



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

28 February 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [More Young People Need to Pursue the 'Magic of Engineering'](#)
(20 Feb) *U.S. Department of Defense, By C. Todd Lopez*
Convincing more people to choose engineering as their career is one of the nation's most critical tasks, the Defense Department's chief technology officer said.
2. [Army has no plans to curtail personnel growth or cut force structure](#)
(20 Feb) *Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer*
The Army doesn't plan to cut into its planned end-strength growth as long as the operations tempo remains high, the service secretary and Army chief of staff said during a press gaggle Wednesday.
3. [Air Force streamlines special warfare recruiting, basic training](#)
(21 Feb) *Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*
The Air Force is streamlining how it brings new special warfare candidates into the service and sends them through their initial training.
4. [Army leaders are confident they'll hit a recruiting goal that doesn't actually exist yet](#)
(21 Feb) *Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky*
Though the Army has yet to actually set an official recruiting goal for this year, leaders are confident they're going to bring in more soldiers than last year.
5. [The military's 'war for talent' is affecting what the Navy's future ships will look like](#)
(23 Feb) *Business Insider, By Christopher Woody*
More than one senior military leader has said the services are facing a "war for talent," as a stronger economy and two decades of war, among other factors, make military service less appealing to young Americans.
6. [Military families crave stability and more time together, survey finds](#)
(26 Feb) *Military Times, By Karen Jowers*
Spouse employment, children's education, child care, family stability and time away from family are persistent issues for military families, and a new survey digs into some of the consequences of this military lifestyle.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

7. [How the Corps' sergeant major plans to keep Marines fit their whole career](#)
(13 Feb) *Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey*
Force fitness also plays an important role in the -Marine Corps' ability to retain troops — even if it's just through their initial enlistment, according to the top enlisted Marine.
8. [Landmark ruling grants women equal rights in Indian army](#)
(17 Feb) *CNN World, By Swati Gupta*
India's Supreme Court ruled in favor of equal rights in the armed forces, ordering the government to grant permanent commission and command positions to women officers on par with men.



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9. **[British Army officer becomes first woman to pass brutal Para course](#)**
(18 Feb) BBC News, By Jonathan Beale
Capt Rosie Wild, 28, was described as a "trailblazer" after passing the P Company course - which many men fail. Several women have attempted P Company, also known as the All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (AAPPS), since they were first able to apply in the 1990s.
10. **[Do military pilots have a higher risk for cancer? Lawmakers want to find out](#)**
(20 Feb) McClatchy, By Tara Copp
The number of former military pilots who have been diagnosed with cancer has become personal for Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va., a Navy veteran who had three deployments on aircraft carriers.
11. **[Who should join the U.S. Space Force?](#)**
(20 Feb) Space News, By Maj. Ryan Stephenson
Building a military space culture may not require mass transfers of Army, Navy units to the Space Force.
12. **[Air Force confirms effectiveness of a pilot selection tool, even though it may hinder diversity](#)**
(21 Feb) Air Force Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
Racking up flight hours before attending undergraduate pilot training is still an accurate predictor of whether students will excel, according to a study the University of Texas-San Antonio conducted as part of a partnership with the Air Education and Training Command.
13. **[Top Marine says 'immediate execution' items include more gender integration, smarter grunts and changes to parental leave for adoptive, same-sex parents](#)**
(21 Feb) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
Commandant Gen. David Berger took to Twitter Friday morning to announce what he sees as the most important issues to address in the Marine Corps.
14. **[Air Force Academy to commission Space Force officers](#)**
(23 Feb) The Associated Press
Graduates from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado are expected to cross-commission into the Space Force this spring, military officials said.
15. **[First female infantry Marine officer leaves Corps as commandant calls for more women at Infantry Officer Course](#)**
(25 Feb) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
Marine Commandant Gen. David Berger on Friday took to Twitter to announce his goal of having more female Marine officers attend the Corps' grueling 13-week Infantry Officer Course, known as IOC.
16. **[Report: First woman expected to become Green Beret in coming weeks](#)**
(25 Feb) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
The Army's first female Green Beret is expected to graduate in a matter of weeks, according to unnamed military sources who spoke with the New York Times.
17. **[First Woman Set to Pass Special Forces Training and Join Green Berets](#)**
(25 Feb) The New York Times, By Thomas Gibbons-Neff
An enlisted soldier, she is expected to graduate from the highly selective Green Beret qualification course as a Special Forces engineer sergeant.



