



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 17 February – 2 March 2018

DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Releases 2017 Annual Report](#)

(1 Mar) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-066-18)

Today, the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services released its 2017 annual report on matters relating to women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Based upon the data collected and analyzed, the committee submitted 17 recommendations to the Secretary of Defense.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

2. [Services, DoD offer options to reduce military moves](#)

(15 Feb) Military Times, By Karen Jowers

Service and defense officials outlined programs in place and under consideration to limit military moves during a Senate hearing Wednesday, ranging from servicewide initiatives to personnel tweaks ... even the possibility of allowing troops to decline a promotion if it means avoiding a change of station.

3. [Pentagon Releases New Policy on Nondeployable Members](#)

(16 Feb) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Lisa Ferdinando

"This new policy is a 12-month 'deploy-or-be-removed' policy," he said, noting there are exceptions, such as pregnancy and postpartum conditions. Medical boards will review the medical status of those who have been wounded, he said.

4. [Personnel bosses are latest to weigh in on limiting military moves](#)

(16 Feb) Military Times, By Kevin Lilley

Personnel chiefs from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, as well as the Pentagon's personnel boss, all offered ideas on how to reduce military moves in front of a Senate panel Wednesday.

5. [Mattis: Deploy-or-get-out rule is about fairness](#)

(17 Feb) Military Times, By Aaron Mehta

New rules requiring members of the military to be able to deploy or get out were put in place to ensure fairness in deployment rates, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said.

6. [Mattis: New Policy Cracks Down On Force Deployability](#)

(18 Feb) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Terri Moon Cronk

"They need time at home," Mattis emphasized. "They need time with their families. We may enlist soldiers, [but] we re-enlist families. That's the way it is. If you can't keep the family together, then you're either going to lose the family or you're going to lose the soldiers, and that's a net loss for our society and for our military. [We] put a lot of training into people nowadays. So that policy is now out."

7. [Shipboard Service Is Harsh. The Navy Isn't Preparing Recruits For This Reality](#)

(19 Feb) Task & Purpose, By Drew Chowbay

"It's a floating prison." This is how a sailor described serving aboard USS Shiloh, and the sentiment seemed to be shared by many of the crewmembers. The Shiloh made headlines when a crewmember Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter Mims went missing while underway, spurring a massive search by the crew for a comrade who, it turns out, who was hiding in an engineering space the whole time.

8. [**Fat, unhealthy Americans threaten Trump's defense surge**](#)
(19 Feb) Bloomberg, By Bryan Bender
Rising obesity numbers, drug use, criminal backgrounds and other problems mean most people at prime military recruiting age are ineligible to serve.
9. [**Non-citizens can provide an "untapped" pool of military recruits, experts say**](#)
(20 Feb) UPI, By Kristina Karisch
As the Pentagon tries to increase troop numbers, the military is accepting recruits it would have rejected in years past. A different option, several experts say, would be to recruit troops who aren't citizens.
10. [**Mattis still mulling transgender guidance: 'This is a complex issue'**](#)
(21 Feb) Military Times, By Tara Copp
Defense Secretary Jim Mattis missed a Wednesday deadline to provide President Donald Trump guidance on transgender service members, which the Pentagon said reflected the complexity of the issue.
11. [**Navy looking at radical new career paths**](#)
(22 Feb) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram
The traditional days of a 20- to 30-year Navy career may be numbered, as service officials are looking into ways to challenge the traditional stovepipe "up-or-out" career paths.
12. [**At the Naval War College, this professor thinks outside the box**](#)
(25 Feb) Providence Journal, By G. Wayne Miller
Jacquelyn Schneider's controversial essay, "[Blue Hair in the Gray Zone.](#)" published Jan. 10 in War on the Rocks, explores the issue of armed-forces recruitment in an era when some of the best young technology minds dye their hair, pierce their bodies or wear beards. The culture of Apple, Facebook and Google, in other words, not the U.S. military.
13. [**First openly transgender recruit signs military service contract**](#)
(26 Feb) Military Times, By Tara Copp
The first openly transgender recruit has passed both the physical and medical exams and signed a military service contract, DoD confirmed.
14. [**Navy Announces Targeted Reentry Program**](#)
(27 Feb) Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs
In support of Sailor 2025's goal to retain and reward the Navy's best and brightest, the Navy announced Feb. 27 the Targeted Reentry Program (TRP) and associated program guidelines to expedite reentry into the Navy in NAVADMIN 047/18.
15. [**Facing Fitness Crisis, Army Leaders Look to Change Culture**](#)
(27 Feb) The Fayetteville Observer, N.C., By Drew Brooks
A recent study found that recruits from 10 Southern states are "significantly less fit, and consequently are more likely to encounter training related injuries than recruits from other U.S. states." Those 10 states have accounted for more than 37 percent of the Army's new recruits in recent years, according to data from U.S. Army Recruiting Command.
16. [**Army recruiter arrested after sending nude Snapchat photo to teen, police say**](#)
(28 Feb) Army Times, By Nicole Bauke
An Army recruiter was arrested Friday in Deer Park, Texas, on suspicion of sending inappropriate Snapchat pictures to a 16-year-old girl, according to news reports.
17. [**Congress could give fitness waivers to more troops as it targets high-demand skills**](#)
(1 Mar) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
One of Congress' top defense policy voices said he is open to discussion about increasing available fitness waivers for some new enlistees in light of the dwindling number of eligible recruits.
18. [**Navy channeling Willy Wonka — offering 'golden tickets' to return after getting out**](#)
(1 Mar) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram
Sailors in good standing who want to get out and test the waters of civilian life, but not completely sever ties to the Navy, may now have an option that will be just the ticket — literally.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

