



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services
Articles of Interest: 23 April – 6 May 2016

DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [**DACOWITS visits JBLM to assess gender integration, mentorship of female service members**](#)
(13 Apr) Army News, By Staff Sgt. Bryan Dominique
The Defense Committee on Women in the Services kicked off its tour of 13 different military installations April 5, starting at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.
2. [**DACOWITS Conducts Study with NECC at JEBLC-FS**](#)
(29 Apr) Navy News, By Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs
The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) visited Navy Expeditionary Combat Command at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story (JEBLC-FS) April 26-27, to conduct research for part of its report to the Secretary of Defense.

RELEASED REPORT/STUDY

3. [**Sexual Trauma in Military May Lead to Homelessness**](#)
(20 April) Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry
Rates were doubled for vets who had suffered this type of abuse
4. [**DoD Releases FY15 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military**](#)
(5 May) DoD News Release
Today, the Department of Defense released its Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

5. [**Airmen weigh in on possible changes to tattoo policy**](#)
(24 Apr) Air Force Times, By Oriana Pawlyk
Are the rules limiting tattoos stopping airmen from re-enlisting? It is not clear whether it's a huge problem, but it could be stopping some new talent from joining the ranks.
6. [**Millennials may need drill sergeants beyond basic, Army says**](#)
(25 Apr) Army Times, By Michelle Tan
The Army loses about 12 percent of its trainees, and “we want to make sure they’re the fittest, most disciplined, most well-trained soldiers,” [Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport] said.
7. [**House Panel Seeks to Increase Army Ranks by 45,000 Soldiers**](#)
(27 Apr) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
Rep. Mac Thornberry's version of the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Bill would provide money to add 20,000 soldiers to the active Army's end-strength, bringing it to 480,000.
8. [**Got Ink? Navy Is Relaxing Its Rules on Tattoos**](#)
(29 Apr) The New York Times, By Christopher Mele
The United States Navy is loosening its rules governing tattoos effective Saturday in response to their growing popularity among young people and to remove a potential barrier for desired recruits.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

9. [Flag Officer Assignments](#). The Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignments:
 - Rear Adm. (lower half) Deborah P. Haven, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as director, joint reserve forces, J9, Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Haven is currently serving as commander, Defense Contract Management Command International, Fort Lee, Virginia.
 - Rear Adm. (lower half) Lorin C. Selby will be assigned as deputy commander, ship design, integration and engineering, SEA-05, Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, District of Columbia. Selby is currently serving as commander, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Washington, District of Columbia.
10. [What Army wives need to understand about female soldiers](#)
(20 Apr) *The Washington Post*, By Lily Burana
“In the face of these milestones, I realized, with some recrimination, that in all this time I’ve rarely interacted with the female cadets and soldiers on staff.”
11. [Congress moves to halt Navy's gender-neutral uniform changes](#)
(23 Apr) *Navy Times*, By Meghann Myers
Navy Secretary Ray Mabus has driven a women’s uniform revamp, but now Congress is looking to stall some of those changes and accusing the Navy of ignoring its evaluation process to speed them through.
12. [Kristin Beck Would Love to Train 1st Female SEALs -- On One Condition](#)
(23 Apr) *Military.com*, By Hope Hedge Seck
Beck said she absolutely stands by earlier statements that she would like to play a role in training the first female sailors to attempt the newly opened Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) courses. But she would do so, she said, only if Defense Department brass maintained their commitment to keeping the same tough physical standards, regardless of political pressure or how well women fare in the course.
13. [Congress takes its first step toward killing the military draft](#)
(24 Apr) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
The House Armed Services Committee will include instructions to examine the Selective Service program's viability and possible “alternatives” as part of its review of the annual defense authorization bill next week, staffers confirmed on Friday.
14. [At least 1 woman wants to be Marine ‘grunt’](#)
(24 Apr) *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, By Jeanette Steele
Women begin stepping forward for new combat jobs
15. [Lori Robinson, trailblazing Air Force general, makes Time's 100 Most Influential list](#)
(25 Apr) *Air Force Times*, By Phillip Swarts
Time magazine named Gen. Lori Robinson, leader of the Pacific Air Forces, one of its 100 most influential people for 2015-2016.
16. [Panel confirms Gen. Lori Robinson as first female officer for warfighting command](#)
(26 Apr) *Air Force Times*, By Richard Lardner
The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved the nomination of the first female officer to lead one of the military's warfighting commands.
17. [The 30th woman to attempt the Marines' Infantry Officer Course has been dropped](#)
(26 Apr) *Marine Corps Times*, By Jeff Schogol
The latest female Marine to attempt the grueling 84-day Infantry Officer Course was unable to complete training, but she will get a second chance to take the course, the Marine Corps has confirmed.
18. [Meet the Army's first female infantry officer](#)
(27 Apr) *Army Times*, By Michelle Tan
Capt. Kristen Griest, one of the first women to earn the coveted Ranger tab, will once again make history by becoming the Army’s first female infantry officer.

