



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 17-31 December 2016

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [**Air Force: 29,000 more airmen needed to fill critical manning gaps**](#)
(23 Dec) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
If Air Force officials can get the Trump administration and Congress on board with their desire to reach an end strength of 350,000 airmen by 2024, that growth will be focused on the maintenance, nuclear, cyber and space career fields, a senior official said Wednesday.
2. [**New in 2017: 4,000 new airmen on tap**](#)
(24 Dec) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
The Air Force is slated to grow its end strength for the second year in a row. The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress calls for 4,000 more airmen, bringing active duty end strength up to 321,000.
3. [**New in 2017: Beards, nail polish and earrings: They're happening. Maybe.**](#)
(24 Dec) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
Army leaders are considering some big changes to the service's uniform and appearance policies in 2017.
4. [**Holidays a busy time for Army recruiters**](#)
(25 Dec) Fayetteville Observer, By Drew Brooks
The new year is one of the busiest times to welcome future soldiers from across the nation, making the holiday season a busy time for Army recruiters. That's especially true in North Carolina, a state with one of the largest military populations.
5. [**New in 2017: 16,000 more soldiers for the Army**](#)
(26 Dec) Army Times, By Michelle Tan
The Army is slated to have 476,000 soldiers next year, 16,000 more than originally planned.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

6. [**On the Front Lines of Change: A Conversation with Female Veterans**](#)
(19 Dec) WNPR, By Lydia Brown and Lucy Nalthanchil
Last year was a landmark year for the U.S. military and its service members. For the first time, women were granted equal access to all military combat roles. This hour, we take a closer look at the military's gender integration efforts and consider what the future holds under President-elect Trump.
7. [**New in 2017: New fitness assessment to go combat arms**](#)
(19 Dec) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
After several delays, the Army will roll out the Occupational Physical Assessment Test Jan. 1 for all recruits and soldiers looking to reclass into physically demanding jobs like infantry and armor.
8. [**Want A Combat Job? The Army Has A New PT Test For You**](#)
(20 Dec) Task & Purpose, By Adam Linehan
On Jan. 1, the Army is rolling out its all new, top-of-the-line occupational physical assessment test. The OPAT will help determine whether you've got what it takes.

9. [Marine Corps publishes new PFT and CFT rules](#)
(20 Dec) Marine Corps Times, By Matthew Schehl
 The Marine Corps on Tuesday officially published new updates to its physical fitness and combat fitness tests.
10. [New in 2017: The military will redefine who's too fat to serve](#)
(24 Dec) Military Times, By Andrew Tilghman
 The Pentagon in 2017 is expected to unveil a new force-wide policy governing body-fat standards, rules likely to change how the military defines and evaluates body composition, and determines who's too fat to serve.
11. [Israel Grapples With Military's Plan to Open Combat Roles to Women](#)
(28 Dec) The Wall Street Journal, By Rory Jones
 Mixed-gender units have been in fire fights, but some object to a wider role for female soldiers
12. [New in 2017: Future of Marines' gender integration plan uncertain](#)
(29 Dec) Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol
 It remains to be seen whether President-elect Donald Trump will halt the U.S. military's ongoing efforts to open all combat jobs to women.
13. [New in 2017: Enlisted combat schools gear up for first female students](#)
(30 Dec) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
 Now that the Army has started filling out its cadre of female officers in the infantry and armor branches, the road has been paved for enlisted women to take their shot at combat military occupational specialties in 2017.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

14. [Face of Defense: Airman Learns Lessons From Afghanistan Duty](#)
(29 Dec) DoD News, By Geoff Janes
 The first thing you notice about Air Force Airman 1st Class Corynn Marcelo when she talks about her recent deployment to Afghanistan is her professionalism and military bearing.

GAO REPORT ON VA HEALTHCARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS

15. [Improved Monitoring Needed for Effective Oversight of Care for Women Veterans](#) (GAO-17-52)
 The Department of Veterans Affairs has policies in place to help ensure the privacy, safety, and dignity of women veterans when they receive care at its medical facilities. For example, exam rooms must have privacy curtains and exam tables must face away from doors. However, we found many instances of noncompliance with these policies. We also found that 27 percent of VA medical facilities lacked an onsite gynecologist. We recommended that VA improve its oversight of care for women veterans, including monitoring access to services such as gynecology and maternity care.