



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

13 September 2019



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. **[Plastic Army Women Project](#)**

(30 Aug) BMC Toys, By Jeff Imel

I've been kicking around the idea for a set of female toy soldiers with friends and family for at least 3 years. Everyone liked the idea, but a new set of original figures is a big project, so I put the idea on the back burner, until...June of 2018 I received an email from [FLTCM JoAnn Ortloff]. She was looking for female toy soldiers for her granddaughters, and made a compelling case for why Plastic Army Women should be produced.

2. **[Wait, where are all the women?](#)**

(3 Sep) Defense News, By Jill Aitoro

But not including our own editorial team, we have only three women participating in the Defense News Conference. Candidly, that's pretty unacceptable. Diversity can only be achieved for real when it permeates an entire institution, usually from the bottom up.

3. **['Team Richardson:' Married three-star generals say teamwork is critical for dual-military families](#)**

(4 Sep) Army Times, By Diana Stancy Correll

How do dual-military couples succeed in their careers? According to Army aviators James and Laura Richardson — who are both lieutenant generals — teamwork is the key.

4. **[Recruiting Cyber Workforce Easier Than Retaining Them](#)**

(9 Sep) DoD News, By David Vergun

The military is doing a great job recruiting cyber talent into military and civilian service, but retention is more difficult, said the deputy assistant secretary of defense for cyber policy said.

5. **[The changing profile of the U.S. military: Smaller in size, more diverse, more women in leadership](#)**

(10 Sep) Pew Research Center, By Amanda Barroso

Today's active duty military is smaller and more racially and ethnically diverse than in previous generations. The gender dynamics also have changed over the course of the past 50 years, with more women serving in the military – and as ranking officers – in 2017 than ever before.

6. **[New Coast Guard Academy superintendent pushes reforms](#)**

(11 Sep) The Associated Press

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy's new superintendent is pushing to create a more equitable and inclusive campus. Rear Adm. William G. Kelly says the academy has made progress regarding the student body's diversity, but he questions if the campus is inclusive. Kelly was appointed amid a congressional probe into the campus' handling of discrimination and harassment complaints.

7. **[Is it time for a new look at weight and recruitment standards?](#)**

(11 Sep) Army Times, By Capt. Kira P. Heartwick

With nearly one in three young adults considered too overweight to enter into military service, would-be recruits are taking drastic measures to lose weight and join the military.

8. **[Born in the wake of 9/11, teen enlists in the Navy](#)**

(11 Sep) The Associated Press

Sept. 11, 2001 has always been part of Tierney Crutcher's life story. It was the day her mother went into labor with her. She says as a kid, she thought the military was only the Army and shooting people. A military career became appealing as she learned more about the different branches and choices.



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EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

9. [There are more single working women than ever, and that's changing the US economy](#)
(29 Aug) *CNN Business*, By Anneken Tappe
The proportion of single women in the workforce is likely to grow as more women get bachelor's degrees, marry later and wait until they're older to have children. About 80% of single women between the ages of 25 and 54 are working or seeking employment. And as the workforce changes, corporations will have to rethink how they can support employees. One of the biggest barriers that remains for female workers is access to childcare.
10. [Marines voice their opinions on how to improve their service's physical fitness programs](#)
(30 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By Carlos M. Vazquez II
The Marine Corps Force Fitness Division has been asking Marines and the civilians who work with them for ideas for possible changes to the Corps' physical fitness programs.
11. [Female Airman earns a Ranger tab](#)
(30 Aug) *AFIMSC Public Affairs*, By Vicki Stein
This week, Air Force 1st Lt. Chelsey Hibsich joined those ranks and became the first Air Force female Airman to earn the tab. She pinned on her tab at the Army's Ranger school graduation held at Fort Benning, Georgia.
12. [This branch takes the cake as the US military's fattest](#)
(3 Sep) *Military Times*, By J. D. Simkins
Sailors need remedial physical training. That could be one just one of many conclusions drawn by a recent Department of Defense study that found the Navy earned the dubious honor of surpassing all other branches in its rate of obese personnel.
13. [Mattis still has concerns about women serving in combat units](#)
(3 Sep) *Military.com*, By Richard Sisk
Former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis suggested Tuesday that the nation should think again about putting young men and women together in ground combat units at a time when they tend to "grow very fond of one another."
14. [Mattis: Military leaders must be prepared to deal with sexual relationships as women integrate into combat roles](#)
(3 Sep) *The Hill*, By Olivia Beavers
Former Defense Secretary James Mattis stressed during an event Tuesday that military leadership must be equipped to deal with integrating women into rifle platoons, particularly if male and female soldiers form sexual relationships.
15. [Video: Air Force 1st Lt. breaks barrier for women airmen in Ranger school](#)
(5 Sep) *Military Times Video*
More than 64 years after the Rangers first started accepting airmen, 1st Lt. Chelsey Hibsich became the first female Air Force member to earn the tab last month. She pinned it on at the Army Ranger School graduation at Fort Benning, Ga., on Aug. 30.
16. [What the Army and Navy can learn from the Air Force's female secretaries](#)
(11 Sep) *Air Force Magazine*, By Rachel S. Cohen
The Air Force may soon welcome its third consecutive female secretary at a time when the nation has yet to see a woman as Army or Navy secretary or as secretary of defense.



