



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. **[The Power and Pitfalls of Gender-Specific Mentorship](#)**

(23 Jun) MAJ Kristyn Felix and MAJ Ebony Thomas

Mentorship is a critical investment tool that should be used to cultivate the strength and diversity of the Army. To sustain the talent of a workforce, organizations invest in their people through formal and informal mentorship. The Army thrives because of its diversity of talent, and mentorship is critical to ensure diverse leaders within the ranks.

2. **[Changes in military recruiting may endure after pandemic](#)**

(30 Jun) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor

With his Army recruiting office shuttered due to the coronavirus, Staff Sgt. Anthony Holt has had to be creative to meet his enlistment goals. Using social media is one way. Signing up the grocery delivery guy is another.

3. **[Army's senior officer ranks are not diverse enough, general says](#)**

(1 Jul) Military.com, By Matthew Cox

As the military wrestles with racial inequities in the ranks, the general in charge of Army Training and Doctrine Command acknowledged that the senior officer corps is not as diverse as it should be. Of the 296 general officers in the active Army, 43 are Black, 21 are female and six are Hispanic as of April 30, Army spokesman Lt. Col. Emanuel Ortiz told Military.com.

4. **[Measure requiring women to register for draft left out of House defense bill](#)**

(5 Jul) Military.com, By Patricia Kime

A bipartisan group of House members expressed support Thursday for a measure that would require women to register with selective service, but the proposal to include it in the chamber's national defense bill was withdrawn for procedural reasons.

5. **[Air Force pools ad efforts for active-duty, Air Guard recruiting](#)**

(6 Jul) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey

The recruiting services for the active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard have agreed to combine their resources and staff for advertising and marketing.

6. **[Nation's largest military women's conference goes virtual with free, 12-week seminar](#)**

(7 Jul) WAVY, By Web Staff

A free, 12-week seminar will be available for military servicewomen and veterans to help them regarding professional development. The series will continue through December 2020, covering topics such as finance, leadership, work/life balance, and policy, and are inclusive to all services. One session for both service members and veterans will focus on the transition process.

7. **[Raising the age of military enlistment](#)**

(8 Jul) Military Times, By Peter Polack and Jack McCain

As counter-intuitive as it would appear, the average age of young men dying in combat has decreased substantially from the mid-twenties of earlier wars to the late teens.

8. **[There are fewer recruits due to COVID-19, but they have the same hard training Navy, Marine commanders say](#)**

(8 Jul) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey

Company sizes have shrunk, recruits have to spend 14 days in quarantine prior to entering training and recruits don face masks as they stand on the infamous Marine Corps yellow footprints or have their gear issued.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



9. [Historic retention rates credited by Army, Air Force generals with helping them meet end-strengths](#)
(10 Jul) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
Although the coronavirus pandemic has lowered basic training graduation rates this year, Army and Air Force leaders aren't expecting shortfalls in their respective end-strength numbers as a result, officials of the two services said Friday. They credited the expected success to historically high retention rates.
10. [Employee viewpoint survey gets another delay](#)
(10 Jul) *Federal Times*, By Jessie Bur
Feds will have to wait another two months before getting the chance to express their opinions about their jobs, as the Office of Personnel Management announced July 9 that rather than begin administering the survey next week, the agency decided to institute another delay.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

11. [Senate proposal may delay launch of ACFT](#)
(29 Jun) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
Lawmakers in the Senate are proposing a new hurdle in the Army's race to replace its outdated physical fitness test.
12. [Army's new fitness test moving forward on schedule despite Senate call for a study](#)
(30 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Steve Beynon
The Army might have hit another obstacle in its endeavor to replace its longtime physical fitness test as the Senate's version of the defense funding bill calls for a delay in implementing the new Army Combat Fitness Test.
13. [Here's how the Space Force will be organized](#)
(30 Jun) *Defense News*, By Valerie Insinna
Many of the U.S. Air Force's space acquisition organizations will be moved into a brand-new "Space Systems Command" to be created under the fledgling Space Force, but it still remains nebulous whether space procurement arms from the Army, Navy and Pentagon will also fall under the command's purview.
14. [Boeing communications chief resigns over decades-old article on women in combat](#)
(2 Jul) *Reuters*, By Staff
Boeing Co's communications chief Niel Golightly has resigned his position, the company said on Thursday, following an employee's complaint over an article the former U.S. military pilot wrote 33 years ago arguing women should not serve in combat.
15. [Coast Guard's 'Fab Five' virtually shares experiences as first African-American female aviators](#)
(3 Jul) *The Journal*, By Mikayla Hamrick
Listeners from around the country tuned in to Legacy Flight Academy's Zoom call with the "Fab Five," the U.S. Coast Guard's only five Black female aviators in history.
16. [Retiring National Guard chief pushes again for a 'Space Guard'](#)
(6 Jul) *Military.com*, By Richard Sisk
The nation needs a "Space Guard" to back up "Space Force," the outgoing chief of the National Guard Bureau said last week, adding that there needs to be a role for the Guard in the newest military branch.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



