



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services
Articles of Interest
28 July – 10 August 2018

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [**The Army is tightening waiver authority for recruits with issues like self-mutilation, misconduct and substance abuse**](#)
(30 Jul) *Army Times*, By *Meghann Myers*
The Army is tightening waiver authority for recruits with issues like self-mutilation, misconduct and substance abuse. The Army is once again requiring headquarters approval for accessions waivers involving behavior and criminal history.
2. [**Commentary: MAVNI program needs to be fixed ... and the military needs immigrants' critical skills**](#)
(31 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By *Rep. Mike Coffman*
The greatest strength of our nation's military has always been, and remains, our exceptional service members. The military services have the privilege of drawing from a large and diverse talent pool, including dedicated and talented immigrants. Today, there are thousands of immigrants serving with distinction.
3. [**Marine Marksmanship Instructor Enjoys Mentoring Recruits**](#)
(31 Jul) *Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island*, By *Marine Corps Sgt. Dana Beesley*
Surrounded by a sea of recruits and the smell of hot brass, it's easy to spot Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Estefania Patino's campaign cover and trademark green marksmanship instructor jacket as she patrols Chosin rifle range's firing line, inspecting weapons and encouraging shooters as they sight in on their targets. As a primary marksmanship instructor, Patino is charged to make riflemen out of the recruits. To them, she is a shooting guru. But they would never guess that Patino had never fired a weapon before she joined the Marines.
4. [**Army using drug waivers, bonuses to fill ranks**](#)
(1 Aug) *The Associated Press*, By *Lolita C. Baldor*
According to data obtained by The Associated Press, nearly one-third of all the **waivers granted by the Army** in the first six months of this fiscal year were for conduct and drug problems, mainly involving marijuana use. That number is significantly higher than the other three military services, and represents a steady increase over the past three years.
5. [**The Army is growing, so why are soldiers so afraid of being forced out?**](#)
(2 Aug) *Army Times*, By *Meghann Myers*
A study published in July by the RAND Corp., "Assessing the Needs of Soldiers and Their Families at the Garrison Level," aims to cut through that noise and break down the issues affecting morale and welfare in the Army. The dark cloud of a drawdown is still looming over the Army, according to RAND's research, despite the Army's efforts in the past two years to grow the force through both recruiting and retention.
6. [**How the Army is competing with Google for these ninjas**](#)
(6 Aug) *Army Times*, By *Kathleen Curthoys*
One of the Army's most urgent, ongoing cyber fights is for talent, and it's hauling out some new weapons, like bringing in new officers in ranks up to colonel to be cyber ninjas and offering big bonuses across the cyber force.
7. [**Recruiting operations continue after Berkeley protesters target window of Marine recruiting station**](#)
(6 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By *Shawn Snow*
The window of the Berkeley, California, Marine recruiting station fell victim to a protest run amok on Sunday after it was allegedly targeted by members of a loose collection of counter-protesters known as Antifa. It's not the first time the Corps has

witnessed some form of public outlash against its Berkeley recruiting station. In 2008, Berkeley City Council members said Marine recruiters were no longer welcome in the city and applauded protestors for nonviolently impeding Marine recruiting efforts.

8. [Forget ‘up or out’: New ‘up and stay’ program allows chief petty officers to extend careers](#)

(9 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By

Chief petty officers willing to serve additional sea duty, to take on tougher jobs and to pursue promotions can apply for waivers that extend their Navy careers beyond the time when they would be involuntarily discharged, the Navy said Thursday.

9. [The Army has stopped kicking out immigrant recruits. Here’s why](#)

(9 Aug) *The Associated Press*, By Martha Mendoza and Garance Burke

A [memo](#) shared with The Associated Press on Wednesday and dated July 20 spells out orders to high-ranking Army officials to stop processing discharges of men and women who enlisted in the special immigrant program, effective immediately.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

10. [Here’s an early draft of the Army’s new fitness test standards](#)

(1 Aug) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers

The Army has released preliminary scoring standards for the new PT test. For now, Training and Doctrine Command is working on a gender- and age-neutral, 100-point system for each of the six events, with a 60-point minimum that will be familiar to anyone who’s ever taken the current Army Physical Fitness Test. [See the full chart [here](#).]

