



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 September 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [**Air Force grants 1st assignment under new co-parenting accommodation policy**](#)
(27 Aug) *Military.com*, By Bing Xiao
Less than 24 hours after the Air Force began accepting relocation applications from parents with joint custody of a child, the service granted its first such request.
2. [**Will Congress Expand Military Draft Registration to Women?**](#)
(27 Aug) *Santa Barbara Independent*, By Kate Connell
The Unstated Risks of Military Careers
3. [**Marines stop using pictures for promotion boards, selection processes**](#)
(28 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By Immanuel Johnson
Photos will as of Tuesday no longer be used to select Marines for promotion or assignments, training, education and command opportunities, officials said as the Corps joins a services-wide effort to fight unconscious bias.
4. [**Capturing flags and recruiting future cyber soldiers**](#)
(28 Aug) *War On The Rocks*, By Samuel Crislip
The U.S. Army's new esports team and its new recruiting videos are all part of its efforts to motivate the youngest generations to find a place within its ranks by highlighting what it has to offer and where one can go as a soldier.
5. [**Removing photographs may not give a bigger picture for selection and promotion boards**](#)
(29 Aug) *Army Times*, By Ron E. Prescott
Fostering greater diversity and inclusion in the Army requires deliberate actions to ensure women and minorities are adequately represented in positions of leadership and influence.
6. [**Born Of A Troubled Air Force, Can Space Force Set A New Standard For Diversity And Inclusion?**](#)
(31 Aug) *CPR News*, By Dan Boyce
When 1st Lt. Kelley McCaa found out she would be part of the American military's first all-female space operations crew, alongside a team of women she considers close friends, she knew it would make a bold statement for the newly-formed U.S. Space Force.
7. [**The Air Force has begun assigning airmen with child custody arrangements to duty near their kids**](#)
(2 Sep) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
An airman from Luke Air Force Base late last month became the first to receive an assignment that took into consideration his child custody arrangement.
8. [**Navy Removes Photographs From All Officer Boards**](#)
(4 Sep) *Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*, By MCI Mark D. Faram
As of Sept. 1, the Navy is no longer showing officer service record photos during promotion, selection and assignment boards.
9. [**We followed the US Army's official esports team as it recruited gamers at a national video game convention**](#)
(9 Sep) *Business Insider*, By Marjolaine Grappe and Nora Nervest
At a national video game convention in San Antonio, a team of gamers is showcasing the benefits of a military career to teenagers.



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10. [Amid coronavirus, Army Basic Combat Training shows better results for Gen Z recruits](#)
(10 Sep) *Washington Examiner*, By Abraham Mahshie
At Victory Tower at Fort Jackson on a recent steamy South Carolina morning, some 260 Echo Company recruits gathered for only the second time in their three weeks at the Army's largest combat training center.
11. [Space Force to celebrate 1st birthday with personnel picks, promotion plans](#)
(11 Sep) *Air Force Magazine*, By Rachel S. Cohen
With its first birthday a few months away, the Space Force is preparing to unveil a slew of personnel, policy, and culture decisions that will set it apart from the other armed forces.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

12. [The Marine Corps is still looking for more female officers to attempt its infantry course](#)
(27 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey
The Corps is looking for more female infantry officers, according to an administrative message released in early August.
13. [The Few, the Proud, the White: The Marine Corps Balks at Promoting Generals of Color](#)
(31 Aug) *The New York Times*, By Helene Cooper
As the nation reels this summer from protests challenging centuries-long perceptions of race, the Marines — who have long cultivated a reputation as the United States' strongest fighting force — remain an institution where a handful of white men rule over 185,000 white, African-American, Hispanic and Asian men and women.
14. [New DARPA chief is 2nd woman to lead Pentagon's secretive research arm](#)
(31 Aug) *Military.com*, By Richard Sisk
Dr. Victoria Coleman, an artificial intelligence and microelectronics specialist, has been named director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Pentagon's secretive research arm.
15. [Marines lay out plans for gender integrating boot camp at the platoon level](#)
(1 Sep) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey
The Marine Corps provided hints about its plans for gender integrating boot camp at the platoon level in a report to Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services released in the September meeting notes.
16. [Flight school, diversity focus of Army Aviation cadet mentorship events](#)
(1 Sep) *Army News*, By Kelly Morris
Army Aviation experts come together virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic as mentors to help ensure cadets with the United States Military Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps, including at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, get the information they need to pursue their dreams.
17. [Women, Minorities Underrepresented in Cyber Security, DOD Expert Says](#)
(2 Sep) *Defense Department News*, By Terri Moon Cronk
Women and minorities are underrepresented in the cyber security workforce, according to a panel of women cyber leaders participating in a virtual panel discussion on women in cyber leadership.
18. [Calling all pilots! Corps to give up to \\$210,000 for Marine pilots to re-up](#)
(10 Sep) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey
The Marine Corps will give out an aviation bonus of up to \$210,000 for select pilots willing to extend their service commitment by up to six years, according to a new administrative message.



