



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

### Articles of Interest

1 February 2019

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#### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [SpecOps recruiting squadron helps Air Force combat 'runaway attrition'](#)  
*(17 Jan) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk*  
With the help of a new recruiting squadron, the U.S. Air Force is getting a better sense of what type of airmen are needed for the next dynamic conflict. The service established its first Special Operations Recruiting Squadron last year to find next-generation combat airmen.
2. [Reports of violence and unmet goals persist at National Guard-run military academy](#)  
*(25 Jan) The Virginian-Pilot, By Peter Coutu*  
Twice a year, more than a hundred troubled teens arrive at Camp Pendleton. During their 22 weeks at the Commonwealth ChalleNge Youth Academy — run by the National Guard — students go to classes, sleep in barracks built in the 1930s, wake before dawn and battle through grueling physical training. Several incidents reveal the tense, and occasionally violent, environment at the academy. In 2016, the most recent inspection, the National Guard Bureau assessment uncovered 14 findings, including that staff was violating the hands-off policy, which included a report of a female student being choked. In 2018, a 17-year-old girl said the staff member punched her in the face. The academy's next inspection will be in April.
3. [Navy chief touts recruiting as part of larger design for maritime superiority](#)  
*(28 Jan) GovExec, By Charles S. Clark*  
The U.S. Navy, which is graduating 40,000 trained recruits every year, "is the most talented Navy we have on record," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said on Monday.
4. [After a rough 2018, Army recruiting is trying to turn around both its strategies and its notorious culture](#)  
*(29 Jan) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
There's really no way to sugarcoat it: Being an Army recruiter is a grueling, frustrating job, and many noncommissioned officers who get that selection phone call dread the cutting of those new orders.
5. [How will Japan defend itself, if it can't get its youth to serve?](#)  
*(30 Jan) Military Times, By Tara Copp*  
With population aging and youth uninterested in military, who will defend Japan?
6. [The Army's recruiting force is finally fully manned. Soon, leaders hope, they won't need so many.](#)  
*(31 Jan) Army Times, By Meghann Myers*  
The Army's recruiting force is operating at capacity with about 8,000 billets filled, after last year saw an average gap of about 400 personnel. A final push — with an offer of \$1,500 extra pay a month to extend orders — got the force balanced by a Jan. 15 deadline set by the Army chief of staff.

#### EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

7. [When Honest Women Replace 'Self-Made' Men](#)  
*(11 Jan) The New York Times, By Jill Filipovic*  
Female politicians show that rising to power is a group effort.

8. [Studies show that countries with more women in government have healthier populations](#)  
(11 Jan) *Business Insider*, By Edwin Ng and Carles Muntaner  
Compared to their male counterparts, female politicians are more likely to hold left-wing attitudes (with regard to issues such as civil rights, social equality, and egalitarianism) and substantively advance women's rights in areas such as pay equity, violence against women, health care, and family policy. Also, research has shown that women in government tend to work in more collaborative and bipartisan ways and employ a more democratic leadership style compared to men's more autocratic style. Women are also more effective at building coalitions and reaching consensus.
9. [Sarah Thomas to become the first woman to officiate an NFL playoff game](#)  
(12 Jan) *CNN*, By Doug Criss and Jill Martin  
Sarah Thomas keeps making history. She was the first woman to ever officiate a college football bowl game. Then she became the NFL's first full-time female official. Now she's reached another milestone. She's the first woman to officiate an NFL playoff game.
10. [How more women on cybersecurity teams can create advantages](#)  
(17 Jan) *Fifth Domain*, By Meredith Rutland Bauer  
Renee Beckloff never envisioned that the first part of her cybersecurity career would include an expectation to trace electrical wires while in a skirt. Yet, it was common for her bosses to require her to wear skirts while out of the office, even if it meant bending down awkwardly on a raised floor to seek out wire sources.
11. [Women in the military draft, or dump the system altogether? New report looks at radical options](#)  
(23 Jan) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III  
The Selective Service System could start including women in its lists for possible future military drafts in the next few years.
12. [More Army combat arms specialties will soon see extended training](#)  
(24 Jan) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk  
The Army is looking to extend entry-level training for armor, cavalry and other combat arms specialties as early as this fall, according to the service's top civilian.
13. [A better, safer, less expensive alternative to the new Army PT test?](#)  
(24 Jan) *Army Times*, By Lee Kind  
Is the Army Combat Fitness Test the right direction for our Army, or is there a better, safer, less expensive option?
14. [UAE gender equality awards... are all won by men](#)  
(28 Jan) *CNN*, By Jack Guy  
And the winner is... men. That might sound unlikely at an awards ceremony to promote gender equality, but it's exactly what happened in the United Arab Emirates.
15. [Army Reserve chief: Manning, fitness test challenges are under control](#)  
(29 Jan) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers  
While it is in the midst of a "renaissance," as it's been characterized by Army Secretary Mark Esper, the smallest component of the Army has strained to meet the demands of initiatives to grow a bigger, more lethal force.
16. [Toni Harris, featured in Super Bowl ad, aspires to be 1st female NFL player](#)  
(29 Jan) *CBS This Morning*  
Toyota's new Super Bowl commercial features a college player who wants to make NFL history. Toni Harris is a defensive back for the East Los Angeles College Huskies and in addition to playing football in high school she was the homecoming queen. Yep, she.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

