



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

April 2021



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [For aspiring transgender recruits, Pentagon's new policies mean 'dreams coming true'](#)**
(1 Apr) Military.com, By Stephen Losey
Paulo Batista, a 36-year-old transgender man in San Diego, California, has wanted to serve in the military ever since he was in ROTC in high school.
- [All-volunteer force can't meet Pentagon's future needs, advocates warn](#)**
(5 Apr) Military Times, By Todd South
In February, a petition filed with the U.S. Supreme Court challenges the constitutionality of a military draft that doesn't include women. And testimony in early March by members of the National Commission on Public service to Congress supported advocated making women register for the draft but not instituting conscription.
- [How this Army lieutenant pulled off an elaborate scheme to join the military without his family knowing](#)**
(7 Apr) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
Christian Mays wanted to serve in the U.S. military since he was in middle school. His family had a “very negative perception” of military service that stemmed from the Vietnam War. Their lack of support for military service only grew more severe with the beginning of the war in Iraq, and after his grandfather's death they became more vocal about it.
- [Navy recruiting could see changes following diversity listening sessions](#)**
(7 Apr) USNI News, By Mallory Shelbourne
The Navy is considering changes to how it recruits sailors – including offering its aptitude test in another language – after receiving feedback from the fleet.
- [8 surprising medical conditions that could bar you from service](#)**
(9 Apr) Military Times, By Caitlin O'Brien
It's no surprise that service members must be in good physical shape to serve in the military. However, there are some medical conditions that you might not know can bar you from service. Here are eight surprising medical conditions that might prevent you from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces: food allergies, celiac disease, contact dermatitis, braces or dental ailments, motion sickness, acne, and being too tall.
- [DOJ asks Supreme Court to decline to hear suit claiming all-male draft is discriminatory](#)**
(15 Apr) The Hill, By John Kruzel
The Biden administration has asked the Supreme Court to decline to hear a lawsuit alleging that America's all-male military draft amounts to unconstitutional discrimination on the basis of sex.
- [Biden wants Congress, not courts, to decide on adding women to military draft](#)**
(16 Apr) Military Times, By Todd South
The Biden administration has asked the Supreme Court to let Congress resolve the potential constitutional problem of a male-only draft.
- [The U.S. military needs citizen-soldiers, not warriors](#)**
(19 Apr) Foreign Policy, By Bret Devereaux
The recent obsession with the term is misguided and harmful.
- [The USAF's bad bets on pilot retention show it needs outside help](#)**
(19 Apr) Defense One, By Brian Kruckow and Tobias Switzer
Service leaders think the same old tactics can reverse a pilot shortage in a resurging economy.



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10. [**Congress, not courts, should decide the future of the military draft, Justice Department says**](#)
(20 Apr) Military.com, By Patricia Kime
The Biden administration has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reject a petition calling for the men-only draft registration to be declared unconstitutional and let Congress decide the future of the Selective Service System.
11. [**Space Force is suddenly the go-to armed service**](#)
(20 Apr) Washington Examiner, By Abraham Mahshie
U.S. Space Force got a boost when thousands of March applications for transfer arrived from the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, but other bureaucratic slowdowns may prevent it from keeping pace with adversaries, experts say.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

