



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

18 November 2019



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [**Federal prosecutors allege Walmart refused to hire Navy reservist**](#)

(31 Oct) Associated Press

Federal prosecutors say Walmart violated legal protections for military service members for allegedly refusing to hire a Colorado Navy reservist because she needed to take time off for training.

2. [**Immigration policies make attaining citizenship arduous, deterring military recruits, lawyer claims**](#)

(1 Nov) Stars and Stripes, By Caitlin M. Kenney

"The new policies do not make our country safer. They harm military recruiting, they hurt military readiness and they prevent the United States armed forces from utilizing talented immigrants," Stock said at a hearing by the Judiciary Committee subpanel on immigration and citizenship.

3. [**The military needs a new personnel system if it wants to stop bleeding highly skilled troops**](#)

(1 Nov) Military Times, By Meghan Myers

"While we are waiting for the personnel systems to catch up with the new skill requirements, the department is under-utilizing existing talent and we're losing people to frustrating," said Code for America founder, Jen Pahlka, during a public board meeting at Georgetown University in Washington.

4. [**Girls won all five top prizes in national STEM contest for middle schoolers**](#)

(6 Nov) Upworthy, By Annie Renau

The five winners were chosen from 30 finalists selected from 2,348 applicants in 47 states by a panel of distinguished scientists, engineers and educators. This year, 60% of the finalists were female—a first for the competition. That's an encouraging sign for the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) field, in which women are still underrepresented.

5. [**Capturing the life of women in the military is this photographer's passion**](#)

(8 Nov) Military Times, By Diana Stancy Correll

Photojournalist Lynsey Addario has covered conflict all over the world for more than 20 years, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Africa. But her most recent project for National Geographic's November issue titled "Women: A Century of Change" was the first time women in the military — both in the U.S. and elsewhere — took the spotlight in her storytelling.

6. [**Emotional Holiday Ad Shows the Power of Facebook for Military Moms: 'Connected by the Heart'**](#)

(11 Nov) People, By Rachel DeSantis

An emotional new Facebook ad is highlighting how the social media platform is helping military families come together through thick and thin. The ad, part of the new More Together campaign, shows just how far the reach of the group Military Mama Network spreads with a storyline involving a woman deployed for the holidays.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

7. [**Don't fear failure among lessons captain learned at Ranger School**](#)

(24 Oct) Fort Lee, By Tammy L. Reed

Capt. Hannah Marie Stolpe said she was thinking along those lines some time ago when she considered going to Ranger School – one of the toughest courses in the Army. "It was always on my mind, 'what if I fail?'" Stolpe mused as she talked of her journey toward becoming the first female logistician to graduate the legendary program once restricted to male candidates only. Failure was part of the experience.



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8. [**2 More Women Attempt Air Force Special Warfare Training Courses**](#)

(1 Nov) *Miltiary.com*, By *Oriana Pawlyk*

Two more women are attempting to enter the U.S. Air Force's combat controller and pararescue (PJ) battlefield airman career fields. The women, who were not identified for privacy reasons.

9. [**Marine Corps' annual birthday video blasted for including only 6 seconds of women in 8-minute tribute**](#)

(4 Nov) *Newsweek*, By *James Laporta*

To celebrate the upcoming birthday of the U.S. Marines, the service's top brass sent around a special video message—and drew a barrage of criticism. Women service members are visible in roughly six seconds of the eight-minute video

10. [**US Navy to slash the number of Virginia-class attack subs in long-delayed contract**](#)

(4 Nov) *Defense News*, By *David B. Larter*

The Navy's efforts to ramp up production of its Virginia-class attack boats ahead of the start of its massive Columbia ballistic missile submarine program have encountered myriad issues and delays.

11. [**I Was the Fastest Girl in America, Until I Joined Nike**](#)

(7 Nov) *The New York Times*, By *Mary Cain*

A big part of this problem is that women and girls are being forced to meet athletic standards that are based on how men and boys develop. If you try to make a girl fit a boy's development timeline, her body is at risk of breaking down.

12. [**Brains of girls and boys are similar, producing equal math ability**](#)

(8 Nov) *Science Daily*, By *Carnegie Mellon University*

In 1992, Teen Talk Barbie was released with the controversial voice fragment, "Math class is hard." While the toy's release met with public backlash, this underlying assumption persists, propagating the myth that women do not thrive in science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) fields due to biological deficiencies in math aptitude.

13. [**Coast Guard Reshaping Body Fat Measurement Standard in Pilot Study**](#)

(8 Nov) *USNI News*, By *Ben Werner*

The Coast Guard, in an effort to take the stress out of gauging the physical fitness of its members, started a year-long effort revamping the way it measures body fat composition with the goal of encouraging healthy lifestyles and improving its female retention rates.

