



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

20 October – 2 November 2018

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Not many troops are opting into the new retirement system](#)

(22 Oct) Military Times, By Karen Jowers

With less than three months to go before the year-end deadline, only one in six service members who are eligible to make the choice to opt in to the new military retirement system have done so, falling far short of prior expectations and raising questions about why the response has been so low.

2. [Recruiter hopes 'Enlisted' rap video will inspire others to join the Army](#)

(23 Oct) Stars & Stripes, By Christian Lopez

Recruiting in the armed forces is all about communication, and an Atlanta-area recruiter is using his musical talents to attract future soldiers. Sgt. 1st Class Arlondo Sutton released "Enlisted" under his rap name, Rookie Baby, on Sept. 24. Since then, the video — which stars the Lawrenceville, Ga., Army recruiting station commander and his team — has been viewed more than 1.2 million times on various social media platforms.

3. [Grad degrees to be required for officers taking major command](#)

(29 Oct) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram

Starting with officers in Year Group 2015, completion of an in-residence graduate education program will be mandatory before an officer assumes major command. Beginning in 2020, the Navy will rewrite the precepts — the orders given to selection boards — with "language that makes clear the Navy's expectation that we invest in developing future Navy leaders as critical/strategic thinkers" by attending graduate education programs, according to the guidance.

4. [This is how the Corps is overhauling its enlisted military education to boost lethality and college accreditation](#)

(31 Oct) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow

The Corps is amid a large-scale modernization of its enlisted professional military education in an effort to prepare its noncommissioned officers for a future fight. Upcoming changes include the renaming of the Enlisted Professional Military Education Directorate to the College of Enlisted Military Education, adding a week to the resident Sergeants School, and streamlining curriculum to ease accreditation at civilian universities.

5. [CENTCOM apologizes for training manual with phrase 'Negro blood'](#)

(1 Nov) Stars and Stripes, By John Vandiver

U.S. Central Command issued an apology Thursday after it was discovered that offensive language including the phrase "Negro blood" had found its way into a welcome guide for military personnel deployed to Saudi Arabia.

6. [Why recruiting cyberwarriors in the military is harder than retaining forces](#)

(1 Nov) Fifth Domain, By Justin Lynch

Recruiting the American military's cyber force is more difficult than retaining digital warriors, top Pentagon officials said during the CyberCon 2018 conference, hosted Nov. 1 by Fifth Domain in Pentagon City, Virginia.

7. [Army under secretary: Female Rangers will not become a recruiting tool](#)

(1 Nov) Military.com, By Matthew Cox

The U.S. Army's new wave of recruiting ads will show soldiers firing mortars, launching drones and clearing rooms. But don't look for them to feature women earning Ranger Tabs or joining the infantry for the first time in the service's history.

8. [Arizona Marine recruiting station fire-bombed with Molotov cocktail-like explosive](#)
(1 Nov) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
A Marine recruiting station was one of the targets of a series of firebombings to hit Tucson, Arizona, on Tuesday.
9. [Racial bias probed at Coast Guard Academy](#)
(1 Nov) *The Associated Press*, By Michael Melia
The Department of Homeland Security's inspector general is investigating allegations of racial discrimination at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and inadequate follow-up by the school's leadership, the agency said Thursday.
10. [For military kids, the autumn brings trepidation and anxiety](#)
(1 Nov) *Military Times*, By Kiera Gallagher
Autumn brings trepidation for military-connected children—because they move so frequently, six to nine times during a child's K-12 years. For military parents who have committed themselves to national service, a child struggling to integrate into a new school makes them doubt their career choice and causes them to reflect on whether the cost is too high. They may even consider leaving the service.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

