



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

29 March 2019

DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [Report: To keep women, Pentagon needs to care for families, end sexual harassment](#)

(17 Mar) *The Gazette Online*, By Tom Roeder

The Pentagon's advisory committee on women in uniform says the military could recruit and retain more women if leaders put an end to sexual harassment and paid more attention to families. The report issued last week by the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service says the Pentagon also needs better outreach efforts to show women a realistic picture of life in the military.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

2. [Air Force's 1st female fighter pilot, Jeannie Leavitt, helped bring 'Captain Marvel' to life](#)

(8 Mar) *ABC News*

Before Captain Marvel emerged as one of the galaxy's biggest superheroes, she was U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, Captain Carol Danvers. That connection has given the Air Force an opportunity to reach new audiences, particularly young girls who could become the next generation of fighter pilots.

3. [Stricter recruiting standards now could save DoD billions in disability payouts later: study](#)

(13 Mar) *Military Times*, By Tara Copp

Tightening medical requirements for recruits now could eventually save DoD billions, by reducing the number of enlisted service members who end up retiring or separating early due to medical issues, a new study has found. The Rand Corp. looked at 10 policy changes DoD has made to its medical recruiting standards since 2002.

4. [Go Active Guard Reserve, boost your pay and benefits? Full-time reservist program to grow](#)

(19 Mar) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey

Air Force reservists are about to get a lot more opportunities to go full time — and get the chance to receive the same pay, benefits and retirement as active-duty airmen.

5. [Marine Corps ends use of terms 'PREG' or 'POSTPARTUM' on promotion photos](#)

(19 Mar) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow

In a recent move, the Corps has decided to eliminate the terms "PREG" or "POSTPARTUM" on promotion photos of female Marines. The recent change was posted in a Marine administrative message published in January, and details were also noted in the Corps' response to a request for information from the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, or DACOWITS, regarding the Corps' progress in tackling issues with unconscious gender bias.

6. [Secretary of Army Mark Esper visits Cleveland in new recruiting plan targeting big cities](#)

(21 Mar) *The Plain Dealer Online*, By Brian Albrecht

Secretary of the Army Mark Esper visited the mayor's office today as part of the Army's new efforts to ramp up recruiting in America's big cities. Esper said during a press conference that the visit resulted from revamping their entire recruiting system after the Army fell short of its 2018 recruiting goal for the first time since 2005.

7. [Army scaling back recruiting goals after missing target, under secretary says](#)
(21 Mar) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
Discussions over the Army's fiscal 2020 budget request have focused on cutting current programs to fund modernization, but the service also significantly lowered its recruiting goals for the next several years after missing last year's recruiting target by more than 6,000 soldiers.
8. [Coast Guard eyes changes to physical standards, tattoo policy to retain troops](#)
(22 Mar) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime
A week before releasing results of a study on retaining women in the Coast Guard, the service's top leaders said they will institute a policy to better support families during parental leave and are considering changing weight standards they say disproportionately affect females.
9. ['Deploy or get out' policy may not have forced out any troops at all](#)
(22 Mar) *Defense News Online*, By Leo Shane III
Defense officials say no service members have been forced out of the ranks under the Pentagon's new "deploy or get out" policy put in place last fall, despite comments from the acting defense secretary suggesting tens of thousands of service members were removed from the force in recent months.
10. [Big Navy Getting Much Bigger](#)
(26 Mar) *Navy Times*, By Mark D. Faram
Big Navy is poised to get even bigger, adding roughly 21,000 officers and sailors to the sea service by the end of fiscal year 2024. That's 10,000 more sailors than previous projections, part of a Pentagon push to have 354,000 personnel in the service five years from now, the most since mid-2006 when the Navy was drawing down its numbers.
11. [Here are a few lessons for military recruiters straining to make mission from a civilian sales expert](#)
(26 Mar) *Military Times*, By Todd South
Jeb Blount lives sales and teaching people to be better at the business of selling. He's spent his career focusing his attention on services, products and expertise — all with a people-focus.
12. [A lawmaker grilled top Army leadership on recruiting woes. This is what they had to say](#)
(27 Mar) *Army Times Online*, By Meghann Myers
The Army is still shooting for a 500,000-strong active-duty force by the end of the next decade, but after last year's recruiting shortfall, senior leaders are looking to slow down their rate of growth a bit.
13. [Most American youth first meet a recruiter at 17, but the Army wants to start younger](#)
(27 Mar) *Army Times*, By Meghann Myers
High school seniors have traditionally been Army recruiting's most reliable target audience, but leadership is realizing that as military service becomes more and more rare and fewer American youth actually know a soldier or veteran, they'll need to make up that gap by reaching out to younger prospects.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

