



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 14-27 January 2017

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### SECDEF TRANSITION

1. [In his own words: Mattis on the challenges facing the military](#)  
(15 Jan) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III  
Retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee Thursday for his confirmation as the next Secretary of Defense. Here are excerpts from that testimony, and how he'll approach some of the biggest challenges facing the military.
2. [Carter Legacy: Force of the Future, Modernizing DoD, Confronting Threats](#)  
(19 Jan) *DoD News, Defense Media Activity*, By Lisa Ferdinando  
As part of efforts to strengthen the all-volunteer force, Carter announced Dec. 3, 2015, that he had ordered the opening of all military occupations to women, including combat positions. Women have already seen combat in Iraq and Afghanistan -- serving, fighting and, in some cases, making the ultimate sacrifice, he said at the Pentagon announcement. It made sense -- and was backed by years of study -- to open all military occupations to women, he explained.
3. [Message to the Department of Defense from Secretary of Defense James Mattis](#)  
(20 Jan) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-020-17)*  
Every action we take will be designed to ensure our military is ready to fight today and in the future.

### EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

4. [Flag Officer Assignment](#). Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignment: Rear Adm. (lower half) Linnea J. Sommer-Weddington will be assigned as deputy director, Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems (C4) and Information Technology, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. Sommer-Weddington is currently serving as deputy director, Warfare Integration, N2/N6FA, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia.
5. [Trump's DOD Nominee OK With LGBTs in Military and Women in Combat](#)  
(13 Jan) *CNS News*, By Susan Jones  
"I have no plan to oppose women in any aspect of our military," retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis told the Senate Armed Services Committee at his confirmation hearing on Thursday.
6. [Exclusive: The 75th Ranger Regiment Is No Longer An All-Male Unit](#)  
(18 Jan) *Task & Purpose*, By Marty Skovlund Jr.  
The 75th Ranger Regiment has been a boys-only club since its inception. That just changed.
7. [How Female Officers Forced The Navy To Back Down On Uniform Changes](#)  
(21 Jan) *Task & Purpose*, By Andrea N. Goldstein  
The bucket cover and other items have been saved by an act of Congress, and the Navy won't easily be able to force future changes.
8. [Male and female infantry Marines to share tents in the field](#)  
(25 Jan) *Marine Corps Times*, By Jeff Schogol  
The first female infantry Marines will share fighting holes and tents with male Marines during field exercises.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

9. [The Marine Corps wanted him to be an O-5 infantry leader. Why he said no.](#)

*(22 Jan) Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol*

Maj. Ross Schellhaas has loved being an infantry Marine for more than two decades, but this past March he dropped his retirement papers. “The purpose of me getting out really comes down to my own limitations. I, personally, am not able to be a good father and good Marine,” Schellhaas told Marine Corps Times.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

10. [Face of Defense: Pregnancy Saves Airman’s Life](#)

*(26 Jan) 21st Space Wing, By Air Force Senior Airman Rosemary Gudex*

Rare disease? Check. Cancer? Check. Excuses? Nope. Over nearly a decade of Air Force service, Staff Sgt. Jacquelyn Combs, 21st Force Support Squadron noncommissioned officer-in-charge of customer support at the military personnel section, has had more than her share of adversity to battle, but she comes back stronger every time she gets knocked down.

## WOMEN VETERANS

11. [Female veterans’ battle with PTSD](#)

*(15 Jan) KIDK3 News, By Esmi Careaga*

New government research showed that female military veterans commit suicide at nearly six times the rate of other women. It is a startling find that brings up questions about the backgrounds and experiences of women who have served in the armed forces.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT

12. [Female Enlisted Centennial Anniversary Celebration](#)

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services ([DACOWITS](#)) and VA’s Center for Women Veterans ([CWV](#)) are co-hosting an event celebrating the historic enlistment of Loretta P. Walsh, the first woman to officially enlist in the military 100 years ago. The event will be held at the [Women in Military Service for America Memorial](#) located at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, 21 March at 2 p.m.