



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

30 June 2020



DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [Secretary Mark T. Esper Message to the Force on DOD Diversity and Inclusiveness](#)
(18 Jun) U.S. Department of Defense Releases
We will begin the process of standing up a “Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in the Armed Services” an external body that will mirror the well-regarded and successful Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services that will provide long-term and sustainable guidance to the Department’s leadership on these issues.
2. [Seven New Members Appointed to the DACOWITS](#)
(23 Jun) U.S. Department of Defense Releases
The Defense Department announced the induction of seven new members to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. New committee appointments include: Retired Maj. Gen. George A. Alexander, M.D., U.S. Army National Guard; Retired Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun, U.S. Navy; Retired Col. Many-Bears Grinder, U.S. Army National Guard; Retired Command Master Chief Octavia D. Harris, U.S. Navy; Retired Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, U.S. Army; Ms. Robin Kelleher; and Retired Fleet Master Chief Susan A. Whitman, U.S. Navy.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

3. [Every Army senior leader will ‘become an active recruiter’ to net 10,000 new soldiers](#)
(17 Jun) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
Army recruiters and senior service leaders want to recruit 10,000 new soldiers during a three-day push between June 30 and July 2, service officials said Wednesday.
4. [For the Second Year in A Row, Black Women Make History at West Point](#)
(17 Jun) BOTWC, By Staff
For the second year in a row, Black women at West Point Military Academy have made history. This year’s graduating class included 38 Black women, making it the highest recorded number of Black female cadets in the school’s 218-year history, Vogue reports. This is an increase from last year’s history making number of 34 Black women graduates.
5. [Mandatory national service would create a more equal society, former NSA Rice says](#)
(26 Jun) Military.com, By Hope Hedge Seck
A reported possible Joe Biden vice presidential pick this week reiterated her support for a program that would require all Americans to dedicate time in service to their country, at least in a civilian capacity.
6. [2020 federal viewpoint survey will feature some big changes](#)
(26 Jun) Federal Times, By Jessie Bur
The latest version of the Office of Personnel Management’s Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey will feature some noticeable differences when feds begin to receive it in July, as the agency announced June 25 that it had reworked the survey to cut some of its core standards and add questions about the COVID-19 pandemic.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

7. [Soldiers can substitute a 2-minute plank after attempting the leg tuck on ACFT](#)
(15 Jun) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
The Army Combat Fitness Test will still become the service’s new PT test of record on Oct. 1, but soldiers’ scores won’t count against them for the time being, Army leaders said Monday.



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8. **[In change, Army says ACFT scores won't count against soldiers until 2022](#)**
(15 Jun) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
Beginning Oct. 1, a modified version of the Army Combat Fitness Test will become the service's new fitness evaluation, but training challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic will mean individual scores will not count against soldiers until 2022.
9. **[A woman is about to make history as the first to graduate Army Special Forces training](#)**
(17 Jun) Business Insider, By John Black
A female National Guard soldier is set to graduate and don the coveted Green Beret at the end of the month. SOFREP has learned that she passed Robin Sage, a unique Unconventional Warfare exercise and the culminating event in the Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC), earlier this week.
10. **[Improved body armor for female airmen coming this fall](#)**
(17 Jun) Air Force Magazine, By Brian W. Everstine
The Air Force recently awarded a contract to begin production of body armor specifically designed for women, as part of a service-wide push for inclusion and gear better suited for female Airmen.
11. **[SecDef proposes getting rid of military promotion photos to eliminate unconscious bias](#)**
(18 Jun) Military.com, By Richard Sisk
Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday that the military was committed to rooting out racism in the ranks and serving as an example to the nation of an institution that values diversity and equality.
12. **[For first time in decades, female soldier completes final phase of Special Forces training](#)**
(18 Jun) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
A female National Guard soldier has successfully completed the final stage of the Army's Special Forces Qualification Course (Q Course), but she's not a Green Beret yet.
13. **[Better-fitting body armor for female airmen on the way](#)**
(18 Jun) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
The Air Force has awarded a contract to begin producing and developing improved body armor for women, which will fit better and provide more protection for them.
14. **[Army Still Deciding How Soon Soldiers Will Have to Take ACFT After Giving Birth](#)**
(21 Jun) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
Soldiers are set to begin taking a version of the new Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, in October, but the Army is developing guidelines to make sure female soldiers recovering from a pregnancy don't take the more challenging test too soon.
15. **[No Ma'am: Pentagon down to just handful of women appointees, spotlighting history of inequality](#)**
(24 Jun) Defense News, By Aaron Mehta
When Elaine McCusker, Kathryn Wheelbarger and Lisa Porter announced their resignations from the Department of Defense within a week of each other, it represented more than just the opening up of more empty seats in the Pentagon.
16. **[Army ditches promotion photos as part of an effort to eliminate unconscious bias](#)**
(25 Jun) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
The Army will no longer include official photos for officer selection boards beginning in August. Warrant officer and NCO boards are under review.