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19. [The Corps can't complete its missions without women, minorities, top Marine says](#)

(11 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey

The Marine Corps cannot complete its missions without women, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger said Thursday. Some people "think that diversity women, minorities, add," Berger said during the closing remarks of Thursday's online session of the Women in Defense Virtual Leadership Symposium. "We can actually not do our mission in the Department of Defense in the Marine Corps, without the dedication of women."

20. [Marine Commandant Wants Answers on Why Women, Minorities Decline to Seek Command](#)

(11 Sep) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

Women and people of color take themselves out of the running for Marine command screening boards "at a much higher rate" than white men, the service's top officer said this week, leaving the Corps with less diversity in its leaders.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

21. [Parents sue U.S. and housing company over death of their baby in a babysitter's home in military housing](#)

(27 Aug) Military Times, By Karen Jowers

The parents of a 7-month-old baby who died at a babysitter's home in Hawaii military housing are suing the U.S. government and the privatized housing company, alleging they failed to take action that could have prevented the death of their daughter.

22. [A sailor is suing DoD on behalf of her 3 babies who died](#)

(27 Aug) Military.com, By Patricia Kime

A federal judge has ruled that a lawsuit against Portsmouth Naval Medical Center can continue in an unusual case filed on behalf of three military dependents who died shortly after they were born in 2017.

23. [Army Special Forces colonel acquitted of sexual assault charges](#)

(27 Aug) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky

Army Special Forces Col. Kevin Russell, who was on trial this week after being charged with five counts of sexual assault, was acquitted of all charges on Thursday afternoon.

24. [Air Force considers allowing ponytails, other hairstyles for women](#)

(27 Aug) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk

As part of efforts to create a more inclusive culture, the Air Force is reviewing a new proposal that would permit additional hairstyles for women in the service.

25. [Military sexual assault victims say the system is broken](#)

(28 Aug) ABC News, By Ella Torres

Earlier this year, ABC News profiled a former Army officer who said she was raped -- an event that she said began what she said was a long nightmare for her in the pursuit of justice, including having her trial moved at the last minute from civilian to military court. The suspect in her case was ultimately acquitted in a court martial.

26. [GAO agrees to review Army's sexual harassment program](#)

(28 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer

The Government Accountability Office on Wednesday accepted a request from Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., to review the Army's sexual harassment response program in the wake of the disappearance and death of Spc. Vanessa Guillen, the senator's office announced Friday.