14. [**Marine Corps Training Chief Says He's Open to Ending Gender-Segregated Boot Camp**](#)

(14 Nov) *Military.com*, By *Gina Harkins*

The Marine Corps could train as many as eight co-ed companies at boot camp each year, and the general overseeing the effort is hitting back against those complaining that the move is lowering training standards.

15. [**The Marine Corps wants a study on how to make recruit training coed**](#)

(15 Nov) *Marine Corps Times*, By *Todd South*

As the only service that remains separated by gender in basic training, the Marine Corps is now looking for a university study on what it would take and what would change if the Corps moved to coed recruit training.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

16. [**West Point to Host 2nd National Discussion on Collegiate Sexual Assaults**](#)

(1 Nov) *Defense.gov*

This spring, the secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force will meet in New York on the campus of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, for a second series of discussions on the prevention of and response to sexual assault and sexual harassment on college campuses nationwide.



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17. [**Why the Pentagon needs to pay more attention to service members and their families**](#)

(5 Nov) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers and Patricia Kime

The Pentagon is now so concerned about the welfare and well-being of service members and their families that issues they face have made it to the top 10 management challenges it faces in 2020. Suicide, substance abuse, sexual assault, unsafe housing, child care, spouse unemployment and health care are issues that threaten wellness and lives, affecting force readiness and national security, as determined by the DoD Inspector General.

18. [**Female Marines Get OK to Wear New Hairstyle and More Earring Choices**](#)

(6 Nov) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins

Marines have been given the approval to let their hair down -- at least some of it -- while they work out. Women with medium-length hair are now allowed to wear a "half ponytail" hairstyle during physical training.

19. [**Navy officer convicted of abusive sexual contact, acquitted of rape**](#)

(8 Nov) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz

A panel of his peers acquitted Ensign Brendan Butler on rape, stalking and battery charges, plus another count of abusive sexual contact. However, Butler was convicted of touching the genitalia through the clothing of another sailor on board the amphibious transport dock Portland in early 2018, according to charge sheets.

20. [**Marine Drill Instructors' 'Unacceptable' Comments About Women Must Stop, General Says**](#)

(16 Nov) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins

Recruits are heavily influenced by their drill instructors, and top leaders want to be sure new Marines aren't leaving boot camp with negative views of women. Maj. Gen. William Mullen, head of Training and Education Command, said he asked the commanding general of the Marine Corps' West Coast all-male recruit training depot to look at the way drill instructors are speaking to their recruits about women.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

21. [**Retired Air Force Colonel Martha McSally on Why Courage Is Just as Important Off the Battlefield**](#)

(22 Oct) *Fortune*, By Karen Yuan

Sen. Martha McSally, retired Air Force colonel, first woman to fly in combat, one of the highest-ranking female pilots in the history of the Air Force. McSally is no stranger to mustering up courage where it may be hard to come by. She also made one momentous act of courage off the battlefield.

22. [**West Point honors pilot who took out insurgents inside Pakistan during Ranger exfil**](#)

(28 Oct) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer

The West Point Association of Graduates awarded an AH-64 Apache pilot the Alexander Nininger Award last week for her role safeguarding a Ranger night raid near the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan four years ago. Capt. Lindsay G. Heisler, a 2012 West Point graduate, was deployed with the 101st Aviation Regiment to Bagram, Afghanistan, when the actions took place.

23. [**After 37 years of service, retired chief warrant officer will lead national women's military memorial**](#)

(4 Nov) *ConnectingVets.com*, By Kaylah Jackson

Phyllis Wilson progressed through the ranks of the Army, from private to command chief warrant officer of the U.S. Army Reserve. After 37 years of service, her next mission is unique even for her — leading the nation's first and only national memorial honoring military women.



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24. [Four sought in Atlanta carjacking that left Navy veteran dead, her friend injured](#)

(4 Nov) *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, By Asia Simone Burns

Atlanta police are looking for four people in connection with a carjacking that left Navy veteran Renae Alexander dead outside a southwest Atlanta apartment complex.

25. [Mother of Great Lakes recruit who died during boot camp run seeks second autopsy, saving Navy has offered few answers on sickle cell-related death](#)

(5 Nov) *Chicago Tribune*, By John Keilman

The Navy discovered that her daughter Kierra, 20, possessed the sickle cell trait during a medical exam. Most who have it don't experience symptoms of sickle cell disease — a potentially lethal condition that causes blood cells to deform and clog blood vessels — but they can surface during hard exercise.

26. [Soldier achieves perfect score, "true blue" status in EIB competition](#)

(6 Nov) *Army News*, By Spc. John Weaver

2nd Lt. Elena Chavez, an infantry officer assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, spent the last four weeks training and testing for her Expert Infantryman Badge.

27. [Autopsy reports reveal why two recruits died at boot camp](#)

(8 Nov) *Navy Times*, By Courtney Mabeus

According to autopsy reports, Seaman Recruit Kierra Evans, 20, collapsed while running during a physical fitness assessment at Recruit Training Command. She was taken to Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital and resuscitated but died later that night while in intensive care. Two months later, 18-year-old Seaman Recruit Kelsey Nobles, collapsed while running her final physical test on a track in a gymnasium.

