



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

9 August 2019

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Lawmakers nominate far more men than women for military service academies each year: Report](#)
(23 Jul) Military Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
Males account for nearly 80 percent of current lawmakers' service academy nominees, according to a new report examining nomination data from the past 25 years.
2. [Nominations to military academies on the rise for women](#)
(23 Jul) Associated Press
Representatives of some congressional members say the low numbers reflect a correspondingly small number of female applicants.
3. [Manning the military: America's problem](#)
(23 Jul) Military Times, By Dennis Laich
There is no doubt that there is a serious problem in manning the American military. The problem is not the military's. The problem belongs to the American people and Congress.
4. [7-year-old about to undergo chemotherapy 'enlists' in Navy](#)
(24 Jul) Military Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
A 7-year-old Ohio girl about to undergo chemotherapy to treat a brain tumor fulfilled her dream and "enlisted" in the Navy.
5. ['You shouldn't sign up' Native female Marine talks about her combat role](#)
(24 Jul) Indian Country Today, By Vincent Schilling
Leondra Begay, a 22-year-old U.S. Marine, was once told by her brother that she shouldn't sign up for a combat arms role in the Marines. Her brother Eric Sorrellhorse, an infantryman in the Army, said the combat role would be "too demanding."
6. [The U.S. Army is offering up to \\$40,000 to recruits who enlist by September](#)
(24 Jul) 25News, By Natali Castillo
As the Army is nearing the end of the recruiting year, there are currently a variety of occupations available for individuals prepared to ship to basic training in the next two months. Available positions include: infantryman, Special Forces candidate, cannon crewmember, joint fire support specialist, fire control specialist, multiple launch rocket system crewmember, field artillery firefinder radar operator, patriot fire control enhanced operator/maintainer, patriot launching station enhanced operator/maintainer, cavalry scout, M1 armor crewman, signal support systems specialist.
7. [Down-range retention is really high: Afghan War, deployments still boost recruiting](#)
(25 Jul) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
The desire to go to war remains a key factor in recruiting and retention, according to senior enlisted leaders across the services.
8. [Here's one thing military parents should do before their child joins the military](#)
(26 Jul) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
As officials sort out the issue of how notes contained in military children's medical records may disqualify those children from joining the military after they reach adulthood, one possible proactive step parents can take now is to get copies of their children's records to find out if there are any red flags, said one psychiatrist who is advocating for change.

9. [Academic credentialing program could boost Soldier retention, says SMA](#)
(26 Jul) *Army News*, By Joe Lacdan
The Army could add to its record retention numbers by providing more incentive for Soldiers to stay on duty. The Army has been testing a pilot program for academic credentialing at Fort Hood and plans to extend the program to several major installations by the end of 2019. Last week the Army provided 110 bachelor's degrees to senior NCOs who attended the Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss. The Army will be providing Soldiers with some college credit or professional credentialing for each level of NCO training.
10. [The military is kicking out foreign recruits it needs — for having foreign ties](#)
(30 Jul) *The Washington Post*, By Alex Horton
The Pentagon program under which they were recruited called for a simple idea: The military would enlist immigrants to harness strategic language and medical abilities in short supply among U.S.-born troops, calling the skills of immigrants a national security imperative. It is unclear how many immigrant recruits have been turned away as recruits or discharged as soldiers in recent months.
11. [USAF deciding soon on “indefinite enlistment,” other NCO changes](#)
(6 Aug) *Air Force Magazine*, By Brian Everstine
The Air Force is moving toward an “indefinite enlistment” process—removing the requirement for senior enlisted personnel to regularly re-enlist after a certain number of years.
12. [U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth says improving health and education in the U.S. would lead to a stronger military](#)
(7 Aug) *Chicago Tribune*, By Rick Pearson
Duckworth said only 29 percent of Americans between age 17 and 24 were deemed fit to serve, according to a Pentagon study. The remaining 71 percent lacked a basic education, could not pass a physical or are barred from enlisting because of drugs or other issues.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

