



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

October 2021



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [Dreadnaughts introduce Female Mentorship Program at DPTA](#)**
(30 Sep) 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Reynolds
Making fresh tracks, the 2nd Battalion "Dreadnaught Battalion," 34th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, has placed new emphasis on mentorship among their female Soldiers. Approved in May of 2021, 2-34 has started the first Female Mentorship Program within IID and held its first meeting in Poland on Sept. 1.
- [Entire Air Force hits staffing, recruitment goals for the first time in five years](#)**
(1 Oct) Military Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
Waning interest in military service and eligibility among America's youth is still a cause for concern.
- [Air Force touts best recruiting numbers in five years as pandemic drags on](#)**
(1 Oct) Military.com, By Stephen Losey
The pandemic is still rattling the economy and American workers, but it hasn't been bad for Air Force recruiting and retention, according to new figures released by the service Friday.
- [Two-thirds of military teens want to follow in their parents' footsteps. But these kids 'are not okay,' survey finds](#)**
(7 Oct) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
Military teen survey finding: 42 percent show signs of emotional distress.
- [What TRADOC has been doing about recruiting and retention](#)**
(11 Oct) Defense News, By Todd South
A large part of Army Training and Doctrine Command's mission involves finding civilians willing to become soldiers, making them into soldiers and progressing them through their career.
- [DOD Official Says Families Want Voice in Navigating the Military Journey](#)**
(13 Oct) DoD News, By Terri Moon Cronk
Patricia "Patty" M. Barron, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, says military families are no longer content to just come along for the ride -- they want a loud voice in how to navigate the military journey.
- [Army ROTC embraces cadet preferences in new talent management push](#)**
(12 Oct) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
The Army is undertaking a massive push to improve the way it manages its talent throughout the force. And the service's leading source of officers is implementing those principles at the earliest stage of an officer's career — before it even begins.
- [Space Force recruiters pitch military service to warriors and dreamers](#)**
(13 Oct) spacenews.com, By Sandra Erwin
Military recruiters today are being challenged by demographic trends showing a declining population of young people who are eligible and willing to serve.
- [The Marine Corps wants to know what will convince you to reenlist](#)**
(22 Oct) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
What non-monetary incentives will convince Marines to reenlist?



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10. [More ink on heads, fingers allowed in updated Coast Guard tattoo policy](#)
(26 Oct) Military.com, By Patricia Kime
Coast Guard men, women and recruits now have more options to show off tattoos on their fingers or behind their ears under a new policy the service announced Monday.
11. [Fort Hood crisis didn't hurt Army's Hispanic recruiting, data shows](#)
(27 Oct) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
Despite high-profile calls for young Hispanic men and women to stop joining the Army in the chaos following Spc. Vanessa Guillén's disappearance last year, the Army's recruiting machine kept rolling along with virtually no impact to how many Hispanic recruits joined the service, according to accessions data the Army provided to Army Times upon request.
12. [Sleeves are officially back as Marine Corps makes big changes to its tattoo policy](#)
(29 Oct) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
Marines can now sport an unlimited number of tattoos on any body part, except the face, neck and hands, with the exception of a single ring-like tattoo on one finger.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

13. [Army women are being harangued over hair as superiors ignore new rules](#)
(30 Sep) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
Cpt. Kelsey Boursinos just arrived in Hawaii to serve with the 25th Infantry Division in September, but before she could settle into her new assignment, she quickly found herself at the center of a controversy regarding her hair.
14. [ACFT 3.5: How the Army can Meet Congressional Guidance without Resorting to Gender Discrimination](#)
(5 Oct) Defense News, By Army Ranger Kristen M. Griest
I wrote an op-ed through the Modern War Institute in February advocating against the implementation of ACFT 3.0, the latest version of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). While the Army is eager to produce a version of the test that will not disadvantage women and thereby gain Congressional approval, the ACFT 3.0 misses the mark.
15. [Wives do not earn as much as their husbands, says new global study](#)
(13 Oct) BBC, By Geeta Pandey
The study examined publicly available data from 45 countries across a four-decade period - from 1973 to 2016 - for the first global survey of intra-household gender inequality in wages.
16. [DOD Undersecretary Shares Tech Career Advice With Women](#)
(15 Oct) DoD News, By Terri Moon Cronk
"So what makes you so sure you can actually do engineering?" I was literally flabbergasted by that question. I leaned into him and told him in my junior year, I took a complex analysis course with 32 other male engineers in the class. I was the only female and only non-engineer. I came in No. 1 in the class, by far, so I'm not the least intimidated by engineers."
17. [University of Iowa virtual soldier models new Army fitness test](#)
(21 Oct) Stars & Stripes, By Vanessa Miller
For 40-plus years, the U.S. Army gauged the physical fitness of its soldiers on pushups, sit-ups and a 2-mile run test. But the Army wanted a better measure of "soldier physical readiness." And now it has it, thanks — in part — to the University of Iowa.



