



## Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

### Articles of Interest

22 July 2019

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#### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [California Democrat renews bill to let 'Dreamers' enlist in military](#)**  
*(20 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By Kate Irby*  
Harder is reintroducing the bill at a time when immigrants who want to join the military and subsequently obtain citizenship are facing even tougher odds of achieving their goals.
- [These revamped academic forms will help the Army find your unique skills](#)**  
*(21 Jun) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer*  
The Army is rolling out new Academic Evaluation Report forms to gauge soldiers' performance in military and civilian schools — an initiative that will ultimately help the service better manage talent.
- [It'll be tight, but the Army expects to meet recruiting goals this year](#)**  
*(25 Jun) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer*  
The Army has been having trouble meeting its recruiting requirements as it strives to grow to a 500,000-strong active-duty force by the end of the next decade.
- [Called to serve: How this small North Carolina town became #1 in military recruiting](#)**  
*(27 Jun) The Charlotte Observer, By Tara Copp*  
North Carolina as a whole has top billing too, based on the number of 17- to 24-year-olds who join the military relative to the population in that age group. It has more towns in the top 25 than any other state.
- [Embracing Diversity, Coast Guard Program Eases Cadets into Military Life](#)**  
*(29 Jun) The Day, By Mary Biekert*  
Just days before officially embarking on what may be some of the most difficult and grueling weeks of their lives as part of the Coast Guard Academy's notorious Swab Summer, "international, first-generation and minority" students of the incoming Class of 2023 eagerly took part in a specialized three-day respect and inclusion orientation program.
- [Q&A: Specialty officers needed](#)**  
*(July 2019) Air Force Magazine, By John A. Tirpak and Tobias Naegele*  
The Air Force circulated a proposed officer promotion system in May, aimed at giving experts in emerging specialties a better shot at ascending to the top ranks of the service.
- [Recruits can get \\$40K bonuses for going infantry as Army looks to grow](#)**  
*(3 Jul) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer*  
The Army is laying out massive bonuses in an effort to recruit more infantrymen by the end of the fiscal year.
- [No grunts under 26, \\$250K bonuses: DoD's most radical ideas to transform the infantry](#)**  
*(6 Jul) Military.com, By Matthew Cox*  
What would it take to transform U.S. infantry into a higher-caliber force modeled after the elite 75th Ranger Regiment? For starters, find recruits in their mid-20s and offer them \$250,000 bonuses and a \$60,000-a-year salary.

9. [The Corps is offering big bonus bucks for ground combat Marines in 2020](#)  
(8 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow  
The Corps is continuing to invest heavily in its ground combat forces, and some Marines may be eligible for bonuses and extra kicker payments totaling nearly \$90,000.
10. [VR goggles and an Amazon-like recruiting website: Inside the next generation rebrand of the US Army](#)  
(8 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky  
The Army has been taking "new year, new me" to the next level.
11. [Army embraces memes, TikTok as it nears 2019 recruiting goal](#)  
(9 Jul) *Military.com*, By  
With less than 10,000 recruits to go, U.S. Army leaders are confident about meeting this year's recruiting goal. That's despite a shake-up earlier this year that forced the service to overhaul its marketing operation.
12. [Why we should lower the age for recruitment to 16](#)  
(10 Jul) *Military Times*, By Shane McCarthy  
At the end of World War II, the Army had over 8 million service members. Today, the Army has fewer than 500,000 troops. And it's struggling to reach its recruiting goals.
13. [Service academy graduates could see longer military obligations](#)  
(15 Jul) *Military Times*, By Kyle Rempfer  
Senators want to look at the service obligations that graduates of U.S. military academies incur for the first time in more than 20 years.
14. [U.S. Army recruiter allegedly solicited girls as young as 10 for sex while calling himself "Colorado batman"](#)  
(16 Jul) *Denver Post*, By Kirk Mitchell  
Arapahoe County sheriff's deputies have arrested a U.S. Army recruiter for investigation of soliciting girls as young as 10 years old for sex after he allegedly sent selfies calling himself "Colorado batman," the sheriff's department reported.
15. [Top Marine says most Marine recruits require a drug waiver. But does the Marine Corps have a drug problem?](#)  
(18 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow  
Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger said that "the vast majority of recruits require drug waivers for enlistment" in his planning guidance, which was posted late Tuesday.
16. [Berkeley drops words like 'manpower' in push to be inclusive](#)  
(19 Jul) *The Associated Press*, By Olga R. Rodriguez and Samantha Maldonado  
Berkeley leaders voted unanimously this week to replace about 40 gender-specific words in the city code with gender-neutral terms — an effort to be more inclusive that's drawing both praise and scorn.
17. [Hundreds of recruits got into the Army without passing a mandatory fitness test](#)  
(19 Jul) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers  
It was early 2017 when a one-station unit training battalion commander at Fort Benning, Georgia, noticed one of his soldiers looked weak.