19. [Women prove they're up to the challenge of Marine Corps rigorous boot camp](#)

(7 Feb) USA Today, By Jim Michaels

It's a cultural shift for the Marine Corps, the most male-dominated of the military services, as it deliberately expands gender integration in its boot camp and opportunities for women throughout its ranks.

20. [Concussions Can Be Detected With New Blood Test Approved by F.D.A.](#)

(14 Feb) The New York Times, By Sheila Kaplan and Ken Belson

The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved a long-awaited blood test to detect concussions in people and more quickly identify those with possible brain injuries.

21. [Why board quotas are no friend to women workers](#)

(15 Feb) The Economist (Leaders section)

They are a distraction from the task of advancing the prospects for women further down the career ladder—which really could make a difference to women and the companies that employ them.

22. [Two women could enter Navy special operations training this year](#)

(16 Feb) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram

Two years after the Navy's elite special warfare operating billets were opened to women, the service could be on the verge of seeing their first female candidates step up to the challenge.

23. [Could the Military Start Drafting Hackers in Their 40s?](#)

(16 Feb) NextGov, By Joseph Marks

A commission on the draft is studying cutting age and gender exclusions for people with cyber skills. The commission's also exploring dropping age and gender restrictions on drafting people with science, math and engineering skills as well as doctors, nurses and dentists, according to the request, which is scheduled to be published in Friday's Federal Register.

24. [A longtime Mattis adviser is resigning, leaving one fewer woman on his senior staff](#)

(20 Feb) The Washington Post, By Dan Lamothe

The move leaves the Pentagon without one of its few female senior defense officials. A review of 118 current senior defense officials, including those in uniform, shows 15 others who are women, some of whom are in an acting capacity in the absence of political appointees. The most senior defense officials include Air Force Gen. Lori Robinson, the chief of U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command; Kari A. Bingen, the principal deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence; Ellen Lord, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics; and Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson.

25. [Here's What The Army's Proposed Gender-Neutral Combat Test Really Looks Like](#)

(21 Feb) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol

The Army's nascent gender-neutral Combat Readiness Test is based on the philosophy that male and female soldiers will have to perform the same tasks in combat, so they should meet the same physical fitness standards, a service official told Task & Purpose.

26. [Second submarine welcoming enlisted female crew members](#)

(21 Feb) Navy Times, By Nicole Bauke

The Ohio-class guided missile submarine Florida is the second sub in the Navy fleet to incorporate integrated male-female crews, according to The Jacksonville Florida Union-Times.