11. [Tell us what you think: Should Marines wait four years before going infantry?](#)

(2 Aug) *Marine Corps Times* Editorial

It would be a profound change that would make Marine infantry units older, but potentially stacked with additional skill sets.

12. [Air Force Scientists Study Artificial Silk for Body Armor, Parachutes](#)

(6 Aug) *Air Force Research Laboratory*, By Donna Lindner

Inspired by the qualities of fibers found in nature, scientists at the Air Force Research Laboratory are experimenting to develop a functional fiber that can be woven into sizeable, flexible fabrics using existing textile manufacturing methods. Researchers are studying the cooling and temperature regulation properties of natural silk in order to apply it to synthetic fibers such as artificial spider silk, which is both stronger than the polymer known commercially as Kevlar and more flexible than nylon.

13. [Sailors dish on new Navy uniforms](#)

(8 Aug) *Navy Time*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz

Prototype working uniforms the Navy is testing for sea-duty sailors are wrinkly, hot and uncomfortable, according to some trying out the new duds. Yeoman 2nd Class Carmina Flores was one of the NAVCENT sailors in the four-month trial. “I found ironing to be a challenge when preparing the type A uniform for wear,” she told NAVCENT. “The wrinkles were very difficult to get out initially, so it makes maintenance a challenge compared to uniforms already in rotation.” Another sailor, Yeoman 1st Class Essence Toney, said she didn’t dig one uniform’s light-blue top when worn with dark pants.

14. [Australian becomes first woman in almost 40 years to lift Scotland’s famous Dinnie Stones](#)

(8 Aug) *News.com.au*, By Andrew Koubaridis

Scotland’s famous 332kg Dinnie Stones are so heavy, most strongmen can’t lift them. A 29-year-old Australian has become the first woman in almost 40 years to do so. Leigh Holland-Keen completed the “ultimate” strength challenge at the weekend in front of hundreds of people in Potarch, Aberdeenshire. The last woman was an American in 1979.

15. [Military researchers think spider silk may keep US troops lighter and cooler in combat](#)

(9 Aug) *Business Inside*, By Christopher Woody

The silk spiders produce is tougher than Kevlar and more flexible than nylon, and Air Force researchers think it could be key to creating new materials that take the load and heat off troops in the field.

16. [The Marines Didn’t Think Women Belonged in the Infantry. She’s Proving Them Wrong.](#)

(9 Aug) *The New York Times*, By Thomas Gibbons-Neff

Lieutenant Hierl is the first woman in the Marine Corps to lead an infantry platoon — a historic moment for a male-dominated organization that had fiercely opposed integrating female troops into combat, something that still unsettles many within the

ranks. Thirty-seven women have attended the Marines Corps' Infantry Officer Course at Quantico, Va., for 13 weeks of combat evaluations and mileslong hikes carrying heavy loads. Only two women have passed.

17. [Border Patrol gets its first female chief](#)

(9 Aug) *Federal Times*, By Jessie Bur

Acting Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol Carla L. Provost was named permanent chief Aug. 9, the agency announced, making her the first woman to officially lead the patrol. Since the agency was founded in 1924, all 19 official and acting former chiefs of the Border Patrol have been men.

18. [Meet the first woman to graduate IOC and lead an infantry platoon](#)

(10 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Andrea Scott

A female Marine infantry officer made history in 2017 when she became the first woman to graduate from the Marine Corps' backbreaking Infantry Officer Course. Now, she's the first and only female leading an infantry platoon — 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines' Echo Company. First Lt. Marina A. Hierl told the Times she vividly remembers in 2013 when it was announced that women could vie for combat roles.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

19. [The uncomfortable question powerful women should answer](#)

(29 Jul) *CNN*, By Alexandria King

"Until I see a male writer asked this question, I'm going to respectfully decline to answer it." That was acclaimed novelist Lauren Groff's response to an interview question about work-family balance, which promptly went viral.

