



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

### Articles of Interest

20 June 2019

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#### DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [Five New Members Appointed to the DACOWITS](#)

*(11 Jun) Immediate Release (No. NR-152-19)*

The Department of Defense announced today the induction of five new members to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. New committee appointments include: Retired Capt. Kenneth J. Barrett, Navy; Ms. Leeanne B. Linderman; Retired Lt. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum, Army; Retired Brig. Gen. Jarisse J. Sanborn, Air Force; and Retired Brig. Gen. Allyson R. Solomon, Air National Guard.

#### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

2. [Single soldiers to face longer OCONUS tours](#)

*(11 Jun) Military.com, By Amy Bushatz*

Single soldiers will soon see longer tours at duty stations in Europe and Japan as Army officials look to decrease the costs of moving families worldwide.

3. [This Army daughter realizes her dream of military service — despite her dependent medical record](#)

*(13 Jun) Military Times, By Karen Jowers*

More than two years after a military daughter began her battle to enlist in the military — despite notations made in her dependent medical record when she was a young teen — she has graduated from Air Force basic military training.

4. [Army to Make Big Changes as it Engages in a ‘War for Talent’](#)

*(13 Jun) National Defense Magazine, By Yasmin Tadjdeh*

The Army is undertaking a major effort to redesign its antiquated personnel system as it engages in a "war for talent," said the secretary of the service. "The current system — as effective as it has been in the past — simply will not allow us to optimize the potential of our workforce going forward," he said during remarks at the Women In Defense annual conference.

5. [Panel says U.S. military recruitment pool must broaden](#)

*(17 Jun) USNI News, By John Grady*

Recruiting young men and women from military families has succeeded in attracting applicants, however doing so questions the services' long-term ability to attract people from other backgrounds with new talents needed for the future, a panel of personnel experts said Friday.

#### EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

6. ['Failure is not an option': Infantry officer becomes first woman in her division with EIB](#)

*(6 Jun) Stars and Stripes, By Chad Garland*

1st Lt. Shelby DePriest of Fort Carson, Colo.-based 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, was the only woman among the 61 finishers and the first woman in her division to earn the special skills badge since the unit began incorporating female infantry officers into its ranks less than two years ago.

7. [\*\*Air Force BMT won't scale back PT program despite deaths at Shaw AFB\*\*](#)  
*(6 Jun) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk*  
Air Force Basic Military Training officials do not plan on curtailing their newly expanded physical fitness program even though leaders at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, recently suspended fitness tests in the wake of two airmen's deaths.
8. [\*\*Army selects first female general to command infantry division\*\*](#)  
*(7 Jun) Military.com, By Matthew Cox*  
The U.S. Army National Guard has selected the first female officer to command an infantry division, marking another milestone for women serving in combat units. Brig. Gen. Laura Yeager will assume command of the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division during a June 29 ceremony.
9. [\*\*USAF redesigns equipment to better fit its female pilots\*\*](#)  
*(7 Jun) Air Force Technology, By Talal Hussein*  
USAF plans and requirements officer Lieutenant Colonel Shelly Mendieta said: "We wanted to bring together a large enough group of women to get our different sizing both in our uniforms, helmets and masks. "When you go to a squadron to go to a fitment event, there's usually only a couple of women, so to get a full spectrum of what is going to work for women aviators, we needed to bring them all together in one place."
10. [\*\*Did lower back injuries drive the commandant's decision on planks?\*\*](#)  
*(11 Jun) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow*  
The top Marine's decision to authorize planks on the Corps' annual fitness test may have been born out of a visit he made to a 3d Raider Battalion training facility in May 2018.
11. [\*\*Will Congress force gender integration at Marine Corps boot camp?\*\*](#)  
*(12 Jun) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*  
A House panel would require Marine Corps officials to integrate women into recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina, within five years and at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego within eight years under draft legislation advanced Wednesday.
12. [\*\*Coast Guard strips gender-specific pronouns from evals, promotion board packages\*\*](#)  
*(12 Jun) Military.com, By Patricia Kime*  
The new guidance is designed to mitigate bias in the evaluation system that could influence promotions or job placement, explained Cmdr. Andrea Smith, deputy of the service's Personnel Readiness Task Force, addressing members of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service, or DACOWITS, during a meeting Tuesday in Alexandria, Virginia.
13. [\*\*There are no female Marines currently leading infantry platoons in the Corps\*\*](#)  
*(13 Jun) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow*  
Only two woman have graduated from the Corps' arduous 13-week Infantry Officer Course, and neither of them are currently leading infantry platoons.
14. [\*\*This Marine Captain Figured Out Exactly How Many Pounds Equal Pain in Combat\*\*](#)  
*(14 Jun) Task & Purpose, By Paul Szoldra*  
In her award-winning master's thesis, titled *Paying For Weight In Blood: An Analysis of Weight and Protection Level of a Combat Load During Tactical Operations*, Capt. Courtney Thompson argues that being able to move faster is more important against near-peer enemies in combat, and the all-too-common trend of burdening troops with heavier loads can lead to an increase in casualties.
15. [\*\*15 extra pounds of gear can be the difference between life or death in a firefight, this Marine officer's research says\*\*](#)  
*(18 Jun) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow*  
The weight being humped by grunts into a firefight with a sophisticated adversary like Russia or China could be the difference between mission success or going home in a body bag, according to one Marine officer's award-winning research.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

