



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 20 January – 2 February 2018

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### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Face of Defense: Marine Credits Career to Associations During Upbringing](#)

*(23 Jan) Marine Forces Reserve, By Marine Corps Sgt. Melissa Martens*

Growing up, Brietta Larmon, now a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps and the assistant chief of staff for administration and personnel for the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, was surrounded by military figures. Her father was in the Navy, her oldest brother was in the Air Force, and a second brother was in the Army.

2. [Captain Marvel meets the Air Force: Actress Brie Larson visits Nellis for superhero movie](#)

*(23 Jan) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*

Oscar-winning actress Brie Larson paid a visit to Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada recently to research her next role: Air Force officer-turned-Avenger Captain Marvel. Larson met with Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, commander of the 57th Wing at Nellis, and learned more about Leavitt's background. Wallace said Leavitt's history as the Air Force's first female fighter pilot is helping inspire some of the film's characterization of Captain Marvel.

3. [Top enlisted leader: The military must grow to meet rising threats](#)

*(24 Jan) Military Times, By Shawn Snow*

The U.S. military needs to grow to meet the growing threat of near-peer competitors like Russia and China while also continuing the fight against extremist groups around the globe, according to Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell, the senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

4. [The Corps' new female recruiting depot? It could be USA Rugby.](#)

*(24 Jan) Marine Corps Times, Staff Report*

The Marine Corps has an official new partnership with the 115,000 athlete-strong USA Rugby.

5. [Navy Evaluates Direct Hire of Experts to Fill Officer Positions](#)

*(24 Jan) Department of Defense <VIDEO CLIP>*

Navy Vice Adm. Robert P. Burke, deputy chief of naval operations for manpower, personnel, training and education, discusses changes to the current "up and out" model of officer promotion, the addition of optional tracks of promotion and a new path to directly hire exceptional talent and experts into the officer ranks during a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee on officer personnel management, Jan. 24, 2018.

6. [Services Detail Efforts to Modernize Personnel System](#)

*(25 Jan) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Jim Garamone*

Just as the scope and complexity of the warfighting challenges we face on the battlefield demand a different approach, so, too, does our approach to recruiting, developing, and retaining the kind of talented force we need to compete and win in this warfighting landscape," said Navy Vice Adm. Robert P. Burke.

7. [Up-or-out rules get new scrutiny from Congress](#)

*(25 Jan) Military Times) Leo Shane III*

Lawmakers are taking another look at possible changes to the military's "up-or-out" rules for officer promotions.

8. [\*\*Neller: Marine Corps needs budget stability for efficient multivear deals, recruiting\*\*](#)  
(25 Jan) *USNI News, By Megan Eckstein*  
Ongoing continuing resolutions and budget uncertainty are hampering the Marine Corps' ability to buy new equipment efficiently and bring in new recruits to increase the size of the force, the commandant said today.
9. [\*\*This viral video caught a California high school teacher's ugly rant about military recruiters\*\*](#)  
(28 Jan) *Marine Corps Times, Staff Report*  
A California high school teacher is facing severe criticism after a video posted to social media recorded him making offensive comments towards a student wearing a Marine Corps sweatshirt.
10. [\*\*DoD Launches Initiative to Inform Americans of Military Life\*\*](#)  
(29 Jan) *DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Jim Garamone*  
It is a sign of America's disconnect with its military that there are those who believe that when a person joins the military, that person cannot have a spouse or children or pets, said Amber Smith, the deputy assistant to the secretary of defense for outreach
11. [\*\*Face of Defense: Marine Recruiter Volunteers for Father-Daughter Dance\*\*](#)  
(31 Jan) *6th Marine Corps District, By Marine Corps Sgt. Mandaline Hatch*  
To Campbell's dismay, she did not have a father to go with her to the Girl Scouts father-daughter dance. "I asked her, 'If you could go with anybody, who would you like to go with?' She said, 'A Marine!'" Harding said. "She wants so badly to be a Marine," Harding said. Once on a hiking trip, Campbell filled her backpack with heavy books to help demonstrate her resolve. "I've got to make my back strong so I can carry the gear that a Marine carries," said Campbell.
12. [\*\*Virginia Beach woman striving to join Coast Guard's elite rescue swimmers\*\*](#)  
(1 Feb) *The Virginian-Pilot, By Lee Tolliver*  
Meredith Sieller wants to be one of the Coast Guard's elite, the ones called on to perform acts of bravery when someone's life is at stake. Like jumping out of a helicopter into rough, frigid waters some 30 feet below to save someone's life. She's well on her way. Sieller was chosen through the service's Annex X program designed to "identify Coast Guard recruit candidates who demonstrate exceptional potential to become rescue swimmers."