20. [Report: One service leads all others in number of sex partners](#)

(31 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By J.D. Simkins

The [Health Related Behaviors Survey](#) found that Marines are significantly more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior than members of any other branch. Broken down by male and female personnel, 19.2 percent of men reported having sex with more than one partner during the survey time period, compared to 20.6 percent of women. Results also showed 37.6 percent of female service members had sex with a new partner without using a condom, while 36.5 percent of males reported doing so.

21. [Air Force releases photos of new breastfeeding undershirt](#)

(1 Aug) *Air Force Times*, By Staff

The Air Force has released photos of the recently approved long- and short-sleeve breastfeeding undershirts that nursing mothers can wear with their utility uniforms.

22. [This is what breastfeeding looks like around the world](#)

(1 Aug) *ABC News*, By Tiffany Hagler-Geard

For Breastfeeding Awareness Month a New York City-based photographer Tina Boyadjieva traveled to 18 different countries photographing mothers from all around the world.

23. [Rubio to introduce bill allowing parents to use Social Security benefits for paid leave](#)

(2 Aug) *CNN*, By Veronica Stracqualursi and Betsy Klein

The [Economic Security for New Parents Act](#) would allow parents to use their future Social Security benefits to use for at least two months leave, which would then delay receiving their retirement benefits by three to six months when they retire.

24. [Maternal mortality: An American crisis](#)

(2 Aug) *CBS News*, By Erin Moriarty

"The United States is ranked 46th when it comes to maternal mortality. That's behind countries like Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan." In the U.S., that means at least two women are dying *every day*. And it's not just deaths on the rise. So are "near deaths" ... 60,000 a year across the country. "I think there is a dimension of gender discrimination," he said. "If a woman after a birth goes into a hospital with concerned signs of a complication, there are no rules for how quickly an obstetrician has to see her. And statistics indicate that it may not just be gender that plays a part in dangerous delays, but also race. "If you're a woman of color in this country, especially if you are black, your odds of dying in childbirth are three to four times higher on average in our country," Dr. Shah said.

25. [**She confronted her harasser, and he punched her in the face. Now she's fighting back**](#)
(3 Aug) *CNN*, By Madison Park and Saskya Vandoorne
When Marie Laguerre stood up to a man who she says was sexually harassing her, he responded by punching her in the face. The shocking video of the brazen attack on the streets of Paris went viral, and also opened up a national discussion about the sexual harassment women face.
26. [**Navy chief facing multiple sex crime charges in Norfolk**](#)
(6 Aug) *Navy Times*, By Carl Prine
Chief Ray Donald Braimer Jr. is one of three sailors facing serious criminal charges in Norfolk. Braimer has been charged with raping a fellow sailor; crawling into the bed of female sailor and trying to kiss her without her consent; and allegedly sexually harassing a fellow sailor by telling her she was beautiful and inviting her to his room and “stating that he hates the fraternization policy of the Navy that prevents him from being with any woman he found attractive because of pay grade,” according to redacted charge sheets. These vents triggered an international incident in Ireland.
27. [**Hundreds of Mothers Attended a Mass Breastfeeding Event in the Philippines**](#)
(6 Aug) *Time*, By Casey Quackenbush
Hundreds of Filipino mothers participated in a government-backed mass-breastfeeding event, publicly nursing their children in an effort to combat child deaths. The annual event drew more than 1,500 women to a Manila stadium where the moms breastfed their children in support of a public campaign to get more women to feed their babies breast milk over formula.
28. [**Breastfeeding mom told to cover up, instead puts cloth over own face**](#)
(7 Aug) *Fox News*, By Michelle Gant
A new mom was told to cover up while breastfeeding her baby and her creative response has gone viral. The photo has garnered mixed reactions, with some saying they feel a woman should try to be discreet while breastfeeding in a public space, while others argue that mothers should be free to feed their child anywhere without being called out for it.
29. [**Air Force wants to connect female airmen with VA resources**](#)
(8 Aug) *Air Force Times*, By Charlsy Panzino
A new test program between the Air Force and the Veterans Affairs Department wants to help female airmen as they transition to the civilian world or Reserve/Guard status. The goal of the Women’s Health Transition Pilot Program is to “provide a female perspective” and connect female airmen with relevant care from the Veterans Health Administration, according to an Air Force news release.
30. [**For the first time, domestic violence will be a crime under military law**](#)
(9 Aug) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
Domestic violence will officially become a separate crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Until now, those offenses were prosecuted under more general rules prohibiting assault and bad behavior. It also requires defense leaders to standardize policies for safely transferring victims of domestic violence or sexual assault away from accused troops.
31. [**Former flight attendant says pilot posted explicit pictures of her online: Lawsuit**](#)
(9 Aug) *ABC News*, By Jeffrey Cook
A former United Airlines flight attendant says a pilot posted sexually explicit photos and videos of her on pornographic websites and the airline failed to protect her. In 2015, the pilot was arrested by the FBI for continuing to post nude images of the woman, which he later admitted to, according to the lawsuit. He pleaded guilty to stalking and was sentenced to 41 months in prison. The captain was allegedly allowed to retire with full benefits in 2016, according to the complaint.
32. [**Sexually charged behavior draws outrage at MCCS Okinawa bodybuilding competition**](#)
(10 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By Matthew M. Burke
Overly sexual behavior has spurred a flurry of complaints and angry comments toward Marine Corps Community Services on Okinawa. “The male emcee kept talking about how sexy they were, was making them walk slow on the stage so he could check them out, and had them take pictures with him because, ‘They were just so sexy,’” said spectator Kelli Washington. “It was like an auction of the women. It was disgusting.” Contestant Rachel Buechele, who competed for the first time almost backed out. “Had I known there was a possibility of men being encouraged to take photos of me, or being touched by the emcee, or being treated like an object rather than as an athlete, it certainly isn’t something I would have ever considered,” she said.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

