



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

July 2024



Recruitment & Retention

1. [Nearly 1,200 students arrive at Naval Academy for Induction Day: 'Plebs come in knowing that they know nothing'](#)
(27 Jun) Capital Gazette, By Staff
Jack Clark had a sense of familiarity when he arrived at the Naval Academy on Thursday morning to be inducted into the Class of 2028. For 10 years, the Broadneck High School graduate and his water polo team practiced there, a sport that got him recruited to the institution.
2. [On 'I-Day' at Air Force Academy, Class of 2028 becomes basic cadets](#)
(28 Jun) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By
The Class of 2028 at the U.S. Air Force Academy arrived at the school for in-processing day, known as 'I-Day' on June 26. The appointees checked in to commence administrative records processing, receive uniforms and equipment, and take the oath of office.
3. [Inside today's Navy boot camp: Less yelling, same sleep deprivation](#)
(28 Jun) Military.com, By Drew F. Lawrence
Reporters Drew Lawrence and Konstantin Toropin go to Navy boot camp. Over two days, we were given exclusive access by the Navy to get an inside look at how it makes sailors. And after a number of changes were made to the program in the last several years, we came to find out what's so different – and is it still hard, or has the Navy gone soft, as some veterans insist?
4. [West Point Class Of 2028 Reports For Duty Monday](#)
(30 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By VINCENT DIFONZO
The United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, will welcome 1,246 cadets Monday as the Class of 2028 begins a summer of basic training.
5. [Coast Guard Academy's swab summer pivots from screams to scripts](#)
(1 Jul) The Day, By Staff
Just about a month after the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Class of 2024 shed their cadet status and became junior officers, a fresh group of swabs on Monday began its 200-week journey at the military academy. But there the morning induction process was much different than past years when the walls of the Roland Hall alumni gym echoed with the screams of instructors exhorting nervous rows of trainees.
6. [ASVAB tutor scams target military prospects, Air Force recruiters say](#)
(2 Jul) Military Times, By Hope Hodge Seck
Last summer, Air Force Tech Sgt. Tameka Paschal-Vassell's phone rang with an unusual problem. The call was Paschal-Vassell's introduction to a burgeoning world of scammers preying on would-be military recruits, many of them teenagers, by appropriating the identities of real military recruiters.
7. [Immigrant US military service members take citizenship oaths. 'This is a country you chose.'](#)
(2 Jul) San Diego Union-Tribune, By Noah Lyons
Forty military service members from 19 countries took the oath to become U.S. citizens atop the iconic USS Midway Museum Tuesday, just in time for the Fourth of July.



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8. [**New Pentagon data sharing effort will showcase US military as viable career path for high schoolers**](#)
(3 Jul) Forbes, By Jim Cowen
In response to a grassroots push by U.S. state education chiefs, the Department of Defense (DoD) is moving forward with a plan to share data with states on how service members are succeeding in their military careers.
9. [**Teen Cancer Survivor Set Her Sights on Becoming a Marine. Now She's Weeks Away from Bootcamp**](#)
(6 Jul) People, By Wendy Grossman Kantor
Ever since she was a young girl, Britney Moyeda had her sights set on joining the Marine Corps. Now, years after surviving cancer, she's just weeks away from starting bootcamp.
10. [**Here's why lawmakers want to automatically register men for Selective Service**](#)
(5 Jul) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel
The House has advanced a bipartisan proposal that would automatically register young men with the Selective Service System, something they are already legally required to do.
11. [**Army grants 271 recruits a second chance through medical waiver pilot**](#)
(8 Jul) Army Times, By Hope Hodge Seck
Brig. Gen. Katherine Simonson, who is also a registered nurse and deputy commanding general for the medical arm of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, spoke candidly at a late June meeting of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services about how the military's new electronic health record, MHS Genesis, had extended the recruit processing timeline and increased the workload for staff without meaningfully increasing the number of medical disqualifications.
12. [**Marines, Air Force on track for 2024 recruiting; Navy projected to miss**](#)
(8 Jul) Military Times, By Hope Hodge Seck
With three full months left in the fiscal year for military recruiting, the services already are developing a sense of whether they'll make their target recruiting mission or end up short. That's according to military officials who testified before the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services during the committee's quarterly meeting on June 25 in Arlington, Virginia.
13. [**Colorado lawmakers call for Air Force ROTC at UCCS**](#)
(9 Jul) Colorado Springs Gazette, By Mary Shinn
Colorado lawmakers want to see aspiring Air Force officers commissioned through the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.
14. [**Pentagon's data sharing with schools will showcase military careers, boost recruiting**](#)
(9 Jul) Defense Opinion, By Jim Cowen
The Department of Defense (DOD) is moving forward with a plan to share data with states on how service members are succeeding in their military careers.
15. [**Army graduates its first cohort of new warrant officer recruiters**](#)
(11 Jul) Military Times, By Jonathan Lehrfeld
The Army held a graduation ceremony Thursday morning at Fort Knox, Kentucky, for its first group of warrant officers to possess a specific military occupational specialty for recruiting.



