



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 15-28 July 2017

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### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [No expiration date for 'beefed up' GI Bill benefits under new proposal](#)**  
*(14 Jul) Military Times, By Natalie Gross*  
Future military veterans will no longer have to worry about an expiration date on their education benefits if newly proposed legislation in the House of Representatives makes its way to the president's desk.
- [Foreign-born recruits, promised citizenship by the Pentagon, flee the country to avoid deportation](#)**  
*(17 Jul) Washington Post, By Alex Horton*  
Frustrated by delayed promises from the U.S. military for citizenship, and in fear of the Islamic State if he were deported back to Iraq, Ranj Rafeeq has given up the American Dream for a Canadian one.
- [MCPON says rating and NEC overhaul will create new opportunities](#)**  
*(17 Jul) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram*  
The Navy's top enlisted sailor said the new reorganization of the Navy's enlisted ratings will ultimately give sailors more career opportunities and allow the Navy to better match individual sailors to job assignments that best fit their skills and training.
- [Incomplete PME cost 5,489 airmen a chance at making tech sergeant](#)**  
*(17 Jul) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*  
The Air Force Personnel Center said Monday that 5,489 enlisted airmen were ineligible for consideration for promotion to technical sergeant because they didn't finish the required online professional military education course.
- [Poll: Soldiers are open to the idea of more senior NCO ranks](#)**  
*(18 Jul) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
At a leadership conference last month, Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey suggested adding two new pay grades — E-10 and E-11 — to the enlisted ranks in order to bump up pay for sergeants major who take on high-level jobs.
- [Air Force broadens PME eligibility, drops time-in-service requirement](#)**  
*(18 Jul) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*  
The Air Force on Tuesday unveiled the biggest changes to enlisted professional military education in three years.
- [U.S. Coast Guard Seeks 4,000 New Recruits](#)**  
*(19 Jul) The Maritime Executive, By U.S. Coast Guard News*  
In 2018, Harris expects that the target number of enlisted personnel will be reduced to 3,900.
- [Plan to overhaul GI Bill moves through House, on to Senate](#)**  
*(25 Jul) Military Times, By Natalie Gross*  
Major reforms to veterans' education benefits are one step closer to becoming law after the House of Representatives unanimously voted in favor of the legislation Monday.
- [Bringing back the draft](#)**  
*(25 Jul) Military Times, By Todd South*  
Restarting the military draft after more than four decades of an all-volunteer force would be complicated. But it could be done.

10. [These States Have The Highest \(And Lowest\) Enlistment Rates In America](#)

(27 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By James Clark

The report tracked the average number of military enlistees (not officers) per 1,000 civilian adults between 2010 and 2015.

## EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

11. [Colorado Springs police fitness test discriminated against women, judge rules in lawsuit](#)

(12 Jul) *The Denver Post*, By Colorado Springs Gazette

A fitness test given to Colorado Springs police officers discriminated against women and violated civil rights laws, a federal judge ruled Wednesday in a two-year lawsuit. Significantly more women than men failed.

12. [Mattis Tried To Kill Plan To Bar Transgender Surgery For Troops](#)

(14 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By Adam Linehan

On July 13, as the House debated an amendment to the 2018 Pentagon budget bill that would have barred the military from funding servicemembers' gender reassignment surgeries, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis privately intervened, calling the amendment's Republican sponsor and asking her to withdraw it from consideration, CNN reports.

13. [Gender Integration Vital for Women in the Military, Southcom Chief Says](#)

(18 Jul) *DoD News, Defense Media Activity*, By Cheryl Pellerin

Gender integration is vital for the success of women in the military, the commander of U.S. Southern Command said July 13 at the closing ceremony of the second Women in Military and Security Conference held in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

14. [Top general blames unclear science for transgender troops delay](#)

(18 Jul) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane

Questions about the science behind gender dysphoria prompted the Pentagon's six-month delay in a new policy allowing the enlistment of transgender individuals into the military, the Joint Chiefs vice chairman told senators on Tuesday.

15. [Navy Has First Female Applicants for SEAL Officer, Special Boat Units](#)

(19 Jul) *Military.com*, By Hope Hedge Seck

Two women were in boot camp as candidates for the Navy's all-enlisted Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman program, Naval Special Warfare Center Deputy Commander Capt. Christian Dunbar told members of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services in June.