17. **[House appropriations bill includes funding for second Virginia-class submarine](#)**
(7 Jul) *USNI News, By Megan Eckstein*
The House Appropriations defense subcommittee today released its draft Fiscal Year 2021 defense funding bill that would buy nine Navy ships, including the second Virginia-class attack submarine that the House Armed Services Committee is fighting to include in next year's ship-buying plans.
18. **[Pre-boot camp quarantine for Navy, Marines may continue into next year](#)**
(7 Jul) *USNI News, By Megan Eckstein*
The Navy and Marine Corps basic training commands are unsure if they'll have enough money to finish out the fiscal year, due to costs incurred from COVID-19 prevention measures they've implemented – but they're going to keep doing what they're doing because it's allowed training to progress without the coronavirus having much of an effect, officials say.
19. **[Here's where the Air Force's pilot shortfall is the worst](#)**
(7 Jul) *Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*
Despite the Air Force's full-court press in recent years to close its persistent and troubling pilot shortfall, the gaps in crucial categories remain — and in some cases, have worsened.
20. **[Two female airmen reclassify after attempting to complete special ops training](#)**
(7 Jul) *Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk*
Two women who had been attempting to enter the U.S. Air Force's combat controller and pararescue career fields since last fall were recently reclassified into other jobs after not meeting the rigorous battlefield airman standards.
21. **[Here's how the Navy's new PRT plank event will be scored](#)**
(8 Jul) *Military.com, By Gina Harkins*
Sailors have gotten a reprieve from fitness tests in 2020 due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, but leaders say they must get ready to perform the plank on upcoming tests.
22. **[Practicing what we preach: Committing to the women, peace, and security strategy here at home](#)**
(9 Jul) *RealClear Defense, By Mackenzie Eaglen*
The old adage "actions speak louder than words" is key to the global success of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) strategy. Unfortunately, at the Pentagon right now, it's not looking too good.
23. **[A woman became a Green Beret Thursday, a huge milestone for the Army and the military, but she isn't the first female to earn the title](#)**
(9 Jul) *Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer*
The first woman to complete the Army's Special Forces Qualification Course and move on to a Green Beret team graduated today, according to U.S. Army Special Operations Command.
24. **[No more physical fitness assessments for 2020, Navy says](#)**
(9 Jul) *Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*
The Navy is cutting physical fitness tests for the remainder of the year amid concerns about the spread of COVID-19, after already canceling the spring cycle of the physical fitness assessment in March.
25. **[Air Force announces first changes from diversity task force](#)**
(9 Jul) *Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey*
The Air Force has launched a task force to look for, and change, policies or procedures unfairly hurting minorities or other underrepresented airmen. The task force will focus on five areas: culture and policy; education, training and testing; recruiting and accessions; workforce diversity; and aircrew diversity.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



26. [Here's how the Air Force is remembering its first female pilots](#)

(9 Jul) *Air Force Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll

Today, there are more than 800 female pilots and nearly 350 female navigators in the service, according to the Air Force.

27. [A woman soldier is joining the Green Berets -- a first for the Army Special Forces unit](#)

(10 Jul) *CNN*, By *Scottie Andrew*

In a speech at the graduation ceremony, Lt. Gen. Fran Beaudette, the commanding general for the US Army Special Operations Command, referred to the graduates as "Green Beret Men and Women." And for the first time since the official founding of Special Forces in the 1950s, that was true. "From here, you will go forward and join the storied formation of the Green Berets where you will do what you are trained to do: challenge assumptions, break down barriers, smash through stereotypes, innovate, and achieve the impossible," Beaudette said.

28. [Fewer pilots took aviator bonuses in 2019](#)

(10 Jul) *Air Force Times*, By *Stephen Losey*

Fewer pilots of manned aircraft accepted bonuses to stay in the cockpit for years more in fiscal 2019.

