



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services Articles of Interest 30 March 2018

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### DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [Military ‘Cultural Revolution’ Helps Women](#)

*(19 Mar) Association of the United States Army*

“We are in a cultural revolution,” said retired Air Force Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger, describing the “huge progress” made during her lifetime in the role and treatment of women in the military. “It is clear the glass ceiling has been broken,” she said during a Women’s History Month address at the Association of the U.S. Army.

### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

2. [Immigrant Service Members Get the Job Done](#)

*(March 2018) U.S. Naval Institute, By Captain John P. Cordle*

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), less than half a percent of the U.S. population is currently serving in the military—and only about 7 percent have ever served. It is not well known inside or outside of the military, but a significant number of military personnel are not U.S. citizens.

3. [3 Reasons The Marine Forces Reserve Actually Has A Recruitment Problem](#)

*(19 Mar) Task & Purpose, By Patrick Baker*

Are you considering joining the Marine Forces Reserve? If so, I, a Marine veteran and former reservist, want to make sure that you have full warning.

4. [As Women Make Strides in Military, Battle Remains to Address Retention, Recruitment Gaps](#)

*(20 Mar) Stars and Stripes, By Claudia Grisales*

The U.S. military has seen gains when it comes to women entering service, from increases in academy enrollments to growing numbers in newly opened combat positions, service secretaries said Tuesday. However, the secretaries also agreed much work remains to address the remaining, sizeable gaps that still exist between men and women in the services.

5. [School board fires teacher who called service members the ‘lowest of our low’](#)

*(21 Mar) Military Times, By Kyle Rempfer*

A Pico Rivera, California, teacher who made headlines for an anti-military rant that was caught on camera has been fired.

6. [New Trump order would ban most transgender troops from serving](#)

*(24 Mar) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*

President Donald Trump late on Friday issued a new order banning transgender individuals from serving in the military except under “limited circumstances,” again insisting they pose a threat to military readiness.

7. [Here is the Mattis guidance and Pentagon study behind the Trump transgender decision](#)

*(24 Mar) Military Times, By Tara Copp*

Late Friday, the White House announced President Donald Trump’s final decision on transgender forces — that most should not be allowed to serve. The president formed his views based on a February 2018 memo from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, and Mattis’ recommendations were based on a Pentagon study the defense secretary requested last summer.

8. [Judge shows scant patience for military transgender ban](#)  
(27 Mar) *The Associated Press*, By Gene Johnson  
President Donald Trump's move last week to tweak his ban on transgender people joining the military might not save it from being struck down, a federal judge in Seattle suggested Tuesday.

## EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

9. [No Plans to Open West Coast Boot Camp to Women, Top Marine Says](#)  
(8 Mar) *Military.com*, By Hope Hedge Seck  
The Marine Corps marked a major change earlier this week when it opened its combat training course on the West Coast to women for the first time. But the commandant said Thursday that the service's West Coast recruit depot will stay all-male, adding the Corps doesn't currently need another boot camp that trains women.
10. [DoD Leaders Encourage Women Seeking Information Technology Careers](#)  
(16 Mar) *DoD News, Defense Media Activity*, By Marine Corps Sgt. David Staten  
Navy Vice Adm. Nancy A. Norton, director of the Defense Information Systems Agency, and Bonnie M. Hammersley, DoD's deputy chief information officer for resources and analysis, spoke with the women in a "fireside chat" setting at the Army-Country Club.
11. [Air Force secretary: Let's change how we talk about women troops](#)  
(20 Mar) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III  
Getting more women into military specialties may require focusing more on the protector role of troops than the macho stereotype emphasized in the past, the Air Force secretary told lawmakers Tuesday.
12. [Citadel Picks First Woman to Command Entire Student Corps](#)  
(21 Mar) *Stars and Stripes*, By Wyatt Olsen  
Sarah Zorn will become regimental commander of cadets at The Citadel in South Carolina for the first time in the military college's 175-year history.
13. [Military Changing Body Armor to Accommodate Women's Hairstyles](#)  
(22 Mar) *Military.com*, By Hope Hedge Seck  
As women enter ground combat fields in larger numbers, the military services are working harder to make gender-specific accommodations for their gear -- even down to tweaking protective equipment to fit around longer hair.
14. [As the Army turns to functional fitness testing, is the end of gender standards near?](#)  
(26 Mar) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers  
For as long as there has been an Army Physical Fitness Test, experts both inside and outside of the Army have known that the three events therein did not really measure how a soldier would perform in the Army's most essential environment: combat.
15. [The Army is taking a look at extending initial training for infantrymen](#)  
(28 Mar) *Defense News*, By Meghann Myers  
For the past two years, the Army has been mulling the idea of extending basic training, to better prepare new soldiers for the range of warfare they'll likely face in the future, as well as the elements of fitness and discipline that make a soldier effective.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