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18. [**Tape test gets tested: Army kicks off new body fat study**](#)
(19 Oct) Federal Times, By James R. Webb
The Army launched a study Monday at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to evaluate alternatives to the infamous “tape test,” the Center for Initial Military Training said in a news release.
19. [**The Army is reviewing its height and weight standards for the first time in decades**](#)
(25 Oct) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
If they don’t have enough women in a certain age group to volunteer, for example, they’ll continue conducting the study elsewhere to get the amount of data they need from that demographic.
20. [**Bill Seeks to End 'Pink Tax' for Women Buying Uniforms**](#)
(25 Oct) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel
A bipartisan pair of senators is looking to cut down on out-of-pocket costs female troops face when buying items for their uniforms.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

21. [**Support for breastfeeding moms is already abysmal. The pandemic is making it worse.**](#)
(1 Oct) USA Today, By Allison Yarrow
Breastfeeding is, counterintuitively, both pedestalled and undervalued in our culture. Support is so scarce that while most people want to breastfeed, more than half don’t meet their own goals. Only a quarter of infants are exclusively breastfed for the first six months.
22. [**Female soldiers given a year to fit into dress uniforms after pregnancy**](#)
(5 Oct) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
Women in the Army now will be excused from wearing dress uniforms for up to a year after giving birth, according to a new service policy reviewed by Military.com.
23. [**Department of Defense Observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month**](#)
(7 Oct) DoD News Release
October marks the beginning of the Department of Defense’s 2021 Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to bring awareness to the military community’s responsibility to support victims, respond to abuse, and focus on prevention efforts this month and throughout the year.
24. [**‘Tip of the iceberg’: Army announces first round of SHARP reforms**](#)
(7 Oct) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
This coming spring, sexual assault survivors at six Army installations will be able to access all of their victim services under one installation directorate as part of a new pilot program, the Army announced in a Wednesday afternoon press call.
25. [**Army opens resource, support center at troubled Fort Hood**](#)
(7 Oct) The Hill, By Olafimihan Oshin
U.S. Army officials announced the establishment of a new resource center at Fort Hood on Thursday following a series of deaths and allegations of sexual assault that have plagued the military base.
26. [**A third woman tells her story of retaliation for reporting sexual harassment at the Wyoming National Guard**](#)
(11 Oct) Wyoming Public Radio, By Kamila Kudelska
A woman calling herself Patricia Hiegel worked at the Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy. The academy is part of a National Guard initiative that recruits at-risk teens who have either dropped out of school or are thinking of dropping out of



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school. The woman said she was sexually harassed by a colleague. Hiegel said when she reported it, she received retaliation from her commanders and others around her.

27. [Army hiring criminal investigators to improve case work](#)

(21 Oct) *Military.com*, By Lolita C. Baldor

The Army has begun hiring more agents and support staff for its criminal investigations, as the new civilian director works to correct widespread failures that surfaced last year after a string of murders and other crimes at Fort Hood, Texas.

28. [Oregon National Guard member accused of sexual harassment while deployed at OHSU](#)

(22 Oct) *Oregon Capital Chronicle*, By Lynne Terry

A guard spokesman told the Capital Chronicle that the incidents are under investigation and that if found guilty, the suspect could face a range of punishments.

29. [Senators say they won't wait 9 years for Pentagon to make planned sexual assault reforms](#)

(26 Oct) *Military.com*, By Rebecca Kheel

A bipartisan group of senators is criticizing the Pentagon's "lax" timeline for implementing reforms meant to combat military sexual assault, telling the agency it needs to hurry up.

30. [Marine who filmed nude women in ship's bathroom obstructed justice, appeals court rules](#)

(27 Oct) *Stars & Stripes*, By Nancy Montgomery

A Navy appeals court upheld the conviction of a Marine lance corporal who filmed female sailors showering aboard the USS Arlington, then tossed his camera overboard when he was discovered.

31. [Fort Hood Army officer suspended from duty after arrest in Austin on family violence charge](#)

(27 Oct) *Killeen Daily Herald*, By Emily Hilley-Sierchula

An Army officer stationed at Fort Hood was suspended from duty after being arrested by Austin police on a family violence assault charge, but one victim's advocate says the Army's delayed response to the allegation did not send the right message to the troops under the man's command. "Why was he left in command after he was reported for abusing his wife? It's important to understand the lengths that victims are having to go through just to get the protection that they're due."

