



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

July 2021



### DACOWITS IN THE NEWS

1. [Female Vets in Congress Decry Proposal to Disband Pentagon's Advisory Panel on Women](#)

*(6 Jul) Military.com, By Patricia Kime*

“We believe we can tackle diversity, equity, and inclusion without disbanding one of the military's most effective tools to advance women,” they wrote. “It would send the wrong message to every woman currently serving in the military or to those who have worn our nation's uniform and sacrificed.”

### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

2. [Nearly 4,000 soldiers, sailors and Marines applied to join the Space Force. Here are the 50 who made it.](#)

*(30 Jun) Air Force Times, By Rachel Cohen*

When the Space Force first opened its doors to prospects from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps in March, leaders of the new branch thought it might garner some interest from across the military.

3. [Face of Defense: Couple Makes Giant Leap Into Space Force Together](#)

*(1 Jul) Defense.gov*

They met in the Air Force and married in the Air Force. And last year, Frank and Jamie Franco ventured into a new frontier - transferring together into the Space Force, the military's newest branch.

4. [The U.S. Military Needs a Lot More Recruits](#)

*(12 Jul) Bloomberg, By Editorial Board*

Increasing the number of young Americans willing and able to serve should be a national priority.

5. [The Army is training the first batch of Space Marines](#)

*(13 Jul) Task & Purpose, By Paul Szoldra*

This is how baby Space Marines are made.

6. [Senate panel votes to make women register for draft](#)

*(22 Jul) The Hill, By Rebecca Kheel*

The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved language in its annual defense policy bill that would require women to register for the draft.

7. [Senate Defense Bill Would Require Women to Register for the Draft](#)

*(22 Jul) Military.com, By Patricia Kime*

The Senate Armed Services Committee's proposed 2022 defense policy bill contains a provision that would require women to register for the draft, officially known as the Selective Service System.

8. [New legislation would require women, like men, to sign up for potential draft](#)

*(23 Jul) ABC News, By Trish Turner*

Women have been serving at all levels of the military since 2013.



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### EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

9. [Women in Submarines: 10 years later](#)  
(25 Jun) *Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic*, By Petty Officer 2nd Class Cameron Stoner  
Female officers in the U.S. Navy have been serving on multiple platforms throughout the Submarine Force for more than 10 years now. In 2016, the submarine force integrated its first command with enlisted female sailors.
10. [Air Force revises physical fitness test to allow walking, planks](#)  
(30 Jun) *Fox News*, By Brittany De Lea  
The U.S. Air Force this week will announce changes to its physical fitness test and will no longer require candidates to run.
11. [Why the Air Force will allow airmen to walk instead of run on their fitness tests](#)  
(2 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By David Roza  
A swarm of keyboard warriors took to the field this week to rag on the Air Force for announcing it would allow airmen to walk instead of run for the aerobic portion of their annual fitness test, which the service will try out for six months starting in January 2022. Plenty of the critics accused airmen of being soft, lazy, or a national security risk.
12. [Air Force offering better fitting armor for female defenders](#)  
(8 Jul) *UPI*, By Zarrin Ahmed  
Female defenders at the 55th Forces Squadron received the first batch of new body armor for female defenders, the Air Force announced on Thursday.
13. [Here are the ships the Navy wants to inactivate in fiscal 2022](#)  
(12 Jul) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz  
The U.S. Navy plans to inactivate 22 ships in fiscal 2022, according to a message to the fleet sent from the chief of naval operations earlier this month. Whether Big Navy will be allowed to cleave those LCS from a program that has perennially underperformed remains to be seen.
14. [No plans for Space Force PT test yet](#)  
(13 Jul) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk  
Space Force guardians must wait a little longer for physical training standards unique to their service as it figures out what requirements best match its needs.
15. [No more tape test? Army study to reevaluate body fat program](#)  
(20 Jul) *Army Times*, By Davis Winkie  
The issue particularly impacts women who are training for the new Army Combat Fitness Test.
16. [More female Marine drill instructors needed as boot camp gender-integration continues](#)  
(22 Jul) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey  
The Marine Corps is about to be short on female drill instructors and is willing to pay up to \$14,700 to fill its ranks.
17. [Female Soldiers Are Getting New Body Armor Designed Just For Them](#)  
(22 Jul) *NPR*, By Jay Price  
Pundits and politicians have recently made light of how the military is changing to be more inclusive. But some of those efforts aren't just about making the fighting force more equitable. For female soldiers, some of the changes might also save lives.