12. [**Navy bans ‘faddish,’ ‘eccentric’ and other subjective terms from grooming regs**](#)
(3 Apr) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
Specifically, Nowell pointed to regulations about hair color complementing skin tone. Such language led some commanding officers to believe that meant Black women could not have blond hair, he said.
13. [**Air Force fitness test is practical, but the service could do better, study says**](#)
(6 Apr) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
A new study out Tuesday encourages the Air Force to retool parts of its fitness test to incorporate more practical measures of everyday health, while keeping features like the 1.5-mile run.
14. [**How the Navy’s push for diversity and inclusion threatens unity in the ranks**](#)
(6 Apr) Washington Examiner, By Jason Beardsley
How much less weight will be given to test scores, and how much more weight will be placed on race, gender, and ethnicity?
15. [**White House nominates first woman secretary of the Army; CAPE, personnel nominees named**](#)
(12 Apr) Defense News, By Jen Judson and Aaron Mehta
Christine Wormuth has been nominated to serve as the first female secretary of the Army, part of a trio of defense nominees announced Monday by the Biden administration.
16. [**Air Force hair standards and the invisible labor changing institutions**](#)
(12 Apr) Air Force Times, By Maj. Kelly Atkinson
For the first time in the seventy years that women have served in the Air Force, the service modernized its hair standards requirements for female service members. The purpose behind this monumental update is not cosmetic, nor is the change a harbinger of a feminized military. Rather, this policy update reflects the detrimental operational and medical impacts of the previous hair standards.
17. [**‘Pink tax’ on women’s military uniform items would be eliminated under new proposal**](#)
(14 Apr) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
New legislation before Congress would require military leaders to eliminate the so-called “pink tax” by ensuring women receive uniform allowances more in line with what men receive.
18. [**In first, male Marines graduate from historically all-female boot camp training battalion**](#)
(14 Apr) Military.com, By Gina Harkins
Four male platoons graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in South Carolina as part of a battalion that -- until now -- has trained only women.



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19. [First male Marine Corps recruits graduate from previously all-female boot camp battalion](#)
(15 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Todd South
The previously all-female 4th Recruit Training Battalion has graduated four of its first-ever male platoons alongside two female platoons and included the first male drill instructors assigned within the battalion.
20. [Gender and security](#)
(16 Apr) War On The Rocks, By Hilary Matfess, Robert Nagel, and Doyle Hodges
In this episode of Horns of a Dilemma, Doyle Hodges, executive editor of the Texas National Security Review, sits down with Hilary Matfess (a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University and a Peace Scholar Fellow at the United States Institute for Peace), and Robert Nagel (a postdoctoral research fellow at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security), to discuss gender in conflict and the issues surrounding women in the field of security.
21. [Advocates hope first female Army secretary brings change](#)
(18 Apr) Defense One, By Tara Copp
Nominee Christine Wormuth has led strategy and policy at the highest levels. Can she lead cultural change as well?
22. [Stop staring at my breasts — oh wait, that’s where my rank is](#)
(18 Apr) Army Times, By Lt. Col. Rachael Hoagland
A shortsighted 2004 uniform change intended to protect soldiers paradoxically has left female service members more vulnerable, but to a different, internal threat.
23. [Official Says Women's Contributions Are Vital to DOD, Allies and Partners](#)
(21 Apr) DoD News, By David Vergun
Representatives from ally and partner nations in southeast Europe spoke at a conference about the important role women play in their armed forces.
24. [Here’s what the Corps’ new School of Infantry training looks like](#)
(21 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
In preparation for a future war where Marine infantry platoons take on the responsibilities currently at the company level, the Corps is launching a new experimental School of Infantry curriculum that will teach aspiring grunts 21 new lessons, or “behaviors.”
25. [53 women officially become Marines at formerly all-male boot camp](#)
(22 Apr) Military.com
Dozens of new female Marines completed the grueling final exercise required of recruits in boot camp this week, setting them up to become the first women in the service’s history to graduate from the historically all-male Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.
26. [First San Diego all-female recruit platoon completes Marine boot camp 'Crucible'](#)
(22 Apr) The San Diego Union-Tribune, By Andrew Dyer
The first women in Marine Corps history to attend boot camp in San Diego faced one final challenge in their training: the daunting final hill of the feared "Reaper" hike.
27. [For the first time, women become Marines at San Diego recruit depot](#)
(23 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Philp Athey
For the first time in history women were handed an Eagle, Globe and Anchor and made Marines at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.



