



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

February 2022



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [**DoD Announces 2022 United States Senate Youth Program Military Mentors**](#)

(3 Feb) *DoD News*

The Department of Defense (DoD) today announced the 12 U.S. military officers selected to serve as Armed Forces ambassadors in support of the 60th Annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Washington Week, to be held virtually March 6-9, 2022. This educational experience for outstanding high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing careers in public service was established in 1962 by United States Senate Resolution 324, representing one of the longest standing commitments of the Office of the Secretary of Defense to a national youth program.

2. [**Military Mentors Selected to Serve as Student Role Models**](#)

(7 Feb) *DoD News, By David Vergun*

The Defense Department announced the 12 military officers selected to serve as military mentors in support of the United States Senate Youth Program's 60th Annual Washington Week, which will be held virtually March 6-9.

3. [**Army expands two-year enlistment options as new screenings kick in**](#)

(8 Feb) *Army Times, By Davis Winkie*

Army Recruiting Command officials announced Monday that the service is expanding its short-term career offerings, though the move comes amid recruiting turmoil caused by a new prescription drug screening system.

4. [**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Are Necessities in U.S. Military**](#)

(9 Feb) *DoD News, By Jim Garamone*

Fewer Americans between the ages of 18 to 24 — the prime ages for recruits — qualify for military service. "So, we have to find out ways of getting to a broader talent pool and broader interest groups in order to bring those highly qualified, talented individuals in," he said.

5. [**Meet the civilian nurse trying to become the first pre-service amputee to join the Navy**](#)

(9 Feb) *Navy Times, By Geoff Ziegulewicz*

Her effort has a raft of support from inside and outside the military, as well as physical readiness test results that many sailors would envy.

6. [**Crewing the cutters: Pandemic complicated recruiting, says Coast Guard**](#)

(9 Feb) *Juneau Empire, By Michael S. Lockett*

Closed schools and mitigation protocols have complicated recruitment for the U.S. Coast Guard over the two years of the pandemic, said members of the recruitment apparatus, even as other services are dealing with their own paucity of recruits.

7. [**Air Force aims for smoother, fairer performance reviews for officers**](#)

(17 Feb) *Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen*

The Air Force announced Thursday it will adopt a more predictable officer evaluation system that better compares airmen to their peers.

8. [**Marine, Navy, Coast Guard top brass talk cyber recruitment amid the great resignation**](#)

(18 Feb) *San Diego Union-Tribune, By Joshua Emerson Smith*

The great pandemic resignation and a shift toward recruiting older, more skilled military service members was major theme at the keynote panel that wrapped up the WEST 2022 conference in San Diego on Friday.



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9. **Pictures of the Planets Led to Career in Space Engineering**

(21 Feb) DoD News, By The Office Of The Undersecretary Of Defense For Research And Engineering

In her youth, Dr. Lindsay Millard was fascinated by the photos she saw in Astronomy Magazine. At the time, she thought the best way to capture similar images was to pursue a career in photography. But soon, she discovered that merely pressing a shutter was not going to be enough.

10. **Pentagon worried the ‘Nintendo Generation’ can’t survive boot camp because their bones are weak**

(23 Feb) Task & Purpose, By James Clark

An early February press release, put out by the Military Health System, took aim at 18-to-25-year-olds and suggested that they're having a hard time making it through boot camp because their bones are brittle from playing too many video games.

11. **Generation Z has a simple message when it comes to World War III: Please don’t draft me**

(24 Feb) Task & Purpose, By Max Hauptman

Is there going to be a war this week between Russia and Ukraine? Probably not, but that hasn't stopped some members of Generation Z from pondering the question: "Am I going to be drafted?"

12. **Ukraine bans all male citizens ages 18 to 60 from leaving the country**

(25 Feb) USA Today, By Asha C. Gilbert

"In particular, it is forbidden for men aged 18-60, Ukraine citizens, to leave the borders of Ukraine," a statement from the service said, according to CNN. "This regulation will remain in effect for the period of the legal regime of martial law. We ask the citizens to take this information into consideration."

13. **A Marine’s anime-style recruitment posters are going viral**

(26 Feb) Task & Purpose, By David Roza

When many people think ‘Marine,’ they might imagine a square-jawed buff guy who looks like he eats ammo belts (and crayons) for breakfast. That stereotype may be why a new Marine Corps recruitment poster of a smiling anime girl wearing dress blues is going viral on social media.

