders," said Stephanie Miller, the Defense Department's Director of Military Accession Policy.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/jun/13/military-women-joint-leadership-symposium/>

Army Offers 3-Year Career Sabbaticals to Keep Top Soldiers

(13 Jun) *Military.Com*, By Matthew Cox

The U.S. Army is now allowing a small numbers of soldiers, both officer and enlisted, to take up to a three-year sabbatical from service to pursue educational or other personal challenges to avoid losing top soldiers to the civilian world.

The Career Intermission Pilot Program began as a U.S. Navy effort that Congress authorized as part of the Fiscal 2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

It's open to all Regular Army and the United States Army Reserve ActiveGuard/Reserve personnel and allows 20 officers – commissioned or warrants -- and 20 enlisted soldiers per calendar year to transition to Inactive Ready Reserve status for up to three years.

"We are not opening this to just anyone; this is a retention program," said Albert Eggerton, deputy chief of the Officer Division for Army G-1.

"What we are looking for in this program this is to incentivize people who are able, well qualified, show potential for increased responsibility. ... We are trying to get those folks -- who also have challenges in personal life and professional development that can't be met by the Army -- to take a step back, go and achieve these things and come back to us."

For Staff Sgt. Jessica Cotton, the CIPP was an opportunity to go to law school and secure her Army career.

"I chose to participate in this program because at the particular time, I was at a crossroads between my career and my education," said Cotton, an automated logistical specialist. "I am very goal oriented, so a goal of mine has always been to practice law, but I also wanted to make the Army a career."

No other Army programs seemed to offer her an answer, so she was about to leave the service when she saw the MILPER message about the program.

She filled out the application and was accepted. Cotton plans to take three years to complete an accelerated law program and then return to service.

"I am totally convinced that this is the program for me because I can devote 100 percent of my time to my studies and then come back," she said.

Soldiers must sign a contract that commits them to two months of service for every month they participate in the program, Army officials said.

Staff Sgt. Mylinda DuRousseau applied to participate in the CIPP so she can spend more time with her daughter who will turn two in October. She currently has 11 years in the Army and her husband has 19.

DuRousseau was a member of the Fort Bliss Culinary Arts Team, earning the title of top team at the military culinary arts competition. She served as a food service specialist for seven years before attending the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Maryland in 2011 to become a public affairs specialist.

DuRousseau said she also intends use the three years to finish her Bachelor's degree.

"I didn't really want to walk away from my career, but it was getting to that point," she said.

CIPP participants receive two days of pay every month, similar to the pay Guard members receive for monthly weekend drills. Participants also retain their medical and dental benefits and commissary privileges. They cannot use tuition assistance programs but can use the GI Bill to pay for school, Army officials said.

Currently, there are only six soldiers participating in the program, two officers and four enlisted members.

"So far we haven't had too much response. ... I kind of see this as soldiers and officers in the field are a little bit leery about this program and I don't blame them," said Eggerton. "It's hard to step off a fast moving train and expect to come back, and we know that is a challenge. But it's also important for them to do things that support their personal and professional development in ways we can't really support in the Army."

One of the officers serves in 1st Special Forces Group. He will use the CIPP to help his elderly parents sell their home and move into a townhome, said Robert Peterson, CIPP Program Manager for the Officer Personnel Management Directorate of Army Human Resources Command.

After that, he plans to travel in Asia for professional development since the 1st SFG covers that region of the world, Peterson said.

Army officials anticipate the program will attract more participants once the word gets out. The final report to Congress on the effectiveness of the program isn't due until 2022.

"Intentionally, it's kept small because this still is a pilot, and we are still trying to figure out whether it is going to work," Eggerton said.

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2015/06/13/army-offers-3-year-career-sabbaticals-to-keep-top-soldiers.html?comp=7000023317843&rank=3>

This history-making female pilot is making a difference

(16 Jun) *The Washington Post*, By Petula Dvorak

The most shocking thing about flying with Capt. Katie Higgins isn't surviving three G's when she rockets her monster airplane into the sky at 375 miles per hour. Or going weightless four times when she dives it, amped on the squeals and screams coming from the passengers behind her. Or watching veteran troops who swaggered onto her C-130 cargo plane lose it in their barf bags, one after another. The thing that makes your mouth drop is hearing Higgins tell you about the 1940s attitudes she slams into when she's on the ground.

From *girls*. Today.

"I've had girls tell me that they didn't even know that ladies could fly aircraft or be in the military," said Higgins, who is not only a pilot who has logged 400 combat hours for the Marines. But she just made history as the first female Blue Angel.

Sure enough, the very first little girl I talked to at the Ocean City Air Show last weekend, who happened to love the Blue Angels and also happened to adore the very aircraft that Higgins pilots — the round-faced, big-bellied C-130 known as Fat Albert — thought men were the only ones who fly.

"I didn't know girls can be pilots," said Grace McClung, 9, when I told her that a pilot named Katie would be flying her favorite plane. "Wow. So maybe I can be a pilot someday." Bingo.

That's the magic right there. Putting a girl in that famous cockpit just smashed a few hundred years of jacked-up attitudes and did more for girl power than a thousand pink, sparkly T-shirts with cute sayings could ever do.

"She broke two barriers. The sound barrier and the gender barrier," said Michael Masterson, a retired Air Force officer who is an air show regular and knew all about Higgins.

"She has a hell of a lot of experience, and she can do the job," Masterson said.

Oh, she can do the job.

Besides her 400 combat hours in the cockpit, she's logged another 1,000 hours in flight. And on her Twitter feed, besides having sweet notes about her one-month wedding anniversary to a fellow pilot (#MRSHIGGINS), she says things like: "This time last year, I was landing in Uganda to evacuate the South Sudan embassy."

She is also a legacy pilot — third generation. (Her brother went into explosives, so she's the one who carried on the tradition.)

Higgins, 28, grew up a military kid, which means she has lived all over. She graduated from W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax and then went to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, so she considers Severna Park, where her parents live, her home town.

Seeing her dad fly the F-18 Hornet, the same kind of planes that are the Blue Angels' acrobatic show ponies, wasn't what inspired her to be a pilot, though.

It was while she was a midshipman in Annapolis, after flying in her first non-commercial aircraft, that she decided to become a pilot.

