



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest: 22 December 2017 – 5 January 2018

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### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Face of Defense: Youth ChalleNGe Academy Leads to Airman's Service](#)  
(21 Dec) *124th Fighter Wing, By Air Force Airman 1st Class Mercedee Schwartz*  
The road that leads someone to serve in the Idaho Air National Guard isn't always the most traditional route.
2. [Transgender recruits now have official DoD rules concerning their underwear](#)  
(20 Dec) *Military Times, By Tara Copp*  
The Pentagon has published new guidance for all military processing commands on how examiners are to treat and evaluate transgender recruits if current court rulings hold and allow enlistment on Jan. 1.
3. [Now that the drawdown is over, the Army is ditching early retirement](#)  
(21 Dec) *Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
When the Army needs to downsize the force, one of the most effective tools is to allow more senior soldiers to retire before the 20-year mark.
4. [Another circuit court rejects transgender ban, admonishes Trump lawyers](#)  
(22 Dec) *Military Times, By Tara Copp*  
A second U.S. circuit court has denied the Trump administration's request to delay a Jan. 1 deadline to allow transgender forces to serve, admonishing Justice Department lawyers on the merits of their arguments and reminding them that the young men and women at the heart of the case "seek to serve with honor and dignity," and if necessary, give the ultimate sacrifice.
5. [The Navy is overhauling transfer and re-up rules — and needs your help to do it](#)  
(22 Dec) *Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram*  
Navy personnel officials are overhauling transfer and re-enlistment rules in an effort to eliminate mismatching sailor end-of-service and transfer dates, which can often be months — if not years — apart.
6. [New in 2018: Plans to grow the Corps on hold](#)  
(23 Dec) *Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol*  
Plans to grow the force may be on the back-burner in 2018.
7. [New in 2018: For foreign recruits, the new year brings few answers](#)  
(24 Dec) *Military Times, By Tara Copp*  
Foreigners hoping to earn U.S. citizenship by serving in the U.S. military will have another year of uncertainty ahead as the Pentagon works through a backlog of applicants before deciding on the fate of a recruiting program targeting foreign nationals.
8. [New in 2018: 'Forever GI Bill' changes take effect](#)  
(26 Dec) *Military Times, By Natalie Gross*  
The new Forever GI Bill signed into law by President Trump earlier this year has multiple provisions that will roll out in 2018. Among them are changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill for Purple Heart recipients, reservists and dependents — all of which start in August.

9. [\*\*New in 2018: 1.6 million troops will choose between old and new retirement systems\*\*](#)  
*(28 Dec) Military Times, By Karen Jowers*  
About 1.6 million service members will have a big decision to make in 2018: stay with the traditional military retirement system or move to the new Blended Retirement System.
10. [\*\*Pentagon Leaders Looking to Make a Culture Shift Within the Military\*\*](#)  
*(28 Dec) The Fayetteville Observer, By Drew Brooks*  
Robert Wilkie, who was sworn in as undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness in late November, said he believes the military's current way of doing business is outdated and detrimental to families and the retention of troops.
11. [\*\*New in 2018: Air Force could expand experiment with longer assignments\*\*](#)  
*(29 Dec) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*  
In early 2018, the Air Force will decide whether to expand an experiment that offers pilots longer assignments in an effort to retain them.
12. [\*\*Trump administration accepts Jan. 1 transgender enlistment deadline\*\*](#)  
*(30 Dec) Military Times, By Tara Copp*  
The Trump administration dropped its legal fight seeking to delay the Jan. 1 deadline for the Pentagon to accept transgender forces, the Justice Department said Friday.
13. [\*\*New in 2018: Army hopes to meet end strength goals with big recruitment push\*\*](#)  
*(31 Dec) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
The Army is preparing for a bump in force numbers next year, as recruiters prepare to bring in about 80,000 new soldiers in fiscal year 2018.

