



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest 11 – 24 August 2018

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### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [NSA director: The agency 'sells itself' to potential recruits](#)  
(13 Aug) *NextGov*, By Charles S. Clark  
Nakasone tells industry group of 92 percent retention rate, need for diversity.
2. [Face of Defense: Airman Continues Family's Commitment to Service](#)  
(14 Aug) *194th Wing*, By Air Force Airman 1st Class Mckenzie Airhart  
After high school, Air Force Staff Sgt. Psalmbrea Noel Doss knew she wanted to join the military but wanted to be able to stay in the Pacific Northwest. She loved Washington and had a goal of finishing her college degree. That's when her mother let her know about the Washington Air National Guard. "I didn't even know it existed until my mother told me," Doss said.
3. [Assistant Army secretary nominee sees young teens, college dropouts as Army's next recruiting targets](#)  
(21 Aug) *Army Times*, By Leo Shane III  
The comments come as Army officials look ahead to rising personnel targets in fiscal 2019. The likely next leader of Army manpower management told senators he'll push for more recruiting efforts targeting younger high school students and college dropouts, in an effort to keep up with increasing personnel demands.
4. [Army reinstates at least 36 discharged immigrants](#)  
(21 Aug) *The Associated Press*, By Garance Burke and Martha Mendoza  
At least three dozen immigrant recruits who were booted from the U.S. Army after enlisting with a promised pathway to citizenship are being brought back to serve, according to court records filed Monday.
5. [The AFPAK Hands Program Was a Retention Nightmare; It's Been Transformed](#)  
(21 Aug) *Air Force Times*, By Maj. Gen. Samuel C. Mahaney  
Airmen were turning down aviation retention bonuses and leaving the Air Force rather than signing up for an active duty service commitment and risking a non-volunteer assignment. We had a responsibility to support the program, but in the face of record low retention rates, we simply could not afford to lose more airmen because of it. It was a retention nightmare. While the program is critically important, airmen were forced to choose between family and mission.
6. [Face of Defense: Navy Recruiter Embraces American Ideals](#)  
(22 Aug) *Navy Talent Acquisition Group Rocky Mountain Utah Division, Navy Recruiting Command*, By Dan Puleio  
Serving in the military provides the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than yourself, and to be a positive influence, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Caroline Ballard said. "I always wanted to be part of the military," Ballard said. "As a young person, my reasons were simple. The recruitment posters and the uniformed members who visited my school fascinated me. While in France, I wasn't particularly patriotic, but in my teen years, living in Texas, I fell in love with the United States."
7. [Why I Serve: The Kalkbrenner Family](#)  
(22 Aug) *DoD News, Defense Media Activity*, By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Chuck Broadway  
As of 2017, about two million people were serving in the U.S. military. All of these service members chose to don their respective service's uniform for varying reasons. Many sign up to give back to their country. Others join for a steady paycheck, to learn a new skill or for access to the benefits available to service members, such as medical care and education. For some, they join to continue a family heritage.

8. [The Corps is giving \\$5,000 to recruits who go infantry for six years](#)  
(22 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow  
It's the fourth year in a row the Corps has offered a \$5,000 to recruits signing up to become a grunt for six years. Recruits who decide to go grunt and complete the training for either riflemen, light-armor vehicle, machine gunner, mortarmen, infantry assault, or antitank missile gunner, can get the cash. The money is part of the Corps' Enlistment Bonus Program that helps recruit talented and qualified individuals in a variety of fields and critical skills.

9. [Congress, Navy revolutionize officer promotions](#)  
(22 Aug) *Navy Times*, By Mark D. Faram  
For the first time in nearly four decades, Congress has reshaped the way the Navy can recruit, train and retain commissioned officers. The National Defense Authorization Act lets the armed forces carve out alternate career paths for commissioned officers; modifies some "up or out" provisions to spare them from mandatory retirement; and dangles the promise of spot promotions for hard charging service members willing and able to quickly move ahead.