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18. [How Vermont was first to finish integrating women into Guard combat arms units](#)

*(28 Jul) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*

When then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter formally opened the door for women to join Army combat arms units beginning in 2016, he noted that the transition wouldn't happen overnight. But the transition has proved more difficult for the National Guard than the active-duty force. Ultimately, it took more than five years before the gender integration process was complete for any one of the Guard's 54 states and territories.

### WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

19. [Independent Review Commission Recommendations on Countering Sexual Assault in the Military](#)

*(2 Jul) DoD News*

The DOD released the Secretary of Defense's guidance on, and the recommendations from, the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military.

20. [Recommendations from the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military](#)

*(2 Jul) DoD News*

The final version of the IRC Full Report.

21. [Sexual Assaults Will No Longer be Prosecuted by Commanders](#)

*(2 Jul) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez*

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III accepted all of the recommendations of an independent review commission that stood up in March and which delivered its findings just last week.

22. [A professionalized military sexual assault and response program could be on the way](#)

*(2 Jul) Military Times, By Meghann Myers*

Experts recommend doing away with collateral duty victim advocates and response coordinators.

23. [Military needs commanders who truly don't support sexual assault, commission concludes](#)

*(2 Jul) Military Times, By Meghann Myers*

The Pentagon's independent review commission on sexual assault came back with dozens of suggestions.

24. [Biden backs removing sexual assault, harassment cases from military chain of command](#)

*(2 Jul) ABC News, By Luis Martinez*

President Joe Biden has announced his support for the recommendation that prosecution of sexual assaults and sexual harassment cases be removed from the military chain of command in favor of independent prosecutors to handle those cases.

25. [New policies make it easier for military women to serve and be moms: "I don't have to make a choice"](#)

*(3 Jul) CBS News, By Natalie Brand*

When I first got into the military 10 years ago, there were not a lot of females in the higher ranks. And the ones that were did not have children or did not choose to have a family — to make it to where they were.

26. [The Air Force didn't have a manual for pregnant airmen. So this mom made one.](#)

*(6 Jul) Air Force Times, By Rachel Cohen*

Tech. Sgt. Nancy Thompson is working with Air Force headquarters to formally publish a guide to the service's rules around pregnancy and postpartum life after struggling as a new mom herself.



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27. [Here is the Navy's new maternity flight suit prototype](#)  
(7 Jul) *Navy Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll  
The maternity flight suit prototype is designed to accommodate pregnant aircrew as they progress in their pregnancy by adding expandable panels to standard flight suits.
28. [Military families testing new app for 'subletting' child care slots](#)  
(7 Jul) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers  
"Rent" your child care space to another DoD family while you're on vacation or TDY through this centralized app being tested. Will it expand to other service branches?
29. [Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.](#)  
(9 Jul) *Bloomberg*, By Gerald Porter Jr.  
Families that were already struggling during the pandemic are facing a heavier burden as inflation makes an unavoidable expense costlier.
30. [Derision, misogyny, sexual assault: VMI women face attacks on campus and online](#)  
(12 Jul) *Washington Post*, By Ian Shapira  
Women at Virginia Military Institute describe an atmosphere of hostility and an expectation of backlash from male cadets if they report being groped or raped.
31. [Pushing beyond sex assault, Gillibrand faces resistance to military bill](#)  
(14 Jul) *New York Times*, By Jennifer Steinhauer  
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York has spent years building support for a measure to remove commanders from decisions about prosecuting sex crimes, but some colleagues now worry it goes too far.
32. [Command sergeant major at 2nd ID Artillery sexually abused subordinate, prosecutors say](#)  
(15 Jul) *Army Times*, By Davis Winkie  
The former senior enlisted leader of the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery faces a general court-martial in October over charges of sexual misconduct. A charge sheet obtained by Army Times stated that Bice groped a subordinate on the breast, buttocks and thigh without her consent. The alleged abusive sexual contact took place in February.
33. [Affordable daycare called critical to U.S. economic recovery](#)  
(16 Jul) *CBS News*, By Khristopher J. Brooks  
Sending children to low-cost child care centers will enable parents — particularly women — to return to the office.
34. [Military Sexual Assault - Does it Degrade Military Readiness](#)  
(16 Jul) *Policy Vets*, By Dr. David Shulkin and Louis Celli Jr.  
Join Dr. Shulkin and Lou Celli as they speak with Phillis Wilson and Lucy Del Gaudio. Phillis is a retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 and Policy Vets BOD member, and Lucy is a military sexual assault victim who works to advocate for other military sexual trauma victims. Different eras, different experiences, same problem -- is it getting any better?
35. [The Marine Corps is now the only service not allowing women to wear ponytails in uniform](#)  
(16 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky  
The Coast Guard announced on Thursday that women would be permitted to wear their hair in a ponytail, a braid, or two braids.



