



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

14 February 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Army pilots get first incentive pay raise in 20 years](#)

(31 Jan) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer

The Army just bumped up its Aviation Incentive Pay rates for the first time in more than 20 years to compete with the civilian market, according to new pay charts posted by Army Human Resources Command.

2. [Calling all Marines: Corps on the hunt for cast of its next recruiting ad](#)

(31 Jan) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey

The Corps has put out the call for a few good Marines to star in its upcoming recruiting commercial expected to be released in the fall of 2020.

3. [Army hikes bonuses for first time in decades to stem pilot exodus](#)

(3 Feb) Stars and Stripes, By Slobodan Lekic

“This increase in (incentive pay), the first for Army pilots in over 20 years ... is just one of many efforts underway to maintain aviation readiness and ensure support to the joint force,” Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, head of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, said in a statement. Last year, the Army’s pilot attrition rate grew to a record 10% of its force, due largely to aging aviators and competition. The exodus is likely to get worse.

4. [New officer job assignment system will fight nepotism, Army leaders say](#)

(6 Feb) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer

The Army already factored in the possibility of nepotism before it rolled out its new job assignment system for officers, three of the service’s generals overseeing personnel matters said Thursday.

5. [Recruiting the smartphone contingent: Top enlisted Marine says generational differences aren’t new](#)

(7 Feb) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey

Marines recruited today have grown up in a different world than Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Troy Black did. It’s a world defined by increasingly rapid technological growth, which requires Marine recruiters to connect to prospective Marines in new ways.

6. [Canadian military wants to attract women recruits by shortening, tightening its uniform skirts](#)

(12 Feb) Military Times, By J.D. Simkins

A shortage of women in the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces has prompted new recruiting ideas that include adding shorter, tighter skirts, more stylish shoes, and cringeworthy social media campaigns featuring slogans like, “My bling are my medals.”

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

7. [Lawmakers are fighting for better-fitting female body armor for US troops](#)

(30 Jan) Military.com, By Richard Sisk

Bipartisan bills to boost the availability of better-fitting body armor for female troops and require a report on preventable injuries attributed to bad fits are gaining support in both the House and Senate.

8. [Senior Space Force official named among new job assignments](#)

(31 Jan) Air Force Magazine, By Rachel S. Cohen

A career special operations pilot will become the second-highest officer at the Space Force’s Space Operations Command, according to a slew of promotions and job changes announced Jan. 30.



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9. [Naval Academy Adds Cadence Push-Ups, Planks to Fitness Test](#)
(3 Feb) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
Midshipmen will be hit with two big changes on this week's Physical Readiness Test as the Naval Academy adopts new exercises leaders say better measure future officers' fitness levels.
10. [Space Force troops won't be called 'spacemen'](#)
(5 Feb) *Military Times*, By Meghann Myers
A decision on the title to be bestowed upon Space Force personnel is still forthcoming, the service's No. 2 general told reporters Wednesday, but the service is moving out on a plan to transfer thousands of current service members into its ranks over the next couple of years.
11. [How is the Space Force going to be organized? The Pentagon is still working out the details.](#)
(5 Feb) *Defense News*, By Valerie Insinna
The Defense Department on Monday submitted a plan to Congress on the initial structure of the Space Force, but many of the details of the service's structure still need to be hammered out.
12. [Astronaut Christina Koch lands back on Earth after a record-breaking 328 days in space. Here's what she did](#)
(6 Feb) *CNN*, By Ashley Strickland
NASA astronaut Christina Koch made the most of her first trip to the International Space Station by breaking the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman and conducting the first all-female spacewalk with fellow NASA astronaut Jessica Meir. During her mission, Koch completed six spacewalks -- including another two with Meir -- and spent 42 hours and 15 minutes outside of the station. Koch also devoted much of her time to a variety of experiments and investigations.
13. [Space Force Making Measured Efforts in Absorbing New Personnel](#)
(7 Feb) *Defense News*, By C. Todd Lopez
The new U.S. Space Force currently has one member: its commander, Space Force Gen. John W. Raymond. But defense officials say they plan to bring aboard an array of talented military and civilian personnel by the end of the year.
14. [Greek athlete chosen to be the first woman to ever start the Olympic Torch Relay](#)
(8 Feb) *CNN*, By Alaa Elassar
Greek shooting champion Anna Korakaki is set to become the first woman in history to launch the Olympic Torch Relay. Korakaki will attend the flame lighting ceremony for Tokyo 2020 in Ancient Olympia. After High Priestess Xanthi Georgiou lights the flame, Korakaki will serve as first torchbearer, according to the official website of the Olympic Games.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