## **EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION**

18. [Shaw resumes PT tests as investigation into two deaths continues](#)  
(19 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey  
Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina resumed physical fitness testing, two weeks after halting them due to the running-related deaths of two airmen.
19. [Nearly 40 percent lighter body armor coming to Marines in 2020](#)  
(19 Jun) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow  
The Corps is gearing up to field its new lightweight body armor plates, designed to be worn in the Corps' low intensity or counterinsurgency style conflicts.

20. [\*\*This wearable Marine tech can boost human performance and track physiological status\*\*](#)  
*(25 Jun) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow*  
No, it's not going to turn you into Marvel's Iron Man or Captain America, but you might run a better PFT or have fewer fitness-related injuries.
21. [\*\*Knee tucks and ball throws are the toughest parts of new combat fitness test, SMA says\*\*](#)  
*(26 Jun) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer*  
The throw, in which a soldier hurls a 10-pound medicine ball backward and overhead for distance, represents tasks that require quick physical action to move gear or troops in combat. The leg tuck, in which a soldier hangs from a bar with an alternating grip and brings legs to chest, is designed to assess the strength of a soldier's grip, arm, shoulder and trunk muscles
22. [\*\*Women firefighters in Arlington County show teenage girls fire skills during 'Camp Heat'\*\*](#)  
*(28 Jun) ABC 7, By Jay Korff*  
This week a couple of dozen teenagers and their instructors shattered the stereotype of what an all-girls summer camp experience is supposed to look like.
23. [\*\*Army to adjust standards for new Combat Fitness Test this fall\*\*](#)  
*(28 Jun) Military.com, By Matthew Cox*  
Beginning this fall, soldiers across the Army will have a year to bone up on physical fitness in order to ace the challenging new six-event Army Combat Fitness Test, which will become the required standard across the service by October 2020. But Army officials say they still plan to make some final adjustments to grading and standards based on early testing results.
24. [\*\*Since 1917, this US Army infantry division was led by men. A woman is now taking charge\*\*](#)  
*(29 Jun) CNN, By Amanda Jackson*  
Maj. Gen. Laura Yeager is the first woman to lead a US Army infantry division. The California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division has been led by men since it was formed in 1917, the guard said in a news release. Its soldiers have fought in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and most recently, in Afghanistan.
25. [\*\*New Marine commandant: There will 'definitely' be more coed companies at boot camp\*\*](#)  
*(11 Jul) Military.com, By Gina Harkins*  
The Marine Corps will continue looking at ways for men and women to train together at both of its recruit depots, the service's new top general said, even though one of the bases is currently closed to women.
26. [\*\*Enlisted women now free to apply for submarine duty at any time\*\*](#)  
*(16 Jul) Stars & Stripes, By Joshua Karsten*  
Enlisted women hoping to join the ranks of Navy submariners will no longer have to wait for infrequent opportunities to apply.
27. [\*\*Lawmaker Orders Investigation into 'Pink Tax' on Women's Military Uniforms\*\*](#)  
*(17 Jul) Military.com, By Richard Sisk*  
In the ranks, it's sometimes called the "pink tax," a slang reference to the long-standing complaints of military women that they're paying more for various uniform items than their male counterparts are.
28. [\*\*What's next for enlisted female submariners\*\*](#)  
*(18 Jul) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram*  
The Navy's effort to integrate submarine crews with women reached an important milestone on Monday when officials announced a "gender-neutral" process for female sailors seeking to join the silent service.
29. [\*\*Military studies 'hyperfit' women who pass grueling courses\*\*](#)  
*(21 Jul) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor*  
In the nearly four years since the Pentagon announced it was opening all combat jobs to women, at least 30 have earned the Army Ranger tab, two have graduated Marine infantry school and three have passed the grueling initial assessment phase for Green Beret training.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