## **EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION**

10. [More women are ripping out pull-ups, but the Corps' overall fitness scores are down this year](#)  
(10 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow  
In 2018, 71 percent, or 10,018 women elected to do pull-ups on the PFT, compared to 65 percent or 9,501 women in 2017. Those women managed to crank out an average of seven pull-ups, which is the max number for a perfect score for 17- to 20-year-old female Marines.
11. [Marine grunts on the Corps' first-ever female infantry leader: 'She's one of us'](#)  
(13 Aug) *Task & Purpose*, By Gina Harkins  
The first woman to graduate from the Marine Corps' notoriously grueling Infantry Officer Course is now leading a platoon of male grunts in Australia.
12. [You don't get to the NDAA personnel reforms without force of the future](#)  
(13 Aug) *War On The Rocks*, Brad Carson  
The Department of Defense is overhauling the military personnel system for the first time in a generation. And the changes, some large, others small, all indicate that the department has finally embraced the "talent management" revolution that swept the private sector more than two decades ago.
13. [The Corps wants lighter body armor for counterinsurgency conflicts](#)  
(15 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow  
The Corps wants new lighter body armor to give commanders more flexibility in low-intensity conflicts on the battlefields of places like Iraq and Afghanistan. The Marines posted a request for information to seek out industry support in fielding a new, lighter body armor that will complement the Enhanced Small Arms Protective Insert plates already fielded by Marines.
14. [Serbia may reintroduce compulsory military service: president](#)  
(21 Aug) *Reuters*, By Staff  
Serbia might reintroduce compulsory military service, nine years after abolishing it, to help improve the combat readiness of its army in the Balkans, where tensions occasionally flare, , President Aleksandar Vucic said. Vucic said Belgrade was considering reintroducing compulsory military service of between three and six months after 2020.
15. [This Marine opens a new chapter for women](#)  
(21 Aug) *CNN*, By Gayle Tzemach Lemmon  
For years, I had the privilege of interviewing women in uniform who broke ground and told me over and over again, as Hierl told the New York Times, that they didn't seek to make history or to prove a point. They simply sought to give their country their all.
16. [The most sexist places in America](#)  
(21 Aug) *The Washington Post*, By Christopher Ingraham  
To measure the prevalence of sexist beliefs, the researchers drew on eight questions on attitudes toward gender issues that have been part of the survey since the 1970s. The researchers combined responses to these questions and summarized them at the state level, creating a nationwide index of sexist attitudes (they previously used a similar method to measure the prevalence of racist beliefs). Mapping those numbers, above, yields a comprehensive picture of the geography of American sexism.

17. [Parris Island recruits are first to get new female dress blue coat](#)  
(23 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow  
The Corps has been mulling a new dress blue coat for female Marines, modeled in similar fashion to their male colleagues, for several years now.
18. [The Problem With ‘Hev Guys’](#)  
(23 Aug) *The Atlantic*, By Joe Pinsker  
Guys is an easygoing way to address a group of people, but to many, it’s a symbol of exclusion—a word with an originally male meaning that is frequently used to refer to people who don’t consider themselves "guys."