13. [The Last All-Male Board in the S&P 500 Finally Added a Woman](#)
(24 Jul) *Bloomberg*, By Emily Chasan
The final stretch of progress has been slow. In 2000, about 86% of S&P 500 companies had at least one women on their board according to Spencer Stuart. The last 14% of companies have taken almost 20 years to close the gap. Gender balance at the board level has long been a focus for activist investors, but the cause got new momentum with State Street Corp.'s Fearless Girl campaign in 2017. Last year, California instituted something like a quota system for companies headquartered in the state. New Jersey has a similar bill pending.
14. [Have marines gotten bigger? Corps prepares for new body survey](#)
(29 Jul) *Military.com*, By Hope Hedge Seck
Although Marines are required to meet height, weight and fitness standards, there's precedent for finding that the average service member is getting bigger over the years. From 1994 to 2010, average height measurements for women stayed roughly the same, but weight increased an average of almost 4 pounds, corresponding to bigger average waist and buttocks measurements.
15. [Why wearable technology might end the Navy's fitness test](#)
(30 Jul) *Navy Times*, By Mark D. Faram
A former Navy top official is proposing the service scrap the semi-annual physical fitness test and instead monitor sailors' health through wearable tracking devices.
16. [Women push for greater role in the national security establishment](#)
(1 Aug) *Roll Call*, By Andrew Clevenger
Many women in the country's emerging class of national security and foreign policy leaders came into their fields assuming the sexism that stifled careers in earlier generations was a thing of the past.
17. [Naval War College's 1st female president takes command](#)
(2 Aug) *The Associated Press*
The first female leader of the U.S. Naval War College has officially assumed command of the school. Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield became the 57th president Thursday. Chatfield, a helicopter pilot, previously led a military command in Guam.

18. [Army orders \\$40 million of its newest body armor](#)
(2 Aug) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
The Army recently ordered more than \$40 million worth of its latest body armor vests and accessories from KDH Defense Systems Inc., a North Carolina-based firm that's been a major player in the service's body armor for more than a decade.
19. [Is the infantry assault Marine MOS no more? Here's what is really happening and when](#)
(2 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Todd South
In late 2017, then-Commandant Gen. Robert Neller confirmed that the Marine Corps would be phasing out one of its infantry military occupational specialties, known as an MOS.
20. [Possible physical fitness test changes aim for holistic health](#)
(5 Aug) *Air Force Magazine*, By Brian Everstine
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright is touting a vision of a more holistically healthy Air Force, one where the current physical fitness test is no more and vegetables pair with birthday cake.
21. [Who Runs the World: Ronald Reagan Conducts RAS With All-Female Rig Team](#)
(5 Aug) *USS Ronald Reagan Public Affairs*, By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tyra M. Campbell
Twenty-one female Sailors assigned to the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan's (CVN 76) Deck Department formed the first all-female underway replenishment (UNREP) rig team during a replenishment-at-sea (RAS) detail with Military Sealift Command's dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Walter S. Diehl (T-AO 193) August 1.
22. [Trial-run fitness tests among Air Force top enlisted leader's priorities](#)
(6 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By Brian Ferguson
The Air Force's top enlisted leader wants to lift the stress from airmen's lives by revamping physical fitness assessments — and he wants to do it before his planned retirement next year in the fall.
23. [First female Marine F-35B pilot graduates soon, while first female Marine is selected to fly F-35C](#)
(7 Aug) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
The first female Marine F-35B pilot is set to graduate from training soon, according to Marine officials.
24. [The 'no harm, no foul' PT test: Air Force considering practice examinations to lessen stress](#)
(7 Aug) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
The Air Force is considering changing its fitness test policies to allow airmen to take a practice examination early, without being penalized if they fail.
25. [Coast Guard ditches body weight standards for measurement in new pilot program](#)
(7 Aug) *Military.com*, By Richard Sisk
Coast Guard women fail weight standards far more often than men and are discharged at rates well in excess of their population in the service, service officials said Tuesday.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

26. [Uniform Office seeks feedback on maternity uniforms](#)
(16 Jul) *Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Public Affairs*, By Brian Brackens
The Air Force Uniform Office will begin surveying female Airmen starting July 22, to collect feedback on Air Force maternity uniform items. All Air Force women will receive an e-mail from the Air Force Survey Office with a unique link inviting them to take the survey. To determine who should take the full survey, the Uniform Office is asking participants to respond to the first survey question.
27. [Former SecNav applauds Marine commandant's call for 1-year maternity leave](#)
(22 Jul) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
The former Navy secretary who led some of the sea services' biggest personnel reforms said the branch known for being the most male-oriented -- or as he put it, "macho" -- got it right in considering year-long career breaks for women who've had babies.

