



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

15 May 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. **[The Best Defense? How About More Women In The Military?](#)**

(30 Apr) Forbes, By Avivah Wittenberg-Cox

Today, there are 21 female defence ministers across 159 countries with militaries. That's 13% - who knew? It includes seven of 30 NATO countries. Women control many of the biggest defence budgets in Europe.

2. **[7 things women need to know before joining the military](#)**

(30 Apr Business Insider, By Brittany Sulc

Women are capable of incredible things, including feats of physical strength, athleticism and tremendous bravery. I have always been a strong supporter of equality for women, and women in the military are no exception. With that in mind, the playing field between men and women in the military isn't level. Equal doesn't mean identical.

3. **[Navy to publish promotions, prodded by Sen. Warren](#)**

(4 May) Breaking Defense, By Paul Mcleary

The Navy will resume posting the nominations and assignments of its flag officers, reversing course on a controversial 2019 decision to hide details of promotions based on what the Navy claimed was concern over its top officers' safety.

4. **[The Citadel is staging poolees for observation due to COVID-19 before shipping to boot camp](#)**

(5 May) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow

The Citadel, a public and military college in Charleston, South Carolina, is temporarily staging incoming poolees headed for recruit training for 14 days for observation due to COVID-19.

5. **[Coronavirus survivors banned from joining the military](#)**

(6 May) Military Times, By Meghann Myers

As the Defense Department negotiates its way through the coronavirus pandemic and its fallout, military entrance processing stations are working with new guidance when it comes to bringing COVID-19 survivors into the services.

6. **[Navy extends high-year tenure waiver for enlisted sailors with critical skills](#)**

(6 May) USNI News, By Ben Werner

As the Navy tries ensuring COVID-19-related restrictions don't hollow out the force, active-duty enlisted sailors with vital skills can now delay their high-year tenure separations for up to 24 months and sailors can reenlist up to a year before their contracts end.

7. **[Updated guidance allows unhospitalized COVID-19 survivors to join the military](#)**

(7 May) Military Times, By Meghann Myers

The command in charge of processing new recruits into the services has updated its policy for accessing coronavirus survivors, loosening restrictions banning anyone who has been diagnosed to only those who were hospitalized because of complications.

8. **[Higher education just became a much bigger factor on Navy FITREPs](#)**

(8 May) Navy Times, By J. D. Simkins

The Navy is modifying its fitness reports to require officers to detail an individual's educational accomplishments and how those pursuits will add to unit efficiency, the service announced.

9. **[The Marine Corps: Always faithful — to white men](#)**

(9 May) Marine Corps Times, By Thomas Hobbs

White male culture is THE culture of the Marine Corps. Our exclusive institution lauds its own inclusive meritocracy as it points to the handful of minorities and women who have made it to the top as shining examples.