19. [**Navy to revise psychological screening for potential submariners**](#)
(27 Apr) *The Day*, By Julia Bergman
"The population has changed and clearly women are in the submarine force," [Navy Capt. Ray] Woolrich said. "The question that I might ask a man would be very easily differently answered by a woman. So what are those differences that we should watch for because right now the metrics against which we measure are all male. That's what we're trying to do."
20. [**How The Cost Of Officer Uniforms Demonstrates Gender Inequality In The Navy**](#)
(27 Apr) *Task & Purpose*, By Andrea N. Goldstein
Female officers are being asked to shoulder the financial burden of new uniforms while being told it's part of a push toward gender equality.
21. [**Army combat boot is not female friendly, lawmakers say**](#)
(27 Apr) *Army Times*, By Kyle Jahner
As more frontline jobs open to women, lawmakers say the Army needs to consider adopting a combat boot specially designed for female soldiers.
22. [**Are women headed for the draft? Support for the idea grows in Congress**](#)
(28 Apr) *The Washington Post*, By Karoun Demirjian
The House Armed Services Committee took a big and unexpected step toward making women register for the draft as a handful of Republicans joined Democrats on Wednesday night to back a measure whose own sponsor hoped would fail.
23. [**House panel votes to make women register for the draft**](#)
(28 Apr) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
Women will have to register with the Selective Service and would be eligible to be drafted in the military, under a provision narrowly approved by a House panel on Wednesday.
24. [**Army advances tape test review triggered by SMA and soldier complaints**](#)
(28 Apr) *Army Times*, By Michelle Tan
The Army is putting together a working group to review the tape test to determine if the method is a fair measurement of a soldier's physical fitness.
25. [**Colonel tapped to become West Point's first female dean**](#)
(29 Apr) *Army Times*, Staff Report
A department head at the U.S. Military Academy could become the first female dean in the school's 200-plus-year history, if the Senate endorses her selection.
26. [**It was a historic week for military women. So what happens next?**](#)
(2 May) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
This week saw the arrival of the first female Army infantry officer, the first female combatant commander, and the first female dean of West Point.
27. [**The Army may be blowing up its entire body composition regulation**](#)
(2 May) *Army Times*, By Michelle Tan
The Army regulation governing body fat and height and weight standards will go under a complete review this summer, officials told *Army Times*. Also being reviewed is the Army's controversial tape test.
28. [**Petition urges lawmakers to keep women out of the military draft**](#)
(4 May) *The Hill*, By Rebecca Kneel
More than 11,000 people have signed a petition calling on Congress to remove a provision from an annual defense policy bill requiring women to register for the draft.
29. [**Adm. Michelle Howard shares her amazing journey**](#)
(4 May) *Federal News Radio*
Adm. Michelle Howard joins Women of Washington hosts Aileen Black and Gigi Schumm to share her amazing and inspiring personal journey from being refused service at a restaurant in the 1970s because of the color of her skin to being the first admiral selected from her Naval Academy class to being the first woman and African-American to hold the post of Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

30. [**This is the first female soldier to reenlist as a cavalry scout**](#)
(4 May) Army Times, By Kyle Jahner
 The rules have changed since [Sgt. Kayci Landes] enlisted. So on Wednesday, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Landes became the first woman to re-enlist as a 19D cavalry scout.
31. [**Army investigates: Are these West Point cadets making a political statement in uniform?**](#)
(5 May) Army Times, By Tony Lombardo
 West Point is investigating a photo that shows 16 black female cadets in uniform displaying raised fists outside a U.S. Military Academy barracks.
32. [**Flournoy expresses regret for out-of-regulation issues that sparked social media uproar**](#)
(5 May) Stars and Stripes, By Wyatt Olsen
 A command sergeant major whose out-of-regulation hairstyles, makeup and clothing sparked a firestorm of social media criticism is receiving counseling and has expressed “regret” for the distraction she has caused.
33. [**CSM counseled on appearance following social media firestorm**](#)
(5 May) Army Times, By Kyle Jahner
 The Army has counseled a command sergeant major after a firestorm of comments called her out on Facebook for alleged violations of the Army's appearance standards.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

34. [**Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month: Why everyday matters**](#)
(23 Apr) Navy Live, By Adm. Michelle Howard
 To paraphrase a Sailor I once spoke with, “If you see something wrong, do something right.” Our proactive involvement can save lives.
35. [**Female airman breastfeeding featured in photographer's latest collection**](#)
(25 Apr) Air Force Times, By Oriana Pawlyk
 In September, [Tara] Ruby photographed 10 female soldiers in uniform at Fort Bliss, Texas, breastfeeding their children.
36. [**Naval Academy teacher is removed amid widening sexual misconduct scandal**](#)
(25 Apr) The Washington Post, By John Woodrow Cox
 A second U.S. Naval Academy instructor has been implicated in a sexual misconduct scandal reverberating across a military still struggling to hold service members accountable when allegations are made against them.
37. [**Experts: Military has uphill battle against sexual assault, harassment and hazing**](#)
(26 Apr) Stars and Stripes, By Dianna Cahn
 A panel of psychologists, researchers and defense officials hoped that a half-day event next door to the Pentagon on military sexual assault, harassment and hazing would draw commanders integral to leading a cultural change. Not one showed up.
38. [**Deployed Resiliency Counselors: Catalysts for Change**](#)
(27 Apr) Navy Live, By Yvette Currie
 “Coming aboard a Navy ship as a deployed resiliency counselor (DRC) during a powerful transitional time for a culture focused on eradicating sexual assault, was humbling.”
39. [**New parents would get more time at home, under proposal in defense bill**](#)
(28 Apr) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
 Service members whose spouses give birth would get at least 14 days leave and dual military couples who adopt a child would both get two weeks off under House proposals approved as part of the annual defense authorization bill Wednesday.
40. [**Carter pledges probe of sex assault testimony**](#)
(28 Apr) The Hill, By Rebecca Kheel
 Defense Secretary Ash Carter says he’s investigating claims that a Pentagon official misled Congress in testimony on sexual assault, as senators call for a meeting with Carter over the allegations