## **EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION**

13. [\*\*British Army's Ice Maiden team becomes first all-female team to cross Antarctica using muscle power alone\*\*](#)  
(20 Jan) *The Telegraph, By Nicola Harley*  
Enduring 62 days on the ice and travelling up to 43km a day, the six soldiers finally crossed the finishing line yesterday. The feat saw the women battling temperatures as low as -40C and navigating crevasse fields whilst pulling sledges weighing up to 80kg.
14. [\*\*Army to send female infantry, armor officers to 3 more bases\*\*](#)  
(24 Jan) *The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor*  
As more female soldiers move into frontline combat jobs, the Army's top leaders have decided to integrate female officers into infantry and armor brigades at three more military bases around the country.
15. [\*\*Six women become the first to earn Army's Expert Infantryman Badge\*\*](#)  
(24 Jan) *Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
Six of the Army's first female airborne grunts hit another milestone in November, when they earned their Expert Infantryman Badges at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
16. [\*\*Women in federal IT should move around to move up, says panel\*\*](#)  
(25 Jan) *Federal Times, By Jessie Bur*  
The key to achieving leadership positions as a woman in the federal IT workforce is a willingness to move often to the best opportunity, according to current and former senior-level IT officials who spoke at the "Trailblazing Women in Government" luncheon hosted by the Association for Federal Information Resource Management on Thursday, Jan. 25.
17. [\*\*U.S. Air Force To Get Second Female F-35 Pilot\*\*](#)  
(29 Jan) *Aviation Week, By Lara Seligman*  
The U.S. Air Force finally is ready to welcome its second female F-35 pilot.

18. [Third Female Marine Now in Selection to Become MARSOC Raider](#)  
(30 Jan) *Military.com*, By Hope Hedge Seck  
Another female candidate has quietly made it through most of the first phase of the assessment and selection process of Marine Corps Special Operations Command in a quest to become the first female MARSOC Raider.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

19. [New Zealand's prime minister is pregnant. 'I am not the first woman to multitask,' she says.](#)  
(19 Jan) *The Washington Post*, By Samantha Schmidt  
Hours after 37-year-old Jacinda Ardern was elected leader of New Zealand's Labour Party in August, two television hosts asked about her plans for a family. One of the hosts specifically asked whether it was acceptable for a nation's prime minister to take maternity leave while in office. "It is totally unacceptable in 2017 to say that women should have to answer that question in the workplace," Ardern fired back. "It is a woman's decision about when they choose to have children, and it should not predetermine whether or not they are given a job or have job opportunities."
20. [Trump touts year of anti-abortion policies in Rose Garden speech](#)  
(20 Jan) *CNN*, By Dan Merica  
Trump said his administration would continue to push for an anti-abortion agenda in the rest of his time in office.
21. [Restricting access to abortion makes poor women poorer](#)  
(22 Jan) *LA Times*, By Diana Greene Foster  
A study published in the American Journal of Public Health, explores the socioeconomic consequences for women of receiving or being denied a wanted abortion. The results of the study demonstrate the real costs of providing or denying women access to reproductive healthcare. The findings could help counter attempts to further restrict healthcare subsidies, and to reduce cash assistance, food aid or breastfeeding support to women.
22. [Paternity leave policy for service members still up in the air](#)  
(24 Jan) *Military Times*, By Mark D. Faram  
The Navy's chief of personnel told sailors in Japan last week that he'd like to see the service increase paternity leave for new fathers from the current standard of 10 days to as many as 21.
23. [FBI investigating allegations at White Sands Missile Range child care center](#)  
(26 Jan) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers  
The FBI is investigating allegations involving a child development center at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.
24. [Coast Guard rape conviction overturned after court's scathing attack on women-packed jury](#)  
(28 Jan) *Washington Times*, By Rowan Scarborough  
The nation's highest military court has thrown out the 2012 rape conviction of a Coast Guard enlisted man because admirals and prosecutors packed the seven-member jury with five women, four of whom held jobs as advocates for victims of sexual assault.
25. [New commander named at Scott Air Force Base after ouster of colonel accused of sexual misconduct](#)  
(31 Jan) *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, By Erin Heffernan  
Col. Leslie A. Maher was named commander of the 375th Air Mobility Wing here Tuesday following the ouster of the previous commander amid sexual misconduct allegations.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

26. [Ohio Guard names veteran pilot first female base commander](#)  
(17 Jan) *Associated Press*  
The Ohio National Guard has named a veteran pilot the first female commander of a Guard air base in the state. The Guard says Col. Allison Miller has supported numerous overseas deployments and has more than 400 combat hours flying over Iraq and Afghanistan.

