



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 March 2019

DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [DACOWITS Releases 2018 Annual Report](#)

(11 Mar) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (NR-047-19)

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) released its 2018 annual report on March 11, 2019. Based upon the data collected and analyzed, the Committee submitted nine recommendations and one continuing concern to the Secretary of Defense.

2. [Panel Recommends Expanding Women's Transition Program](#)

(11 Mar) Air Force Magazine, By Rachel S. Cohen

An Air Force pilot program that introduces women leaving Active Duty to health services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs should be replicated across the armed forces, according to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services' latest report. The Committee also found the Navy and Marine Corps should give children's "secondary caregivers" 21 days of leave to match the Air Force.

3. [Report: Specialized protective equipment, family leave among issues affecting female servicemembers](#)

(11 Mar) Stars & Stripes, By Caitlin M. Kenney

Providing female service members with properly fitted protective equipment and encouraging the Department of Veterans Affairs to change its motto are among the recommendations laid out in an annual report to the secretary of defense.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

4. [Why Big Navy wants to do more to retain sailors](#)

(4 Mar) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram

Last year, the Navy retained 78 percent of its reenlistment-eligible sailors in uniform, the best retention rate in more than a decade — but the sea service's top uniformed personnel officer say that's not good enough.

5. [Why the Marines are throwing big cash bonuses at infantry squad leaders](#)

(5 Mar) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

Marine officials are reminding squad leaders that there are big bucks for those willing to re-enlist as the service continues its push to professionalize the infantry.

6. [Here's how much money soldiers can get for going \(or staying\) recruiter](#)

(6 Mar) Army Times, By Meghann Myers

The Army's treading water to keep recruiting stations manned, even after filling a 400-billet gap it battled throughout 2018.

7. [Hundreds of immigrant recruits risk 'death sentence' after Army bungles data, lawmaker says](#)

(7 Mar) Washington Post, By Alex Horton

Army officials inadvertently disclosed sensitive information of hundreds of immigrant recruits from nations such as China and Russia, in a breach that could aid hostile governments in persecuting them or their families, a lawmaker and former U.S. officials said.

8. [Pentagon faces internal questions about program to screen recruits with foreign ties, emails show](#)
(12 Mar) *Washington Post*, By Dan Lamothe
A Pentagon program designed to screen potential recruits with foreign ties, including green-card holders and some U.S. citizens, has prompted questions from military officials about whether it will have detrimental effects on the services, according to emails and documents obtained by The Washington Post.
9. [Air Force budget calls for 510K airmen; 1,480 new pilots in 2020](#)
(12 Mar) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
The Air Force's proposed fiscal 2020 budget would grow the total force to 510,600 active, Guard and Reserve airmen.
10. [The Corps seeks Reaper drones in budget request, but will only add 100 Marines in 2020](#)
(12 Mar) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
The Corps plans to only grow by 100 Marines to 186,200 in fiscal year 2020, but that investment focuses on Marines with high-end skills and weapons and tech for the modern battlefield.
11. [New Pentagon transgender policy sets limits for treatment, new recruits after April 12](#)
(13 Mar) *The Associated Press*, By Lolita C. Baldor
The Defense Department has approved a new policy that will largely bar transgender troops and military recruits from transitioning to another sex, and require most individuals to serve in their birth gender.
12. [About 21,000 troops booted so far under 'deploy or get out' policy](#)
(14 Mar) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
About 21,000 nondeployable troops have been forced out of the ranks since the Defense Department's "deploy or get out" policy began last summer, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan announced on Thursday.
13. [After 2018's recruiting shortfall, it will take a lot longer to build the Army to 500K](#)
(14 Mar) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers
After a Herculean effort to get the active-duty force up to 476,000 in 2017, the Army hit a stall in 2018: Tasked to grow by another 7,500 troops, the service ended up breaking even.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