17. [I Spent My Fertile Years Training to Be a Surgeon. Now, It Might Be Too Late for Me to Have a Baby](#)  
(3 Jan) *Time*, By Arghavan Salles  
I am writing about my experience and opening up to my younger colleagues, encouraging them to make a plan for their family, and embarking on research to understand the burden of infertility.

18. [\*\*Americans aren't making enough babies to replace ourselves\*\*](#)  
(10 Jan) NBC News, By Linda Carroll and Shamard Charles, M.D.  
Government researchers did not offer an explanation, but experts cited factors including changing economics and fewer teen pregnancies.
19. [\*\*Lack of paid family leave, support at work partly to blame for 30-year low in fertility rates: Experts\*\*](#)  
(12 Jan) ABC News, By Kaelyn Forde  
When sociology professor Caitlyn Collins set out to interview 135 middle-class women in Sweden, Germany, Italy and the U.S. about how they make motherhood work with their careers, she was surprised by what set American women apart. The financial and emotional obstacles mothers face were brought to the fore this week after a new report found that American women aren't having enough babies to replace the current population, and the nation's total fertility rate has hit a 30-year low.
20. [\*\*Gillette's New Ad On Toxic Masculinity Is Breathtaking — And Necessary\*\*](#)  
(14 Jan) Scary Mommy, By Christina Marfice  
The #MeToo movement has opened a lot of conversations about the way men treat women. We know it's up to men to change their behavior, but women have been saying that for generations. We need men to hold other men accountable. Enter Gillette's powerful new ad that asks them to do exactly that.
21. [\*\*Military women report they are being denied access to birth control for 'ridiculous' reasons that may violate Pentagon policy\*\*](#)  
(18 Jan) Business Insider, By Caitlin Foster  
A startling new survey found that 26% of active-duty women are unable to access birth control while deployed. These benefits are not being ignored by the Department of Defense, which said it would be a violation of service members' privacy if their commander denied them access to birth control.
22. [\*\*Army doubles parental leave for secondary caregivers\*\*](#)  
(25 Jan) Military.com, By Patricia Kime  
The Army has finally followed the lead of the other armed services in updating its parental and adoption leave policies, which now include flexibility in deciding which parent receives primary caregiver leave.
23. [\*\*Sailor charged for shooting wife in the face\*\*](#)  
(25 Jan) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz  
A Virginia-based sailor was arrested this week for fatally shooting his wife, a former sailor, during a domestic dispute, according to police and Navy officials.
24. [\*\*New Army leave policy more flexible after childbirth, gives three weeks off to fathers\*\*](#)  
(28 Jan) Army Times, By Meghann Myers  
New parents in the Army can take advantage of a revamped parental leave policy that went into effect in a Jan. 22 memo.
25. [\*\*A disgraced former Green Beret is on trial for allegedly beating his wife, but allegations from two other women are going unanswered\*\*](#)  
(28 Jan) Army Times, By Meghann Myers  
The report was initiated after allegations came to light of numerous extramarital relationships with at least 10 women. According to the investigation, that included two Army reservists, a National Guard noncommissioned officer, and an NCO with 7th Group's support battalion.
26. [\*\*Fort Bragg soldiers face federal charges in sham marriage scheme\*\*](#)  
(29 Jan) Army Times, By Meghann Myers  
Three Fort Bragg soldiers have been implicated in a scam to marry female soldiers off to immigrants and exchange legal residency for cash and benefits.
27. [\*\*DOD Releases Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies, Academic Program Year 2017-2018\*\*](#)  
(31 Jan) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-019-19)  
Today, the Department of Defense released the Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies, Academic Program Year 2017-2018. This Congressionally-mandated report evaluates policies and programs addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment at the department's three academies. This year, the department reviewed self-assessments provided by each academy and included results from a biennial survey of cadets and midshipmen.