27. [Infantry Officer Course lowers requirement for hikes](#)

(21 Feb) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow

Faced with towering attrition rates, the Marine Corps has steadily modified its grueling Infantry Officer Course — changes that top Marines say are not attempts to water down standards, but to more accurately replicate today's real-world requirements.

28. [First woman in history takes helm of US nuclear weapons arsenal](#)

(22 Feb) Washington Examiner, By John Siciliano

Energy Secretary Rick Perry on Thursday swore in the first woman in history as head of the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal.

29. [White House receives Mattis memo on transgender troops](#)
(24 Feb) *The Associated Press*, By Zeke Miller and Lolita C. Baldor
The White House has received a memo from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis making recommendations for dealing with transgender individuals serving in the military.
30. [Women need one degree more than men to earn equal pay, report finds](#)
(1 Mar) *ABC News*, By Katie Kindelan
Women with equal education, the same college major and the same occupation as men earn only 92 cents for every dollar earned by men, according to a new report. A woman needs one more college degree than her male peers to earn the same salary, the Georgetown University report found.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

31. [Several Camp Pendleton Marines convicted on sex assault, child porn charges; more cases pending](#)
(17 Feb) *Los Angeles Times*, By Carl Prine
Several cases involve Marines accused of sneaking into other service member's rooms to assault or grope them. For example, Lance Cpl. J.P. Hill was convicted last month of sexual assault causing harm, abusive sexual contact and making an indecent recording. Assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force headquarters inside Camp Pendleton, he crept into the room of a fellow Marine at night to assault her and photographed her when she was naked, according to records released to the Union-Tribune.
32. [Pence: Abortion will end in U.S. 'in our time'](#)
(27 Feb) *The Hill*, By Jessie Hellmann
Vice President Pence predicted Tuesday that legal abortion would end in the U.S. "in our time." He noted that while a ban on 20-week abortions passed the House last year, it failed in the Senate in January, where Republicans have a slim majority.
33. [Seven Marines court-martialed in wake of Marines United scandal](#)
(1 Mar) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
One year after the Marines United scandal leaped into the public spotlight, the Corps has armed itself with new policies and tools to go after perpetrators involved in revenge porn-related offenses and social media misconduct.
34. [Pentagon IG opens evaluation of Air Force Academy sexual assault prevention office](#)
(1 Mar) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
The Defense Department's inspector general on Tuesday announced it will review the Air Force Academy's troubled sexual assault prevention and response program.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

35. [Ex-soldier sentenced in the death of her infant daughter](#)
(16 Feb) *Army Times*, By Kathleen Curthoys
Former Spc. Ashley Ard arrived at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in 2013 and the next month she delivered a baby at her home. On a cold night in Alaska, she drove the infant to a park and placed the newborn in a concealed spot under a bush. The Army specialist was sentenced Wednesday for the death of her infant daughter.
36. [Duckworth using pregnancy to educate male-dominated Senate](#)
(18 Feb) *The Associated Press*, By Laurie Kellman
Breaking down barriers is nothing new for Sen. Tammy Duckworth, and that's the way she likes it.
37. [Soldier says destiny brought her to serve at Camp Casey, South Korea](#)
(19 Feb) *Stars and Stripes*, By Marcus Fichtl
Second Lt. Sarah Casey shares a name with her duty station, a small artillery outpost near the Korean Demilitarized Zone. The camp was named in honor of her great-uncle, Maj. Hugh B. Casey, a World War II veteran killed in the Korean War.
38. [DoD Identifies Army Casualty](#)
(20 Feb) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE* (No. NR-056-18)
The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. Sgt. Christina Marie Schoenecker, 26, of Arlington, Kansas, died Feb. 19 in Baghdad, from a non-combat related incident. Schoenecker was assigned to the 89th Sustainment Brigade, Wichita, Kansas. The incident is under investigation.