Despite support, dealing with the role of gender and her place in American women's history remains a tightrope she carefully negotiates.

Few people seem to know much about female pilots, present or past.

There's some debate on which World War I fliers — Turkish aviator Sabiha Gökçen, Frenchwoman Marie Marvingt or Russian princesses Eugenie Shakhovskaya and Sophie Alexandrovna Dolgorunaya — were the world's first female combat pilots.

The first licensed female pilot in America was Harriet Quimby in 1911.

And remember the Women Airforce Service Pilots, better known as WASP? They flew every plane in the military — including experimental jets — yet none were considered military pilots.

It wasn't until 1993 that the military allowed women to fly combat aircraft.

So no, Katie Higgins isn't big on taking credit for breaking barriers.

"Women have been flying for years," she said. "There are 19 other women on [the Blue Angels]. The Marine Corps is 6 percent women."

When she applied to the team — the application is about as long as a college application — she never once mentioned her gender, she told me.

She joined the team, however, just three months after it was rocked by a sexual harassment scandal and the removal of their commander Capt. Gregory McWherter.

The Blue Angels have the swagger down. In the hangar where the jets were being prepped, pilots who looked like statues to masculinity carved out of pure gold strutted around in flight suits that looked spray-painted on their bodies.

White teeth, square jaws, aviator shades.

But everyone is flocking to Higgins. "You noticed too?" asked one pilot.

"Yeah, I'm just your average white guy now," laughed another.

Higgins is clearly making a difference.

She shook girls' hands and told them to pursue their dreams. She wowed men when they saw her strut around in her flight suit.

She smiled and encouraged, but was careful not to linger too long on the woman thing. And she was clear on one hope for the future.

"When you're just there in the ready room, and you're not the 'Lady Blue Angel,' you're just another pilot," she said.

"That's when we'll have reached true equality."

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-bolt-to-the-blue-this-female-pilot-is-making-a-difference-in-the-blue-angels/2015/06/15/a9fe9b2c-1359-11e5-89f3-61410da94eb1_story.html?hpid=z2

Whitman selected for PACFLT's top enlisted job

(17 Jun) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram

Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Scott Swift announced his selection of Force Master Chief (SW/AW) Susan Whitman as the 17th fleet master chief of Pacific Fleet on Wednesday.

Whitman, currently serving as the senior enlisted sailor at Naval Surface Force Atlantic, is expected to take over the job and the title of fleet master chief in late summer, according to a statement released Wednesday.

She will be the first woman to serve as the top enlisted sailor of the Pacific Fleet. She follows now retired Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Jackie DiRosa, who was the Atlantic Fleet's top sailor from July 2006 to June 2007, as well as Fleet Master Chief (AW/SW) JoAnn Ortloff, who retired in March as the top enlisted sailor at Naval Forces Europe-Africa.

"I chose Master Chief Whitman to be our top enlisted leader from a group of highly qualified candidates," Swift said in the release.

"Her operational experience and inspirational leadership, on and off the waterfront, clearly demonstrates that she is the right leader to ensure our military and civilian workforce, and their families, are well cared for."

Whitman will replace the acting fleet master chief, Force Master Chief (SS) Russell Mason, who temporarily assumed the mantle as the Pacific Fleet's senior enlisted sailor

Mason took over the job in April after then Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Marco Ramirez was relieved for loss of confidence by then Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Harry Harris, following a command investigation into allegations that Ramirez violated travel rules.

A native of Piety Hill, Illinois, Whitman joined the Navy in August 1985. The yeoman's career has taken her to sea duty

Combat engineer specialty opens to women soldiers

(18 Jun) Army Times, By Jim Tice

The Army has taken a major step toward eliminating combat exclusion policies for women by opening some 20,000 combat engineer and associated skill positions to female enlisted soldiers of the active and reserve components.

Under policies now in effect, unit manning documents coded for military occupational specialty 12B (Combat Engineer), and seven related additional skill identifiers are available for fill by qualified women.

The associated ASIs are 2C (Javelin Gunnery), 6B (Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course), B6 (Combat Engineer Heavy Truck), D3 (Bradley Fighting Vehicle Operations and Maintenance), J3 (Bradley Fighting Vehicle Master Gunner), K9 (Combat Engineer Mine Detection Dog Handler) and S4 (Sapper Leader).

commands at Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3, Navy Recruiting District Boston, the submarine tender Holland as well as aircraft carriers Nimitz and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Selected for command master chief in 2006, she has been the top enlisted sailor on the cruiser Vella Gulf, the carrier Lincoln and the Naval Safety Center before her current tour at SURFLANT.

She is the recipient of the Navy's 2011 CAPT Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award and the Navy League's Captain Winifred Quick Collins Award for Inspirational Leadership that same year.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (AW/NAC) Mike Stevens told Navy Times on Wednesday that he welcomes Whitman in her new capacity and called the position one of "critical responsibility" in the Navy.

That's because U.S. Pacific Fleet is the world's largest naval command. Whitman will represent the interests and concerns of the fleet's more than 160,000 active and reserve sailors who operate the roughly 180 ships and 1,500 aircraft.

"I want to congratulate her on her selection," Stevens said.

"There were some exceptional leaders who applied for the Pacific fleet master chief position, all of whom are capable of performing the required duties," Stevens said. "Admiral Swift selected FORCM Suz Whitman to be his fleet master chief, and I am very excited for her and her family."

<http://www.navytimes.com/story/military/2015/06/17/scott-swift-susan-whitman-pacific-fleet-force-master-chief/28860377/>

Women previously have served as engineer officers, and in 16 enlisted engineer occupations, with the exception of certain positions in special operations units.

12B had been the only remaining specialty closed to women. By opening the MOS and its associated skill identifiers, 20,563 previously closed positions are open to women.

The changes are part of an ongoing campaign to eliminate the Direct Ground Combat Assignment Rule by dismantling, in phases, policies that have barred women from serving in combat units below the brigade level.

The campaign began in 2012 when the Army opened 13,000 positions previously closed to women, and most recently by the opening of 4,100 "men only" positions in special

operations units of the Regular Army, National Guard and Army Reserve.

The goal is to open most positions to women by the end of 2015.

