



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

14 August 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Navy esports team to resume streaming on Twitch after trolling caused weeklong hiatus](#)

(31 Jul) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins

The Navy is standing by its decision to block some users on its livestreaming channel where the sea service's new esports team talks to young gamers.

2. [Nation's largest military women's conference goes virtual](#)

(1 Aug) *MilitaryFamilies.com*, By Susan Malandrino

The Sea Services Leadership Association (SSLA) Joint Women's Leadership Symposium is typically the largest gathering of women in uniform nationwide. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, instead of gathering in person, the group will unite online for a 12-part seminar series. The events are free and will cover a wide range of topics, including finance, leadership, work/ life balance and policy issues. The series kicks off August 10 and runs through December.

3. [Debate over Draft Registration for Women Takes Deadly Twist](#)

(3 Aug) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime

A radical men's rights attorney and self-described "anti-feminist" is the primary suspect in the murder of a California lawyer who represented a group suing to include women in the draft, as well as the killing of the son of a federal judge considering a different draft registration case.

4. [Army esports to resume streaming, unban accounts](#)

(4 Aug) *Army Times*, By Harm Venhuizen

After allegations of fake giveaways, harassment from commenters, and a proposed amendment to cut off its funding, the Army's esports team will resume streaming in the near future, officials said.

5. [Airmen with child custody arrangements will now be stationed near their kids if possible](#)

(5 Aug) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey

"We owe it to our teammates to make sure they have every opportunity to keep their family together whenever possible," Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright said.

6. [Air Force adds 100 ROTC scholarships for students at Black colleges in diversity push](#)

(11 Aug) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey

The Air Force is adding 100 more full scholarships for students to attend historically Black colleges and universities, or HBCUs, through its Reserve Officer Training Corps program, the latest move in its efforts to improve diversity in the ranks.

7. [Navy one-stars take more risks, while Marines value discipline, Rand study finds](#)

(11 Aug) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox

A new Rand Corp. study offers a report card for each of the U.S. military's systems to create generals and admirals that could shape the Pentagon's future approach to building joint-force leaders. The Army, Navy and Air Force agreed that high-visibility assignments and maintaining personal networks are very important to the O-7-promotion process, while the Marine Corps viewed both areas as minimally important to the process, the report found.

8. [Survey: Navy's recent woes aren't affecting American opinion of service](#)

(11 Aug) *USNI News*, By Sam LaGrone

The Navy's problems over the last several years have done little to change the average American's view of the service, according to an internal Navy survey reviewed last week by USNI News.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

14 August 2020



9. **[Federal Appeals Court: Male-Only Draft is Constitutional](#)**

(13 Aug) The Associated Press, By Kevin McGill

A federal appeals court in New Orleans upheld the constitutionality of the all-male military draft system Thursday, citing a 1981 U.S. Supreme Court decision. In a decision that overturned a 2019 ruling by a Texas-based federal judge, a panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans said “only the Supreme Court may revise its precedent.”

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

10. **[‘Be a bro’: How a commander’s sexism derailed this pilot training class — and brought down AETC leaders](#)**

(3 Aug) Air Force Times, By

There are two types of women who fly in Combat Air Forces, a female student pilot was told by her flight commander in early 2018.

11. **[Skirting Tradition: Air Force OKs Mess Dress Pants for Women](#)**

(5 Aug) Air Force Magazine, By Jennifer-Leigh Oprhory

Women serving in the Air Force and Space Force may now wear pants with their mess dress uniforms, the Department of the Air Force announced. Previously, these service members’ only option for mess dress bottoms was a floor-length skirt.

12. **[There are no women leading Marine infantry platoons. The Corps wants to change that](#)**

(5 Aug) Military.com, By Gina Harkins and Hope Hodge Seck

Nearly 300 female Marines have moved into combat-arms jobs that were, up until less than five years ago, previously open only to men. But only one female officer has led a Marine infantry platoon so far.

13. **[USAF Looks to Build Planes, Workstations to Fit More Aviators](#)**

(7 Aug) Air Force Magazine, Brian W. Everstine

The parameters established by the 1967 study exclude about 44 percent of women, including 74 percent of Black women, 72 percent of Latino women and 61 percent of Asian American women unless they are granted a waiver, according to an Air Force release. Under the original guidance, for example, less than 9 percent of women met the requirements to fly the F-15 without a waiver, the service said.

