



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 June 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [**Military children shouldn't be penalized for seeking mental health care, senators say**](#)
(2 Jun) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
Senators are seeking to end “undue discrimination” against military dependents and civilians with prior mental health conditions who seek to enter the military.
2. [**Some Air Force pilots are choosing to stay in uniform amid commercial aviation slump**](#)
(4 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Seth Robson
The Air Force is hoping more soon-to-be-departing pilots will consider its generous retention bonuses as commercial airlines struggle with the effects of the coronavirus.
3. [**Why the Marine Corps is eyeing new virtual reality flight simulators for recruiting events**](#)
(4 Jun) *Marine Corps Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll
The Marine Corps is searching for new virtual reality flight simulators to bring more pilots into the service amid a pilot shortage.
4. [**Some pilots delay retirements, but coronavirus' effect on shortfall remains unknown**](#)
(5 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
Since March, the Air Force has given 171 pilots permission to stay in uniform past the date when they were originally scheduled to retire or separate.
5. [**Extended COVID response hurting Air National Guard retention**](#)
(10 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey
The Air National Guard's lengthening response to the coronavirus crisis is hurting its retention efforts, and could cause it to drop about 1,000 air guardsmen below its authorized levels.
6. [**For the first time in a decade, the Air National Guard will miss its retention goal**](#)
(11 Jun) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk
The Air National Guard will miss its retention and end-strength goals this year amid the novel coronavirus pandemic.
7. [**Immigrants, prior enlisted and first-generation soldiers among those commissioning through Army ROTC today**](#)
(12 Jun) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Joseph M. Martin hosted a livestreamed commissioning ceremony from the Pentagon on Friday for the roughly 6,000 newly minted second lieutenants coming out of the service's ROTC programs nationwide.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

8. [**Army to place women in last all-male infantry, armor companies**](#)
(3 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Nancy Montgomery
The Army will place female infantry and armor enlisted soldiers into its last nine all-male brigade combat teams after changing rules that required multiple women in unit leadership.
9. [**The Army will soon have female grunts, tankers in all brigade combat teams**](#)
(3 Jun) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
The U.S. Army announced recently that female soldiers will be integrated into all of its infantry and armor brigade combat teams (BCTs) by the end of the year. Currently, 601 women are in the process of entering the infantry career field and 568 are joining the armor career field, according to a recent Army news release.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 June 2020



10. [Army adjusts 'leader first' policy, plans to integrate women into last 9 brigade combat teams this year](#)
(8 Jun) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
The Army says it will integrate female infantry and armor troops into its last nine brigade combat teams this year, as leaders loosen the requirements governing how many female mentors must be in units before lower ranking women arrive there, the service announced last week.
11. [Women Peace and Security Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan](#)
(11 Jun) *U.S. Department of Defense Publications*
A document with guidance for the Women Peace and Security Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan.
12. [Statement From Chief Pentagon Spokesperson Jonathan Hoffman on the Release of the Women, Peace, and Security Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan](#)
(11 Jun) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*
The Department of Defense released the Women, Peace, and Security Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan as part of a national effort to promote the meaningful contributions of women in national security around the world.
13. [DOD Unveils Women, Peace, Security Strategy](#)
(11 Jun) *News stories from around the Defense Department*
DOD has published the Women, Peace and Security Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan as part of a national effort to promote the safety, equality and meaningful contributions of women around the world, Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Rath Hoffman said.
14. [Congress pumps brakes on moves to shift Air Force bases to Space Force](#)
(11 Jun) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk
Lawmakers will not allow the U.S. Space Force to realign Air Force bases that host space missions under its wing until they get a full analysis of those potential moves.
15. [Senators continue building Space Force with caution](#)
(12 Jun) *Air Force Magazine*, By Rachel S. Cohen
New legislation further establishes the Space Force as the sixth branch of the military, but wants a closer look at who will do that work and where.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

16. [State audit: Alaska National Guard improves sex assault responses](#)
(2 Jun) *The Associated Press*
An Alaska Department of Administration audit has found that the state's National Guard units improved the handling of sexual assault and sexual harassment since 2014, but some problems remain.
17. [Senators take on some core issues for military families](#)
(3 Jun) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
Senators aim to get at the heart of some long-standing issues affecting military families, with a slew of proposed legislation addressing family readiness, child care and other concerns.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 June 2020



18. [This Air Force couple wants to help other service members get time to grieve deceased children](#)

(4 Jun) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers

The proposals don't grant extra time; they simply would allow service members to take their pre-approved parental leave in the case of a child's death. Air Force Maj. Matthew Checketts was allowed 21 days of parental leave after the birth of his child. But according to an Air Force instruction, that leave is terminated upon the death of a child.

19. [Bill would cover doulas for expectant service women, dependents](#)

(10 Jun) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime

A bill introduced in Congress last month would require Tricare to cover the services of doulas -- trained professionals who provide physical and emotional support for pregnant women throughout labor, delivery and the postpartum process.

20. [Arkansas court overturns National Guardsman's conviction](#)

(14 Jun) *The Associated Press*

The Arkansas Supreme Court overturned a military court conviction of a National Guard soldier accused of sexual assault, arguing lack of jurisdiction because the man wasn't on active duty when the alleged assault happened. The alleged sexual assault, which involved a subordinate. Childers and two other National Guard soldiers drove from Camp Robinson in Arkansas to Norman, Oklahoma, for a conference, according to the court's ruling.