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WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

18. [Ex-Offutt airman reported a sexual assault, then she was punished for underage drinking](#)
(14 Feb) *Omaha World-Herald*, By Erin Grace
Christina Portwine reported that she was sexually assaulted. Then she was the one who got in trouble.
19. [Restrictions reduced for pregnant fliers](#)
(18 Feb) *Hurlburt Field*, By Tech. Sgt. Michelle Di Ciolli
Changes were made to Air Force policy reducing the restrictions placed on pregnant Airmen who perform certain flight duties. Effective immediately, remotely piloted aircrew, missile operations duty crews and certain fully qualified pilots are authorized to perform their assigned duties during pregnancy without a medical waiver.
20. [Will military children get higher priority in child development centers?](#)
(21 Feb) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers and Aaron Mehta
A new policy “prioritizing military kids” in child development centers on installations is expected to be issued soon by defense officials, said Defense Secretary Mark Esper.
21. [Marines to review proposed 1-year maternity leave policy for new moms](#)
(21 Feb) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
The Marine Corps' top general has ordered leaders to identify the benefits and risks to giving new mothers a full year off before requiring them to return to duty.
22. [Working military families will soon get more access to DoD child care](#)
(25 Feb) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
Working military families will get higher priority in Defense Department child care programs under a new policy signed by Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. The changes take effect June 1.
23. [Why isn't infertility in military women a bigger conversation?](#)
(26 Feb) *The War Horse*, By Kelly Kennedy
“I think if there’s one thing I could tell young women in the military today who might someday want children, it’s freeze your eggs,” said Chase. “Nobody tells you how much of a problem infertility is.”

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

24. [Air Force Academy graduate first woman to receive Jabara Award for Airmanship](#)
(12 Feb) *The Gazette*, By Erin Prater
Maj. Caitlin Reilly, a pilot, was awarded the Col. James Jabara Award for Airmanship. Reilly — who was recognized for her “consistent ability to deliver results, no matter how challenging or unconventional the mission,” as well as for her status as an “outstanding air commando instrumental in the Global War on Terrorism” — is the first woman to receive the award.
25. [Marine uses wrestling past to train martial arts teachers](#)
(16 Feb) *The Virginian-Pilot*, By Brock Vergakis
Sgt. Melissa Paul is a wrestler who has been fighting all her life. The Marine based at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown who trains martial-arts instructors has been wrestling for as long as she can remember, long before it was common for women to do so. She had little control over her circumstances, but when it came to wrestling, Paul found she could be in complete control. She was dominant on the wrestling mat.



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26. [**Southern University alumna earns Ship Handler of the Year award**](#)
(20 Feb) BRProud, By Justin Franklin
Southern University alumna Monique Jefferson has been awarded the Ship Handler of the Year award. The award is given to Surface Warfare Officers who demonstrate superior performance onboard the Navy's newest platform, the Freedom-class Littoral Combat Ship.
27. [**Florida army soldier dies after being shot 6 times in domestic violence case**](#)
(25 Feb) Florida Today, By J.D. Gallop
In January, U.S. Army service member Angel Conner was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and preparing to deploy to Dubai. After she returned to Fort Sill from visiting her family in Cocoa, Angel was fatally shot by a man she had been seeing as she attempted to flee from her apartment, police said. Now, family members are seeking justice for the 28-year-old mother and soldier, and trying to raise awareness about the horrors of domestic violence.
28. [**Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 7: Kayla Williams**](#)
(24 Feb) Military Times, By Kayla Williams
Kayla Williams was enlisted for five years as an Arabic linguist, serving in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). She authored the memoirs "Love My Rifle More Than You: Young and Female in the U.S. Army" and "Plenty of Time When We Get Home: Love and Recovery in the Aftermath of War."
29. [**This Army nurse craved combat service. She found it after separating**](#)
(26 Feb) Army Times, By Todd South
Helen Perry was working her way through college classes with an eye toward teaching grade school when a friend put her in touch with a young Army soldier who needed a pen pal while deployed to Iraq.
30. [**Air University SOS students breaking down barriers for female Airmen**](#)
(26 Feb) Air University Public Affairs, By Phil Berube
Special Agent Alexandra Garced doesn't have a need to wear it yet, but she knows of other female Airmen who avoid wearing the maternity service dress uniform at all costs. The reasons for the avoidance, said the Air Force Office of Special Investigations agent, is that they say the uniform is "uncomfortable, not fashionable, don't feel comfortable with it on, feeling like they stand out, and it's expensive."