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28. **[Breaking a barrier, women become U.S. Marines after surviving the ‘crucible’](#)**
(26 Apr) Reuters, By Daniel Trotta
The U.S. Marine recruits, both women and men, patrolled through a mock village that suddenly was struck by simulated machine gun fire and explosions.
29. **[Biden must protect women’s rights after Afghanistan withdrawal, say lawmakers](#)**
(27 Apr) Defense One, By Jacqueline Feldscher
The Biden administration must commit to maintaining the improved quality of life for women and girls in Afghanistan when negotiating its withdrawal from country.
30. **[First female west coast Marines graduate at Camp Pendleton – in pictures](#)**
(28 Apr) The Guardian, By Mike Blake
After Congress ordered the US Marine Corps to fully integrate women into its west coast training battalions, the first 53 female recruits have become Marines
31. **[Meet the first women to become Marines at Recruit Depot San Diego](#)**
(29 Apr) Military.com, By Hope Hodge Seck
It's been almost a week since the Crucible, the legendary two-and-a-half-day physical and mental torture fest that culminates in recruits earning the coveted title of Marines. Here at the Marines' West Coast boot camp, Lima Company is now in Fourth Phase, a more laid-back period of training, instruction and mentorship intended to give newly minted Marines a taste of life in the fleet before graduation.
32. **['They Just Want it More:' Meet the First Women to Become Marines at Recruit Depot San Diego](#)**
(29 Apr) Military.com, By Hope Hedge Seck
It's been almost a week since the Crucible, the legendary two-and-a-half-day physical and mental torture fest that culminates in recruits earning the coveted title of Marines. Here at the Marines' West Coast boot camp, Lima Company is now in Fourth Phase, a more laid-back period of training, instruction and mentorship intended to give newly minted Marines a taste of life in the fleet before graduation.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

33. **[Why Are Americans Still Waiting for Paid Parental Leave?](#)**
(31 Mar) Bloomberg, By Claire Suddath
The U.S. economy needs more babies, yet the country continues to put new families at a disadvantage.
34. **[Military to conduct survey on compliance with sexual harassment, assault policies](#)**
(1 Apr) UPI, By Christen McCurdy
Every command in the military will immediately conduct a survey to assess compliance with Sexual Assault and Harassment prevention policies.
35. **[Commentary: The new Air Force hair standards exclude Black women](#)**
(2 Apr) Stars & Stripes Japan, By Lt. Jasmine Mossbarger
To understand why the newly authorized hairstyles don't go far enough to include Black women, a basic knowledge of hair type is essential. Hair type is primarily defined by curl pattern, falling into four major categories.



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36. **[One weird trick to fix our broken child care system](#)**
(2 Apr) Vox, By Anne Helen Petersen
Early education in the US is endlessly convoluted, and a massive expense for lower- and middle-class families. What if the solution were as straightforward as making child care a “good” job?
37. **[Fort Sill instructors suspended after trainee alleges sexual assault](#)**
(2 Apr) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
Army CID special agents are investigating allegations that multiple Fort Sill training instructors sexually assaulted a woman trainee at the Oklahoma post. More than 20 individuals were under investigation in the wake of the initial report, and there are potentially more victims based on the allegations.
38. **[Sexually transmitted infections increasing in the military](#)**
(5 Apr) Military Times, By Harm Venhuizen
Black service members, women, and enlisted personnel with lower levels of education are most at risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections, according to the study published in the March edition of the Medical Surveillance Monthly Report, a peer-reviewed military health journal.
39. **[18 Army instructors charged with sexual abuse since 2019, data shows](#)**
(5 Apr) Military Times, By Davis Winkie
Between January 2019 and January 2021, the Army charged 18 soldiers under a new law designed to protect trainees, cadets and applicants from sexual abuse, according to data the Army provided to Military Times.
40. **[At Pentagon, Sexual Assault Awareness is a Full-Time Effort](#)**
(7 Apr) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez
Inside the Defense Department, efforts to eliminate sexual assault in the ranks isn't limited to just Sexual Assault Awareness Month -- it'll be a full-time effort until the problem is gone, the Pentagon press secretary said.
41. **[Marine Corps prepares maternity uniforms](#)**
(7 Apr) UPI, By Ed Adamczyk
The U.S. Marine Corps announced Wednesday the upcoming rollout of maternity uniforms, with some to be available this month.
42. **[An Air Guard colonel was allowed to quietly retire while his unit was investigated for sexual misconduct](#)**
(9 Apr) Task & Purpose, By David Roza
The problem of sexual harassment and the lack of punishment for those who perpetrate it may be even more difficult to fix in the Air National Guard. Last month, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Capital Times published a joint exposé about how women across the National Guard face retaliation and inaction after reporting sexual assault and harassment.
43. **[Pentagon leaders have opposed plans overhauling the military system for trying sexual assault for years. Has the time come for change?](#)**
(10 Apr) Washington Post, By Missy Ryan
When senators summoned Pentagon leaders to answer for a rash of sexual assaults in the military in 2013, the assembled brass were undivided in their resistance to plans that would strip commanders of their power over prosecuting those crimes, warning the changes would undermine discipline in the ranks.
44. **[New Marine Corps maternity uniforms available in April](#)**
(10 Apr) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
Starting in April pregnant Marines will finally be able to purchase better fitting maternity uniforms.