30. [Novartis announces 26 week gender-neutral parental leave](#)

*(1 Jul) The Economic Times*

Drug firm Novartis announced 26-week gender-neutral parental leave for its employees.

The new parental leave policy is effective July 1, 2019 and applies to birthing and non-birthing parents in the case of birth, adoption and surrogacy, Novartis said in a statement.

31. [Marine 1-star fires back after he's accused of devaluing women, humiliating staff](#)

*(20 Jun) Military.com, By Gina Harkins*

The Defense Department's inspector general investigated Brig. Gen. Norm Cooling over 15 months following a complaint from the Senate Armed Services Committee that he'd made disparaging remarks about women.

32. [Air Force cautions troops to beware of sexless 'involuntary celibates'](#)

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

A safety brief analyzing security concerns at one military installation offered up an eccentric example of a potential hazard when instructors warned airmen in attendance of the growing threat of incels, or involuntary celibates. The online-based community in recent years became a label for a more aggressive sect of repugnant men who cast the entirety of the blame for their coitus-free existence onto women.

33. [Here's what the investigation into a fired Marine Corps CO found](#)

*(21 Jun) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz*

The top officer of a Marine Corps aviation unit was canned in April after an investigator ruled that he fraternized with and sexually harassed a married sergeant, according to a command investigation obtained by Military Times. "The definition of sexual harassment is met by the facts revealed in this investigation," the report states.

34. [Coast Guard to Reimburse Moms on Duty to Ship Breast Milk](#)

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

The U.S. Coast Guard announced Tuesday it will implement a program to pay shipping costs for service members who send breast milk to their babies when they are underway or on other official travel.

35. [Women serving in the military reserves fight for paid maternity leave](#)

*(25 Jun) ABC News, By Katie Kindelan*

The thousands of women who serve the United States in the military reserves hope a piece of legislation will give them access to paid maternity leave. The Mothers of Military Service (MOMS) Leave Act is being considered by Congress as a possible amendment to the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. If passed, it would give moms across all reserve components of the military, including the National Guard, pay and points for 12 pay periods following pregnancy and childbirth.

36. [Air Guardsman and her children killed in New York; kids' father, also an airman, in custody](#)

*(25 Jun) The Associated Press*

Senior Airman Alla Ausheva, 3-year-old Elia Walker and 2-year-old Ivan Walker were found dead Saturday in their Staten Island home. Police have charged the children's father, Senior Airman Shane Walker, 36, with murder, manslaughter, arson and weapons possession.

37. [TAP is getting a makeover this year. Here's what you need to know.](#)

*(28 Jun) Military Times, By Natalie Gross*

Service members transitioning out of the military this year could be much more prepared for civilian life than their predecessors, thanks to some major changes coming to the Defense Department's Transition Assistance Program.