16. [Why the Navy's newest aircraft carrier has no urinals](#)

(23 Jul) *Navy Times*, By Peter Rathmell

The new aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford is designed to be "gender-neutral," meaning all of the urinals have been replaced with flush toilets and stalls, Navy officials say. The vast majority of the 5,000-plus sailors who will deploy aboard the carrier Ford are men, as women account for only about 18 percent of sailors in the Navy.

17. [President Trump says transgender people won't be allowed in military 'in any capacity'](#)

(26 Jul) *American Military News*, By Melissa Leon

President Donald Trump has tweeted that transgender people won't be allowed to serve in the military in any capacity.

18. [2017 Army PT Testing Changes](#)

(26 Jul) *Military.com*, By Stew Smith

The Army is experimenting with a new Army Soldier Readiness Test (SRT). This test is done with utilities, boots, and full body armor (roughly 20 lbs) and measures a soldier's full-body (upper and lower body) movement coordination and power, agility, strength, grip, and cardiovascular endurance.

19. [Trump's transgender ban will likely land in court](#)

(27 Jul) *Military Times*, By Peter Rathmell

President Trump's apparent intent to reverse the 10-month-old Pentagon policy that allows transgender troops to serve openly is likely to set the stage for a legal battle between the Defense Department and those troops at risk of involuntary separation, legal experts say.

20. [Poll: Active-duty troops worry about military's transgender policies](#)  
(27 Jul) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane  
President Donald Trump's announcement of looming changes in the military's transgender policies could be less controversial within the ranks than among civilians, given troops' conflicted views on the issue.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

21. [4 Months After 'Marines United,' Revenge Porn Is Alive And Well In The Corps](#)  
(13 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By Jared Keller  
"They're escalating and they don't care," Col. Don Christensen, former Air Force chief prosecutor and Protect Our Defenders president, told Task & Purpose. "This is pure arrogance in their conduct, plain and simple."
22. [Air Force Academy has a distorted view of sexual assault says former employee](#)  
(19 Jul) *Colorado Springs Independent*, By Pam Zubeck  
Beasley sees the action as payback to victim advocates who stood up for cadets and against senior leaders' bias of disbelief that minimizes sexual assaults and penalizes those who report — and even assigns mental health diagnoses to pave the way for victims' exit from the Academy.
23. [She Kept Quiet When Spouses Maligned Female Marines. Then She Met Joy](#)  
(20 Jul) *Military.com*, By Liesel Kershul  
Recently, I overheard a spouse comment that the women exploited in the Marines United scandal had it coming because they were "obviously sluts anyway."
24. [Rape convictions thrown out for former MTI](#)  
(25 Jul) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey  
The Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals has overturned the rape convictions of a former master sergeant at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Former Master Sgt. Michael Silva was convicted in January 2015 of raping a basic trainee in 1995 on two occasions, and raping another senior airman in 2007.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

25. [Flag Officer Assignment](#)  
(14 Jul) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-266-17)*  
Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignment: Capt. Yvette M. Davids, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as senior military advisor to the assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs, Washington, District of Columbia. Davids is currently serving as assistant chief of staff for requirements, assessments, experimentations, and innovations, U.S. 3rd Fleet, San Diego, California.
26. [New commander is highest ranking female officer in Afghanistan since war began](#)  
(15 Jul) *Stars and Stripes*, By Phillip Walter Wellman  
Army Maj. Gen. Robin Fontes on Saturday assumed the highest position of any female servicemember in Afghanistan since the war began, taking over command of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.
27. [Face of Defense: Foreign-Born Airmen Live the American Dream](#)  
(17 Jul) *455th Air Expeditionary Wing*, By Air Force Staff Sgt. Benjamin Gonsier  
Staff Sgt. Nana Dankwa and Airman 1st Class Yongqin Li are immigrants to the U.S. who gained citizenship while serving in the Air Force.
28. [Fort Leonard Wood welcomes history-making new commandant](#)  
(17 Jul) *KSPR News*, By Lexi Spivak  
Effective immediately, The first African American female general ever is the new commandant of the U-S Army Military Police School.

