



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

31 January 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Army recruiter helped five Illinois siblings enlist](#)

(10 Jan) Army News, By Maj. Jessica Rovero

It's fairly common to enlist two siblings from the same family, sometimes three, but it is a truly rare occurrence when one recruiter enlists five individuals from one family. Sgt. 1st Class Amber Hansen, an Army recruiter assigned to the Peru Recruiting Station in Peru, Illinois, helped to enlist all five siblings of the Wierzbicki family over the past two years.

2. [Coast Guard wrapping up study on why minority members leave the service](#)

(15 Jan) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk

During the Surface Navy Association's annual symposium, Coast Guard Adm. Charles Ray said the service's goal over the past year has been to explore which policies can be adjusted to prevent people quitting the coastal defense mission. "We cannot afford to not take advantage of all the talented people in our nation," Ray said. He cited a study the Coast Guard completed last year in partnership with the Rand Corp. that analyzed female retention and subsequent solutions to keep more women serving as Coasties. "There was clear evidence that women were leaving the service at proportionately higher rates than men," Ray told Military.com following his speech.

3. [Recruiting Challenges for Chaplains Mirror Other Military Jobs](#)

(16 Jan) Explore: Stories from around the Defense Department, By C. Todd Lopez

With more than 2,800 chaplains across the U.S. military, representing dozens of faith groups, maintaining adequate manning is a challenge.

4. [Here are the latest Navy retention numbers](#)

(21 Jan) Navy Times, By Courtney Mabeus

In the face of a booming economy, the Navy kept about 74 percent of its enlistment eligible sailors during fiscal 2019, figures released by the sea service earlier this month show.

5. [Army isn't setting hard recruiting targets for the year just yet, chief says](#)

(22 Jan) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer

The Army already plans to be over the end-strength projection it was shooting for this fiscal year, so leaders aren't eager to set a new recruiting target until they see how things play out later in the spring, the service's chief of staff said this week.

6. [The Army's new battalion commander selection process is just like the NFL Scouting Combine, service chief says](#)

(23 Jan) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky

If you ask the Army chief, the new Battalion Commander Assessment Program (BCAP) is comparable to the National Football League Combine — and so far, things are going swimmingly.

7. [More sailors are reenlisting. Leaders say it's because Navy culture is changing](#)

(24 Jan) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

The Navy is moving away from the "suck it up, buttercup"-style culture of the past to appeal to the millennial generation and beyond -- and new retention numbers indicate the approach is likely working.

8. [Why a huge drop in service members becoming citizens has lawmakers worried](#)

(24 Jan) Military Times, By Meghann Myers

Tens of thousands of troops have earned their citizenship through serving since 2010, but a precipitous drop in those numbers has some lawmakers concerned.



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9. [Army recruiter arrested on allegations of statutory rape](#)
(27 Jan) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
Northeast Alabama law enforcement arrested Army Staff Sgt. William L. Turk, 27, after investigators alleged he had sex with a girl under the age of 16. Turk was suspended from all recruiting duties immediately following his arrest. There is no indication that Turk met the alleged victim through his duties as an Army recruiter.
10. [Marines wanted for service's new advertising campaign](#)
(27 Jan) *Stars & Stripes*
The Marine Corps has put out a casting call for active duty and reserve Marines to participate in the service's latest recruiting campaign focused on the boot camp "transformation." Casting sessions will be held in February at two Marine Corps bases on the east and west coasts, the Corps said in an administrative message published Friday.
11. [White House seeks to establish more ROTC programs at HBCUs](#)
(27 Jan) *US News & World Report*, By Lauren Camera
The White House Initiative on historically black colleges and universities wants HBCUs to expand Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs on their campuses and modernize their degree offerings to ensure students are graduating with the skills necessary to strengthen the U.S. military. "In order to sustain a military capable of defending our country and our allies, we need smart talented men and women of character to serve," said Marshall Williams, principal deputy assistant secretary of Manpower and Reserve Affairs for the Department of the Army.
12. [CEO pens viral post on work-life balance urging others to 'pick family'](#)
(28 Jan) *GMA*, By Genevieve Shaw Brown
"I think there's too much fear amongst employees who feel they have to hide their personal lives because, if they don't, their career opportunities will be hampered," Daniel Abrahams told GMA. "This leads to employee unhappiness, regret and resentment. I don't want people to ever feel guilty about making their family a priority. In my opinion, employers who treat their staff like humans and show they care about them on a personal level, will receive more buy-in, loyalty and trust."

