



## DACOWITS: Articles of Interest

### WELLNESS

#### [Study finds needs of female veterans different from their male counterparts](#)

(10 Sept.) *ABC News*, By Pamela Pritt

“The number of women veterans has doubled in the last decade. Women in service have experienced violence -- in combat, in the form of sexual harassment and in sexual trauma -- and they're finding their needs when they come home are different than those of their male counterparts.”

#### [Navy Plans To Offer New Career Options To Officers And Enlistees](#)

(14 Sept.) *Military Times*, By Kris Osborn

“The U.S. Navy is closely examining how it might change personnel policies and work with Congress to adjust legislation in order to give sailors and Navy officers a wider range of career options following the release of a Navy survey that found widespread discontent in the service.”

#### [Ford Captain Strives To Know His Sailors](#)

(15 Sept.) *Newport News Daily Press*, By Hugh Lessig

“A female sailor was standing watch at an armory, an important job. What happened next was unacceptable on several levels.”

#### [The Veterans No One Talks About](#)

(15 Sept.) *National Journal*, By Jordain Carney

“...suffering from PTSD from the [sexual] assault...he says was a misdiagnosis of personality disorder instead of PTSD.”

#### [Project Sanctuary Aids Military Families](#)

(16 Sept.) *DoD News*, By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

A national nonprofit organization assists military families in making the transition from "battle-ready to family-ready."

#### [IG: Sexual Assault Investigators Should Improve Methods](#)

(16 Sept.) *Navy Times*, By Andrew Tilghman

Military investigators responding to reports of sexual assaults do not always follow the widely accepted standards set by civilian police agencies, according to a new Pentagon Inspector General's report.

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### [Women invited to apply for Ranger School](#)

(12 Sept.) *Army Times*, By Michelle Tan

“The Army is looking for female soldiers who want to volunteer to attend Ranger school. The call-out is part of the Army's ongoing effort to determine whether and how to open combat arms military occupational specialties to women.”

[General Officer Assignments.](#) The Chief of Staff, Army announced the following assignments: 1) Brig. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb to commanding general, Southern Regional Medical Command, and market manager, San Antonio Military Health System, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. Holcomb most recently served as command surgeon, U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. 2) Brig. Gen. Robin L. Fontes, student, Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, District of Columbia, to defense attaché-India, U.S. Defense Attaché Office, India.

### EXTRA

#### [The VA Needs To Move Fast To Better Help Its Newest Veterans](#)

(12 Sept.) *Defense One*, By Charles S. Clark

“...[the VA] still knows too little about the readjustment difficulties faced by the increasingly younger and more female cohort of recently separated service members.”

**Veteran broke barriers as a woman, African American soldier**

*(12 Sept.) My San Antonio (online news), By Sig Christenson*

“Joining the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps after World War II broke out was a civic duty for Rose Witherspoon Spence, but looking back on it all in her old age, she knows it was much more than that. If a soldier, she also was a pathfinder who broke through two barriers of the day — sexism and prejudice against African Americans.”

**Uniform Overhaul**

(22 Sept.) Navy Times, By Lance M. Bacon <Link unavailable >

Uniform changes are on the horizon. Navy officials are on the cusp of approving new uniforms and tweaking old ones to expand sailors’ options and modernize their sea bag – changes that will start appearing as soon as a year from now. These moves are likely to prove lower-profile than the trial of female sailors wearing the iconic “Dixie cups” and blue “crackerjacks,” but they include popular options that everyone could be wearing out in town soon. Here’s [one of] the four uniform updates in the works:

**Female ‘Chokers’**

Female chiefs and officers are about to get “choker” whites. The Navy is planning to overhaul women’s service dress whites, a long sleeve service uniform, to look more like those of male peers. Female chiefs and officers currently wear a white coat and black tie.

Officials want to replace that coat-style jacket with the high-collar “choker” worn by men, which clasps at the neck and is not worn with a tie.

There are still likely to be differences between the male and female versions. The new female service dress whites will have no pockets on the chest and will feature smaller, proportional buttons. The male uniform has two chest pockets.

A wear test is scheduled for the spring of 2016. If approved, the new female uniform is expected to be rolled out Navy-wide that fall. Officials are using the coming 18 months to develop form-fitting patterns.

Part of this effort will be drawn from an anthropometric study the Navy will launch this fall. The study is designed to improve the comfort, performance and fit of all uniforms for men and women. The Army in 2010 conducted a similar 15-month study that measured 94 body points on 13,000 soldiers. The study – the first of its kind since 1988 – found that today’s service members are larger and have more muscle, and uniform fits are being adjusted accordingly.

Some of that data was used to develop a female-specific Army combat uniform, the soldier’s equivalent of the Navy working uniform. The female ACU comes in 13 sizes and boasts more than a dozen upgrades suited to women. Jackets come in different chest, waist and sweep measurements, while trousers come in different hip measurements.

The Navy anthropometric correlation study will measure 4,000 sailors and compare those findings to Army data.

Wear tests of a new female combination cover are also underway. Approximately 30 female officers and chiefs around the Washington, D.C., region are testing the newly designed covers, which feature a round brim like the men’s version, instead of the “bucket”-style headgear currently worn.

In addition, up to 300 sailors this fall will test two other new options for women: the service dress blue jumper and “Dixie cups.” These, too, are part of the Navy’s top-level push to make female uniforms more similar to men’s. Feedback will be incorporated into a final design expected in fiscal 2015, with fleet introduction the following year, officials say.