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16. [Hundreds of soldiers ordered to recruiting school were promised bonuses — so far, just 2 have been paid](#)
(12 Jul) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon
The Army is behind paying some \$8.5 million worth of bonuses it promised to noncommissioned officers who went to recruiting school last winter as part of a surge to reverse a historic slump in enlistments.
17. [Arkansas National Guard's Youth Challenge program discontinued over lack of sufficient staff](#)
(16 Jul) *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, By Daniel McFadin
An Arkansas National Guard program that spent decades dedicated to helping at-risk youth change their lives for the better is being dissolved due to the "safety of the kids," a National Guard spokesman confirmed Tuesday.
18. [Russia conscripts 150,000 troops as Ukraine says it needs more arms](#)
(16 Jul) *NBC News*, By Alexander Smith
Russia has finished drafting 150,000 conscripts into its military, its Defense Ministry said Monday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned he needs more fighter jets and missile defense systems to stop the Kremlin's renewed battlefield advance.
19. [Reform JROTC before new school year begins to prevent sexual assault, senators tell DOD](#)
(22 Jul) *Military.com*, By Rebecca Kheel
As a new school year approaches, a group of Senate Democrats is pressing the Defense Department to implement legally mandated reforms meant to prevent sexual assault in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.
20. [How the US and allies can convince more citizens to serve](#)
(24 Jul) *Bloomberg*, By The Editorial Board
Militaries don't just need more weapons to deter Russia and China — they need soldiers to man them.
21. [The Army bet \\$11M on The Rock and UFL, ginning up enlistments. It may have actually hurt recruiting efforts.](#)
(30 Jul) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon
The Army is seemingly having buyer's remorse after an \$11 million marketing deal with the United Football League and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

Employment & Integration

22. [Different makes us stronger: American diversity is a national security asset](#)
(3 Jul) *Defense Scoop*, By Jaret Riddick
Divisive domestic policies which counter efforts to leverage diversity are further entrenching the vulnerabilities that make these communities, and American society as a whole, susceptible to foreign adversaries.
23. [For the first time ever, Canada appoints woman as top soldier](#)
(3 Jul) *Reuters*, By Staff
Canada named a woman as the country's top soldier for the first time ever. Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan, in charge of efforts to stamp out ingrained sexism and misconduct in the armed forces, will take over on July 18 as chief of the defense staff.



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24. [**In war, female troops develop chronic pain at higher rates. So do military wives, study finds.**](#)
(10 Jul) Military.com, By Patricia Kime
Researchers recently sought to determine whether war, with its increased training demands and multiple deployments, contributes to the rise of chronic pain in female service members. Unsurprisingly, given the stresses of combat and the physical impact of military service, the research found that it does.

