



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 December 2020



	RECRUITMENT & RETENTION
1.	<p><u>Air Force retention spiked amid COVID. Now, retention bonuses might be cut</u> <i>(1 Dec) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey</i> A coronavirus-driven spike in retention rates has left the Air Force's active duty significantly overmanned, and the service is planning to roll out a slate of voluntary separation and retraining programs to rebalance the force.</p>
2.	<p><u>Air Force is looking for some airmen to transition to new jobs, National Guard or Reserve</u> <i>(1 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By Corey Dickstein</i> The Air Force will need some of its active-duty troops to transfer early to Reserve or National Guard duty or change specialties amid the highest retention rate that the service has seen nearly two decades, a top general said Tuesday.</p>
3.	<p><u>After hitting record retention numbers, Air Force may push some troops toward reserves</u> <i>(2 Dec) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk</i> Citing the highest service member retention rates in two decades, a top Air Force general says the service may need some troops to transfer into other specialties, or into the Guard or Reserve.</p>
4.	<p><u>Competition for the generations: A father and daughter reflect on U.S. fights from Beirut to Baghdad</u> <i>(2 Dec) War On The Rocks, By Jim Breckenridge and Katie Breckenridge Crombe</i> Service is a tradition in our family. At least one member of our family has been serving in some capacity since the Civil War.</p>
5.	<p><u>This is what the Air Force can do to recruit and retain women cyber warriors</u> <i>(3 Dec) Military Times, By Lillian Warner</i> While the United States Air Force understands that it has a problem attracting, recruiting, and retaining successful cyberspace operations officers, a corollary, albeit unrealized or discounted problem looms regarding attracting, recruiting and retaining women cyber officers.</p>
6.	<p><u>Instructors wanted, apply within: Why the Air Force is failing to change its culture and what to do about it</u> <i>(8 Dec) War On The Rocks, By Bradley Podliska and Donnie Hodges</i> Thirteen. Just 13 out of 726 officers participating in the 2020 officer instructor and recruiting special duty selection process listed Air University's Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, as their top assignment preferences.</p>
7.	<p><u>Air Force halves bonus-eligible job list as retention levels reach record highs</u> <i>(10 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By Wyatt Olson</i> The Air Force announced Thursday it was slashing in half the number of specialties eligible in the Selective Retention Bonus program for fiscal year 2021 because of record-high retention levels.</p>
8.	<p><u>First 7 Space Force enlistees graduate from Air Force basic training at JBSA-Lackland</u> <i>(10 Dec) KSAT, By Rebecca Salinas</i> The first seven U.S. Space Force enlistees are set to graduate from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. According to JBSA-Lackland, they will be among the more than 700 graduates from the 320th Training Squadron.</p>
9.	<p><u>More than half of NASA's moon-bound astronauts are active-duty military</u> <i>(11 Dec) Military Times, By Harm Venhuizen</i> NASA has announced the team of 18 astronauts who will spearhead the agency's efforts to return to the moon by 2024. Among them were 10 active-duty military personnel.</p>



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	EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION
10.	<p><u>Marine infantry training not long enough — or good enough — for future fight, commandant says</u> (2 Dec) <i>Marine Corps Times</i>, By Philip Athey Today, Marines entering the infantry field spend nine weeks at the School of Infantry, learning the basics of their trade before hitting the fleet.</p>
11.	<p><u>There should be no doubt about Michele Flournoy for defense secretary</u> (3 Dec) <i>Defense News</i>, By Barry Pavel Current media reports would lead us to believe that questions are being raised about the qualifications of former Under Secretary of Defense Michele Flournoy to be nominated as secretary of defense, including whether her connections to the defense industry should disqualify her candidacy.</p>
12.	<p><u>Bill would force Army to halt ACFT until it can study impacts</u> (7 Dec) <i>Military.com</i>, By Matthew Cox If Congress gets its way, the Army will be forced to stop administering the new Army Combat Fitness Test until an independent study looks at how the more-challenging assessment will affect recruiting and retention, as well as deployed troops taking the test in adverse conditions.</p>
13.	<p><u>Biden's Pentagon pick frustrates women who sought a different history-maker</u> (8 Dec) <i>Politico</i>, By Lara Seligman and Nahal Toosi This is the second time Michèle Flournoy has been denied the chance to lead the Pentagon.</p>
14.	<p><u>Did Michèle Flournoy face 'double standard' over defense industry ties?</u> (9 Dec) <i>Military.com</i>, By Oriana Pawlyk President-elect Joe Biden's selection of Lloyd Austin, a retired Army general with close ties to the defense industry, has led to an outcry among defense observers who say he was placed under less scrutiny than Michèle Flournoy, long seen as the leading contender for the position.</p>
15.	<p><u>How Air Force Global Strike Command is cultivating diversity & inclusion</u> (9 Dec) <i>Air Force Magazine</i>, By Jennifer-Leigh Ophory As the public awaits the findings of the Department of the Air Force's recent diversity and inclusion survey, major commands across USAF are launching their own efforts to make these departmental priorities the norm. While a substantial part of 8th Air Force diversity and inclusion efforts focused on issues of race and civil unrest, their scope has also extended to issues of gender.</p>
16.	<p><u>Female Recruits to Train at Marines' All-Male San Diego Boot Camp in Historic First</u> (14 Dec) <i>Military.com</i>, By Gina Harkins For the first time ever, the Marine Corps is about to send dozens of women to its all-male West Coast boot camp as the service prepares to meet a congressional mandate to make its entry-level training coed.</p>
17.	<p><u>DOD Leaders Brief Women, Peace, Security Program to Congressional Caucus</u> (14 Dec) <i>Defense News</i>, By Jim Garamone DOD officials briefed the Congressional Women, Peace and Security Caucus on the department's efforts to ensure the initiative is on track and making a difference in all that military personnel do.</p>