Measuring War's Impact On Women

(18 Jun) *Time*, By Mark Thompson

American women have been marching off to war in increasing numbers over the last generation. Soon, the Pentagon expects to lift its ban on their service in ground combat, its most demanding, dirtiest and bloodiest form. Is this a good thing? In *Women at War*, Army veterans Elspeth Cameron Ritchie and Anne L. Naclerio have produced the first book detailing what war does to the physical and mental health of the growing number of women waging it. Featuring contributions from many military and academic experts, the volume doesn't advocate putting women in the trenches. "Women are already in combat," says Ritchie, a psychiatrist who earned three combat patches before retiring from the Army as a colonel in 2010. The book also doesn't wade into the controversy over whether women have the physical strength to accomplish the mission. Instead, it collects widely-scattered data about what combat does to women and puts it in one place to serve as guidance as the number of female soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines slowly rises.

Bottom line: women can do it, but it may not be easy.

Some 2.5 million women have served in uniform since the Revolutionary War, Lieut. General Patricia Horoho, the Army surgeon general, notes in the book's forward. "Given recent policy changes, by January 2016 it is expected that all military occupations, positions, and units will be open to women," she adds, "thus ensuring that they will play even larger roles in future military operations."

The number of women engaged in major U.S. combat operations is steadily growing. They climbed from 770 in 1989's Panama invasion, to 41,000 in 1991's Gulf War, to 300,000 in the post-9/11 Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns. About 15% of U.S. troops today are female. They represented 10% of those deployed to Iraq between 2003 and 2011, and 8% of those sent to Afghanistan between 2001 and 2013 (they were under-represented because they are generally barred from serving in combat units. That also accounts for the fact that they represented only 2.3% of U.S. troops killed in action).

More facts from the book:

- In the post-9/11 wars, women deployed nearly as frequently as men (1.5 times per male soldier; 1.3 times for females), and for nearly as long (10.9 months per male soldier; 10.5 months per female soldier).
 - Women suffered slightly more psychological problems (15.1%) in the Afghanistan and Iraq war zones than men (14.9%).
 - More men dispatched to the war zones were diagnosed with PTSD (3.9%) than women (3.0%).
 - 15% of the soldiers who had to be medically evacuated out of the war zones for serious mental-health issues were female.
- The 40 contributors (including 10 men) write about women's health on the front lines and the challenges of being a soldier and a mother. "Mothers who deploy may be viewed as uncaring or negligent, rather than serving selflessly and

The service has yet to open combat occupations and skills that comprise a bulk of soldier jobs in Armor, Infantry, Special Forces, Ranger and similar in-your-face combat units.

<http://www.armytimes.com/story/military/careers/army/enlist/d/2015/06/18/combat-engineer-specialty-opens-to-women/28916319/>

patriotically," Army psychiatrist Elizabeth C. Henderson writes. "It is more culturally acceptable for men to go to war." "I tried to avoid thinking of [my child] most of the time," a mother deployed to a war zone said. "I had something to do right after every phone call so that I would not retreat to my tent and start crying."

Women in uniform also are subject to shunning by their male colleagues. "Women who are working in primarily male career fields—or, as in the military, are breaking into previously closed combat positions currently held by males—may suddenly find themselves part of a social group that has difficulty fully accepting or integrating females," writes Pentagon psychologist Kate McGraw. "The negative impact of this type of behavior may intensify during periods of high stress, such as in combat or deployed locations." But experience can ease such trepidation. "I felt tremendous pressure to live beyond reproach, and over time, I have learned that this is an incredibly intense, stressful, and ultimately unsustainable and inhumane way to live," then-Lieut. Paulette Cazares wrote of her first tour as a doctor aboard a U.S. Navy submarine. "Come the second year and second deployment, I was able to dance in bars at ports of call and enjoy a cigar with the CO and know I was on stable footing."

She also writes that her time aboard gave her the confidence she needed to save a young female sailor from dying of appendicitis on what was supposed to have been a quiet Thanksgiving. "At the beginning of that deployment, I would never know or had the courage to ... demand that a helo move faster," she recalls. "But a few months at sea made this girl a little saltier than she was when she left San Diego." Being different can pose challenges when nature calls. "In 2011, with all our sophisticated battle systems and unarmed aircraft, women in combat were still wearing diapers because we hadn't figured out how they could take care of basic bodily functions in the back of an armored personnel carrier or transport vehicle," Naclerio says. There remains, after a decade of war, ignorance among both military women and their medical advisers about minimizing such issues, she adds. (Only 4.5% of women in Iraq in 2005-2006, for example, were using commercially available female urination devices, which allow women to relieve themselves like men.) Both Naclerio and Ritchie express surprise at how little research has been done to smooth the integration of women into the military. Sexual assault is a "major issue" in the U.S. military, the book notes, and has received extensive professional and press coverage. But there has been scant attention paid to consensual sex in the ranks downrange. "A taboo area seems to be the sexual desires of women who deploy," the authors write. "But young women—and most women who deploy are young—do have sexual desires, perhaps heightened by the daily exposure to death and close bonding in the combat zone." This taboo has led to a dearth of information. "We have

very little knowledge of the actual amount of consensual sexual activity that is occurring during deployments between military members because very little research is done on that topic," writes Navy psychiatrist Ann Canuso. (Think of it as a new version of "don't ask, don't tell.") "Studies indicate that as many as 12% of deployed women had an unplanned pregnancy during deployment in 2008.

The dearth of women on the front lines makes them a rarity. But that's slowly expected to change. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said last month that he wants 25% of Marine recruits eventually to be women, more than triple their current 7% of the corps.

But until that happens (and Marines, both male and female, believe it's a tall order), women on the front lines will

World War II women recognized on 'honor flight'

(9 Jun) The Courier Journal, By Chris Kenning

The war came late to Nora Horecny, but that made its costs all the more evident.

It was early 1945, and the recently minted Army Corps nurse was stationed at an Indiana military hospital, trying to patch up young men who had been broken, inside and out, on the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific.

In wards lined with single beds, soldiers spent months recovering. There were skin grafts, amputated limbs, broken bones and depression. Most had lost buddies, and some had lost wives. Horecny recalled one man throwing his medicine across the ward in despair.

