



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

25 August – 7 September 2018

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [DoD's transgender policy gets knocked back by court, again](#)

(24 Aug) Military Times, By Tara Copp

For the third time in the four federal cases challenging the Pentagon's transgender ban, the court has ruled the government has failed to show what deliberative process it undertook to decide some transgender personnel should not be allowed to serve.

2. [New squadron specializes in recruiting airmen for special operations](#)

(24 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer

Qualifying for Air Force Special Operations can take up to three years of training, and about 80 percent of battlefield airmen don't make it. The attrition rate has caused the Air Force to activate a new recruiting squadron — a unit solely dedicated to recruiting airmen in the fields of pararescue, combat controller, tactical air control and as special operations weather technicians.

3. [Face of Defense: Soldier Connects With Vietnam Vet Father Through Shared Service](#)

(29 Aug) 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, By Army Maj. Gregory McElwain

In 2004, Staff Sgt. Rachel Kovach joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. She had many reasons to join, including the call of patriotism and a desire for training, but one of the strongest motivations was her father.

4. [Face of Defense: Guard Soldier's Experiences Put Her Ahead of Civilian Peers](#)

(4 Sep) Idaho Army National Guard, By Army Capt. Robert Taylor

Sgt. Mikki Fritz joined the Idaho Army National Guard because she wanted to jump-start her medical career. Though she decided not to pursue a civilian medical career, she's found experiences that she feels have placed her ahead of her peers.

5. [All in the Navy family — mother and son enlist together](#)

(4 Sep) Navy Times, By J.D. Simkins

Accompanied by his mother, Melissa Ensey, the 18-year-old Abbott, readied to listen intently to Navy Career Counselor. Not long into the conversation, Abbott realized that the Navy was his best chance at a ticket to seeing the world and developing an invaluable and enduring skill set. Dery's persuasive presentation evidently left such an impression on the pair that Abbott's mother even joked, "Too bad I can't join, too." Dery was quick to fire back. "You can."

6. [More Meritorious Promotions, Flexible Careers as Navy Fights to Keep Sailors](#)

(5 Sep) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

As the sea services prepare to face off against near-peer threats equipped with constantly updated technology, the Navy must offer hyper-flexible career paths to attract the best people, the service's top admiral said Wednesday.

7. [Rand study: Warrant officer pilots would hurt retention in the Air Force — but a flying-only track might help](#)

(5 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey

Bringing back a cadre of warrant officers to the Air Force and making them pilots might not be the solution to the aviator shortfall plaguing the service, and would actually hurt retention, a recent report from the Rand Corporation concluded.

8. [Naval Academy to begin new initiative on officer aptitude](#)
(5 Sep) The Associated Press
The U.S. Naval Academy's superintendent says a new initiative to identify midshipmen who lack the overall aptitude to be naval officers will be implemented throughout the school this year. In addition to academic and physical requirements, midshipmen are supposed to demonstrate aptitude in leadership, character, professionalism, teamwork and judgment.
9. [The Pentagon is easing its controversial new GI Bill restrictions — but only for some troops](#)
(5 Sep) Military Times, By Natalie Gross
Earlier this year, the Department of Defense rolled out a change to its GI Bill transfer policy that would keep long-serving troops from passing those benefits on to their dependents. But now its walking back those restrictions for some service members, Pentagon officials announced.
10. [Feds shut down alleged 'copycat' military recruiting sites](#)
(6 Sep) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
The government has shut down at least eight "copycat" military recruiting websites run by companies accused of using deceptive practices to entice potential recruits into providing their personal information, then selling the information. The companies say they helped a network of 7,500 military recruiters across the services.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