25. [**Army combat fitness test threatens to undermine combat effectiveness**](#)
(25 Jul) Military Times, By Maj. Amy Forza
The Army Combat Fitness Test, introduced as a rigorous and comprehensive measure of soldiers' physical readiness, has sparked significant controversy. This assessment explains why the ACFT, rather than accurately gauging combat preparedness, appears to disadvantage both male and female soldiers. For men, it has inadvertently lowered standards, while for women, it has dramatically increased failure rates compared to the previous Army Physical Fitness Test. These imbalances threaten to undermine the Army's combat effectiveness.

Well-Being & Treatment

26. [**Two-star Air Force general found not guilty of sexual assault, guilty on other charges**](#)
(29 Jun) Task & Purpose, By Nicholas Slayton
Maj. Gen. Phillip Stewart faced charges of sexual assault, conduct unbecoming of an officer, dereliction of duty for flying a training aircraft within a 12-hour window of drinking alcohol, adultery and an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate officer. The trial centered around the two counts of sexually assaulting his female subordinate which carried the highest sentence if convicted, as much as three decades per count. The jury found him guilty of the two other charges.
27. [**Coast Guard vets call for all service leaders involved in sexual assault cover-up to testify before Congress**](#)
(2 Jul) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer
Nearly 70 Coast Guard veterans on Tuesday called on senators investigating the service's sexual assault scandal to force all Coast Guard leaders involved in the service's internal investigation to testify in Congress about the yearslong cover-up.
28. [**National Guard makes changes to child care program for troops during drill weekends**](#)
(8 Jul) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer
The National Guard Bureau has launched a second pilot program to offer soldiers in certain states child care during drill weekends after the first attempt launched nearly two years ago failed.
29. [**Defense Health Agency nurses face recruiting freeze, threats to pay**](#)
(12 Jul) Federal Times, By Molly Weisner
The Defense Health Agency, a government organization employing civilian medical staff working on military bases, has paused hiring of some experienced nurses, even as it grapples with shortages of medical staff on posts.
30. [**How a Coast Guard email erupted into a reckoning of sexual assault**](#)
(12 Jul) The War Horse, By Sonner Kehrt
The profanity-laced email that landed in thousands of Coast Guard inboxes this past May wasn't intended to foment a rebellion in the nation's most under-the-radar branch of the military. It wasn't meant to get cited in a congressional hearing. It was just sheer, scorching frustration.



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31. [Coast Guard investigating academy official who threatened to resign over its handling of sexual assault scandal](#)

(23 Jul) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime

The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating a Coast Guard Academy official on allegations of harassment and a hostile work environment after she publicly charged the service with covering up incidents of sexual assault and hiding a subsequent investigation from Congress.

Servicewomen in the News

32. [General Officer Assignments](#)

(8 Jul) *DoD Immediate Release*

The chief of staff of the Army announces the following officer assignments:

- Maj. Gen. Tina B. Boyd, commander (Troop Program Unit), 335th Signal Command (Theater), East Point, Georgia, to deputy director, J-3 (Individual Mobilized Augmentee), U.S. Africa Command, Germany.
- Maj. Gen. Jan C. Norris, deputy chief information officer (Individual Mobilized Augmentee), Office of the Chief Information Officer, Arlington, Virginia, to commander (Troop Program Unit), 335th Signal Command (Theater), East Point, Georgia.
- Maj. Gen. Jamelle C. Shawley, commander (Inactive Ready Reserve), Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, Operation Enduring Freedom-Horn of Africa, Djibouti, to deputy director, Strategic Initiatives, J-5 (Individual Mobilized Augmentee), Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

33. [10 soldiers will compete for Team USA in the 2024 Olympics](#)

(3 Jul) *Military Times*, By Zamone Perez

The following U.S. Army athletes will compete in this year's Olympic Games:

- Staff Sgt. Rachel Tozier (Army Marksmanship Unit) – Shooting: Olympic Trap
- Sgt. Sagen Maddalena (Army Marksmanship Unit) – Shooting: 50m Smallbore event; and 10m Air Rifle event
- Capt. Samantha K. Sullivan (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Women's Rugby Team