11. [Say goodbye to the old female dress blue coat](#)
(18 Oct) *Marine Times*, By Shawn Snow
Now that the Corps has a new female dress blue coat it plans to shelve the old one.
In a message to the force, the Corps said the female dress blue coat with white shirt and necktab would become “obsolete” by 2022. In the meantime, female Marines can choose between the old female coat and the new dress blue which features a mandarin collar.
12. [The military draft is making a comeback in Europe](#)
(19 Oct) *The Washington Post*, By Rick Noack
For many young Europeans, a post-high-school “gap year” has become a rite of passage. Instead of proceeding straight to work or college, hundreds of thousands of newly graduated high school students enjoy a year of travel to see the world and celebrate their newfound freedom. But a growing number of those young men and women face a much different post-graduation interlude: military service.
13. [1st Female Marine to Complete MARSOC's 2nd Phase Is Leaving the Corps](#)
(21 Oct) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
Sgt. Bailey Weis didn't set out to be a trailblazer, but she became one late last month when she completed the second phase of the arduous selection process for Marine special operators, a feat no other woman has accomplished.
14. [First female completes second phase of Marine Raider selection](#)
(22 Oct) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
No female Marine has yet to successfully navigate the elite Marine Raider assessment, selection and Individual Training Course, or ITC, to earn the coveted 0372 Critical Skills Operator job field. But one female Marine has moved the baton a little further. Last month, Sgt. Bailey Weis, an aviation maintenance controller, became the first female Marine to complete the second phase of Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command's Assessment and Selection course.
15. [Army May Change Pushup Technique for New Fitness Test](#)
(23 Oct) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
Army fitness officials here are still experimenting to determine the technique soldiers will have to master when they take the Army Combat Fitness Test for record in October 2020.
16. [Army gets it right with Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson](#)
(23 Oct) *The Hill*, By Daniel S. Morgan
Over the past 12 months, more than 600 women have been recruited for, or assigned to, combat positions, and 14 women have graduated from the Army's elite Ranger School. A couple of these combat leaders are in command of infantry companies once traditionally reserved for men. These combat-focused women are the pipeline for the future of our Army. This past week, the Army selected Lt. Gen. (LTG) Laura Richardson as acting commanding general of the Army's Forces Command (FORSCOM), which holds the responsibility of providing combat-ready forces around the world.

17. [All roles in the UK military, including Royal Marines and SAS, open to women](#)
(25 Oct) Military Times, By Shawn Snow
All roles in the British armed forces, including the Royal Marines and elite special forces Special Air Service, known as the SAS, are now open to women, Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson announced Thursday.
18. [Maryland National Guard makes history with first-ever all-female command staff](#)
(25 Oct) WBALTV, By Lisa Robinson
The Maryland National Guard is making history with its command staff, breaking the glass ceiling with an all-female command staff. Not only is this the first for Maryland, but a first for what the military calls the 54 -- every state, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.
19. [New Equipment Coming to 60 Army Battalions Ahead of Revamped Fitness Test](#)
(25 Oct) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
U.S. Army fitness experts have begun equipping and training more than 60 battalions of soldiers participating in the field test of the new Army Combat Fitness Test. One of the first hurdles to launching the field test was equipping the test units, according to Whitfield East, the research physiologist for the Army's Center for Initial Military Training and the principal investigator for the Soldier Baseline Physical Readiness Requirements Study.
20. [Moveover, 355-ship Navy: New report calls for an even larger fleet](#)
(26 Oct) Defense News, By David B. Larter
The U.S. is woefully short of ships and even the Navy's target goal of 355 ships is well short of what the country needs to prepare for two simultaneous major conflicts and maintain its rotational presence requirements with excess capacity for surge operations and combat casualties.
21. [The nation needs a 400-ship Navy](#)
(26 Oct) Heritage Foundation, By Thomas Callender
America's shipbuilding industrial base has the capacity to build at least an additional 22 amphibious warships, 20 frigates, and 24 combat logistics force ships between FY 2020 and FY 2039: enough to meet the recommended numbers of amphibious warships, small surface combatants, and CLF ships.
22. [So far, the Army is not considering alternate events for its new fitness test](#)
(24 Oct) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
Rather than allow someone with bad knees to switch out the 2-mile run for a stationary bike, for example, the Center for Initial Military training is developing an interim assessment to figure out when — or if — a soldier will be able to complete an ACFT again, and thus be combat ready.
23. [The Army's noncommissioned officer corps is due for a culture change, according to this senior leader](#)
(29 Oct) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
Army Training and Doctrine Command is taking on a top-to-bottom review of everything it does. So far, that has yielded a new fitness test and an extension to infantry basic training. In the next year, leaders are tasked with overhauling the way the Army recruits and builds new soldiers.
24. [The Marine Corps is buying new body armor as it works to upgrade the fit, feel and protection of vital gear](#)
(31 Oct) Marine Corps Times, By Todd South
The Marine Corps recently selected a Michigan-based company to provide as many as 65,000 soft armor inserts for its upgraded body armor suite. The move is one of many being made by both the Marine Corps and the Army to make body armor lighter, more resilient, fit better and provide adjustable levels of protection for Marines and soldiers.
25. [On the Front Line: Embedded With American Female Combat Soldiers in Afghanistan](#)
(November 2018) 5280 – Denver Magazine, By Kasey Cordell
This past spring, the U.S. Army sent a gender-integrated howitzer crew to a war zone for one of the first times. We embedded with the Fort Carson unit on its historic mission in Afghanistan.
26. [Navy officially retires 'bucket' cover for female officers, chiefs](#)
(1 Nov) USNI News, By Ben Werner
The Navy officially retired the combination – or “bucket” – cover this week, ending the 78-year run for the staple of the female officer and chief petty officer uniform.