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10. **[It's time for America to invest in a national strategic reserve of talent](#)**
(9 May) The Hill, By Steve Barney
Just a few weeks ago it appeared that civilian medical facilities were on a trajectory to be overwhelmed with very sick patients. Leaders in government cried out for the military to mobilize medical professionals, Army field hospitals, and Navy hospital ships. It is a tribute to our military that it is held in such high regard by the nation it proudly serves. This also revealed a stark fact: many of the military reservists and retirees to be recalled are currently practicing in civilian hospitals.
11. **[What if military recruiting could screen for wash-outs?](#)**
(11 May) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
It takes tens of thousands of dollars to get a new service member through recruiting and initial training, and costs the services hundreds of millions a year when new troops are discharged from the military before the end of their first contracts.
12. **[Top conservative calls on Pentagon to lift COVID-19 enlistment restrictions](#)**
(11 May) The Hill, By Juliegrace Brufke
House Freedom Caucus Chairman Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) called on the Pentagon to reverse recent guidelines that prohibit the enlistment of coronavirus survivors who were previously hospitalized.
13. **[Republican lawmaker pushes back on DoD policy barring some coronavirus survivors from enlisting](#)**
(12 May) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
An Arizona Republican lawmaker is calling for the Defense Department to reconsider its coronavirus accessions policy, days after the Pentagon issued new guidance narrowing its ban on bringing COVID-19 survivors into the military to those who had been hospitalized for the disease.
14. **[Army cancels ROTC Cadet Summer Camp over coronavirus concerns](#)**
(12 May) Army Times, By George Wright
Coronavirus has forced the Army to cancel ROTC Cadet Summer Training here, just 12 days before the first of thousands of cadets, soldiers and Army civilians were to arrive at the central Kentucky post.
15. **[Navy quarantining new recruits at closed indoor waterpark resort](#)**
(12 May) USNI News, By Ben Werner
The Navy is paying a dry waterpark outside Chicago \$1.1 million to quarantine all new enlisted recruits to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak at the service's sole boot camp.
16. **[As military recruiters embrace Esports, Marine Corps says it won't turn war into a game](#)**
(12 May) Military.com, By Hope Hedge Seck
It may be well after dark on a weeknight, but the Army's newest recruiting assets aren't sleeping.
17. **[Banning COVID-19 survivors from military service is a recruiting mess waiting to happen](#)**
(12 May) Task & Purpose, By Nathalie Grogan and Emma Moore
Due to underlying structural barriers, a blanket ban on previously hospitalized COVID-19 survivors – regardless of their current health status – will disproportionately affect minorities and low-income individuals.
18. **[Special operations using artificial intelligence, personality traits to recruit and select](#)**
(13 May) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
With less than 1 percent of young Americans both willing and able to join the military, even fewer of whom can pass special operations selection, each service is looking at creative ways to use the skills and attributes would-be operators can bring to the table.



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EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

19. [Are women better leaders in a pandemic?](#)

(1 May) Politico, By Elizabeth Ralph

You've probably been following the chatter: A few countries seem to have very effective coronavirus responses. What do these countries have in common? Women run them. In a meta-analysis of studies on gender differences among leaders, Alice Eagly, emeritus professor of psychology at Northwestern University, says she found "the most robust difference [between men and women] ... is a tendency for women to be more participative and collaborative in leadership, and men more authoritarian and top down."

20. [Space Force mulls new opportunities for enlisted airmen](#)

(1 May) Air Force Magazine, By Rachel S. Cohen

Enlisted Airmen who sign up for the Space Force can expect to see a broader range of career opportunities than they had during their time in the Air Force.

21. [General in charge of female recruit training once suggested gender integration would destroy the Marine Corps](#)

(1 May) Task & Purpose, By Paul Szoldra

The two-star Marine general who oversees the training of female recruits at its Parris Island, South Carolina boot camp once suggested that integrating women into ground combat roles would ultimately lead to the destruction of the Marine Corps.

22. [Meet the new lieutenants joining US Space Force](#)

(2 May) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk

Second Lieutenant Katie Scheibner knew she wanted to serve her country. She, alongside 85 other cadets, now make up the first officers to commission directly into the U.S. Space Force, the military's newest branch, devoted solely to space operations.

23. [Meet the quiet trailblazers](#)

(3 May) Army Times, By Ellen Haring

When the Army opened Ranger School to women in 2015 on a trial basis, many naysayers said that women would never graduate. When Kristen Griest, Shaye Haver and Lisa Jaster slogged their way through the course, they defied the naysayers and proved that women not only could hack it, but that they wanted these jobs. Griest and Haver went on to become infantry officers and have successfully commanded infantry companies; women are in command of infantry and armor companies today.

24. [Marines get reprieve from the dreaded tape test during coronavirus crisis](#)

(5 May) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

Marines who fall outside the Corps' height and weight standards won't immediately face the hated tape test, due to special new exemptions put in place during the global pandemic.