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

13. [The Global Gender Gap Report 2020](#)
(January 2020) *World Economic Forum*
None of us will see gender parity in our lifetimes, and nor likely will many of our children. That's the sobering finding of the Global Gender Gap Report 2020, which reveals that gender parity will not be attained for 99.5 years. <<[Full Report](#)>>
14. [Study: Men are more emotional than women at work](#)
(13 Jan) *Yahoo Finance*, By Kalila Sangster
Men are twice as likely to get emotional because their "ideas weren't heard" or because they "were criticized" and they were almost three times more likely to experience an emotional event because a project went over budget, missed a deadline or got cancelled.
15. ['A long time to wait': Virginia passes Equal Rights Amendment in historic vote](#)
(15 Jan) *The Washington Post*, By Gregory S. Schneider, Laura Vozzella and Patricia Sullivan
Both chambers of Virginia's General Assembly passed the Equal Rights Amendment marking a watershed moment in the nearly century-long effort to add protections for women to the U.S. Constitution.



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16. **[Pentagon to talk Space Force plans, uniforms with Trump](#)**
(15 Jan) Roll Call, By John M. Donnelly
Officials expected to brief president on plans for starting up newly authorized military service branch. Besides being prepared to show Trump the logo ideas, the military leaders will be ready to talk about the subject of uniforms and to describe proposed rank structures and organizational charts, according to the Pentagon official.
17. **[The U.S. Space Force is not a joke](#)**
(15 Jan) The Atlantic, By Marina Koren
Trump has pushed for the creation of the Space Force since the spring of 2018. But the version that became law isn't exactly the one he might have in mind. Yes, the law, part of a larger defense-spending bill, established the Space Force as the sixth branch of the American armed forces, but it is not the stand-alone organization that Trump seemed to have promised, a "separate but equal" entity alongside the Air Force—a problematic framing for different reasons—the branch historically responsible for defending the country's space interests.
18. **[POLL: What should members of Space Force be called?](#)**
(15 Jan) Military Times, By J. D. Simkins
Space Force officials will mull over the aforementioned strategies, as well as plans for a training regimen and personnel rank structure, over the next 18 months. That same period could also yield a rebranding of space-centric Air Force bases such as Vandenberg and Shriever.
19. **[Women running for president are raising more money from women than are their male opponents](#)**
(15 Jan) The Washington Post, By Michelle Ye Hee Lee and Anu Narayanswamy
Despite questions of electability, female donors are showing enthusiasm for female presidential candidates.
20. **[Pope names 1st woman to Vatican's top management position](#)**
(15 Jan) The Associated Press
Pope Francis has tapped an Italian lawyer to be the first woman to hold a management position in the Vatican's most important office, the Secretariat of State.
21. **[The Giants just hired Alyssa Nakken—as the first full-time female coach in MLB history](#)**
(17 Jan) CNBC, By Courtney Connley
Former Sacramento State softball star Alyssa Nakken is making Major League Baseball history by becoming the first full-time female coach in the league.
22. **[US Space Command has passed first combat test, officials say](#)**
(20 Jan) Military.com, By Richard Sisk
The newly created U.S. combatant command focused on space has passed its initial combat test, according to officials and experts. Early warning capabilities belonging to the command helped detect recent Iranian ballistic missile launches at U.S. bases in Iraq, contributing to an early warning advantage for troops on the ground.
23. **[49ers' Katie Sowers to Become 1st Woman in NFL History to Coach in a Super Bowl](#)**
(20 Jan) Bleacher Report, By Joseph Zucker
Offensive assistant coach Katie Sowers will be the first woman to coach in a Super Bowl when the Niners face off with the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LIV on Feb. 2 at Hard Rock Stadium.
24. **[Space Development Agency on track to become part of Space Force in 2022, director says](#)**
(21 Jan) Defense News, By Valerie Insinna
The U.S. government's Space Development Agency will officially become part of the Space Force in October 2022, its director told reporters Tuesday.