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45. [Army didn't prosecute NCO accused of rape. So he did it again. And again](#)
(12 Apr) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
Staff Sgt. Randall S. Hughes' repeated rapes and the Army's failure to investigate and prosecute them aggressively raises troubling questions about how the service handles sexual assault complaints.
46. [Universal child care could boost women's lifetime earnings by \\$130 billion—and ensure more stable retirement options](#)
(12 Apr) CNBC, By Megan Leonhardt
New research from Columbia University and the National Women's Law Center finds that a universal child-care system — one that provides affordable, reliable child care from birth to age 13 — would dramatically increase the lifetime earnings and security of women across the country.
47. [Fort Sill sexual assault case stirs up the worst kind of deja vu](#)
(13 Apr) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
Multiple cadre members are under investigation at Fort Sill, Okla., in connection with the sexual assault of a trainee, though officials have not confirmed on the record how many of them and what roles they might have played in a crime. This is nothing new for the Army.
48. [Army enacts changes on sex assault response, investigations and more after Fort Hood scandal](#)
(16 Apr) Army Times, By Todd South
The Army has announced servicewide and command-specific changes in the wake of a scathing independent report last year that called for a major overhaul of both its Criminal Investigation Command and its Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program.
49. [Two-star to be court-martialed for sex assault, the Air Force's first prosecution of a general](#)
(21 Apr) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
Maj. Gen. William Cooley, the former commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory, will face court-martial on a sexual assault charge, marking the first time the Air Force has ever opted to prosecute a general officer.
50. [Air Force survey shows one-third of respondents fear reprisal for reporting mistreatment](#)
(21 Apr) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk
About one-third of respondents to a new Air Force diversity survey say they fear reprisal if they report discrimination, harassment, or other poor treatment in their unit.
51. [This is what the pandemic taught us about military child care](#)
(21 Apr) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
If anyone has doubted the importance of child care and youth programs for military leaders and families, the pandemic has likely dispelled those doubts.
52. [These are the rights every military sexual assault survivor needs to know](#)
(21 Apr) Task & Purpose, By David Roza
The past year has seen a wave of news stories about sexual assault and harassment in the military. From the harassment, disappearance and death of Army Spc. Vanessa Guillén to the Air Force retaining an NCO convicted of sexual assault, it's clear that sexual assault and harassment is a widespread and persistent problem in the military.