29. [The Pentagon has a plan to include more women in national security. Here's what that means — and why it matters](#)

(10 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By *Dr. Jeannette Gaudry Haynie and Dr. Kyleanne Hunter*

What if, as a nation, we possessed the means to build and employ a more effective military? The Department of Defense has this capability through the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Act of 2017. The Act is based on a body of research that demonstrates the disproportionate impacts that conflict has on women and girls, the unique and valuable perspectives that women and girls bring to the conduct and resolution of conflict, and how these perspectives must be meaningfully included through the planning, conduct, and resolution of conflict for more effective and lasting security to result.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

30. [Service members are sharing their stories of sexual harassment and assault using #IAMVanessaGuillen](#)

(29 Jun) *Task & Purpose*, By *Haley Britzky*

Many say they've been sexually harassed or assaulted themselves. Others say they know someone who was. Plenty say they felt hesitant to post about their experience. But none of them seem surprised.

31. [Army investigating Fort Hood sexual assault response program after soldier's disappearance](#)

(1 Jul) *Military.com*, By *Hope Hedge Seck*

The same day that one suspect in the disappearance of Army Pfc. Vanessa Guillen was arrested, and another suspect took his own life, the service announced a probe into the local program intended to respond to and prevent sexual assault.

32. ['A failure of command' — How one soldier's sexual harassment case forced a reckoning among leaders in the Army Reserve](#)

(1 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By *Haley Britzky*

Military leaders have for many years made statements, held focus groups, organized fundraisers, and conducted surveys to get a better understanding of sexual assault and harassment within the ranks. They have deemed the problem unacceptable and vowed that it would be handled appropriately under their watch.

33. [Here's how Big Navy plans to study racism in the ranks](#)

(1 Jul) *Navy Times*, By *Geoff Ziezulewicz*

The Navy officially stood up "Task Force One Navy" Tuesday, a group that will seek to "address the issues of racism, sexism and other destructive biases and their impact on naval readiness," according to a sea service release.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



34. [I Am Vanessa Guillen](#)
(1 Jul) Defense One, By Erin Kirk-Cuomo
It's unfortunately all-too-similar to many social media posts you may have seen. We are women and men who serve and served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. We have all been sexually harassed and assaulted.
35. [DoD looks to expand child care fee assistance pilot program](#)
(3 Jul) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
As child care options start to open up more in the era of coronavirus in some states and on some military installations, defense officials are looking at the results of an ongoing pilot program to determine where it might be expanded to provide child care for more military families.
36. [Air Force invests in infertility solutions](#)
(5 Jul) Air Force Times, By Harm Venhuizen
The Air Force has made a significant investment to help military couples combat infertility. Women serving in the military are about three times as likely to experience infertility as women in the general population, according to the Service Women's Action Network, which conducted an online survey of service women in early 2018. Some 37 percent of currently serving women reported fertility issues. That's compared to a national average of about 12%.
37. ['The military's #MeToo': Vanessa Guillén's slaying has many servicewomen revisiting their own deep scars](#)
(7 Jul) The Washington Post, By Alex Horton
A grim but predictable story has played out for many servicewomen and female veterans, as a desperate search for Army Spec. Vanessa Guillén ended with confirmation of her death.
38. [Navy's new effort to crack down on racism, sexism won't 'fizzle out,' admiral says](#)
(7 Jul) Military.com, By Gina Harkins
A new team assembled to examine Navy policies at nearly every stage of a sailor's career is likely to result in significant changes as service leaders look to end unfair policies that put anyone at a disadvantage because of their race or gender.
39. [Minnesota National Guard releases recommendations to prevent sexual assault and harassment](#)
(7 Jul) Star Tribune, By David Chanen
The Minnesota National Guard needs to make information about reporting sexual assault more readily available, speed investigations when allegations surface and change military code to make it easier to enforce rules against such conduct. Those were some of the top findings of an extensive report released Tuesday to address past problems of sexual assault and harassment among its members and establish new procedures and expectations going forward.
40. [The military justice solution in search of a problem](#)
(8 Jul) The Hill, By Chris Jenks and Geoffrey S. Corn
Prosecutorial authority is arguably the most important tool commanders possess to ensure a disciplined, effective fighting force and is inextricably linked to the commander's responsibility to ensure the military readiness essential for mission accomplishment. Divesting commanders of this authority would degrade not only U.S. military combat capabilities but also the military's response to sexual misconduct in the ranks.
41. [Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillén's death puts spotlight on military's handling of sexual assault and harassment](#)
(9 Jul) CBS News, By Christopher Brito
After slain U.S. soldier Vanessa Guillén disappeared in April, service members and veterans have stepped forward on social media to share their experiences with sexual assault or harassment while serving. Over the last two weeks, Guillén's name was mentioned in more than 2.5 million tweets and the #IAMVanessaGuillen hashtag has been used 170,000 times, according to Twitter.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