14. [Air Force May Have Its First Female Battlefield Airman This Spring](#)
(28 Feb) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk
The U.S. Air Force is hopeful it could have its first female battlefield airman this spring. In written testimony before the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on personnel, Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, said one woman is making her way through the grueling challenges of Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) training.
15. [This unit will be the first to get the Army's newest helmet, body armor kit](#)
(5 Mar) *Army Times*, By Todd South
The Army has completed a major overhaul of its body armor, helmet and protective gear in recent years and will field the first batches of that gear beginning with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division this month.
16. [Twenty-five Years of Women Aboard Combatant Vessels](#)
(7 Mar) *Naval History and Heritage Command*, By Adam Bisno
On 7 March 1994, the first women to serve aboard a U.S. combatant ship received their assignments from the Navy.
17. [NASA is preparing for first all-female spacewalk](#)
(7 Mar) *ABC Radio*
A trio of ladies will take three giant leaps forward for women in space later this month. NASA has announced the first-ever all-female spacewalk will take place on March 29, right at the end of Women's History Month. NASA astronaut Anne McClain joined NASA in 2013, the year NASA's astronaut class was 50 percent female. She is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and has been stationed at the International Space Station since December.

18. [Lieutenants, appearing soon at an Army basic training platoon near you](#)
(8 Mar) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers
Step by step, the Army has been overhauling its basic training enterprise over the past year. First came a new program of instruction at Fort Jackson, then a pilot extension of infantry one-station unit training and the return of drill sergeants to advanced individual training.
19. [In 'Captain Marvel,' Air Force leaders see tribute to the spirit of female airmen](#)
(8 Mar) *Defense News*, By Valerie Insinna
The new "Captain Marvel" film has sparked an online backlash for featuring the Marvel cinematic universe's first solo female superhero, an Air Force F-15C pilot named Carol Danvers.
20. [Before resigning, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson irked Trump](#)
(8 Mar) *Foreign Policy*, By Lara Seligman
Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson submitted her resignation to U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday, bringing to a close months of speculation over whether she would be nominated for Secretary of Defense. She vexed the president with her independence.
21. [I helped open all military jobs to women. We can't go backward.](#)
(11 Mar) *The Washington Post*, By Leon E. Panetta
Six years ago, I had the honor of ending the final vestige of overt gender discrimination in the government, when, along with then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, we opened all military jobs to qualified women. People often ask me whether the decision to put women on the front lines of combat was a difficult one. It was not. When we made the decision, many women were already serving in combat zones. Moreover, the military has a responsibility to uphold the most fundamental American value of equality of opportunity for all.
22. [The US Navy will hit a milestone ship count in 2020; pours money into sailors, subs and unmanned tech](#)
(12 Mar) *Defense News*, By David B. Larter
The U.S. Navy will pass the 300 ships mark for the first time since 2002, according to its fiscal 2020 budget submission, a big step toward its current goal of 355 ships and a sign the service, after decades of contracting, is growing yet again.
23. [The new MEU: How the Corps is changing missions for grunts](#)
(12 Mar) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
The Marine Expeditionary Unit is floating force in readiness — hauling grunts, aircraft and tactical vehicles to rapidly respond around the globe.
24. [Spec ops in trouble: Mired in scandal and under Pentagon review, what will it take to clean house?](#)
(13 Mar) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers
Something has gone off track at U.S. Special Operations Command. Operators have been investigated for, or convicted of, spousal murder, sexual assault, child rape, domestic battery and drug smuggling, or have taken their own lives.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

25. [Bagram air wing gets poor reviews on sexual assault response](#)
(1 Mar) *Stars & Stripes*, By J. P. Lawrence
An Air Force combat wing at Bagram Air Field has received poor reviews in how it responded to sexual assault among deployed airmen last year, which some advocates said was a troubling issue at the U.S. military's largest base in Afghanistan.
26. [Survey: rise in sexual abuse, harassment of female cadets at Coast Guard Academy](#)
(4 Mar) *CT Mirror*, By Ana Radelat
The survey found that gender discrimination at the Coast Guard Academy rose from 11 percent in the 2016 report to 17 percent in the 2018 report.
27. [Congress moves to guarantee paid family leave](#)
(5 Mar) *Federal Times*, By Jessie Bur
Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., introduced legislation March 5 that would entitle federal employees to 12 weeks of paid leave for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child in their family and for other medical purposes.