15. [Sexual assault reports are up a third in the past year at the military service academies](#)
(30 Jan) *Military Times*, By Meghann Myers
Reports of unwanted sexual contact at the military service academies jumped over 30 percent in the past year, according to a Defense Department report released Thursday.
16. [Service Academies Focus on More Robust Sexual Assault Prevention](#)
(31 Jan) *Department of Defense News*, By David Vergun
The service academies are boosting their sexual assault prevention programs in an effort to decrease sexual assaults. The report reflects the academies' efforts to support sexual assault victims, but also shows more work needs to be done to reduce and stop the crime, Pentagon officials said.



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17. [**Nevada Air National Guard member removed amid sex assault investigation**](#)
(2 Feb) *The Associated Press*, By Scott Sonner
A member of the Nevada Air National Guard has been removed from his post in Reno while police investigate a complaint that he sexually assaulted a female guard member, officials said Friday.
18. [**Senators request Pentagon briefing after report shows rise in sexual assaults at military academies**](#)
(3 Feb) *Stars & Stripes*, By Caitlyn M. Kenney
A bipartisan group of senators has requested a briefing from the Pentagon following the release of an annual report that showed an increase in sexual assaults at the military academies.
19. [**Lawmakers question Pentagon's efforts to reduce sexual assault at military academies**](#)
(4 Feb) *Military Times*, By Meghann Myers
Members of Congress sent a letter to the defense secretary on Friday calling for a review of the military's efforts to reduce sexual assaults.
20. [**Finland will equalize its family-leave policy, giving each parent 164 days of leave after birth**](#)
(5 Feb) *CNN World*, By Leah Asmelash
Finland's new family leave policy would give 164 "daily allowance days" to each parent. Parents would be allowed to transfer up to 69 of their own days to the other parent, if they so desired. And for single parents, the country is giving all 328 days to the parent. In December 2019, the US passed a measure providing federal workers with 12 weeks of paid parental leave. However, the country is still the only industrialized nation with no nationwide laws regarding paid parental leave.
21. [**Soldier's court-martial reversed after judge had an 'intimate' relationship with a JAG's wife**](#)
(5 Feb) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
An Army staff sergeant previously convicted in a court-martial of assault will have his guilty finding set aside and his case heard again after the judge overseeing his trial was found to be engaged in a "personal and emotionally intimate relationship" with the wife of the lead prosecutor.
22. [**Women who have general anesthesia during C-sections are more likely to experience postpartum depression, study finds**](#)
(10 Feb) *CNN Health*, By Harmeet Kaur
Women who have general anesthesia during C-sections are significantly more likely to experience severe postpartum depression resulting in hospitalization, suicidal thoughts or self-harm, according to a study published last week.
23. [**Governor signs off on how Wisconsin National Guard handles sexual misconduct complaints**](#)
(11 Feb) *The Associated Press*, By Todd Richmond
Gov. Tony Evers approved a plan to improve how the Wisconsin National Guard handles sexual misconduct complaints.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

24. [**'I wanted to prove them wrong' — How the first enlisted female Guard soldier to graduate Ranger School got it done**](#)
(17 Jan) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky
When asked what Army Ranger School was like, Sgt. Danielle Farber wasn't going to beat around the bush: "It sucks." In a new Army release, she offered a frank assessment of the Army's most arduous leadership course, which she called the "hardest course" she'd ever done despite being as physically and mentally prepared as she possibly could have been.