## **EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION**

14. [\*\*Major initiative seeks to combat U.S. soldiers' weight problems and injuries\*\*](#)  
*(20 Dec) Military.com, By Vicky Hallett*  
These base makeovers are setting the scene for the launch of Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F), a larger initiative — a decade in the making and still pending final approval — that strives to radically change how the Army prepares service members.
15. [\*\*New 'Battle Skills Test' for all Marines starts in 2018\*\*](#)  
*(21 Dec) Marine Corps Times, By Jeff Schogol*  
It may have been a long time since you were a boot, but it's time to brush up on what you learned at the very beginning of your Marine Corps career.
16. [\*\*The war on military culture\*\*](#)  
*(22 Dec) Washington Examiner, By Michael Ferguson*  
Subjective notions of social propriety, however well-intentioned, will not change the fixed identity of ground warfare. It is a brutally masculine and inherently violent enterprise. Warrior culture serves as a utilitarian mechanism that not only allows our troops to ignore their instincts of self-preservation and rush toward gunfire, but also steel their minds to the psychological rigors of armed conflict.
17. [\*\*New in 2018: Drill sergeants return to AIT, plus a makeover for basic training\*\*](#)  
*(24 Dec) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
The Center for Initial Military Training is several months into a complete review of how the Army makes new soldiers, and 2018 could see some big changes.
18. [\*\*New in 2018: Could these two new fitness tests spell the end of the APFT?\*\*](#)  
*(24 Dec) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
In 2017, both Army Training and Doctrine Command and Army Forces Command unveiled new fitness tests that could change the way the Army does physical fitness training.
19. [\*\*New in 2018: Army to issue new body armor to soldiers\*\*](#)  
*(1 Jan) Army Times, By Todd South*  
Soldiers will get new body armor for the first time in a decade, starting this summer.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

20. [\*\*Air Force Academy restructures embattled sexual assault office\*\*](#)  
*(20 Dec) Air Force Times, By Charlsy Panzino*  
The Air Force Academy is restructuring its Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office after an internal investigation revealed misconduct and mismanagement.
21. [\*\*What It Means To Be An Ally To Women In The Military\*\*](#)  
*(27 Dec) Task & Purpose, By Roger Misso*  
A toxic culture of gender discrimination and inequality continues to exist in the U.S. military. Worse, it isn't simply gray-haired military bosses who are responsible for this. The atmosphere created by a few junior military personnel can ruin the career of a promising servicewoman before it even begins.
22. [\*\*Leaving The Military Wasn't My Idea: How Separation Status May Affect Homelessness in Women Veterans\*\*](#)  
*(27 Dec) Huffington Post, By Lily Casura*  
Ask enough women veterans about their own experiences with homelessness and you hear a consistent refrain — that they were “unprepared” for life after the military, that homelessness “surprised” them, and that they were consequently unable to plan for it.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

23. [\*\*Orlando's first female combat recruit graduates infantry training\*\*](#)  
*(15 Dec) Orlando.com, By Troy Campbell*  
Briana Conde, 18, is back home in central Florida after graduating from infantry training with the U.S. Army. On Friday, Conde graduated in the presence of her parents in Fort Benning, Georgia.
24. [\*\*Jeopardy!' host Alex Trebek asks if it's difficult for a female master sergeant to give orders\*\*](#)  
*(21 Dec) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
Retired Army Master Sgt. Lisa Beth Davis made an appearance as a ‘Jeopardy!’ contestant on Tuesday, walking away with second place and \$2,000.
25. [\*\*How The Marine Corps Prepared Me To Run Across The Country In 100 Days\*\*](#)  
*(28 Dec) Task & Purpose, By Maggie Seymour*  
On July 22, I ended my active-duty service with the Marine Corps and started a 100-day run across the country.
26. [\*\*New Mexico base is home to Air Force's top nurse for 2017\*\*](#)  
*(31 Dec) The Associated Press*  
The U.S. Air Force has named its top nurse for 2017 and the award goes to a nurse practitioner stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. Maj. Cindy Callisto is assigned to the 377th Medical Group.

## WOMEN VETERANS

27. [\*\*Life-Size Bronze Statues Honoring Women Veterans Installed In Las Cruces\*\*](#)  
*(21 Dec) KRWG, By City of Las Cruces*  
The much-anticipated life-size, one-of-a-kind bronze statues representing women veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have served since WWI were installed at the newly-constructed Women Veterans Monument at Veterans Memorial Park in Las Cruces, NM on Dec. 20, 2017.
28. [\*\*Women Airforce Service Pilots Aided American War Efforts With Help From These Women of Color\*\*](#)  
*(24 Dec) Teen Vogue, By Em Steck*  
The WASP corps offered women the opportunity to fly in a time when fewer than 1% of Americans had pilot's licenses.

29. [Army Combat Vet a Female Trailblazer With Her Own Brewery](#)

*(28 Dec) Military.com, By Sean Mclain Brown*

Staff Sergeant Torie Fisher knows the UH-60 Blackhawk. Fisher did two combat tours in Iraq--first with the Army's 1st Armored Division in 2004, and then later in 2007 as a Blackhawk crew chief and door gunner with the Army National Guard. And now Fisher knows beer as well, as she has become a pioneer--the very first woman veteran to own and operate a brewery in the US.