28. [Advocates for sexual assault victims create one-stop support site](#)
(5 Mar) *Stars & Stripes*, By Matthew M. Burke
Two women have joined together to help victims of sexual assault in the military find justice in a system they say often regards victims as an afterthought.
29. [Prosecutors dismiss sexual assault charges against 3 airmen](#)
(8 Mar) *The Associated Press*
Prosecutors have dismissed charges against three airmen at Cannon Air Force Base in eastern New Mexico who were accused of rape. Court records say the three men were arrested in January 2018 and charged with second-degree criminal sexual penetration after a female airman told police they assaulted her at a house party.
30. [Military Doctors Told Them It Was Just "Female Problems." Weeks Later, They Were In The Hospital.](#)
(8 Mar) *BuzzFeed.com*, By Ema O'Conner and Vera Bergengruen
They didn't want to complain — being a woman in the US military, the last thing you want to be seen as is weak — but the sharp abdominal pain was becoming debilitating. Military doctors dismissed it as “female problems,” period cramps. It was “normal,” they were told. It was said or implied that they were overreacting. They were given painkillers and birth control, and told to report back to duty. Those orders landed six of the more than a dozen female service members interviewed by BuzzFeed News in the hospital, fighting for their lives.
31. [Case raises questions about how Marine Corps handles domestic abuse](#)
(10 Mar) *The Free Lance-Star*, By Adele Uphaus-Conner
Tamara Campbell started receiving letters from her ex-husband, Bradley Darlington, after he'd been in jail for almost two years. The letters violated the victim/witness program procedures in place at Naval Consolidated Brig Chesapeake, where Darlington was incarcerated.
32. [Tricare restricts purchases of deluxe breast pumps after \\$16 million overspend](#)
(11 Mar) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime
The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has updated its Tricare policy manual to clarify what types of breast pumps and supplies are covered by the Defense Department's health program.
33. [DOD Releases Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal](#)
(12 Mar) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-049-19)*
The FY 2020 Budget continues family support programs with investment of nearly \$8 billion, to include child care for over 180,000 children.
34. [New family leave proposal would require you to delay Social Security benefits](#)
(13 Mar) *CNBC*, By Lorie Konish
Two Republican senators are proposing a policy that would let new parents take up to three months of paid leave, provided they agree to delay their Social Security retirement benefits.
35. [McSally calls for executive summit on sexual assault in the Air Force](#)
(13 Mar) *Air Force Times*, By Kent Miller
One week after Arizona Sen. Martha McSally's startling announcement that she was raped by a superior officer during her time in the Air Force, the former A-10 pilot has called for an executive summit on sexual assault with top service officials and outside experts.
36. [Special operations pilot charged with raping senior airman while deployed](#)
(13 Mar) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
A lieutenant colonel with the 919th Special Operations Group at Duke Field, Florida, has been accused of raping a senior airman while deployed to Uganda and will face a court-martial in May.
37. [Governor and senator ask National Guard to review how Wisconsin handles sexual assault allegations](#)
(14 Mar) *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, By Molly Beck
Two state leaders are asking U.S. National Guard officials to investigate whether Wisconsin properly handles sexual assault allegations in the wake of claims of state guard officials ignoring many of them.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

