



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

### Articles of Interest

22 September – 5 October 2018

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#### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [Ramstein airman cuts through stereotypes to win Air Force recruiting video contest](#)**  
(20 Sep) *Stars and Stripes*, By Jennifer H. Svan  
Senior Airman Lane McCall was named the winner of the Air Force's 2018 "We Are Airmen" recruiting video contest. After dazzling footage of fighter jets, bombs and paratroopers, he says: "But that doesn't mean we're all pilots, jumping out of planes, blowing stuff up. Get real." More than 70 airmen submitted videos for the contest.
- [The Army is supposed to be growing, but this year, it didn't at all](#)**  
(21 Sep) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers  
A year ago, Army officials were touting a plan to increase the force by 7,500 soldiers in fiscal year 2019. That didn't happen.
- [Army misses 2018 recruiting goal, which hasn't happened since 2005](#)**  
(21 Sep) *Stars and Stripes*, By Corey Dickstein  
The Army fell short of its recruiting goal for 2018, missing its mark for the first time since 2005. The Army has launched a large-scale review of its recruiting practices, senior service officials said Friday.
- [Army blames strong economy for missing recruiting goal](#)**  
(21 Sep) *ABC News*, by Luis Martinez  
Failure to reach this year's recruiting goal will lead to changes in how the Army focuses its recruiting. There will be a greater focus on social media and more recruiter contacts with video game competitions. The service faced criticism for increasing the number of waivers granted to some recruits who would normally not be eligible to enter the Army in strong recruiting periods. Army officials have maintained that the service is still committed to recruiting only qualified applicants.
- [Eczema and poor eyesight have previously kept people out of the Army, but the secretary is giving them a second look](#)**  
(27 Sep) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers  
There are hundreds of medical and behavioral issues that can keep young Americans from being able to join the Army. Some, like criminal records and heart defects are still a hard no, but the service's top civilian has been looking at some more treatable issues and whether they should still disqualify a potential recruit.
- [Practical policy for the Air Force's pilot retention crisis](#)**  
(27 Sep) *War On The Rocks*, By Jesse Friedel and Matt Cancian  
Retention troubles are leading to a shortfall of roughly 2,000 pilots in the Air Force. Indeed, the discussion about why pilots are leaving the Air Force has not neglected the importance of non-financial factors. Survey respondents strongly agreed that assignment preference or deferment based on spouses or romantic partner's career would increase their likelihood of staying.
- [Half of Americans surveyed say all servicemembers are heroes](#)**  
(27 Sep) *Stars and Stripes*, By John Vandiver  
In the U.S., women are more likely than men to consider any service member a hero: 57 percent, compared with 42 percent for men, who were more inclined to link heroism to serving in a combat role.

8. [\*\*Air Force ups maximum retention bonus to \\$100K, plans big expansion\*\*](#)  
*(28 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*  
The Air Force in fiscal 2019 will increase the maximum retention bonus airmen can get for re-enlisting to \$100,000 as part of a major expansion of the program.
9. [\*\*Problems for Pentagon's immigrant recruit program\*\*](#)  
*(1 Oct) Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor*  
Stricter immigration policies have stymied Pentagon plans to restart a program that allowed thousands of people with critical medical or language skills to join the military and become American citizens. The decade-old program has been on hold amid concerns that immigrant recruits were not being screened well enough. Defense officials shored up the vetting process, and planned to relaunch the program. But there was an unexpected barrier when Homeland Security officials said they would not be able to protect new immigrant recruits from being deported after they signed a contract to join the military.
10. [\*\*Face of Defense: Marine Recruiter Brings Opportunities to Hometown Youth\*\*](#)  
*(1 Oct) 8th Marine Corps District, By Marine Corps Sgt. Alvin Pujols*  
Recruiting duty allows Marines to influence the parents and influencers in their communities.
11. [\*\*A staggering number of troops are fat and tired, report says\*\*](#)  
*(3 Oct) Military Times, By J.D. Simkins*  
A 2018 RAND report on health promotion and disease prevention has painted a grim picture of the military's physical fitness and sleep standards. While the number of overweight service members is a cause for concern, it correlates with the obesity epidemic plaguing the United States, where, as of 2015, one in three young adults are considered too fat to enlist, creating a difficult environment for recruiters to find suitable candidates for military service.
12. [\*\*New officer career tracks are here — what you need to know about the first program\*\*](#)  
*(3 Oct) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram*  
If you're an aviator or flight officer who was passed over for command or want to avoid the traditional career track, the Navy might have a good gig for you. The new law triggered the services to begin experimenting on Oct. 1 with radically new non-command career routes, including revamping some promotion and tenure rules and direct commissioning private sector experts into the military at higher ranks than were previously allowed.