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25. **[These Space Force uniforms look awfully familiar](#)**
(21 Jan) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
For months now, questions have swirled about how the new Space Force will distinguish itself as the sixth branch of the military. There are so many things to sort out: a training base, an education pipeline, rank structure, uniforms, a motto, a song and more.
26. **[Here's How Women Will Change the Workplace in 2020](#)**
(22 Jan) Philadelphia Magazine, By Selena Rezvani
Here are my five predictions for the upcoming year: women's voices will be angrier, louder and more forceful; men and women in the workplace will continue to the awkward dance; more women will call out toxic work environments; work cultures will become more transparent (even if they don't want to); and rallying women to 'Lean In' will fade in favor of putting pressure on companies to remove blocks.
27. **[Katerina Sakellaropoulou becomes Greece's first woman president](#)**
(22 Jan) CNN World, By Elinda Labropoulou
High court judge and human rights advocate Katerina Sakellaropoulou has been elected Greece's first female president by parliament.
28. **[Here it is, the Space Force seal.](#)**
(24 Jan) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
A week after Space Force revealed its uniform via Twitter, President Trump dropped the new military service's logo in the same manner.
29. **[NC Senator co-sponsors bill ensuring proper equipment for women in military](#)**
(27 Jan) ABC 15 News, By Sydney Basden
Senator Thom Tillis announced Friday he had co-sponsored legislation to ensure female service members have proper-fitting equipment. The Female Body Armor Modernization Act of 2019 was introduced by Iowa Senator Joni Ernst, and officials say it would help women in the military have adequate and properly-fitted body armor and personal protective equipment.
30. **[Army releases ACFT mobile app that calculates scores, personalizes workouts](#)**
(28 Jan) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
The Army has updated its Physical Readiness Training, or PRT, mobile app for soldiers preparing to take the new Army Combat Fitness Test this year. The free updated app offers soldiers a collection of exercises, tailors PT programs to their personal needs and allows them to calculate test scores, said Lt. Col. David Feltwell, Center for Initial Military Training physical therapist, in an Army news release.
31. **[3 state attorneys general sue to recognize ERA as 28th Amendment](#)**
(30 Jan) USA Today, By Ryan W. Miller
The attorneys general in the most recent three states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment filed a lawsuit Thursday in an effort for the constitutional amendment to be recognized as the 28th Amendment after missing a congressional deadline. Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment this week after both houses of its Legislature voted to approve the measure. However, the move came long after the U.S. Congress set a deadline for three-fourths of states to do so by 1982.



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WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