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

32. [Damionia Lott, U.S. Army Sergeant, dies near North Korea border](#)

(30 Sep) *Newsweek*, By Khaleda Rahman

Sgt. Damionia Lott died at an off-base hospital in South Korea on September 19, Stars and Stripes reported.

33. ['An absolute slap in the face': Medical group superintendent kept her job after investigation found she created a toxic workplace](#)

(30 Sep) *Air Force Times*, By Rachel S. Cohen

Airmen are upset by a decision to keep the former enlisted superintendent of one of the Air Force's largest inpatient medical facilities in her job after an investigation found she abused her authority by playing favorites and undermining other subordinates over two years.

34. [Face of Defense: Leading the D.C. National Guard](#)

(1 Oct) *DoD News*, By Katie Lange

Flying fascinated Air Force Maj. Gen. Sherrie McCandless when she was a child, so it was no big surprise that in 1991 she joined the military after college to pursue her dream of being a pilot.



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35. [How the Coast Guard's 1st Black woman pilot helped give the next one her wings](#)
(2 Oct) National Public Radio, By Emma Bowman
In 2005, Jeanine Menze was awarded her Wings of Gold, signifying her graduation from advanced flight training and became the first Black woman aviator in the U.S. Coast Guard.
36. [The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was guarded by an all-woman team for the first time ever](#)
(2 Oct) Task & Purpose, By Paul Szoldra
“History was made” at Arlington National Cemetery, said Col. Patrick Roddy, commander of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (Old Guard), the Army’s official ceremonial unit and escort to the president, in a post on Twitter.
37. [Inside the office of a one-star Army general that 100% of soldiers rated ‘hostile’](#)
(4 Oct) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
Amy Johnston created a “culture of fear,” and there was more than one occasion when people in the office were “in the hallways in tears” or “in the bathroom crying,” a source familiar with the matter told Task & Purpose.
38. [Hallowed changing of the guard gets an all-female cast at Arlington](#)
(5 Oct) New York Times, By Maria Cramer
For 84 years, Army soldiers have performed the changing of the guard at the tomb at Arlington National Cemetery. Last month, for the first time, it was carried out by three women.
39. [Female drill sergeant earns Aviator wings](#)
(8 Oct) Army News, By Kelly Morris
One of Fort Benning's first female drill sergeants continues to show how a highly trained, disciplined, and fit Soldier can ascend to new heights — this time, by trading in her campaign hat for a flight helmet. U.S. Army Warrant Officer Jessica L. Burns earned her aviator wings and is ready to take her place above the best Soldiers in the world as a Black Hawk pilot.
40. [After a career of breaking barriers in the Army, this retired General is now fighting for military families of color](#)
(8 Oct) CNN, By Brianna Keilar and Ryan Bergeron
Lieutenant General Gwen Bingham has spent much of her Army career being a frontrunner. She is only the second African American woman ever to become a three-star General in the Army and as she advanced throughout her career, she has been either the first woman, the first African American, or both to hold that position.
41. [Fort Hood soldier found safe with family after failing to show up for work, officials say](#)
(10 Oct) NBC News, By Ben Kessler and Elisha Fieldstadt
Jennifer Sewell, a private first class, was reported missing after she failed to show up for work and didn't respond to calls from law enforcement, her superiors or her family.
42. [Black Army officer says she was denied entry at New Orleans casino after ID was doubted](#)
(13 Oct) NBC News, By Minyvonne Burke
In a video Deja Harrison posted on Twitter, a Harrah's employee told her he didn't think it was her pictured on her military ID.
43. [HHS' Dr. Rachel Levine sworn in as US' first openly transgender four-star officer](#)
(20 Oct) CNN, By Jacqueline Howard and Veronica Stracqualursi
Dr. Rachel Levine, the assistant secretary for health at the US Department of Health and Human Services, made history Tuesday as the first openly transgender four-star officer across the nation's eight uniformed services.



