



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

November 2021



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [Marine Corps will use AI to revamp recruiting and retention models](#)**
(3 Nov) Defense News, By Megan Eckstein
The U.S. Marine Corps needs a different kind of Marine to succeed in a future fight: older and more cognitively mature, cross-trained to juggle a variety of roles and missions, tech-savvy.
- [The Marine Corps is about to become pickier about whom it recruits](#)**
(3 Nov) Yahoo News, By Philip Athey
It's time for the military's aptitude test to take a smaller role in the enlistment process as the Corps looks to recruit fewer and better Marines, Commandant David Berger said.
- [Air Force opens ROTC instructor jobs to all noncommissioned officers](#)**
(4 Nov) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
Staff sergeants and technical sergeants can apply to teach ROTC cadets in fall 2022.
- [What converting from the Air Force to Space Force means for one JROTC unit](#)**
(4 Nov) Military.com, By Stephen Ruiz
When it came time for Laura Sexton to choose an elective during her freshman year of high school, she ruled out taking a physical education course.
- [The debate over registering women for the draft is a waste of time: There is no draft](#)**
(6 Nov) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol
Every time lawmakers debate whether women should be required to register for the draft, I just want to yell: There is NO draft!
- [Fewer recruiters, individual quotas: How the Army is 'modernizing' recruiting](#)**
(7 Nov) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
U.S. Army Recruiting Command has faced its fair share of challenges in getting prospective soldiers "into boots" over the past few years, including the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, a shrinking pool of physically and medically qualified Americans and slipping trust in the military among the public.
- [DHS launches portal to recruit—and retain—cybersecurity talent](#)**
(15 Nov) NextGov, By Mariam Baksh
The department's CTMS has been eight years in the making. Today a rule establishing the new system takes effect, and there's a new website where those interested in exploring a different government model of assessment and compensation for their cybersecurity work can apply to be considered.
- [Army recruiters on TikTok dance around ban to reach Gen Z](#)**
(16 Nov) Defense One, By Elizebeth Howe
As threat worries subside, one sergeant has nearly half a million followers on the China-based app—and the Army wants her advice.
- [The Marines are promising better jobs and fewer moves using big data](#)**
(22 Nov) Military.com, By Konstantin Toropin
The Marine Corps said Monday it plans to offer homesteading more often as part of its new talent management system.



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10. ['They saved our marriage' — This is what happens when Army leaders actually put people first](#)
(24 Nov) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky
It's not exactly typical that you hear a service member talk about how the military saved their marriage. If anything, it's usually the opposite.
11. [Why the Marine Corps wants to tank National Guard recruiting efforts](#)
(24 Nov) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey
"If we do our job right, they'll never go to the Army or the National Guard to begin with."
12. [How big data might help the Marine Corps improve recruiting and retention](#)
(28 Nov) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey
Technology, mixed with user friendly applications, also will be used to give Marines more insight and transparency in their careers.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

13. [Here's where ponytails stand for women in the Marine Corps](#)
(4 Nov) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey
It's been a hotly debated topic within the Corps, the commandant said.
14. [Women of color are lagging behind in Air Force's push for diversity](#)
(10 Nov) *Military Times*, By Rachel S. Cohen
The service is becoming more gender-diverse, but those gains aren't the same across women of various races and ethnicities.
15. [Department of Defense Releases Annual Demographics Report — Modest Increase of Women in the Active Duty Force](#)
(11 Nov) *Immediate Release*
While the overall size and racial diversity of our military remained steady, the number of women serving in the active duty force, both enlisted and officers has grown slightly, according to the newly released 2020 Demographics Profile of the Military Community report.
16. [The highest-ranking woman in Pentagon history is on a mission to take the armed forces electric](#)
(12 Nov) *Fortune*, By Nicole Goodkind
Whether Kathleen Hicks, the deputy secretary of the Department of Defense and highest-ranking woman in Pentagon history, is able to achieve her goal—moving all of the Pentagon's 170,000 non-tactical vehicles from combustion engines to electric motors—remains to be seen.
17. ["Top Gun: Maverick" Barbie doll hits shelves ahead of movie](#)
(22 Nov) *Military Times*, By Sarah Sicard
The long-awaited Top Gun sequel premiere may have been postponed until 2022, but on Nov. 10, Mattel introduced the world to one of its leading ladies, Natasha "Phoenix" Trace, in the form of a collectible Barbie doll.
18. ['We will start again': Afghan female MPs fight on from parliament in exile](#)
(27 Nov) *The Guardian*, By Amie Ferris-Rotman
Yousufi Bek, from the northern Takhar province, is one of 28 female MPs who have found refuge in Greece, a country most had never visited before. Until recently, these women made up more than 40% of Afghanistan's female MPs. Now they are confronted with an unrecognizable alphabet and an uncertain future.