32. [**I Was Pregnant and in Crisis. All the Doctors and Nurses Saw Was an Incompetent Black Woman**](#)
(8 Jan) Time, By Tressie Mcmillan Cottom
In the wealthiest nation in the world, black women are dying in childbirth at rates comparable to those in poorer, colonized nations. The CDC says that black women are 243 percent more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth-related causes than are white women.
33. [**Soldier appeals sex crime conviction, says jury was likely to be confused by SHARP testimony**](#)
(14 Jan) Stars & Stripes, By Nancy Montgomery
The Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces will hold a hearing to decide whether Pvt. Tyler Washington's conviction for abusive sexual contact, confinement for 30 days and bad conduct discharge were fair. Capt. Zachary Gray, Washington's lawyer, stated that although the female Soldier asked Washington to stop, he "would not have been able to understand her because her voice was muffled by his hand."
34. [**These military towns have the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases in the country**](#)
(15 Jan) Military Times, By Patricia Kime
According to a report released by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch, incidence rates of chlamydia among troops more than doubled from 2013 to 2018, while rates of gonorrhea doubled for men and rose by 33 percent for women.
35. [**Senators demand review of Army Reserve sexual assaults**](#)
(16 Jan) The Associated Press, By Todd Richmond
Two Democratic senators demand that Army officials open an investigation into allegations that commanders of an Illinois-based reserve unit mishandled sexual assault complaints and protocols.
36. [**Ayanna Pressley Reveals She Has Alopecia In Poignant Video**](#)
(16 Jan) Huff Post, By Jamie Feldman
"I want to be free of the secret and the shame," the Massachusetts representative said, showing her bald head for the first time.
37. [**Facing accusations of sexual assault, general says he wants to help victims**](#)
(16 Jan) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk
Faced with a lawsuit alleging he sexually assaulted a subordinate female officer, Air Force Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, strenuously maintains that he is innocent.
38. [**New Army program offers financial assistance for child care costs after a PCS move**](#)
(17 Jan) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
Soldiers and their families who move to a new duty station may be eligible for up to \$1,500 in financial assistance for child care, under a new program. Army Emergency Relief is launching the program Feb. 1. The assistance will be in the form of grants, no-interest loans or a combination of both. Soldiers may qualify for up to \$500 per month per family for three consecutive months.
39. [**Bipartisan bill would create sex assault solutions task force for Coast Guard**](#)
(17 Jan) Nexstar Media Group
Two female senators, both of whom are also veterans, are reaching across the aisle to try to create a new task force that would combat sexual assault within the U.S. Coast Guard. Reports of sexual assault within the Coast Guard have risen in recent years, reflecting figures from the military as a whole. In 2018, nearly half of the female cadets at the Coast Guard Academy reported being sexually harassed, and a new investigation found mismanagement of those cases by leadership.



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40. [Is this Navy chief warrant officer a Peeping Tom?](#)

(21 Jan) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz

A Navy chief warrant officer is facing a court-martial trial over allegations that he recorded a woman's "private area" without her consent and then distributed the footage. Prosecutors also accuse Warrant Officer 4 Wade S. Howell of distributing an "intimate image" of an individual that same month "with the intent to humiliate, harm, or harass (the individual), or with reckless disregard that (the individual) would be humiliated or harmed" by the image's distribution, according to the charge sheet.

41. [Fertility Inc.: Inside the big business of babymaking](#)

(21 Jan) *Fortune*, By Beth Kowitz

One in eight couples struggles to conceive. No wonder investors are injecting cash into the industry.

42. [Wisconsin DOJ to review National Guard sexual assault investigations](#)

(22 Jan) *The Associated Press*

The Wisconsin Department of Justice plans to review a series of sexual assault investigations from the Wisconsin National Guard after a federal report found many were conducted improperly. A report revealed multiple shortcomings in the Wisconsin National Guard's sexual misconduct reporting protocols, most notably commanders opening their own internal investigations into complaints rather than referring them to Army or Air Force criminal investigators as required by federal law and Department of Defense policy.

43. [Military wife sentenced in toddler's death wasn't authorized to provide child care in base housing](#)

(23 Jan) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers

A Navy wife has been sentenced to 28 years in prison in connection with the death of a Navy child she was babysitting at her home in privatized housing in Norfolk. The 18-month-old toddler, Amir Melton, was the son of two sailors and died as the result of head injuries. It is the second known death of a military child in the home of an unauthorized child care provider in military housing within the last 15 months.

44. [Photo of negative pregnancy test after '1,200 days of trying' hits home for thousands](#)

(23 Jan) *GMA*, By Nicole Pelletiere

A woman who shared a photo of her negative pregnancy test is inspiring others to keep fighting as they try for the baby they've always wanted. Infertility is defined as the inability to become pregnant after one year of having regular sexual intercourse without the use of birth control, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The time span is shortened to six months without becoming pregnant for women age 35 and older. Over 6 million women in America struggle with infertility, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

45. [Women do more grunt work at home, no matter their pay or education](#)

(23 Jan) *CBS News*, By Aimee Picchi

The Oxfam and the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) zeroed in on how U.S. women and men spend their time and, in a twist, adjusted for factors such as educational attainment and work status. What researchers found was that working women are also putting in extra shifts at home. The gender gap in unpaid work cuts across income and education, the study found. That imbalance can limit women's ability to advance in their careers, according to the study.