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WELL-BEING & TREATMENT	
18.	<p><u>Gag Order: How Marine Corps Culture Silenced a Victim of Sexual Assault</u> <i>(1 Dec) War Horse, By Thomas J. Brennan</i> For decades, advocates, lawmakers, and veterans alike have brought attention to systemic issues in how the military not only addresses mental health in uniform, but how defense officials investigate and prosecute sex crimes.</p>
19.	<p><u>What Women Can Expect from a Biden Presidency: On Ending Violence Against Women</u> <i>(2 Dec) Ms. Magazine, By Carrie N. Baker</i> In terms of women’s right to be free from violence, the Trump administration was brutal. During his presidency, the Violence Against Women Act expired for the first time since 1994. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos eviscerated Title IX protections against sexual assault on college campuses.</p>
20.	<p><u>A call to action: Sexual assault and harassment in the military</u> <i>(2 Dec) Military Times, By Lisa Carrington Firmin</i> I am a combat veteran. Those who know me certainly understand that I am no slouch. So, why did I not report the many times I was sexually harassed during my time in the military?</p>
21.	<p><u>After months of ignoring her sexual harassment complaints, Misawa command finally transfers airman off base</u> <i>(3 Dec) Task & Purpose, By David Roza</i> An airman who said her complaints of sexual harassment were ignored for months by Misawa Air Base command has finally secured a transfer to another duty station, Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs said in a statement.</p>
22.	<p><u>US women in combat: Will equality affect national security?</u> <i>(3 Dec) The Christian Science Monitor, By Anna Mulrine Grobe</i> After the ban on women in combat was lifted in 2013 (initially subject to exceptions), debate raged about whether the death of female troops in battle, particularly in large numbers, would cause Americans to turn against their country’s wars in a way that men’s deaths don’t – and, in the process, imperil U.S. national security. Opening combat jobs – without exception – to women in 2015 did little to quell the debate.</p>
23.	<p><u>Army to fire, suspend officers and enlisted soldiers over violence at Fort Hood</u> <i>(7 Dec) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor</i> U.S. Army leaders are expected to fire or suspend a “significant number” of officers and enlisted soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, in a dramatic purge to correct a command culture they believe failed to address leadership failures and a pattern of violence that included murders, sexual assaults and suicides, U.S. officials said Monday.</p>
24.	<p><u>Sex Is Still a Taboo Topic in the US Military. It’s Time to Change That</u> <i>(7 Dec) Military.com, By Jacqueline Garrick</i> Long after the sexual revolution of the 1960s, which challenged cultural and moral attitudes about human sexuality, sex is still a taboo topic for the U.S. armed forces. The military’s approach to sexuality and sexual health within its ranks has remained largely ineffective and reactive.</p>
25.	<p><u>At stadium gathering of enlisted, Fort Hood soldiers tell their stories of sexual assault</u> <i>(9 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer</i> Standing in parade rest, an Army specialist on Tuesday told Lt. Gen. Pat White, commander of the central Texas base, about being raped there by a fellow soldier in her unit, and then having to live in the same barracks building with him.</p>