11. [One Month After The Navy Lifted Its Ban, Sailors Are Embracing Their Natural Hair](#)
(23 Aug) Refinery29, By Thatiana Diaz
When Petty Officer 1st Class Jacquallynn Leak couldn't stand to wear her wig over her locs in the heat any longer, she set out to change the Navy hair regulations that required it.
12. ["I want to prove myself:" NC National Guard welcomes 1st female officers in infantry, armor branches](#)
(25 Aug) The Fayetteville Observer, By Drew Brooks
Second Lt. Ashley Hurd is no stranger to the armor world. For the past eight years, she's served as part of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, based in Clinton, as a track mechanic. But now, Hurd has a new role within the brigade. She is the unit's first female armor officer. And the first female armor officer in the North Carolina National.
13. [Commentary: Does 'Got your six' only pertain to men in the ranks?](#)
(27 Aug) Marine Corps Times, By Marine Sergeant in Iwakuni, Japan
Following the celebrating of the 100-year anniversary of women in the Marine Corps and the announcement of the first female infantry officer, 1st Lt. Marina Hierl, degrading comments appeared immediately, seething about women in the infantry and the fact they can wear the uniform at all.
14. [She Can Play: Women's Rise in Football](#)
(27 Aug) Fox Sports, Video Produced by Louis Ojeda Jr.
Four women share their passion to prove they can play a sport many in society believe only men should. This is the story of their individual struggles and determination to break through the glass ceiling in football.
15. [Army National Guard soldiers anxious over new PT test, gear shortfalls](#)
(29 Aug) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
Equipment requirements, logistics and training are on the minds of Army National Guard soldiers this year, as the Army prepares to roll out a new gender- and age-neutral fitness test.
16. [The US Open has been accused of sexism after a female tennis player was slapped with a code violation](#)
(29 Aug) Business Insider, By Alan Dawson
The US Open has been accused of sexism after a male umpire punished a female tennis player for something men frequently do without fear of sanctions.
17. [This staff sergeant is the first enlisted woman to earn a Ranger tab, and she's not in combat arms](#)
(31 Aug) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
The Army's Ranger school at Fort Benning, Georgia, holds a graduation every few weeks throughout the year, but Friday's marked an historic moment: One of the graduates was an enlisted woman, the first enlisted woman to earn the coveted Ranger tab.

18. [Navy sacks second submarine commander in 5 days](#)
(31 Aug) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
The commanding officer of the second submarine to integrate women into its previously all-male crews has been removed from his job, Navy leaders announced Friday. Capt. Gregory Kercher, who led the guided-missile submarine Florida's Gold crew, was relieved of his duties due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command.
19. [U.S. Army Ranger School Set to Graduate First Enlisted Woman](#)
(31 Aug) *Newsweek*, By James Laporta
Five years after former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta lifted the Pentagon's ban on women serving in combat roles, and three years after the U.S. Army opened its legendarily arduous Ranger School to women, the first enlisted female soldier will graduate from the small-unit tactics and leadership school Friday morning, *Newsweek* has learned.
20. [Naval Academy accepts longer hairstyles for women](#)
(4 Sep) *The Associated Press*, By Brian Witte
The U.S. Naval Academy is allowing female midshipmen to wear ponytails and other longer hairstyles. The regulation allows braids and ponytails in service, working and physical training uniforms. The width or diameter of hair buns can't extend beyond the width of the back of the head. The academy is stipulating that ponytails cannot be seen from the front.
21. ['Horny bastard' first sergeant had affair with female infantry private, Army says](#)
(5 Sep) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers
Critics said it was bound to happen, and, sure enough, it did. A company first sergeant began an affair with one of the first women to graduate from infantry basic training shortly after she reported to his newly integrated unit late last year. Junior enlisted women first reported to the 82nd's infantry units in late summer 2017, the final step in a "Leaders First" plan the Army rolled out as the Defense Department lifted the last restrictions on women serving in direct-combat jobs in early 2016.
22. [Army Wants Extended Training for Armor, Engineers, Other Combat Jobs](#)
(5 Sep) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
The commander of the U.S. Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence said Wednesday that basic training programs for combat arms specialties such as armor and engineers will soon start a pilot program similar to the one that is extending Infantry one station unit training to 22 weeks.
23. [355-Ship Navy Will Mean Extending Vessels Past Planned Lifespans: Admiral](#)
(5 Sep) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
Some of the Navy's ships could stay in service well beyond their scheduled lifespan as leaders look for ways to modernize existing vessels as part of a decades-long fleet buildup.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

24. [Bill To Address Sex Assaults Involving Military Families Moving Through Senate](#)
(23 Aug) *Military.com*, By Richard Sisk
The massive defense appropriations bill moving through the Senate includes legislation to curb the alarming occurrence of sexual assaults on bases involving military families, including dependent minors abusing their peers. The Military Family Protect Act, authored by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York, and co-sponsored by Sen. Thom Tillis, R-North Carolina, was aimed at improving "the military's response to child abuse and intimate partner violence and would strengthen prosecutions at each military installation or geographic region."
25. [Marine Corps general defends public remarks about 'fake news' and sex life jokes, report says](#)
(24 Aug) *USA Today*, By Tom Vanden Brook
The Marine general who branded stories about sexual harassment at his command as "fake news" and joked at a town hall about his sex life defended his remarks as appropriate, according to a Marine Corps internal investigation obtained by USA Today.
26. [Woman sues ex-husband, a Fort Bragg soldier, in revenge porn lawsuit](#)
(27 Aug) *The Associated Press*
A woman is suing her Special Forces major ex-husband, saying he posted online nude pictures she sent him privately when he was away because he didn't like paying child support. The ex-wife is also suing Kimberly Rae Barrett, the woman she said her