16. [Marine Corps commandant orders new investigation of sexual harassment claims at Quantico](#)  
(21 Mar) *USA Today*, By Tom Vanden Brook  
Marine Corps Commandant Robert Neller has ordered a new investigation into allegations of sexual harassment against a Marine officer, according to a Marines statement.
17. [Coast Guard: 5 sex offenses reported at its service academy](#)  
(23 Mar) *The Associated Press*  
The U.S. Coast Guard says there were five reports of sexual assault or other sexual offenses at its service academy in Connecticut in the 2015-2016 school year.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

18. [\*\*New Jersey warrant officer breaks through the glass ceiling\*\*](#)  
(14 Mar) *New Jersey National Guard, By Master Sgt. Matt Hecht*  
I heard about women making history in aviation while I was in school, and I told my guidance counselor that I wanted to be a pilot," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kristina Sofchak, of the New Jersey National Guard. "He said that girls couldn't be pilots."
19. [\*\*From homeless teenager to mentor: Airman aims to pay it forward\*\*](#)  
(15 Mar) *633rd Air Base Wing Public Affairs, By Airman 1st Class Alexandra Singer*  
Kicked out of her home with no one to turn to and nowhere to find warmth but vacant cars on the side streets of Philadelphia, then 15-year-old Kennesha Key longed for nothing more than a chance. Although unable to afford basic school supplies, Key found solace in school, most notably in her Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps course.
20. [\*\*Face of Defense: Combatives Instructor Began Breaking Barriers in High School\*\*](#)  
(16 Mar) *New Jersey Air National Guard, By Air Force Master Sgt. Matt Hecht*  
From playing high school football to being a certified combatives instructor, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Heather Perez hasn't just been breaking boundaries, she's been crushing them.
21. [\*\*Member of All-Black, All-Female World War II Battalion Dies at Age 100\*\*](#)  
(18 Mar) *The Associated Press*  
A North Carolina woman believed to be one of the last African-American women to serve overseas during World War II has died at the age of 100.
22. [\*\*Face of Defense: Soldier Balances Bodybuilding With Army Life\*\*](#)  
(19 Mar) *2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, By Army Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield*  
While most soldiers are waking up and preparing to drive into work at 4 a.m., 2nd Lt. Angela M. DiMattia is already starting her day with an hour of high-intensity cardio.
23. [\*\*Face of Defense: Soldier Excels in Student Chef Competition\*\*](#)  
(21 Mar) *Combined Arms Support Command, By Dani Johnson*  
"My mother believed every girl needed to know how to cook," said Army Pfc. Olena Konotop, who has been in the Army for 18 months. "There is creativity in food and it brings cultures and people together."
24. [\*\*Jessica Lynch Today: Former Iraq Prisoner of War Fulfilling Her Dream as a Teacher\*\*](#)  
(22 Mar) *Inside Edition Staff*  
Fifteen years after she was ambushed during the start of the Iraq War, former prisoner of war Jessica Lynch is fulfilling a dream as a teacher.
25. [\*\*Pacific Fleet Sea, Shore Sailors of the Year announced\*\*](#)  
(23 Mar) *NPASE Hawaii, By MCI Rebecca Wolfbrandt*  
Adm. Scott Swift, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), announced Culinary Specialist 1st Class Latoya S. Farrish as 2017 PACFLT Sea Sailor of the Year.
26. [\*\*In 'Fight Like a Girl,' Ousted Recruit Commander Tells Her Own Story\*\*](#)  
(26 Mar) *Military.com, By Hope Hedge Seck*  
In July 2015, while working as a reporter for Marine Corps Times, I received a hot tip from a colleague: The commander of the only battalion training female Marine recruits at boot camp had just been fired from her post. Over the next day or two, the astounding details of the story began to unfold: Lt. Col. Kate Germano, commander of 4th Recruit Training Battalion.
27. [\*\*Army, Air Force, Navy: Student receives appointments from 3 academies; which did she choose?\*\*](#)  
(27 Mar) *ActionNewsJax.com*  
A senior at Glynn Academy high School, in Brunswick, Georgia, has received appointments to all three military academies.