46. [Army probes handling of sex assault complaints in Illinois-based reserve unit](#)

(24 Jan) *The Associated Press*, By Todd Richmond

Army officials have quietly ordered an investigation into allegations that leaders of an Illinois-based reserve unit mishandled sexual assault complaints and retaliated against a whistleblower, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.



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47. [**Navy investigating who took secret videos of sailors in a bathroom and posted to porn site**](#)
(24 Jan) *NBC News, By Courtney Kube*
Investigators believe the videos — found on the website Porn Hub — were taken through a peephole and caught unsuspecting service members undressing. Potential victims are being notified in a coordinated effort by NCIS, command leadership, and Victim's Legal Counsel. The website hosting the videos and images at issue has complied with an NCIS request to remove the videos and images from its site and is cooperating with the ongoing NCIS investigation.
48. [**Trump administration 'rolling back women's rights by 50 years' by changing definitions of domestic violence and sexual assault**](#)
(24 Jan) *Independent, By Maya Oppenheim*
The Trump administration quietly changed the definition of both domestic violence and sexual assault back in April but the move has only just surfaced. The change could have significant repercussions for millions of victims of gender-based violence. "Narrowing the definition will stop victims being able to access the services they need" said Holly Taylor-Dunn, a senior lecturer at the University of Worcester who has been working in the field of domestic and sexual violence for 17 years.
49. [**An Arizona woman can't use her frozen embryos after divorce, state Supreme Court rules**](#)
(27 Jan) *CNN Health, By Dakin And one*
Ruby Torres had her eggs fertilized before undergoing cancer treatment in 2014, court documents say. At the time, she and her then-boyfriend, John Joseph Terrell, signed an agreement at the fertility clinic that said if they split up the embryos could either be donated to another couple or used by one of them to have children -- but only with the "express, written consent of both parties."
50. [**Maternity leave: US policy is worst on list of the world's richest countries**](#)
(27 Jan) *The Guardian, By Miranda Bryant*
According to a 2019 report by Unicef, which analysed which of the world's richest countries are most family friendly. At the bottom of the table was the United States – which, with a grand total of zero weeks, was the only country in the analysis that offered absolutely no national paid leave.
51. [**New Barbie dolls feature vitiligo and hairless models in bid to boost diversity**](#)
(28 Jan) *CNN Style, By Rory Sullivan*
The maker of Barbie dolls has released new designs to broaden the diversity of its range, including a doll with no hair and one with the skin condition vitiligo. Speaking of the Barbie with no hair, the company said: "If a girl is experiencing hair loss for any reason, she can see herself reflected in the line." Last year, a doll with a prosthetic leg and another with a wheelchair joined the Fashionistas range.
52. [**DOD Releases Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies**](#)
(30 Jan) *U.S. Department of Defense, Immediate Press Release*
Today, the Department released the annual report on sexual harassment and violence at the Military Service Academies. This year's report consists of feedback from program compliance inspections and the 292 cadets, midshipmen, faculty, and staff that participated in focus groups. In addition, the department and military service representatives conducted onsite assessments of academy prevention and response efforts.
53. [**Sexual assault reports by cadets, midshipmen at military academies surge by 32%**](#)
(30 Jan) *USA Today, By Tom Vanden Brook*
Reports of sexual assault by cadets and midshipmen at the nation's military academies jumped 32% during the past school year, reflecting increases in those crimes and a greater willingness to report them, according to a Pentagon report obtained by USA TODAY. There were 122 reports of sexual assault during the 2018-19 school year, compared to 92 in 2017-18.