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53. [End commanders' power to block military sex assault cases, Pentagon panel says](#)
(22 Apr) *The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor*
A Pentagon panel is recommending that decisions to prosecute service members for sexual assault be made by independent authorities, not commanders, in what would be a major reversal of military practice and a change long sought by Congress members, The Associated Press has learned.
54. [Texas lawmakers target military sexual assault after Fort Hood death](#)
(22 Apr) *The Associated Press, By Acacia Coronado*
A year after a Fort Hood soldier was slain by a fellow member of the Army, Texas lawmakers are poised to help lead the nation in the fight against sexual harassment and assault in the military.
55. [The Army vowed change after Vanessa Guillén's murder. One year later, it's just getting started](#)
(22 Apr) *Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky*
"I think that the jury's still out on whether or not there has been a cultural shift at Fort Hood."
56. [Service chiefs will weigh in on controversial plan to remove commanders' control over sexual assault cases](#)
(23 Apr) *Military Times, By Meghann Myers*
Now that a Pentagon review commission has made the controversial recommendation to strip commanders of their authority to oversee sexual assault and harassments cases, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin wants to get feedback from top military leaders before making any final decisions about formal changes.
57. [Family policy appointee will bring more military family voices to DoD, including her own](#)
(23 Apr) *Military Times, By Karen Jowers*
Long before Patricia Barron was sworn in as head of military community and family policy at the Defense Department, she was well aware of persistent challenges for military families.
58. [US Army to replace criminal investigations chief in wake of Guillen's death](#)
(26 Apr) *Defense One, By Tara Copp*
The service's Criminal Investigation Command has faced criticism for its lax casework on soldier deaths, assaults and suicides.
59. [Acting Navy secretary makes mental health, sexual assault prevention top priorities for fleet](#)
(27 Apr) *San Diego Union-Tribune, By Andrew Dyer*
Thomas Harker, in San Diego this week, said he expects Biden will nominate another to the role soon.
60. [The military should finally take sexual assault cases out of commanding officers' control](#)
(28 Apr) *Washington Post, By the Editorial Board*
Sexual harassment and violence have dogged the military for decades.
61. [Major overhaul in how the military handles sexual misconduct cases may finally happen](#)
(29 Apr) *Military Times, By Leo Shane III*
For the last decade, advocates for sexual assault victims have pushed unsuccessfully for sweeping reforms to how military leaders handle those legal cases within the Defense Department's justice system.
62. [Pressure mounts on Austin to support major shift in handling military sexual assault](#)
(29 Apr) *Politico, By Lara Seligman*
Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is under increasing pressure to support an overhaul of how the military handles sexual assault allegations in the ranks, overturning decades of military practice and, advocates argue, moving the Pentagon one step closer to ensuring justice for victims.



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63. [Gillibrand eyes NDAA for military sexual assault revamp](#)
(29 Apr) Politico, By Nick Niedzwiadek
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said Thursday the annual defense policy bill will be the likely vehicle to enact an overhaul of how sexual assault is handled within the military.
64. ['A lack of responsibility': How Vanessa Guillén's killer fled a guard before taking his own life](#)
(30 Apr) The Washington Post, By Alex Horton
A report will detail a chain of missteps that allowed the suspected killer of a fellow soldier to flee an unarmed guard before fatally shooting himself last year, in a case that rocked Fort Hood in Texas and sparked calls for systemic changes in how the Army cares for soldiers.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

65. [Bastogne Soldier Sets Example for Women](#)
(28 Mar) 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (AA) Public Affairs, By Sgt. Lynnwood Thomas
In December, 1st Brigade Combat Team welcomed the installation's newest recipients of the Expert Infantry and Expert Soldier Badges. Among the Soldiers to successfully complete training and testing was 1st Lt. Nikole Hairston, support operations transportation officer-in-charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 426th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Hairston made history being one of the first three women in the division to earn the ESB.
66. [Female officer shares military experience with Italian magazine](#)
(29 Mar) Army News, By Anna Ciccotti
In honor of Women's History Month, U.S. Army Garrison Italy is sharing an interview that was originally published in a monthly Italian magazine called Area3 in February 2021.
67. [Miss USA 2016 Deshauna Barber advocates for women service members as CEO of Service Women Action Network](#)
(31 Mar) PBR, By Darci Miller
Capt. Deshauna Barber has been at the helm of SWAN since January 2020. A difficult year to begin any new job, to be sure, but she's been thrilled to head a company that allows her to fulfill her purpose.
68. [Army female leaders of past and present stress importance of mentorship](#)
(1 Apr) Army News Service, By Joseph Lacdan
Anne Macdonald blazed trails for female Soldiers as one of the first women to graduate from West Point and as the first woman to command a battalion in the storied 101st Airborne Division.
69. [Meet Captain StarEagle: Space Force Swears In 1st Female Native American Intel Officer](#)
(1 Apr) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk
Space Force just welcomed its first female Native American intelligence officer. Capt. Haida StarEagle, a 17-year-veteran of the Air Force, transferred into the fledgling service earlier this month, according to a news release. She hails from the 36th Intelligence Squadron at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, where she served as a flight commander of training. She will remain with the 36th until her new duty title and station are approved, the release states.
70. [Face of Defense: Marine Adopts, Reunites With Military Working Dog](#)
(1 Apr) DoD News, By Staff Sgt. Caitlin Brink Marine Corps
Sgt. Jenna L. Cauble stayed true to the ethos, never leave a Marine behind, when she adopted her first military working dog partner.