14. **[Space Force: New service’s future coming into focus](#)**

(7 Aug) National Defense, By Yasmin Tadjeh

With more than six months passed, the future of the fledgling Space Force is coming into focus. However, elements of its structure are still being hammered out.

15. **[First Space Force doctrine lays foundation for future ops](#)**

(10 Aug) Air Force Magazine, By Rachel S. Cohen

The Space Force on Aug. 10 rolled out its inaugural policy document that will govern how it organizes, trains, and equips service members for military space operations.

16. **[Female soldiers told the Army they wanted pants, not a skirt, for Greens uniform](#)**

(11 Aug) Military.com, By Hope Hedge Seck

When developing the Army’s much-vaunted new service dress uniform, officials took an unprecedented step: They assembled an all-female panel to assess the uniform’s fit and feel and provide feedback.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

14 August 2020



17. **[Senate confirms Air Force, Space Force leaders](#)**

(11 Aug) Air Force Magazine, By Brian W. Everstine

The Senate on Aug. 6 confirmed a series of Air Force and Space Force leaders to new leadership roles, including new bosses at U.S. Northern Command, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and staff jobs in the new service.

18. **[Soldiers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord Are Testing Out Better-Fitting Body Armor](#)**

(13 Aug) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

For the first time in her career, Army Maj. Melissa Elledge can stand up and feel her legs after sitting for an hour while wearing body armor. At 5 feet, 3 inches tall and 120 pounds, Elledge's body armor has never fit correctly. The plates rested on her legs while sitting, cutting off her circulation.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

19. **[The Military Failed Vanessa Guillen and Others. It Must Do Better.](#)**

(1 Aug) MsMagazine.com, By Gailya Paliga

The military needs to take missing person cases more seriously and also communicate better with families. In Guillen's case, the military didn't solve her murder until service members blew the story up and shared their stories with the hashtag on social media

20. **[Military leaders are confronting a new form of discrimination: Pregnancy bias](#)**

(2 Aug) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk

Complaints from an active-duty airman's colleague landed the airman in front of her command leadership. She was taking too many breaks while on duty, they said, and they recommended that she fix the problem on her own. But the breaks she took were to pump milk for her newborn baby.

21. **[Military Sexual Assault](#)**

(3 Aug) The Chicago Crusader, By Diana Danis

There are only a handful of actual sexual harassment complaints each year across the U. S. military, while nearly 70 percent of women and six percent of men say they have suffered sexual harassment. Yet, the military has a Zero Tolerance Policy for all sex crimes.

22. **[DoD initiates Women's Health Reproductive Survey](#)**

(4 Aug) Health.mil, By Military Health System Communications Office

The Department of Defense Active Duty Women's Reproductive Health Survey, or WRHS, is the first survey specifically focused on the reproductive health of female service members in over 30 years. The WRHS, which will begin in August, provides information that can shape policy and clinical care in the area of women's health. The survey assesses behaviors and experiences that can affect military readiness and inform clinicians about women's gynecologic and obstetrical care needs.

23. **[Army Special Forces colonel faces sexual assault charges](#)**

(4 Aug) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer

Col. Kevin M. Russell is assigned to Army Special Operations Command, with duty at the overarching U.S. Special Operations Command. Russell faces five counts of violating Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the docket shows. He was arraigned in June and has pleaded not guilty, according to the records.

24. **[Female airmen organize honor walk for murdered Fort Hood soldier, raise awareness about sexual misconduct](#)**

(4 Aug) KENS5, By Sharon Ko

Four service members organized an honor walk to remember Vanessa Guillen, the Fort Hood soldier who was murdered. The event also raised awareness about sexual harassment and assault in the military.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