14. **Army offers recruits guaranteed first assignments at select bases**

(28 Feb) Stars & Stripes, By Alexander W. Riedel

New active-duty recruits now have the option of selecting their first duty assignment following basic training, U.S. Army Recruiting Command announced in a statement Friday.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

15. **Officials Discuss Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Benefits to DOD**

(2 Feb) DoD News, By David Vergun

Equity is about promoting justice, fairness and impartiality when devising or implementing procedures, processes and programs so every person can have the opportunity to get equal possible outcomes.

16. **Official Says DOD Is Seeking Pathways to Better Integrate Women Into Workforce**

(4 Feb) DoD News, By David Vergun

The "Women, Peace and Security Framework and Implementation Plan" was published by the Defense Department in June 2020. That plan was the result of the "Women, Peace and Security Act of 2017," Public Law 115-68, which was signed into law on Oct. 6, 2017.



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17. **Special ops wing boss defended female trainee under fire in memo to airmen**
(7 Feb) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen and Kyle Rempfer
As Air Force Special Operations Command scrambled last month to address anonymous allegations of foul play in special tactics training, the head of the 24th Special Operations Wing sought to reassure his subordinates that nothing was amiss.
18. **The Marines likely won't gender-integrate boot camp at the platoon level**
(8 Feb) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
The Marine Corps has been the one military service holdout to full gender integration at boot camp.
19. **The Marines need more female drill instructors to make gender-integration work**
(9 Feb) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
The issue will be particularly bad from 2024–2026, due to a significant drop in COVID-19 pandemic recruiting numbers.
20. **Marines Only Military Branch to Avoid Gender Integration Requirements**
(8 Feb) Newsweek, By Daniel Villarreal
The Marine Corps is the only branch of the U.S. military yet to implement full-gender integration at its boot camp, even though it's required by federal law. However, some Marine leaders say the branch is following the vaguely written law.
21. **Air Force making uniform changes with women in mind, while Space Force is working to fix those baggy pants**
(9 Feb) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly
In the past two years alone, airmen have seen once unlikely changes, many of them focused on the comfort of women: longer hairstyles for women, the development of a maternity flight suit and a wrap-style dress for pregnant airmen. The Space Force is even making its new dress uniforms unisex.
22. **Air Force commando course to be overseen by someone who hasn't gone through it**
(10 Feb) Task & Purpose, By David Roza
The Air Force has appointed an aviator to oversee the initial training course which all airmen must pass through in order to join the service's elite ranks of special operators.
23. **Army zeroing in on new ways to measure body fat that could kill the tape test**
(11 Feb) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
The Army is wrapping up research on how best to measure a soldier's body fat -- but the service's controversial tape test might not be dead yet.
24. **Lateral entry Marines will still go to officer candidate school**
(14 Feb) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
The Corps is still in the early planning stages, but says it has no plans on allowing Marines to skip entry level training.
25. **Politics and pressure are sabotaging women in special operations**
(15 Feb) Task & Purpose, By Meg Tucker
In March 2020, Military.com announced that, for the first time ever, a female had been selected for Special Tactics, an elite Air Force organization that conducts challenging missions in some of the most dangerous parts



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of the world. However, outrage over women's integration into elite special operations units has flared up once again.

26. [**The new tape test? Leaked waist-to-height ratio scores are 'pre-decisional'**](#)

(18 Feb) *Air Force Magazine*, By Greg Hadley

The Air Force has not made a final decision on what the new body measurement test will look like, despite documents recently leaked online, the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General told *Air Force Magazine*.

27. [**Marine Corps needs nearly \\$5B for integrating boot camp, fighting climate change**](#)

(21 Feb) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey

The Corps estimates that it will need \$198 million over the next five years for immediate upgrades to make possible boot camp gender integration at both San Diego and Parris Island, South Carolina, according to the documents.

28. [**Navy creates separate PRT plank standards for men, women**](#)

(22 Feb) *Navy Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll

There is now a 10 second difference between the maximum scores for men and women in the plank event.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

29. [**Army judge again rejects prospect of court-martial conviction in sex assault case without a unanimous verdict**](#)

(2 Feb) *Stars & Stripes*, By Nancy Montgomery

An Army judge has ruled in a second case that a unanimous guilty verdict is required to convict a soldier facing a court-martial for alleged sexual assault, putting the trial on hold while the determination is reviewed.

30. [**Sexual harassment heads to UCMJ**](#)

(7 Feb) *Defense News Weekly* < Video >

Congress and the Pentagon make a move to combat sexual harassment in the ranks, and Stuart Scheller, the Marine who caused a wave of controversy with a viral video criticizing top commanders, speaks to *Defense News Weekly*. Plus, a new columnist for *Military Times* makes her debut.