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25. [General Officer Announcements](#)

(30 Jan) U.S. Department of Defense Releases

The chief of staff, United States Air Force announces the assignment of the following general officers:

- Maj. Gen. Jeannie M. Leavitt, commander, Air Force Recruiting Service, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, to director, Operations and Communications, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.
- Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman, commander, 502d Air Base Wing, and commander, Joint Base San Antonio, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to director, Plans, Programs and Requirements, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

26. [Body of 'Lime Lady' found in 1980 is identified as soldier](#)

(31 Jan) The Associated Press, By Ken Miller

The body of a woman found in central Oklahoma nearly 40 years ago and known only as "Lime Lady" has been identified as a missing Las Vegas woman, authorities said Thursday.

27. [Sailor Spotlight! San Antonio Native Serves With Helicopter Squadron In San Diego](#)

(February 2020) U.S. Veterans Magazine

Airman Shunia Barnett-Johnson, a native of San Antonio, TX, joined the Navy to seek better opportunities and to do something different with her life. Now, three years later, Barnett-Johnson serves with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 3, working with one of the Navy's most advanced helicopters at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego.

28. [National Guard gives combat medic priceless training](#)

(4 Feb) Army News, By Spc. Tyler O'Connell

Spc. Leannah TeKrony has been drawn to the medical field and the military ever since she was a child. "I didn't understand when I was younger that women could be in the military at the time," said TeKrony.

29. [From grandma to mom to granddaughter: Indy family shares decades of military service](#)

(5 Feb) WTHR, By Sarah Jones

Three consecutive generations of veterans. Three branches: Air Force, Army and Marines. All women.

30. [10 African American Female Service Members Who Have Made History](#)

(5 Feb) WCBS News Radio, By Kaylah Jackson

Women have been serving in the Armed Forces in a variety of capacities since before women were even allowed to officially wear the uniform. African American women specifically, served in both gender and race-segregated units until President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, desegregating the military. These women continued to make strides while in uniform after the U.S. Armed Forces allowed people of all ethnicities to serve alongside each other.

31. [General Officer Announcement](#)

(6 Feb) DoD News Release

Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Air Force Lt. Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost has been nominated for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general. Van Ovost is currently serving as director of staff, U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, District of Columbia.

32. [General Officer Assignments](#)

(6 Feb) DoD News Release

The chief of staff, Air Force announces the assignments of the following general officers: Brig. Gen. Michelle L. Hayworth, vice commander, Sixteenth Air Force, Air Combat Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, to director, command, control, communication and cyber systems (C4), Headquarters U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force base, Illinois.



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33. **[General Officer Assignment](#)**

(12 Feb) DoD News Release

The chief of staff of the Army announces the following officer assignment: Brig. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp, vice director for intelligence, J-2, Joint Staff (Defense Intelligence Agency), Washington, District of Columbia, to director of intelligence, U.S. Forces Korea; and deputy director of intelligence, Combined Forces Command, Republic of Korea.

34. **[Running for My Life](#)**

(12 Feb) The War Horse, By Kayla Williams

“What have I gotten myself into?” I wondered while tying my shoes. I hated running my entire Army career; voluntarily committing to run daily for 40 days seemed absurd. But I was feeling desperate.

35. **[General Officer Assignments](#)**

(13 Feb) DoD News Release

The chief of staff, Air Force announced the assignment of sixteen general officers and the chief of space operations, U.S. Space Force announced the assignment of one general officer.

- Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, director, manpower, organization and resources, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, District of Columbia, to commander, 502d Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
- Brig. Gen. Heather L. Pringle, director, strategic plans, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, District of Columbia, to commander, Air Force Research Laboratory, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- Brig. Gen. Donna D. Shipton, vice commander, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California, to director, strategic plans, programs, requirements and analyses, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

WOMEN VETERANS

36. **[Book Honors America's First Female Militia, The 'Girl Guards Of Wyoming'](#)**

(16 Jan) KING FM, By Rick Roddam

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of woman's suffrage in Wyoming, a book pays tribute to another group of pioneers in the Cowboy State. In *The Girl Guards of Wyoming: The Lost Women's Militia*, Cheyenne author and historian Dan J. Lyon recounts the legendary tale of Company K, the first all-female military troop in American history.