27. [Face of Defense: Bodybuilding Helps Airman to Maintain Focus](#)  
(19 Jan) 90th Missile Wing, By Air Force Airman 1st Class Breanna Carter  
Air Force Senior Airman Niketa Wilson, 90th Force Support Squadron fitness specialist here, is a full-time airman, mother and student, and she even has a part-time job at Subway.
28. [New York National Guard Soldiers to Compete at 2018 Winter Olympics](#)  
(19 Jan) New York National Guard, By Eric Durr  
Sgt. Emily Sweeney, who is assigned to New York Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters and lives in Suffield, Connecticut, will compete at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, next month. Sweeney, 24, joined the New York Army National Guard in December 2011 and is trained as a military police soldier. She has been competing in luge since 2008. In 2013, she was the luge junior world champion. She holds one World Cup gold medal and three World Cup silver medals.
29. [Flag Officer Assignment](#)  
(23 Jan) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-017-18)  
Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson announced today the following assignment: Rear Adm. (lower half) Sara A. Joyner will be assigned as director, J1, Joint Staff, Washington, District of Columbia. Joyner is currently serving as lead for the physiological episodes (PE) effort, Washington, District of Columbia.
30. [Tammy Duckworth will be the Senate's first new mom, but she already has a record of blazing trails](#)  
(24 Jan) The Washington Post, By Kyle Swenson  
Duckworth was the first female double amputee in the war. She would go on to be the first female amputee elected to the U.S. Congress.
31. [First enlisted woman to retire from the Marine Corps buried in Arlington](#)  
(24 Jan) Marine Corps Times, By Andrea Scott  
The first enlisted woman to retire from the Marine Corps, who was also the first woman to join the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, was buried in Arlington National Cemetery Tuesday.
32. [Navy's top intel officer to retire](#)  
(24 Jan) C4ISRNET, By Mark Pomerleau  
Vice Adm. Jan Tighe, the Navy's director of intelligence, has submitted her retirement paperwork, a spokesman for the service told C4ISRNET.
33. [From Annapolis to Congress? 3 Women Hope to Lead Way](#)  
(29 Jan) New York Times, By Michael Tackett  
The women, all Democrats, were contemporaries at the Naval Academy, and are all running in swing districts where military service is likely to resonate.
34. [Face of Defense: Navy Nurse Saves Man's Life on Ferry Trip](#)  
(30 Jan) Naval Hospital Bremerton, By Douglas H. Stutz  
Navy midwives bring new life into the world. Occasionally, they also save lives. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Erika Schilling, a military nurse midwife at Naval Hospital Bremerton, recently used her medical skills to pull back a man from the brink of death on a local area ferry trip.
35. [Air Force removes tech sergeant from supervisory role after racially charged Facebook rant](#)  
(30 Jan) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey  
A technical sergeant at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada has been removed from her supervisory role and is now under investigation after posting a profane and racially charged video to Facebook.

## WOMEN VETERANS

36. [Meet the veteran who's teaching other women to 'Wrestle Like a Girl'](#)  
(18 Jan) Today <video clip>  
Sally Roberts was a young woman who got in trouble in school until she channeled her energy into joining the wrestling team. After rising to the top of her field and serving in the U.S military, she's now teaching other young women through her Wrestle Like a Girl program. She joins Megyn Kelly TODAY along with two girl wrestlers she's mentoring.

37. [Researchers at Augusta University study the health of female veterans](#)  
*(18 Jan) WFXG Multimedia Journalist, Miya Payton*  
Researchers at Augusta University are taking a closer look into the health of female veterans in Georgia. The number of women returning from deployments with serious physical and mental issues is growing in the state.
38. [Women veterans want their voices heard in the #MeToo movement](#)  
*(18 Jan) PRI, By Traci Tong*  
Watching the large numbers of women who've come forward to speak out about their experiences of being sexually harassed and assaulted in the workplace, some women veterans say it hasn't been as easy for them to confront sexual crimes in their ranks.
39. [The Obstacles Facing VA In Its Fight To End Veteran Homelessness](#)  
*(22 Jan) Task and Purpose, By James Clark*  
Women veterans face a greater risk of becoming homeless — 2.4% — compared to male vets, who face a 1.4% risk. Contributing factors include post-traumatic stress disorder; loss of employment; dissolution of marriage; and a lack of gender-specific support, according to a Jan. 18 Veterans of Foreign Wars' statement. Additionally, one-fifth of homeless female veterans have dependent children, which places added emphasis on the need for support services like child-care.
40. [At 90, lesbian Air Force veteran finally gets her honorable discharge](#)  
*(23 Jan) Air Force Times, By Nicole Bauke*  
The notice came via FedEx to Airman 2nd Class Helen Grace James' door Jan. 17, but she couldn't open it.
41. [Study: Married veterans face greater risk of suicide](#)  
*(24 Jan) Stars & Stripes, By Nikki Wentling*  
The suicide rate for veterans is significantly higher than for civilians, and the difference for women is even greater. In 2014, 19 female veterans for every 100,000 died by suicide – more than 2 1/2 times greater than civilian women. New findings published in this study confirmed VA statistics that show women veterans have higher risk of suicide than men.