39. [Face of Defense: Marine Approaches 400-Hour Volunteer Milestone](#)
(26 Feb) Marine Corps Base Quantico, By Frances Seybold
Marine Corps Cpl. Kayla Soles is well on her way to achieving this goal for the second time, and will soon have spent 400 hours volunteering over the course of her career. What is most amazing is that she volunteers after spending her work day at Manpower Management Division Separation & Retirement helping her fellow Marines process their disability separation and retirement paperwork and attending college courses at night.
40. [She's Air Force Global Strike Command's first woman to become elite Raven](#)
(26 Feb) Great Falls Tribune, By Kristen Inbody
Many bloody noses, black eyes and bruises stood between Senior Airman Jessica Ortiz-Villa and becoming the first woman in the Air Force Global Strike Command to serve as a Raven.
41. [Face of Defense: Dual-Military Couple Experience First Deployment Apart](#)
(27 Feb) 50th Public Affairs Detachment, By Army Sgt. Ryan Tatum
For six years, from high school sweethearts to Army soldiers, Sgt. Karrington Austin and Spc. Dominique Austin, both assigned to 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, have been dedicated to each other with no end in sight. Although married life is tough for any couple, dual-military romances face unique obstacles, but can withstand the test of time with love.
42. [Patterson becomes 3-time champ, 5 others repeat at Brigade Boxing finals](#)
(24 Feb) The Capital, By Bill Wagner
There was an upset in the women's 125-pound bout with sophomore Midshipman 3rd Class Prescillia Truong posting a unanimous decision over defending champion Midshipman 2nd Class Zoe Wang.
43. [Face of Defense: Airman at Bagram Supports Air Power, Quality of Life](#)
(28 Feb) 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, By Air Force Staff Sgt. Divine Cox
Deployments here are no different, but the on-base facilities can help ease some of the pressures of life in a combat environment. And ensuring that each airman is taken care of and provided with the best quality of life is Air Force Senior Airman Astrid Hernandez, a contracting officer's representative with the 455th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron.
44. [Air Force punishes Nellis airman for racially charged online rant](#)
(1 Mar) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
An airman who posted a profane Facebook video in which she made racially charged comments has been punished, officials at Nellis Air Force Base said.
45. [General Officer Assignment](#)
(1 Mar) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-068-18)
The chief of staff, Air Force announces the assignment of the following general officer: Brig. Gen. Angela M. Cadwell, director, command, control, communications, and cyber systems (C4), Headquarters U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, to director, cyberspace operations, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.
46. [Franchetti takes command of 6th Fleet](#)
(1 Mar) Stars and Stripes, By Scott Wyland
Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti assumed command of the Navy's 6th Fleet on Thursday, taking over at a time of growing tensions with Russia.

WOMEN VETERANS

47. [Female Veterans Share Personal Stories of 'Coming Home'](#)
(13 Feb) Penn News, By Jill DiSanto
Former military personnel shared their experiences during "Sacrifice and Service: When Women Come Marching Home," a panel discussion on the obstacles involved with making the transition back to civilian life, particularly among female veterans. Some of those challenges involved the vast differences in workplace communication, becoming a parent and common mental-health issues among veterans, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

48. [2 women commanding vets' groups say their historic roles haven't meant big challenges](#)

(27 Feb) Military Times, By Leo Shane III

This week, for the first time ever, two women are testifying before Congress as the top officials at major veterans organizations, helping to set the national agenda on a host of care and program issues. Women veterans advocates have long lamented the lack of public awareness of their presence in the military and civilian community. About 11 percent of the national veterans population is women, a figure that's expected to grow to nearly 18 percent by 2040.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

49. [Women's History Month: Join us in saluting those who serve](#)

(28 Feb) Military Times, By Nicole Bauke

Almost 210,000 women are currently serving on active duty in the U.S. military, constantly pushing boundaries and exceeding expectations. They carry the history of thousands of others, who began serving their country as cooks, nurses, and administrators in the Revolutionary War. Today, they can serve as leaders in all jobs, in all branches of the military.

50. [FIRSTS: WOMEN WHO ARE CHANGING THE WORLD](#)

(2018) A Time Special Project, Videos by Spencer Bakalar and Diane Tsai, and Photographs by Luisa Dörr

- The Cadet – Simone Askew: First black woman to lead the Corps of Cadets at West Point
- The Commander – Lori Robinson: First woman to lead a top-tier U.S. Combat Command
- The General – Ann Dunwoody: First woman to rise to four-star general in the U.S. military