



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 1-13 January 2017

---

### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Only 8% of Marines are women — and the Marine Corps is struggling to change that](#)  
(3 Jan) *Vice News*  
The Marine Corps has always been a boys' club, and it's still the branch of the military with the lowest percentage of women, by far. The secretary of defense made the Marines open combat and infantry roles to females a year ago, but recruiting women into the force is still challenging.
2. [Top Marine: Corps assumes it will grow by 3,000 Marines](#)  
(12 Jan) *Marine Corps Times*, By Jeff Schogol  
The Marine Corps assumes it will grow by 3,000 Marines this year, even though Congress has not yet appropriated money for more Marines, said Commandant Gen. Robert Neller.

### EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

3. [The First Female Infantry Marines Will Graduate Boot Camp This Month](#)  
(2 Jan) *Task & Purpose*, By Hope Hedge Seck  
To date, 31 female Marines have signed enlistment contracts for previously closed combat arms military occupational specialties.
4. [First female infantry Marines joining battalion on Thursday](#)  
(3 Jan) *Marine Corps Times*, By Jeff Schogol  
The Marine Corps will make history on Thursday when the first three female infantry Marines join their unit at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, officials said.
5. [3 female enlisted Marines reporting for infantry duty](#)  
(5 Jan) *Associated Press*  
Three enlisted female Marines are reporting to a ground combat unit in North Carolina and are among the first women in the service to do so.
6. [First women training for Marine infantry jobs to graduate boot camp](#)  
(7 Jan) *Marine Corps Times*, Jeff Schogol  
Four female Marine recruits will be the first women to complete recruit training for infantry jobs when they graduate from boot camp later this month.
7. [Out-going SECNAV Mabus defends progressive personnel reforms](#)  
(12 Jan) *Navy Times*, By David B. Larter  
Few people inside President Obama's Pentagon have been more closely associated with the progressive changes in the military over the past eight years than Navy Secretary Ray Mabus.
8. [Mattis: 'No Plan' to Roll Back Women's Advancements in Military](#)  
(12 Jan) *ABC News*, By Justin Fishel  
At his Senate confirmation hearing this morning, retired Marine Gen. James Mattis said that if confirmed as secretary of defense, he would not roll back recent advancements in women's roles in the United States armed forces, specifically their permission to serve in infantry roles on the front lines.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

9. [New Army regulations OK dreadlocks for female soldiers](#)

*(5 Jan) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*

The Army released a sweeping update to grooming and appearance regulations on Tuesday that, in addition to authorizing religious beards and head coverings, also opened the door for female soldiers to wear their hair in dreadlocks.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

10. [She Was Born In A Russian Prison And Became A US Marine. The Infantry Is Next](#)

*(12 Jan) Task & Purpose, By James Clark*

The journey that leads to military service is as varied and unique as those who choose to serve and for one young Marine, this is particularly true.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT

11. [Female Enlisted Centennial Anniversary Celebration](#)

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services ([DACOWITS](#)) and VA's Center for Women Veterans ([CWV](#)) are co-hosting an event celebrating the historic enlistment of Loretta P. Walsh, the first woman to officially enlist in the military 100 years ago. The event will be held at the [Women in Military Service for America Memorial](#) located at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, 21 March at 2 p.m.