25. [Watch the first-ever Space Force recruiting ad](#)

(6 May) Military Times, By J. D. Simkins

The U.S. military's newest branch just declared itself officially open for business with the release of its first-ever recruiting ad.

26. [The Marines wanted a university to study co-ed boot camp. No one applied](#)

(7 May) Military.com, By Gina Harkins

A planned independent, in-depth assessment of the Marine Corps' historically gender-segregated boot camp training model hasn't started yet -- because no one has volunteered to conduct it.



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27. [Space Force plans for transfers as ‘thousands’ volunteer](#)
(12 May) *Air Force Magazine*, By Rachel S. Cohen
More than 1,000 Airmen have signed up for the new Space Force in the first two weeks of the month-long voluntary transfer window, Space Force Vice Commander Lt. Gen. David Thompson said May 12.
28. [Space Force, services struggle to define mission boundaries](#)
(12 May) *Breaking Defense*, By Theresa Hitchens
"We can't break the US Air Force, we can't break the Army, we can't break the Navy," said Lt. Gen. David Thompson, Space Force vice commander.
29. [AFSOC 'moving away' from selecting operators based on physical performance](#)
(13 May) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
The commander of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) said Wednesday that the selection process for operators in the future will be less about assessing physical prowess, instead placing more emphasis on algorithms and analytics.
30. [More than 2,000 airmen have applied to join Space Force](#)
(13 May) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk
The U.S. Space Force has received thousands of requests since it opened an application window May 1 for eligible active-duty personnel to transfer into the service, starting with Air Force personnel.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

31. [Marines Update Fitness Rules for Pregnant Women in New Parenthood Order](#)
(24 Apr) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
The Marine Corps has overhauled a 15-year-old order on parenthood and pregnancy, updating fitness requirements for women who are having a baby and giving them a timeline for informing their commands.
32. [Department of Defense Releases Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military](#)
(30 Apr) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*
The progress report, which is required by Congress annually, contains reporting information, feedback from focus groups and updates on the DoD's efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault throughout Fiscal Year 2019.
33. [Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military](#)
(30 Apr) *U.S. Department of Defense Publications*
2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military
34. [Defense Officials Tout Progress in Fight Against Sexual Assault](#)
(30 Apr) *News stories from around the Defense Department*, By Jim Garamone
The Defense Department is making progress in combating sexual assault and harassment in the military, DOD officials said upon releasing an annual report on the subject.
35. [A culture that fosters sexual assaults and sexual harassment persists despite prevention efforts, a new Pentagon study shows](#)
(30 Apr) *Military Times*, By Meghann Myers
Any service member can repeat back what they've learned about preventing sexual assault in required training, but a study released by the Defense Department on Thursday shows that the military still has a long way to go when it comes to stamping out not only assaults, but the toxic and harassing command cultures that set the stage for sexual violence.



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36. [The US military saw an increase in reports of sexual assault in the ranks last year](#)

(30 Apr) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky

“While the report says that the military’s ‘male-dominated cultural norms are slowly changing,’ it’s clear that there is still a lot of work to be done. A second report released on Thursday provided key themes that came up in the focus group discussions, ranging from gender discrimination in the workplace to where, how, and why sexual harassment and assault occurs.

37. [Many low-income military families need SNAP, but can’t overcome an eligibility hurdle](#)

(9 May) *Military Times*, By Frances Tilney Burke and Angela Rachidi

In high-cost areas, young service members with families often use their entire allowance and sometimes more for housing, leaving little left over for additional shelter costs, such as utilities or a phone line — this condition, of course, bleeds into food purchase.

38. [A Few Bad Men: How the Marine Corps fails to punish senior officer misconduct, time and again](#)

(11 May) *Task & Purpose*, By Paul Szoldra

There is little dispute over what her commander did to her, but Rebecca Cooper is certain she is leaving the Marine Corps because of it. It was November 2019 when Cooper, a Marine captain, alleged that Col. Lawrence “Larry” Miller had sexually harassed her repeatedly after she had joined his staff the year before.