Yet over the next seven decades, she rarely spoke of her World War II service. She served just under a year before it ended, she figured, and it wasn't like she went overseas to fight, like many of the men. And many vets — including her own husband, who fought in the Pacific — never talked about their experiences.

That changed last Saturday, when the now 94-year-old Horecny became one of two female World War II veterans on an "honor flight" put on by a nonprofit that takes aging vets to the war memorials in Washington, D.C., where they were met with crowds of thankful supporters.

All day long, strangers — thrilled to see several women among the mostly male veterans — jostled to shake Horecny's hand, thank her and hear her story. Among fellow veterans in wheelchairs, stories came tumbling out. Arriving back at the Louisville airport, she waded through a cheering crowd of more than 500 people, her face beaming with pride.

"I thought I shouldn't be going" alongside combat veterans, she said. "But I guess I did help."

The wartime experiences of female World War II veterans — from nurses to code-breakers to mechanics — are often overshadowed by those of male combat veterans. But they're now being highlighted in Kentucky, where Gov. Steve Beshear has designated 2015 as the year of the woman veteran.

continue to feel like they live in a fishbowl. "My presence there seemed to make everyone stop and stare," one forward-deployed woman told Canuso of her visits to the gym. Some of their male counterparts acknowledged their role. One told Canuso about the time he was instructing other young men when a female colleague walked by in her workout gear. "We all just stopped and stared at her for almost a full 30 seconds," he said. "Then I just went back to teaching the men. I never would have done that stateside."

http://time.com/3927266/women-war/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+timeblogs%2Fswampland+%28TIME%3A+Swampland%29

"As a nation, we just haven't talked about women veterans much," said Heather French Henry, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, who attended the honor flight. "We talk a lot about 'Rosie the Riveter,' the women who remained at home and took factory jobs, but there was a tremendous amount of women's service."

Nearly 350,000 women served in the military in World War II in units such as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Women Air Force Service Pilots, the Army Nurses Corps and the Navy Women's Reserve. According to the National WWII Museum, women worked in offices, drove trucks and rigged parachutes while some nurses served in combat areas.

Kentucky has about 33,000 women veterans, about 10 percent of the total, said French, who is pushing for a better accounting of female veterans and working to connect female vets with honor flights.

The honor flight program, which exists in states across the country, was started in Kentucky in 2008 and has served 1,500 Kentucky veterans — mostly from World War II but increasingly from other wars as their numbers decline.

The only other female veteran on Saturday who served during World War II was 92-year-old Louisville resident Norma Lewis, whose white hair flowed out of her dark blue Naval Women's Reserve cap. A third woman on the trip, 76-year-old Mary Brooks, served in 1959 as an office worker.

Lewis worked with a naval intelligence unit in Charleston, S.C., helping track German submarines with the help of ships, blimps and fighter planes.

"At first I was upset, I thought they were going to make me a secretary, but my job was keeping track of the messages from blimps who were searching for submarines," said Lewis, who worked as a sign language interpreter after the war. "This was a different kind of war. There was no thank you for your service. We just went back and went to work."

For Horecny, becoming a nurse was something she wanted to do since a childhood appendectomy. Born in 1920, she grew up on a 200-acre farm near Convoy, Ohio, the youngest of nine children. Her family raised pigs, canned vegetables, baked its own bread and made some of its own clothing, she said.

After graduating high school in 1938 in a class of 30 students, Horecny took nurse training for three years and worked as a surgical nurse for \$100 a month. After Pearl Harbor, she recalled, there was rationing on the home front. "You couldn't buy nylon pantyhose, gas was rationed, sugar was rationed," she said.

But she wanted to do more. A yellowed 1944 small-town newspaper clipping she kept is headlined, "Lieut. Nora Etzler Joins Nurses Corps," noting that one of her brothers had been wounded in France and another was fighting "somewhere in the Pacific."

Stationed at Billings General Hospital at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Lawrence, Ind., which is near Indianapolis, she cared for hundreds of badly wounded soldiers who needed long-term care and recovery. Some underwent plastic surgery and painful skin grafting. Others had orthopedic reconstruction. Some had stomach illnesses from combat trauma and stress, she said, while others were thin, and still more were learning to manage without arms or legs.

"When I saw these guys come back from duty, and what they'd gone through, and most of them had four years of being overseas in heavy combat, I saw a whole bunch of depressed guys," she said. "I tried to do all I could."

After the war ended, the Army closed the hospital and Horecny continued to serve World War II veterans for a decade at a Veteran's Affairs hospital in California.

Recently, her doctor suggested she take the honor flight. Initially believing her contribution didn't warrant it, Horecny was finally persuaded to travel to Washington on Saturday with Honor Flight Bluegrass, which funded the trip with contributions from donors, including the Ford Motor Co.

At Dulles International Airport, crowds lined the airport inside and out, cheering and thanking the veterans, many in wheelchairs and some wearing military caps. As they traveled by police-escorted bus, many in the group, including Morris

Guthrie, 93, of Owensboro, Ky., who flew in a glider behind enemy lines with the 101st Airborne Division during the D-Day invasion, shared stories.

Stan Alder, who helps run the program, said the trips often bring out long, untold stories.

At the World War II Memorial on the National Mall — packed on the 71st anniversary of D-Day — Horecny was pushed among the stone arches and fountains. She was struck by the sheer numbers who were lost — highlighted by a wall of 4,000 stars, each representing 100 dead, recalling the struggles she witnessed firsthand in the Indiana hospital ward.

"There are just so many," said Horecny, who also visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Marine Corps War Memorial and saw the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

Both she and Lewis were stunned by the supporters who turned out. Along the way, children pressed handmade cards into their hands. Boy Scouts stood at salute as the veterans were wheeled past. Motorcycle groups held flags. Families came to say thank you. Younger female veterans took "selfies" with Horecny and Lewis and pressed them for details about her experience.

"It's so great to see a woman veteran," one said.

With doubts about their service suddenly swept aside, Horecny and Lewis — exhausted after a day that spanned from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. — were wheeled through a loudly cheering crowd at the Louisville airport, which stretched from security gates to the doors. People held flags and signs, and mobbed the women like they were celebrities.

For Horecny, who called it "pretty awesome," the day was an affirmation that had long been lacking.