## **EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION**

13. [\*\*Girls in STEM | Women serving on submarines in the United States Navy\*\*](#)  
*(18 Sep) WKYC3, By Betsy Kling*  
19-year-old Seaman Madison Glass is one of about 20 women on board out of a crew of 160. No one is assigned to serve on a submarine in the U.S. Navy. You volunteer and are accepted if you meet physical and mental requirements. Enlisted women have only been allowed to serve on Navy subs since 2016 and Seaman Glass is making the most of her opportunity.
14. [\*\*Pentagon Wants Army, Marine Corps to Select Higher-Caliber Grunts\*\*](#)  
*(19 Sep) Military.com, By Matthew Cox*  
The Pentagon wants to improve the methods the Army and Marine Corps use to fill infantry squads with aggressive individuals capable of making clear decisions under the most extreme combat conditions. The Close Combat Lethality Task Force is trying to identify "best-of-breed science and programs" to find young Marines and soldiers who have the right mix of physical and mental endurance to excel in close combat, according to Sgt. Maj. Jason Wilson, the senior Army enlisted representative for the task force.
15. [\*\*Fraternizing women in infantry units should be treated fairly\*\*](#)  
*(21 Sep) Military Times Editorial*  
Fraternization happens all the time in the military. But there is something unusual about "improper relationships" between men and women in combat arms units, where there were no women until the Pentagon formally eliminated gender restrictions. In two separate incidents, one in the Army and one in the Marine Corps, it looks like the Army and Marine Corps have handled similar situations very differently. The Corps' handling of the matter raises questions about fairness.

16. [Notice of Forthcoming Changes to the Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test](#)  
(24 Sep) MARADMIN (539/18), Released by LtGen D. H. Berger, Marine Corps Combat and Development Command  
New minimums and maximums on the pull-up portion of the female Marine hybrid pull-up/push-up test. The gender and age neutral ground combat arms Initial Strength Test, Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Classification Standards, and MOS Specific Physical Standards published in are unchanged.
17. [The PFT and CFT are about to get harder for both men and women](#)  
(24 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow  
Changes include higher minimums and maximums for pullups on the female PFT. One of the biggest changes was the maximum and minimum numbers for female Marines in the 26 to 30-year-old age bracket. Those female Marines will soon be required to do a minimum of four pullups and a max of 12.
18. [These ‘floating’ backpacks could be a game-changer for grunts](#)  
(24 Sep) Military Times, By Ian D’Costa  
Backpacks are the bane of the military’s existence — just ask any soldier or Marine forced to hump a loaded pack over rugged unforgiving terrain. Back and knee injuries, on top of fatigue, make the dreaded rucksack a piece of kit any serviceman or woman would gladly shed. A new startup called Lightning Packs aims to change that with its “HoverGlide” backpacks. Dubbed the “world’s first ‘floating’ backpack,” these are anything but your run-of-the-mill rucks.
19. [New Navy grooming standards, and big changes for sailors assigned to Marine units — everything you need to know](#)  
(25 Sep) Navy Times, By J.D. Simkins and Rachel Rakoff  
A July announcement providing updated Navy guidelines of authorized hairstyles and acceptable wear of hair and nail accessories for women in uniform missed an opportunity to clarify grooming questions that have long miffed sailors.
20. [Mattis says the jury is still out on women succeeding in combat roles.](#)  
(25 Sep) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor  
Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is offering a dim view of females serving in infantry jobs, telling Virginia Military Institute students that the jury is out on whether women can succeed in combat.
21. [Army Body Armor May Be Too Heavy for Combat, Report Finds](#)  
(25 Sep) Military.com, By Matthew Cox  
The Army should authorize commanders to allow combat troops to leave the service's heavy, over-designed body armor behind on certain missions to increase physical performance, according to a new report from the Center for a New American Security.
22. [Mattis: More Data Needed to Assess Women’s Effectiveness in Combat Arms](#)  
(26 Sep) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Jim Garamone  
Part of what drives the question is the culture of close-combat units, the retired Marine Corps general said. “This is a policy that I inherited, and so far the cadre is so small we have no data on it,” he said. “We’re hoping to get data soon. There are a few stalwart young ladies who are charging into this, but they are too few. Clearly the jury is out on it, but what we’re trying to do is give it every opportunity to succeed if it can.”
23. [Mattis defends remarks on women in infantry](#)  
(26 Sep) Military Times, Tara Copp  
A day after Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told VMI cadets that the “jury’s still out” on women serving in combat infantry units, he defended the remarks, saying they had been misconstrued by the media.
24. [Here’s Mattis’ full response to VMI cadets on women in infantry](#)  
(26 Sep) Military Times, By Tara Copp  
Here is the Virginia Military Institute male cadet’s question on women in combat infantry units and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis’ full response that he provided during a Sept. 25 speech.
25. [Navy warns sailors who can’t deploy that they will be reviewed for involuntary separation](#)  
(26 Sep) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram  
There’s no place in the service for those who can’t go to sea or take on overseas duty, the Navy’s top personnel officer told sailors. Burke said there will be some exceptions to the hard and fast policy for those who are unable to deploy due to pregnancy. The crackdown isn’t just a Navy effort, but comes directly from Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis.