WOMEN VETERANS

31. [**Historian: American women were 'the quiet heroes' during World War II**](#)
(17 Feb) Miami Herald, By Carli Teproff
When the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, women suddenly took on pivotal roles supporting America's war effort, whether working on factory floors, manning USO centers or joining the armed services.
32. [**One of Lubbock's oldest WWII veterans celebrates 105th birthday**](#)
(17 Feb) Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, By Jayme Lozano
Catherine Royalty is continuing her streak as one of the longest living World War II veterans in Lubbock, as she celebrated her 105th birthday. Royalty graduated from Texas Tech University, then Texas Technological College, in 1936 with a degree in English and Journalism before joining the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services. She was discharged from the Navy in 1946 after the war ended, and taught at several local schools including in Post before retiring in 1977.



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33. [**A call to action at the VA on sexual harassment and assault**](#)

(19 Feb) Task & Purpose, By Kate Germano

We are women veterans who have served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Our service – as aviators, ship drivers, intelligence analysts, engineers, professors, and diplomats — spans decades. We have served in times of peace and war, separated from our families and loved ones. We are proud of our accomplishments, particularly as many were earned while immersed in a military culture that often ignores and demeans women's contributions. We are veterans.

34. [**Turning 100, a WWII veteran looks back at her service**](#)

(24 Feb) The Associated Press

A veteran turning 100 in Utah has recalled her service in World War II working as an engineer and in confidential communications, which gave her access to one of the war's final secrets. Olive O'Mara was 21 years old when Japanese planes attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. At the time, the coal-miner's daughter was a school teacher living in the small town of Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, 45 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. O'Mara enlisted and served in the Navy WAVES, the women's naval reserve established in July 1942.

35. [**Senators demand investigation into Wilkie's handling of sexual assault case at the VA**](#)

(25 Feb) Military.com, By Nikki Wentling

Six senators are demanding an investigation into how the Department of Veterans Affairs handled an alleged sexual assault at its Washington, D.C., hospital, prompted by reports that Secretary Robert Wilkie attempted to discredit the veteran who reported the assault.

36. [**All-women honor flight: Female veterans to be highlighted on trip to Washington DC**](#)

(25 Feb) ABC 7, By Evelyn Holmes

They've been serving in the military for centuries with little recognition - until now. Operation Herstory is the work of a collaborative coalition of veterans groups hoping to highlight their often-forgotten contributions with the first ever all-women veterans honor flight.

UPCOMING EVENTS

37. [**Brigadier General Wilma Vaught's 90th Birthday Celebration**](#)

Location: Women In Military Service For America Memorial (located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery)

Date/Time: Saturday, 14 March 2020 from 1300-1600

Attire: Business Casual / Duty Uniform

RVSP: Click on the eventbrite hyperlink located in the title above **NLT 7 March**. Questions call: (703) 533-1155, Ext. 109.

Description: Join us in celebrating the 90th birthday of Brig Gen (Ret.) Vaught, USAF. As the founding president of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial (WIMSA) Foundation, Brig. Gen. Vaught spearheaded the campaign to raise funds and to build the WIMSA, the nation's only major memorial to tell the story of women's service. <<[Bio Link](#)>>

Directions: Arrive early to allow time for parking, security through Arlington National Cemetery's Welcome Center, and check-in. Note: A picture ID is required for all visitors, 16 years and older. <<[Directions Link](#)>>

38. [**Inspired to Serve: A Path Forward**](#)

Location: Sidney Yates Auditorium, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240

Date/Time: Thursday, 26 March 2020 from 0930-1130

RVSP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inspired-to-serve-a-path-forward-tickets-94432621513>

Description: Inspired to Serve is the culmination of two-and-a-half years of extensive research, public hearings, and conversations with Americans across the country. The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service's report contains a bold vision and comprehensive plan for the military selective service process (the "draft") and strengthening military, national, and public service in America. The Commission looks forward to sharing their work with the Congress, the President, and the American public.