38. [Despite High Costs, More Women Are Interested in Single Motherhood](#)

*(29 Jun) The Wall Street Journal, By Veronica Dagher*

The picture of personal finance for women in the U.S. has shifted in recent decades. One result: Some women are choosing to become single moms, sometimes to multiple children. While still a minority in the bigger realm of single motherhood, a growing number of those who make this choice are from upper-middle-class and middle-class backgrounds and have more than one child. This is a contrast to years past, when those pursuing single motherhood were often wealthy and typically had one child, researchers say.

39. [\*\*Gillibrand: The Military Justice Improvement Act would give service members a justice system that works\*\*](#)  
(30 Jun) *Military Times*, By Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Nearly 30 years ago, when George H. W. Bush was president and Dick Cheney was the secretary of defense, the Pentagon made a promise to our service members.
41. [\*\*Reports of unwanted sexual contact up at Coast Guard Academy\*\*](#)  
(3 Jul) *The Associated Press*, By Jennifer McDermott  
Almost half of female cadets at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy said they were sexually harassed, and about one in eight women reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact, according to a Pentagon survey released Wednesday.
42. [\*\*'Formation: A Woman's Memoir of Stepping Out of Line' shows the military's blatant disregard for rape victims\*\*](#)  
(5 Jul) *Task and Purpose*, By Ryan Leigh Dostie  
"Formation: A Woman's Memoir of Stepping Out of Line" is a fierce and jarring telling of one woman's experience of war, military sexual trauma and her ensuing PTSD, and working to prove herself in the male-dominated world of the U.S. Army.
43. [\*\*Military discipline in the social media age: How the new top Marine plans to lead\*\*](#)  
(14 Jul) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins  
The Marine Corps' new commandant is not one to micromanage -- but he expects his leaders to be squared away and put their Marines on the right path when they're misbehaving. That has included posts that degraded women.
44. [\*\*Chief loses anchors for lies about a petty officer's wife\*\*](#)  
(15 Jul) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz  
A chief also faced a separate charge for an October 2018 incident in which he allegedly sexually harassed a subordinate gunner's mate second class sailor by "making unwelcome advances and comments of a sexual nature via Snapchat," according to charge sheets.
45. [\*\*Police say baby's death at babysitter's home on Hawaii base was manslaughter\*\*](#)  
(16 Jul) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers  
The case of the death of a 7-month-old baby girl in a reportedly unlicensed daycare home on Aliamanu Military Reservation in Hawaii has been "reclassified to manslaughter," according to a spokeswoman with the Honolulu Police Department.
46. [\*\*Special operations pilot found not guilty of sexual assault\*\*](#)  
(16 Jul) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey  
Lt. Col. Michael B. Black, a C-145A Skytruck instructor pilot and combat aviation adviser with the Air Force Reserve, was found not guilty on a charge of sexual assault. Black was charged with two specifications of having sex with an enlisted airman without her consent on two separate occasions, and one specification of digitally penetrating her, in April and May 2017.
47. [\*\*New commandant considering 1 year leave of absence for moms and changes to evaluating and promoting Marines\*\*](#)  
(17 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow  
The top Marine is on the hunt to keep and retain the best talent the Corps has, and is considering a slew of changes from a new maternity leave policy to changing how Marines are evaluated and promoted.
48. [\*\*The Corps has lost more than 25,000 Marines to misconduct over the past decade\*\*](#)  
(17 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By Paul Szoldra  
The Marine Corps has lost more than 25,000 Marines to misconduct over the past decade. Of sexual assault, for example, Commandant Gen. David Berger said that despite the Corps' efforts, "the continued rise in reporting leads me to conclude that we still do not fully understand the scope and scale of this issue, or that we can say with any confidence that the measures we have taken to date are preventing sexual assaults."
49. [\*\*To support military families, Pentagon must fix fractured, outdated programs: Report\*\*](#)  
(19 Jul) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime  
The Pentagon puts significant resources and effort into caring for military families, but the department lacks a coordinated approach and has failed to keep up with the population's changing demographics, researchers said in a new study published Friday.

