



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2023



Recruitment & Retention

1. [**Is soldier recruiting up? Army claims yes but won't say by how much**](#)
(31 May) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
The service has declined to provide the basic recruiting data, despite Army Secretary Christine Wormuth repeatedly telling Congress it is doing better on recruiting this year compared to last year, when it came up 15,000 soldiers short of its goal of bringing in 60,000 new troops.
2. [**It's critical to solve America's military recruiting crisis**](#)
(1 Jun) The Messenger, By Rear Adm. (Ret.) Tom Jurkowski
This year marks the 50th anniversary of America's all-volunteer military. In January 1973, then-Defense Secretary Melvin Laird announced that, moving forward, the U.S. military services would fill their ranks solely with volunteers. Many Americans supported the decision, although there were those who thought it wouldn't work.
3. [**More recruits eligible for Army pre-boot camp study, fitness courses**](#)
(2 Jun) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
A wider range of hopeful soldiers can now enlist into the Army's basic training preparatory course, service officials announced Friday.
4. [**This low-key military school is embarking on a \\$50 million expansion**](#)
(4 Jun) The Times-Picayune, By Tony Mcauley
The school enrolls almost 900 students, which makes for the largest dedicated Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit in the United States.
5. [**Military college's chief of diversity quits amid debate over DEI**](#)
(4 Jun) The Associated Press, By Ben Finley
The chief diversity officer of the nation's oldest state-supported military college, Virginia Military Institute, has turned in her resignation—a month after a state-sanctioned report found VMI failed to address institutional racism and sexism. VMI didn't accept women until after a 1996 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. Women currently make up only 14% of the school's cadets.
6. [**2023 ain't 2022: More Americans signing up with Army Guard, internal docs show**](#)
(5 May) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
The Army National Guard is behind on its recruiting goals for this year but is bringing more people into the ranks compared to last year, the worst recruiting year since the military went to an all-volunteer force.
7. [**Officials Say DOD Must Be Employer of Choice to Meet Manpower Goals**](#)
(6 Jun) DoD News, By David Vergun
Today, to meet recruitment and retention goals, the Defense Department must make volunteering in the military attractive, especially in this era of low unemployment, said DOD officials.
8. [**New leader takes over Air Force recruiting as challenges persist**](#)
(7 Jun) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By Greg Hadley
Brig. Gen. Christopher R. Amrhein, an experienced tanker and trainer pilot who helped oversee the Air Force's flying training enterprise, took command of the Air Force Recruiting Service on June 2.



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9. [Senate bill seeks to boost US military recruitment amid shortfall](#)
(8 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By Phillip Walter Wellman
Legislation drafted by a group of U.S. senators aims to alleviate the military's ongoing woes in attracting new members by allowing recruiters greater access to high schools and colleges.
10. [Green Berets have struggled for years with recruiting, internal data shows](#)
(8 Jun) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
Last year, the Army failed to hit its recruiting goal for the first time in decades. But the service's Special Forces has been struggling to bring in new talent since before the pandemic, recruiting data shows.
11. [China's new conscription rules reveal concerns](#)
(8 Jun) Defense One, By Thomas Corbett and Peter W. Singer
New sections on wartime drafts, punishment, and physical fitness offer a glimpse into PLA leaders' minds.
12. [Join the military, become a US citizen: Uncle Sam wants you and vous](#)
(11 Jun) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor
Struggling to overcome recruiting shortfalls, the Army and the Air Force have bolstered their marketing to entice legal residents to enlist.
13. [The US Army has been falling short of its recruitment targets](#)
(11 Jun) NPR, By Ayesha Rascoe
NPR's Ayesha Rascoe speaks with U.S. Army Secretary Christine Wormuth about why the Army is struggling to recruit.
14. [We're still arguing over women in the military?](#)
(12 Jun) Defense One, By Eileen Bjorkman
As the number of qualified people with a propensity to serve continues to dwindle, the military needs women, who make up half the candidate pool. Reducing the size of that pool because women don't feel welcome will hurt military readiness.
15. [Army hits retention goal four months early, says top enlisted soldier](#)
(12 Jun) Army Times, By Todd South
The Army has met its retention goals four months ahead of schedule, according to the service's top enlisted soldier.
16. [Military Marks Half-Century of the All-Volunteer Force](#)
(13 Jun) DoD News, By Jim Garamone
Over 50 years, millions of Americans have served in the all-volunteer force. Most served one enlistment, but many served for careers. Their service didn't end when they returned to civilian life. "I think what's less obvious is that the all-volunteer force has had a tremendous impact on American society," Keefer said. "It has allowed people of lesser means ... to rise to middle-class status. You join the all-volunteer force, you learn skills, you serve for 20 years or less, you get your benefits, then you go out and get a second job, either in teaching or in industry or back in the civilian government.