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26.	<p><u>Leadership failures outlined in Fort Hood report could go beyond the Texas base</u> <i>(9 Dec) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer</i> A committee of civilians that examined the command climate and culture of Fort Hood told House lawmakers Wednesday that its investigation found years of systemic leadership failures at the Texas base contributed to the death of soldiers and could exist at other Army bases.</p>
27.	<p><u>Military rape cases have no statute of limitations, Supreme Court decides</u> <i>(10 Dec) Military.com, By Patricia Kime</i> In an 8-0 opinion issued Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that military personnel accused of a rape between 1986 and 2006 -- a period previously subject to a five-year statute of limitations -- can be charged for the crime.</p>
28.	<p><u>Simply sacking Fort Hood leaders doesn't solve its problems, investigators say</u> <i>(10 Dec) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer</i> The 14 leaders fired or suspended at Fort Hood, Texas, this week weren't singularly responsible for the problems at the installation, according to members of an independent committee members who compiled a lengthy report on the post's handling of sex crimes, homicides and suicides.</p>
29.	<p><u>Lawmakers 'appalled' by revelations of sexual assault, harassment culture at Fort Hood</u> <i>(10 Dec) Military.com, By Matthew Cox</i> Lawmakers expressed disgust at hard proof presented in an independent review of Fort Hood, Texas, that found that leaders there allowed a festering culture of sexual harassment and assault, one that forced victims to live in "survival mode."</p>
30.	<p><u>Defense bill sets up new maternity uniform loan program for pregnant troops</u> <i>(10 Dec) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk</i> Soon-to-be moms in the military could receive free loaner maternity uniforms if next year's defense policy bill becomes law. Lawmakers are pushing the Defense Department to conduct a pilot program to issue maternity uniforms and related items to pregnant military members on a temporary and as-needed basis.</p>
31.	<p><u>The military has promised many times to combat sexual assault. Biden must ensure that it finally does.</u> <i>(13 Dec) The Washington Post, By Editorial Board</i> What is long overdue is a fundamental change in how sexual assault crimes are handled, removing them from a chain of command that is more inclined to cover up than prosecute wrongdoing. The decades-long problem of sexual assault and harassment in the military got renewed attention last week with the release of a sweeping report by independent investigators who examined the environment at Fort Hood, one of the country's largest military installations.</p>
SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS	
32.	<p><u>3 Steps To Develop Grit, According To One Of The Army's First Female Apache Pilots.</u> <i>(2 Dec) Forbes, By Kevin Kruse</i> At age nineteen, Shannon Huffman Polson became the youngest woman to climb Denali, and went on to summit Mt. Rainier and Mt. Kilimanjaro. She served as one of the Army's first female attack helicopter pilots and eventually led two flight platoons and a flight company on three continents before earning her MBA at the Tuck School at Dartmouth and working in the medical device and technology fields.</p>



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33.	<p><u>Naval Academy midshipman reaches a milestone for Black women</u> (2 Dec) <i>The Associated Press</i>, By Brian Witte Midshipman Sydney Barber had her doubts about applying for the top student leadership position at the U.S. Naval Academy. A Black woman had never held the post in the 44 years women have been able to attend the 175-year-old institution.</p>
34.	<p><u>Naval Academy midshipman named Rhodes Scholar</u> (3 Dec) <i>Capital Gazette</i>, By Heather Mongilio Lillian Ngo Usadi spent four hours on a Zoom call bracing herself for the bad news.</p>
35.	<p><u>A woman will take command of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier for the first time in US Navy history</u> (7 Dec) <i>Task & Purpose</i>, By David Roza The Navy has selected a woman to command a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier for the first time in American history.</p>
36.	<p><u>In a first, a Black woman takes command of Army reserve command in Europe</u> (8 Dec) <i>Stars & Stripes</i>, By John Vandiver Brig. Gen. Wanda N. Williams assumed leadership of the Kaiserslautern-based 7th Mission Support Command on Tuesday, becoming the first Black woman to serve in a job that also makes her deputy commander of Army logistics efforts in Germany.</p>
37.	<p><u>One of the Navy's first female submarine officers may be headed to the Moon</u> (9 Dec) <i>The Drive</i>, By Joseph Trevithick Half of those picked for NASA's Artemis program, aimed at going back to the moon by 2024, come from the U.S. military. Here's a bit more about them.</p>
WOMEN VETERANS	
38.	<p><u>House chairman calls for VA secretary to resign over handling of sex assault case</u> (10 Dec) <i>Military Times</i>, By Leo Shane III The chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on Thursday called for VA Secretary Robert Wilkie and key members of his leadership team to resign immediately over the handling of a sexual assault allegation made by congressional staffer.</p>
39.	<p><u>Major veterans groups call for VA secretary's ouster following damning report</u> (11 Dec) <i>Military Times</i>, By Leo Shane III A day after the Veterans Affairs Inspector General blasted VA Secretary Robert Wilkie for his handling of a sexual assault allegation at a department hospital, most of the country's major veterans organizations called for his immediate firing, citing a lack of confidence in his leadership.</p>
40.	<p><u>American Legion, Pelosi join calls for VA leader's ouster</u> (13 Dec) <i>The Associated Press</i>, By Hope Yen The nation's largest veterans organization and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Saturday joined the growing calls for the ouster of President Donald Trump's Veterans Affairs chief, under fire after a government audit found he acted unprofessionally, if not unethically, in the handling of a congressional aide's allegation of sexual assault at a VA hospital.</p>