



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

28 August 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Federal appeals court rules male-only draft constitutional](#)

(13 Aug) *The Hill*, By *Rebecca Kheel*

A federal appeals court ruled Thursday that requiring only men to register for the military draft is constitutional.

2. [Is Boycotting Service the Right Response to the Military's Sexual Assault Problem?](#)

(19 Aug) *Military.com*, By *Amanda Huffman*

When women boycott military service, the military misses out on an important group that can make positive changes. The military needs women more than it realizes, even as women break down barriers and open doors for those who follow in their footsteps.

3. [I've Been Married to the Military for 15 Years. Our Luck Just Ran Out.](#)

(20 Aug) *New York Times*, By *Esau McCaulley*

When I met the woman who would become my wife, it was 2001, we were in college, and she already knew that she wanted to join the military.

4. [Army offers women equality in career opportunities](#)

(21 Aug) *USAG Wiesbaden Public Affairs*, By *Lisa Bishop*

For women with the disposition and work ethic, the Army provides equal opportunity for success in every rank, from enlisted to officer.

5. [Federal judge rules DoD's policy unlawfully slows immigrant troops' path to citizenship](#)

(25 Aug) *Military Times*, By *Karen Jowers*

Supporters of the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest, or MAVNI, program say it allows the military to recruit immigrants with vital skills such as foreign language proficiency or high-demand medical training. But critics said the program did not adequately screen potential applicants.

6. [Rising military personnel costs may mean future cuts in troop numbers](#)

(25 Aug) *Military Times*, By *Leo Shane III*

Despite White House and Pentagon suggestions that military end strength should continue to grow in coming years, the total number of personnel is likely to stay flat or start shrinking due to budget pressures on the Defense Department, according to a new financial analysis.

7. [My View: How the Women's Suffrage Movement impacts women in military today](#)

(26 Aug) *133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*, By *Spc. Jessica Elbouab*

For as long as I can remember, all I ever wanted is to be a Soldier, or a Marine to be exact. As a little girl with big dreams, more often than not I would get the traditional response of, "the Marines are NOT for girls." Or, "You have no business doing that."

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

8. [The rise of female commanders in combat arms](#)

(15 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By *Steve Beynon*

The Army has been slowly integrating women into ground combat units since the Defense Department opened all military jobs to all troops in 2015.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

28 August 2020



9. **[Space Force units are already operating worldwide, and experts expect more to pop up soon](#)**
(17 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By *Seth Robson*
The Space Force may be the U.S. military's youngest service branch, but it already has 10 units based outside the continental United States, along with facilities in Greenland, the United Kingdom, Ascension Island, Diego Garcia, Alaska, Hawaii and Guam.
10. **[To get more female pilots, the Air Force is changing the way it designs weapons](#)**
(19 Aug) *Defense News*, By *Valerie Insinna*
In 2022, the U.S. Air Force will take delivery of the F-15EX, a new and improved version of the nearly 40-year-old F-15E Strike Eagle. But for all of the modern advances of the new jet, only 9 percent of women in the Air Force currently meet the body-size standards for piloting the legacy F-15 and possibly also the new EX variant, potentially blocking highly qualified pilots from flying a platform that will be in operation for decades to come.
11. **[The Pentagon's new space organizations start to take shape as leadership comes onboard](#)**
(20 Aug) *Defense News*, By *Valerie Insinna*
Gen. James Dickinson on Aug. 20 took the reins of U.S. Space Command, becoming the second-ever leader of the organization and the first Army officer to hold the position.
12. **[Space Wars: Why top military leaders say US must prep for battles beyond Earth](#)**
(24 Aug) *Military.com*, By *Gina Harkins*
The U.S. military relies so heavily on space-based technologies to keep its edge on the battlefield that adversaries see the dependence as a big weakness -- and they're already testing ways to attack it.
13. **[Be fearless, take the tough jobs and mentor others: Army leaders offer insights to fellow female soldiers](#)**
(25 Aug) *Army Times*, By *Diana Stancy Correll*
Command Sgt. Maj. Lynice Thorpe-Noel remembers losing her "academic focus and passion" as a college student 30 years ago. She knew she needed to chart a new career path.
14. **[Women's Equality Day – Recognizing Soldiers who lead the way](#)**
(25 Aug) *Army.mil*. By *Maj. Jean Kratzer, Task Force Spartan*
Women now make up 20 percent of the Air Force, 19 percent of the Navy, 16 percent of the Army and almost 9 percent of the Marine Corps, according to the Department of Defense. And now, as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, we recognize women serving.
15. **[Marine Corps officially removes photo requirements for promotion packages](#)**
(26 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By *Philip Athey*
Photos of Marines will no longer be sent to promotion boards or with packages sent for consideration of assignments, training, education or command, according to a new administrative message released by the Corps.
16. **[Part 1: When women got into Ranger School, the goal was 'to get one person into the end zone.' They got three.](#)**
(26 Aug) *WRBL.com*, By *Chuck Williams*
It has been five years since the first women graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning. Capt. Kristen Griest and Capt. Shaye Haver were the first women to accomplish what more than 70,000 male soldiers had done before them — complete the Army's toughest combat training course. It challenges soldiers mentally and physically for 61 days or more.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