27. [Army Issues Lighter Armor For Bigger Wars](#)
(2 Nov) *InMilitary.com*, By Sydney J. Freedberg Jr.
As a female soldier, Lt. Col. Ginger Whitehead particularly appreciates a number of subtle improvements, from a greater range of smaller sizes — early armor tended to run huge — to a helmet that doesn't get hung up on your regulation hair bun. Only one piece of the kit is actually gender-specific, however: Women get a vest with relatively shorter sleeves, a wider waist, and a notch in the back of the collar to accommodate the omnipresent bun. The Army is trying out additional padding *under* the armor plate to improve comfort for particularly well-endowed servicewomen.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

28. [Military Sexual Assault](#)
(19 Oct) *CSPAN Video*
The Defense Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces met to hear testimony from civilian sexual assault investigators. Three detectives from Boston, Baltimore, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, took questions from committee members about their experience with investigating sexual crimes. The Defense committee was authorized by Congress in 2016 to advise the Pentagon on sexual misconduct by service members.
29. [On the witness stand, former Alaska National Guard commander says cover-up accusations are false](#)
(20 Oct) *Anchorage Daily News*, By Devin Kelly
In a federal courtroom Friday, Maj. Gen. Thomas Katkus, the former adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, said it was not true that he'd covered up and mishandled allegations of sexual misconduct during his time as commander.
30. [Transforming the culture to prevent military sexual assault](#)
(22 Oct) *TCPalm*, By Dr. Dana Matthews (Opinion)
Culture change is needed and it is not just a leadership issue, and not a matter of a victim being in the wrong place at the wrong time. It will take the help of brave men of character to fix the culture of the military when it comes to sexual assault.
31. [400,000 troops being surveyed on exercise, sex, eating, sleeping, drinking and more](#)
(23 Oct) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
About 11 percent of the active-duty force and about 20 percent of Guard and Reserve members were chosen in a scientific random selection process to participate. The survey email will have a subject line that includes the words "2018 DoD Health Related Behaviors Survey" in various forms, such as "Invitation to participate in the 2018 DoD Health Related Behaviors Survey." The survey "gives DoD a sense of the force readiness," said a senior sociologist with RAND Corporation.
32. [Judge: Fort Campbell was not informed about soldier's domestic violence order](#)
(23 Oct) *The Eagle Post*, By Zirconia Alleyne
A Fort Campbell soldier who was murdered Sunday night by her estranged husband had an active domestic violence order against him; however, the judge who issued it said Fort Campbell was not made aware of the order because it wasn't either agency's policy to do so.
33. [Relationships 101: Learning the basics for healthy dating relations](#)
(24 Oct) *Pointer View Assistant Editor*, By Brandon O'Connor
Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy are used to attending classes on topics such as physics, math and military science, but they had a new instruction topic introduced to the curriculum--relationships. During the Relationships 101 Symposium hosted by the SHARP program, cadets learned the basics of how to be in healthy dating and sexual relationships through a series of seminars on topics including how to talk about sex, asking for consent and the ethics of dating.
34. [Senator demands probe of website that promotes nude photos of female servicemembers](#)
(25 Oct) *Stars & Stripes*, By Claudia Grisales
Sen. Claire McCaskill, ranking Democrat for the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, is calling for a probe by the inspector general into a website that claims to trade and share nude photos and videos of female servicemembers.