14 August 2020



25. [Army leaders promise culture shift to cease sexual harassment, assault](#)
(5 Aug) *Army News Service*, By Joseph Lacdan
The Army plans to take extra measures to combat sexual harassment and assault within its ranks, including changes to its promotion boards and competitions, senior leaders said July 22.
26. [Understanding SHARP leader roles, credibility](#)
(6 Aug) *Fort Hood Sentinel*, By Brandy Cruz
The role of a victim advocate is to provide essential support, explain reporting options, coordinate unit transfer options and assist the victim in making informed decisions.
27. [SecArmy Pledges 'Every Resource' to Root Out Causes of Vanessa Guillen's Death](#)
(6 Aug) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told an audience at Fort Hood on Thursday that he is determined to change the culture of sexual harassment and assault at the Texas post and across the entire service.
28. [Murder, sexual harassment rates at Fort Hood among highest in the service, Army secretary says](#)
(6 Aug) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
The rates of certain violent crimes, including murder, are generally higher at Fort Hood, Texas, than other installations across the force, the Army's top civilian leader said Thursday.
29. [Paid parental leave takes shape under new OPM regulations](#)
(6 Aug) *Federal Times*, By Jessie Bur
The Office of Personnel Management will issue an interim final rule in the Federal Register Aug. 10 that clarifies when and how federal employees can use paid parental leave authorized under the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.
30. ['Child care dilemma:' Lawmakers urge Esper to find more options for military families](#)
(7 Aug) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
In light of child care shortages that are being exacerbated by COVID-19, lawmakers are urging Defense Department officials to take steps to help the many military families who may be in desperate need of child care this fall.
31. [DoD to assess female troops' reproductive health for first time in decades](#)
(8 Aug) *Military.com*, By Bing Xiao
The Pentagon is conducting its first survey in more than 30 years specifically focused on the reproductive health of female service members, according to an Aug. 4 release from the Military Health System Communications Office. It begins this month.
32. [Department of Defense Offers an Expanded Child Care Service Through Military OneSource](#)
(10 Aug) *Defense Department News*
The Defense Department is providing an additional way for military parents to find child care solutions for hourly care. Military OneSource will expand its offerings through a national online service that enables families to find, hire, and pay for care.
33. [Military families can now access database to find hourly child care](#)
(10 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By Caitlin M. Kenney
Military families needing hourly child care have a new, free option for finding providers, the Pentagon announced Monday.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

14 August 2020



34. [Infertility Was Distressing. The Military Made It Even More Complicated.](#)
(12 Aug) *The New York Times*, By Victoria Chamberlin
For service members like me, Tricare health insurance and the limited number of military medical facilities offering fertility treatments add more stress to an already emotional process.
35. [Congress wants the Pentagon to expand coverage for troops' eating disorder treatments](#)
(12 Aug) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime
The rate among military women was 11 times that among men. At highest risk for developing eating disorders were white women ages 20 to 24, according to the branch's June 2018 Medical Surveillance Monthly Report.
36. [After two women were killed on different U.S. bases, the military reluctantly faces its own #MeToo moment](#)
(14 Aug) *Yahoo News*, By Laura Ramirez
In 2019, the Defense Department's annual report on sexual assault revealed there were 7,825 sexual assault reports involving service members as victims or subjects. This is a 3 percent increase over 2018. Also up by 17 percent, with 2,126 reports, was the number of victims who confidentially disclosed an assault without pursuing an official investigation.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

37. [Virginia woman makes history in US Coast Guard: 'It's beyond a blessing'](#)
(26 Jul) *WTVR CBS 6*, By Web Staff
A Central Virginia woman who has been making history in her career in the U.S. Coast Guard celebrated another milestone this weekend. Lt. Chanel Lee, a graduate of Henrico High School, became Lt. Commander Chanel Lee at a ceremony with family and friends at her mother's home Saturday. Lee is among only five African American women pilots in the Coast Guard. She was the first to fly an MH-60 Seahawk helicopter and the first to be assigned to flight school.
38. [Miss. National Guard's largest unit welcomes first female battalion commander](#)
(1 Aug) *WLBT*, By Justin Dixon
The Mississippi National Guard's largest unit (MSNG), the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), welcomed its first female battalion commander. Lt. Col. Annie Lee of Hattiesburg assumed command of the 106th Brigade Support Battalion from Lt. Col. William Walley of Brandon, during the Change of Command ceremony.
39. [Navy's Only Female Commissioned Flying Warrant Officer Retires at Sea](#)
(3 Aug) *USS Nimitz (CVN 68)*, By Seaman Caitlin Flynn
The Navy's only female Flying Chief Warrant Officer ever commissioned made her last flight. The only female Flying Chief Warrant Officer ever commissioned in the U.S. Navy rose from the ranks before retiring at the end of her "Shooter" tour, a career that spanned the entire Global War on Terror.
40. [Face of Defense: Leading With Excellence](#)
(3 Aug) *Defense Department*, By *Defense.gov*
Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Loretta Washington didn't get to where she is today by going easy on anyone -- least of all herself.
41. [Body found near Fort Riley confirmed to be missing soldier](#)
(3 Aug) *Army Times*, By Zach England
A body found on the Konza Prairie Nature Trail in Kansas has been confirmed to be missing Warrant Officer Nicole Grothe. She had been assigned to Fort Riley since March, where she quickly earned the trust of her section, according to a press release.