14. [How women wage war](#)
(11 Mar) *Inkstick*, By Jessica Trisko Darden
Women's roles in armed groups vary. But, in large part due to their ability to blur the line between civilian and combatant, women's often unseen contributions to conflict can be key to an armed group's success.
15. [Include women in Selective Service registration](#)
(18 Mar) *USA Today*, By The Editorial Board
The United States might never resume the draft, given the bitter and deep emotional wounds lingering after hundreds of thousands of young men were conscripted for service during the divisive Vietnam War and many didn't come home.

16. [Gender-neutral fitness test for all? Air Force considering running-based formula](#)
(19 Mar) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
The Air Force is developing a new formula that it hopes will provide a more accurate measure of fitness vs fatness — and could possibly result in a gender-neutral fitness test for all airmen. The new formula will measure airmen’s aerobic fitness against their body composition to come up with a fitness score, Neil Baumgartner, chief of the Air Force’s exercise science unit, said at a meeting of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.
17. [Late is the new normal for Virginia-class attack boats](#)
(20 Mar) *Defense News*, By David B. Larter
The U.S. Navy is dealing with persistent delays throughout its submarine-building enterprise as it prepares to enter into a historically large contract for the complicated Block V Virginia-class attack submarine and begin heavy work on the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines.
18. [Navy puts 355-ship cap on fleet size](#)
(21 Mar) *USNI News*, By Megan Eckstein
The Navy’s latest 30-year shipbuilding plan outlines a path forward that includes less near-term growth in fleet size but reaches and sustains a 355-ship fleet sooner than last year’s plan.
19. [Recruits with first partially gender-integrated Marine boot camp company earn the title Marine](#)
(22 Mar) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
The Marines of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, the first partially gender-integrated company in the Corps’ history, earned the title Marine on March 16 aboard the recruit depot Parris Island, South Carolina, according to Marine Corps officials.
20. [First enlisted woman to try for Air Force special operations weather career](#)
(22 Mar) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk
The Air Force officially has its first enlisted woman attempting the special operations weather career field. The female airman, unidentified for privacy reasons, recently graduated basic military training and the special warfare prep course but has yet to begin assessment and selection, known as A&S.
21. [Marine commandant personally invites MARSOC trailblazer to become an officer](#)
(22 Mar) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
Gen. Robert Neller called Sgt. Bailey Weis, the first female Marine to complete second phase of the intense selection process for special operators, to encourage her to attend Officer Candidates School. The call followed *Military.com*’s story about Weis after she completed the physically demanding Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command training, which no woman had passed before.
22. [Why women should be required to register for the draft](#)
(23 Mar) *CNN*, By Juliette Kayyem and Monica Medina
If women were eligible for the draft, the administration could conceivably use the decision to justify limiting women’s equal opportunities in the military, based on the same misguided and paternalistic reasoning that led to the combat exclusion rule in the first place.
23. [Women Becoming Marines: ‘I’ Will No Longer Be in Your Vocabulary](#)
(24 Mar) *New York Times Online*, By Lynsey Addario
Women make up 8 percent of U.S. Marines. The military base at Parris Island, S.C., is where these women train.
24. [Army’s updated fitness test among issues facing new Ohio National Guard leader](#)
(24 Mar) *The Associated Press*, By Holly Zachariah
The two-star general now in charge of the Ohio National Guard poked himself in the chest as he spoke about the tough new physical-fitness standards being implemented across the Army, to emphasize that it’s all about being a warrior.
25. [Navy OKs new slacks, skirts, shoes and other uniform items for female sailors](#)
(25 Mar) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
The latest updates to the Navy’s uniform policy include a host of changes for women, including improved slacks and skirts for some ranks, flats authorized for optional wear, and a nursing top for new moms.