33. [**N.C. mom out 300 ounces of breastmilk after USPS destroyed it**](#)
(26 Jul) ABC 13 WSET, By Elizabeth Tyree
Her husband, an active duty stationed in Fort Bragg, stayed in Fayetteville with their daughter while Lauren Carroll, who is stationed in Pennsylvania after being called out by the reserves for active duty, moved there with their seven-month-old son. She said her son can't drink formula because it makes him sick. She added that it's common for military moms to ship their stored frozen breast milk when duty calls.
34. [**From Marine to \(role\) model: Wounded warrior strikes a pose to benefit fellow veterans**](#)
(30 Jul) Military Times, By Andrea Scott
It wasn't until six years after the accident that caused her to lose her left leg that Marine veteran Kirstie Ennis put on high heels for the first time.
35. [**Immigration crackdown: U.S. soldier honored for service could be heading for ICE custody**](#)
(2 Aug) The Washington Post, By Kyle Swenson
U.S. Army Specialist Yea Ji Sea, a medic at the Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, was called into her commander's office. The senior officer explained to the 29-year-old that her time in uniform was over. He said he was sorry, Sea would later recall. He promised she still had the military's support. But for now, Sea was being honorably discharged because of her immigration status.
36. [**Face of Defense: Husband, Wife Become Citizen-Soldiers Together**](#)
(2 Aug) Ohio National Guard, By Stephanie Beougher
Irene and Nate Miller met through mutual friends in their picturesque home town of Chagrin Falls in northeast Ohio's Geauga County and have been married for four years. They're best friends and, according to Irene, do everything together -- including joining the Ohio Army National Guard at the same time.
37. [**New Mexico Air Guard special operations wing gets first female commander**](#)
(5 Aug) The Associated Press
The New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Special Operations Wing has its first female commander, a colonel who has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as a combat rescue helicopter pilot.
38. [**Oregon Air National Guard promotes first woman to general officer**](#)
(8 Aug) Herald and News, By Holly Owens
Oregon Air National Guard Col. Donna M. Prigmore was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a Sunday ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, according to a news release.
39. [**MJ Hegar Sued the Pentagon and Won. Now She's Running for Congress**](#)
(8 Aug) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk
Mary Jennings "MJ" Hegar isn't the odds-on favorite to win her race against Republican incumbent John Carter in Texas' 31st Congressional District in November. But it's not the first time she has faced a closed door and prevailed.
40. [**Sentencing date set for Air Force veteran who leaked secrets**](#)
(8 Aug) The Associated Press
A Georgia woman who pleaded guilty to leaking a secret U.S. report is scheduled to be sentenced later this month. Her arrest was announced the same day online news outlet The Intercept reported on a classified NSA report on Russian hackers and the 2016 election. She is a former Air Force linguist who speaks Arabic and Farsi and had a top-secret security clearance.
41. [**Lieutenant becomes first woman to lead Marine infantry platoon**](#)
(9 Aug) The Hill, By Morgan Gstalter
First Lt. Marina Hierl has reportedly made history by becoming the first woman in the Marine Corps to lead an infantry platoon. The 24-year-old is one of four platoon commanders in Echo Company, a group of 175 Marines and Navy sailors who were recently sent to northern Australia, The New York Times reported Thursday. Hierl is one of two women to the 13-week Marines Corps Infantry Officer Course, according to the Times.