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36. [Citing 'crisis' in military child care facilities and barracks, lawmakers want extra \\$15 billion](#)  
*(16 Jul) Military Times, By Karen Jowers*  
Lawmakers want to add \$15 billion for military child care and barracks facilities to the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package unveiled earlier this month.
37. ['Bold action' needed by DOD to prevent consequences of sexual assault and harassment in the military](#)  
*(19 Jul) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer*  
The Defense Department must take bold steps to put prevention and reporting at the forefront of its fight against sexual assault and harassment or the behaviors will remain a persistent problem for the military, according to a report released Monday by the Rand Corp.
38. [DOD Takes Phased Approach to Implementing Recommendations on Sexual Assault, Harassment](#)  
*(21 Jul) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez*  
The Defense Department plans to move forward with the recommendations made by an independent review commission on sexual assault in the military, with a goal to move cautiously and deliberately in implementing each of them, the deputy defense secretary said.
39. [Pregnant cadets, midshipmen must give up their child or their career. Two senators want to change that.](#)  
*(22 Jul) Defense One, By Jacqueline Feldscher*  
Two senators are teaming up to change an "unfair, antiquated" policy that requires students at military academies who get pregnant to choose between abandoning their military career or their child.
40. [Face of Defense: Swimming Toward Gold](#)  
*(28 Jul) DoD News, By Brittany Nelson*  
Army Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks joined the Army in 2008 and was injured in 2010. While recovering from her injuries, and working to be declared fit for duty, she discovered her passion and talent for swimming.

### SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

41. [Sullivan Becomes First Woman to Command an SFAB Battalion](#)  
*(28 Jun) 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade, By Maj. William Leasure*  
Lt. Col. Meghann Sullivan took command of the 5th Battalion, 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, today, marking an historic first as she becomes the first female commander of an SFAB battalion.
42. [For the first time, all four key leaders of Robins Air Force Base are women](#)  
*(29 Jun) 13WMAZ, By Bre'onna Richardson*  
There's a new commander at Robins Air Force Base -- and she's making history! Col. Lindsay Droz is now the Installation and 78th Air Base Wing commander. Now that she has taken over, the four key leaders of the base are all women.
43. [Naval officer wins Miss D.C. title, heads to Miss America](#)  
*(29 Jun) The Enquirer-Gazette, By Elysa Millan Special*  
Andolyn Medina, a 25-year-old doctoral candidate and Ensign in the U.S. Navy, was crowned Miss District of Columbia 2021.
44. [The sky is the limit for four female aviators](#)  
*(29 Jun) 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, By Sgt. Savannah Roy*  
An all-female flight crew took to the skies in an HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter to participate in a fly-over for the 3rd Infantry Division change of command ceremony at Fort Stewart, Georgia, June 21.