"She'll be talking about this for 10 years," said Debbie Wolter, a friend who accompanied her.

"I'll never, ever forget this day," Lewis said. "The emotions are unbelievable."

<http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2015/06/09/world-war-ii-women-recognized-honor-flight/28755069/>

Facts About Women In The Military That Bring New Meaning To "We Can Do It!"

(11 Jun) Bustle, By Anna Parsons

It's hardly breaking news, but it bears repeating: women are integral to the U.S. military, and they always have been.

OK, so maybe you already knew that ... but not everyone does! When former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta lifted the ban on women in frontline combat positions, it caused a bit of buzz. Of course, this historical decision greatly expanded the roles available to women in the armed forces, but it actually represented a natural progression: after all, women

have been providing vital support to our country for the past 240 years.

As always, the best way to combat ignorance is with knowledge! Some readers may be surprised to learn that women disguised themselves as men in order to serve in the Revolutionary War, or that an all-female, all-African-American female unit was integral to the Allies' victory in

Europe during World War II. In other words, we've come a long way – but women have been here the whole time.

We've partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps to give you the full rundown on women in the U.S. military, from the birth of our nation all the way up to the present day. The women below will show you that regardless of recent policies increasing the opportunities for servicewomen, the impact of women in our military is nothing new.

Women Served On The Front Lines In The 1700 and 1800s ... In Disguise Prior to the 20th century, there were restrictions against female enlistment, so many clever women disguised their true identities in order to jump this hurdle. In the late 1700s, Deborah Sampson assumed the identity of "Robert Shurtliff" and served in the Continental Army for more than a year until she was wounded and honorably discharged. This practice occurred well throughout the Civil War and into the turn of the century, when the armed forces began conducting more thorough physical exams.

The first recorded African American female enlistee *also* disguised herself as a man in order to serve. Cathay Williams served in the Civil War under a clever pseudonym: William Cathay. Shortly after enlisting, she was hospitalized for smallpox. She claimed that an Army surgeon discovered her gender while she was under his care, but she returned to serve until 1868, when she was forced to leave due to medical disability.

The First Female To Receive A Military Pension Fought In The Revolutionary War

In 1779, after the Battle of Fort Mifflin, Margaret Corbin (popularly known as "Molly Pitcher") became the first woman in the U.S. to receive a military pension. When her husband was killed, she stepped up to man the cannon solo and was seriously injured in the process. Congress voted her disability pension to be one-half of a soldier's pay and one suit of clothes (or the equivalent in cash). In 1804, the U.S. government also awarded the aforementioned Deborah Sampson a pension.

The First Woman To Receive A Medal Of Honor Fought In The Civil War

That's right. It may come as a great surprise that there has (1) only been one female in U.S. military history who has received the Medal of Honor, the military's greatest honor, and (2) that this occurred in the 1800s, which was not exactly the most progressive of times. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker served as a contract surgeon for the Union Forces and was kept as a POW by the Confederacy. Although she had the award revoked in 1917, the U.S. Armed Forces restored her name to the Medal of Honor Roll in 1977.

Nurses Paved The Way For Women In The Military

Throughout U.S. history, women frequently provided military support in the form of medical aid. During the Spanish-American War, 1,563 women officially served as contract nurses, but it wasn't until the end of the First World War (1917-18) that women were officially allowed to enlist in the

U.S. Army and Navy. More than 33,000 women enlisted in this manner, and 400 died in the line of duty.

USO Performers And Rationers Weren't The Only Women Contributing to the WWII Effort

When you mention women in the context of World War II, you might initially think of morale-boosting USO performers or women on the home front tending victory gardens and rationing food. There's no doubt that these roles were valuable to the war efforts, but it's also important to remember that women officially served in the U.S. military. Over 400,000 women enlisted to serve in America, Europe, and Asia as ambulance drivers, pilots, nurses, and administrators, among other roles. More than 400 women lost their lives and 88 were captured and held as prisoners of war.

Maj. Charity Adams, the Women's Army Corps' first black officer, led the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all-female, all-African American unit. It is said that every piece of mail sent from the U.S. to Europe passed through this battalion's inspection, thus protecting the Allied Forces from any breaches in intelligence.

There Were No Female Students At West Point Until 1976

Female enrollment in military academies? We have President Gerald Ford to thank. With the signing of Public Law 94-106, all academies were opened to women, and no one could argue that there wasn't a demand. In the ensuing months, 119 women enrolled at West Point, 81 enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy, and 157 enrolled at the U.S. Air Force Academy. As of 2015, there are 738 enrolled females at West Point, 947 at the U.S. Naval Academy, and 903 at the Air Force Academy, making for an average of 20 percent female enrollment.

Female Task Units Were Integral To U.S. Diplomacy In Afghanistan

In 2009, the Marines Corps introduced a revolutionary (and extremely successful) program to engage Afghani citizens on the front lines. Female Engagement Teams (FET) were trained and deployed to build relationships with Afghani women and children in remote areas of the country. These special units aimed to break down cultural barriers in order to help the U.S. military conduct security searches, obtain information, and provide aid to the people of Afghanistan.

Direct Combat Roles Weren't Open To Women Until The 2010s

After learning how involved women have been on the front lines of war throughout the history of our nation, it's surprising that the U.S. military had an official policy of "no women in units tasked with direct combat" prior to 2013. With Panetta's lifting of the longstanding ban in January of 2013, all units, even those within special forces, have started to review each of their units to determine how and when women will be able to enroll.

In November of 2013, a simple selfie rocked the nation: a picture showcasing the first three women to have passed the Marine Corps' 59-day evaluation course, which would enable them to graduate from the service's enlisted infantry training. (A fourth was unfortunately sidelined due to stress fractures.)

Further strides were made in 2014, when three female officers successfully passed the physically and mentally grueling Combat Endurance Test (CET) in their attempt to pass the IOC (Infantry Officers Course). If they complete the IOC, they will be the first women in history to do so. These women were part of a research study that will determine whether women will be able to serve as infantry officers. A decision is expected in early 2016.

Prosthetics with pizzazz for female veterans spotlighted at D.C. festival

(12 June) The Washington Post, By Fredrick Kunkle

One gleamed like Iron Man's armor. Another showed the fierce-eyed visage of an eagle against a field of stars. A third looked as sleek and colorful as the tail fin of a pink Cadillac. "Look at that hot-pink socket!" said Dan Horkey, an amputee who has set out to infuse art into artificial limbs.

