



**Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services**  
**Articles of Interest: 28 January – 17 February 2017**

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## **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

1. [\*\*Service Chiefs Ask Congress to Maintain Military Readiness, Fund Credentialing Program\*\*](#)

*(15 Feb) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Shannon Collins*

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday, the military's top enlisted advisors and the acting assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs discussed the importance of single service member and military family readiness programs.

## **EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION**

2. [\*\*General Officer Assignments\*\*](#). The chief of staff, Army announces the following assignments:

- Maj. Gen. Arlen R. Royalty, U.S. Army Reserve, assistant deputy chief of staff, G-3 (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, U.S. Army, Washington, District of Columbia, to commander (Troop Program Unit), 84th Training Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky.
- Brig. Gen. Maria B. Barrett, deputy commanding general, Joint Force Headquarters-Cyber, U.S. Army Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Maryland, to deputy director of operations, J-3, U.S. Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Maryland.
- Brig. Gen. Robin L. Fontes, senior defense official and defense attache-India (U.S. Pacific Command), Defense Intelligence Agency, India, to senior director for India, Pakistan, and Central Asian Affairs, National Security Council, Executive Office of the President, Washington, District of Columbia.

3. [\*\*Flag Officer Assignment\*\*](#). Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignment: Rear Adm. (lower half) Ann M. Burkhardt will be assigned as director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, Arlington, Virginia. Burkhardt is currently serving as director, 21st Century Sailor Office, N17, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia.

4. [\*\*Marine Corps' tent-sharing decision renews debate over roles of women in combat\*\*](#)

*(26 Jan) Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol*

A Marine Corps infantry commander's plan to let male and female grunts share the same tents and fighting positions is rekindling a heated debate about last year's decision to allow women to serve in combat units.

5. [\*\*Welcome to the suck: Here's what life at Marine boot camp is like\*\*](#)

*(29 Jan) Business Insider*

Established in 1915, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island churns out 20,000 new Marines every year.

6. [\*\*First enlisted women report to Army infantry school\*\*](#)

*(2 Feb) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*

There are some unfamiliar faces running around Sand Hill as of Tuesday — female faces.

7. [\*\*Fort Sill female soldiers, first to complete special training\*\*](#)

*(2 Feb) ABC 7 News, By Chelsea Ford*

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a first for female soldiers at Fort Sill. The first three women to complete the Fire Support Specialist training went through their graduation ceremony.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

8. [Soldiers cheer Army's decision to authorize dreadlocks in uniform](#)

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

The Army on Jan. 5 released a new grooming and appearance directive that authorized religious exemptions for turbans and beards for Sikh men and hijabs for Muslim women, but buried down in the document was a provision that changed everything for many black women in the service.

9. [Restriction on pregnant Guard, Reserve airmen lifted](#)

*(2 Feb) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*

Pregnant members of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve who are serving on active duty for operational support orders will no longer have their orders automatically cut short at 34 weeks of pregnancy.

10. [When troops worry about their kids' schools, our military suffers](#)

*(2 Feb) Washington Post, By Jim Cowen*

A third of service members say their child's educational opportunities are a factor in deciding whether to accept an assignment or remain in the military.

11. [A Pattern of Malfeasance: The Department of Defense's Treatment of Special Needs Military Kids](#)

*(15 Feb) The Huffington Post, By Jeremy Hilton*

Over the last couple of years, a small cadre of these military families, along with advocacy organizations, like those in the TRICARE for Kids Coalition, have pushed DoD to enhance its services and supports for these unique military families.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

12. [Army: Remains of missing Fort Campbell soldier have been found](#)

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

More than four months after she went missing from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the remains of Pfc. Shadow McClaine have been found.

13. [Face of Defense: Coast Guard Reservist Succeeds Through Hard Work, Dedication](#)

*(31 Jan) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Lisa Ferdinando*

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Casandra Minifield, who graduated in 2016 from the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, is now a graduate student at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. She takes great pride in her work with the Coast Guard and in all the commitments that fill her schedule.

14. [Face of Defense: Army Mom Surprises Daughters With Early Return](#)

*(2 Feb) U.S. Army Garrison Fort Lee, By Lesley Atkinson*

Two military daughters were surprised Jan. 5 at Cosby High School in Midlothian, Virginia, by their mother's early return from a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

15. [Face of Defense: Deployed Siblings Reunite After 10 Years Apart](#)

*(6 Feb) 407th Air Expeditionary Group, By Air Force Master Sgt. Benjamin Wilson*

U.S. service members ordinarily have to say goodbye to their family as they head out for deployments, but one recent deployment allowed a brother and sister to reunite after 10 years of separation.

16. [Face of Defense: Navy Chief Finds Joy in Volunteer Work](#)

*(14 Feb) Navy Recruiting District Nashville, By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy Walter*

Navy Chief Petty Officer Heather Lane had a grin that remained constant for hours as she chopped away on peppers and cucumbers to fill the large clear containers with vegetables for the next meal at the Nashville Rescue Mission here.

## WOMEN VETERANS

17. [GI Jane Needs a Place to Sleep](#)

*(1 Feb) The Huffington Post, By Lily Casura*

So this federal count, which attempts to estimate the number of homeless veterans, may miss the majority of women veterans who struggle with unstable housing for this very reason — they don't appear to be homeless, and they don't show up in places intended for the homeless.

18. [IVF services for vets will move forward, VA nominee promises](#)

*(2 Feb) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*

President Trump's nominee to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs promised that plans to offer in vitro fertilization services to injured veterans will go ahead in coming months, amid all the other changes at the department.

19. [Sorting the Mail, Blazing a Trail: African-American Women in World War II](#)

*(13 Feb) Army News, By Elizabeth M. Collins*

The only all-African-American Women's Army Corps unit sent to Europe during World War II, the 6888th was responsible for clearing years' worth of backlogged mail in both England and France.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT

20. [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.