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WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

17. [Hawaii prosecutors subpoena Army records of complaints about babysitter before baby's death](#)
(4 Sep) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
Prosecutors in Hawaii are digging into complaints the Army received about a babysitter in military housing before the death of a baby in her care at Aliamanu Military Reservation. Denise Villa, a Navy wife, was not licensed or authorized to care for children in her home, and that base officials had also ordered her to stop providing child care in her home multiple times.
18. [Navy seeks review of court decision to toss Marine's sexual assault conviction](#)
(4 Sep) Stars & Stripes, By Nancy Montgomery
A Marine master sergeant's sexual assault conviction that was overturned because of invalid search warrants should be reinstated, the Navy said in a filing to the nation's highest military court. The victim, a sergeant, testified that she had gone to Master Sgt. Roberto Armendariz's office after morning physical training so he could help her, as they'd agreed, to roll her uniform blouse sleeves. She said he locked the office door and sexually assaulted her.
19. [Navy's top auditor to retire under sexual harassment allegations](#)
(5 Sep) Bloomberg, By Anthony Capaccio
The Navy's auditor general, under investigation by the Pentagon's inspector general for alleged sexual harassment, has told his staff he plans to retire and has been transferred in the meantime. Ronnie J. Booth has been accused of a "pattern of harassment, retaliation and hostility in the workplace" that has been "documented at length in multiple sources" dating to 2007.
20. [Air Force Academy cadet faces trial on sexual assault charge](#)
(6 Sep) The Associated Press
A third-year cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy faces a court-martial on a sexual assault charge.
21. [Two years after nude photo scandal, Marines assess gender issues in the Corps](#)
(7 Sep) Military.com, By Gina Harkins
New Marine Corps survey data could give leaders a glimpse into whether women and others feel protected from discrimination two years after a nude-photo scandal exposed the way some men were mistreating their female colleagues. The Marine Corps also continues to grapple with having the military's worst record of sexual assaults against women, with an incidence rate of nearly 11%.
22. [What I wish I'd known about sexual assault in the military](#)
(October 2019 Issue) The Atlantic, By Sandra Sidi
For women, fending off unwanted male attention is the job that never ends. Since then there has been a substantial drop in incidents: from approximately 34,200 in 2006 to 14,900 in 2016, based on a confidential survey. Yet recent data suggest that the number has risen, with 20,500 victims of sexual assault in 2018. Service members were somewhat less likely to report an assault in 2018 than they were in 2016, based on comparing figures in the confidential survey with reported incidents.
23. [Once an inspirational figure in the Navy, chief loses anchors](#)
(10 Sep) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
Because he committed adultery and carried on an "unduly familiar" personal and sexual relationship with a female junior sailor assigned to his command, a Navy chief lost his anchors last week, according to military officials and legal filings.



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SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

24. [Country music singer becomes first woman to land job as Marine Corps vocalist](#)
(29 Aug) *The OCR*, By Erika I. Ritchie
Megan Browning already had made her mark in country music. Her band, Harley Boone, played sold-out shows at state fairs and music festivals and opened for recording artist Justin Moore. But, somehow, it wasn't enough. "I knew that the military had bands and I thought in some capacity maybe I could serve my country and use my talents."
25. [Face of Defense: From 'American Idol' to American Airman](#)
(29 Aug) *Know Your Military*, By Katie Lange
Nalani Quintello quit "American Idol" to be in the U.S. Air Force – that's how excited she was to join up. Now, she's serving her country as the lead singer of Max Impact, the service's six-member rock band.
26. [An Army first: Two sisters attain general's rank](#)
(5 Sep) *USA Today*, By Tom Vanden Brook
Maj. Gen. Maria Barrett and younger sister Brig. Gen. Paula Lodi are each accomplished in their own fields. But together they have become the first two sisters, the Army believes, to attain the general's rank in the service's 244-year history.
27. [These are the first sisters to attain the rank of general, Army says](#)
(9 Sep) *Army Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll
For the first time in the Army's history, two sisters have attained the rank of general, the service said.

WOMEN VETERANS

28. [VA and DoD collaboration offers women's health transition training](#)
(3 Sep) *VA Blog*
A new VA and DoD collaboration offers a virtual option for the Women's Health Transition Training Program. The program provides service women with a deeper understanding of the women's health services available to them within the VA health care system and how to navigate the VA enrollment process.
29. [97-year-old San Diegan honored for her Marine Corps legacy](#)
(6 Sep) *ABC 10*, By Amanda Brandeis
Just days after her 97th birthday, a San Diego woman was honored for being a trailblazer in the Marine Corps. Sgt. Maj. Grace Carle's love for her country is apparent in her impressive resume. The retired Marine served during WWII, the Korean War, and Vietnam.
30. [The VA is investigating allegations that one of its physicians sexually assaulted 'more than a dozen' patients](#)
(9 Sep) *Task & Purpose*, By James Clark
A Veterans Affairs medical center in West Virginia is being investigated over allegations that one of its physicians sexually assaulted more than a dozen patients.
31. [Edith R. 'Roddy' Esslinger, Army nurse who served in World War II and the Korean War, dies](#)
(9 Sep) *Baltimore Sun*, By Staff
Edith R. "Roddy" Esslinger, an Army nurse who served in World War II and the Korean War and who went on to a postwar career as a nurse anesthetist, died Wednesday of heart failure at her Parkville home. She was 99.



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32. [Why younger veterans more likely to struggle after leaving the military](#)

(10 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III

Younger veterans are more likely than previous generations of service members to report problems readjusting to civilian life, with about 1 in 6 calling the transition very difficult, according to a new PEW released survey.

33. [House lawmakers aim to provide free birth control for female veterans](#)

(11 Sep) Stars and Stripes, By Nikki Wentling

House lawmakers considered legislation Wednesday that would eliminate copayments for female veterans when they receive their birth control through the Department of Veterans Affairs — extending them the same benefit available to most women through public and private insurers.