Horkey, 51, said he felt better the day he threw away his dull, flesh-hued prosthetic leg for one he had cast himself and decorated with wild flames streaming over the socket. Now he's working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to help vets, particularly a growing number of female amputees, step out in style.

"They tell me they want their legs to look flashy or sparkly," said Horkey, who lost part of his left leg in a motorcycle accident 30 years ago. "They want wings or diamonds." One female vet wanted airbrushed pictures on her prosthetics of two comrades who died in the blast that took her legs. "A lot of female veterans want to honor the fallen," Horkey said.

Horkey's wares were on display at "The Girls' Lounge," an exhibit hosted by Veterans Affairs and a women's networking group at the two-day National Maker Faire on the campus of the University of the District of Columbia. The festival is a geeky, playful showcase of innovation, engineering and science.

Women accounted for about 2 percent — or 226 — of 12,581 battle-related military casualties involving traumatic injuries to extremities in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2003 to 2013. That's according to a 2013 report prepared for the Extremity Trauma and Amputation Center of Excellence, a research organization for Veterans Affairs and the Defense Department.

"More and more, there are women in combat who are coming back" injured, said Andrea Ippolito, a presidential innovation fellow at Veterans Affairs. The report also said a greater percentage, 6 percent, of female service members suffered such injuries in non-battle situations.

Ippolito said female amputees have trouble finding artificial limbs that fit their smaller bodies, including narrower shoulders and wider hips.

Women have also been granted positions on fast attack submarines. In late 2013, it was announced that six female officers were training to join teams on submarines carrying ballistic weapons. As of 2015, one of the officers has reported to the USS Minnesota and three others are currently training to join the USS Virginia later this year.

The lesson here? There's no limit to what women can do to serve our country — it's what they've been doing all along.

<http://www.bustle.com/articles/79473-facts-about-women-in-the-military-that-bring-new-meaning-to-we-can-do-it>

In addition to the prosthetics display, the festival hosted by NationOfMakers.org and Maker Media features instruction in robotics as well as exhibits on 3-D printing, virtual reality and other cutting-edge technology. Drones whizzed around the university's gymnasium, and side by side with futuristic gadgets was a booth that allowed visitors to transform magnifying lenses into wood-burning tools. Yoshi Maisami, an organizer of the fair, said the event built on last year's DC Mini Maker Faire. The aim is to showcase tinkerers and inventors from across the country while also promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. This year's fair has drawn more than 20 universities, including Tribal Colleges from Alaska and Hawaii.

Federal agencies were heavily represented, including NASA, the Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health. Organizers expect the two-day event, which continues Saturday, to draw about 20,000 visitors.

Ippolito said Veterans Affairs teamed up with the Ipsos Girls' Lounge, a networking group for corporate women, to host the exhibit promoting ways to personalize prosthetics, particularly for women.

Shelley Zalis, a marketer who founded the Ipsos Girls' Lounge, said female amputees have found it difficult to put on lipstick or unsnap a bra with existing prosthetic devices. And pregnant women need prosthetics that can change and adapt as their bodies change.

As part of Veterans Affairs's Innovation Creation Series, the organizations are hoping to drive technological innovation among the public, private businesses and academia in ways that will benefit former members of the armed forces.

"The Ipsos Girls' Lounge is really about empowering and energizing women in companies around the world," she said. http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/at-district-festival-prosthetics-for-female-amputees-with-touch-of-pizzazz/2015/06/12/67c0f512-1141-11e5-9726-49d6fa26a8c6_story.html

When Americans think of vets, they rarely think of women

(13 Jun) Sun Herald

Since 9/11, more than 200,000 women have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and more than 160 women have died in service to their country. Women have fought on the front lines as combat pilots and military police platoon leaders. They have received Silver Stars and Bronze Stars for Valor. Some have even joined special operations forces on combat missions.

Yet when people think of veterans, they rarely think of women.

As the veterans organization the Mission Continues found in a survey out this week of female veterans, a "common theme among our respondents was a perception of invisibility both in the service and at home. While in uniform, nearly two-thirds of respondents said they had to work harder than men to prove themselves.

One veteran in Minnesota told me recently that when she tried to join a local veterans organization, she was guided to the women's auxiliary.

Another soldier based at Ft. Bragg told me that she saw a mandatory counselor after her tour in Afghanistan, who said that even though she "did not see combat" and was "mostly on base," she might have some re-entry issues. He had no idea that she had served an eight-month tour as part of a special operations team of women and had been on night raids several times a week.

A North Carolina Air Force veteran who served in Kuwait set off a media storm when she told local reporters about a nasty note she discovered after she parked in a spot marked "Veteran Parking."

"This space is reserved for those who fought for America ... not you," read the missive Mary Claire Caine found on her windshield.

"I think they took one look at me when I got out of my car and saw that I was a woman and assumed I wasn't a veteran and assumed I hadn't served my country," Caine said, "They have this image of what today's American veteran is, and honestly, if you've served in the United States military, you know veterans come in all shapes and sizes."

Evidently America is still thinking small, even as women in uniform make strides.

Recent history is full of stories of women breaking new ground. The first woman to fly the F-35, the Air Force's "premier fighter," took to the skies last month. Years earlier she had flown combat missions in Afghanistan. The Navy's Blue Angels have their first female pilot this year.

Army Ranger school recently opened to women. No women made it through the first phase of the course. But 19 women qualified. And 42 percent of them made it through the grueling physical tests of the first four days, compared with 48 percent of men. .

The gap between women's service and our perceptions has consequences; it makes female veterans' reentry into American society especially challenging.

Many do not self-identify as veterans and do not apply for the help and the services -- from housing to healthcare to job placement -- they could receive once they return home.

The Los Angeles Times reported female veterans "commit suicide at nearly six times the rate of other women" -- and perhaps not surprisingly, at nearly the same rate as their brothers-in-arms. In the piece, experts noted with concern that female veterans lack a "sense of belonging," which can exacerbate depression.