26. [Here's how the Corps could shave about 6 pounds off your body armor](#)  
*(27 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow*  
The Corps is the beginning stages of researching a new, lighter alternative ballistic body armor plate for counterinsurgency style conflicts that is nearly six pounds lighter than the legacy plates.
27. [California has a new law: No more all-male boards](#)  
*(30 Sep) CNN Money, By Julia Carpenter and Jackie Wattles*  
A new law, enacted Sunday, which requires publicly traded firms in the state to place at least one woman on their board of directors by the end of 2019 — or face a penalty.
28. [Want better peacekeeping ops? Add women](#)  
*(1 Oct) Defense One, By Jamille Bigio*  
Women are routinely underrepresented in peacekeeping operations, even though their participation has been shown to improve mission effectiveness and advance stability.
29. [The Pentagon is letting down women who serve](#)  
*(2 Oct) Washington Post, By Monica Medina*  
Fifteen women have graduated from the Army's most physically challenging and elite training, the Ranger School, and two women graduated from the Marine Corps' arduous Infantry Officers Course. In another recent first, a woman is now in command of a Marine infantry unit. Yet when speaking at the Virginia Military Institute last week, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis seemed to hedge his support for the Defense Department's full-integration policy for women in combat roles.
30. [Marine Corps Wants to Rid Service Publications of Gender Bias Within 2 Years](#)  
*(3 Oct) Military.com, By Hope Hedge Seck*  
The most male-dominated military service in the Department of Defense has embarked on an ambitious initiative to strip unnecessary masculine pronouns and other indicators of gender bias out of its foundational publications within the next 24 months.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

31. [It happens here, too: Lessons for universities on preventing sexual harassment](#)  
*(14 Sep) Brookings, By Dick Startz*  
The National Academy of Sciences published the over 300-page report, "Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine."
32. [Sexual assault: Here are the bases where troops are most at risk](#)  
*(21 Sep) Military Times, By Tara Copp*  
Men and women assigned to Navy ships at sea are far more likely to be sexually assaulted than service members at bases elsewhere across the force, according to a new Defense Department report.
33. [Female sailors at highest risk of sexual assault, Defense Department finds](#)  
*(21 Sep) ABC News, By Elizabeth McLaughlin*  
Newly released data from the Department of Defense shows female sailors are at the highest risk of sexual assault, compared to women serving in the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps. The risk is highest on U.S. Navy ships, including on a majority of the nation's aircraft carriers, the data shows.
34. [RAND report: In Air Force, sexual assault risk greatest at AETC bases](#)  
*(21 Sep) Air Force Times, Stephen Losey*  
Men and women in the Air Force face the greatest risk of sexual assault at Air Education and Training Command bases, according to a new report from Rand Corp.
35. [Top 10 list of Army commands where soldiers are at most risk of sexual harassment](#)  
*(21 Sep) Army Times Staff*  
Breakdown of the Top 10 Army commands where male and female Soldiers are at most risk of sexual harassment.