42. **[Fort Hood's command climate is under review amid investigation into killing of Spc. Vanessa Guillen](#)**
(10 Jul) Army Times, By Meghann Myers
“The purpose of this independent review is to examine whether the command climate and culture at Fort Hood and the military community surrounding Fort Hood respects Army values — including respect, inclusiveness and workplaces free from sexual harassment and a commitment to diversity,” Army Under Secretary James McPherson said.
43. **[Vanessa Guillén may have faced harassment before her disappearance and death, Army says](#)**
(10 Jul) The Washington Post, By Alex Horton
Army investigators said Friday that Army Spec. Vanessa Guillén, the soldier who was missing for more than two months before her remains were discovered in late June, could have faced some harassment some time before she was killed.
44. **[A #MeToo moment emerges for military women after soldier's killing](#)**
(11 Jul) The New York Times, By Jennifer Steinhauer
Women in the military say the horrific killing of Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen has swept the nation, galvanizing even civilians to the cause.
45. **[Naval Academy midshipman's sexual assault trial comes as military undergoes its own #MeToo movement](#)**
(11 Jul) The Capital Gazette, By Heather Mongilio
As government attorneys, and sometimes the defense, questioned a potential member for an eight-member panel, they almost always turned to one question. “Do you believe women who say they have been sexually assaulted?” Awareness of #MeToo was also a question.
46. **[Silent protest planned at highly toxic George AFB to remember miscarriages](#)**
(11 Jul) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
Veterans, family members and dependents who lived at the now-closed George Air Force Base in California will hold a silent protest and memorial at the former base's hospital Sunday morning to remember miscarriages and stillbirths caused by the facility's extreme contamination. The survivors plan to place hundreds of baby shoes and a plaque in the parking lot of the former medical facility to honor the children lost after their mothers were exposed to highly toxic substances at the base.
47. **[Hundreds come forward as #IAMVanessaGuillen movement surges online](#)**
(13 Jul) Military Times, By Sarah Sicard
Hundreds of survivors are coming forward to share their stories of sexual trauma in the military as details in the alleged murder of Army Spc. Vanessa Guillén reveal that she told her family she had been sexually harassed but was reluctant about alerting her command.
48. **[Effort underway in Guard for women soldiers to avoid choice between pregnancy and military career](#)**
(13 Jul) Army Times, By Zach England
The Washington Army National Guard is looking to help make policy changes so that women do not have to choose between having children and progressing in their military careers. When a soldier becomes pregnant in the Army she is given the option to leave the military under honorable conditions or become non-deployable for the duration of her pregnancy. During pregnancy, soldiers cannot continue physical training or handle chemicals and firearms and have to work half-days in their third trimester under current policy.
49. **[Video: "I'm Trying To Speak Out" - Military Sexual Assault Survivors Open Up In Wake Of Vanessa Guillen Case](#)**
(13 Jul) Military Times
In the aftermath of the murder of Fort Hood soldier Spc. Vanessa Guillen, whose family says she was plagued by sexual harassment that remained buried in a military culture of silence on the topic, numerous women have stepped forward to relate similar stories. Three veterans speak out on their own assaults, and how the military has failed to address the issue properly.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