29. [Woman to command Alabama National Guard for first time](#)  
 (18 Jul) *The Associated Press*  
 Maj. Gen. Sheryl Gordon has been named to command the Alabama National Guard, becoming the first woman to hold the post.
30. [Meet the incoming Ninth Coast Guard district commander who's following Ryan's footsteps](#)  
 (19 Jul) *Cleveland.com*, By Jane Morice  
 Rear Admiral Joanna Nunan is the first woman in the U.S. Coast Guard to succeed another woman as district commander. She's moving to Cleveland to take Rear Admiral June Ryan's spot, but she's followed her friend before.
31. [La. National Guard to promote first female two-star general](#)  
 (20 Jul) *The New Star*, By Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office  
 The Louisiana National Guard's Brig. Gen. Joanne F. Sheridan will be promoted to the rank of major general during an official ceremony in New Orleans, July 21.
32. [Marine's 4-year-old son melts hearts across the country](#)  
 (25 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By Mackenzie Wolf  
 Marine Sgt. Joshua Newville and Senior Airman Emily Leehan exchanged wedding vows in front of their closest friends and family over the weekend, but it was Leehan's vows to Newville's 4-year-old son Gage that captured hearts across the country.
33. [Female Soldier Makes Arkansas National Guard History](#)  
 (26 Jul) *Arkansas Matters*, By Ellen Lampe  
 She is the first woman ever to complete the AR National Guard infantry course.
34. [General Officer Assignments](#)  
 (27 Jul) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-277-17)*  
 The chief of staff, Army, announces the assignment of the following general officers:
- Col. (Promotable) Ellen S. Clark, U.S. Army Reserve, division chief (rear) (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Headquarters, U.S. European Command, Germany, to director, Army Reserve Engagement Cell (Individual Mobilization Augmentee) and deputy commander, United States Army South, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
  - Col. (Promotable) Dianne M. Del Rosso, U.S. Army Reserve, strategic mobility chief (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, Washington, District of Columbia, to commander (Troop Program Unit), 311th Sustainment Command (expeditionary), Los Angeles, California.
  - Col. (Promotable) Irene M. Zoppi, U.S. Army Reserve, commander (Troop Program Unit), U.S. Army Reserve Element, U.S. Southern Command, 76th Operational Response Command, Miami, Florida, to deputy commander-support (Troop Program Unit), 200th Military Police Command (Mission Support Element), Fort Meade, Maryland.

## WOMEN VETERANS

35. [The Story of WWI through the Eyes of America's First Women Soldiers](#)  
 (2 Jul) *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, By John Wilkens  
 In "The Hello Girls," historian Elizabeth Cobbs tells the story of 223 American women sent to France during World War I to operate the era's most advanced communications technology: the telephone. All volunteers, some of them served near the front lines, where they worked with gas masks and helmets hanging from the backs of their chairs, just in case. Two died from influenza. Army officials later said the operators' poise and precision proved crucial to the Allied victory, but when the women came home they were denied the recognition and benefits given to other veterans.
36. [Amazing 99-Year-Old Female Veteran Explains Why Woman Can Fight On The Front Line](#)  
 (14 Jul) *LBC*, By Darren Adam  
 Talking about her time in the military Greeta told Darren Adam: "Some of the men that I was with were as capable as the women."
37. [Female World War II pilot recently honored at air show dies at 100](#)  
 (20 Jul) *CBS News*  
 A 100-year-old woman honored at a New York air show last weekend for her World War II service as a WASP has died.

38. [Brick Honors Centenarian For Her Military Service](#)

*(21 Jul) Brick Patch, By Karen Wall*

Alice "Nora" Howes was one of the first women to enlist in the Women's Army Auxiliary, later the Women's Army Corps

39. [Are Veteran Service Organizations Doing Enough To Support Female Vets?](#)

*(21 Jul) Task & Purpose, By Kate Hendricks Thomas*

There's one major barrier to changing the narrative for servicewomen trying to reintegrate into civilian communities: We're invisible.

40. [Police save veteran after her wheelchair rolls into river](#)

*(27 Jul) CNN, By Nancy Coleman*

The rescue happened Saturday on the last day of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. The officers pulled the suicidal woman out of the water and back to the shore. She was then taken to a VA hospital.