36. [Top 10 list of Navy commands where sailors are at most risk of sexual harassment](#)  
(21 Sep) *Navy Times Staff*  
Breakdown of the Top 10 Navy commands where male and female Sailors are at most risk of sexual harassment.
37. [Top 10 list of Marine Corps commands where Marines are most at risk of sexual harassment](#)  
(21 Sep) *Marine Corps Times Staff*  
Breakdown of the Top 10 Marine Corps commands where male and female Marines are most at risk of sexual harassment.
38. [Top 10 list of Air Force commands where airmen are at most risk of sexual harassment](#)  
(21 Sep) *Air Force Times Staff*  
Breakdown of the Top 10 Air Force commands where male and female Airmen are most at risk of sexual harassment.
39. [A New Study On Military Sexual Assault Raises More Questions Than Answers](#)  
(21 Sep) *Task and Purpose, By Jeff Schogol*  
A new study breaks down the risk of male and female service members being sexually assaulted if they are assigned to certain bases and ships, but the data is old and does not explain why some bases pose a higher risk of sexual assault than others, raising questions about how reliable the information in the report really is.
40. [More than 500 Sexual Assaults Happen in a Single Year at Some Military Installations: Report](#)  
(21 Sep) *Time, By W.J. Hennigan*  
A newly released Pentagon study revealed that many sexual assaults in the U.S. military occur across the globe at a relatively small number of bases and naval ships, including some installations where more than 500 incidents occurred in a single year. The 119-page study, conducted by Rand Corporation, surveyed American service members to uncover where troops were most at risk of sexual assault and harassment. In many cases, installations with large populations of younger, single, and more-junior-ranking service members had a greater probability of these incidents occurring.
41. [Jacinda Ardern makes history with baby Neve at UN general assembly](#)  
(24 Sep) *The Guardian, By Eleanor Ainge Roy*  
New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Ardern has made history as the first world leader to attend the United Nations general assembly meeting with her baby in tow. The prime minister is continuing to breastfeed her daughter, meaning Neve had to travel with her to New York for the six-day trip.
42. [How bureaucracy can help maintain sexism and inequality in the US military](#)  
(25 Sep) *LSE USCentre, By Stephanie Bonnes*  
Five years ago the US military's long-standing ban on women in ground combat was lifted. But, the 'bureaucratic harassment' of women has meant that many policies that have been rescinded have continued. In-depth interviews with US servicewomen finds that servicemen are able to manipulate bureaucratic policies to harass and undermine women and their careers, allowing sexual assaults to continue, and to preserve male dominance in the military.
43. [Sexual assault risk at your military base: Here's a searchable database](#)  
(25 Sep) *Military Times, By Tara Copp*  
The Defense Department in September released a first-of-its-kind study that estimates the risk of sexual assault service members face at different installations. The estimates were based on more than 170,000 survey responses service members completed in 2014 on whether they had personally experienced sexual assault. The data is searchable by service, risk, location and estimated number of assaults.
44. [Women Can't Even Serve Their Country Without Being Judged And Shamed](#)  
(26 Sep) *Scary Mommy, By Cassandra Stone*  
Air Force Staff Sergeant and mom Chelsey Speicher recently returned home from her first deployment overseas, and the viral homecoming video showing her embracing her son for the first time in six months made plenty of hearts grow a few sizes. But not everyone who watched the video was warmed by the sight of a mom who proudly serves her country returning home to her family.
45. [One-star general — and Enola Gay pilot's grandson — forced to retire after misconduct claims](#)  
(27 Sep) *Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*  
Brig. Gen. Paul Tibbets IV, deputy commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, will be forced to retire after an investigation substantiated several accusations of misconduct during his previous command. The Air Force said an inspector general investigation substantiated allegations that Tibbets had made inappropriate comments about women on two occasions.