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19. [**Navy gears up for single physical fitness assessment cycle, and scored planks, in 2022**](#)
(29 Nov) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
The Navy has announced that it will complete one physical fitness assessment cycle in 2022 — a departure from the traditional two cycles conducted annually — and will start scoring forearm planks.
20. [**Afghanistan's women leaders persist despite exile — the US must follow their lead**](#)
(29 Nov) The Hill, By Teresa Casale
Women parliamentarians around the world are leading in extraordinary ways.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

21. [**Women in the Navy, Marines most likely to use IUDs, birth control implants across services**](#)
(3 Nov) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
Women in the Navy and Marine Corps are leading the way among active duty service members in using long-acting reversible contraceptives like intrauterine devices and subdermal implants, possibly because the access to such devices is better through Navy healthcare than the other services, according to a new study.
22. [**There Is No Way I Could Have Gone to an Office 4 Weeks After Having a Baby**](#)
(5 Nov) Time, By Katie Gutierrez
As of November 3, House Democrats have put four weeks of paid family and medical leave back into their Build Back Better Act. Four weeks, down from the 12 originally proposed by the Biden Administration. As many of us know, the U.S. is one of only six countries—and the only wealthy country—in the world without any nationally mandated paid leave.
23. [**Canada's military, rocked by abuse crisis, loses power to investigate and prosecute sex misconduct cases**](#)
(4 Nov) The Washington Post, By Amy Cheng and Amanda Coletta
The investigation and prosecution of sexual misconduct cases in the Canadian Armed Forces will now be handled by civilian police and heard in civilian courts, amid widespread debate on the treatment of service member victims, criticism of the military justice system to adjudicate such cases and charges that top military officials fell short in their pledges to change a culture that has allowed such behavior to thrive.
24. [**The military is failing to comply with federal law in sexual assault cases, new watchdog report finds**](#)
(8 Nov) CBS News, By Norah O'donnell, Megan Towey, Kristin Steve and Adam Verdugo
Nearly a decade after Congress mandated the use of investigators and prosecutors who are specifically trained to handle sexual assault and domestic violence cases, a draft of a new Pentagon report obtained by CBS News reveals the military is failing to comply with federal law that requires it to give survivors support.
25. [**Tens of thousands of airmen, guardians report dealing with mental or physical violence**](#)
(9 Nov) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
More than half of the respondents said they had recently dealt with an intimate partner or another person who was violent, workplace harassment, bullying or hazing.
26. [**The services haven't been properly handling sexual assault cases, IG finds**](#)
(10 Nov) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
Special victims investigators and prosecutors are not being assigned to every sexual assault case, in violation of regulation.