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45. [Wyoming-based nuclear missile force gets new commander](#)  
*(29 Jun) The Associated Press*  
An intercontinental ballistic missile force based in southeastern Wyoming has a new commander. Col. Catherine Barrington took command of the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren Air Force Base.
46. [Riley Compton: Marine, Wife, Olympic Hopeful](#)  
*(29 Jun) WMA, By Staff*  
Riley attended TBS in September 2019 with her husband. She was selected to be an 0402 logistics officer, while her husband became an infantry officer. Both were stationed in Camp Pendleton where she still serves on active duty. Her current assignment is S-4 at MALS-39 filling a Captains Billet for a Squadron of almost 800 Marines.
47. [7's HERO: U.S. Army reservist crowned Miss Idaho 2021](#)  
*(4 Jul) KTVB7, By Maggie O'Mara*  
Ayriss Torres will represent the state of Idaho and the U.S. Army at Miss America in 2021.
48. [Army boxer Naomi Graham fights her way to Olympics for US](#)  
*(6 Jul) Associated Press, By Greg Beacham*  
Ilaressa Shields is the most successful American amateur boxer of her generation. She dominated the middleweight division at the past two Olympics, overwhelming every opponent and becoming the only U.S. fighter to claim two boxing golds.
49. [Frazer becomes first woman to lead combat company in 45th IBCT](#)  
*(9 Jul) 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, By Sgt. Anthony Jones*  
Capt. Marissa Frazer became the first woman to command a combat arms company in the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team when she assumed command of the Thunderbird Brigade's Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery Regiment in a ceremony at the National Guard armory in Holdenville, Oklahoma, July 9, 2021.
50. [Thae Ohu to receive bad conduct discharge after Marine general denies judge's recommended suspension.](#)  
*(14 Jul) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey*  
The Marine Corps has declined a military judge's recommendation to suspend Cpl. Thae Ohu's discharge sentence and instead will give her a bad conduct discharge now — possibly making it harder for her to receive the care and medicine she says she needs.
51. [Airman Shares Love of Conservation, Leads Project](#)  
*(15 Jul) DoD News, By Air Force Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier*  
When Airman 1st Class Genesaret Balladares received word that the Army Natural Resources Program, Oahu, needed help, she relied on her security forces family to aid the wildlife on the mountain sacred to her.
52. [Vanessa Guillen's family presses for more accountability in Army's handling of Fort Hood soldier's case](#)  
*(15 Jul) The Austin American-Statesman, By Heather Osbourne*  
The family of slain U.S. Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen learned this week that among more than a dozen Fort Hood soldiers accused of wrongdoing in her case, none has been removed from the military.
53. [Historic change of command welcomes not only first woman but first Black woman to the post](#)  
*(15 Jul) WQAD, By Maggie Wedlake*  
The Rock Island Arsenal held a historic change of command on the island Thursday. Colonel Shari Bennett became not only the first woman, but the first Black woman to hold her new position.





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54. **[First female sailor completes Navy special warfare training](#)**  
(15 Jul) *The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor*  
For the first time, a female sailor has successfully completed the grueling 37-week training course to become a Naval Special Warfare combatant-craft crewman.
55. **[Smith makes history as WVNG's first female Chief Warrant Officer 5](#)**  
(16 Jul) *West Virginia National Guard*  
After nearly 34 years in the West Virginia Army National Guard, Kristie Smith has become the first female Chief Warrant Officer to reach CW5 rank.
56. **[LRMC Soldier braves the unfamiliar, excels with Army team](#)**  
(19 Jul) *Army.mil, By Marcy Sanchez*  
In June, Innace was selected as a team member for the All-Army Women's Rugby Team.
57. **[Lt. Col. Henry leaves lasting legacy at depot as Lt. Col. Cory achieves landmark for Army women](#)**  
(22 Jul) *Sierra Army Depot, By Doug Magill*  
Lt. Col. Amy Cory became the 43rd commander of Sierra Army Depot – which delivers materiel readiness and sustainment solutions for U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command as its western-most installation -- during a change of command ceremony at the depot, July 20, 2021. She is the first woman to command the depot in its 79-year history.
58. **[General Officer Assignments](#)**  
(22 Jul) *Immediate Release*  
The chief of staff of the Army announces the following general officer assignments:
- Brig. Gen. Alison C. Martin to commanding general; and commandant, U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, Virginia. She most recently served as executive officer to the judge advocate general, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.
  - Brig. Gen. Dianne M. Del Rosso, deputy commanding general (Forward) (Troop Program Unit), 1st Theater Sustainment Command; and commander, 311th Sustain Command (Expeditionary), Operation Spartan Shield, Kuwait, to assistant deputy chief of staff, Logistics (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.
  - Brig. Gen. Cheryn L. Fasano, deputy commander (Troop Program Unit), 377th Theater Sustainment Command, Belle Chasse, Louisiana, to mobilization assistant to the commander and commander (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Joint Transportation Reserve Unit, U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.
59. **[USAMU Soldiers aim for Olympic Gold in Tokyo](#)**  
(22 Jul) *U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, By Maj. Michelle Lunato*  
U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Soldiers, Spc. Alison Weisz, Sgt. Phillip Jungman, 1st Lt. Amber English, Spc. Sagen Maddalena, and Sgt. Patrick Sunderman join the throngs of athletes at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.
60. **[How this mother, daughter got to serve aboard the Ford together](#)**  
(22 Jul) *Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*  
Master Chief Logistics Specialist Tanya McCray has been in the Navy almost 30 years, and is also married to another master chief in the Navy. Now, their daughter, Logistic Specialist Seaman Racquel McCray, 25, is following suit and has the opportunity to be temporarily assigned to the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford with her mother.