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71. [Alaska woman is 1st infantrywoman in state's National Guard](#)

(1 Apr) The Associated Press

An Alaska woman has made history by becoming the first infantrywoman in the Alaska National Guard.

72. [Female cadet sets new record for West Point's punishing obstacle course](#)

(2 Apr) Military.com, By Matthew Cox

A female cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point just set a new record on the grueling obstacle course that stands between every student and graduation.

73. [Army captain sets women's world record for mile run in a bomb disposal suit](#)

(3 Apr) Stars & Stripes, By Staff

The company commander of an ordnance disposal unit at Fort Campbell, Ky., broke the Guinness World Record for the fastest mile run by a woman wearing a bomb disposal suit Saturday at George Mason University. Capt. Katie Hernandez of 717th Ordnance Disposal Co. needed to run faster than the existing record of 11 minutes, six seconds, set in 2013 by Army 1st Lt. Ashley Sorensen of the 303rd EOD Battalion in Hawaii.

74. [Sports Heroes Who Served: Soldier Sets Sights on Competing in Tokyo Olympics](#)

(6 Apr) Army News Service, By Joseph Lacdan

Army Sgt. Samantha Schultz hopes to compete in the pentathlon in this year's Olympic Games in Tokyo.

75. [General Officer Assignments](#)

(7 Apr) DoD Immediate Release

The secretary of the Air Force announces the following general officer assignments.

- Maj. Gen. Michele C. Edmondson will be assigned as commander, 2d Air Force, Air Education and Training Command, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. Edmondson is currently serving as commandant of cadets, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado.
- Maj. Gen. Jeannie M. Leavitt will be assigned as chief of safety and commander, Air Force Safety Center, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Leavitt is currently serving as director, operations and communications, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.
- Maj. Gen. Andrea D. Tullos will be assigned as deputy commander, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Tullos is currently serving as commander, Second Air Force, Air Education and Training Command, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.
- Brig. Gen. Brenda P. Cartier will be assigned as director, operations and communications, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Cartier is currently serving as vice commander, 19th Air Force, Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.
- Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman will be assigned as director, operations, strategic deterrence, and nuclear integration, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Lenderman is currently serving as director, plans, programs, and requirements, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.
- Brig. Gen. Jennifer M. Short will be assigned as deputy director, strategic planning and policy, J-5, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii. Short is currently serving as chief of staff, Pacific Air Forces, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.
- Brig. Gen. (select) Melissa S. Cunningham will be assigned as director, cyberspace operations, Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Cyber Effects Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Cunningham is currently serving as chief, Cyberspace Operations Branch, Joint Staff, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- Brig. Gen. (select) Debra A. Lovette will be assigned as director, Integrated Resilience Office, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Lovette is currently



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serving as director, Executive Action Group, Office of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

