



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 23 November – 8 December 2017

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Dual-Military Families Need Help From The Service That They Aren't Getting](#)
(21 Nov) Task and Purpose, By Moira Fagan and Amy Schafer
In 2015, there were over 105,000 active-duty and reserve personnel in dual-military marriages. They've become increasingly commonplace. If the military...must improve accommodations for dual-military couples who seek to develop careers and a family while serving their country.
2. [SMA: Army looking to recruit 80,000 new soldiers in 2018](#)
(28 Nov) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
The Army is looking at another end strength increase in 2018, and, this time, the focus will be on recruiting new soldiers, the service's top enlisted leader said Monday.
3. [Latest court ruling could allow new transgender enlistments to start Jan. 1](#)
(29 Nov) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
New transgender recruits could begin enlisting in the military starting Jan. 1 under the latest court victory for advocates opposed to President Donald Trump's policies.
4. [Military ordered to begin accepting transgender recruits Jan. 1 despite Trump's ban](#)
(29 Nov) Washington Examiner, By Travis J. Tritten
The military must begin accepting transgender recruits Jan. 1 despite a ban ordered by President Trump this year, according to a D.C. district court judge.
5. [Marines looking at untapped market for new recruits: Germany](#)
(1 Dec) Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol
For Americans living in Germany, it's about to get a lot easier to join the Marine Corps.
6. [Smoked pot and want to enlist? Army issuing more waivers](#)
(3 Dec) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor
As more states lessen or eliminate marijuana penalties, the Army is granting hundreds of waivers to enlist people who used the drug in their youth — as long as they realize they can't do so again in the military.
7. [Pentagon preparing for transgender recruiting on Jan. 1](#)
(5 Dec) Washington Examiner, By Travis J. Tritten
The Pentagon said Tuesday it is taking steps to be prepared to accept transgender recruits on Jan. 1 following recent court orders temporarily blocking President Trump's ban.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

8. [Federal judge says Trump administration can't stop funding sex-reassignment surgery for military members](#)
(21 Nov) The Washington Post, By Ann E. Marimow
A second federal judge has halted the Trump administration's proposed transgender military ban finding that active-duty service members are "already suffering harmful consequences" because of the president's policy.

9. [**This is the Army's toughest PT test yet — and trials are now underway**](#)
(21 Nov) *Army Times*, By *Meghann Myers*
A company of combat engineers gathered on a Fort Bragg memorial field before sunrise one recent morning to take a fitness test, the same way many units in the Army do every day.
10. [**Highest-ranking female officer in Afghanistan would rather talk about war than gender**](#)
(25 Nov) *Stars and Stripes*, By *Phillip Walter Wellman*
In July, Army Maj. Gen. Robin Fontes became one of the most important leaders of NATO's Resolute Support mission — focused on training, advising and assisting Afghan security forces — when she took command of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, or CSTC-A. She also assumed the highest position of any female service member in the 16-year war.
11. [**Women get chance to 'one-up' the men in mixed infantry units**](#)
(26 Nov) *The Associated Press*, By *Lolita C. Baldor*
The young Army infantry recruits lined up in full combat gear, guns at the ready. At the signal, a soldier in front kicked in the door and they burst into the room, swiveling to check around the walls for threats.
12. [**Flag Officer Announcement**](#)
(30 Nov) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-402-17)*
Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Navy Rear Adm. Nancy A. Norton for appointment to the rank of vice admiral, and for assignment as director, Defense Information Systems Agency; and commander, Joint Forces Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Network, Fort Meade, Maryland. Norton is currently serving as vice director, Defense Information Systems Agency, Fort Meade, Maryland.
13. [**2-star responds to anonymous email blasting watered-down Special Forces training standards**](#)
(1 Dec) *Army Times*, By *Todd South*
The Army has launched an investigation into allegations of lowered training standards and “moral cowardice” among Army leaders in charge of the school that trains soldiers into Green Berets.
14. [**Army takes a steady but cautious approach to women in infantry**](#)
(2 Dec) *Los Angeles Times*, By *Associated Press*
More than 80 women have gone to recruit training at Ft. Benning, since the ban on them serving in combat jobs was lifted. Twenty-two have graduated. More than 30 were still in training late last month, working toward graduation. The recruits' last names are being withheld by the Associated Press because some women have face bullying on social media.
15. [**Israel says record number of women in army combat units**](#)
(3 Dec) *Agence France-Presse*, By *AFP*
Israel's army said on Sunday that the number of women serving in its combat units had reached a record level this year as it seeks to further boost such participation.
16. [**Program Boosts Special Forces Members' Physical, Mental Capabilities**](#)
(6 Dec) *10th Special Forces Group*, By *Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Wyatt*
Special Forces soldiers, known as Green Berets, are some of the most highly-trained troops in the Army. Their readiness requires them to have a performance training program designed to increase physical performance and emotional well-being, prevent injuries and improve mental skills necessary to perform optimally in training and combat operations.
17. [**Enlisted combat pilots? The Air Force is launching a test that could lead to that.**](#)
(7 Dec) *Air Force Times*, By *Stephen Losey*
The Air Force is launching a new pilot training program that will include enlisted airmen — and could eventually lead to them flying combat aircraft.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

18. [**I Didn't Know She Was Being Sexually Harassed, But I Should Have**](#)
(21 Nov) *Task and Purpose*, *Angry Staff Officer*
The #MeToo campaign on social media was heartbreaking...what is particularly heinous about sexual assault or harassment in the military is that those words or actions completely sever the cord of trust that ties Service members to each other.