38. [Navy recruit dies at Great Lakes](#)
(4 Mar) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
A week before Seaman Recruit Kierra Evans was slated to graduate, a Navy recruit collapsed and died Feb. 22 following physical training at Great Lakes, Illinois, officials told Navy Times.
39. [Japanese police detain Marine who tried to climb fence at German Embassy in Tokyo](#)
(6 Mar) *Stars & Stripes*, By James Bolinger
An unidentified female corporal was held by Tokyo Metropolitan Police after attempting to scale a fence near the German embassy in Tokyo's Roppongi district, base officials confirmed.
40. [DOD Identifies Army Casualties](#)
(7 Mar) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-044-19)*
The Department of Defense announced today the death of two soldiers who were supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. Both soldiers died as a result of a non-combat related incident. The incident is under investigation. The soldiers are: Sgt. Holli R. Bolinski, 37, of Pinckneyville, Illinois. Spc. Jackson D. Johnson, 20, of Hillsboro, Missouri. Both soldiers were assigned to 657th Transportation Company, 419th Transportation Battalion, 103d Sustainment Command, Mount Vernon, Illinois.
41. [Michigan National Guard gets first female infantry company commander](#)
(7 Mar) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
U.S. Army Capt. Amie Kempainen made history recently by becoming the first female officer to take command of an infantry company in the Michigan Army National Guard, and among the first female infantry company commanders in the entire Army.
42. [Another Norfolk sailor awaits sentencing on gun charge](#)
(8 Mar) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
A Virginia-based sailor pleaded guilty will be sentenced at the end of the summer for her role in transferring five semi-automatic handguns to family and friends in New Jersey, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.
43. [This vet handled explosives for the Army. Now she's a model and beauty pageant queen.](#)
(11 Mar) *Military Times*, By Joshua Axelrod
Raquel Riley Thomas never planned on becoming a model. The former Army captain and ordnance officer had been working as a photographer since leaving the military.
44. [A Muslim soldier says her command sergeant major forced her to remove her hijab](#)
(12 Mar) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers
Sgt. Cesilia Valdovinos was at a chapel at Fort Carson, Colorado, for a suicide prevention briefing on March 6 when she says her command sergeant major grabbed her by the arm, took her outside and made her remove her religious head covering in front of others.

WOMEN VETERANS

45. [First black female CMSgt, Air Force pioneer, to be laid to rest](#)
(1 Mar) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
Retired Chief Master Sergeant Dorothy Holmes blazed many trails during her three decades in the Air Force.
46. [VA Secretary Rejects Push for Gender-Neutral Motto](#)
(1 Mar) *Military.com*, By Richard Sisk
Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie said his reverence for the majestic language of Abraham Lincoln will not permit a change to the department's iconic motto to make it more gender neutral.
47. [They were the first: How these military women smashed glass ceilings](#)
(4 Mar) *ConnectingVets.com*, By Kaylah Jackson
In the 21st century, the military is still seeing female military "firsts." From West Point cadet leadership to the Marine Corps' Winter Mountain Leaders Course, the women of the U.S. Armed Forces have continued to make strides in their respective branches and occupations. On International Women's Day, we celebrate those who have paved the way for the servicewomen of this millennium.

48. [40 Stories from Women About Life in the Military](#)
(8 Mar) The New York Times, By Lauren Katzenberg
Across the armed services, women made up 16 percent of the active-duty military as of 2017 — by branch, that number ranged from 8.4 percent within the Marine Corps to nearly 20 percent within the Air Force. Servicewomen are forging new career paths for themselves and the next generation as they enter jobs that were once closed to them.
49. [Arizona senator reveals she was raped by a superior officer while in the Air Force](#)
(6 Mar) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
Arizona Sen. Martha McSally, a former Air Force colonel and one of the first female combat veterans elected to Congress, revealed she was raped by a superior officer during her military career but kept the attack secret out of fear of reprisal.
50. [Soldier sentenced to 7 life terms for killing wife, rookie police officer in 2016](#)
(8 Mar) The Associated Press
An Army staff sergeant convicted of fatally shooting his wife and a rookie Virginia police officer has been sentenced to seven consecutive life terms. Officer Ashley Guindon, who was working her first shift after being sworn in, served in the Marine Corps Reserve from 2007-2015.
51. [VA struggles to curb harassment of female veterans at medical centers](#)
(10 Mar) Military.com, By Richard Sisk
"They just don't think we're real veterans," retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robbin Alex said of the demeaning attitude behind the harassment female veterans sometimes experience in seeking Department of Veterans Affairs health care.
52. [Treated Like a 'Piece of Meat': Female Veterans Endure Harassment at the V.A.](#)
(12 Mar) The New York Times, By Jennifer Steinhauer
An entrenched, sexist culture at many veterans hospitals is driving away female veterans and lags far behind the gains women have made in the military in recent years, veterans and lawmakers of both parties say.