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17. [First woman is slated to graduate Green Beret training, lawmaker says](#)

(26 Jun) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer

The first female Army Green Beret candidate will graduate from the Special Forces Qualification Course on July 9.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

18. [Troops would see 3 percent pay raise, more child care and family support programs under House plan](#)

(19 Jun) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III and Joe Gould

Troops would see more childcare options at bases with 24-hour duty shifts. Lawmakers also included several new childcare provisions designed to help military families. The measure also calls for a new military domestic violence task force to review and address the scope of that problem within the ranks.

19. [How the military is losing its top talent because of pregnancy discrimination and what we can do about](#)

(20 Jun) *Hidden Barriers*, By Jessica Rutenber

I was deeply concerned that in 2020, service members' careers are still unnecessarily impacted when they become pregnant. Current policies seem to imply that those members become a burden and have less value to the force. This attitude is not lost on pregnant service members, members considering potential future service combined with motherhood, and even their colleagues who are taking their cues from the institution and its leadership on how much women's service and contributions are valued.

20. [Proposed NDAA provision would protect sexual assault survivors at USAFA](#)

(23 Jun) *Air Force Magazine*, By Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory

A provision to the 2021 defense policy bill aims to create space between sexual assault survivors and their alleged attackers at the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy so the students can get the chance to finish their studies.

21. [Air Force Takes First Step to Buy Maternity Flight Suits](#)

(24 Jun) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk

The U.S. Air Force has taken the first step in seeking new female maternity flight suits.

22. [90,000 VA workers would get paid parental leave under defense budget plan](#)

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

House Democrats' massive defense budget policy plan includes hundreds of provisions affecting Defense Department personnel but also one big proposal targeting the Veterans Affairs workforce: paid parental leave for all department employees.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

23. [Nurse joins Ohio National Guard amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)

(15 Jun) *121st Air Refueling Wing*, By Staff Sgt. Wendy Kuhn

Joining the military is a big decision. Many people would say the same thing about the health care profession. However, when registered nurse Brandi Purdy received the Air National Guard's call in March that she was cleared to swear in, she did not hesitate. Purdy swore in on April 21 amid the global COVID-19 pandemic and Ohio's stay-at-home order. She is now a captain with the 121st Air Refueling Wing Medical Group.

24. [Missing Fort Hood soldier's sister wants Army CID to hand case off to FBI](#)

(15 Jun) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer

The family of Pfc. Vanessa Guillen is asking that the missing soldier's case be taken out of the hands of Army CID, after nearly two months have passed with no resolution since she disappeared from Fort Hood, Texas, on April 22.



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25. [Flag Officer Assignments](#)

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

The Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations announced the following flag officer assignments:

- Rear Adm. Yvette M. Davids will be assigned as chief of staff, U.S. Southern Command, Doral, Florida. Davids previously served as commander, Carrier Strike Group Eleven, Everett, Washington.
- Rear Adm. (lower half) Anne M. Swap, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as director, National Capital Medical Directorate, Defense Health Agency, Washington, D.C. Swap is currently serving as commander, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic, Portsmouth, Virginia.
- Rear Adm. (lower half) Pamela C. Miller will be assigned as fleet surgeon, U.S. Pacific Fleet; and command surgeon, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii. Miller is currently serving as reserve fleet surgeon, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia.

26. [First Female Marine To Head A Combat Brigade Completes Assignment This Week](#)

(17 Jun) KBPS, By Steve Walsh

The clock is ticking for Lt. Col. Michelle Macander. After the Pentagon required the Marines to open all combat positions to women in 2015, she became the first woman to lead a Marine ground combat arms unit two years ago. Macander is scheduled to wrap up her tenure as part of a routine change of command.

27. [Missing soldier's regiment forms internal investigation into sexual harassment allegations](#)

(17 Jun) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment on Fort Hood, Texas, is conducting its own investigation into allegations that Pfc. Vanessa Guillen, 20, faced sexual harassment from a sergeant prior to her April 22 disappearance, according to a Texas congresswoman lobbying for answers.

28. [Air Force chooses woman as top enlisted leader for first time in US military history](#)

(19 Jun) ConnectingVets.com, By Abbie Bennett

In a first for the U.S. military, the Air Force has chosen a woman as its top enlisted leader. Chief Master Sgt. Joanne S. Bass is set to become the 19th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, the service announced Friday.

29. [Air Force CMSgt JoAnne Bass to become first woman to serve as senior enlisted member in any branch of the services](#)

(19 Jun) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey

The next chief of staff of the Air Force, Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown, said Bass has the experience for the job and a leadership style that matches his own.

30. ['I had to be on': A look into the career of the Corps' first female Marine ground combat battalion commander](#)

(23 Jun) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey

For Lt. Col. Michelle Macander being a Marine was a family tradition.

