



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

30 April 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [Female chief answers: “What’s it like to serve in the Air Force?”](#)**
(30 Mar) DVIDS, By Senior Airman River Bruce
What’s it like to serve in the Air Force?” Chief Master Sgt. Adrienne Warren, 7th Mission Support Group superintendent. “Wow, that’s a great question,” said Warren. “After serving 23 years, I have to go back to the beginning to answer that question.”
- [The Corps expects to hit recruiting goals despite pandemic](#)**
(13 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow
Marine recruiters are no longer meeting face-to-face with potential recruits while high schools across the country have shuttered over COVID-19 concerns severely limiting access to future Marine applicants.
- [Choose your ‘ideal’ fire team recruiting pitch includes no women. Here’s a few trailblazing Marine women to consider.](#)**
(13 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow
Marine Corps recruiting wants you to choose your ideal fire team from a list of eight historic Marine figures that includes two dual Medal of Honor awardees and five-time Navy Cross recipient Lt. Gen. Lewis Burwell “Chesty” Puller.
- [Marine recruits to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival at boot camp](#)**
(15 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow
COVID-19 is causing drastic changes in how recruits experience boot camp.
- [Goldfein: Coronavirus will have long-term impact on BMT, military education](#)**
(16 Apr) Air Force Magazine, By Brian W. Everstine
The Air Force’s steps to reduce class size in basic military training and put in place distancing measures, to include the two-week restriction of movement once trainees arrive, have limited the outbreak of the new coronavirus, though the impact of these measures will be felt for years.
- [With COVID-19-induced online recruiting lagging, Army to resume face-to-face prospecting](#)**
(17 Apr) Army Times, By George Wright
One month after “going virtual” because of the coronavirus pandemic, Army recruiters are gearing up for increased use of Army recruiting stations in the coming weeks to get back to the job of shipping recruits to the Army training base, recruiting officials said in a virtual town hall meeting on YouTube Friday.
- [Here’s how the Navy is ramping up its reenlistment bonus policy to retain sailors](#)**
(17 Apr) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
Sailors from more than 100 skillsets have some extra time to reenlist under the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program thanks to some new changes the Navy announced this week.
- [Recruits to America’s armed forces are not what they used to be](#)**
(18 Apr) The Economist
Once a ladder into the middle class, military service has gone upscale.
- [Army enlists Nine Inch Nails for new coronavirus-themed recruiting video](#)**
(20 Apr) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
The U.S. Army recently released a new advertising video targeting young people living in a society crippled by the novel coronavirus pandemic.



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10. [Army resumes sending recruits to basic training after 2-week pause](#)
(20 Apr) *The Hill*, By Ellen Mitchell
The Army on Monday resumed sending new recruits to basic training, albeit with stipulations, after a two-week pause due to the coronavirus pandemic.
11. [COVID-19: Army to test all new recruits](#)
(21 Apr) *Breaking Defense*, By Sydney J. Freedberg Jr.
Training bases are now taking new recruits after a two-week pause. “We have enough test kits” for all of them and their instructors, Gen. Paul Funk said.
12. [The Corps has halved the number of recruits shipping to boot camp and wants them to self-isolate for 14 days](#)
(22 Apr) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
The Marine Corps has cut the number of recruits it is shipping to its two recruit training depots in half while asking recruits to self-isolate for 14 days before arriving at boot camp, the Corps announced in a video posted Wednesday.
13. [Hard times in America renew the call for mandatory national service](#)
(22 Apr) *The Hill*, By Steve Cohen
The problem isn't generational. The structural change that I keep coming back to — one that would at least create shared experience and, possibly, some shared values — is mandatory national service. We should seriously consider whatever has the potential to bring us together as a nation. The coronavirus has caused a cataclysmic shake-up of school, work, family and community that has brought out the best in some people, while exacerbating political distrust and isolation. We need something to help us rethink how we relate to each other.
14. [More sailors eligible for selective reenlistment bonus, performance pay](#)
(23 Apr) *Stars & Stripes*, By Caitlin M. Kenney
About 10,000 more sailors are now eligible for a reenlistment bonus as part of the Navy's effort to retain needed personnel.
15. [Making Marines without making them sick](#)
(25 Apr) *The New York Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
After a brief pause, Parris Island is once again taking Marine recruits, with some modifications to the grueling 13-week boot camp.
16. [Cell phones and DI masks: Marines' Parris Island boot camp opens to new recruits](#)
(27 Apr) *Military.com*, By Gina Harkins
Hundreds of Marine poolees arrived at boot camp in South Carolina last week, but their training experience during the novel coronavirus pandemic will be anything but ordinary.
17. [Studies tackle who joins the military and why, but their findings aren't what many assume](#)
(27 Apr) *Military Times*, By Meghann Myers
Ever since the U.S. military became an all-volunteer force, a preconception has existed among many Americans that those who choose to join the armed services do so because they have no other options. That is the hypothesis of two studies released this year. Both debunk that stereotype, finding that the military is much more diverse — and troops have much more varied reasons for signing up — than some have assumed.
18. [Dozens test positive for COVID-19 at San Diego boot camp](#)
(28 Apr) *Marine Corps Times*, By Shawn Snow
Nearly four dozen recruits within Bravo company aboard the recruit depot in San Diego, California, have tested positive for COVID-19, according to a Marine official.