The following athlete will compete in the Paralympic Games:

- Sgt. 1st class Elizabeth Marks (U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program) – Paralympic Swimming

34. [Would a Guard court-martial have saved Allison Bailey's life? Her mom thinks so](#)

(8 Jul) *Reno Gazette Journal*, By

Felicia Cavanagh says her daughter never got a fair trial and that the misconduct charges against her would not have survived a court-martial's scrutiny. They show a 17-year veteran in a downward health spiral who – according to the Guard's medical board – was “unfit to retain” because of medical issues linked to post-traumatic stress disorder from sexual assault in the line of duty.

35. [Fort Campbell soldier found dead in home was stabbed nearly 70 times, autopsy shows](#)

(10 Jul) *The Associated Press*, By Staff

A Fort Campbell soldier found dead in her home earlier this year died of nearly 70 stab wounds, according to an autopsy report. No arrests have been made in the death of 23-year-old Pfc. Katia Dueñas Aguilar, whose body was found in her Tennessee home in May near the Army post.



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36. [General Officer Announcements](#)

(12 Jul) DoD Immediate Release

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the president has made the following nominations:

- Army Brig. Gen. Stephanie R. Ahern for appointment to the grade of major general. Ahern is currently serving as director, Strategy, Plans and Policy, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.
- Army Brig. Gen. Niave F. Knell for appointment to the grade of major general. Knell is currently serving as deputy commanding general (support), 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas.
- Army Brig. Gen. Kimberly A. Peeples for appointment to the grade of major general. Peeples is currently serving as commanding general, Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

37. [A woman becomes commander of the Canadian Armed Forces for the first time](#)

(18 Jul) The Associated Press, By Rob Gillies

Gen. Jennie Carignan officially took over command of the Canadian Armed Forces in a ceremony at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa on Thursday.

38. [A USS Eisenhower pilot became the first American woman to score air-to-air kill](#)

(21 Jul) Task & Purpose, By Nicholas Slayton

The aviator, part of Strike Fighter Squadron 32, took out a Houthi drone in the Red Sea as part of the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group's intercept mission. The aviator, who the Navy has not named, shot down a one-way attack drone fired by Houthi forces against commercial ships passing through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, using an F/A-18F Super Hornet.

39. [Naval aviator becomes first American woman to secure air-to-air kill](#)

(23 Jul) Military Times, By Diana Stancy

An F/A-18 Super Hornet pilot from Strike Fighter Squadron 32 became the first American woman to engage and kill an air-to-air contact during the squadron's recent deployment aboard the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Middle East.

40. [General Officer Announcement](#)

(24 Jul) DoD Immediate Release

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Air Force Maj. Gen. Rebecca J. Sonkiss for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general with assignment as deputy commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Sonkiss is currently serving as deputy commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

41. [General Officer Announcement](#)

(26 Jul) DoD Immediate Release

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Air Force Maj. Gen. Jennifer M. Short for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general, with assignment as senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Short is currently serving as director, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.