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27. [**‘Sir, you know what he did to me’ — An open letter to the Marine general handling my sexual harassment case**](#)
(16 Nov) *Task & Purpose*, By Cybèle Greenberg
A Marine’s plea for justice and accountability following a substantiated investigation into her sexual harassment complaint.
28. [**What Maine can do to fix how the Army National Guard handles sexual assaults**](#)
(17 Nov) *Bangor Daily News*, By Josh Keefe and Callie Ferguson
Although solutions vary among state guards and the federal government, military and legislative leaders across the country are fighting to increase transparency and improve oversight into the handling of cases within the ranks.
29. [**Military parents foot the bill to ship breast milk to their infants. That’s about to change.**](#)
(17 Nov) *Air Force Times*, By Rachel S. Cohen
Many military moms have to ship milk when they are on temporary duty because they don’t have enough at home to feed the baby while they are gone. The only way they can ensure it stays frozen is to express mail it.
30. [**The Spouse Angle Podcast: More birth support on the way for military moms**](#)
(17 Nov) *Military Times*, By Military Times Staff
On The Spouse Angle Podcast, three military spouses discuss how a pilot program to provide military moms with more access to doulas could affect the military community long term.
31. [**The only person charged in the murder of Spc. Vanessa Guillen is trying to get the case tossed out**](#)
(18 Nov) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky
Cecily Aguilar, the girlfriend of the soldier accused of killing Guillén in April 2020, was arrested in July last year.
32. [**Rep. Jackie Speier closes in on goal of military justice reform as she prepares to end her 14-year tenure in Congress**](#)
(19 Nov) *Stars & Stripes*, By Rose L. Thayer
Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., stood on the House floor weekly in 2011 to share the stories of service members who were sexually assaulted by fellow troops during their time in the military.
33. [**Police could take guns from troops accused of domestic violence under proposed law**](#)
(21 Nov) *Military.com*, By Rebecca Kheel
Civilian courts and police could confiscate the firearms of service members accused of domestic violence by military authorities under a proposed law being considered by Congress.
34. [**Air Force promotes major who doxed an alleged sexual assault survivor**](#)
(22 Nov) *Task & Purpose*, By David Roza
The Air Force promoted a major in the Air Force Reserves who posted the personal information of an alleged sexual assault survivor to social media and to her official newsletter, then denied posting that information before an ethics committee, and was recently censured by the Idaho House of Representatives.
35. [**The military said a Maine guardsman sexually assaulted another soldier. He’s still on base.**](#)
(23 Nov) *Bangor Daily News*, By Callie Ferguson and Josh Keefe
A senior enlisted member of the Maine Army National Guard is still at work on base nearly four months after federal investigators concluded that he sexually assaulted a female colleague earlier in his career.
36. [**Marine prosecutor reflects on lessons learned from sexual assault survivor**](#)
(24 Nov) *The War Horse*, By Dillon Fishman
As a junior military prosecutor, I welcomed the challenge of a big caseload in one of the Department of Defense’s busiest trial shops.



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37. [Former Fort Bragg employee indicted, arrested on sexual assault of a patient charge](#)
(29 Nov) *Fayetteville Observer*, By Rachael Riley
A former substance abuse counselor at Fort Bragg was indicted this month by a federal jury on charges of sexually assaulting a woman at Fort Bragg, according to a news release from U.S. Attorney Michael Easley Jr.

38. [What do parents do on paid leave? This mom used data to show her maternity leave workload](#)
(29 Nov) *GMA*, By Katie Kindelan
Kristen Cuneo went viral on TikTok with her presentation on being a new parent.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

39. [History of culture, faith and hard work mold Cadet's future as a leader in the Army](#)
(27 Oct) *Army News*, By Sarah Windmueller
Keely Jones will be the first to tell you she's grown up in a bubble. A Lumbee Native American born and raised on tribal territory in Pembroke, North Carolina, she's experienced the majority of her life and education within a 15-minute drive from her family farm.

40. [Air Force colonel claims she was fired for not ordering subordinates to get COVID vaccine](#)
(2 Nov) *Task & Purpose*, By David Roza
An Air Force colonel who was relieved of command last month at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, claims she was fired after she refused to order her subordinates to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

41. [Woman killed at house party was Nevada Army Guard Soldier](#)
(3 Nov) *CBS Las Vegas*, By Caroline Bleakley
Graciela Gomez, 22, who was killed in a shooting at a house party in east Las Vegas, was a member of the Nevada Army National Guard.

42. [Nevada Army National Guardsman killed at Halloween party was 'rising star' in military](#)
(4 Nov) *Stars & Stripes*, By Vandana Ravikumar
A 22-year-old woman who was fatally shot at a Las Vegas house party on Oct. 31 has been identified as Graciela Gomez, a member of the Nevada Army National Guard, Fox 5 reported.

43. [First woman to finish Army's sniper school is Montana Guard soldier](#)
(8 Nov) *Army Times*, By Davis Winkie
It's one of the most grueling, individually focused schools in the Army, meant to produce soldiers capable of infiltration, advanced marksmanship and more.