28. [Washington Capitals surprise paraplegic Navy veteran with new wheelchair](#)

(10 Nov) *ABC 7 News*, By Lesly Salazar

The Washington Capitals surprised a Navy veteran with a new wheelchair on November 9 at MedStar Capitals Iceplex. Laurie Wood served in the United States Navy for 18 years and currently plays sled hockey with the USA Warriors Hockey Team.

29. ["Don't give up": Paralyzed veteran completes New York City Marathon using robotic exoskeleton](#)

(11 Nov) *CBS News*, By Natacha Larnaud

Terry Hannigan Vereline, a former Army sergeant and Vietnam veteran, made a bit of history at the New York City marathon last week when she became the first paralyzed competitor to successfully finish a marathon with the help of a robotic exoskeleton.

30. [How a young vet turned entrepreneur turned a family recipe into an \\$80,000 venture that just launched on Amazon](#)

(11 Nov) *CNBC*, By Harriet Taylor

U.S. military veterans are a force to be reckoned with on the battlefield — and in business. Many choose entrepreneurship as their career after returning from service, equipped with a cadre of unique leadership and time-management skills. Currently they own about 2.5 million small businesses in America in a host of industries, according to the Small Business Administration. One is Charlynda Scales, who inherited her grandfather's secret sauce recipe while serving as an acquisitions program manager in the Air Force.

31. [Remains found in Alabama during search for petty officer's missing daughter](#)

(12 Nov) *The Associated Press*

The mother of Taylor Williams is Petty Officer 1st Class Brianna Shontae Williams, assigned to Tactical Operations Center in Jacksonville. Williams is a person of interest in the case. Williams is from the county in which the remains were found.



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18 November 2019



32. [Gen. Maryanne Miller's message to new airmen: It's all about character](#)

(13 Nov) *Air Force Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll

Air Force Gen. Maryanne Miller, the only female four-star officer in the U.S. military, has a word of advice for airmen: character counts.

WOMEN VETERANS

33. [Readers React: It's time to update services for female veterans](#)

(2 Nov) *The Morning Call*, By Sheila Childs Berg

The Deborah Sampson Act, HR 2452, provides guidance for the Department of Veterans Affairs to update services for female veterans. The bill calls for expanding group counseling for veterans and family members, increasing the number of gender-specific providers in VA facilities, training clinicians and retrofitting VA facilities to enhance privacy and improve the environment of care for female veterans.

34. [Warren leads senators in effort to create stamps to honor women veterans](#)

(5 Nov) *ConnectingVets.com*, By Abbie Bennett

Senators lead by presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren have joined together in an effort to produce stamps honoring women veterans. Warren, joined by fellow members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, introduced the companion to a House resolution urging the U.S. Postal Service to issue the stamp series for women veterans and also calling for the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend the series to the postmaster general.

35. [Ohio House passes bill to create 'Women Veterans' Day'](#)

(7 Nov) *WSYX/WTTE*, By Chris White

Rep. Mary Lightbody, announced the Ohio House has passed Senate Bill 77, bipartisan legislation to designate June 12 as Women Veterans' Day. Lightbody said the bill reaffirms Ohio's promise to care for and honor the more than 67,000 women veterans living across the state. Women make up nearly 10 percent of all veterans nationally, per Lightbody.

36. [How women veterans made the transition from the military to Wall Street](#)

(8 Nov) *CNBC Video Clip*

Patricia LaBorda, Women Veterans of Wall Street co founder, Kelly Demers, Bank of America Private Bank, and Patricia Murphy, UBS Global Wealth Management, join 'Fast Money Halftime Report' to discuss their transition from the military to Wall Street, and how Wall Street can recruit more female veterans.

37. [Two veterans. Two branches. Two women. Built military tough](#)

(10 Nov) *Williamsburg Yorktown Daily*, By Alexa Doiron

It's been less than a century since women were first allowed into the military, but since then the Historic Triangle has been home to a number of female veterans that have reflected on their time in service.

38. [Caring for Our Women in Uniform: Ensuring Good Mental Health for Women Veterans](#)

(11 Nov) *Physician's Weekly*

The demographics of our veteran population are changing, with women comprising the fastest-growing group of veterans. It is projected that women will continue to increasingly join and serve in the military in upcoming years, participating and advancing in various leadership positions and responsibilities. Despite their growing numbers, women veterans are less likely to utilize the VA health system when compared with their male counterparts.



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39. [**Women veterans measure at center of congressional controversy advances**](#)

(13 Nov) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III

That bill, the Deborah Sampson Act, passed with an overwhelming 399-11 vote and would require more oversight of women's health care within the Department of Veterans Affairs, establish a new Office of Women's Health in the agency, and extend coverage of healthcare for newborn children of veterans from seven to 14 days.