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SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

54. [Female Army medic who ran through a hail of bullets to save 5 men in burning Humvee earns silver star](#)
(14 Jan) The Epoch Times, By Robert Jay Watson
Spc. Monica Lin Brown is the first woman to receive the honor after Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester in 2005 and the second to receive the medal since WWII.
55. [WNBA Tentative Agreement Bumps Average Player Salary to \\$130,000, Includes Maternity Leave](#)
(14 Jan) NBC 4 Washington, By Doug Feinberg
The contract, which begins this season and runs through 2027, will pay players an average of \$130,000 and guarantees full salaries while on maternity leave. The collective bargaining agreement also provides enhanced family benefits, travel standards and other health and wellness improvements.
56. [Face of Defense: To the Moon ... And Beyond!](#)
(16 Jan) Explore: Stories from around the Defense Department, By Katie Lange
Marine Corps Maj. Jasmin Moghbeli isn't the first female active-duty Marine officer to pass the NASA astronaut training program, but her recent graduation means she's on the short list to be the first woman to go to the moon.
57. [Navy cryptologists urge service to name destroyer after Shannon Kent, the Navy cryptologist killed in Syria](#)
(23 Jan) Military Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
A group of Navy cryptologists is urging the Navy to name a destroyer after Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Shannon Kent, who was killed Jan. 16, 2019 in Syria. "Shannon was killed in action on her 5th combat deployment with Special Operations serving at the tip of the spear hunting the enemy," Kent's husband Joe, a retired Green Beret, stated. "This makes her one of the most elite females to make the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Naming a destroyer after her would be very fitting of her fighting spirit."
58. [A woman was told to cover up at Chick-fil-A while nursing. To support her, moms held a breastfeeding sit-in](#)
(23 Jan) CNN, By Christina Zdanowicz
Samantha McIntosh was breastfeeding her 7-month-old daughter at a Chick-fil-A in Georgia, when she was approached by a store manager. The 24-year-old mother's Facebook post ignited a heated conversation around breastfeeding in public. More than 2,000 people commented on the post, many of them mothers coming to McIntosh's defense, while others insisted that feeding a baby in public was not something they wanted to see.
59. [War veteran turned Paralympian hoping to make Tokyo 2020 podium](#)
(23 Jan) Kyodo News
Melissa Stockwell, a former U.S. Army officer and two-time Paralympian, continues to share her inspiring story in which she lost most of her left leg to a roadside bomb in the Iraq War at the age of 24 but remains optimistic about her future. After competing in swimming at the Beijing Paralympics in 2008, Stockwell switched to triathlon and won bronze at Rio 2016. And now, the mother of two is hoping the 2020 podium will become part of her story of service and triumph over difficulty.
60. [Pat Locke, One of the First Female Cadets at West Point](#)
(24 Jan) YouTube, By The Heritage Foundation
Retired Army Major Pat Locke shares her inspirational story of becoming one of the first female cadets accepted into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the first ever black woman to graduate from West Point by order of merit. Locke, who grew up in extreme poverty, succeeded despite all the challenges life threw at her and, through sheer determination, became the first member of her family to go to college—a value that she continues to impart to young men and women pursuing an education.



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61. [Newport News mourns dead police officer, Navy reservist](#)
(25 Jan) *The Associated Press*, By Ben Finley
Katie Thyne served in the Navy before joining the Newport News Police Department, Newport News Police Chief Steve Drew said. She remained in the Navy Reserve. Thyne leaves behind a 2-year-old daughter.
62. [Woman makes history in the Virginia Army National Guard infantry](#)
(26 Jan) *Army Times*, By J. D. Simkins
Ana-Alicia Bennett made history last month when she became the first woman to enlist under the 11B “Infantryman” MOS designation in the ranks of the Virginia Army National Guard.
63. [Did this Navy chief deploy her security team without magazines for their weapons?](#)
(29 Jan) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
A Navy chief is facing court-martial over allegations that her ship security team deployed without magazines for their firearms. Chief Master at Arms Nicolasa R. Simmons, of the San Diego-based Coastal Riverine Squadron 3, is also charged with obstruction of justice for impeding a probe into the 2018 incident by telling her watchstanders “not to report that the unit was not equipped with M4 and M9 magazines” while underway on board the fast transport Carson City, according to charge sheets.
64. [Chief convicted in body lotion shoplifting case](#)
(29 Jan) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
A Florida-based Navy chief was convicted for stealing a bottle of Versace body lotion from the Navy Exchange at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. At a judge-only court-martial, Chief Boatswain’s Mate Kathy M. Tonnah was found guilty of larceny of non-government property worth less than \$1,000, according to trial records.