WOMEN VETERANS

42. [Right place, right time, right Marine: The story of the first Marine Corps female primary marksmanship instructor at Edson Range](#)
(16 Jul) DVIDS, By Sgt. Shellie Hall
Over the last 100 years, female Marines have made great strides in distinguishing themselves among their male counterparts. Retired Gunnery Sgt. Barbara Cogburn became the first school-trained female primary marksmanship instructor (PMI) with Weapons and Field Training Battalion (WFTBn) Camp Pendleton, in 1984. In her day, female recruits were not required to conduct annual rifle qualifications like today's Marines, but she and her platoon were introduced to rifles during a familiarization fire, which signified an impending integration of marksmanship training for female Marines.
43. [Local veteran enlisted in the Women's Army Corps during the 1970s](#)
(23 Jul) News Tribune, By Jeremy P. Amick
"I enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) on Oct. 24, 1972," Vickie Davenport said. "By doing so, I figured I would gain the experience the employers were looking for, have a roof over my head, get paid, earn some money for college and also serve my country."
44. [WWII vet turns 100, recalls her time in Women's Army Auxiliary Corps](#)
(29 Jul) The Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, By Emily Sullivan
A pioneering Women's Army Auxiliary Corps volunteer turned 100 on July 20, clinging to her bed railing as she recounted her time as a typist behind the American World War II effort.
45. [Man remembers finding broken body of female WWII pilot after her plane crashed](#)
(4 Aug) The Sentinel, By Joe Cross
Struggling to survive in the cockpit that morning was Evelyn Sharp, a leader in the Women's Airforce Service Pilots, a group of female aviators tasked with ferrying warplanes from factories to staging areas for deployment overseas.
46. [Women veterans treated for fibromyalgia exhibit high rates of childhood abuse](#)
(9 Aug) News-Medical.net
Researchers from the VA Boston Healthcare System and Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) examined women Veterans' care experiences at the VA to evaluate the relationship between child abuse history and MST. They found that of the population of female Veterans with fibromyalgia included in the study, 90.9 percent reported experience of MST (of which 68.2 percent reported history of sexual assault).

UPCOMING EVENT

47. [Special Exhibition: Women Marines – Proudly Serving 1918-2018](#)
You are invited to the opening of a special exhibition chronicling 100 years of service by women marines throughout history. This free event begins on August 13, 2018 at 1pm. Special Guest and Keynote Speaker: Lieutenant General Loretta "Lori" Eleanor Reynolds, Deputy Commandant for Information, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps and Commander of Marine Corps Forces Strategic Command. This event is in partnership with the VA Center for Women Veterans, the Women Marines Association and the Veteran's Canteen Service, and select exhibit photographs courtesy of The Washington Post. If you are unable to attend in person, you can view the event live via the Women's Memorial Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/WomensMilitaryMemorial/>