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27. **[DoD Set to Roll Out New Policy Targeting Pregnancy Discrimination in the Military](#)**
(1 Sep) Military.com, By Hope Hodge Seck
A new Pentagon policy update aimed at tearing down practices that discriminate against pregnant service members is now complete, and will be distributed in coming days, the Defense Department's chief diversity officer said.
28. **[Langley airman convicted of sex assault at court-martial](#)**
(30 Aug) The Associated Press
An airman at Langley Air Force Base has been found guilty in military court of sexually assaulting a colleague. The Virginian-Pilot reported Saturday that Airman Adam M. Rodela was convicted at a court-martial of touching the genitals of a female airman without her consent.
29. **[Air Force authorizes time off from PT for more women who miscarry](#)**
(1 Sep) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk
The U.S. Air Force is giving airmen who suffer a miscarriage a more flexible time period before they take their next physical fitness assessment, according to an updated instruction.
30. **[‘Thirst-trap’ posts on TikTok raise questions about military social media policies](#)**
(2 Sep) Military Times, By Sarah Sicard
A few weeks back, a TikTok post of two female soldiers dancing to Cardi B’s “WAP” made the rounds on Twitter, prompting heated discussions about everything from issues on moonlighting and poor conduct to misogyny and sexism. There are an unknown number of service members across the platform in uniform thirsting, dancing, working out and sharing their life stories despite the late 2019 ban of the Chinese-made app by the Pentagon, Army and Navy
31. **[Why toxic senior leaders survive — and sometimes thrive — in the military](#)**
(4 Sep) Military Times, By Retired Col. Jason Lamb
About a year ago in a candid one-on-one discussion, I asked a senior general officer in the Air Force why he had not yet removed a commander well known to be toxic.
32. **[USAF Wants Airmen’s Stories to Shape Harassment, Assault Prevention](#)**
(4 Sep) Air Force Magazine, By Rachel S. Cohen
The Department of the Air Force this month will survey Airmen about their experiences with interpersonal violence, seeking feedback that could shape future policies to keep service members safe.
33. **[Researchers Warn Nearly Half Of U.S. Child Care Centers Could Be Lost To Pandemic](#)**
(7 Sep) NPR, By Kavitha Cardoza
One of the biggest challenges facing parents in the COVID-19 crisis is child care. Recent research says about 4 1/2 million child care spots in the country could be permanently lost because of the pandemic. And that has a huge ripple effect — without child care, it will be hard for so many parents to get back to work. Economists predict this will affect mostly women, who will have to leave the workforce to care for their children.
34. **[How one airman’s experiences gave birth to new policy on maternity uniform](#)**
(8 Sep) Air Force Times, By Harm Venhuizen
When Senior Master Sgt. Genevieve, superintendent of the 13th Reconnaissance Squadron, 926th Wing, became pregnant in 2018, she discovered a problem: Maternity uniforms were in short supply both online and in stores.



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35. [Olympian Gabby Douglas opens up about hair damage from gymnastics: 'I had bald spots'](#)

(9 Sep) NBC News, By Lindsay Lowe

Gabby Douglas is opening up about all the hair damage she suffered as a result of doing gymnastics. The Olympic athlete, 24, shared a photo of herself with her natural hair and talked about the emotional journey she's been on with her hair over the past several years.

36. ["I think it's a great honor": Arizona teen among first to become female Eagle Scout](#)

(9 Sep) CBS News, By Jamie Yuccas

A teenager from Arizona is about to join a very exclusive club as one of the few female Eagle Scouts. Victoria Rader, 17, always looked up to her Eagle Scout father and brother. So, when the more-than-100-year-old organization Boy Scouts of America allowed girls in, she joined.

37. [Navy researchers tackling the "Gray Zone" of sexual harassment](#)

(10 Sep) WTKR, By Web Staff

Combating sexual harassment among the ranks has been a focus of military leadership for years, and now they are taking a closer look at what's called "Gray Zone" behavior. The Navy describes Gray Zone behavior as anything "which falls short of the technical definition of harassment, but most certainly isn't entirely above board."

38. [It's time to be honest as American airmen](#)

(10 Sep) Air Force Times, By Alan Werdehoff

The Air National Guard should follow the USAF in fostering an environment of dignity and respect for all who serve, says the author of this commentary. This year alone, the California, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania Air National Guards, along with the Florida Army National Guard, have been plagued by reports of misconduct ranging from widespread sexual harassment to unlawful retaliation against whistleblowers.

39. [Top Marine says he won't stop fighting for 1-year maternity leave](#)

(11 Sep) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

The Marine Corps is struggling to retain women, the service's top general said this week, because many feel they must choose between a military career and their family. Commandant Gen. David Berger said the 12 weeks of maternity leave Marines get after having a baby are not enough. It's a topic he's been pushing since last year, when he said he'd consider extending the Marine Corps' maternity leave policy to a full year.

40. [America Needs to Start Treating Childcare as What It Is: Vital Infrastructure](#)

(14 Sep) Time, By Cindy Axne and Katherine Clark

It is well understood that infrastructure decisions like public roads and transportation are the foundation on which local economies grow. But an obstacle of similar magnitude is threatening the economic recovery that communities across our country are clamoring for – a shortage of safe, affordable childcare.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

41. [Meet the first female to command Missouri National Guard's infantry rifle unit](#)

(28 Aug) Missouri National Guard, By Capt. Jeremy Idleman

Capt. April Bruner, who enlisted in 2010, said her aspirations to serve as a commissioned officer began during her time as a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear specialist as an enlisted Soldier while deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Little did she know at the time that she would not only accomplish this goal but would also become the first female combat arms rifle company commander in the Missouri Army National Guard.