39. [Survivors of military domestic violence asked to share their stories with Congress](#)

(11 May) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime

The Government Accountability Office is seeking input from survivors of domestic violence in military relationships, including service members, spouses or partners who experienced abuse any time in the past six years.

40. [Air Force rejects Wisconsin Guard sergeant’s reprisal allegations](#)

(11 May) *The Associated Press*, By Todd Richmond

Master Sgt. Jay Ellis wrote to U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin in 2018 saying he knew of at least six instances of sexual harassment or sexual assault against female members of the 115th Fighter Wing’s Security Forces Squadron. The complaint sparked a federal investigation that determined Guard commanders were improperly launching in-house sexual assault investigations rather than referring complaints to military criminal investigators as required by federal law and Department of Defense policy.

41. [3D mammograms will be covered by Tricare starting this month](#)

(12 May) *Military Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll

“This is a major victory for our female service members and veterans covered under Tricare,” McSally, a former A-10 pilot who served in the Air Force for 26 years, said in a statement Tuesday. “Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women, but when detected early the overall chances of survival increase dramatically.”

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

42. [General Officer Assignments](#)

(30 Apr) *U.S. Department of Defense Releases*

The chief of staff of the Army announced the following officer assignments:

- Maj. Gen. Diana M. Holland, commanding general, South Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Atlanta, Georgia, to commanding general, Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- Brig. Gen. Wendy L. Harter, commanding general, Brooke Army Medical Center; deputy commanding general, Regional Health Command-Central; and market manager, San Antonio Military Health System, to commanding general, Regional Health Command-Central, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.



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43. **[U.S. Coast Guard Appoints its First Female Chief Counsel](#)**
(1 May) The Maritime Executive
The U.S. Coast Guard has named Rear Adm. Melissa Bert to the post of judge advocate general and chief counsel. Bert is the first woman to hold the service's top legal position.
44. **[General Officer Announcement](#)**
(6 May) U.S. Department of Defense Releases
Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Marine Corps Col. Julie L. Nethercot for appointment to the rank of brigadier general. Nethercot is currently serving as the director, Commander's Action Group, U.S. Northern Command, Colorado Springs, Colorado. She previously served as the Executive Officer for the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force.
45. **[Flag Officer Announcement](#)**
(6 May) U.S. Department of Defense Releases
Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper announced that the president has made the following nomination: Navy Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti for reappointment to the rank of vice admiral and assignment as deputy chief of naval operations for warfighting development, N7, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. Franchetti is currently serving as commander, Sixth Fleet; commander, Task Force Six; commander, Striking and Support Forces NATO; deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe; deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa; and Joint Force Maritime Component commander Europe, Naples, Italy.
46. **[Nurses Week Spotlight: Capt. Eve Tanas, 30th ABCT, NC Guard](#)**
(7 May) 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, By Sgt. Devin Lewis
To recognize the work of nurses, the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team spotlights U.S. Army Capt. Eve Tanas, a nurse in the 30th ABCT, North Carolina National Guard, deployed in the Central Command area of responsibility.
47. **[28th ECAB Soldier a nurse for COVID-19 patients](#)**
(8 May) 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, By Capt. Travis Mueller
Spc. Kylee Pavlick, a combat medic with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, Pennsylvania National Guard, is also a nurse on the front lines fighting against COVID-19.
48. **[South Korea-based soldier with coronavirus keeps positive attitude while in isolation](#)**
(10 May) Stars and Stripes, By Kim Gamel
Army Pfc. Victoria Tolley considers herself fortunate even though she has been largely isolated in a barracks room for six weeks after testing positive for the coronavirus. Tolley, 23, who works on the computer help desk at Eighth Army headquarters on Camp Humphreys, was the second soldier to contract the virus on the divided peninsula.
49. **[General Officer Announcements](#)**
(11 May) U.S. Department of Defense Releases
Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper announced the president has made the following nominations:
- Air Force Brig. Gen. Deanna M. Burt for appointment to the rank of major general. Burt is currently serving as the director, operations and communications, Headquarters U.S. Space Force, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.
 - Air Force Brig. Gen. Michele C. Edmondson for appointment to the rank of major general. Edmondson is currently serving as the commandant of cadets, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.