28. [Face of Defense: Single Parents Lead Households, Squadrons](#)  
*(28 Mar) 100th Air Refueling Wing, By Air Force Airman 1st Class Alexandria Lee*  
 Air Force Lt. Col. Carina Harrison, commander of the 100th Force Support Squadron, and Air Force Lt. Col. Stacie Voorhees, commander of the 100th Communications Squadron, are both single parents who juggle the competing priorities of family and squadron leadership. Harrison has a 15-year-old daughter and Voorhees has two young girls.
29. [Navy's first female flag officer Alene Duerk turns 98](#)  
*(28 Mar) Navy Times, By Ken Chamberlain*  
 The selection of the Navy's first female admiral in 1972 was an easy one for then-Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, the Naval History and Heritage Command reports.
30. [After childhood years in Iraq, U.S. Air Force Capt. enlists to make a difference](#)  
*(28 Mar) NBC Nightly News, By Lestor Holt (video clip)*  
 Capt. Alea Nadeem was taken to Iraq by her father at age eight, forced to stay there for four years before her mother and the FBI could bring her back to the United States. She enlisted in the Air Force after the September 11th attacks.
31. [Air Force captain's childhood in Iraq influences her career](#)  
*(28 Mar) NBC News, By Nicole Puglise*  
 Taken to Iraq by her father, Capt. Alea Nadeem, never thought she would even live in the United States again. The Gulf War was underway and Saddam Hussein was in power. She remembers encountering American soldiers and asking them to take her home to her mother.
32. [Face of Defense: Soldier Breaks Through 'Glass Ceiling'](#)  
*(29 Mar) New Jersey National Guard, By Air Force Master Sgt. Matt Hecht*  
 New Jersey Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kristina Sofchak, a Black Hawk helicopter maintenance test pilot with Detachment 2, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment, recalled that she loved to talk to her mother about career paths.

## WOMEN VETERANS

33. [Women veteran athletes featured during Women's History Month](#)  
*(14 Mar) ConnectingVets.com, By Jonathan Kaupanger*  
 Showing strength, diversity and resilience of women veterans is the focus of a new art exhibit at select VA medical centers this year. The Women Veteran Athletes Initiative is a retrospective featuring women veteran athletes from all branches of service and is just one way the VA is celebrating Women's History Month, this year.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

34. [Women's History Month: Women in National Defense](#)  
*(16 Mar) Wilson Center (Live Webcast)*  
 Sharon Dunbar, retired Air Force Major General, joins the Wilson Center's Global Women's Leadership Initiative to discuss her rise from the third class of women to graduate from the United States Air Force Academy, to Commander, Air Force District of Washington, her transition to the defense industry, and why women matter in national defense.
35. [The History of a Classic: Remembering the WWII WAVE Uniform](#)  
*(23 Mar) Defense Media Agency, By Elizabeth M. Collins*  
 Ask female veterans why they joined the military during World War II, and they'll list many of the same reasons women do today: They wanted to serve their country. They wanted new and better opportunities. They wanted to support family members in uniform.
36. [Fort Bragg celebrates barrier breakers in salute to women soldiers](#)  
*(28 Mar) Stars and Stripes, By Drew Brooks*  
 On Tuesday, Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson spoke following a one-woman performance during which Kate Campbell Stevenson sang while portraying two famous female trailblazers — Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman to be a pilot, and Eleanor Roosevelt, an activist and first lady.