35. [Website promoting nude photos of female servicemembers is disabled](#)
(26 Oct) *Stars & Stripes*, By *Claudia Grisales*
A day after a key senator demanded an official probe into a website that solicits nude photos and videos of female servicemembers, the site has been disabled.
36. [Rand report reveals where military sex assaults were happening, but not why](#)
(26 Oct) *Stars and Stripes*, By *Caitlin Doornbos*
Rand Corp. report requested by the Department of Defense and published last month offered a glimpse at where sexual assault was happening in the military, but experts say it failed to answer one of the most important questions: Why? Rand's authors wrote in the report that they could not definitively identify "what it is about these duty assignments that leads to their association with the highest risk of sexual assault" based on the data.
37. [Marines' #MeToo moment: Tribunal to decide fate of officer accused of sexual harassment](#)
(26 Oct) *USA Today*, By *Tom Vanden Brook*
The Marine Corps officer accused of making blatant sexual overtures to two women he supervised adamantly denied the allegations after one accuser just as forcefully rejected the assertion she had made up her story. The Marine Corps in previous investigations has found the charges unsubstantiated. A tribunal of three Marine colonels will decide Cheek's fate.
38. [IG: Air Force General Harassed Subordinate, Failed to Report Suicide Attempts](#)
(29 Oct) *Military.com*, By *Oriana Pawlyk*
An Air Force brigadier general recently forced to retire without a promotion told his subordinates not to report suicide attempts, made inappropriate comments about women during a sporting event, and pressured a female airman under his command into uncomfortable conversation about her past, according to a recently released report from the Air Force Inspector General's office.
39. [Failing Private Burnham: An Investigation into a Minn. Soldier's Assault, Death](#)
(30 Oct) *5-Eyewitness News*, By *Kristen Swanson*
A Minnesota soldier died by suicide earlier this year after she was sexually assaulted and harassed on a U.S. Army base in South Korea, according to investigative reports. Pvt. Nicole Burnham's death in January prompted an Army investigation that revealed a series of failures by her commanding officers. The report also shows Nicole was kept on the base for nearly three months after requesting to be transferred back to the United States.
40. [Unproven Sexual Harassment Claims Could Force Marine Officer into Retirement](#)
(30 Oct) *Military.com*, By *Gina Harkins*
Maj. David Cheek, accused of sexually harassing multiple women could be forced to retire, even after a board and several investigations failed to substantiate allegations of him displaying an erection through his clothing on multiple occasions. The board found his overall performance fell below what is expected from an officer in the Marine Corps.
41. [Three commanders fired from Laughlin flying training wing for failing to stop misconduct](#)
(31 Oct) *Air Force Times*, By *Stephen Losey*
The commander of the 47th Flying Training Wing at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas, his operations group commander and a flying training squadron commander have been relieved for failing to stop officer misconduct there.
42. [Google employees walk out to protest treatment of women](#)
(1 Nov) *ABC News*, By *Micheal Liedtke*
Google engineers and other company workers around the world walked off the job Thursday to protest the internet company's lenient treatment of executives accused of sexual misconduct. The protests are the latest backlash against men's exploitation of female subordinates in business, entertainment, technology and politics.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

43. [1st USAR Female Mobility Augmentation Company Commander](#)
(27 Sep) *412th Theater Engineer Command*, By *Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood*
Capt. Amanda Duffy made history after becoming the first USAR female officer selected as a MAC commander.

44. [Estranged Husband Charged in Murder of Fort Campbell Soldier](#)
(19 Oct) *The Florida Times-Union*, By Dan Scanlan
The estranged husband of a U.S. Army sergeant, Sgt. Brittney N. Silvers, 27, who was shot and killed at Fort Campbell as charged with first-degree murder, attempted murder and interstate domestic violence.
45. [Meet Hill Air Force Base's first female fighter wing commander](#)
(28 Oct) *Standard-Examiner*, By Mitch Shaw
When Col. Regina Sabric was a young girl, around 10 or 12 years old, she had an epiphany. She knew exactly what she wanted to do with her life. She wanted to be a fighter pilot.
46. [Female cadet makes history, putting a spin on male-dominated drill team](#)
(28 Oct) *ABC KSAT 12*, By Japhanie Gray
When Danielle Gonzalez got to John Jay High School, she had no idea that she would later become the first ever female cadet to make the JROTC Silver Eagles Drill Team.
47. [General Officer Assignment](#)
(29 Oct) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-309-18)*
The chief of staff, Army announces the following officer assignment: Brig. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp, deputy director, program analysis and evaluation, G-8, U.S. Army, Washington, District of Columbia, to vice director for intelligence, J-2, Joint Staff (Defense Intelligence Agency), Washington, District of Columbia.
48. [Easley woman shares how she became the first enlisted soldier to become an Army Ranger](#)
(29 Oct) *Greenville News*, By Ron Barnett
Amanda Kelley didn't set out to become the first female enlisted soldier to pass the incredibly rigorous Army Ranger course. For Staff Sgt. Kelley, a native of Easley, that was just another step along the path toward her bigger goal – to become Sergeant Major of the Army.
49. [First husband-and-wife duo to fly B-2 stealth bombers retire after making history](#)
(30 Oct) *CBS Evening News*, By Carter Evans
The B-2 stealth bomber is able to fly into enemy territory undetected, making it one of the most feared aircraft in the world. Lt Col. Jennifer Avery was the first woman to fly it.