28. [Commandant praised by advocates for examining longer Marine parental leave](#)
(23 Jul) *Stars & Stripes*, By Nancy Montgomery
The new Marine commandant's pledge to significantly expand parental leave has buoyed advocates for military families, who say they hope that policies allowing for more caregiving time will spread beyond the Marine Corps.
29. [Navy should probe sexual-harassment claims against auditor, lawmaker says](#)
(24 Jul) *Bloomberg*, By Anthony Capaccio
The Pentagon's inspector general will investigate allegations of sexual harassment and retaliation against the Navy's top auditor following a complaint detailing some of the claims by Representative Speier. Navy Auditor General Ronnie J. Booth has been accused of a "pattern of harassment, retaliation and hostility in the workplace" that has been "documented at length in multiple sources" dating to 2007.
30. [Air Force seeks feedback on maternity uniforms](#)
(25 Jul) *Air Force Times*, By Staff
In a quest to provide female airmen with more comfortable and versatile maternity uniforms, the Air Force is surveying women on active duty and in the Air Guard and Air Reserve to collect their thoughts.
31. [Federal board reinstates Naval Academy professor](#)
(25 Jul) *The Associated Press*, By Brian Witte
A U.S. Naval Academy professor who was removed by the academy after an investigation into his conduct in class was reinstated to his job by a federal board. Accusations against him included allowing students to tell jokes of a sexual nature in class, discussing sexual matters in class, emailing partially clothed photos of himself to his students, and touching students on the neck, shoulders and back in class without their consent.
32. [Navy SEAL platoon removed from Iraq over reports of sexual assault, alcohol use](#)
(26 Jul) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
A special operations commander's decision to remove a Navy SEAL platoon from Iraq centered around allegations that a senior enlisted member of the team raped a female comrade, *The New York Times* reported.
33. [Sexting, salacious snapshots: Inside SEAL Team 6's spoofing scandal](#)
(27 Jul) *Navy Times*, By Mark D. Faram and Geoff Ziezulewicz
The victims are an aircrew survival equipmentman second class and two civilians, military prosecutors say.
34. [New Naval Academy superintendent takes command](#)
(28 Jul) *The Associated Press*
The new superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy says infrastructure and preventing sexual assault are two of the top challenges facing the institution.
35. [Marines reprimand 1-star alleged to have bullied subordinates and 'devalued women'](#)
(31 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By Todd South
A Marine brigadier general who was alleged to have "disparaged, bullied and humiliated subordinates, devalued women" while he ran the Corps' legislative affairs has received administrative reprimand.
36. [Senate committee advances senior general's nomination despite sexual assault accusations](#)
(31 Jul) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III and Joe Gould
Senate Armed Services Committee members on Wednesday advanced the nomination of an Air Force general accused of sexually harassing and assaulting an aide, but a full floor vote on his confirmation likely won't take place for several more weeks.
37. [DoD looking at how installations deal with unauthorized child care providers, in wake of baby's death](#)
(31 Jul) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
Following the death of a 7-month-old baby girl in military housing in Hawaii, defense officials are evaluating how military installations deal with unauthorized family child care providers.

38. [Marine 1-star's 'light' punishment questioned after he mistreated subordinates](#)
(31 Jul) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
A Marine general officer found to have bullied his staff and devalued women reportedly received such a light punishment that one critic says it proves the government doesn't hold senior leaders accountable for bad behavior.
39. [Navy wife indicted in connection with baby's death in Hawaii military housing](#)
(2 Aug) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
A Navy wife has been indicted on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of a 7-month-old baby girl in military housing in Hawaii.
41. [France drafts law to extend IVF to lesbians, single women](#)
(4 Aug) *The Associated Press*, By Sylvie Corbet
Single women and lesbians in France no longer would have to go abroad to get pregnant with a doctor's help under a proposed law that would give them access to medically assisted reproduction at home for the first time.
42. [The Pentagon wants your help in nabbing serial rapists](#)
(5 Aug) *Military Times*, By Meghann Myers
Military sexual assault survivors have a new option to document their experiences and help prevent repeat offenders from continuing a pattern of violence.
43. [Pentagon launches Catch program to identify serial sex offenders in the military](#)
(5 Aug) *Stars and Stripes*, By Caitlin M. Kenney
The program, called Catch a Serial Offender, or Catch, allows survivors of sexual assault who are submitting a restricted report to provide information confidentially about the sexual assault incident as well as the accused offender to military investigators so they can try to identify serial offenders, according to the Pentagon.
44. [Air Force Academy cadet pleads guilty to assault, gets prison term](#)
(7 Aug) *The Associated Press*
The military says a U.S. Air Force Academy cadet who was charged with sexual misconduct has pleaded guilty to assault.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