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17. [Value of Service](#)
(n.d.) Spotlight, By Defense.gov
"Our force — the finest in the world and made up entirely of volunteers — delivers across the battlespace. It reinforces American ideals of personal liberty and freedom. And it offers Americans who have the desire and ability to serve training, career mobility and financial benefits in addition to community, connection and a common purpose."
 18. [Female Army enlistments down after Vanessa Guillen's death, data shows](#)
(13 Jun) Army Times, By Hope Hodge Seck
The 2020 disappearance and murder of a young Army specialist that prompted service-wide reckoning and reform may still be affecting efforts to recruit female soldiers, a revealing new slide presentation indicates.
 19. [Navy is teaching high school students to fly during summer academy](#)
(13 Jul) Stars & Stripes, By Juan King
The Navy kicked off its annual Summer Flight Academy this month with 28 students who aim to earn private pilot certificates before the eight-week course concludes, according to a Navy announcement recently.
 20. [Readout of Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks' Pre-Commencement Round Table Meeting With U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Students](#)
(14 Jun) DoD Immediate Release
The midshipmen will commission as ensigns and second lieutenants in all branches of the nation's armed forces.
 21. [More could be done to help dual-military couples, DoD IG reports](#)
(14 Jun) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
About 88% of all dual-military service members have been able to co-locate with their spouse, but the services have work to do to ensure they're balancing the needs of these families with the requirements of the mission as they make their assignment decisions, according to a report from the Department of Defense inspector general.
 22. [Senators seeks more safeguards in JROTC program after reports of sexual abuse](#)
(14 Jun) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel
Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps units that have failed to quickly report allegations of sexual assault to the Pentagon would be suspended from the program under a bill being pushed by a group of top Senate Democrats.
 23. [A lack of diversity is a national security risk](#)
(19 Jun) Defense News, By Ted Colbert
Our military is facing significant recruiting challenges. Generation Z wants to work for employers that share their values — diversity is a priority for it more than any other generation — and 40% of workers would consider leaving their employers if they couldn't trust their employer to follow-through on equity, diversity, and inclusion commitments.
 24. [National Guard struggles to attract recruits as private sector offers tough competition for talent](#)
(21 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By Doug G. Ware
Leaders for the Army and Air National Guard said they hope to get closer to their recruiting goals in 2023 than they did last year, but they are battling tough competition from private companies such as FedEx, Microsoft and Wendy's.



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25. [National Guard closes end-strength gap, but recruitment woes persist](#)
(22 Jun) *Military Times*, By Jaime Moore-Carrillo
The National Guard is still thousands of troops short of meeting its end-strength personnel requirements for this fiscal year, Guard officials revealed this week.
 26. [Kendall: Air Force recruiting shortfall not a ‘crisis’](#)
(22 Jun) *Air & Space Forces Magazine*, By Chris Gordon
The Air Force does not have serious long-term concerns about recruiting, Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall said June 22.
 27. [Perception of ‘wokeness’ isn’t major driver of recruitment woes, Army former enlisted leader says](#)
(23 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Phillip Walter Wellman
Some potential recruits likely aren’t joining the Army because they think it’s become too “woke,” but the main reason the service is failing to attract enough people is because many remain unaware of the service’s full benefits, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey said.
 28. [Idea to improve Air Force retention wins innovation workshop in Japan](#)
(26 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Kelly Agee
A pitch to add options to the Air Force retirement system that encourage airmen to stay in uniform won the popular vote during a traveling innovation workshop at this airlift hub in western Tokyo.
 29. [Navy recruiting increasing work week to six days to combat recruitment shortages](#)
(28 Jun) *USNI News*, By Heather Mongilio
Navy Recruiting Command is temporarily extending recruiters’ work week to six days to address recruiting shortages.