28 August 2020



17. [Women's Equality Day event celebrates the progress of women in the military](#)

(27 Aug) *U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden*, By Lisa Bishop

"Chipping Away at Inequalities," a community event at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, celebrated the anniversary of women's right to vote Aug. 26, 2020. At the lunch time gathering on Women's Equality Day, three guest speakers shared their perspectives on women in the military.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

18. [Silveria: More work to do to curb racism, sexual assault at USAFA](#)

(17 Aug) *Air Force Magazine*, By Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory

The U.S. Air Force Academy must set a better example for students to discourage sexual assault, harassment, and other forms of discrimination on campus, the school's outgoing Superintendent Lt. Gen. Jay B. Silveria said on Aug. 17.

19. [Army general loses star, retires over sexual misconduct complaint he disputes](#)

(18 Aug) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer

A former brigadier general who was up for a second star intends to fight a demotion to colonel that finalized this summer over allegations of sexual misconduct from a subordinate enlisted soldier. The report said Hamilton "grabbed and tapped [the] buttocks" of a female soldier "without her consent" during temporary duty travel to Fort Hood, Texas, after dinner in the town of Killeen on April 10, 2019.

20. [The death of their child, at a babysitter's house on post, was just the beginning of this Army family's nightmare](#)

(19 Aug) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers

Special agents from the Army Criminal Investigation Command are investigating the death of a 2-year-old Army child who died late last year from injuries suffered at the Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., home of a babysitter.

21. [No jail time for senior Air Force NCO convicted in sex case after San Antonio trial](#)

(19 Aug) *San Antonio Express-News*, By Sig Christenson

A senior Air Force noncommissioned officer, on a list to be promoted to the service's highest enlisted rank, has been convicted of abusive sexual contact and dereliction of duty and will face a mandatory discharge proceeding — but no jail time. An all-officer jury found Senior Master Sgt. Jeremy M. Zier, guilty of abusive sexual contact in an assault of a young female enlistee.

22. [Cornyn-Hegar Race Could Influence How Military Handles Sexual Assault, Harassment](#)

(19 Aug) *KERA News*, By Bret Jaspers

Guillén's death has put renewed attention on sexual harassment and assault in the military, and Texas' U.S. Senate race could have a real influence on the policy outcome.

23. [Former sailor details misconduct by SEALs pulled from Iraq](#)

(21 Aug) *The Associated Press*, By James LaPorta and Julie Watson

U.S. Navy intelligence specialist Colleen Grace was asleep on a remote air base in Iraq when she was woken up by knocking on the door next to her room, and then a voice she recognized. Grace heard the corpsman say that a sailor who attended a Fourth of July barbecue had just been raped by a member of the Navy SEAL platoon on the base. The corpsman asked the colonel what to do because the victim was afraid that if she reported the incident, retribution would follow.

24. [Navy SEAL appears in San Diego military courtroom on charge he sexually assaulted fellow sailor in Iraq](#)

(21 Aug) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, By Andrew Dyer

A San Diego-based Navy SEAL charged with a violent sexual assault against a fellow sailor in Iraq last year appeared in a Naval Base San Diego courtroom Friday for a motion hearing.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