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50. [**A passion for helping and leading: Nurse leads Air Force Medical Service**](#)
(11 May) *Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, By Staff Sgt. Jeremy L. Mosier*
“I have always had an affinity for helping people and come from a family that has a lot of nurses,” said Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg, Air Force surgeon general. “It was just something that was part of my nature – I love helping others. From a young age, I knew I was going to be a nurse.”
51. [**Ears Adrift - International Nurses Day**](#)
(12 May) *Spotify Audio Series*
In this episode of Ears Adrift, we speak to Lt.j.g. Stephanie Keiser and Cmdr. Lori Cici about their careers as Navy Nurses stationed onboard the USNS Comfort.

WOMEN VETERANS

52. [**TikTok’s ‘Don’t Rush Challenge’ is getting a patriotic spin thanks to female veterans**](#)
(1 May) *Fox News, By Emily DeCiccio*
She’s an American sweetheart with red hot lips, rosy cheeks, and perfect pin curls—she’s a pin-up girl. Now, she’s so much more, and a group of veterans are giving these 1940s-style icons an unexpected twist that’s breaking stereotypes and increasing visibility for women in the military.
53. [**Combat Female Veteran Families United: Helping women whose military service gets little attention**](#)
(1 May) *Greensboro.com, By Ruth D. Anderson*
In January 1991, Sandra Robinson was called to war along with about 40,000 other women who served in the military in Operation Desert Storm. Robinson was often the only female in an army of men. She wore military uniforms which, at that time, were not properly fitted to a woman’s body. And she, along with other female veterans, came back to civilian life where communities did not have the resources or sensitivity to meet the needs of the heroic women who fought in combat zones.
54. [**Here's how you can help recognize women vets making a difference**](#)
(1 May) *ConnectingVets.com, By Julia Ledoux*
Women Veterans Alliance wants to hear from you. The organization has launched a campaign to recognize female vets who are making a difference during the COVID-19 outbreak.
55. [**Air Force officers collect 100 letters for retired combat photographer's 100th birthday**](#)
(5 May) *St. Jude Inspire Blog*
When members of Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, Arizona, learned a retired master sergeant would be turning 100 years old during the state’s stay-at-home order, they knew they had to do something to make her day special. “It’s not everyday someone turns 100,” said 2nd Lt. Kaitlynn Williams, an airfield operations officer at Luke.
56. [**A WWII trailblazer, N.J. woman honored for being part of all-black, female Army Corps unit**](#)
(6 May) *NJ Advance Media for NJ.com, By Michael Mancuso*
If you miss being with close family members during this coronavirus lockdown, you can probably relate to the loneliness that Hilda Griggs must have felt way back in 1943 when her five brothers all signed up with the military and left New Jersey to go overseas and fight in WWII. Needless to say, there was no such thing as teleconferencing, or cell phones, or personal computers.



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57. [Ex-Navy helicopter pilot is now a nurse on the front lines of the coronavirus battle](#)

(11 May) The Baltimore Sun, By Nathan Ruiz

Nearly 25 years later, Elizabeth Bailey, a Naval Academy grad and former Navy pilot is responsible for the lives of others as a charge nurse at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Bailey, 51, supervises an observation unit that has been shifted into an intensive care group handling coronavirus cases.

58. [Women veterans, troops can get advanced breast cancer screenings starting this month](#)

(12 May) ConnectingVets.com, By Abbie Bennett

Women veterans and service members with Tricare will now have access to advanced breast cancer screenings, starting this month. The Pentagon recently updated its policy, allowing women with Tricare to get breast cancer screenings using the latest technology covered by the military insurer.