Employment & Integration

30. [Is the standard Army fitness test a thing of the past?](#)
(31 May) *Defense News Weekly* < Video >
Looking to improve a soldier’s entire well-being, the Army tries out a new comprehensive ‘holistic’ health program - and physical strength is just one part.
31. [Air Force aviators could nab \\$50K each year by staying in uniform](#)
(5 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By Rachel S. Cohen
Air Force pilots can now earn up to \$50,000 a year in bonus pay under a pair of programs designed to keep aviators in uniform.
32. [Block V Virginia-class attack subs delayed 2 years due to staffing problems: GAO](#)
(8 Jun) *Breaking Defense*, By Justin Katz
Independent government auditors found the issues are driving up price, but not yet to the ceiling for the contracts.
33. [Air Force women want one thing: ‘Make us more lethal’](#)
(11 Jun) *Air & Space Forces Magazine*, By Greg Hadley
Members of Air Force Special Operations Command face plenty of challenges and discomfort.



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34. [**No more neck or hip tape test to measure body fat, Army declares**](#)
(13 Jun) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
Army gym goers may soon see shorter lines to use neck exercise machines, as the service announced Monday that it will phase out the current system for measuring body fat by mid-2024.
 35. [**Marine Corps shuts down all female training unit in ceremony at Parris Island**](#)
(15 Jun) Photos
Marines and guests gathered at the All Weather Training Facility for the deactivation ceremony of Fourth Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.
 36. [**Marines say farewell to women-only battalion at Parris Island. How integrated is the base?**](#)
(17 Jun) The Beaufort Gazette, By Karl Puckett
The Fourth is being sunset as a result of training integration efforts among men and women at Marine recruit depots at Parris Island and in San Diego, the only two places in the country that train Marines.
 37. [**Survey reveals why surface warfare officers want to leave the fleet**](#)
(20 Jun) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
This latest survey found that “women expressed a strong overall desire to separate from the service, with the ability to start a family as the leading reason why they plan to leave the Navy,” the report states. “Additionally, the relative scarcity of women in military leadership roles may discourage junior women from pursuing leadership roles, which is a cognitive phenomenon in which minority groups avoid pursuits in which they are at risk of confirming a stereotype about their group,” the report states.
 38. [**Senate committee advances bill that may kill Army Combat Fitness Test**](#)
(26 Jun) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
The Senate Armed Services Committee passed the chamber’s fiscal 2024 defense policy bill Friday, which according to an official summary, “restores the Army’s Physical Fitness Test (APFT) as the test of record.” Although the bill has a long road ahead before it becomes law, the move signals powerful lawmakers’ frustration with the Army Combat Fitness Test.
 39. [**The U.S. Marine Corps has decommissioned its all-female Fourth Battalion**](#)
(27 Jun) NPR Morning Edition, By Steve Walsh
In an effort to end gender segregation, the Marine Corps recently decommissioned a historic recruit training battalion that for decades was the only one open to women.
 40. [**Gender neutral standards, return to old fitness test: Congress' dueling ideas for the Army**](#)
(27 Jun) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
Army planners were already looking into adjusting standards for combat jobs, including gender-neutral standards.
 41. [**South Korea’s first female submariners are expected to begin serving next year**](#)
(27 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By David Choi
One of the United States’ closest military allies has selected its first group of enlisted women to serve aboard submarines starting next year.