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61. ['They Choose Not to Listen': Thae Ohu Speaks for the First Time on Her Experience in the Marines](#)  
(23 Jul) *Military.com*, By Konstantin Toropin  
Ohu now joins the ranks of service members such as Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen whose stories have grown to be rallying cries in the struggle for change in the way the military treats mental health and handles sexual assault.
62. [An Army vet was told she never served. Her viral response was the ultimate mic drop](#)  
(23 Jul) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky  
An Army veteran named Emery recently provided a case study in how female veterans online should respond to sexist trolls who make assumptions about their service.
63. [Sweet Skeet Feat! Soldier Takes Olympic Gold, Sets Record](#)  
(26 Jul) *DoD News*  
Soldier-athlete Army 1st Lt. Amber English won a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, breaking an Olympic record with 56 shots.
64. [Army shooter is first US service member to win gold medal at Tokyo Olympics](#)  
(26 Jul) *Stars & Stripes*, By Seth Robson  
An Army lieutenant became the first U.S. service member to clinch a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics with a first-place finish in women's shotgun skeet on Monday.
65. [Army New England Recruiting Battalion names first woman, African-American as commander](#)  
(28 Jul) *Portsmouth Herald*, By Ian Lenahan  
Lt. Col. Natasha Sunday Clarke has received many accolades throughout her military career, and she added another to the list last week, officially becoming both the first woman and African-American to lead the New England Recruiting Battalion.
66. [Guillen family calls for court-martial of soldier's harasser as military considers crime reforms](#)  
(30 Jul) *Stars & Stripes*, By Rose L. Thayer  
The family of Spc. Vanessa Guillen, the soldier killed at Fort Hood last year, wants the Army to court-martial the platoon sergeant who was found to have sexually harassed her prior to her death.
67. [HFX today announced the 2021 class of its landmark Peace With Women Fellowship](#)  
The program, now in its fourth year, experienced the most competitive selection process to date with a record number of countries submitting applications. The Fellowship is a three-week executive program for senior active-duty female military officers from NATO member and partner countries. Representing the United States:
  - Captain Rebecca Ore, United States Coast Guard
  - Colonel Danielle Willis, United States Air Force

## WOMEN VETERANS

68. [Dream of all-female Honor Flight turns to reality](#)  
(2 Jul) *Spectrum News*, By Marisa Silvas  
Many female veterans, including Barbara McGuire, say they're used to being overlooked. McGuire is on the list to be on the first Villages All-Women Veteran Honor Flight to Washington D.C. The trip, scheduled for May 2022, will take them to memorials that standard Honor Flights don't, including the Military Women's Memorial.
69. [Do student veterans have adequate child care? Lawmakers want answers from VA](#)  
(5 Jul) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III  
House appropriators want VA leaders to look at how child care availability hurts student veterans' studies.





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70. [Black female WWII unit hoping to get congressional honor](#)  
(13 Jul) *The Associated Press*, By Michael Casey  
The 6888th Central Directory Postal Battalion was credited with solving a growing mail crisis during its stint in England and, upon their return, serving as a role model to generations of Black women who joined the military.
71. ['A lifelong wish': 100-year-old veteran gets ride in Navy helicopter](#)  
(23 Jul) *WLWT5*, By Staff  
Ima Black began her service with the Navy with the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service, or WAVES, when it was established in 1942.
72. [VA makes 'error' in using gender-neutral motto in official government notice](#)  
(27 Jul) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime  
No, the Department of Veterans Affairs has not officially changed its mission statement, despite publishing a gender-neutral version in an official U.S. government publication last week.
73. [New bill extends access to mammograms in 15 states where VA doesn't perform them](#)  
(29 Jul) *Stars & Stripes*, By Nikki Wentling  
Senators introduced legislation Thursday that aims to extend mammogram services to female veterans in the 15 states where the Department of Veterans Affairs doesn't perform them.
74. [Mari Eder Was an Army 'Unicorn'](#)  
(30 Jul) *Wall Street Journal*, By Emily Bobrow  
After a pioneering military career, the retired major general has written a book about the experiences of women in WWII.