50. [Police arrest woman linked to baby death at Hawaii military base](#)  
(22 Jul) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers  
According to the arrest log of the Honolulu Police Department, Dixie D. Villa, 40, was arrested Saturday, and the offense listed is manslaughter. Bail is listed at \$1 million.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

51. [Fort Carson Celebrates National Pride Month with LGBTQ Soldiers](#)  
(19 Jun) *The Gazette*, By Ellie Mulder  
Transgender Army Capt. Alivia Stehlik has visited Washington, D.C., twice to testify before the House and Senate "to tell them my story, and to tell them the stories of thousands of people just like me who are simply going to work and doing their jobs with distinction," she said.
52. [Third woman assumes command in the history of the Yuma Test Center](#)  
(20 Jun) *Fox 9*, By Aziza Shuler  
Yuma Proving Ground welcomed its new commander of the Yuma Test Center (YTC), Lt. Col. Alicia J. Johnson. Johnson assumes command at YTC, joining a select few women to ever hold the position. She will be the third woman to hold the title of commander of YTC in 56 years.
53. [Army astronaut to return following 204-day space mission](#)  
(21 Jun) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox  
She didn't get to participate in a much-anticipated first all-female spacewalk, but U.S. Army astronaut Lt. Col. Anne McClain is returning to earth with plenty to show for her time in space.
54. [Army veterinarian leans on military training to provide medical assistance](#)  
(21 Jun) *Regional Health Command Europe*, By Ms. Michelle Thum  
Capt. Samantha Warner has been part of the Army family for her entire life. During a recent trans-Atlantic flight, she drew on her training and experience to provide basic life support to a fellow passenger in need.
55. [Servicemember who became citizen at White House slain with children in New York](#)  
(24 Jun) *Associated Press*  
Air National Guard member—Alla Ausheva, along with her two toddlers, were found dead Saturday. Ausheva obtained a protective order against the father of her children (who also served in the Air National Guard) but it was no longer in effect.
56. [With resilience and grit, this wounded sailor made it back to the fleet — and earned eight gold medals](#)  
(25 Jun) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz  
Master Chief Raina Hockenberry survived an attack that left her with severe wounds, but wouldn't allow herself to be medically retired. Instead, she has now returned to the active-duty fleet and also became an athlete in the Warrior Games. She was honored as the 2019 Sailor of the Year.
57. [Valley native is first female Marine to graduate grueling program](#)  
(25 Jun) *The Daily Item*, By John Zaktansky  
Shouldering 85 pounds of gear, the 5-foot-3, 115-pound Sgt. Tara-Lyn Baker skied up the snowy slopes of California's Mount Shasta and jumped into a hole cut into the ice of a frigid lake. It was all in a day's work for Tara-Lyn — who has become the first female Marine to graduate both the summer and winter Mountain Leaders courses — a grueling six months for Baker which will allow her to function as an instructor position for Marines in the program.
58. [Army Astronaut returns from ISS](#)  
(25 Jun) *Army News*, By Jason Cutshaw  
U.S. Army astronaut Lt. Col. Anne "AstroAnimal" McClain returned to Earth June 24 after more than six months on the International Space Station. During her first flight into space, she conducted hundreds of experiments and tasks, and performed two spacewalks totaling 13 hours and 8 minutes.
59. [She just made history as the first woman to lead an Army division. Meet Maj. Gen. Laura Yeager](#)  
(30 Jun) *Los Angeles Times*, By Daniel Langhorne  
Amid the roar of artillery fire, Maj. Gen. Laura Yeager made history Saturday as she assumed command of the U.S. Army's 40th Infantry Division during a ceremony at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.