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42. [West Point grad Sullivan shines in Olympic debut as US gets 2 rugby sevens wins](#)
(28 Jul) *Stars & Stripes*, By Matt Wagner
Sammy Sullivan, a 26-year old Army Captain, was one of five Olympic debutants to see the field of the U.S. She stood out on the field, playing every minute of both matches.
 43. [Army sergeant finishes agonizingly close to an Olympic medal](#)
(29 Jul) *Stars & Stripes*, By MATT WAGNER
Army Sgt. Sagen Maddalena needed time to process the women's 10-meter air rifle final Monday morning at the Chateauroux Shooting Centre.
 44. [Army's second-largest post to have its first female commander](#)
(30 Jul) *Army Times*, By Todd South
The Army's home for intelligence and cyber operations will welcome its first female garrison commander in a change-of-command ceremony next week. Col. Yolanda Gore will be the 89th garrison commander of Fort Meade, Maryland, when she takes command on Aug. 6.
 45. [Late-game heroics help Army Capt. Sammy Sullivan, US women's rugby sevens claim Olympic bronze](#)
(30 Jul) *Stars & Stripes*, By Matt Wagner
Late in the Olympic bronze-medal match against Australia on Tuesday evening, the United States women's rugby sevens team needed a miracle.
 46. [An Army officer is one of the stars of the U.S. women's Olympic rugby team](#)
(30 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By Patty Nieberg
The U.S. women's rugby team just won its first Olympic medal with the help of an Army captain. Capt. Samantha Sullivan was an All American at West Point. Her coach said "everything you see is what you're going to get."
 47. [US Army captain becomes first female nurse to graduate from the Army's elite Ranger Course](#)
(31 Jul) *CNN*, By Haley Britzky
For US Army Capt. Molly Murphy, the hardest part of the Army's grueling Ranger Course was the very first day. Murphy, who currently works as a pediatric intensive care unit nurse at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland, graduated from Ranger School on July 19, becoming the first female Army nurse to ever complete the course.

Women Veterans

48. [She's a trailblazer: WWII nurse honored at 106 years old](#)
(1 Jul) *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, By Hunter Boyce
Irene Hosking was just 24 years old when she enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps on May 15, 1942. Her dedication to service members didn't end when World War II did, however, and she was recently celebrated for her lifetime of achievements.
49. [Navy veteran on how staying active at the Warrior Games has aided her recovery](#)
(4 Jul) *Military Times* <Video>
Gabrielle Varhola explains how staying active and social has helped her recovery after she injured both of her hips and survived two sexual assaults.



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50. [Marine veteran lost her leg, identity in helicopter crash, but she found new calling as world-class mountaineer](#)
(7 Jul) *The Denver Post*, By Staff
Kirstie Ennis has made a life out of getting back up. The Glenwood Springs, Colorado, resident is a Marine Corps veteran who lost her left leg and suffered other serious injuries in a helicopter crash on her second tour in Afghanistan in 2012. But in the wake of that life-altering trauma, the 33-year-old found a calling as a world-class mountaineer, competitive snowboarder and leader of a nonprofit focused on outdoor therapy.
51. [Master class: How female veterans can land a job with a 6-figure income faster](#)
(12 Jul) *Military.com*, By Jacey Eckhart
Women are different from men. Depending on where you stand, those are either fightin' words or patently obvious. As the transition master coach for Military.com's veteran employment project, I stand in the "patently obvious" department — especially when it comes to military transition.
52. [How would Project 2025 impact troops and veterans?](#)
(24 Jul) *Military Times*, By Jonathan Lehrfeld
Revoking the VA's ability to provide abortion-related care and slashing the number of general officers in the ranks are just a few of the policy proposals laid out in a political playbook for what the next Republican administration could look like. Known as Project 2025, the plan organized by the conservative think tank The Heritage Foundation would make sizable changes to the lives of service members and veterans if implemented.

Upcoming Events

- Title:** [2024 National Women Veterans Summit](#)
- Location:** Washington Hilton, Washington, DC
- Date:** 5-7 September 2024
- Time:** Various
- Register:** [Coming Soon](#)
- Details:** The Quadrennial VA Women Veterans Summit serves to increase access, decrease barriers, and connect women veterans and transitioning servicewomen directly with information, benefits, services, and opportunities. The summit brings together all the VA's resources and services in one place. Advocates will be available to connect summit participants with resources and help empower participants to navigate the VA health care system.
- Title:** [DACOWITS Quarterly Business Meeting](#)
- Location:** AUSA Conference Center, Arlington, VA
- Date:** 10-11 September 2024
- Time:** 0800-1500
- Register:** Coming Soon
- Details:** DACOWITS provides advice and recommendations on matters and policies relating to the recruitment, retention, employment, integration, well-being, and treatment of women in the Armed Forces of the United States. The Committee gathers information from multiple sources, to include briefings from Defense Department, Service-level military representatives, and subject matter experts.