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19. [Service Personnel Policies Help With Retention During Pandemic](#)

(29 Apr) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez

Military services have adjusted personnel policies amid the COVID-19 pandemic to encourage existing service members to stay longer -- and many are doing so.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

20. [ACFT rollout suspended until further notice over COVID-19 concerns](#)

(30 Mar) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer

If you've been slacking on those deadlifts and knee tucks, coronavirus just bought you some time.

21. [Air Force will transfer 23 missions, 1,840 billets to Space Force](#)

(31 Mar) Air Force Times, By Kyle Rempfer

Twenty-three Air Force organizations and 1,840 billets with space-related missions are slated to transfer to the Space Force within the next three to six months, service officials announced Tuesday.

22. [McKinleyville Coast Guard sees first all-female helicopter unit](#)

(1 Apr) AirMed&Rescue, By Editorial Team

Women In Aviation International said: "While the amount of women in the US Aviation Field is still small, with women only representing about seven per cent of the total pilot population, the number of women involved is steadily increasing and women are represented in nearly every aviation occupation today."

23. [12,000 people apply for NASA's next class of astronauts, with plans to reach Mars](#)

(2 Apr) ABC News, By Ella Torres

The number of applicants was the second-highest.

24. [Infantry Marines are now getting lighter, more streamlined body armor](#)

(6 Apr) Military.com, By Matthew Cox

The Marine Corps has started fielding a new plate carrier vest that features a more streamlined cut and offers a 25% weight savings over the vests Marines currently wear.

25. [The Corps starts fielding new lightweight plate carrier to grunts](#)

(8 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow

Grunts and infantry-like Marines will be the first to get their hands on a new lightweight plate carrier that's been in the works for the last several years, according to Marine Corps Systems Command.

26. [US Navy commissions its last Block III Virginia submarine](#)

(9 Apr) Defense News, By David B. Larter

The last of the U.S. Navy's eight Block III Virginia-class submarines has joined the fleet, according to a Navy news release.

27. [What Do Countries With The Best Coronavirus Responses Have In Common? Women Leaders](#)

(13 Apr) Forbes, By Avivah Wittenberg-Cox

Looking for examples of true leadership in a crisis? From Iceland to Taiwan and from Germany to New Zealand, women are stepping up to show the world how to manage a messy patch for our human family.