26. [NASA Scraps First All-Female Spacewalk For Want Of A Medium-Size Spacesuit](#)
 (26 Mar) NPR, By Matthew S. Schwartz
 That is not one small step for women. History was supposed to be made Friday when, for the first time, two female astronauts were scheduled to do a spacewalk together outside the International Space Station. However, one of the astronauts was switched out this week because of a lack of "spacesuit availability."
27. [So Here's What NASA Has to Say About the Reaction to Cancelling the All-Female Spacewalk](#)
 (26 Mar) Time, By Rachel E. Greenspan
 McClain realized she preferred wearing the medium size torso, rather than the large one that she was originally slated to wear, Stephanie Schierholz, a spokesperson for NASA, said on Twitter. "When you have the option of just switching the people, the mission becomes more important than a cool milestone," Schierholz told the New York Times.
28. [In a first, enlisted woman aims to become special operations weather airman](#)
 (26 Mar) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
 The first enlisted woman to try to become a special operations weather airman has entered the special warfare training pipeline.
29. [National Guard command staff entirely composed of women for first time](#)
 (28 Mar) The Washington Post, By Samantha Schmidt
 It wasn't until the Cold War, in the mid-1950s, that women were allowed to join the National Guard — as medical officers. It would take another four decades for a woman to rise to the level of a state adjutant general, the top commander of a state's military forces.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

30. [Senator Renews Push to Distance Commanders from Military Prosecutions](#)
 (16 Mar) Military.com, By Patricia Kime
 Alarming data from the Pentagon on the prevalence and prosecution of sexual assaults continue to drive advocates' efforts to push for an overhaul of the military justice system and to remove commanders from the process of deciding whether to prosecute.
31. [Italy-based master chief gets non-judicial punishment](#)
 (15 Mar) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
 Master Chief Electronics Technician Anthony J. Witters pleaded guilty at NJP to "wrongfully engaging in unduly familiar behavior" with a female sailor, after he made sexual advances toward her, the plea agreement states. He also pleaded guilty to sending a female sailor electronic messages in which he told her to 'delete these messages'.
32. [Eglin Air Force Base community rallies around airman after her son's murder](#)
 (18 Mar) The Northwest Florida Daily News, By Jim Thompson
 The full range of Eglin Air Force Base resources are being marshaled around Airman 1st Class Darrelly Franken whose husband killed their 3-year-old son and then attempted to kill himself.
33. [Bill would require DoD to pay for combat troops to freeze sperm, eggs](#)
 (19 Mar) Military.com, By Patricia Kime
 A new bill would give troops with infertility related to their military service greater access to advanced reproductive treatments, including up to three completed cycles of in vitro fertilization, or IVF, and cryopreservation of eggs and sperm for those heading to a combat zone.
34. [FDA approves first treatment for post-partum depression](#)
 (19 Mar) Immediate Release
 Postpartum depression is a serious condition that, when severe, can be life-threatening. Women may experience thoughts about harming themselves or harming their child. Postpartum depression can also interfere with the maternal-infant bond. This approval marks the first time a drug has been specifically approved to treat postpartum depression, providing an important new treatment option.