50. [**Navy Announces 2020 CAPT Joy Bright Hancock and MCPO Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award Recipients**](#)
(17 Jun) Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs
NAVADMIN 171/20 announced the selection of five outstanding Sailors and Officers as the Captain Joy Bright Hancock and Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award winners from more than 100 nominees. The 2020 recipients of these exceptional leadership awards are: Cmdr. Kim M. DaCosta-Azar, Lt. Megan C. Wilson, Chief Warrant Officer Jamie L. Evock, Senior Chief Angela K. Koogler, and 1st Class Nicole A. Guerrero
51. [**Former Miss Rhode Island completes leadership training on Fort Sill, encourages women to enlist**](#)
(23 Jun) ABC 7 News, By Will Hutchison
A group of Second Lieutenants is finishing up the Basic Officer Leader Course on Fort Sill and among them is a former Miss Rhode Island. “My whole message as Miss Rhode Island was getting women into different fields where they’ve been under represented and getting women into leadership positions. It shows women across the world they can do anything they want to do. A lot of people said field artillery is going to be rough, especially as a female, but I said I’m up to the challenge. That’s the kind of spirit I took with me as Miss Rhode Island and that’s the kind of spirit I have with me in the Army,” Second Lieutenant Alexandra Curtis said.
52. [**The first, but not the last**](#)
(24 Jun) Michigan National Guard, By Staff Sgt. Tegan Kucera
Driving around with her crew would normally be the highlight of Sgt. Harley Davidson’s annual training, but this year she became the first female launcher chief in the history of the Michigan National Guard. Davidson was one of the first females in the state to take advantage of the change in Army policy allowing females in combat arms, and now she is the first to become a launcher chief of a high mobility artillery rocket system with the 182nd Field Artillery Regiment.
53. [**One military suspect deceased, one civilian in custody in case of missing Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillen**](#)
(1 Jul) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
A soldier allegedly took his own life Tuesday in Killeen, Texas, after law enforcement attempted to make contact with him in the case of missing Fort Hood soldier Pfc. Vanessa Guillen. Another suspect, a civilian woman whom authorities said was the estranged wife of a former Fort Hood soldier, is currently in custody at Bell County Jail awaiting charges. She was arrested by Texas Rangers in connection with the disappearance of Guillen.
54. [**VADM Black takes command at U.S. 6th Fleet; Franchetti headed to OPNAV N7**](#)
(1 Jul) USNI News, By Patricia Kime
In a ceremony in Naples, Italy, that had guests and side boys spaced six feet apart in their dress whites, Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti today turned over command of U.S. 6th Fleet, ending a historic posting as the first woman the first woman to command 6th Fleet.
55. [**Female Air Force pilot makes history**](#)
(2 Jul) ABC 7 KLTN, By Staff
This weekend is the 15th annual Thunder Over Cedar Creek Lake Air Show. The exciting air demonstrations have drawn a crowd for years, but this weekend Tyler will see a new pilot in their skies.
56. [**Marine Corps’ first female ground combat battalion commander reflects on her historic role**](#)
(3 Jul) Orange County Register, By Erika A. Ritchie
As a young combat engineer officer, Michelle Macander was part of the U.S. Marines’ push into Iraq in 2003.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



57. [Former Wisconsin Air National Guard officer under fire for comments on Vanessa Guillen](#)
(4 Jul) *The Associated Press*
A University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee lecturer is under fire for making comments about the death of U.S. Army soldier Vanessa Guillen. UW-Milwaukee student Emily Cruz started a petition on Friday demanding UW-Milwaukee fire Schoeller. The petition has nearly 15,000 signatures. "As a woman, and a student at UWM I feel unsafe knowing that we have professors who think the sexual assault of women serving in the military is justified," Cruz wrote.
58. [Remains of missing Fort Hood soldier identified as Vanessa Guillen, family says](#)
(5 Jul) *Army Times, By Kent Miller*
Army investigators have informed the family of Spc. Vanessa Guillen that the remains found Tuesday in a shallow grave by a river in Texas are indeed those of the Fort Hood soldier, who went missing more than two months ago.
59. [Lawmakers urge Pentagon IG to investigate handling of Spc. Vanessa Guillen's case](#)
(6 Jul) *Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer*
Nearly 90 lawmakers are pushing for acting Defense Department Inspector General Sean O'Donnell to begin an independent probe into the Army's handling of the disappearance, and now alleged murder, of the Fort Hood, Texas, soldier.
60. [Former airman pleads guilty in scheme to offer information to Russia](#)
(6 Jul) *The Associated Press, By John Raby*
A West Virginia woman who previously served in the Air Force planned to offer top-secret information from the National Security Agency to the Russian government, prosecutors said Monday in announcing her conviction in federal court.
61. [The unbearable cost of losing the silent war within our military](#)
(7 Jul) *Military Times, By Sherman Gillums Jr.*
When young people join the military, they join to fight America's enemies. When the oath they take reads "against all enemies foreign and domestic," none thought the domestic enemy would be someone in their chain of command. For those who are women, they certainly never thought the enemy would share the same gender much less the uniform. But when Lt. Col. Betsy Schoeller, who serves in the Wisconsin Air Guard, posted on Facebook that "[s]exual harassment is the price of admission for women into the good ole boy club," she exposed the depth of the problem. For far too many women veterans, however, pointing this out is as useless as taking a thermometer to the sun.
62. ['Go forth and kick butt': Navy's first Black female fighter pilot earns her wings](#)
(10 Jul) *Stars & Stripes, By Chad Garland*
A Navy officer has made history this week as the service's first African American woman to become a fighter jet pilot, the service said. "BZ to Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle on completing the Tactical Air (Strike) aviator syllabus," the Twitter account for the chief of naval air training said Thursday, using a Navy abbreviation meaning well done.
63. [Flag Officer Assignment](#)
(13 Jul) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*
The Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations announced the following flag officer assignment: Rear Adm. Kathleen M. Creighton will be assigned as director, information warfare integration, N2/N6F, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Creighton is currently serving as Navy Cyber Security Division director, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.
64. [This officer is the Navy's first known Black female tactical jet pilot](#)
(10 Jul) *Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*
Navy Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle has become the Navy's "first known" Black female tactical jet pilot, according to the service.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