19. [**IG: Personal misconduct by senior military leaders spiked 13 percent**](#)
(22 Nov) *Military Times*, By Tara Copp
The number of personal misconduct complaints involving senior military leaders spiked 13 percent over the past three years, the Pentagon's inspector general reported Tuesday, citing the issue as one of the top management concerns currently facing the military.
20. [**Reports of sexual assaults spike at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base**](#)
(26 Nov) *The Associated Press*
The number of sexual assaults reported at an Ohio air base spiked in 2016, but officials say that does necessarily mean more assaults were occurring there.
21. [**Congress advances new sexual assault, harassment rules for the military**](#)
(26 Nov) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
Amid a national conversation on sexual assault and harassment, Congress is pushing military leaders to enact a host of new rules designed to protect victims and curb inappropriate behavior in the ranks.
22. [**Air Force Academy's sexual assault prevention office blasted for 'derelict' management**](#)
(1 Dec) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
A scathing report on misconduct and mismanagement in the Air Force Academy's troubled sexual assault prevention and response office blasted its former director as "derelict in the performance of [her] duties."
23. [**Men stood by women in combat. Now we need them to enlist in the #MeToo movement.**](#)
(2 Dec) *The Washington Post*, By Marjorie K. Eastman
Another week, and another explosive headline that cements the #MeToo conversation as relevant, worthy, and necessary.
24. [**Report: Sexually transmitted diseases on the rise in the military**](#)
(6 Dec) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
Sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise in the military and have become especially problematic among lower ranks, according to research from Armed Forces Health Surveillance officials. The findings show that the number of cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea increased between 2014 and 2016, more sharply among women than men.
25. [**New Airman Battle Uniforms now available for pregnant airmen**](#)
(7 Dec) *Air Force Times*, By Charlsy Panzino
The Air Force has rolled out new maternity uniforms for expecting airmen, according to the Air Force.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

26. [**Face of Defense: Airman Keeps Civil Engineering Unit in Afghanistan on Task**](#)
(22 Nov) *455th Air Expeditionary Wing*, By Air Force Staff Sgt. Divine Cox
Maintaining the structural integrity of an entire airfield is no easy task, and the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron stays busy ensuring the airfield here remains operational at all times. Air Force Staff Sgt. Beverly Murtiff, the 455th ECES customer service lead, ensures that every job tasker assigned to the squadron gets done.
27. [**Proud Navajo Sailor Follows Her People's Path**](#)
(27 Nov) *Carrier Strike Group 11*, By Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Elesia K. Patten
When Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Denise Alamo introduces herself to other people from the Dine or Navajo tribes in their native language, the introduction translates to: "Hello, my name is Denise. I'm Towering House Clan, born for Tangle Clan, my maternal clan is Salt People, and my paternal clan is Coyote Cross Path."
28. [**Trailblazing general closes chapter on her career**](#)
(5 Dec) *Army News*, By Lisa Simunaci
Surrounded by family members, military leaders, lifelong friends and hundreds of colleagues from across the nation, Maj. Gen. Elizabeth Austin closed the chapter on a 39-year Army National Guard career.

29. [Face of Defense: Daughter Follows Father's Path to National Guard](#)
(6 Dec) Idaho Army National Guard, By Army Capt. Robert Taylor
 On Nov. 2, Army Lt. Col. Paul Boice raised his right hand and cited the oath of enlistment. It was the first time he had ever sworn someone into the Idaho Army National Guard. The enlistee was Boice's 17-year-old daughter, Army Pvt. Simone Boice.
30. [Army-Navy week: 3 sisters, 3 academies, and 4 generations of service](#)
(6 Dec) Military Times, By Kyle Rempfer
 The three Easter sisters, like many young people with a family history of military service, each decided to answer their nation's call. Saturday, sibling rivalry and service rivalry will intersect when the youngest sister, Madeleine, joins fellow Army cadets in the stands opposite middle sister Adrienne and her fellow midshipmen.
31. [Safeguarding Against Workplace Violence](#)
(7 Dec) Brooke Army Medical Center, By Elaine Sanchez
 Army Capt. Katie Ann Blanchard ran into trouble with her civilian employee from the start. He was combative, defiant and at times, explosive. While she'd seen and reported the warning signs for months, Blanchard didn't have time to react the afternoon Currie approached her at work.

WOMEN VETERANS

32. [A Century of Women in U.S. Armed Services to be Celebrated with Special Publication](#)
(1 Nov) CISION PRWeb
 Leading anniversary publisher Faircount, partners with Military.com, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation to celebrate a century of women serving with honor, bravery, and determination.
33. [Five myths about female veterans](#)
(10 Nov) The Washington Post, By Jerri Bell
 Myth 1: There aren't that many female veterans.
 Myth 2: American women began serving in combat recently.
 Myth 3: The Pentagon integrated women as a social experiment.
 Myth 4: Women are less able to meet the military's demands.
 Myth 5: The typical homeless veteran is a man.
34. [The Plan to Get Women Vets to Use More Health Services](#)
(20 Nov) KQED News, By Libby Denkmann
 National Institutes of Health has found women veterans underutilize VA health care compared with men. It says many report delaying getting care, and that when they do receive treatment, it's inadequate. Other women aren't seeking help at all, according to the government researchers.
35. [The Inconvenience of Being a Woman Veteran](#)
(22 Nov) The Atlantic, By Sarah Maples
 When leaving the service, women are often faced with a slew of challenges as they try to assimilate into civilian life.
36. [Remains of missing Army veteran found buried in California](#)
(3 Dec) The Associated Press
 Authorities in Southern California believe they've found the remains of a retired Army captain who went missing in September. The 37-year-old was an Army veteran who had served two tours in Iraq.
37. [Not Capt. Molly: 1776 war hero not in her West Point grave](#)
(6 Dec) The Associated Press
 Remains believed to be of a Revolutionary War hero buried at West Point don't belong to a woman known as Captain Molly after all but to an unknown man.