44. [Navy selects first woman to go directly into flying the F-35C after earning her wings](#)
(8 Nov) *Navy Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll
Navy Lt. j.g. Suzelle Thomas is the first woman in the service to go directly from flight school to flying the F-35C Lightning II, after earning her Wings of Gold last month.

45. [Meet the Army sergeant who ran a makeshift orphanage in Kabul to care for children during the evacuation](#)
(10 Nov) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky
"She not only protected the wellbeing of the children but also their dignity as human beings."



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46. [Fort Hood soldier charged with murder of fellow soldier, mother of his child](#)
(12 Nov) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer
Cpl. Nakealon Keunte Mosley, 24, was indicted by a grand jury in Bell County, Texas, which is located just outside the Army base in central Texas, according to online court records.
47. [She was homeless in Modesto at 16; now she's an aircraft carrier officer and nurse](#)
(13 Nov) Stars & Stripes, By John Holland
Susan Murphy rose from a troubled childhood in Modesto to become a nurse and officer aboard an aircraft carrier.
48. [Army officer sues Harrah's New Orleans after she was refused entry to casino](#)
(17 Nov) Stars & Stripes, By Tony Mcauley
A U.S. Army officer who was refused entry at Harrah's New Orleans Casino last month has filed a lawsuit against the gaming house and its parent companies alleging that she was racially profiled and humiliated by a security manager there.
49. [NASA astronaut joins Army Reserve](#)
(17 Nov) Army Times, By Rachel Nostrant
NASA astronaut Dr. Kate Rubins became an officer in the Army Reserve during a ceremony at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, on Nov. 2.
50. [Federal bill would rename VA Medical Center in La Jolla after fallen soldier](#)
(21 Nov) La Jolla Light, By Andrew Dyer
The bill would rename the hospital after Capt. Jennifer Moreno, an Army nurse killed in 2013 while serving with Special Operations forces in Afghanistan's Kandahar province. She was 25.
51. [National Guard soldier missing for over a month in Ohio: 'We want you back, Michaela'](#)
(23 Nov) Stars & Stripes, By Mitchell Willetts
Spc. Michaela Nelson, a 26-year-old Ohio Army National Guard soldier, hasn't been seen or heard from in over a month, and her family is growing desperate.
52. [West Point cadet from Washington state named Rhodes Scholar](#)
(23 Nov) The Spokesman Review, By Jim Allen
Holland Pratt was named the top cadet at West Point earlier this year. And this week Pratt was named a Rhodes Scholar, one of the most prestigious academic awards in the world.
53. [Single mom to military leader: CW5 Melanie Harris speaks on how the Army changed her life](#)
(28 Nov) WHNT, By Steve Johnson
There are thousands of hard-working men and women in the Army Material Command. It's safe to say they are motivated to be the best of the best and worked hard to get there.

WOMEN VETERANS

54. [Top Navy NCO, now retired in San Antonio, had three strikes against her but triumphed](#)
(31 Oct) San Antonio News, By Sig Christenson
Command Master Chief Octavia Harris made it to the Navy's highest enlisted rank with three strikes against her — she was Black, female and gay.