46. [Plea deal reached in case against fired mobility wing commander](#)  
(1 Oct) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey  
A plea deal has been reached in the case of the former commander of the 375th Air Mobility Wing, who was originally facing charges including sexual assault and cruelty and maltreatment. The Air Force said that the victim did not want to participate in a court-martial proceeding against Col. John Howard. The charge sheet alleges that Howard rubbed his groin against a female senior airman and made inappropriate comments on at least two occasions in 2016. He was also charged with sexual assaulting a senior airman in 2017.
47. [Parents question why they have to pay for child care for days centers were closed because of Hurricane Florence](#)  
(28 Sep) *Marine Corps Times*, By Karen Jowers  
A Marine gunnery sergeant is questioning why parents have to pay for child care at child development centers at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for the days the centers were closed during Hurricane Florence. A number of people are waiting on insurance claims for leaks, flooding, roofing issues and other problems, he said, and some are still in county shelters because their homes are uninhabitable. The policy is not a Defense Department one, but an installation one.
48. [The dark logic behind armies that rape](#)  
(1 Oct) *War Is Boring*, By Patrick Burke  
In the era of #MeToo many are looking to science to better understand sexual violence—whether it’s why victims don’t come forward or why perpetrators commit such violence. Here I try to utilize social science to better understand why sexual violence is so pervasive during civil war.
49. [A Challenge For Military Moms: Breastfeeding And Pumping On Duty](#)  
(2 Oct) *WUNC*, By Carson Frame  
Inflexible work schedules and lack of support can make it tough for new mothers in the military to keep breastfeeding their children. A 2015 study in *Military Medicine* found only about 30 percent of women across the services met their goals for breastfeeding duration - and 14 percent of those blamed a lack of support.
50. [What Should Be Done With Report On Military Sexual Harassment And Assault?](#)  
(2 Oct) *The Hill*, By Kayla Williams  
What should be done now that RAND has demonstrated that it is possible to identify both total and installation-specific risk with this proof-of-concept research project? I believe additional research, greater transparency, and targeted action are warranted. This preliminary research shows certain patterns – ships seem to be particularly high risk, for example – and an important next step is to identify what factors are likely to increase or decrease risk.
51. [Lack of child care burdens US servicemembers in Germany](#)  
(5 Oct) *Stars and Stripes*, By Brian Ferguson  
A lack of day care in the largest U.S. military community overseas is straining families and impacting unit operations, as some servicemembers say they had to hire live-in help or have taken their children to work to make up for the shortfall.

## **SERVICEMEN IN THE NEWS**

52. [Military mom reunites with toddler in emotional airport homecoming](#)  
(12 Sep) *USA Today*, By Kamron Taylor  
As Air Force Staff Sergeant Chelsey Speicher returned from her first deployment, she wasn't sure how her young son would react. Chelsey was stationed in Jordan for 6 months, leaving behind her husband and 2-year-old son, Bennett.
53. [Identical twins progress together in service](#)  
(19 Sep) *50th Space Wing Public Affairs*, By Airman 1st Class William Tracy  
Kaitlin and Kristin Curtis always live life as a pair, both now serving in the Air Force. Despite the parallel path their Air Force careers have taken, their journey did not begin on the same foot. Kaitlin enlisted in the Air Force ten months earlier, seeking to find purpose after graduating high school. Kristin attended her sister’s Basic Military Training graduation, and it sparked her desire to join and not be upstaged.