SERVICEMEN IN THE NEWS

21. [Flag Officer Assignments](#)

(2 Jun) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*

The secretary of the Navy and chief of naval operations announced assignments:

- Rear Adm. (lower half) Kristen B. Fabry will be assigned as commander, Defense Logistics Agency - Land and Maritime, Columbus, Ohio. Fabry is currently serving as director, logistics, fleet supply and ordnance, N4, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- Rear Adm. (lower half) Sara A. Joyner is currently serving as chief of legislative affairs, Washington, D.C. Joyner previously served as commander, Carrier Strike Group Two, Norfolk, Virginia.

22. [Command Senior Enlisted Leader Assignment](#)

(2 Jun) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*

The Office of the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OSEAC) announced the following assignment: Navy Command Master Chief Laura S. Nunley, currently assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C., has been selected to replace Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Benjamin J. Higginbotham as the command senior enlisted leader for the Defense Intelligence Agency, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.

23. [Airmen who died in shooting at Grand Forks AFB identified; family says domestic violence was cause](#)

(3 Jun) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey

Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota on Wednesday identified the two airmen who died in an early-morning shooting in a dorm as Airman First Class Natasha Raye Aposhian, 21, and Airman First Class Julian Carlos Torres, 20.

24. [General Officer Announcements](#)

(9 Jun) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*

Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper announced today that the president has made the following nomination:

Air Force Lt. Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost for appointment to the rank of general, with assignment as commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Van Ovost is currently serving as deputy commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Illinois.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 June 2020



25. **[Flag Officer Announcements](#)**

(9 Jun) U.S. Department of Defense Releases

Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Navy Rear Adm. Michelle C. Skubic for appointment to the rank of vice admiral and assignment as director, Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Skubic is currently serving as commander, Naval Supply Systems Command; and chief of Supply Corps, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

26. **[Lawsuit against SecDef dropped after transgender sailor gets waiver to serve](#)**

(9 Jun) Military.com, By Richard Sisk

The Navy has issued a waiver allowing a transgender lieutenant to continue to serve openly as a woman, despite a military policy that could have resulted in her discharge.

27. **[This Air Force pilot is the first woman to fly the F-35 in combat](#)**

(11 Jun) Air Force Times, By Diana Stancy Correll

Air Force Capt. Emily "Banzai" Thompson had never conducted a combat sortie before deploying to Al Dhafra Air Force base in the United Arab Emirates. Now, she is the first woman to ever fly the F-35A Lightning II in combat.

28. **[Cadet becomes first observant Sikh to graduate from West Point](#)**

(13 Jun) The Hill, By Marty Johnson

The United States Military Academy at West Point will graduate its first observant Sikh cadet on Saturday. Second Lt. Anmol Narang, a Georgia native, will become the first observant woman Sikh cadet to successfully graduate from the country's military academy.

29. **[Dozens gather at Fort Hood to demand answers in case of missing soldier](#)**

(13 Jun) Austin American-Statesman, By Heather Osbourne

Tears unceasingly spilled down the cheeks of 16-year-old Lupe Guillen while outside of Fort Hood military base on Friday night as she and a crowd of protesters demanded answers for her soldier sister, who was last seen almost two months ago. Pfc. Vanessa Guillen, 20, was last seen in the middle of a workday on April 22 in the parking lot of the Regimental Engineer Squadron Headquarters at Fort Hood.

WOMEN VETERANS

30. **[One Of The Last Remaining Female WWII Vets Turns 104](#)**

(June 2020) TheVeteranSite.com, By Matthew Russell

Ruth "Buttercup" Sparks is one of the last living female veterans of World War II. Looking back at her nearly 104 years of life, she shared her story, and the globe-crossing journey that eventually landed her in the U.S. Waves (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

31. **[Veterans Affairs lawmaker calls for gender-neutral VA motto](#)**

(3 Jun) Military.com, By Patricia Kime

The House Veterans Affairs Committee's ranking Republican has thrown his support behind an effort to make the Department of Veterans Affairs' mission statement more inclusive by shedding its masculine pronouns and reference to widows. Rep. Julia Brownley, D-California, said Lincoln's words were a "very poignant statement in 1865" and have served as a "vivid reminder of the VA's mission in many, many years." But, she added, it excludes female veterans.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 June 2020



32. [VA to engrave controversial motto in bronze at all department cemeteries](#)

(4 Jun) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III

The motto has drawn criticism in recent years as the number of women veterans in America has steadily increased. Several lawmakers and outside advocates have pushed for a more gender inclusive motto — “To care for those who have borne the battle, and for their families and survivors.” Women make up more than 10 percent of the nation’s veterans population and 17 percent of current military personnel.

33. [First American Woman to Walk in Space Reaches Deepest Spot in the Ocean](#)

(8 Jun) *The New York Times*, By Heather Murphy

The astronaut Kathy Sullivan, 68, is now also the first woman to reach the Challenger Deep, about seven miles below the ocean’s surface. In 1978, Dr. Sullivan joined NASA as part of the first group of U.S. astronauts to include women. On Oct. 11, 1984, she became the first American woman to walk in space. Sullivan is a retired Navy Captain.

34. [NJNG women talk about the meaning of Women Veterans Day](#)

(11 Jun) *New Jersey National Guard*, By Master Sgt. Matt Hecht

For the third Women Veterans Day, the New Jersey National Guard reached out to women in its ranks for their perspective on the observance. “It’s not about what I’ve gotten. It’s about who I’ve become,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Yvonne Mays, director of staff for New Jersey’s Joint Force Headquarters-Air.

35. [June 12 Is Women Veterans Day](#)

(12 Jun) *Military.com*

Did you know that June 12 is designated as Women Veterans Day? The first Women Veterans Day was held June 12, 2018, marking the 70th anniversary of the groundbreaking Women's Armed Services Integration Act, signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948.