In the two years I spent reporting on women who served on the front lines with special ops in 2011, I found that community sustained the soldiers in this pilot program while they were on the battlefield and, even more so, when they returned home. While the rest of the Army and the entire United States had no idea what they had done and seen, they at least had one another to rely on. They are now family for life, one another's career coaches and marriage counselors and best friends.

Such do-it-yourself community-building is critical and important, but female veterans also need a nation that recognizes and celebrates them.

Whenever female veterans do receive a mention in public life, the focus tends to be on their suffering. The media leads with stories of military sexual trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Without doubt these are very real problems that must be addressed.

But by defining female veterans by their victimhood, we leave out a crucial part of their service: their valor. Women have shown courage, grit and heart on the battlefield. They have already proved themselves on the front lines and in service, even if our national narrative hasn't yet recognized it.

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author most recently of "Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield." She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

<http://www.sunherald.com/2015/06/13/6274217/when-americans-think-of-vets-they.html>

Home Free: Female Veterans Find Fresh Start in Los Angeles Housing Community

(14 Jun) *The Daily Signal*, By Madaline Donnelly

Thirty minutes south of Los Angeles, nestled into a drought-dry San Pedro hillside, sits the small townhome community of Blue Butterfly Village. Named for sharing land with a preserve for the endangered Palos Verdes blue butterfly, it's the sort of place you'd never know was there unless you were looking for it. Even then, you may have some trouble.

The women who call Blue Butterfly Village home don't mind the quiet. They have a noisy past: All are female veterans who have dealt with poverty and homelessness, oftentimes alongside domestic violence, sexual assault, or mental health issues, making up part of what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs calls the fastest-growing segment of the country's homeless population.

"Being here is a really humbling experience," says Danielle Chavez, an army veteran whose five years of service included stints in Iraq, Germany, and Fort Bragg. "This is like, only in your wildest dreams. You look around and you think, 'Is this really my backyard?'"

After returning from Iraq, Chavez lost her mother and faced the dissolution of her marriage around the same time. She became homeless before a VA worker mentioned Blue Butterfly Village, which is owned and operated by the Volunteers of America. She now lives in a bright corner unit on a freshly paved cul-de-sac with her two young daughters, flown in from a relative's home in Arizona by Volunteers of America.

Chavez, who suffers from PTSD, is one of four women veterans who moved into the 73-unit community last month, representing a small pilot lease group. A ribbon cutting ceremony drew city councilmen, the Los Angeles mayor, and the U.S. secretary of Veteran Affairs.

It was an emotional celebration for the trailblazing, female-focused community — one of the first of its kind in the nation.

History Repeats Itself

The land Blue Butterfly Village lies on has ties to the armed services that trace back to the 1940s, when the nearby U.S. Naval Dry Docks — now known as the Long Beach Naval Shipyard — opened. The homes were developed as Navy housing and, when the shipyard closed for good in 1997, were all but abandoned.

From there, the neighborhood slowly morphed into a run-down squatter haven, a scene slightly reminiscent of *The Walking Dead*, until the U.S. Navy deeded the property out at no charge as part of its reuse project. Nine acres went to Volunteers of America. The rest, a majority of the original property, went to nearby schools Marymount California University and Rolling Hills Preparatory School.

Volunteers of America President Robert Pratt had the idea for Blue Butterfly Village back when the organization was

originally granted the land, but he swiftly found the project tied up in bureaucracy and paperwork.

In 2011, they finally broke ground on the project, and have since spent \$15 million updating the homes.

The group pulled a majority of funding through their tax credit, as well as through various investors and a subsidy through the housing authority via section eight vouchers. That's according to Shenick Covington, the director of strategic relations for Volunteers of America and Blue Butterfly Village's property manager. The only fee residents pay is their cable and Internet bill, assigned to them monthly and based on their usage of the neighborhood's AT&T hub. They're allowed to stay as long as they need.

In addition to fixing structural and cosmetic flaws like broken windows or chipped paint, Volunteers of America partnered with local non-profit Design by the Heart, which gathered upwards of 50 professional volunteers to design and furnish each unit — and their private backyard patios — individually. The homes come entirely move-in ready, outfitted with everything from silverware to, in some cases, Keurigs or even George Forman grills. Covington also maintains a garage on site that is full of donated items including clothing, furniture, and toys that the women are free to visit and "shop."

"We know the challenges with these families," Covington says. "They may have credit issues ... they can't come up with security deposits, and then when they do, they don't have anything to really work with upon moving in. So we definitely want to make sure they feel prepared and can come in with their personal items and just get settled."

Home Depot donated shelving to the homes' single-car garages and helped landscape the property, which now has a gazebo, community garden, basketball court, two playgrounds, and "mini libraries" — or birdhouses full of books — throughout.

"We go up to the community garden, and it's just beautiful. The kids think it's the greatest thing," Chavez says, referring to the eight total children who live in the community so far. "We take this little back trail, and the kids ... they think it's the nature walk of all nature walks."

A Place to Call Home

Once Volunteers of America renovated the property, they began recruiting tenants. So far, 61 of the 73 units will be filled with homeless veteran families, who need to be able to provide both proof of an honorable discharge and VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) qualification. Volunteers of America is also working closely with the Department of Mental Health to fill the remaining 12 homes with their homeless clients, still with a veteran preference. There is a 3-person minimum to each household, which may

be renegotiated to a 2-person minimum depending on need, Covington said.

And while the units are available to male or female head of household, Volunteers of America is also working to get additional preferences in place, such as prioritizing those who have undergone military sexual trauma or domestic violence that would near guarantee a predominantly female head of household community.

“This community [of female veterans] is often overlooked, and that’s what we realized,” Covington says. “Initially, the vision was for women veterans, period, but that’s kind of touchy in terms of fair housing. So that’s why we’re trying to get preferences in place to prioritize this demographic.”

Blue Butterfly Village will offer residents services including counseling, job training, education and child-care. It will assist with enrolling community children in a head start preschool program. The village also provides 24-hour security, by way of security guards and 19 video cameras set up throughout the community that are fed straight into an Los Angeles Police Department feed, a welcome addition for women facing PTSD or anxiety and working to adjust back into civilian life.