28 August 2020



25. **[Bruises, strangulation, biting: Documents detail sex assault and other allegations against Navy SEALs pulled from Iraq](#)**
(21 Aug) *Associated Press, By James Laporta and Julie Watson*
Grace said her friend told her the sex started out consensual in the SEAL's room, but then he started biting and choking her. Her friend told her that at one point she thought "what is he going to do with my body when he kills me?" because she said he was strangling her so hard she couldn't breathe.
26. **[How do we save prisoners of the cultural war within our military?](#)**
(21 Aug) *Military Times, By Sherman Gillums Jr.*
During Thae Ohu's Ted Talk on bullying she spoke with a sense of authority. What no one in the audience could've known is she was a survivor who'd seen her share of hardship, which, like many in search of a stronger self-identify, is why she joined the Marine Corps. Knowing that gives context to why Ohu now sits in a military brig. The charge stems from an incident where a mental breakdown she suffered had escalated into an altercation with her boyfriend in the home they shared.
27. **[One Proposal for Improving Army Inclusivity for Women of Color: Update Hair Regulations](#)**
(21 Aug) *Military.com, By Andrea M. Peters*
Women are now embracing their natural beauty and loving the hair that grows from their scalps. Or are they? The answer is not clear-cut.
28. **[Mishandling of misconduct reports, retaliation a pattern across the National Guard](#)**
(24 Aug) *Military Times, By Meghann Myers*
Over the previous year, the reserve organization had been plagued by headlines detailing accusations of misconduct, sexual and otherwise, and searing allegations that the leadership in multiple states have been covering them up and retaliating against those who sought to bring them to light.
29. **[Congresswomen press Pennsylvania National Guard on harassment allegations](#)**
(24 Aug) *The Associated Press*
Two Philadelphia-area members of Congress are asking the Pennsylvania National Guard's commander to address allegations of sexual harassment and retaliation at the Horsham Air Guard Station near Philadelphia.
30. **[Court-martial to begin for Special Forces colonel accused of sexual assault](#)**
(24 Aug) *Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky*
The court-martial for an Army Special Forces colonel accused of sexual assault will begin on Tuesday. Russell has been charged with five counts of sexual assault. A source familiar with the charges, who spoke on condition of anonymity given the sensitivity of the issue, told Task & Purpose that Russell's charge sheet — which provides more details of the allegations — is not being released in an effort to protect the identity of the victim.
31. **[Army OKs Push-Ups, PT as Punishment for Minor Infractions](#)**
(27 Aug) *Military.com, By Matthew Cox*
The Army recently published an update to its command policy that encourages sergeants to drop soldiers for push-ups or order extra physical training to correct minor screw-ups as an alternative to stiffer non-judicial punishments. Last updated in 2014, the 213-page Army Regulation 600-20 is designed to offer command guidance for commanders across the Army includes updates to corrective training, sexual harassment reporting and extremist activity on social media, according to an Army release.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

28 August 2020



SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

32. [Mourners gather in Houston to remember slain Fort Hood soldier](#)
(16 Aug) *The Associated Press, By Acacia Coronado and John L. Mone*
Flags from the U.S., Texas and Mexico flew at half staff Friday as a white, horse-drawn carriage embellished with white flowers brought in the custom green casket that carried the remains of a slain soldier.
33. [Maj. Gen. Dunlop created toxic environment in top secret program office, IG finds](#)
(17 Aug) *Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*
The two-star general who last year was fired from running the Pentagon's office that oversees some of the military's most secret classified programs repeatedly and publicly berated and belittled her subordinates, the Air Force Office of Inspector General found.
34. [Armagno becomes the U.S. Space Force's first female general officer](#)
(17 Aug) *Space News, By Sandra Erwin*
Lt. Gen. Nina Armagno was commissioned into the Space Force and promoted to three-star general Aug. 17 in a ceremony at the Pentagon.
35. [Women's Equality Day recognizes significance of women's contributions](#)
(18 Aug) *Army.mil, By Russell Toof*
Women's Equality Day is observed annually on Aug. 26. This year celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. "Women's Equality Day really highlights inclusivity," said Sergeant Major Tres Bien Adams. "It's about embracing who we are as women, what we can do for our abilities, and allowing us to shine as Soldiers."
36. [Inspectors said her toxic leadership was 'worst seen in 20 years.' She just became a 1-star](#)
(19 Aug) *Military.com, By Gina Harkins*
Nine months before Air Force Brig. Gen. Jennifer Grant pinned on her first star, members of the team tasked with investigating her behavior in the years leading up to her promotion said they'd never seen airmen so afraid to face their commander.
37. [Towing company illegally auctioned off Marine sergeant's car while she was deployed, DOJ alleges](#)
(19 Aug) *Military Times, By Karen Jowers*
Justice Department attorneys have filed a lawsuit against a Tampa, Fla., towing company, alleging the company illegally auctioned off a Marine sergeant's car while she was deployed to Okinawa.
38. [Van Ovost sworn in as AMC boss, becoming military's only female four star](#)
(20 Aug) *Air Force Magazine, By Brian W. Everstine*
When newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost tossed her cover in the sky as the Thunderbirds roared over Falcon Stadium, she was graduating into an Air Force that would repeatedly tell her "no."
39. [Command Senior Enlisted Leader Assignment](#)
(21 Aug) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*
The Office of the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OSEAC) announced today the following assignment: Army Command Sgt. Maj. Sheryl D. Lyon, currently assigned as the command senior enlisted leader for the U.S. Army Cyber Command, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, has been selected to assume responsibility as the command senior enlisted leader for the U.S. Cyber Command and National Security Agency, Fort Meade, Maryland.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