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44. [**Air Force medical group commander fired after less than 4 months on the job**](#)
(22 Oct) Task & Purpose, By David Roza
Air Force Col. Kathryn Ellis was relieved of command of the 14th Medical Group at Columbus Air Force Mississippi on Thursday, according to the Columbus-based 14th Flying Training Wing public affairs office.
45. [**Ankeny woman becomes first enlisted infantry soldier in Iowa Army National Guard**](#)
(25 Oct) Associated Press
Pfc. Taylor Patterson, an Ankeny resident and Iowa State University student has become the first woman enlisted infantry soldier in the Iowa National Guard.
46. [**Sports Heroes Who Served: National Guardsmen Realize Olympic Dream**](#)
(26 Oct) DoD News, By David Vergun
Three women in the Army National Guard competed in several Winter Olympics.
47. [**Wounded Army veteran gifted customized all-terrain wheelchair**](#)
(26 Oct) Fox News, By Daniella Genovese
After 18 surgeries and a below-the-knee amputation, U.S. Army veteran Stephanie Vazquez was given a gift to improve her mobility for the rest of her life.
48. [**1st TSC Soldier crowned Ms. Kentucky 2022**](#)
(26 Oct) 1st Theater Sustainment Command, By Barbara Gersna
Master Sgt. Diana D. Layne, a Soldier serving in the 1st Theater Sustainment Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky, was recently crowned United States of America Ms. Kentucky 2022 at a pageant held Oct. 24 in Tifton, Georgia.
49. [**Southcom welcomes Army general as its first woman leader**](#)
(30 Oct) Tampa Bay Times, By Jacqueline Charles
Laura Richardson, 57, took over Friday at U.S. Southern Command, headquartered in Doral. The command is responsible for the Latin American and Caribbean region.

WOMEN VETERANS

50. [**A World War II Veteran Recalls Her Service in the Women's Army Corps at Age 100**](#)
(Oct 2021) Military.com, By Blake Stilwell
The 1942 fitness manual for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) clearly states the mission for women serving in the Army during World War II: "Your Job: To Replace Men. Be Ready To Take Over." Women like Lorraine Mulvaney Vogelsang were more than ready when the time came.
51. [**Navy veteran with rare medical condition to compete in pageant**](#)
(3 Oct) Navy Times, By
Diagnosed with a rare medical condition, Arlena Johnson was told she had six months to live. This month, she will compete for a crown.
52. [**93 Female Veterans recognized with unique Honor Flight**](#)
(8 Oct) United States Army Center of Military History, By Crista Mary Mack
Girl power took on an entirely new meaning recently when 93 female veterans spanning service from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War flew to Washington D. C. for Operation HerStory, the first Illinois All-Woman Honor Flight.



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53. **['She is a sweet soul': World War II Women's Reserve vet celebrates 100th birthday in Ocala](#)**
(10 Oct) Ocala Star Banner, By Andy Fillmore
World War II Marine Corps veteran Helen Bonomini had a 'oorah' 100th birthday celebration on Friday. Bonomini, who turned 100 on Sunday, served with the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve from 1943 to 1945 and has always taken pride in her service.
54. **[Before Stage and Screen, Bea Arthur Shined as a Marine](#)**
(13 Oct) DoD News, By David Vergun
Bea Arthur was best known for her acting roles, but she enlisted in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve during World War II -- just five days after the service began recruiting women.
55. **[Women's Army Corps Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday](#)**
(13 Oct) DoD News, By Wesley Farnsworth
The COVID-19 global pandemic, 9/11 World Trade Center terror attack and the moon landing are just some of the memorable events one World War II veteran witnessed before her 100th birthday Aug. 29.
56. **[The enemy Is lurking in our bodies' -- women veterans say toxic exposure caused breast cancer](#)**
(14 Oct) War Horse, By Kelly Kennedy
Numbers for breast cancer in military women have been high for years, but as veterans returned from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, rumors began to swirl: The cancers are hitting young -- and they're extraordinarily aggressive.
57. **[Former POW Shoshana Johnson of El Paso featured in PBS series on military veterans](#)**
(19 Oct) El Paso Times, By Maria Cortes Gonzalez
Eighteen years since being a prisoner of war in Iraq, Shoshana Johnson is more open about her former life in the military, family sacrifices, therapy and how she has endured.
58. **[Radio Personality Robin Quivers is Also Air Force Veteran](#)**
(25 Oct) DoD News, By David Vergun
Robin Quivers is best known for being Howard Stern's radio sidekick. But besides being a radio personality, Quivers is an author, actor, race car driver, philanthropist, nurse -- and an Air Force veteran.
59. **[Program focused on women vets health care could become mandatory for transitioning troops](#)**
(26 Oct) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
The idea stems from the small numbers of troops who used the Women's Health Transitioning Training program.
60. **[Women Facing Disproportionate Challenges When Leaving Military Service, Experts Tell Congress](#)**
(27 Oct) Medill News Service, By Ali McCadden
Surging homelessness and high rates of unemployment are plaguing women leaving military service, growing problems that experts testified to during a congressional hearing Tuesday where they argued that lawmakers need to take immediate action.
61. **[Senators urge DOD, VA to research link between burn pit exposure and breast cancer](#)**
(29 Oct) Stars & Stripes, By Nikki Wentling
Two senators on Friday urged the Defense Department and Department of Veterans Affairs to put more focus on researching a possible link between breast cancer and exposure to toxic burn pits.