31. [**US Marine charged with cyberstalking in federal 'sextortion' case**](#)

(9 Feb) *Los Angeles Times*, By Richard Winton

An active-duty Marine was in federal custody Wednesday on charges of cyberstalking as part of a "sextortion" campaign to obtain sexual images of them and their feet, authorities said.

32. [**Biden's moves to make sexual harassment a crime in the military**](#)

(7 Feb) *Defense News Weekly* < Video >

The President signed an executive order recently that raises sexual harassment to a crime punishable within the Uniform Code of Military Justice

33. [**Senators announce a deal to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act**](#)

(9 Feb) *NPR*, By Alana Wise

A bipartisan group of senators announced that they had reached an agreement on a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, after months of negotiations in the chamber. The legislation offers resources for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.



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34. **#MeToo: US Congress limits companies' ability to hide harassment**

(10 Feb) *Al Jazeera*, By Staff

The United States Congress on Thursday gave final approval to legislation guaranteeing that people who experience sexual harassment at work can seek recourse in the courts, a milestone for the #MeToo movement that prompted a national reckoning over sexual misconduct.

35. **Senate passes sweeping overhaul of workplace sexual misconduct law**

(10 Feb) *CNN*, By Ali Zaslav and Jessica Dean

The Senate passed one of the largest workplace reforms in decades, freeing victims of sexual harassment and sexual assault to seek justice in court when they had previously been bound to a closed, often-secretive legal proceeding commonly used in these types of cases by employers.

36. **Marine Corps to add 1 week to authorized secondary caregiver leave**

(10 Feb) *Marine Corps Times*, By Philip Athey

The Marine Corps will soon allow secondary caregivers to take three weeks of leave.

37. **Airman gets general to step in so he can finally take parental leave**

(11 Feb) *Task & Purpose*, By David Roza

Airmen on social media are celebrating a rare victory for the little guy after a major general intervened to grant an enlisted airman 42 days of primary caregiver leave to spend with his newborn son, which his unit commander had denied.

38. **Marines, sailors given more time with their newborns**

(14 Feb) *Defense One*, By Caitlin M. Kenney

An extra week of leave for "secondary caregivers" may lead to a 3-month leave policy.

39. **DoD Releases Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies**

(17 Feb) *DoD Immediate Release*

This year's Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies (MSA), Academic Program Year (APY) 2020 - 2021 consists of data on sexual assault and sexual harassment reporting; a new effort to identify cadet and midshipman peer influencers and social networks; an assessment of ongoing prevention and response initiatives; and the Academies' compliance with Department of Defense and Military Department policy.

40. **Sex assault reports at military academies soared as students returned to campus**

(17 Feb) *Military Times*, By Meghan Myers

After returning to campus, military academy sexual assault reports jumped to a record high.

41. **Navy adds seven days to secondary caregiver leave**

(18 Feb) *Navy Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll

The change is an "interim solution" until a provision within the 2022 defense policy bill, which would give all service members 12 weeks of paid parental leave after a birth or adoption, takes effect.

42. **Air Force Academy cadets report most sexual assaults among service academies in 2020-2021**

(18 Feb) *Air Force Magazine*, By Amanda Miller

Defense Department officials said Feb. 17 that the record number reported in the most recent academic year could be due to a higher proportion of victims making official reports—something the academies have encouraged.



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43. **Non-DOD Agency Seeks Confidential Input from Women Currently or Formerly Serving in Special Operations for a Congressionally Mandated Review of Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Gender Discrimination, Retaliation, or Career Impediments During Service**

(18 Feb) *Military One Source*, By *Military Community & Family Policy*

The U.S. Government Accountability Office — a federal agency that conducts independent, nonpartisan reviews for Congress — would like to hear from women who experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, retaliation, and/or perceived career impediments while serving in U.S. Special Operations Forces.

44. **Air Force parents choose how to care for their children, not commanders, service says**

(23 Feb) *Air Force Times*, By *Rachel S. Cohen*

Some airmen have been frustrated by bosses who won't allow them to opt into or out of becoming primary caregiver — sometimes when traditional gender roles don't apply — depending on which setup they prefer.

45. **Service Academies Directed to Build Up Sexual Assault Prevention Programs**

(24 Feb) *DoD News*, By *C. Todd Lopez*

The U.S. military service academies are doing a good job taking care of victims of sexual assault, but they can do more in the way of preventing those assaults from happening in the first place, the acting director of the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office said.

46. **Pilot program to help military families pay for in-home childcare is off to a slow start**

(24 Feb) *Military Times*, By *Karen Jowers*

The In-Home Child Care Fee Assistance Pilot Program provides monetary assistance to help military families pay for a childcare provider in their own home. But to date, just five families are actively participating in it.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

47. **How a Mentor Is Helping This Marine Succeed**

(Feb 2022) *People Magazine Online*, By *Today's Military*

Joining the Military positively changed Gabriela Ramirez's life.