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42. [Family of Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillen works with Tampa lawyer to pass legislation in her name](#)
(29 Aug) *Tampa Bay Times*, By Ileana Najarro
Two weeks after Guillen’s memorial service, her three sisters came to Tampa Wednesday to learn what it would take to pass a federal bill in Vanessa Guillen’s name. It would allow active-duty service members to file claims of sexual harassment or assault to a third-party agency instead of through their military chain of command.
43. [Reservist’s maternity issues sparks reform](#)
(31 Aug) *926th Wing/Public Affairs*, By Natalie Stanley
For many pregnant women in the military the struggle to easily access maternity uniforms can be an overwhelming process. A recent report from the U.S. Government and Accountability Office found that pregnancy and childcare are some of the top reasons why women say they left the service. For Senior Master Sgt. Genevieve, 13th Reconnaissance Squadron superintendent, the challenge of finding a properly fitting maternity uniform during her 2018-2019 pregnancy opened her eyes to a very real systemic problem.
44. [Chaplain Corps honors first active-duty African-American female colonel](#)
(3 Sep) *Army News Service*, By Sean Kimmons
As the Army’s first active-duty African-American female chaplain to pin on colonel rank, Monica Lawson had a message to the naysayers during her promotion ceremony Wednesday.
45. [3 killed in plane crash were Tennessee Air National Guard](#)
(3 Sep) *The Associated Press*
Three people killed in a small plane crash near a Tennessee airport were Air National Guard members. Killed in the crash were Lt. Col. Shelli Huether, Capt. Jessica Wright, and Senior Master Sgt. Scott Bumpus, the guard said in a news release.
46. [U.S. Soldier Needs Help Bringing Home Two Neglected Kittens She Rescued During Her Deployment](#)
(3 Sep) *People*, By Georgia Slater
An American soldier is hoping to be reunited with her beloved cats after having to leave them behind when returning from her deployment. Sergeant Etter will soon have to say goodbye to two kittens who she formed a special bond with while stationed in the Middle East.
47. [Demanding positive change](#)
(4 Sep) *Air Force Times*, By Staff Sgt. Heather Fejerang
I was recently featured in an article that highlighted me and my sister, a U.S. Air Force captain, about our experience being deployed together. The response from the military community that followed the article once it posted online was the direct opposite of what I, or my sister, could ever have expected. We didn’t realize until later that the article was also circulating common military “troll” pages. These troll pages’ main purpose is to post memes and dark, sarcastic humor about a base, an organization or the military in general.
48. [A Navy tale: 2 sisters, 2 different paths](#)
(5 Sep) *Virginian-Pilot*, By Dave Ress
In a way, the story of Celeste and Courtney Young — two members of a close-knit set of Yorktown triplets — is a story of what goes around comes around. Courtney, as a fairly new sailor, helped persuade her then-med school student sister Celeste to give the Navy a try. And, nine years later, Celeste, a Navy Medical Corps lieutenant commander, swore in her sister as she re-enlisted.
49. [Inaccurate testimonies prolonged investigations into Vanessa Guillen’s death, officials say](#)
(10 Sep) *Military Times*, By Harm Venhuizen
Officials shared new details from the investigation into the slaying of 20-year-old Fort Hood soldier Spc. Vanessa Guillen. Three soldiers testified to investigators that they had seen Guillen leaving the arms room where authorities say she was killed on April 22, throwing the investigation off track for weeks, officials told ABC News.



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50. [Flag Officer Announcement](#)

(11 Sep) U.S. Department of Defense Releases

Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper announced that the president has made a flag officer nomination: Navy Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti for reappointment to the grade of vice admiral with assignment as director for strategy, plans, and policy, J-5, Joint Staff; and senior member, United States Delegation to the United Nations Military Staff Committee, Pentagon, Washington, District of Columbia. Franchetti is currently serving as deputy chief of naval operations for Warfighting Development, N-7, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia.