60. [\*\*Twin Sisters Enlist Together and Retire Together After 34 Year National Guard Career\*\*](#)  
(1 Jul) *DVIDS*, By *Ryan Campbell*  
Twin sisters who began their Army National Guard careers together, went to war in Afghanistan together and share a house together, are now planning their retirements from the New York Army National Guard together.
61. [\*\*New commander takes over at US base near DMZ\*\*](#)  
(3 Jul) *Stars and Stripes*, By *Matthew Keeler*  
There's a new commander in charge of the last large military base occupied by U.S. forces near the Korean Demilitarized Zone. Lt. Col. Diosabelle Buack took command of Camp Casey during a ceremony Tuesday at the Carey Fitness Center attended by troops, family members and officials from the nearby city of Dongducheon. Buack has responsibility for the base itself, which supports about 10,000 personnel, including tenant units.
62. [\*\*Airman moves on from Article 15, safeguards thousands of lives with tornado warning\*\*](#)  
(5 Jul) *Air Force Times*, By *Diana Stancy Correll*  
Mistakes happen. But owning them can pave the way for second chances. Just talk to Airman 1st Class Mary Kapuscinski, a 7th Operations Support Squadron meteorologist at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas.
63. [\*\*Navy Commander Leads Warship that Played Key Role in the Rescue of Her Father\*\*](#)  
(5 Jul) *Navy News*, By *Alvin Plexico*  
Cmdr. Jean Marie Sullivan is the senior officer aboard a ship that has a history that is remarkably intertwined with the history of her family.
64. [\*\*Maryland National Guard's first African American and female leader retiring\*\*](#)  
(9 Jul) *The Associated Press*  
Maj. Gen. Linda Singh, the first African American and female leader of the Maryland National Guard, is retiring and Gov. Larry Hogan has chosen a successor.
65. [\*\*Minnesota National Guard salutes a new brigadier general\*\*](#)  
(10 Jul) *The Star Tribune*, By *Mary Lynn Smith*  
Army Col. Stefanie Horvath stood at attention Tuesday in her dress Army National Guard uniform as her mother on one side and her wife on the other pinned an embroidered star on each of her shoulders.
66. [\*\*Five Utah sisters take five different military paths\*\*](#)  
(12 Jul) *ConnectingVets.com*  
The Puro sisters are unique in that they are all currently serving in the military, with decorated careers spanning the Army, Air Force, and Navy.
67. [\*\*Groundbreaking female general in command of US Army North\*\*](#)  
(13 Jul) *Longview News-Journal*, By *Sig Christenson*  
As Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson took command of U.S. Army North on Monday morning before hundreds of dignitaries, she took stock of a life unbarred by barriers.
68. [\*\*Air Force NCO behind viral racist Facebook rant booted over 'multitude of misconduct'\*\*](#)  
(15 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By *Jared Keller*  
The Air Force has administratively separated Tech Sgt. Geraldine Lovely who was investigated for making racist comments about her subordinates in a video that went viral last year.
69. [\*\*Navy mother accused of 'horrific' abuse of twin infants in Bremerton\*\*](#)  
(16 Jul) *KOMO News*, By *Staff*  
A Bremerton mother accused of inflicting "severe and horrible trauma" on both of her infant twins has been arrested. The mother is currently an active member of the US Navy.
70. [\*\*Married Marine colonels to take on separate commands in North Carolina on the same day\*\*](#)  
(18 Jul) *Stars and Stripes*, By *Rose L. Thayer*  
Col. Amy Ebitz will step in to lead Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations East at Camp Lejeune, and her husband, Col. Curtis Ebitz will take command of nearby Marine Corps Air Station New River.