28. [Academy sex assaults up 47% since 2016, DoD estimates](#)  
(31 Jan) *Military Times*, By Tara Copp  
The number of unwanted sexual encounters for cadets at the nation's service academies has risen sharply in the last two years, the Defense Department said, which raises alarms that current efforts to create a safer atmosphere on those campuses have failed.
29. [US Army statement on DoD report on sexual harassment and violence at the military service academies](#)  
(31 Jan) *Army News*, By Secretary of the Army, Dr. Mark T. Esper and Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Mark A. Milley  
The Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence at military service academies, covering 2017 and early 2018, is troubling and disappointing. There is no room in the U.S. Army for sexual harassment or sexual assault. This is a readiness issue that affects our ability to prepare to fight and win our Nation's wars as much as it is an issue of values.
30. [Maternity ward at Langley Air Force Base to close — but pregnant women aren't being told why](#)  
(31 Jan) *The Virginia-Pilot*, By Katherine Hafner  
Pregnant servicemembers and military spouses in Hampton Roads say they are scrambling to find doctors to deliver their babies after officials at Langley Air Force Base Hospital told them its maternity ward is closing.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

31. [Army welcomes first female CSM at Human Resources Command](#)  
(17 Jan) *Army News*, By Master Sgt. Brian Hamilton  
Command Sgt. Maj. Lynice Thorpe-Noel assumed responsibility of the Army's Human Resources Command (HRC) Thursday, as its first female senior enlisted advisor.
32. [DOD Identifies Three Operation Inherent Resolve Casualties](#)  
(18 Jan) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE* (No. NR-012-19)  
The Department of Defense announced today the deaths of one soldier, one sailor and one DOD civilian who were supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. Among the deceased includes Navy Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Shannon M. Kent, 35, of upstate New York. Kent was assigned to Cryptologic Warfare Activity 66, based at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. The incident is under investigation.
33. [Sailor killed in bombing leaves behind a husband and two children](#)  
(18 Jan) *The Associated Press*, By Chris Carola  
One of the four Americans killed in a suicide bomb attack in Syria this week was a Navy sailor and married mother of two whose father is a high-ranking officer in the New York State Police, officials said Friday.
34. [Family of fallen Navy linguist fights regulation that forced her deployment to Syria](#)  
(30 Jan) *Stars & Stripes*, By Claudia Grisales  
Navy Chief Petty Officer Shannon Mary Kent wasn't supposed to be in Syria. Last year, the 35-year-old mother of two was slated to attend a clinical psychology doctoral program near Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. But an obscure Navy rule and a previous bout of cancer derailed those plans and led to her fifth combat deployment instead. She was killed less than two months later. Now, her family wants to finish the fight started by Kent to undo the regulation.

## WOMEN VETERANS

35. [No, they're not invisible anymore. New photo exhibit puts a face on women veterans](#)  
(18 Jan) *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, By Meg Jones  
On Thursday, women posed for portraits in a makeshift studio set up at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center for an initiative recognizing the value of women veterans. Wisconsin is the latest state to participate in the "I Am Not Invisible" project honoring female veterans for their service.
36. [New House Armed Services committee sees an influx of veterans, women](#)  
(20 Jan) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III and Joe Gould  
This year's House Armed Services Committee will feature more veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan than ever before, and also boasts its largest contingent of female veterans crafting defense policy.

37. [\*\*She was an original': Rosemary Mariner, groundbreaking Navy aviator, dies at 65\*\*](#)

*(30 Jan) Stars and Stripes*

Rosemary Mariner, who was one of the first group of female aviators in the Navy and continued to break barriers throughout her career, died Thursday at the age of 65.

38. [\*\*Navy to honor first female fighter pilot with female-piloted flyover at funeral\*\*](#)

*(30 Jan) USNI News, By Megan Eckstein*

The Navy will say goodbye to its first female fighter pilot with its first all-female flyover.