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

19. [As their careers take off, Air Force women try to balance work and family](#)  
(3 Aug) *San Antonio Express-News*, By Sig Christenson  
Maj. Bri Peterson and her husband, Grant, awaken before dawn on work days to care for their young son before they head off in different directions from their New Braunfels home. Their routine reflects the type of stressful lifestyle that is causing an exodus of women from the Air Force, which is trying a range of solutions to reduce the attrition. A RAND Corp. study found that women leave the service earlier than men because of conflicts that tear at their families and personal lives.
20. [This woman's tweet about leaving the Marine Corps shows the challenges women in the armed services face](#)  
(11 Aug) *Yahoo Lifestyle*, By Meghan DeMaria  
Women have been a part of the Marine Corps for 100 years, but that doesn’t mean the Marines are free of sexism. As a woman’s recent tweet has illustrated, females in the military still face plenty of backlash, no matter how good they are at what they do. “If you want to know why I’m not re-enlisting, go to the Marine Corps Instagram page and read the comments on ANY picture of a female,” Jessica Casey wrote on Twitter.
21. [Submarine XO in the brig for illicit recordings](#)  
(14 Aug) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz  
Lt. Cmdr. Bryan P. Watson was fired as the executive officer of the submarine Alaska's blue crew last year as Naval Investigative Criminal Service conducted an investigation.
22. [Mattis wants commanders to rely more on UCMJ for disciplinary problems](#)  
(14 Aug) *Military Times*, By Aaron Mehta  
Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has issued new guidance to commanders across the military: Stop relying on administrative actions for disciplinary problems and start using the military justice system more often.
23. [This new Army credentialing program offers soldiers more choice ... and more cash](#)  
(15 Aug) *Army Times*, By Karen Jowers  
Soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, will be the first to test a program that will provide up to \$4,000 a year to help them earn credentials designed to assist in a successful transition to a civilian career.
24. [The Costs of Motherhood Are Rising, and Catching Women Off Guard](#)  
(17 Aug) *The New York Times*, By Claire Cain Miller  
College-educated women in particular underestimate the demands of parenthood and the difficulties of combining working and parenting, new research shows.
25. [Need to report a crime? The Army has an app for that](#)  
(21 Aug) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers  
The Army’s crime tip system is going fully digital and anonymous. The Army CID app is available in the Apple and Google Play stores, as well as through an online form. “After submitting a tip, a tip reference/ID number is created that allows the tipster to create a password to check the status of the submitted tip,” said Special Agent Christopher Adams.
26. [The Army wants more male sexual assault survivors to file reports](#)  
(22 Aug) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers  
The Army is ramping up its efforts to encourage male victims of sexual assault to come forward. A cornerstone of that effort is a Digital Survivor of Sexual Assault training module, which immerses a student in a conversation with a real soldier. The story

and answers are pre-recorded, but the technology is responsive enough that the program can search about 2,000 possible responses and provide the correct one, based on a student's question.

27. [Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. have risen steadily. Sen. Kamala Harris has a plan to change that](#)  
(22 Aug) *Los Angeles Times*, By Jennifer Haberkorn  
Maternal mortality rates in the United States — unlike most other developed countries — have risen steadily since federal officials began tracking the figures in 1987. In 2014, the last year of federal statistics published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 18 deaths per 100,000 live births among women of all races. That is up from 7.2 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1987. Health experts cannot concretely explain the national increase.
28. [Enlisted women more likely to suffer adverse mental health effects after combat injury, study finds](#)  
(23 Aug) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers  
Within a year after suffering a combat-related injury in Iraq or Afghanistan, 40 percent of military women were diagnosed with a mental health condition, according to a new study.
29. [Woman says she was fired via text message with manager saying it's "not a good time" for her maternity leave](#)  
(23 Aug) *CBS News*, By Danielle Garrand  
A pregnant Washington state woman said she was fired via text message, with a store manager telling her "it's not a good time to have somebody who is leaving for maternity leave in several months anyway."

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

30. [Jury finds Army sergeant guilty of killing his wife, a young private at Fort Meade](#)  
(9 Aug) *The Baltimore Sun*, By Tim Prudente  
A jury found Army sergeant Maliek Kearney guilty in the killing of his wife Army private Karlyn Ramirez. The case brings the second conviction in the killing of Ramirez, a 24-year-old Army private. Police found her shot to death in her townhouse in August 2015. Kearney, 37, was convicted of the federal crime of crossing state lines to commit domestic violence resulting in death. He faces up to life in prison when he is sentenced in November.
31. ['She's one of us': Lieutenant becomes 1st female Marine combat platoon commander](#)  
(10 Aug) *ABC News*, By Elizabeth McLaughlin  
As the Marine Corps prepares to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women in its service on Monday, there is one female Marine continuing to shatter the glass ceiling. At the time of her graduation, First Lt. Marina A. Hierl wished to remain anonymous. But nearly one year later, the *New York Times* was granted access to follow Hierl as she made history commanding an infantry platoon of roughly 35 male Marines during training exercises in northern Australia.
32. [Sailor killed while on leave](#)  
(14 Aug) *Navy Times*, By Carl Prine  
Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Daniella Juliana Casey died after being ejected during a rollover accident. "She appears to have been the only one in the car who wasn't wearing a seat belt," stated Utah Highway Patrol spokesman Sgt. Nicholas Street.
33. [Army veteran mother dies jumping in front of three children to save them from car](#)  
(14 Aug) *DailyMail.Com*, By Anneta Konstantinides  
A Texas mother has been killed after she jumped in front of three children, including two of her own, and saved them from being hit by a car on the first day of school. Family identified the woman as Kharisma Ashlee James, 33. She was a two-time combat veteran and a nurse.
34. [Mystery woman who helped rescue boy who jumped from overpass identified](#)  
(15 Aug) *lohud.com*, By Christopher J. Eberhart  
The story of the mystery hero who jumped off a Saw Mill Parkway overpass to help a boy made news around the country. Mystery solved: Her name is SPC Nicole McKenzie. McKenzie served active duty in the Army for three years in a medical battalion and is now in the New York Army National Guard. In the guard, she learned combat lifesaver training, in which soldiers learn to administer first-line care until a medic or surgeon arrives. That Aug. 3 on the Saw Mill, she took charge.

35. [Discharged Army specialist is granted citizenship](#)  
(18 Aug) *The Associated Press*, By Michael Balsamo  
A South Korean-born U.S. Army specialist who sued after the military moved to discharge her has been granted citizenship, her attorneys said Friday. Yea Ji Sea, 29, had filed a lawsuit last month demanding a response to her citizenship application. She came to the country as a child on a visitor visa and held other visas before enlisting in 2013 under a special government program for foreign citizens who want to serve in the U.S. military.
36. [General Officer Assignments](#)  
(21 Aug) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-243-18)*  
Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley announced the following officer assignments:
- Brig. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp, chief, Intelligence Division, Force Development Directorate, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, U.S. Army, Washington, District of Columbia, to deputy director, program analysis and evaluation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, U.S. Army, Washington, District of Columbia.
  - Col. (Promotable) Christine A. Beeler to deputy commander, U.S. Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. She most recently served as deputy director of contracting, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, District of Columbia.
  - Col. (Promotable) Amy E. Hannah, chief of public affairs, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Belgium, to director, Army Marketing Research Task Force, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Washington, District of Columbia.

## WOMEN VETERANS

37. [The very few, the immensely proud: A centennial of women in the Marine Corps](#)  
(13 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By J.D. Simkins  
Opha May Johnson and the women who enlisted 100 years ago paved the way for other trailblazers who have since worn the eagle, globe and anchor.
38. [Military OneSource Benefits Extended to Vets, Families for Full Year After Separation](#)  
(13 Aug) *DoD News*, By Defense Media Activity  
Eligibility for Military OneSource benefits have been extended from the current 180 days to 365 days after separation from military service to ensure all service members have access to comprehensive support as they transition to civilian life, Defense Department officials announced today.
39. [Next mission for women with military service: Run for office](#)  
(17 Aug) *The Associated Press*  
Women with military experience, many of them combat veterans, are among the record number of female candidates running for office this year. The female veterans have expertise in national security and veterans issues, with a track record of thriving in institutions dominated by men. Today, just four of the 535 members of Congress are female military veterans.
40. [Report: VA may have mishandled thousands of sexual assault cases](#)  
(21 Aug) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III  
Veterans Affairs officials may have improperly denied benefits to thousands of military sexual assault victims in recent years due to paperwork and procedural mistakes, according to a department inspector general report. Investigators estimate that during a six-month stretch in 2017, VA officials may have wrongly refused benefits in more than 1,300 cases, potentially traumatizing victims seeking help that previous administrators had promised. “(The Veterans Benefits Administration) did not always fulfill its obligation to help veterans prove their military sexual trauma-related claims,” the report stated.