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28. **[Corps finds security cameras installed at the barracks didn't reduce crime](#)**
(14 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow
Security cameras installed across the Corps' barracks were not an effective tool to reduce criminal activity or prevent sexual assault, according to a year long study of a Marine Corps pilot program.
29. **[The Space Force is ready to launch](#)**
(16 Apr) Washington Post, By David Ignatius
The U.S. Space Force — which has been dismissed variously as a fantasy, a presidential folly and a prospective Pentagon turf war — will finally launch for real on Saturday, as 86 newly minted space warriors graduate from the Air Force Academy.
30. **[Dozens of new Air Force Academy graduates are heading straight to Space Force](#)**
(17 Apr) Military.com, By Richard Sisk
For the first time, the graduating class of the Air Force Academy will have a contingent of cadets who have committed to serve in the newest branch of the military -- U.S. Space Force.
31. **[Space Force welcomes first academy graduates to its ranks](#)**
(18 Apr) U. S. Space Force Public Affairs, By Lynn Kirby
Eighty-six graduates from the United States Air Force Academy celebrated receiving their diplomas April 18 and moved directly into the U.S. Space Force, marking the first infusion of commissioned personnel into the new service since its creation last year.
32. **[Space Force accepting applications starting May 1](#)**
(20 Apr) Air Force Magazine, By Rachel S. Cohen
Want to be one of the first military members to volunteer to join the Space Force? Your 30-day window of opportunity starts May 1.
33. **[Why are so few women being selected for Army Battalion Command?](#)**
(20 Apr) Military.com, By Audrey Atwell, Kyle Atwell, Nadege Benoit, and Julia Means
Battalion command is a pivotal milestone in an Army officer's career, and an important step on the path to becoming a general officer. The Army just announced its next generation of battalion commanders, and the number of women selected is concerning. A snapshot of Operations Division branches (formally known as combat arms) highlights the disparity: 1/31 Engineer, 3/42 Aviation, 2/15 Military Police, 2/5 Chemical, and 0/11 Air Defense Artillery. Altogether, women represent 8% of the selected population in these five branches, a drop from 15% two years ago.
34. **[Some female Marines won't have to shell out for new unisex dress blues coat](#)**
(21 Apr) Military.com, By Gina Harkins
Female Marines who are approaching the end of their service contracts won't need to shell out hundreds of dollars for a replacement dress coat as the Corps moves to a unisex look.
35. **[Top Marine suspends PFT](#)**
(21 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Shawn Snow
Less than 24-hours after the Marine Corps said there would be no Corps-wide suspension of the Physical Fitness Test the top Marine announced the semi-annual fitness test for the current period is canceled.
36. **[Space Force is about to start collecting applications from airmen looking to transfer](#)**
(23 Apr) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk
Air Force officers and enlisted personnel will be given the opportunity to apply to transfer directly into the U.S. Space Force next month.



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37. [Coronavirus pandemic delays key Space Force announcements on logo, basing](#)

(23 Apr) *Defense News*, By Valerie Insinna

The coronavirus pandemic has forced the new U.S. Space Force to shelve some key decisions that will help shape the culture of the new service, its No. 2 officer said Thursday.

38. [So you want to be 'Feminist AF'?](#)

(23 Apr) *Wavell Room*, By Nick P

It's a rhetorical question, of course. If you want to be the best Armed Forces, then the only way to go is Feminist. If you don't believe me, there's stacks of writing out there about the importance of diversity and inclusion to making the best decisions, and being the highest performing team. And there's also stacks of writing about the importance of feminist thought and analysis when it comes to conflict and peace. This post, however, is not about the necessity of Feminism. This is about how men in Defence can start to change themselves and lead their conservative, homogeneous organisations into a better, more gender-equal future.

39. [The Marine Corps battles for its identity, over women in boot camp](#)

(28 Apr) *The New York Times*, By Thomas Gibbons-Neff

Keeping men and women in separate platoons during recruit training is the last stand for the Marine Corps, which has been slow to move toward gender integration.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

40. [The Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces Publicly Releases Its Fourth Annual Report](#)

(1 Apr) *Immediate Release*

The Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DAC-IPAD) has submitted its fourth annual report to the Secretary of Defense and Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives. In this report the Committee sets forth three findings and nine observations from the culmination of the DAC-IPAD Case Review Working Group's examination of over 2,000 military investigative case files. The report is now publicly available on the DAC-IPAD website at <http://dacipad.whs.mil>.