16. [The Best Leave You'll Ever Take](#)

(4 Jun) *U. S. Naval Institute*, By Commander Matthew D. Phillips

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Bill Moran recently instructed all admirals to take extended leave, ten consecutive days each year to be exact. This direction from our leadership is vital both to promoting a culture that encourages self-care and to extending the longevity of productive service. As leaders, we must carry this intent to those whom we are committed—both our sailors and our family.

17. [Army Court Overturns West Point Cadet's Rape Conviction, Drawing Criticism](#)

(10 Jun) *New York Times*, By Derrick Bryson Taylor

An Army appeals court overturned a West Point cadet's rape conviction last week, siding with a defense theory that the victim engaged in a consensual sexual encounter and took steps to avoid being detected by others who were nearby. The decision drew criticism from advocacy groups. They said the ruling was upsetting in light of the #MeToo movement and highlighted flaws in the military's justice system at a time when sexual assaults at the three military academies were on the rise.

18. [Bill would allow troops to freeze eggs or sperm, delay postpartum deployments](#)

(12 Jun) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime

A provision in the proposed bill, aimed at providing service members more options in balancing careers and families, is a measure that would allow active-duty moms to remain shoreside for a year after having a baby. The Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard currently offer deployment deferrals of up to a year after childbirth; the Army and Marine Corps allow for a six-month deferral. The bill would standardize the benefit across the military services.

19. ['Sexual Assault Stinks,' says tone deaf Air Force cartoon skunk](#)

(12 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By J. D. Simkins

So it may come as a surprise — or perhaps not given the prevalence of such a stain on the military — that military personnel at the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program at Washington state's McChord Field circulated 24-hour hotline posters featuring a happy-go-lucky cartoon skunk that read, "Sexual Assault Stinks."

20. [Sexual assaults at military academies could be handled outside the chain of command](#)

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

House Democrats advanced a plan to partially remove military commanders at service academies from decisions to prosecute sexual assault accusations, instead relying on an independent expert to evaluate the cases.

21. [Marine general 'bullied' subordinates, 'devalued women': Pentagon inspector general](#)

(19 Jun) *ABC News*, By Elizabeth McLaughlin

A Department of Defense Inspector General report concluded that a Marine Corps general "disparaged, bullied, and humiliated subordinates, devalued women, and created a negative ... work environment that led to a general distrust of his impartiality and leadership."

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

22. [New Air Force Academy Commandant Is Setting a High Bar](#)

(4 Jun) *The Gazette*, By Tom Roeder

Brig. Gen. Michele Edmondson took the job atop the cadet wing after leaving a post as the White House's top expert on space policy. She replaces Brig. Gen. Kristin Goodwin, who was ousted from her post amid an ongoing investigation.

23. [Enlisted 'doctor-airman' with PhD earns her commission](#)

(7 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey

Until last month, former Airman 1st Class Cynthia Schroll had a patent to her name, two books she authored, a resume full of academic and technical expertise, and a PhD in analytical chemistry. But there was one thing this wildly accomplished airman didn't have: her commission.