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55. [Marine veteran Winsome Sears becomes first female and woman of color elected as Virginia's lieutenant governor](#)
(4 Nov) CBS News, By Li Cohen
Republican Winsome Sears was elected as Virginia's new lieutenant governor on Tuesday night, becoming the first woman and the first woman of color to serve in the position.
56. [Former Army Nurse, 100, Recalls WWII Experiences](#)
(8 Nov) DoD News, By Terri Moon Cronk
In Philadelphia, 24-year-old nurse Regina Benson and three of her nursing school classmates joined the Army Nurse Corps right after graduation to serve their country. They were assigned overseas and remained lifelong friends. Benson's four brothers were also serving, so for her, joining the Army as a patriotic duty was not unusual.
57. [This Veterans Day, Don't Forget Women's Roles in Military History](#)
(10 Nov) NBC New York <video>
Women have been a part of U.S. military history since the American Revolution, but the armed forces were not integrated until an executive order from President Harry Truman in 1948 – and women were allowed to serve in direct ground combat roles starting in 2013. Ahead of Veterans Day, LX News host Tabitha Lipkin delves into the history of women who fought for the United States, with help from Jodie Grenier of the Foundation for Women Warriors.
58. [Pride and Purpose: Rosie the Riveters Inspire Women of Today](#)
(11 Nov) DoD News, By Lisa Ferdinando
The "Rosie the Riveters" of World War II are an inspiration to all generations for their courage and commitment and for blazing the trail that changed the way women were viewed in the workforce, one airman recalled.
59. [Why four Black women stood up to the US Army during World War II](#)
(11 Nov) Time, By Kaia Alderson
The "Six Triple Eight" self-contained postal unit completed the seemingly impossible task of tackling the mail backlog during the final months of the war. Now, activists are pushing the House to move on the legislation to make the recognition official.
60. [Female veterans experience unique challenges that can impact their health](#)
(11 Nov) ABC 7, By Amanda Lojewski
Women account for 14% of all active-duty troops. There are about a half-million female veterans. The American Heart Association says women are expected to be the fastest-growing group of veterans in the country over the next 25 years.
61. [Black Women Army Veterans Share What It's Really Like To Serve In The Military](#)
(16 Nov) Essence Magazine, By Rachael Davis
Veterans Leslie Latrice and Lila Holley open up about managing your mental health as a black woman in the military.
62. [It's shameful! New law tackles maternity care for female veterans](#)
(16 Nov) Military.com, By Patricia Kime
The Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to invest more in maternity care for female veterans and the federal government will be required to study the health of active-duty and former service members who have had babies or are trying to get pregnant after Congress passed legislation Tuesday.
63. [Veterans military sexual trauma disability claims still not being handled properly: watchdog](#)
(17 Nov) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
Outside advocates say VA officials still need more reforms to ensure sexual assault victims feel comfortable filing cases.



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64. [Marine veteran works to improve the lives of her fellow Central Florida vets](#)
(18 Nov) *Spectrum News 13*, By Rachael Krause
After serving in the Marine Corps for two decades, Central Florida veteran Kat Gates-Skipper now makes it her mission to help recognize and celebrate other veterans across the Sunshine State.
65. ['Mike is a cheater' spray painted on car belonging to veteran not named Mike](#)
(22 Nov) *Military Times*, By J.D. Simkins
"I do not even know anyone named Mike," decidedly non-Mike-monikered Army veteran Nedra-Iman Brantley wrote in a Facebook post after discovering her vehicle.
66. [Army veteran leaps into action following parade tragedy](#)
(22 Nov) *WDJT*, By Emerson Lehmann
One of those heroes is Jen Zenisek, a U.S. Army veteran currently working as a chef at Chef Pam's Kitchen, located right along the parade route in downtown Waukesha. After the SUV sped through, she sped into action.
67. [Vets groups worry military sexual assault reforms will be dropped from Congress' defense bill plans](#)
(23 Nov) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
Both House and Senate lawmakers earlier this year backed major changes in how serious crimes are prosecuted, but the proposal still faces hurdles to becoming law.
68. [Marcella LeBeau, WWII nurse and tribal leader, dies at 102](#)
(23 Nov) *The Associated Press*, By Stephen Groves
After the war, Marcella LeBeau kept treating patients on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation and with Indian Health Services for over 30 years.
69. [Seahawks Utilize Microsoft Teams For Pregame Huddle With Women In The Military For Salute To Service Game](#)
(23 Nov) *Seahawks*, By Jordan Duncan
Microsoft once again provided a technology assist Sunday to allow Saudi McVea and other women in the military to chat with Seahawks players ahead of our Salute to Service game.
70. [Inquiry finds Georgia veterans agency chief harassed workers](#)
(28 Nov) *The Associated Press*, By Staff
The investigation was required after Gov. Brian Kemp enacted new policies during his first week in office to prevent sexual harassment.
71. [New law pumps \\$15 million into improved maternity care for female veterans](#)
(30 Nov) *Stars & Stripes*, By Nikki Wentling
President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed a bill into law that invests \$15 million to improve maternity care for female veterans.