WOMEN VETERANS

65. [WWII Navy Veteran celebrates 100th birthday](#)
(11 Jan) *Fox 4 News*, By Digital Team
Carol McGee, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Second World War, celebrated her 100th birthday. McGee enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces as a Navy nurse in 1942 after graduating from Nursing School.
66. [Photo shoot designed to highlight women veterans](#)
(15 Jan) *WISHTV.COM8*, By Aleah Hordges
“I Am Not Invisible,” started by the U.S Department of Veteran Affairs, is a unique campaign to increase the visibility of women veterans across the state. Up to 100 local women came to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1587 to take part in a photo shoot with a professional photographer.
67. [VA, lawmakers trade barbs after sexual assault claim from congressional staffer](#)
(16 Jan) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
Top Veterans Affairs officials are criticizing a key congressional staffer for reporting an “unsubstantiated” sexual assault incident at a VA medical center, saying the accusation could discourage public trust in the institution. But congressional leaders say VA leadership are the ones undermining faith in the institution, by attacking a victim instead of working to make their facilities accountable and safe for women veterans.
68. [Female veterans face separate struggles than their male counterparts](#)
(19 Jan) *ABC 7 Denver*, By Alicia Nieves
A board game created by graduate students is providing insight into the veteran life experience, particularly the female veteran experience. In the “Military Game of Life,” when you are a character and you roll the dice, you eventually land on an “XP” space. “XP” allows you to pick up an experience card, relative to the gender of your character. You learn, through the cards, some experiences are the same for male and female service members, but some are not.



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69. [VA leader must demonstrate commitment to ending harassment](#)

(21 Jan) *The Hill*, By Kayla Williams

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert Wilkie sent a letter to the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an update on the department's response to staffer Andrea Goldstein's allegation of being sexually assaulted. Wilkie wrote that the matter has been closed with no charges filed. The letter stated that "VA is a safe place for all Veterans to enter and receive care and services" and further called Ms. Goldstein's claims "unsubstantiated." This letter is a breathtakingly inappropriate response to a well-documented concern within the VA medical system.

70. [Top VA hospital lacked full-time gynecologist, facilities serving women veterans for years, report says](#)

(24 Jan) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III

One of the largest veterans medical centers in the country went almost two years without a full-time gynecologist and lacked private, secure spaces for women patients for even longer, according to a new report released by the Veterans Affairs Inspector General this week. "The lack of space, privacy, and provider shortages are widespread, and these problems result in inconsistent, inadequate, and insufficient care for our women veterans," said Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif. and chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's task force on women veterans. "We owe all of our veterans the highest quality care. As this report points out, when it comes to equity for women veterans, we're clearly falling short."

71. [Arizona's longest-living veteran dies at age 105](#)

(26 Jan) *The Associated Press*

Navajo Nation officials say a 105-year-old woman who served in World War II and was Arizona's longest-living veteran has died. They say Sophie Yazzie died Saturday in Tucson. Yazzie, who was born in 1914 in the Arizona town of Canyon de Chelly, enlisted with the U.S. Army Air Corps at age 28 and served until she was honorably discharged.

72. [VA holds expo for women veterans in Pensacola](#)

(27 Jan) *ABC 3 WEARTV*, By Auriette Lindsey

The Gulf Coast Veterans Healthcare System (GCVHCS) is hosting a night out for female veterans. "It's Your Night to Shine" is a three-hour event designed to showcase services available to women. It will be held at the VA clinic in Pensacola on January 31st. Women who served in any era are encouraged to attend.

73. [VA must address the needs of women veterans](#)

(28 Jan) *The Hill*, By Jeremy Butler

The face of America's military has changed and, as we start another decade with continued U.S. military engagement around the world, the Department of Veterans Affairs must also adjust to ensure our increasing numbers of women veterans get the care they need. In 2019, the House of Representatives passed the Deborah Sampson Act.

UPCOMING EVENT

74. [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: 14 March 2020 from 1300-1600

Attire: Business Casual / Duty Uniform

RVSP: Click on the Eventbrite hyperlink in title above; respond 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.