76. **[Fort Stewart sending first all-female team to Best Sapper Competition](#)**
(8 Apr) Stars & Stripes, By Corey Dickstein
A pair of Fort Stewart, Ga.-based engineering officers is set to become the first all-female team to compete for the title of the Army's best-skilled combat engineering duo next month in Missouri.
77. **[A female US Army soldier ran a mile in a 96-pound bomb suit in under 11 minutes, setting a world record](#)**
(12 Apr) Business Insider, By Ryan Pickrell
Capt. Kaitlyn Hernandez, commander, 717th Ordnance Company, 52nd Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), training at Fryar Stadium on March 28 in preparation to set the Guinness World Record for the fastest woman to run a mile in a bomb suit.
78. **[Arizona governor appoints first woman to lead state's National Guard](#)**
(13 Apr) The Associated Press, By Jonathan J. Cooper
Gov. Doug Ducey on Thursday appointed Brig. Gen. Kerry Muehlenbeck to be the first female leader of the Arizona National Guard and the state's emergency management agency as it enters a second year on the front lines in combatting COVID-19.
79. **[Flag Officer Announcements](#)**
(14 Apr) DoD News
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced flag officer nominations:
 - Navy Rear Adm. Kelly A. Aeschbach for appointment to the grade of vice admiral, and assignment as commander, Naval Information Forces, Suffolk, Virginia. Aeschbach is currently serving as director, National Maritime Intelligence Integration Office; and commander, Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C.
 - Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Nancy S. Lacore has been nominated for appointment to the grade of rear admiral. Lacore is currently serving as chief of staff, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/U.S. Naval Forces Africa/Sixth Fleet, Naples, Italy.
 - Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Eileen H. Laubacher has been nominated for appointment to the grade of rear admiral. Laubacher is currently serving as senior defense official/defense attaché – India, New Delhi, India.
80. **[General Officer Announcement](#)**
(14 Apr) DoD News
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced general officer nominations: Air Force Col. Gail E. Crawford has been nominated to the grade of brigadier general. Crawford is currently serving as the staff judge advocate, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.
81. **[First enlisted woman qualifies for formal combat controller training](#)**
(15 Apr) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
A female airman will soon begin formal training to become an Air Force combat controller, the closest any enlisted woman has gotten to breaking that glass ceiling so far.
82. **[Hawaii Army 'Trailblazer' Retires](#)**
(18 Apr) The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, By William Cole
Maj. Gen. Suzanne Vares-Lum made history as the first Native Hawaiian female to attain the rank of general officer in the Army. Her 34 years in the Army — leading up to her retirement in a ceremony last week on the fantail of the battleship Missouri — charted the increasing inclusivity of the military.



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83. **[Biden selects first woman four-star admiral for the Coast Guard](#)**
(19 Apr) Defense News, By Aaron Mehta
President Joe Biden has nominated Coast Guard Vice Adm. Linda Fagan to the role of vice commandant, making her the first woman to achieve a fourth-star in the service.
84. **[Fort Hood names gate after slain Spc. Vanessa Guillen](#)**
(19 Apr) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer
The Vanessa Guillen Gate at Fort Hood is a reminder to soldiers passing through to look out for one another, said Lupe Guillen, the younger sister of the Army specialist who was killed at the base one year ago this week.
85. **[Asia Graham case: Fort Bliss soldier Pfc. Christian Alvarado faces new sex assault charges](#)**
(19 Apr) El Paso Times, By Daniel Borunda
A Fort Bliss soldier accused of raping Pfc. Asia M. Graham and other women has been charged in connection with four additional sexual assaults, military officials said.
86. **[Outstanding: Meet Senior Airman Cassidy B. Basney](#)**
(19 Apr) Air Force Magazine, By Amy McCullough
Senior Airman Cassidy B. Basney, with the 50th Operations Support Squadron, 50th Space Wing, is among the Space Force's first-ever 12 Outstanding Airmen, Guardians, and Civilians of the year announced April 13.
87. **[All-Female 82nd Airborne Team Jumps Out of Woman-Crewed Air Force Cargo Plane](#)**
(19 Apr) Military.com < Video >
Women from the 437th Airlift Wing and the 315th Airlift Wing located at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., in conjunction with women from the Army 82nd Airborne Division located at Pope Army Airfield, N.C., celebrated Women's History Month with an all-female flight and airdrop, April 13, 2021.
88. **[Vanessa Guillen's sisters say Fort Hood memorial gate is a 'step in the right direction'](#)**
(20 Apr) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
A gate at Fort Hood, Texas, leading to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment area where Spc. Vanessa Guillén was killed by a fellow soldier last spring, now bears her name and picture.
89. **[South Dakota Army National Guard graduates first female drill instructor](#)**
(21 Apr) News Center 1, By Darsha Nelson
Staff Sgt. Erin Fagnan of Rapid City is the first female from South Dakota to attend and graduate from the academy while serving in the South Dakota Army National Guard, and also graduated on the Commandant's List – putting her in the top 10 in her class of 107 students.
90. **[Paratrooper died during jump training from Black Hawk helicopter](#)**
(21 Apr) Army Times, By Kyle Rempfer
Spc. Abigail Jenks, 21, was assigned to the division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team when she died during the training operation at Sicily Drop Zone on Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
91. **[Navy certifies first female Steam Generating Plant Inspector](#)**
(22 Apr) UPI, By Christen McCurdy
A Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center sailor recently became the first woman certified as a Steam Generating Plant Inspector for the U.S. Navy. Marya Hudgens, a chief machinist's mate assigned to the MARMC Engineering Department's Steam and Propulsion Branch, completed the SGPI certification course after a lengthy process including screenings, shipboard qualifications and courses of knowledge.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