54. [Face of Defense: Goalie-Turned-Air Force Officer Earns NCAA Accolades](#)  
(21 Sep) *Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences*, By Sharon Holland  
Air Force 2nd Lt. Sidney Peters, the four-time Western Collegiate Hockey Association Scholar-Athlete, WCHA All-Academic, Academic All-Big Ten honoree and 2018 Hockey Humanitarian Award recipient, has been named as one of the NCAA's Top 30 Woman of the Year honorees for her excellence in academics, athletics, community service and leadership.
55. [Queens woman killed by ex in murder-suicide contacted NYPD twice in days before killings](#)  
(22 Sep) *New York Daily News*, By Thomas Tracy and Larry McShane  
The NYPD twice bungled the complaints of a terrified woman targeted by an obsessive ex-boyfriend in the days before he fatally shot her, police sources said Saturday. Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Regan Smith cited three vandalism incidents linked to spurned lover — the last two just four days before he entered her apartment and opened fire, said the sources and friends of the victim.
56. [Face of Defense: Army Astronaut Prepares for December Launch](#)  
(24 Sep) *U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command*, By Jason Cutshaw  
One soldier is proving childhood dreams can come true as she prepares to launch into space for her first time. Army Astronaut Lt. Col. Anne C. McClain, and her crewmates, David Saint-Jacques of the Canadian Space Agency and Oleg Kononenko of the Russian Space Agency Roscosmos, are scheduled to launch Dec. 20 aboard the Soyuz MS-11 spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan for a six-month rotation on the International Space Station.
57. [Flag Officer Assignments](#)  
(24 Sep) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-269-18)*  
Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson announced today the following assignments:
- Navy Reserve Capt. Ann H. Duff, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (N13R), Washington, District of Columbia. Duff is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Reserve, U.S. Fleet Forces Personnel Management Command, Norfolk, Virginia.
  - Navy Reserve Capt. Nancy S. Lacore, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as director, Maritime Partnership Program, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet, with additional duties as vice commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, Naples, Italy. Lacore is currently serving as commanding officer, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa.
58. [Face of Defense: Airman Transforms Traumatic Experience Into Triumph](#)  
(25 Sep) *386th Air Expeditionary Wing*, By Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoltz  
“Life comes in seasons,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Nakisha Simon. “If I didn’t get the help I needed, I don’t believe I would have seen the next one.” “There always seems to be a negative stigma that if someone goes to mental health and receives assistance,” she said. “However, I would like to think of myself as an example. You can get the help you need and still be successful. Getting help does not make you a liability.”
59. [2nd ID soldier dies at Camp Humphreys; cause under investigation](#)  
(25 Sep) *Stars & Stripes*, By Kim Gamel  
The Army is investigating after a 2nd Infantry Division soldier was found dead at Camp Humphreys earlier this week. Pfc. Adrienne Barillas, 22, of Texas, had been assigned to the 11th Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade at Camp Humphreys since 2017. The circumstances surrounding her death are being investigated.
60. [Face of Defense: Airman Describes Her Journey From Pro Basketball to Service](#)  
(28 Sep) *375th Air Mobility Wing*, By Air Force Airman 1st Class Tara Stetler  
Air Force 1st Lt. Brittanie Davis’ formal basketball career began when she asked Troy University’s coach if she could try-out as a walk on after she was not recruited.
61. [Highest-ranking female officer in Afghanistan to leave key coalition command](#)  
(4 Oct) *Stars and Stripes*, By Phillip Walter Wellman  
Army Maj. Gen. Robin Fontes, who last year assumed the highest post of any female service member in the war in Afghanistan, is being replaced as commander of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

## WOMEN VETERANS

62. [Report shows problems with VA women's health programs](#)

*(20 Sep) CBS46, By WGCL Digital Team*

An investigation conducted by the Veteran Affairs office of Inspector General reveals issues with women's health programs. The OIG's office made several recommendations to the V.A., including the facility provide executive oversight of its women veterans program.

63. [For Women Veterans, No Room at the VA](#)

*(20 Sep) Rewire News, By India Amos*

As the number of female veterans increase, women who live in communities serviced by older U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals could experience a delay in care—especially if men already occupy the hospital rooms. For many female veterans, once their service ends, the challenge of accessing care begins.

64. [Washington D.C. welcomes 135 veterans in all-female honor flight](#)

*(24 Sep) ConnectingVets.com, By Kaylah Jackson*

135 women veterans were honored on a special all-female honor flight that arrived at nation's capital. "There's such a bond between all veterans...but with the females, I think they just felt that they deserved this respect and honor because if it wasn't for the women standing right beside these men in service time then achieving these goals would not have been done," said Susie Kreifel-Huber. "It was just a tearjerker. It was emotional and very, very memorable."

65. [Navy sex assault survivor gets discharge upgrade](#)

*(26 Sep) Connecticut Post, By Peggy McCarthy*

A Connecticut Navy veteran who was sexually assaulted while serving in Japan has been awarded an honorable discharge after she challenged the "bad paper" discharge status she had been given.

66. [From homeless to hero — and maybe the cover of Maxim magazine?](#)

*(2 Oct) Military Times, By Natalie Gross*

Janae Sergio spent her high school years on the streets of Los Angeles, in and out of homeless shelters and programs for at-risk youth. So, when the 36-year-old Navy veteran heard about a competition that donates money toward building homes for wounded warriors, she knew she wanted to take part.