WOMEN VETERANS

50. [These Women Vets Are Running For Congress. Their Stories Will Blow You Away.](#)
(13 Oct) *People*, By Anna Millard
A new ad spot called “Women Rising” features female candidates who, prior to running for office, dedicated their lives to serving the U.S., including in the Marines and Air Force.
51. [Olivia Hooker: A Veteran's Story](#)
(17 Oct) *The Maritime Executive*, By Denise Krepp
On Veterans Day, we will join together as a country to thank the men and women who have and are serving our country in uniform. Dr. Hooker served on active duty as a yeoman from March 1945 to June 1946. She was the first of only five African American women to serve in the Coast Guard during World War II. Dr. Hooker is 103 and currently resides in New York.
52. [VA Re-Examining Military Sexual Trauma Claims](#)
(17 Oct) *Military.com*, By Jim Absher
Back in 2011, the VA realized that many MST victims didn't report assaults due to reasons specific to the military including: reluctance to submit a report when the perpetrator is a superior officer; concerns about negative implications for performance reports; worries about punishment for collateral misconduct; and/or the perception of an unresponsive military chain of command. As a result of these obstacles preventing victims from reporting MST, VA then updated their rules for determining PTSD in MST cases, liberalizing the types of evidence they would accept in MST PTSD claims.
53. [Year of the woman veteran? Five races to watch](#)
(19 Oct) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
More female veterans are running for Congress this November than ever before. A total of 14 women are competing in congressional contests next month, and polling so far suggests several are likely to win new seats.

54. [**Air Force Veteran Continues to Serve Her Country Through the VFW**](#)
(19 Oct) VFW News Release
 Amber Putnam has lived her life in service of others. Helping others was instilled in her at a young age. In her role as a VFW Assistant Department Service Officer, Putnam works tirelessly to help veterans receive the benefits they deserve.
55. [**Rename Oakland airport? Petition seeks to recognize trailblazing Berkeley pilot**](#)
(22 Oct) East Bay Times, By Erin Baldassari
 She was a pioneering pilot, flying planes for the military during WWII, a coder in the early days of computers and a tireless community advocate. And now, one Walnut Creek resident is on a quest to rename Oakland International Airport in her honor.
56. [**National Veterans Memorial and Museum opens in Ohio**](#)
(27 Oct) Stars & Stripes, By Nikki Wentling
 The new National Veterans Memorial and Museum officially opened to the public Saturday with a ceremony featuring Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie and former Secretary of State retired Gen. Colin Powell. Jaspen Boothe, an Army veteran who left the military this year, traveled from Alexandria, Va., for the ceremony. She's featured in the museum, appearing in some of the videos playing in its center concourse.
57. [**When Female Veterans Return Home**](#)
(29 Oct) Marie Claire, By Jim Rendon
 More than 380,000 American women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Though most have not officially been in combat roles, these women have taken on crucial responsibilities in very dangerous places, sometimes fighting alongside the men. By 2020, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates there will be nearly two million female veterans.

VETERANS DAY EVENTS

58. Event: [**Veterans Day Film Festival**](#)
 Dates: 10-11 November
 Locations: Warner Bros. Theater in the National Museum of American History, and the Lockheed Martin IMAX Theater in the National Air and Space Museum.
59. Event: [**George Washington University's Military Appreciation Day Game**](#)
GW Women's Basketball vs. Princeton Tigers (Home Opener)
 Date/Time: 11 November at 2 p.m.
 Location: Charles E. Smith Center
 600 22nd St. N.W.
 Washington, DC 20052
 Details: As part of GWU's Military Appreciation Game, the Colonials are offering [**2 FREE TICKETS**](#) to all military members (Active/Reserve/Guard/Veteran/Retirees) with a valid ID. The game will include in-game recognitions of key women in the military, a Vets vs. Cadets 3-on-3 competition at halftime, and a special performance of the National Anthem by Air Force Master Sergeant Natalie Noland.
60. Event: [**The Women's Memorial Veterans Day Program**](#)
 Date/Time: 11 November at 3 p.m.
 Details: The ceremony, one of the major observances in the nation's capital, is free and open to the public and will include formal military honors, a keynote address, veterans' remarks and a wreath laying. Pamela Powers, the Department of Veterans Affairs Chief of Staff, will deliver this year's keynote remarks.