37. **[First-of-its-kind conference focuses on women's role in the military](#)**

(4 Feb) FOX 13, By Lloyd Sowers

The first Military Women's Conference at the Tampa Convention Center highlighted challenges and possible solutions for thousands of female veterans, spouses of military members, mothers of military members, and females on active duty.

38. **[VA chief Wilkie wants to reexamine alleged sexual assault that he called unsubstantiated](#)**

(5 Feb) Stars and Stripes, By Steve Beynon

A high-profile case of a congressional staffer claiming she was sexually assaulted at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital could be reexamined after VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said he is unhappy with the results of the investigation into her allegations that he initially called “unsubstantiated.” But the VA Inspector General's Office dismissed Wilkie's call to further examine the investigation, saying there is no intention to reopen the case.



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39. [1 in 5 veterans' military sexual trauma claims were wrongly denied or mishandled by VA, officials say](#)
(5 Feb) ConnectingVets.com, By Abbie Bennett
For nearly two years, about one in five veteran military sexual trauma claims were wrongfully denied or improperly handled by the Department of Veterans Affairs, officials told Congress.
40. [Minter Bill to Honor Women Veterans Passes House Committee Unanimously](#)
(6 Feb) ABC 13 WBKO, By Staff
A new bill introduced by State Rep. Patti Minter to create Women Veterans' Day in Kentucky received a unanimous vote Thursday in the House State Government Committee.
41. [Complaint accuses VA secretary of working to discredit Hill staffer who reported sexual assault](#)
(7 Feb) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
Congressional officials are looking into whether Veterans Affairs Secretary pursued his own investigation into House Veterans' Committee staffer who alleged she was sexually assaulted at a department hospital, in an effort to discredit her story.
42. ['Road to Resilience' workshop aims to empower women veterans](#)
(11 Feb) KNWA, By Gary Gilbert
A U.S. Air Force veteran brings other women veterans together to show them their full potential. The VA hospital held the Road to Resilience, which is a women's empowerment workshop. The first of its kind workshop is hosted by Air Force vet and life coach Denise Sharpe who knows a few things about adjusting to life outside of the military.
43. [VA health services for women leaving the military](#)
(12 Feb) Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
The number of women in the military has increased over the last few decades. As a result, the number of women Veterans also has increased. VA wants those women who are transitioning out of the military to know about the many specialized health care services available to them at VA. VA's Women's Health Transition Training (WHTT) program was developed by VA Women's Health Services, with the Department of Defense and the Transition Assistance Program (TAP).
44. [Military Sisterhood Initiative to go live February 18](#)
(12 Feb) Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Challenge America, in collaboration with Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and WINC: For All Women Veterans, announced the launch of a free, social platform designed to connect women Veterans to VA and other resources, like peer-to-peer support, online courses and in-person events across the country. The Military Sisterhood Initiative (MSI) launches on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

UPCOMING EVENT

45. [Brigadier General Wilma Vaught's 90th Birthday Celebration](#)
Location: Women In Military Service For America Memorial (located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery)
Date/Time: Saturday, 14 March 2020 from 1300-1600
Attire: Business Casual / Duty Uniform
RVSP: Click on the Eventbrite hyperlink in title above; respond NLT 7 March. Questions call: (703) 533-1155 Ext. 109.
Description: Join us in celebrating the 90th birthday of Brig Gen (Ret.) Vaught, USAF. As the founding president of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial (WIMSA) Foundation, Brig. Gen. Vaught spearheaded the campaign to raise funds and to build the WIMSA, the nation's only major memorial to tell the story of women's service. <<[Bio Link](#)>>
Directions: Arrive early to allow time for parking, security through Arlington National Cemetery's Welcome Center, and check-in. Note: A picture ID is required for all visitors, 16 years and older.