husband was having an affair with. Barrett is a lieutenant colonel and a doctor at Womack Army Medical Center, the hospital on Fort Bragg.

27. [**Air Force investigates report of child abuse at one of its child care centers**](#)

(28 Aug) Air Force Times, By Karen Jowers

Officials are investigating a report of child abuse at one of the child care centers at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The employee allegedly put on a blue glove, then “pinched and pulled” a 3-year-old child’s tongue because she wouldn’t listen, said the child’s father, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Tremayne Glover.

28. [**DoD scrutinizing the safety of its schools for military children**](#)

(29 Aug) Military Times, By Karen Jowers

Defense officials are reviewing an assessment, recently completed by DoD school officials, of the physical security of all their schools for military children. There have been a number of reviews in the past of the physical security and safety policies of DoDEA schools. This latest review was ordered about three months ago by the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

29. [**New Marine Corps Order Officially Bans Revenge Porn**](#)

(29 Aug) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

After Marines distributed nude photos of their female colleagues online, leaders are cracking down on some of the unsavory behavior in the ranks with a new service-wide order. The new order tightens accountability and specifies some of the behavior that could leave Marines on the fast track to separation. That includes hazing, abuse, retaliation, and wrongful distribution of intimate images.

30. [**Okinawa-based Marine pleads guilty to sexual assault, drug charges**](#)

(29 Aug) Stars and Stripes, By Matthew M. Burke

A member of the III Marine Expeditionary Force pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual assault. Pvt. Jordan Rhodes, 22, of Bolingbrook, Ill., had been charged with the rape of a female Marine who was under the influence of alcohol and unable to consent, according to a copy of the charge sheet provided to Stars and Stripes.

31. [**Two men charged with sexual assault on planes amid increase in similar reports, prosecutor says**](#)

(31 Aug) The Washington Post, By Lindsey Bever

“Reports of sexual assaults on aircraft are increasing, and we want the public to know these assaults are federal crimes and will be investigated and prosecuted consistent with the law,” U.S. Attorney Annette L. Hayes said in a statement. “We urge the flying public to report assaults to airline personnel and law enforcement and assist victims who need help.”

32. [**The Navy’s top lawyer unlawfully scuttled a SEAL’s case, court rules**](#)

(6 Sep) Navy Times, By Carl Prine

Designed to buttress the public’s perception of the military criminal justice system, the majority’s decision raises hard questions about “the political climate surrounding sexual assault” caused by the “increased scrutiny by Congress as well as other political and military leaders” on commanders who convene court-martial cases but also go through Capitol Hill, the Pentagon and the White House to get promoted.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

33. [**Military Sexual Assault Victims May Have Been Denied Benefits For An Infuriating Reason**](#)

(23 Aug) Bustle, By Lauren Holter

While reports of military sexual trauma have been on the rise in recent years, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may have denied benefits to sexual assault victims due to clerical errors, according to a report released by the department’s inspector general this week. The agency improperly processed as many as 1,300 sexual trauma claims between April and September 2017 - meaning 49 percent of denials issued during that time may have wrongly kept veterans in need of PTSD benefits from accessing the appropriate care.

34. [**First female Commanding General promoted to lead Fort Leonard Wood**](#)

(28 Aug) KMOV4, By Emily Pritchard

Major General Donna Martin was promoted to U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood’s Commanding General Tuesday morning. She is the first woman to hold the title since the post has been in operation for nearly 80 years.