31. [Missing Fort Hood soldier case rises to the Army secretary's level as family pushes for more transparency](#)

(24 Jun) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer

The Army is now saying that the disappearance of Pfc. Vanessa Guillen officially involves "foul play," according to the missing soldier's family and legal advocates.

32. [Foul play suspected in disappearance of Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillen](#)

(24 Jun) CBS News, By Christopher Brito

A Texas congresswoman who has been working with the family of Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillen said that "foul play" is suspected in her disappearance.



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33. [General Officer Assignments](#)

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

The Army Chief of Staff announced the following general officer assignments:

- Brig. Gen. Stacy M. Babcock, deputy commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 63d Readiness Division, Mountain View, California, to commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 86th Training Division, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
- Brig. Gen. Tina B. Boyd, deputy commanding general, cyber (Troop Program Unit), 335th Signal Command (Theater), East Point, Georgia, to commanding general, 335th Signal Command (Theater), Operational Command Post (Forward), Kuwait.
- Brig. Gen. Cheryn L. Fasano, commander (Troop Program Unit), 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Indianapolis, Indiana, to deputy commander (Troop Program Unit), 377th Theater Sustainment Command, Belle Chasse, Louisiana.
- Brig. Gen. Patricia R. Wallace, deputy commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 88th Readiness Division, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, to commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 91st Training Division (Operations), Fort Hunter Liggett, California.

34. [Here's everything we know about Vanessa Guillen, the soldier who disappeared from Fort Hood two months ago](#)

(25 Jun) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky

It's been over two months since Army Pfc. Vanessa Guillen disappeared, but officials seem to still be grasping for answers.

35. [Former Alaska National Guard TAG is NGB inspector general](#)

(25 Jun) National Guard Bureau, By Tech. Sgt. Erich B. Smith

After 34 years of military service, including teaching at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and serving as the adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, Dr. Laurie Hummel was ready to slow down when she retired in 2019.

WOMEN VETERANS

36. [Five Women Veterans Who Deserve to Have Army Bases Named After Them](#)

(15 Jun) SmithsonianMag.Com, By Erin Blakemore

Though women only became full, permanent members of the U.S. Armed Forces in 1948, they have been part of the Army since its earliest days. Women have always served alongside American men at war. But it took generations for women to win the right to officially serve their country, and women waited until 2013 for acknowledgment of their right to serve in combat roles. Today, 181,000 women serve in the Army, and women make up 18 percent of the Army and 36 percent of its civilian workforce.

37. [Edith White, World War II 'Code Girl,' Dies at 96](#)

(15 Jun) The Virginian-Pilot, By Katherine Hafner

The officer came to the door and asked for Lt. Reynolds. Hap was confused, not knowing a lieutenant or a Reynolds in his home. Then he realized it was his mother. Reynolds was her maiden name. It was the first time Edith Reynolds White's family learned about her time in the Navy's secretive and successful women's codebreaking unit during World War II.

38. [Trailblazer – First Female Executive Officer aboard USS Constitution](#)

(16 Jun) Naval History and Heritage Command, By Staff

Commander Claire Bloom joined the crew of USS Constitution in 1996, she was the first female Navy officer to do so. At just shy of 200 years, Old Ironsides welcomed its first female Sailor onboard. Denise Krepp, NHHC's Director Action Group, sat down with Cmdr. Bloom and asked her about her trailblazing experience.



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39. **[From nursing to newspapers, these were the women of Vietnam](#)**
(16 Jun) We Are the Mighty, By Amanda Huffman
While women made strides during World War II and Korea to be integrated into the military, Vietnam felt like a step backward as the military initially resisted sending women into any career field to Vietnam.
40. **[The Black Female Battalion That Stood Up to a White Male Army](#)**
(17 Jun) The New York Times, By Christina Brown Fisher
The unit was set up to determine the value black women brought to the military. They ultimately ran the fastest mail service in the European Theater during World War II.
41. **[In an era of fostering inclusivity, the Department of Veterans Affairs fails again](#)**
(17 Jun) Military Times, By Tara Heidger
The Department of Veteran Affairs recently announced its intent to install new bronze plaques bearing a quote from Lincoln's second inaugural address.
42. **[Only woman to receive Medal of Honor celebrated at exhibit in Tennessee](#)**
(20 Jun) Chatanooga Times Free Press, By Ben Benton
The only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor had it taken away more than a century ago just before she died, then posthumously restored by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 in a back-and-forth not unlike the pitched battles she waged on the front lines for equal rights.
43. **[As The Country Reexamines Statues And Symbols, The VA Resists A Gender-Neutral Motto](#)**
(28 Jun) NPR, By Quil Lawrence
The issue is that in all of America's wars, it was never just "him" bearing the battle. Women fired cannons in the Revolutionary War, led troops in the Civil War, flew bombers in World War II and the list goes on, right up to women fighting and dying alongside Special Forces in Syria.