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Well-Being & Treatment

42. [Wisconsin legislators consider bills on National Guard sex assaults](#)
(31 May) *The Associated Press, By Todd Richmond*
A study committee began working on legislation last summer to tighten oversight of sexual assault complaints within the Wisconsin National Guard.
43. [Pregnant women at Kadena Air Base in Japan facing tough decisions](#)
(8 Jun) *Military Times, By Karen Jowers*
A staffing shortage at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa means pregnant women at Kadena Air Base may have to fly home to deliver.
44. [Health officials reverse decision on pregnant women at Kadena Air Base](#)
(9 Jun) *Military Times, By Karen Jowers*
Defense Health Agency officials say they have found a way to fill personnel gaps at Naval Hospital Okinawa and have reversed course on a decision that would have forced pregnant women at Kadena Air Base to deliver their babies elsewhere.
45. [Budget bill bans military abortions, transgender care, diversity work](#)
(14 Jun) *Military Times, By Leo Shane III*
All abortion assistance for troops would be banned, all transgender medical care ended, and all diversity and extremism training blocked under the defense appropriations plan unveiled by House Republicans on Wednesday.
46. [Service academies can be proving ground to defeat sexual misconduct](#)
(14 Jun) *Military Times, By Lt. Col. Taren Wellman and Cadet 3rd Class Madisen Campbell*
Military service academies are important change agents for solving the broader social problem of sexual violence and harassment.
47. [Military in Alaska struggles with 'constant strain' of child care shortage](#)
(24 Jun) *Military.com, By Sean Maguire*
The U.S. military is struggling to provide child care to its service members in Alaska, which is directly affecting operations and putting a strain on those serving in uniform.
48. [Sexually harassed sailors and Marines will get more support resources](#)
(28 Jun) *Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*
Sailors, Marines and midshipmen subjected to sexual harassment now have access to resources available to sexual assault victims, according to a new Department of the Navy policy signed June 9.

Servicewomen in the News

49. [Navy selects first female gunner's mate for master chief](#)
(31 May) *Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*
Senior Chief Gunner's Mate Jessica Saunders, who enlisted in the Navy in 2002, screened for E-9 on May 23.



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50. [Andrea Motley Crabtree, Army's first female deep-sea diver, reflects on her accomplishments](#)
(31 May) CBS News, By Elise Preston and Anam Siddiq
In 1982, now retired Master Sgt. Andrea Motley Crabtree became the U.S. Army's first female deep-sea diver, and the first Black female deep-sea diver across all U.S. military branches.
 51. [Enlisted Marine leader charged with DUI, hitting 2 teenage pedestrians](#)
(6 Jun) Marine Corps Times, By Irene Loewenson
Marine 1st. Sgt. Beth Ellen Abbott has been relieved of her position as the senior enlisted leader of the combat instructor battalion at The Basic School.
 52. [Marine Corps drops charges against lance corporal who spent 113 days in the brig](#)
(6 Jun) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol
Lance Cpl. Catherine Arnett's legal problems began when she refused to get vaccinated for COVID-19.
 53. [Hicks Hosts Discussion With Astronauts, Service Members](#)
(8 Jun) DoD News, By Joseph Clark ,
Marine Corps Col. Nicole A. Mann, SpaceX Crew-5 mission commander, and Navy Capt. Josh A. Cassada, mission pilot, were military pilots before becoming astronauts in 2013 and launching as part NASA's fifth, operational commercial crew aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon in October.
 54. [Separated by decades, Black mother, daughter become first duo to graduate from US Naval Academy](#)
(12 Jun) Military.com, By Jacob Anthony Amaro
Timika Lindsay and Elise Lindsay recently made history when they became the first Black mother-daughter duo to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in its 177-year history.
 55. [Following her father's flight path, this daughter is pursuing a Coast Guard aviation career](#)
(17 Jun) Virginian-Pilot, By Staff
Payton Hancock will be commissioned Tuesday in Smithfield as a U.S. Coast Guard officer.
 56. [First female Silent Drill Platoon Commander on breaking barriers](#)
(24 Jun) Defense News Weekly <Video>
From navigating different turf types to performing for the President, Capt. Kelsey Hastings is always looking to help her Marines succeed.
 57. [Those who serve: Army National Guardsman serves country on and off the dance floor](#)
(25 Jun) 12news, By Rich Prange
Dedication to country comes in different forms – for Staff Sergeant Brianna Pritchard who serves with the Arizona Army National Guard – it may also include representing the U.S. in the next Olympics.
 58. [Top general could become first female head of the British Army](#)
(26 Jun) The Sun, By Jerome Starkey
Lt Gen Sharon Nesmith, 53, has been invited to apply for the Chief of the General Staff role by Defence Secretary Ben Wallace.