41. [24-hour child care would be available at some military bases under new congressional proposal](#)

(2 Apr) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III

A pair of key Republican lawmakers want the Defense Department to start offering 24-hour child care services at military bases where alternate-shift workers are concentrated as part of an overall re-assessment of the military's family support programs.

42. [Army promises big investment in child care over the next five years](#)

(17 Apr) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III

Military child care centers may be largely shuttered at the moment, but Army officials are promising to make them a top leadership focus in coming months.

43. [Into the unknown: Military families struggle with Family Care Plans](#)

(23 Apr) *Military Times*, By Col. Sarah Albrycht and Nathalie Grogan

There is an old saying around the military, "If the Army wanted you to have a family, they'd have issued you one," implying families are extraneous to the needs of the organization or worse, beyond the concern of the military.



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44. [Marine Corps details fitness requirements, training exemptions for pregnant troops in updated policy](#)
(24 Apr) *Stars & Stripes*, By Caitlin M. Kenney
Marine mothers now are expected to continue physical fitness during their pregnancies, as directed in a new policy focused on parenthood and pregnancy.
45. [Marine Corps Hit Hardest in 2018 Military Suicide Spike, New Report Shows](#)
(27 Apr) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime
A report from the National Institutes of Mental Health on suicide trends in the U.S. found the rate of suicide in 2017 among all men was 22.4 per 100,000, and the rate for women was 6.1 per 100,000.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

46. [Soldiers' premature twins medically evacuated out of South Korea to receive treatment at Walter Reed](#)
(30 Mar) *Military Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll
The twins were joined for the aeromedical evacuation by their parents, U.S. Army Spc. Cody McFall and Pfc. Cheyenne Evans. Both soldiers were preemptively tested for COVID-19 and placed in quarantine on March 10. They tested negative and are currently showing no symptoms.
47. [These Trailblazing Female Infantry Soldiers Responded to the Manda Bay Terrorist Attack](#)
(6 Apr) *Military.com*
U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jennifer Niemann and Private First Class Ashley Ensminger, both assigned to the East Africa Response Force (EARF) for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, talk about their deployment to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti and their experience as the first females in Easy Company, 2-506 Infantry Battalion, 101st Infantry Division (Airborne), out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
48. [VA offers live virtual training to service women](#)
(6 Apr) *VA Blog*
For the first 18 months, the program was a pilot with 74 in-person training sessions offered at multiple sites across all military services. Due to the popularity of this pilot among transitioning service women, this initiative became a permanent VA program. The national rollout of the program for fiscal year 2020 has expanded the training to 100 in-person and 18 virtual training sessions at 38 sites across the country and overseas.
49. [Army astronaut accused of committing crime in space is cleared; ex-wife charged with making false statements](#)
(7 Apr) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
The case was unusual in that it made Lt. Col. Anne McClain the first person to be investigated for a crime alleged to have been committed in space. Now, the estranged wife who made the allegations is facing charges.
50. [U.S. Fleet Forces Commander Announces 2019 Fleet Sea, Shore Sailors of the Year](#)
(10 Apr) *DVIDS*, By Petty Officer 1st Class Theodore Green
Adm. Christopher W. Grady named Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Carolina Berrio of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 81, from Armenia, Columbia, as the 2019 Sea Sailor of the Year and Navy Career Counselor 1st Class Rebecca Beck of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, from Maryville, Tennessee, as the Shore Sailor of the Year.
51. [Staff Sgt. Erica Myers is tough as nails](#)
(20 Apr) *5th SFAB Public Affairs*, By Maj. William Leasure
Many described Staff Sgt. Erica Myers' determination on the rugby pitch as relentless. Myers can point to the exact moment when everything clicked. "In the spring of 2019, I got invited to tryouts for the All-Army Basketball Team and I got cut on day



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one,” Myers said. “The next day while the basketball team practiced, I was in the weight room getting ready for the rugby season, it really lit a fire within me.”