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Articles of Interest

14 August 2020



42. [Carol Timmons, first woman to lead Delaware National Guard, dies at 62](#)
(3 Aug) *The Associated Press*
Carol Timmons, the first woman to lead the Delaware National Guard, has died, Guard officials announced Monday. She was 62. Timmons led the National Guard as Delaware's adjutant general from 2017 to 2019.
43. [Navy corrects record on its erroneous news story garnering former sailor harassing messages](#)
(4 Aug) *Navy Times*, By Howard Altman
Months after leaving service, an erroneous Navy media release still causing headaches for former sailor. Alize Acevedo thought she was doing a good deed last year when she helped a fellow sailor who was badly intoxicated during a San Diego shore leave.
44. [10 Things You Need to Know About the Vanessa Guillen Case](#)
(10 Aug) *HipLatina.com*, By V. Alexandra de F. Szoenyi
When Specialist Vanessa Guillen disappeared from Fort Hood in Texas, on April 22, we all got a glimpse into a tragedy that involved the military, covered up sexual harassment, and the senseless, horrible murder of a 20-year-old Chicana.
45. [Memorial set in Houston for slain Fort Hood soldier](#)
(11 Aug) *The Associated Press*
A memorial for a slain Texas soldier has been scheduled more than three months after she was killed by a fellow soldier at Fort Hood, an attorney for the family announced Tuesday.
46. [Former Air Force major sentenced to two years in prison for Tricare fraud](#)
(11 Aug) *Military.com*, By
Maj. Romeatrius Moss pleaded guilty to accepting kickbacks for referring patients at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, to civilian pharmacies that specialized in compounded medications; she faced up to five years in prison.
47. [Meet the only all-black female band in U.S. military history that served during WWII](#)
(13 Aug) *Face 2 Face Africa*, By Mildred Europa Taylor
Before the all-black female band was formed to raise funds and morale for the U.S. military, it had to fight against segregation. Generally, the concept of women in uniform was difficult for the American society of the 1940s to accept.

WOMEN VETERANS

48. [Military veterans demand justice for victims of sexual assault at Balboa Park rally](#)
(1 Aug) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, By Jeff McDonald
Nearly a dozen people attended a protest at the Veterans Memorial Garden in Balboa Park on Saturday to draw attention to victims of military sexual trauma, the San Diego rendition of a broader awareness effort that stretched across the country.
49. [The little-known story of the Navy women codebreakers who helped Allied forces win WWII](#)
(5 Aug) *CNN*, By Drew Kann
In the annals of military codebreaking history, there is perhaps no site more famous than Bletchley Park. But for all its recognition, it wasn't the only facility that cracked the code of the Germans' secret messages. In fact, the US had a Bletchley Park of its own right in Washington -- and it was women volunteers who historians say did much of the heavy-lifting it took to decipher the enemy's cryptic language. One of those women is Judy Parsons, a 99-year-old former Navy lieutenant and school teacher now living in the suburbs of Pittsburgh.



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14 August 2020



50. [Hazel Williams, one of first Black twin sisters to join U.S. military, dies from COVID-19](#)

(6 Aug) Fox 4, By Dionne Anglin

A North Texas woman with a trailblazing legacy died from COVID-19 at the age of 95. Hazel Greer Williams died roughly a week following a positive test result. She and her sister were the first Black twin sisters to join the U.S. military.

51. [Full Senate to take up 'Deborah Sampson' landmark bill on female veterans' health](#)

(6 Aug) Military.com, By Patricia Kime

A landmark bill designed to improve women's health services in the Department of Veterans Affairs took a step closer to becoming law Wednesday with a Senate committee's advance of the Deborah Sampson Act.

52. [She was raped 20 years ago. After a recent tweet about it, Air Force investigators showed up at her door](#)

(12 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Steve Beynon

A former airman and veterans advocate says two military investigators showed up at her Indiana home unannounced Monday after she recently tweeted about her rape, which happened more than two decades ago.