41. [**Military files new criminal charges against ex-Naval Academy teacher in sexual misconduct case**](#)
(28 Apr) *The Washington Post*, By John Woodrow Cox
The military has filed new criminal charges against Marine Maj. Mark Thompson, a former U.S. Naval Academy instructor who insisted that he had been unfairly convicted of sexual misconduct with two female midshipmen.
42. [**DoD Releases Department-wide Strategy to Prevent Retaliation Associated with Reporting Sexual Assault or Harassment**](#)
(28 Apr) *DoD News*, Press Release
The Department of Defense released a department-wide strategy to improve the way it provides support to service members who experience retaliation and to align prevention and response efforts across the services.
43. [**Commitment to Helping Sexual Assault Victims Earns Honors**](#)
(28 Apr) *DoD News*, Press Release
The Defense Department has honored six exceptional sexual assault response coordinators as part of April's observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.
44. [**Our Military Shouldn't Turn Its Back on Servicewomen Who Need an Abortion**](#)
(28 Apr) *The Huffington Post*, By Ellen Haring
Until the military provides legal abortion services at its military treatment facilities, servicewomen will continue to be disproportionately and negatively impacted by a policy that affects our health and wellbeing as well as the readiness of the military.
45. [**Fort Hood P3T Program preps female Soldiers**](#)
(29 Apr) *DVIDS*, By Staff Sgt. Kimberly Lessmeister
The Army introduced the Pregnancy/Postpartum Physical Training (P3T) Program in 2008 with All Army Activities message 168, but only recently relaxed its physical restrictions on pregnant Soldiers.
46. [**Fort Bragg Soldier Charged With Sexual Assault, Kidnapping**](#)
(1 May) *The Daily Beast*, By Katie Zavadski
A married sergeant—and a veteran of the war in Afghanistan—was arrested by local police for allegedly abducting and sexually assaulting a woman in his unit.
47. [**Navy sees increase in 'sextortion' cases; NCIS warns sailors about online behavior**](#)
(3 May) *The Day*, By Julia Bergman
After a spike in reports of sexual extortion, or "sextortion," across the Navy, including at the Naval Submarine Base, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service is warning sailors not to engage in sexually explicit activities online.
48. [**Advocacy group seeks probe into DOD statements on sexual assault**](#)
(4 May) *The Hill*, By Rebecca Kneel
An advocacy group that alleges a Pentagon official misled Congress in testimony on sexual assault is calling on President Obama to approve an independent investigation into the matter.
49. [**Military reports fewer sex assaults; more intervention urged**](#)
(5 May) *Associated Press*, By Lolita C. Baldor
The number of sexual assaults reported by the military dipped slightly in 2015 compared to the previous year, spurring military leaders to look for new ways to encourage troops to intervene when they see a potentially dangerous situation.
50. [**Program Director: Military Sexual Assault Efforts Having Impact, But Hurdles Remain**](#)
(5 May) *DoD News*, By Cheryl Pellerin
The latest annual report of the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program shows the effort is having an impact, but that there are still hurdles to overcome, the SAPR program's director said during a media roundtable here this morning.
51. [**Military sex assault: Just 4 percent of complaints result in convictions**](#)
(5 May) *Military Times*, By Andrew Tilghman
The military received more than 6,000 reports of sexual assaults last year, but only a small fraction, about 250, led to a court-martial and conviction for a related crime, according to a new Pentagon report.

52. [Pentagon perpetuates stigma of mental health counseling, study says](#)

(5 May) *USA Today*, By Gregg Zoroya

Even as troop suicides remain at record levels, the Pentagon has failed to persuade servicemembers to seek counseling without fears that they'll damage their careers, a stinging government review concludes.

WOMEN VETERANS

53. [West Point hosts conference 40 years after female cadets](#)

(26 Apr) *SF Gate*

The academy says that of its 51,087 living graduates, 7 percent are women.

54. [Female veterans will take September trip](#)

(4 May) *The Week News*, By Nate Ellis

Nearly a century after some women broke barriers and convention by leaving their homes to serve their country, Honor Flight Columbus plans to take women military veterans on a historic ride.