51. [Bill honoring Vanessa Guillen set to be introduced on Sept. 16 in Washington D.C.](#)

(12 Sep) ABC 6News, By Cole Johnson

The #IAMVanessaGuillen Bill is set to be introduced on Capitol Hill, according to a statement from the Guillen family attorney Natalie Khawam. The bill will allow active duty service members to file sexual harassment and assault claims to a third-party agency instead of through their chain of command.

52. [She once was barred from fighter jets. Now she's the Pentagon's only female four-star](#)

(13 Sep) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk

Today, Jacqueline Van Ovost is the Pentagon's only female four-star general, and the fifth in the Air Force's 73-year history.

53. [Family Ties: Daughters Follow Mother's Footsteps and Attend West Point](#)

(13 Sep) Spectrum News, By Rayvin Bleu

When Lieutenant Colonel June Copeland made the decision to attend the United States Military Academy, little did she know the long gray line would include her three daughters, June, Jeilyn, and Jasmyn. "I'm amazed that I inspired in them the need to, the desire to serve as well. But I'm proud of it as well," said June.

WOMEN VETERANS

54. [DC, Marvel artists create graphic novel about the only female Medal of Honor recipient](#)

(27 Aug) Military.com, By Bing Xiao

The latest graphic novel presented by the Association of the United States Army is all about Mary Walker, the U.S. military's first -- and only -- recipient of the Medal of Honor.

55. [Air Force general issues apology to veteran about new investigation into old rape case](#)

(28 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Steve Beynon

An Air Force general has issued an apology to a veteran after she raised concerns about how military investigators handled reexamining her 20-year-old rape case.

56. [Private First-Class Elizabeth Johnson is recognized for service to America](#)

(31 Aug) Mooresville Tribune, By Staff

While women throughout America played an important role during World War II, female veteran Pvt. 1st. Class Elizabeth Johnson blazed a trail for African American women as a member of the "Six Triple Eight," an all-Black battalion of female volunteers working to boost the morale of World War II soldiers.

57. [Pin-Ups For Vets releases 2021 calendar to raise money for veterans and deployed troops](#)

(31 Aug) Military Times, By J.D. Simkins

Pin-Ups For Vets has released its annual calendar in an effort to raise money to support hospitalized veterans and personnel currently deployed overseas, the non-profit announced. This year's edition, which features 12 women decked out in 1940s vogue — veterans representing all five branches of the military — marks the 15th year the company has endeavored to raise morale while shattering stereotypes about women in the armed services.



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58. **[Being the first Black female military pilots wasn't easy. Now they help others fly](#)**

(1 Sep) McClatchyDC.com, By Tara Copp

The first Black female pilots in the Army and Navy made history just months apart. But a year later, one would have her flight status taken away, and the other would be left questioning how close she came to also losing her military flying career. Until now, neither Army Lt. Col. Marcella Hayes Ng, the nation's first Black female military pilot, nor Lt. Cmdr. Brenda Robinson, the Navy's first Black female pilot, has shared publicly the details of the difficulties they faced as "firsts."

59. **[Marine Veteran, 92, checks kayaking off her bucket list](#)**

(3 Sep) Vantage Point Contributor

On a warm, sunlit August morning in New Hampshire, the cool, crystal water of Lake Mascoma looked like silver-blue satin ruffling in the breeze, twinkling with light. On this beautiful summer day, Marine Corps Veteran Pauline "Polly" (Stark) (Boivin) Moriglioni, who will turn 93 years old in November, was sitting in the cockpit of her tandem kayak, ready to launch, get out on the lake and grab that perfect slice of summer.

60. **[Retired Navy captain and trailblazer for women's equality in the service dies at 76](#)**

(10 Sep) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll

Retired Navy Capt. Kathy Bruyere, a pioneer for women's equality in the Navy, died Sept. 3 in San Diego following a battle with cancer, according to her family.

61. **[Oldest living Marine turns 107 this month](#)**

(11 Sep) Independent Tribune, By Victoria Young

The oldest living Marine in the United States will celebrate her 107th birthday this month. Dorothy "Dot" Cole was 29 years old when she enlisted in the Marine Corps. She had been confirmed as the oldest living female U.S. Marine. But today, she is the oldest living person to have served in the Corps. She will celebrate her 107th birthday Sept. 19. Her service in the corps began in a time when few women had served as Marines.