April 2021



92. [Flag Officer Assignment](#)

(30 Apr) DoD News

The acting secretary of the Navy and chief of naval operations announced the following assignment: Capt. Maria L. Aguayo, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Atlantic, with additional duties as fleet civil engineer (N01CE), U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Aguayo is currently serving as chief of staff, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Washington, D.C.

WOMEN VETERANS

93. [For decades, women were discharged from the military for pregnancy. Now a lawmaker wants to restore their benefits](#)

(9 Apr) Military.com, By Oriana Pawlyk

A California lawmaker has introduced a bill that would require the Government Accountability Office to investigate the involuntary discharge of thousands of women from military service from the 1950s to the 1970s due to pregnancy or motherhood -- something that could end up restoring benefits to those who lost them through unwarranted dismissals. The "Justice for Women Veterans Act," which would commission a study to identify "irregularities in discharges that may have left these women without the veterans' benefits that they earned," according to a release.

94. [VA staffer used medical records to stalk and harass female vet, lawmakers demand reforms](#)

(9 Apr) Military Times, By Leo Shane III

A group of 50 House lawmakers is demanding immediate improvements to the Department of Veterans Affairs system for investigating sexual harassment complaints after a woman was stalked and intimidated by a call center employee who used his post to look up her personal information.

95. [Marion County WWII vet, age 96, recalls her life of service](#)

(16 Apr) Ocala Star-Banner, By Andy Fillmore

World War II veteran Harriet Dalton sees her approaching 97th birthday as just another walk in the park.

96. [Study of 400,000 female vets links PTSD to heart disease](#)

(19 Apr) Military.com, By Jim Absher

A recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association reports that female veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are more than twice as likely as male veterans to suffer from ischemic heart disease than those without PTSD.

97. [Valley WWII Army veteran turns 100 years old](#)

(21 Apr) ABC 15, By Staff

Valley WWII Army veteran celebrated her birthday in style this year. Friends and family held a birthday parade to honor Stella Srgo who turned 100 years old. Stella served as a drill sergeant and air raid warden in the Army.

98. [Stymied in the Trump era, lawmakers launch new attempt to make VA motto gender-neutral](#)

(22 Apr) Military.com

The move to remove the word "him" from the motto has been a year's long effort by veteran activists and lawmakers who argue that the change is just a small part of a larger push to make the VA a more welcoming place for women. It would also reflect female troops' dramatically expanded role in the armed forces, they say, including combat roles opening up to women relatively recently.

99. [Lawmakers renew effort to make Veterans Affairs motto inclusive](#)

(26 Apr) ConnectingVets, By Abbie Bennett

Capitol Hill lawmakers are renewing an effort to make the Department of Veterans Affairs mission statement more accurate and inclusive.