28 August 2020



40. **[Gabbard reports for Army Reserve duty](#)**
(21 Aug) *The Hill*, By Lauren Vella
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) left Friday to report for her two-week duty in the Army Reserve, according a statement released by her office.
41. **[Gen. Van Ovost takes the reins at Air Mobility Command](#)**
(21 Aug) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost assumed command of Air Mobility Command Thursday in a ceremony at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, succeeding Gen. Maryanne Miller.
42. **[Welcome Home, Sailor: Mom surprises son during homecoming](#)**
(22 Aug) *The Valdosta Daily Times*, By Amanda M. Usher
Travis King III was spending time with his grandmother at the Valdosta Middle School track, running around on the greenery with family members. While posing for pictures, he received an unexpected surprise. His mom, Jasmine Waters, has spent the past seven months on a Navy carrier out at sea. The Valdosta native hadn't seen her son in 206 days.
43. **[General Officer Assignments](#)**
(27 Aug) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*
The chief of staff of the Army announced the following general officer assignment: Brig. Gen. Jacqueline D. Brown, deputy director of command, control, communications and cyber, J-6, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii, to director of command, control, communications and cyber, J-6, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii.
44. **[Cardi B's 'WAP' causes controversy on military TikTok](#)**
(27 Aug) *Army Times*, By Sarah Sicard
Purportedly two female soldiers have sparked military twitter outrage and a larger discussion about what women can or should be doing on social media while in uniform, a debate that has unearthed a double standard that doesn't appear to apply to male service members. Retweets suggest all women should be expelled from the ranks of the Armed Forces.

WOMEN VETERANS

45. **[She Was the Most Influential Nurse in US Military History](#)**
(n.d.) *Military.com*, By Blake Stilwell
Few military careers are as distinguished as Florence Blanchfield's. Not only was she a veteran of both World Wars, she was the first woman to achieve equal officers' rank with her male colleagues -- and she ensured every nurse that came after her did, too.
46. **[WWII Vet, 95, Went Back and Forth With VA to Get Financial Aid She Deserved](#)**
(13 Aug) *4 Washington*, By Susan Hogan and Meredith Royster
The family of a 95-year-old World War II veteran says they were having to cover the cost of the long-term care she needed because she wasn't getting the financial assistance she was entitled to from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
47. **[Airman Heritage Museum displays Women in the Air Force's rich history](#)**
(18 Aug) *Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs*, By Capt. Kenya Pettway
Located in a single exhibit area of the Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland is a Women in the Air Force (WAF) gallery that invites us to remember these unique plights – and inevitable triumphs – of the first women who were afforded the opportunity to serve.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

28 August 2020



48. **[Former Army Nurse, 100, Recalls World War II Experiences](#)**
(21 Aug) *Defense Department, By Terri Moon Cronk*
World War II was raging in 1944 when 24-year-old nurse Regina Benson and three of her nursing school classmates enlisted in the Army to serve their country right after graduating from college.
49. **[The VA doesn't cover fertility treatments for unmarried veterans or same-sex couples. Some want to change that.](#)**
(21 Aug) *USA Today, By Amy Sokolow*
Army veteran Toni Hackney has always wanted a family, but as a single woman with endometriosis, she knew she would need fertility assistance. A year after she sought approval from the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover the cost of in-vitro fertilization treatments, she was denied for what she called a ridiculous reason: She's not married.
50. **[Fort Hood: Historians, veterans push to rename Fort Hood after Killeen trailblazer](#)**
(24 Aug) *KWTX, By Alex Gibbs*
A group of historians and veterans is leading the charge to rename Fort Hood after trailblazer and Killeen native Oveta Culp Hobby. Air Force Veteran Alan Mesches says Hobby created a legacy that's evident, even today. The number of women who have reached the heights of the military have her to thank," he said.
51. **[Beloved WWII veteran and WSSU grad Elizabeth Barker Johnson dies at 100](#)**
(24 Aug) *FOX 8, By Natalie Wilson*
She had the crowd on its feet during Winston-Salem State University's 2019 Commencement. Elizabeth Barker Johnson finally experienced walking across the stage 70 years after earning her education degree. Johnson, a World War II veteran, passed away Sunday. She was 100 years old.
52. **[Scottsdale celebrates 105-year-old WWII veteran's birthday with parade](#)**
(25 Aug) *WCNC, By Rich Prange*
Despite trying times, a special birthday was held for 105-year-old Athena Wright as cars full of friends and family paraded through the Pueblo Norte Senior Living community in Scottsdale. Among the things Athena has witnessed in her lifetime were the hardships of World War II. "I served my country because I love my country," said Wright.
53. **[VA secretary moves to block gender-neutral change to motto](#)**
(26 Aug) *Military.com, By Richard Sisk*
VA Secretary Robert Wilkie went to President Abraham Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, Illinois, Wednesday to double down on his opposition to a gender-neutral update to the agency's iconic motto, taken from Lincoln's second inaugural address. Wilkie dedicated a plaque at the VA's Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield with the existing motto.