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Women Veterans

59. [America faces a tidal wave of aging military veterans](#)
(2 Jun) *The War Horse*, By Sonner Kehrt
The number of women veterans over the age of 65 is expected to increase by a staggering 237% between 2021 and 2041, according to data from VA.
60. [Janice Lufkin, decorated Navy nurse during Vietnam War, has died at 81](#)
(5 Jun) *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, By Gary Miles
She spent a year during the Vietnam War on the hospital ship USS Repose treating injured soldiers and marines off the coast of South Vietnam.
61. [Mental health resources available for women veterans](#)
(7 Jun) *Military Times*, By Dave Lubach
“One of the things that they found definitively is the way women sort of internalize,” she said. “Women want to take on the world. They want to handle everything themselves, and then they wait until the entire world is falling down around them to ask for help.”
62. [Yellowstone creator Taylor Sheridan to launch military spy series](#)
(8 Jun) *Military Times*, By Sarah Sicard
Running on Paramount+, the CIA thriller gets its name from the Lioness Program, an initiative in which the Marine Corps assigned women to combat units in Iraq and Afghanistan to search potential female insurgents while remaining culturally sensitive to local belief systems that prohibit unknown men from touching women.
63. [Navy veteran Lindsey Sin appointed as CalVet secretary, department's 1st woman to serve in role](#)
(12 Jun) *KCRA*, By Edie Lambert
California's Department of Veterans Affairs has a new leader, and she's a trailblazer. Secretary Lindsey Sin is the first woman to serve at the cabinet level for CalVet.
64. [GOP budget bill would ban abortions, transgender services at VA](#)
(13 Jun) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
Abortion procedures, transgender surgeries and LGBTQ Pride flags would all be banned at Veterans Affairs medical centers under a budget bill adopted by House Republicans on Tuesday.
65. [Veterans can now use VA info line to report sexual assault, harassment](#)
(21 Jun) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime
Veterans and visitors to VA facilities can now report incidents of sexual harassment or assault that occur on campus by calling the Department of Veterans Affairs' 1-800-MyVA411 information line.
66. [The first Air Force ROTC cadet in 50 years was commissioned from Brown. Here's her story](#)
(26 Jun) *The Providence Journal*, By Staff
Raquel Ruiters' college experience was more grueling than most.



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75th Anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act

67. [Austin, Hicks Celebrate Women Service Members](#)
(12 Jun) DVIDS [Recording]
Remarks provided by Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin III; Deputy Secretary of Defense, Kathleen Hicks; Vice Admiral Sara Joyner; and Major Shaye Haver.
68. [Women's Veterans Recognition Day Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act](#)
(12 Jun) Military Women's Memorial [Facebook Recording]
Remarks provided by the First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden; Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME); DACOWITS Chair, Ms. Shelly O'Neill Stoneman; and others. Special Performance by the Army Band, "Pershing's Own" Chamber Players.
69. [In 75 Years Since Women's Armed Services Integration Act, Female Service Members Have Excelled](#)
(12 Jun) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez
Just 75 years ago today, President Harry S. Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which allowed, for the first time, women to serve as regular members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.
70. [Pentagon celebrates 75 years of women in permanent military roles](#)
(12 Jun) Military Times, By Zamone Perez
"The United States military needs women," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said at the event. "Our military is the best fighting force in human history. And to keep it that way, we need the best warfighters in every domain of potential conflict. And the only way to make that happen is by drawing on the talents of all of our people, and not just men, who happen to represent less than half of the U.S. population."
71. ['US military needs women': Pentagon salutes women in uniform 75 years after law opened full military service to them](#)
(12 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By Doug G. Ware
Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Monday called female troops a necessary part of the world's most-advanced fighting force as the Pentagon celebrated the 75th anniversary of a law that allowed women into the U.S. military on a full-time, permanent basis.
72. [Truman Library honors 75th anniversary of Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948](#)
(12 Jun) KMBC, By Connor Hills
It's been 75 years since President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. Although women have long been a part of the United States military efforts, the act fully opened the armed services to women in the country. KMBC 9 was at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri, Monday for a ceremony honoring the anniversary of the landmark act.