65. [Travis AFB airman's 2019 death deserves further investigation, Calif. congressman says](#)
(11 Jul) Fox News, By Dom Calicchio
One year after a Travis Air Force Base airman was found dead in her California home, a member of Congress is joining the airman's family in calling for more investigating.
66. [Family wants military to help a Marine cope with a sex assault. Instead, she's in a Chesapeake brig.](#)
(13 Jul) The Virginian-Pilot, By Katherine Hafner
Corporal Thae Ohu has struggled in the five years since she says she was sexually assaulted by a fellow Marine. The assault changed her, and her mental health progressively worsened, according to her sister Pan Phyu and letters written by Ohu and others. She attempted suicide earlier this year. Now she's in the brig. Phyu, a Navy sailor based in San Diego, said her sister needs help. The online campaign for Ohu has gained traction in recent weeks amid a national conversation over sexual assault in the military.
67. [She was a pioneering Coast Guard rescue swimmer. A tsunami of sexual harassment followed](#)
(14 Jul) Miami Herald, By Kevin G. Hall
Sara Faulkner had the "it" factor as the first woman to graduate from the Coast Guard's helicopter rescue swimmer school in North Carolina and join its elite group of swimmers. The South Florida woman's against-the-odds story met a bitter end, she says, after sexual harassment saddled her with PTSD and forced the 20-year service member into retirement.

WOMEN VETERANS

68. [Obituary: 1931-2020 — Navy Capt. Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch broke barriers for working moms](#)
(30 Jun) San Diego Union-Tribune, By Pam Kragen
Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch was born a coal miner's daughter, but with her hard work, perseverance and adventurous spirit, she rose to a top position in the U.S. Navy, forging a path like no other woman who came before her. She was 89 when she died June 22 at her Coronado home with her daughter by her side.
69. [VA's abortion ban is questioned on Capitol Hill](#)
(1 Jul) Stars & Stripes, By Nikki Wentling
The Department of Veteran Affairs' nearly 30-year abortion ban received a critical look from lawmakers Tuesday, some of whom argued it was a "harsh" inequity for a growing number of female veterans.
70. [Lawmakers debate women veterans' access to VA reproductive health care](#)
(1 Jul) Military Times, By Hannah Graf
As more reproductive-age women become eligible for VA healthcare, lawmakers on Wednesday debated issues including access to contraception, in vitro fertilization and abortion.
71. [Female vets call for closure of Fort Hood amid reports of Vanessa Guillen's murder](#)
(6 Jul) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
A new petition launched by an Air Force veteran is calling on Congress to shut down Fort Hood, Texas and fire its chain of command for how it handled the case of Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen, the alleged victim of a brutal murder by a fellow male soldier.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 July 2020



72. [Martha McSally: Women in the military get pregnant to "skirt" deployment](#)

(7 Jul) Salon, By Roger Sollenberger

Arizona Republican senator and former Air Force combat pilot Martha McSally once published an academic paper in which she said military servicewomen should be counseled against the "foolishness of entering into a lifetime commitment (motherhood)" to avoid deployment, and called for the Pentagon to repeal the policy that allows women to use pregnancy as an excuse to "skirt" their commitment. The article, titled "Women in Combat: Is the Current Policy Obsolete?" appeared in a 2007 edition of the Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy.

73. ['We are all angry:' Female veterans take action after Spc. Vanessa Guillen's death to stop discrimination in military](#)

(9 Jul) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer

No justice, no enlistment. That's the call from a group of female veterans in the wake of the slaying of Fort Hood soldier Spc. Vanessa Guillen, whose remains were found mutilated and buried at the hands of another soldier miles from the central Texas base where she served.