45. [Cadet nurses inch closer to getting veteran status](#)
(22 Jul) *The Day*, By Lindsay Boyle
With the U.S. House passage of the National Defense Authorization Act last week, the country moved one step closer to recognizing cadet nurses as veterans. About 180,000 women joined the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps to address the nursing shortage during World War II. About 124,000 of them became licensed through the five-year program, which offered a federally funded education to would-be nurses who promised to serve throughout the war.
46. ['I have a moral responsibility to come forward': Colonel accuses top military nominee of assault](#)
(26 Jul) *New York Times*, By Helene Cooper
Col. Kathryn A. Spletstoser of the Army says she had returned to her hotel room and was putting on face cream on the night of Dec. 2, 2017, after a full day at the annual Reagan National Defense Forum in California, when her boss, Air Force Gen. John E. Hyten, the commander of United States Strategic Command, knocked on her door and said he wanted to talk to her.
47. [U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity names first female leader](#)
(26 Jul) *The Frederick News-Post*, By Heather Mongilio
Col. Gina Adam became the 14th person to take command of the USAMMDA. She most recently worked as director of the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, under the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, before accepting the command. Her background is as a research psychologist.
48. [Army soldier wins gold at Pan American Games](#)
(30 Jul) *ConnectingVets.com*, By Maj. Michelle Lunato
U.S. Army 1st Lt. Sarah Beard won the Gold Medal in Women's Three-Position Rifle at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru July 28.

49. [**This combat pilot learned to fly before she could drive**](#)
(1 Aug) ConnectingVets.com (Podcast), By Phil Briggs
What does it feel like to fly a combat mission? We'll hear all about it from Amber Smith, and she'll describe why she was literally born to be a military aviator.
50. [**Monday 'accelerated change of command ceremony' relieves Navy JAG tied to SEAL cases**](#)
(5 Aug) Navy Times, By Carl Prine
Caught in a political firestorm for her leadership of the Regional Legal Service Office Southwest during a pair of SEAL war crimes cases that fell apart, the Navy relieved Capt. Meg Larrea on Monday.
51. [**Before she handled SEAL war crimes cases, one-star was tied to 'Fat Leonard'**](#)
(6 Aug) Navy Times, By Carl Prine
Two years before Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson withdrew a pair of SEAL war crimes cases from Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, the one-star was lightly rapped for her ties to corrupt contractor Leonard Glenn "Fat Leonard" Francis.

WOMEN VETERANS

52. [**A Colorado war veteran lost parental rights to her children through a rarely-scrutinized legal process. Now she's asking the state Supreme Court to intercede.**](#)
(20 Jul) Denver Post, By Elise Schmelzer
When Ashley checked herself into a homeless shelter for female veterans, she had the well being of her two young children in mind. Her symptoms from post-traumatic stress disorder had become unmanageable. She wanted to get treatment so she could stay a good mother for her children. She didn't expect that her time away meant she would lose her parental rights through a section of Colorado law that affords parents few legal protections.
53. [**An Air Force vet is on a mission to take portraits of 7,500 veterans in all 50 states**](#)
(28 Jul) Task & Purpose, By Doug Maccash
By Veterans' Day this November, former combat photographer Stacy Pearsall will have traveled to all 50 states, snapping stark black-and-white portraits of more than 7,500 military veterans.
54. [**Pilot who was a daredevil flier with WASPs during WWII dies at 103**](#)
(31 Jul) The News Tribune, By Siandhara Bonnet
About 30 people stood on the pavement of the Calvary Cemetery, looking toward the sky, waiting for World War II planes to fly overhead in honor of a woman who flew ones like them more than 75 years ago.
55. [**"Eat it or starve:" food causes stress for women Veterans**](#)
(1 Aug) VAantage Blog
For a study published in the journal Appetite, researchers talked with 20 women Veterans about how military service affected their eating habits. They found that many had developed unhealthy patterns such as bingeing, eating quickly, eating in response to stress and extreme dieting. In many cases, those habits carried over into civilian life.
56. [**Pin-Ups For Vets unveils 2020 calendar**](#)
(5 Aug) Military Times, By J. D. Simkins
Pin-Ups For Vets released its annual calendar in an effort to raise money to support hospitalized veterans and personnel currently deployed overseas, the non-profit announced. This year's edition, which features 19 women decked out in 1940s vogue — veterans representing all five branches of the military.