48. **Flag Officer Announcement**

(1 Feb) *DoD Immediate Release*

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Capt. Tracy L. Hines for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). Hines is currently serving as executive assistant to the chief of naval operations, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

49. **Here are the troops competing in the Beijing Winter Olympics**

(2 Feb) *Military Times*, By *Rachel Nostrant*

One Airman and eight soldiers will be representing Team USA in the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics this month.

50. **Meet A1C Kelly Curtis, the only airman headed to the 2022 Winter Olympics**

(2 Feb) *Air Force Times*, By *Rachel S. Cohen*

Curtis, 33, will make her Olympic debut as a skeleton racer on Team USA in the 2022 Winter Games



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51. **[NCO selected for officer school strives to be a ‘change agent’](#)**
(4 Feb) U.S. Army Garrison Japan Public Affairs, By Sean Kimmons
As a competitive person, Staff Sgt. Sharonica White doesn't like to be told she can't do something.
52. **[In Race of Her Life Deedra Irwin Posts Top Olympic Finish Ever By An American Biathlete](#)**
(7 Feb) Team USA, By Bob Reinert
Deedra Irwin of Pulaski turned in the best Olympic performance ever by an American biathlete, finishing seventh in the women's 15-kilometer individual event at the Zhangjiakou National Biathlon Centre northwest of Beijing.
53. **[Coast Guard mother convicted in infant daughter’s crib death](#)**
(8 Feb) Washington Post, By Hope Hodge Seck
A Coast Guard petty officer was sentenced Tuesday to six years in prison for the death of her 5-month-old daughter at a small island outpost in Alaska, in a case that centered on the young mother's mental health and postpartum depression.
54. **[Los Angeles Native Celebrates Black History Month Aboard USS Dewey](#)**
(11 Feb) DoD News, By Petty Officer 1st Class Benjamin Lewis
Los Angeles native, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Trina Gray, is assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer the USS Dewey, forward deployed to Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, currently conducting routine underway operations in the South China Sea.
55. **[Meet the Louisiana Army National Guard’s first Black woman pilot](#)**
(13 Feb) The Associated Press, By Staff
Warrant Officer Tatiana Julien said she had no idea she'd be a trailblazer when she asked for the training.
56. **[Guardsman says not being ‘feminine’ cost her a job. The government is fighting her lawsuit.](#)**
(23 Feb) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
“I’m not done wearing the uniform. I feel that I have more to do,” said Kristin Kingrey, a technical sergeant and civilian employee in the West Virginia Air National Guard.

WOMEN VETERANS

57. **[Veterans donated to a woman who said she was a Marine combat veteran dying of cancer. It was a lie](#)**
(1 Feb) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol
When the HunterSeven Foundation was alerted to questions about the woman's alleged military service, the charity investigated the matter along with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.
58. **[Meet a surviving member of the WWII Black female battalion unit 'Six Triple Eight'](#)**
(3 Feb) Today, By Ariana Brockington < Video >
Al Roker shares the history of the only all-female, all-Black unit sent overseas during World War II. Lena King is one of six surviving members of the unit.
59. **[Biden picks replacements for purged Naval Academy Board -- including 2 trailblazing women](#)**
(8 Feb) Military.com, By Konstantin Toropin
President Joe Biden has nominated six new members, including some notable names, to the U.S. Naval Academy's Board of Visitors, possibly closing the book on another leftover controversy from the Trump era.



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60. [A U.S. combat veteran tries to help former colleagues escape the Taliban](#)

(21 Feb) *NPR, By Quil Lawrence*

Combat veteran Christy Barry has been working to help her former Afghan colleagues escape the Taliban — including a former brigadier general, who was a key U.S. ally and is on the run.

61. [Actress, TV Host Sheryl Underwood Also Served in the Air Force](#)

(23 Feb) *DoD News, By David Vergun*

Comedian and actress Sheryl Underwood enlisted in the Air Force as a field medic in 1981, after graduating from high school in Atwater, California.

62. [Honoring the only all-Black women Army Corps Battalion, the 'Six Triple Eight'](#)

(23 Feb) *KMBC, By Jackson Kurtz*

The women were sent overseas to help with the major backlog of mail.

63. [The story of Cathay Williams, the only female Buffalo Soldier, still resonates in Colorado](#)

(27 Feb) *9News, By Jeremy Jojola*

155 years ago, Cathay Williams passed herself off as a man and became the first and only female Buffalo Soldier to serve in the U.S. Army.