35. [Command Senior Enlisted Leader Assignment](#)
(29 Aug) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-251-18)
The Office of the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced today the following assignment: Army Command Sgt. Major Tomeka N. O'Neal, currently assigned as the command sergeant major for Headquarters, U.S. Army Joint Munitions Lethality and Lifecycle Management Command; and Joint Munitions Command, Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, has been selected to replace Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Stuart M. Allison as the senior enlisted advisor for the Defense Commissary Agency, Fort Lee, Virginia.
36. [Navy officer dies in motorcycle crash](#)
(30 Aug) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezuiewicz
Cmdr. Erin M. Simmons, 42, died Aug. 21 after an off-duty mishap in Ensenada, a Mexican coastal city about two hours' drive from San Diego, where records show she was stationed. What exactly happened to Simmons remains unclear.
37. [Face of Defense: Guard Soldier Uses Medical Skills to Save Boy's Life](#)
(31 Aug) New York National Guard, By Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis
National Guard members spend countless hours every year training for the next big mission. For Army Spc. Nicole McKenzie, that mission wasn't overseas -- it was just below an overpass on her way home from the Yonkers armory.
38. [General Officer Assignment](#)
(4 Sep) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-255-18)
The chief of staff, Army announces the following officer assignment: Brig. Gen. Susan E. Henderson, U.S. Army Reserve, deputy commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 79th Theater Sustainment Command, Los Alamitos, California, to director, CJ4, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Inherent Resolve, Kuwait.
39. [Fired Osan colonel demanded dog park at her quarters, investigation found](#)
(6 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
Several Osan airmen felt Col. Kerry Proulx improperly leaned on them to build a dog park right up against her back deck. The report also found that Proulx improperly allowed five subordinates and one subordinate's spouse to buy her meals.

WOMEN VETERANS

40. [Filming begins on WASP documentary](#)
(11 Aug) General Aviation News, By Staff
This new film about the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) is part of the larger Rise Above education initiative created by the Commemorative Air Force museum. WASP will detail the story of the first women to fly for the United States Armed Forces, the WASP, during World War II.
41. [Veteran works to heal and empower service women after own combat experience](#)
(16 Aug) ConnectingVets.com, By Antonietta Rico
For former Army Capt. Wella Jay, there was no returning to normal after her deployment to Afghanistan, working alongside a Marine Special Operations Teams (MSOT) as a Cultural Support Team (CST) member. "What frustrated me most is that people were under the impression that, because I'm a woman, I couldn't have served on the front lines," she said. She felt alone. It was at the CST workshop, hosted by Women In International Security (WIIS), that Wella felt she had a safe environment to talk and where she learned that she wasn't alone.
42. [They Were America's First Female Soldiers. Now They're Getting The Recognition They Deserve](#)
(22 Aug) Task & Purpose, By Julie Zeilinger
When Grace Banker graduated from Barnard College in 1915, women did not yet have the right vote. But lacking this basic right didn't stop Banker from serving her country — and breaking barriers in the process. Yet despite this service — and despite taking a military oath —the Hello Girls were denied veteran status and benefits when they returned home.
43. [Veterans can now file class-action lawsuits against VA](#)
(24 Aug) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
The move could allow groups of veterans to sue the department and force additional action on a host of benefits and programming issues.

44. [**From 'Boots to Books': How tailored college classes help vets in transition**](#)
(24 Aug) *Military Times*, By Natalie Gross
A first-year program offered at some California community colleges is designed to help veterans transition from military to civilian life, emphasizing skills needed to succeed in college, as well as more complex issues such as anger management and post-traumatic stress.
45. [**Female Vets Running for Congress Find Service Records Under Attack**](#)
(26 Aug) *The New Hampshire Union Leader*, By Kevin Landrigan
Two female congressional candidates are defending their military service after they were criticized for using the word "combat" in their political campaigns. "This attack comes from someone who clearly doesn't understand or value the role of women in the military," Maura Sullivan a Marine captain in Iraq responded.
46. [**Base bridge to be named after Delawarean killed in Iraq**](#)
(29 Aug) *The Associated Press*
The bridge on Dover Air Force Base will be named after a Delaware airman who was killed in action in 2007. The bridge which connects the base's main gate with base housing, will be named in honor of Senior Airman Elizabeth A. Loncki. Loncki disarmed more than 20 explosive devices during her service on an explosive ordnance disposal team in Iraq. The New Castle native was 23 when she was killed in a car bombing near Baghdad.
47. [**A surge of female veterans running for Congress gives the 'pink wave' a camouflage tint**](#)
(2 Sep) *ABC News*, By Quinn Scanlan
A record number of women are running this year, presenting a possible shift in a Congress that is currently only 20 percent female. It's been called a "pink wave," but it may have a camouflage tint. Nearly a dozen female veterans are among the women who have won their parties' nominations. Currently only four female veterans are serving in Congress – Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, and Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz.