



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest: 8-22 November 2017

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Congress' \\$700B defense authorization deal adds 20,000 troops](#)

(8 Nov) Military Times, By Leo Shane III

Congressional negotiators on Wednesday agreed on a \$700 billion defense authorization plan for fiscal 2018, including a 2.4 percent pay raise for troops and a boost in military end strength of more than 20,000 service members.

2. [Acting secretary: Army needs to get bigger or do less](#)

(8 Nov) Army Times, By Meghan Myers

At any given time, the Army has about 180,000 troops deployed to over 140 countries, acting Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said Tuesday.

3. [Air Force leaders: 'We're going to break the force'](#)

(10 Nov) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey

The Air Force's pilot shortage has now swelled to roughly 2,000 pilots — a shortfall of about one in 10 — in a significant worsening of the service's most pressing personnel emergency.

4. [Army lifts ban on waivers for recruits with history of some mental health issues](#)

(12 Nov) USA Today, By Tom Vanden Brook

People with a history of "self-mutilation," bipolar disorder, depression and drug and alcohol abuse can now seek waivers to join the Army under an unannounced policy enacted in August, according to documents obtained by USA TODAY.

5. [Army: No lower standards for recruits with history of mental illness](#)

(14 Nov) Army Times, By Meghan Myers

The Army is pushing back against a recent USA Today story that said the service is lowering its standards to allow more recruits with histories of self-mutilation, bipolar disorder and other issues.

6. [Commentary: Units should tap sports trainers for fitness assist](#)

(14 Nov) Military Times, By Army Lt. Col. Christopher J. Heatherly

Many incoming officers will get their first encounter with the unique demands of military life, to include physical training for combat deployments, through the ROTC program. The Army alone trains approximately 30,000 cadets and commissions more than 5,000 new officers per year through the system across hundreds of college campuses.

7. [Army Chief: No Reduction of Standards to Meet Recruiting Goals](#)

(16 Nov) Army News Service, By C. Todd Lopez

Despite news to the contrary, the Army will not be recruiting bipolar personnel, the Army's chief of staff said here yesterday, even if those individuals apply for a waiver.

8. [Navy recruits will have to pass a run test prior to boot camp starting in January](#)

(16 Nov) Navy Times, By Jon Simkins

The Navy has never required prospective recruits to demonstrate much in the way of Forrest Gump-ian running talent prior to reporting to Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, but changes are on the horizon.

9. [**Air Force's Expanded Medical Waiver Policy Admits More Than 600 Airmen**](#)
(16 Nov) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk
The Air Force has allowed more than 600 airmen to join its ranks despite having previously disqualifying medical conditions such as eczema and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, new statistics show.
10. [**Army rescinds mental health waiver memo, but its policy is unchanged**](#)
(17 Nov) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
The Army has rescinded a memo that set off a firestorm of objections after USA Today reported on Saturday that the service would begin considering waivers for potential recruits with mental health and substance abuse issues.
11. [**DoD eyes a change to GI Bill transferability**](#)
(18 Nov) Military Times, By Natalie Gross
The Pentagon is weighing a policy change that would limit certain service members from transferring their education benefits to dependents, a Defense Department official said in a written statement this week.
12. [**Air Force offers follow-on program for airmen with short tours**](#)
(18 Nov) Air Force Times, By Charlsy Panzino
Airmen who were selected for a dependent-restricted short tour can apply for the follow-on assignment program, according to an Air Force news release.
13. [**The Air Force is throwing money at pilots to stay. Fewer and fewer are interested.**](#)
(19 Nov) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
Despite offering fat retention bonuses to entice pilots to stay in the Air Force, the percentage of eligible pilots accepting them is plummeting.
14. [**Why some rates move up faster than others: An inside look at Navy career paths**](#)
(20 Nov) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram
It's an up-or-out Navy. And most sailors want to know when they can expect their next advancement.
- ## EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION
15. [**Lead Engineer Takes Unconventional Path to Get Marine Better Body Armor**](#)
(13 Oct) Marines News, By Ashley Calingo
Flora "Mackie" Jordan's path to becoming an award-winning body armor engineer for the Infantry Combat Equipment team at Marine Corps Systems Command happened by chance. After several iterations, Jordan and her team developed a modular body armor system that was lightweight and more comfortable, gave Marines better mobility, and could be customized to fit Marines of every size and body type.
16. [**Combat and cultural readiness key for new Army trainers**](#)
(7 Nov) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor
As the Army creates a new training brigade, military leaders aren't looking only at combat techniques and discipline, but also cultural biases and personality issues. The aim is to root out soldiers unfit for their unique mission.
17. [**Researchers study how much energy troops burn while walking, carrying loads**](#)
(8 Nov) Army Times, By Charlsy Panzino
A new method improves the accuracy of predicting how much energy troops use while walking, which may soon help ease their load.
18. [**BUD/S student left in coma after incident, Navy investigating**](#)
(10 Nov) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziegulewicz
The Naval Special Warfare Center is investigating an incident from last month where a student in Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL, or BUD/S, training "unintentionally injured" another student, putting the student in a coma.
19. [**Pentagon OKs Surgery for Transgender Soldier at Military Hospital**](#)
(14 Nov) NBC News, By Courtney Kube
An active-duty service member was to undergo gender transition surgery Tuesday in the first such procedure approved by the Pentagon and performed at a military medical facility, defense officials said.

20. General Officer Announcements

(15 Nov) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-390-17)

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis announced today that the president has made the following nominations:

- Air Force Col. Sharon A. Shaffer has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Shaffer is currently serving as the staff judge advocate, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.
- Air Force Col. Sharon R. Bannister has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general, and for assignment as assistant surgeon general for dental services, Office of the Surgeon General of the Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Falls Church, Virginia. Bannister is currently serving as the deputy program officer, Medical Department of Defense, Falls Church, Virginia.
- Air Force Col. Anne B. Gunter has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Gunter is currently serving as the director of manpower, personnel and services, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.
- Air Force Col. Tanya R. Kubinec has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Kubinec is currently serving as the mobilization assistant to the director, Defense Contract Management Agency, Fort Lee, Virginia.

21. Army chief on gender reassignment surgery: We took an oath to defend Constitution

(15 Nov) *The Hill*, By Rebecca Kneel

The top military leader of the Army on Wednesday stood by the service of transgender soldiers after one received a waiver for gender reassignment surgery, amid the Trump administration's ongoing debate over whether such troops should be allowed to serve.

22. General Officer Announcements

(16 Nov) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-394-17)

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis announced today that the president has made the following nominations:

- Air Force Col. Brenda P. Cartier has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Cartier is currently serving as the commander, 58th Special Operations Wing, Air Education and Training Command, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.
- Air Force Col. Michelle L. Hayworth has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Hayworth is currently serving as the deputy director, integrated air, space, cyberspace and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.
- Air Force Col. Laura L. Lenderman has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Lenderman is currently serving as the deputy director, strategic plans and policy, TCJ5/4, Headquarters U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.
- Air Force Col. Alice W. Trevino has been nominated for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Trevino is currently serving as the military assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, District of Columbia.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

23. McCain: Military personnel's 100-hour work weeks must stop

(14 Nov) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers

Senators made it clear to Defense Department nominees at a nomination hearing Tuesday that they expect action to address problems with military personnel readiness.

24. 'You're On Your Own:' Servicewomen Describe Impact Of Military's Abortion Policy

(15 Nov) *The Two-Way*, By Camila Domonoske

The U.S. military's restrictions on covering abortions can create logistical, emotional, career and health challenges for service members who become pregnant, according to a newly released study. Previous research shows that women serving in the military have a higher rate of unintended pregnancy than civilian women do.

25. Study: Female servicemembers' health, careers burdened by military's abortion policy

(15 Nov) *Stars & Stripes*, By Wyatt Olson

The U.S. military's restrictive abortion policy has had negative effects on female servicemembers' health, careers, finances and emotional well-being, according to a study released this week.

26. **[DoD Releases Sexual Assault Local Installation Data](#)**
(17 Nov) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-395-17)
The Department of Defense released information about the number of sexual assault reports made at installations around the world for fiscal years 2013 through 2016. The department reports these same numbers, but in aggregate, each year.
27. **[Survey: Family separation concerns top pay and benefits as key issue for troops, spouses](#)**
(17 Nov) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
Troops and their families are more concerned about time apart, and what that separation may mean for their children, than they are about pay and benefits, according to a new survey.
28. **[It's Time for the #MeToo Effect to Take On the Military](#)**
(18 Nov) Salon, By David Masciotra
Reform is needed to change how the military handles sexual assault and harassment cases.
29. **[Pentagon data: Fort Carson sexual assault reports increased](#)**
(19 Nov) The Associated Press
Sexual assault reports have more than doubled since 2013 at Fort Carson, Colorado, according to a report released Friday by the Pentagon.
30. **[Sexual assault reports increase 28 percent at Fort Bragg](#)**
(19 Nov) The Associated Press
A summary released by the Department of Defense shows reports of sexual assault from Fort Bragg increased by 28 percent in 2016 over the year before.
31. **[Rape and no periods in North Korea's army](#)**
(21 Nov) BBC News, By Megan Mohan
A former soldier says life as a woman in the world's fourth-largest army was so tough that most soon stopped menstruating. And rape, she says, was a fact of life for many of those she served with.
- ## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS
32. **[Face of Defense: Missileer Launches Into Bodybuilding Competitions](#)**
(7 Nov) 90th Missile Wing, By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ruano
When it comes to flexing muscles, Air Force 2nd Lt. Brittany Talbot, a 320th Missile Squadron combat missile control officer can flex with the best of them.
33. **[Officer barred from Fort Bragg over threats](#)**
(10 Nov) The Associated Press
Authorities have barred an officer from a North Carolina military post after allegations that she threatened people.
34. **[Three admirals who have changed U.S. history](#)**
(14 Nov) USBE, By Lango Deen
Lillian Fishburne is the first African American woman to become a Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. As a Navy Human Resources officer, Rear Adm. Annie Andrews was assigned in areas of manpower, personnel, training, and education. Admiral Michelle Howard is the first four-star woman in Navy history. She has achieved many firsts throughout her naval career.
35. **[Face of Defense: Military Service Helps Guard Soldier With Civilian Career](#)**
(15 Nov) 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, By Army Sgt. Zane Craig
Army Spc. Breyonna Chester, serves as a motor transport operator with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Detachment 1, 1067th Transportation Company, 213th Regional Support Group. That mission-first focus and discipline also helps Chester in her civilian life as a mail carrier and assistant supervisor for the Newton, Pennsylvania, post office.
36. **[Face of Defense: Airman Sets Sights on Social Work Career](#)**
(16 Nov) 23rd Wing, By Air Force Airman 1st Class Erick Requadt
For one Pennsylvania native, taking care of families and others has always been a passion. Air Force Staff Sgt. Samantha Murphy, 23rd Wing command post noncommissioned officer in charge of systems, said her desire and dedication to pursue social work first grew out of a love of helping people, and now extends to making a change with military members.

37. [**New York National Guard gets 1st woman to serve as top enlisted leader**](#)
(17 Nov) The Associated Press
A 23-year veteran of the U.S. military now serving as the top enlisted leader of the New York Army and Air National Guard is the first woman to hold the position.
38. [**West Point cadet makes the list of Rhodes scholars**](#)
(19 Nov) The Associated Press
A cadet from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is among the newest batch of Rhodes scholars.
- ## WOMEN VETERANS
39. [**As the Number of Female Veterans Grows, Options for Services and Support Must Evolve**](#)
(10 Nov) Press Herald, By Chelsea Conaboy
Organizations like the VA, the VFW and American Legion weren't set up to serve the needs of women.
40. [**Female Veterans Are Routinely Dismissed and Diminished**](#)
(10 Nov) Marie Claire, By Allison Jaslow
We served, too. But America still doesn't know it.
41. [**VA Too 'Male-Centric,' Female Vets Tell Legislators**](#)
(10 Nov) NorthJersey.com, By Kristie Cattafi
Not enough doctors focused on their needs. Poor access to mammograms. A hospital that feels more like a strip club than a medical center.
42. [**We're Failing Our Female Veterans. How Can We Turn It Around?**](#)
(11 Nov) Fortune, By Jacy Gomez
More females than ever are joining the ranks of our nation's armed forces. As of April 2017, 15% of active duty military personnel were women—a 4% increase from 1990.
43. [**Many military women don't feel valued. Here's a first step for fixing that.**](#)
(14 Nov) Washington Post, By Marissa Cruz
A leading organization of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans wants the Department of Veterans Affairs to change its motto because, the group's leaders say, the words first issued by Abraham Lincoln — "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan" — are outdated and, more important, they exclude the many contributions made by military women.
44. [**How a Shocking Stat About Female Homeless Vets Became a Pat Benatar Song**](#)
(17 Nov) Hollywood Reporter, By Melinda Newman
There are 55,000 homeless female vets in the U.S. This statistic hit songwriter/producer Linda Perry like a tidal wave when her friend Lysa Heslov, who directed the documentary *Served Like a Girl*, made her aware of the appallingly high numbers.