24. [Two-star fired from running top secret program office; under multiple IG investigations](#)  
(10 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey  
A groundbreaking female fighter pilot was fired from her current job as director of the Defense Department's Special Access Programs Central Office — which manages and oversees some of the military's most secretive classified programs — and is under several inspector general investigations.
25. [Air Force Fires Its Highest-Ranking Female Fighter Pilot](#)  
(11 Jun) *Stars and Stripes*, By Corey Dickstein  
The Air Force's highest ranking female fighter pilot, Maj. Gen. Dawn Dunlop, was removed from her job leading the Pentagon office responsible for overseeing some of the military's closest-held secret programs, defense officials said Tuesday.
26. [ROTC cadet who was fond of Nazis is on her way out, officials confirm](#)  
(11 Jun) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer  
“Cadet Martha Gerdes of UNC Charlotte was investigated by the United States Army Cadet Command for online behavior that is not consistent with the Army values,” Carter told Army Times. “During the investigation Cadet Gerdes admitted to posting anti-semitic, racist and ant-LGBTQIA statements on her Twitter account.”
27. [First woman named to command Puget Sound Naval Shipyard](#)  
(13 Jun) *The Associated Press*  
A U.S. Navy officer has made history by being the first woman elevated to the command of a Washington state shipyard. Capt. Dianna Wolfson became the new commander of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility Wednesday.
28. [Army's first woman to lead an infantry division wants to encourage others to serve](#)  
(13 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Rose L. Thayer  
Brig. Gen. Laura Yeager joined the Army with the same intentions as many: She needed money for college. She surprised herself with how much she loved the work — and now, 33 years later, she will be the first woman to command an Army infantry division.
29. [Lawmaker wants Navy ship named for senior chief killed in Syria](#)  
(13 Jun) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime  
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer wants a U.S. Navy ship to be named for Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Shannon Kent, the Pine Plains, New York, native who spent much of her 15-year military career embedded with special operations troops and died Jan. 16 in a bombing in Manbij, Syria.
30. [Command Senior Enlisted Leader Assignment](#)  
(14 Jun) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-155-19)*  
The Office of the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced today the following assignment: Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Jeanette A. Masters, currently assigned as the command chief, Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, has been selected to serve as the executive assistant to the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, District of Columbia.
31. [Naval War College gets first female president](#)  
(14 Jun) *Stars and Stripes*, By Caitlin M. Kenney  
The next president the U.S. Naval War College will be a woman, a first for the century-old institution. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer announced Friday that Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield will be the next president of the Navy's senior leader college in Newport, R.I.
32. [Female team leading Navy helicopter training changes command](#)  
(16 Jun) *The Associated Press*, By Annie Blanks  
For the first time in the history of Helicopter Training Squadron Eight at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, two women held the top two leadership positions in the Navy's oldest helicopter training squadron.
33. [Meet the Dyess Airman who made the decision to sound tornado sirens 10 mins before weather service](#)  
(18 Jun) *7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs*, By Airman 1st Class River Bruce  
Airman 1st Class Mary Kapuscinski, 7th Operations Support Squadron meteorologist, was recently recognized for an act that could have saved thousands of lives.

34. [General Officer Assignments](#)

*(19 Jun) IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-163-19)*

The chief of staff, Army announces the following officer assignments:

Regular Army

- Maj. Gen. Robin L. Fontes, senior defense official and defense attache, U.S. Defense Attache Office, India, to senior defense official and defense attache, U.S. Defense Attache Office, Egypt.
- Brig. Gen. Paula C. Lodi, Director, Healthcare Operations, Office of The Surgeon General, U.S. Army, Falls Church, Virginia, to deputy chief of staff for operations, U.S. Army Medical Command, Falls Church, Virginia.

U.S. Army Reserve

- Maj. Gen. Deborah L. Kotulich, U.S. Army Reserve, to chief of staff, U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. She most recently served as commander (Troop Program Unit), 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Orlando, Florida.
- Col. (Promotable) Jan C. Norris, U.S. Army Reserve, deputy commander (Active Guard Reserve), 311th Signal Command (Theater), Fort Shafter, Hawaii, to commander (Troop Program Unit), 311th Signal Command (Theater), Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

## WOMEN VETERANS

35. [The Few. The Proud. The Bikini Marine.](#)

*(6 Jun) Marine Corps Time, By Brian Mackley*

She is known as “The Worlds Sexiest Marine” and in a recent photo shoot she is shown rocking nothing but guns, combat boots, and a bikini. Sergeant Shannon Ihrke joined the Corps when she was 19. While on active duty she served her country all around the world, including in Afghanistan. Ihrke has switched to modeling and although she’s out of the Corps.

36. [For female vets, sex assault in military boosts odds of lasting sexual pain](#)

*(11 Jun) Reuters, By Linda Carroll*

Military women who are sexually assaulted may be at an especially high risk of developing lasting sexual pain, a U.S. study suggests. Researchers who interviewed more than 1,000 female veterans found the risk of sexual pain was higher among those assaulted while serving in the military than those who experienced sexual abuse as children, according to the study published in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*. The risk was highest among those who had experienced sexual abuse as children and who were assaulted while serving in the military.

37. [This sergeant became the first woman in the US Army to earn a Silver Star for combat valor](#)

*(14 Jun) Military Times, By J. D. Simkins*

In 2005, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester’s resolve was battle-tested and it showed when the supply convoy her team was assisting was ambushed by waves of AK-47 fire, RPK machine gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

38. [A soaring flight for a centenarian, plus two](#)

*(17 Jun) Idaho Press, By Natalie Holsten*

Maryalice Ford, 102, had a huge grin on her face. She was about to climb into a small single-engine plane and take to the skies, her first time back in the cockpit in decades. Ford is a former WWII WASP.

39. [June 12 could become Women Veterans Appreciation Day if this bill passes](#)

*(18 Jun) ConnectingVets.com, By Abbie Bennett*

Three women veterans in Congress have introduced a bill to create a national day of recognition for women who have served their country in the Armed Forces and National Guard.