35. [Pentagon agrees to set up McSally's military sexual assault task force](#)
(20 Mar) *The Hill Online*, By Ellen Mitchell
Sen. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) on Wednesday said that acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan has agreed to immediately form a Pentagon task force to combat sexual assault.
36. [Marines will not reinstate sentence for man who pleaded guilty to domestic abuse](#)
(20 Mar) *The Free Lance-Star*, By Adele Uphuas
U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine and Rep. Abigail Spanberger hopes to bring forward legislation that might change how domestic violence is prosecuted in the military.
37. [McSally eyeing defense bill for sexual assault reforms](#)
(21 Mar) *The Hill*, By Reid Wilson
Sen. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) said she will push Pentagon officials to come up with specific plans to address sexual assault in the military in the next 60 days before the Senate begins work on an annual defense authorization bill.
38. [Female prosecutor murdered in what colleagues say was 'the worst possible outcome of domestic violence'](#)
(25 Mar) *ABC News*, By Meghan Keneally
Stacia Hollinshead was an assistant state's attorney, Army intelligence officer and a young mother. And an alleged victim of domestic violence. Hollinshead served as an U.S. Army intelligence analyst for 11 years.
39. [US Naval Academy midshipman charged with sexual assault](#)
(26 Mar) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
Midshipman 1st Class Michael J. Wallace faces a court-martial trial for sexually assaulting a sleeping personnel specialist seaman reservist.
40. [FDA proposes mammogram changes for first time in 20 years to identify breast cancer early](#)
(28 Mar) *USA Today*, By Ashley May
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration proposed new rules Wednesday that will require mammogram centers to tell women more about how dense breast tissue can affect their health and increase their cancer risk.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

41. [First woman to head Texas National Guard had a hero — her mom](#)
(18 Mar) *San Antonio Express-News*, By Sig Christenson
Long before Tracy Norris made history as the first woman to head the Texas National Guard, there were signs of ambition, a hunger to do great things.
42. [General Officer Assignment](#)
(21 Mar) *IMMEDIATE RELEASE (No. NR-057-19)*
The chief of staff, Army announces the following officer assignment: Brig. Gen. Amy E. Hannah, director, Army Marketing Research Task Force, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Arlington, Virginia, to chief of public affairs, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington, District of Columbia.
43. [War torn](#)
(22 Mar) *Washington Post*, By Missy Ryan, Olivier Laurent and Jennifer Reed
The doubts crowded in late at night, after the kids were in bed and the dishes were put away. In the months after she got her deployment orders, Navy cryptologist Shannon Kent spent her days preparing to join a Special Operations task force in Syria battling the Islamic State. For Shannon, the mission was the culmination of a 15-year military career: language exams, fitness tests, repeated deployments alongside Navy SEALs.
44. [San Diego has a new 'Navy Mayor' as Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar takes command of Navy Region Southwest](#)
(23 Mar) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, By Andrew Dyer
The Naval command that oversees all of the service's shore installations across six states welcomed its new commander to San Diego on Friday as Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar assumed the role of the "Navy Mayor" at Naval Air Station North Island.

45. [First Air Force JAG officer to wear hijab featured in short NBC documentary](#)

(24 Mar) Air Force Times, By Kent Miller

Capt. Maysaa Ouza, the first Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps officer to wear hijab, is featured in a new short documentary from NBC's Left Field this week.

WOMEN VETERANS

46. [With Historic Number of Women in Uniform, the Vet Community Is About to Change](#)

(11 Mar) Military.com, By Mary Dever

As the role of women in the military continues to expand, Women's History Month is the perfect time to recognize the thousands of women who fight to protect our country and how this new modern-day warrior is forcing changes in the services, programs and culture facing our veterans.

47. [10 things you didn't know about women in the military](#)

(14 Mar) The American Legion

In honor of Women's History Month, here are 10 things you may not know about women in the U.S. military.

48. [Meet the first female 3-star general in the US military](#)

(19 Mar) We Are The Mighty, By Keith Hayes

The U.S. military has always been fertile soil for firsts throughout our nation's history, and the promotion of Carol A. Mutter to become the nation's first female lieutenant general serves as a perfect case in point for Women's History Month.

49. [A Register of Military Women](#)

(20 Mar) The New York Times, By Dee McWilliams

At a time when the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that female veterans are the fastest-growing veteran population, recognizing the collective service of women is more important than ever.