## WOMEN VETERANS

71. [Former Marine to receive Tillman Award at ESPYS](#)  
*(11 Jun) ESPN*  
Former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Kirstie Ennis, an athlete for most her life before suffering severe injuries in a helicopter crash while on active duty in Afghanistan, will be presented with the Pat Tillman Award for Service during The 2019 ESPYS.
72. [Pushing for VA policy change, congresswoman opens up about sexual assault](#)  
*(20 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By Nikki Wentling*  
Besides lowering the standards of evidence, H.R. 1092 would expand eligibility for VA benefits to veterans who suffer from other mental health issues, besides PTSD, because of military sexual trauma. It would also include veterans who experienced sexual harassment online. VA officials said the agency supported those changes.
73. [Dem House candidate on viral campaign ad: 'Colonel Marvel. Reporting for duty.'](#)  
*(20 Jun) The Hill, By Morgan Gstalter*  
A retired Air Force colonel running for Congress in Texas seized on the success of female-led superhero film "Captain Marvel" to tout her now-viral campaign ad. "Colonel Marvel. Reporting for duty," Kim Olson tweeted. The video became a social media hit with more than 1.4 million views on Twitter.
74. [How far should victims have to go to prove military sexual trauma?](#)  
*(21 Jun) Military Times, By Natalie Gross*  
The Department of Veterans Affairs is opposing a new bill that would expand access to disability benefits for survivors of military sexual trauma.
75. [Abortion arguments at play in limiting veterans' IVF benefit](#)  
*(8 Jul) The Associated Press, By Julie Carr Smyth*  
A federal program to help injured veterans and their spouses conceive children through in vitro fertilization is being hobbled by anti-abortion forces that oppose how the process can lead to embryos being destroyed.
76. [Retired female Marine aviator unveils campaign to unseat McConnell, rebukes him for not writing back about women in combat](#)  
*(9 Jul) Marine Corps Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*  
Retired Lt. Col. Amy McGrath, the first woman in the Marine Corps to fly an F/A-18 fighter jet in a combat mission, said Sen. Mitch McConnell never responded to a letter she wrote him as a child urging for women to fly in combat.
77. [Homeless women veterans are afraid to be separated from their children if they seek help, advocates say](#)  
*(10 Jul) ConnectingVets.com, By Abbie Bennett*  
Homeless women veterans may not report their homelessness or seek help out of fear. "They're afraid," said Jas Boothe, founder of Final Salute Inc., an Alexandria, Va.-based organization helping homeless women veterans. "They feel like 'I can't tell them I'm homeless because I'll lose my child.' So they're afraid to come forward and have their children stripped from their arms."
78. [Advocates urge help for homeless women veterans](#)  
*(10 Jul) The Hill, By Victoria Scott*  
Lawmakers looked at ways to provide help for women veterans, particularly those who are homeless, at a hearing of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.
79. [DoD partners with VA, implements Women's Health Transition Training Program](#)  
*(17 Jul) Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, By Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor*  
The Department of Veterans Affairs partnered with the Department of Defense to implement the first Women's Health Transition Training. The program is an in-person and virtual course designed to provide a female perspective to active-duty, Reserve and National Guard servicewomen who plan to transition to civilian or Reserve/National Guard status.

80. [Why leaving the military is harder for female vets](#)

*(18 Jul) Military Times, By Apoorva Mittal*

When she left the military in 2005, Jodie M. Grenier went from being on a team of intelligence analysts reporting to then-Marine Corps Gen. Jim Mattis, with a top security clearance, to waiting tables.

81. [VA-DOD program educates transitioning female service members on health resources](#)

*(18 Jul) Air Force Magazine, By Jennifer Leigh Oprihory*

The Veterans Affairs and Defense departments are formalizing a program to educate female service members about the Veterans Health Administration support services available to them before their transition into civilian life or Reserve or Guard status.

82. [Meet a 97-year-old Woodbury resident who was one of the first female Marines](#)

*(19 Jul) Star Tribune, By Mara Klecker*

June Fremont will turn 98 on Aug. 20, which isn't as unusual as it might seem. According to the Women Marines Association, nearly 60 of the organization's 3,000 members are age 98 or older, including a 102-year-old woman living in Hastings. Many of them, like Fremont, joined up during WWII, shortly after the United States Marine Corps authorized a Women's Reserve in 1943.