“If veterans don’t have a [family] support system, it’s actually easy to see how some do or might become homeless,” says Deborah Snyder, founder and CEO of Operation Renewed Hope, a non-profit that works to provide housing for homeless veterans in the Washington, D.C. area. “When you’re on active duty, everything is taken care of for you, including housing. But when you come off of active duty, it’s difficult unless you have a well-paying job. There could be a divorce situation, or a skills translation problem, and medical issues compound everything.”

One of the biggest challenges Volunteers of America has faced with Blue Butterfly Village thus far has been ensuring clients don’t drop out throughout the rigorous application process.

That’s according to Orlando Ward, the executive director of external affairs at Volunteers of America.

“The application process was really, really hard,” says Chavez, the Army veteran. “I was living out of my car, so documents were in my glove compartment, in boxes in the trunk ... I would need to track down my social but I wouldn’t even know what happened to it or the last time I saw it.”

At the same time, she acknowledges the benefits that come along with carefully vetting her neighbors: “They make sure they’re thoroughly screening everybody that comes in here,” she says.

A Bright Future

Volunteers of America hopes Blue Butterfly Village might be a model for other communities nationwide, filling a need

that’s just beginning to be identified and often goes underreported. That’s because female veterans — who often stay with relatives or, like Chavez, in their cars — frequently don’t get counted in census statistics relating to homelessness. In 2013, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, eight percent of homeless veterans were women, or almost 4,500 women nationwide.

“Female veterans do have different issues than male veterans,” says James Carafano, vice president of foreign and defense policy studies at the Heritage Foundation. “We tend to think of veterans’ issues as what the VA is doing, but it’s actually really much more about what people do in communities to support veterans. Adapting those programs for the needs of female veterans is a really key thing.”

Data shows that housing communities like Blue Butterfly Village allow veterans to engage in group therapy via a tribe-like camaraderie of shared experience, facilitating healing that often can’t happen in isolation. One of the most difficult things for veterans in today’s society, according to Carafano, is feeling alone in ways that previous generations didn’t experience because of the sheer volume of veterans after conflicts like World War II.

“Today, you might be the only person in your community that has gone off to war, and when you come back ... no one has the same experiences you do,” Carafano continues. “The military is very much a community, very much a family. So community-based programs are good, and community-based programs that have women veterans working with other women veterans are kind of a double good.”

For her part, Chavez lights up when discussing the relationships she’s fostered at Blue Butterfly in the short time she’s lived there.

“It’s a scary move altogether, going from living alone to living in a community with all these people,” she says. “Dealing with my PTSD as well as theirs, you wonder, ‘Am I going to get along with everybody? Am I going to handle it well?’ But me and my neighbors are very close. Our kids play on the playground, and we’re back and forth [to one another’s homes] all the time.”

Volunteers of America hopes to take the lessons they have learned from their pilot program to grow gradually. The next group of tenants will likely move into Blue Butterfly Village on July 1st. The community should be completely full by November 1.

“Now we have the tools needed [to scale],” Covington says, referring to Volunteers of America, but at the same time, serving as a metaphor for the women living within the community. “We have a really clear understanding of the process, and how we’re building our strategic plan [for expansion].”

<http://dailysignal.com/2015/06/14/home-free-female-veterans-find-fresh-start-in-los-angeles-housing-community/>

Rodeo royalty: 1LT's title offers 'amazing opportunity'

(17 Jun) *Army Times*, By Kevin Lilley

First Lt. Devin Redding, budget officer for Fort Bragg-based 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), helped reform North Carolina's Miss Rodeo organization in 2015, after the state had gone several years without crowning a rodeo queen. After talking it over with Lindsey Harper, the group's national director, it was decided the 2012 Military Academy graduate should lead from the front — minus a pageant, Redding was awarded the Miss Rodeo North Carolina crown [in late April](#).

The crown — or the cowboy hat, as it were — comes with a heavy schedule; Redding will spend several weekends meeting rodeo fans in her state as well as traveling with other state winners to larger events out West, eventually competing in a weeklong Miss Rodeo America pageant in Las Vegas starting in late November.

While Redding has enjoyed the meet-and-greet aspect of her new role, it's also provided a platform for volunteer efforts, especially with children. She recently worked with [Hope-thru-Horses](#), a therapy group for children with behavioral issues, on a program geared toward family members of fallen troops. And she's teaming up with the [Cowboys Who Care Foundation](#) to provide free, specially designed Resistol cowboy hats to patients at a local children's hospital.

"It's a great way for me not only to get the word out about rodeo in North Carolina," Redding said of her position, "but it's also a great way for me to make an impact on North Carolina residents' lives."

Redding has been riding almost since she was born in Avondale, a small Pennsylvania town southwest of Philadelphia. She carried her love of horses to West Point, where she served as captain of the school's equestrian team and enjoyed her first exposure to Western-style riding.

She deployed to Afghanistan for a year as an individual augmentee in Kabul, returning in May 2014 and eventually settling in at Fort Bragg, finding a nearby stable and a small

community of rodeo- and horse-lovers, including some fellow soldiers.

"[Service members] have a tendency to really hold on to things that remind us of home," she said. "I think that's a big thing for people who ride horses and people who rodeo. It's a way to be reminded of home, it's a huge stress reliever and it's a great way to get some exercise."

Miss Rodeo, though, comes with its own stress: State winners must prepare for a Las Vegas event that includes the usual pageant fare — "Wranglers instead of bikinis," said Harper, a former contestant — along with interviews on rodeo knowledge and current events, as well as a horsemanship portion.

"Some of the skills I learned at West Point, and the skills that I have honed in the Army, have been really helpful," Redding said. "Staying organized, having attention to detail, all of those things are very important during this whole crazy process."

Redding praised her command for offering assistance in her side job, and has spread the Army message to her rodeo crowds.

"She's excellent working with the public, especially with children," Harper said. "They're just mesmerized by her bubbly personality. ... For especially the young girls, to see that she can do both things — that she can be tough and be ... in the Army, making a difference in the world, and she can be beautiful and sparkly and riding horses. They see that you can have the best of both worlds."

Redding may be the last appointee to the position: A pageant is planned for October to crown the 2016 queen, as well as junior and teen representatives.

<http://www.armytimes.com/story/military/2015/06/17/miss-north-carolina-devin-redding-first-lieutenant/28858705/>