52. [Guard member supports COVID-19 response at her university](#)

(22 Apr) National Guard, By Staff Sgt. Steven Tucker

Connecticut Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Arielle Robles, 103rd Maintenance Group administration specialist, typically reports to Kaiser Hall for her exercise science classes. Now she is helping turn the gym floor into a COVID-19 recovery center.

53. [General Officer Assignment](#)

(23 Apr) U.S. Department of Defense Releases

The chief of staff of the Air Force announced a general officer assignment: Brig. Gen. (select) Jennifer M. Short, executive assistant to the commander, Pacific Air Forces, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, to chief of staff, Pacific Air Forces, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

54. [188th Wing Nurse serves on front line to battle COVID-19](#)

(24 Apr) National Guard, By Capt. Dylan Hollums

Capt. Breeanna Howerton is an Arkansas Air National Guard clinical nurse with the 188th Wing, but also a registered nurse at the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks. Her childhood dream of wanting to help people has culminated in a career with more than 20 years of civilian and military experience in the medical community.

55. [Extensive search' for missing soldier, 20, last seen on Texas army base continues after keys, wallet found](#)

(26 Apr) Fox News, By Danielle Wallace

An “extensive search” continued Sunday for a 20-year-old soldier who went missing while stationed on a military base in Texas last week.

56. [Update: Reward offered for missing Fort Hood soldier](#)

(27 Apr) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer

Pfc. Vanessa Guillen, 20, was last seen Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of her squadron headquarters on post. Guillen was assigned to 3rd Cavalry Regiment at the Texas installation.

57. [How becoming a long-distance mom prepared me for COVID-19](#)

(27 Apr) Air Force Times, By Staff Sgt. Heather Fejerang

One day, as if by magic, everything changed. I didn’t know what tomorrow would bring, I couldn’t plan or predict my next move and I couldn’t see a day when I would feel safe and at peace.

WOMEN VETERANS

58. [WWII Marine Corps veteran dies from COVID-19 in Lambeth House](#)

(27 Mar) 4WWL, By Andres Fuentes

In 1943, the Marine Corps began accepting women. Frances Skina Hoffmann, a WWII veteran and one of the oldest female Marines, died earlier this week from COVID-19 at age 96.

59. [Florida veteran stuck in India because of coronavirus pandemic](#)

(1 Apr) The St. Augustine Record

Count Sarasota’s 2019 Female Veteran of the Year among tens of thousands of Americans stranded overseas due to the coronavirus outbreak. In Kendra Simpkins’ case, it means being grounded in the world’s most complete and total lockdown.



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60. [Did you know the face of the coronavirus task force is an Army veteran?](#)

(10 Apr) ConnectingVets.com, By Elizabeth Howe

Deborah Birx has become a household face after weeks of nightly White House press briefings during which she speaks as part of the coronavirus task force formed to fight the outbreak in the United States. Perhaps those who have watched Birx command and direct the American public on best practices and CDC guidance from the White House briefing room podium would not be surprised to learn that Birx served in the United States Army for 25 years.

61. [New Allentown elementary school could be first in the district named after a woman](#)

(16 Apr) The Morning Call, By Jacqueline Palochko

For the first time in its 154 years, the Allentown School District could have a school named after a woman. The district is recommending the new school on 12th and Gordon streets be named after Brig. Gen. Anna Mae Hays — an Allentown School District graduate who was the first female general in the Army.

62. [PTSD and moral injury linked to pregnancy complications](#)

(27 Apr) VAntage Point Contributor

Elevated symptoms of PTSD and moral injury can lead to pregnancy complications, according to a VA study of women Veterans. Both PTSD and moral injury were predictors of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as preterm birth and gestational diabetes. PTSD symptoms also predicted postpartum depression, anxiety, and a self-described difficult pregnancy.