



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

September 2022



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### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [\*\*Air Force, Space Force may let in applicants who test positive for THC\*\*](#)  
*(31 Aug) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen*  
Marijuana use may no longer disqualify prospective applicants from joining the Air Force or Space Force, due to a possible policy change under consideration at the Air Force Recruiting Service.
2. [\*\*Drug and alcohol test results might be waived for Air Force and Space Force recruits\*\*](#)  
*(2 Sep) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly*  
Air Force and Space Force recruits who fail a drug or alcohol test as they get ready to ship out for training may still be allowed to join the ranks under a new policy proposal being weighed by the services.
3. [\*\*Marine recruiter facing four sex crimes charges\*\*](#)  
*(3 Sep) The Evening News and The Tribune, By Libby Cunningham*  
A U.S. Marine Corps recruiter is facing four sex crimes charges. According to court records, 24-year-old Steven Robinson is charged with one count of child seduction, a Level 5 felony; two counts of Level 6 possession of child pornography and one misdemeanor count of false informing.
4. [\*\*Making space for women aboard Coast Guard cutters helps with retention, careers\*\*](#)  
*(7 Sep) Seapower, By Brett Davis*  
Of the service's approximately 260 cutters, only 50 are male only, according to the Coast Guard, and those cutters are slated to be replaced. All new cutters coming online are able to accommodate male and female crewmembers.
5. [\*\*Lawmakers push for DOD to allow recruits with HIV to join the military\*\*](#)  
*(8 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*  
A group of Democratic lawmakers is pushing the White House to allow HIV-positive individuals to enlist in the military, saying current rules ignore the latest advancements in health care for those living with the virus.
6. [\*\*Reefer recruits: Why the US military must change its stance on marijuana\*\*](#)  
*(8 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Schyler Peck*  
The U.S. military is facing a major crisis in terms of personnel and readiness. The pool of candidates willing and able to don the uniform is actively shrinking; fewer than 30% of Americans between ages 18-24 are even qualified to join the military without a waiver, and the Army, specifically, is roughly 50% behind on its recruiting goal so far this year. So with a shrinking pool of volunteers, the military needs to consider adjusting some outdated entry standards: in particular, those relating to cannabis use.
7. [\*\*How Biden's loan forgiveness could impact Army student loan incentives\*\*](#)  
*(9 Sep) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
In the wake of President Joe Biden's announced plan to forgive \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for Americans making less than \$125,000 per year, some soldiers are wondering what will happen to the student loan repayment incentives in their contracts.
8. [\*\*Do the obvious thing: Establish a Space National Guard\*\*](#)  
*(9 Sep) Breaking Defense, By Tim Ryan and Stuart Pettis*  
Congress and the administration are faced with one of two solutions: establish a Space National Guard, or lose the manpower and experience that exists in the Air National Guard, argue Mitchell Institute's Tim Ryan and AFA's Stuart Pettis.



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9. [Recruiting crisis should be a wakeup call for the military and its treatment of women](#)  
*(12 Sep) Chicago Tribune, By Daniel Johnson*  
This year, the U.S. military is behind recruiting goals by 23%, with the Army alone estimating it will miss goals by nearly 40,000 personnel over the next two years.
10. [Space Force eyes easing enlistment rules to target high-demand skills](#)  
*(13 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*  
Space Force officials hope to maximize recruiting of new guardians by granting more waivers for enlistment standards to individuals with high-demand skills, the nominee to lead the service said Tuesday.
11. [Air Force creates special warfare program for cadets to help fill empty spots](#)  
*(13 Sep) Military.com, By Thomas Novelty*  
The Air Force has created a new program to help recruit and train college-aged ROTC and Air Force Academy cadets for special warfare jobs, which it has been struggling to fill amid the service's ongoing recruiting crisis.
12. [Army secretary blames bad press for making recruiting woes worse](#)  
*(14 Sep) Military.com, By Steve Beynon*  
Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth blamed negative media coverage about the service for exacerbating its recruiting slump, including stories about mental health issues some soldiers face and seemingly rampant sexual assault across the entire military.
13. [Test scores drop, disqualification rates rise at Army recruiting shops](#)  
*(15 Sep) Army Times, By Todd South*  
The Army's second-in-command for all things training said Thursday that the service saw a 10% drop in aptitude test scores during the pandemic, and that dipped further to 13% this year.
14. [GOP reps fear loan forgiveness plan will hurt military recruiting](#)  
*(15 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III and Davis Winkie*  
A group of 19 Republican lawmakers is demanding President Joe Biden respond to concerns that his recent student loan forgiveness decision will hurt military recruiting by devaluing GI Bill benefits.
15. [How the military's new medical screening is screwing over Army recruiters](#)  
*(15 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky*  
As the Army struggles to get young people in uniform, the very people charged with doing that say one of their biggest challenges is coming from the Defense Department itself.
16. [Could military spouses fix DoD's recruitment problem?](#)  
*(19 Sep) Military.com, By Jennifer Barnhill*  
After decades of war and a social media-inundated world that gives the American population unprecedented access to the military experience, what if the nation has simply lost respect for the military institution?
17. [What is it like to re-enlist after years of being out of uniform?](#)  
*(20 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Max Hauptman*  
Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in.



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18. [National Guard tries healthcare, educational, and financial recruitment incentives](#)  
*(20 Sep) Washington Examiner, By Mike Brest*  
The National Guard, facing a recruiting shortage that is affecting every branch of the military, is looking to incentivize would-be recruits.
  19. [Recruiting and retention issues also affecting the National Guard](#)  
*(21 Sep) Military Times, By Meghann Myers*  
The National Guard is going to be about 9,000 troops short on its end-strength goal for the year, the chief of the National Guard Bureau told reporters Tuesday, citing one of the organization's toughest recruiting environments in recent memory.
  20. [Air Force falls short of reserve and Guard goals amid recruiting struggles](#)  
*(21 Sep) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly*  
The Air Force will fall short of its recruiting goals for its National Guard and reserve components this year, as the military as a whole struggles to get Americans to enlist in the armed services.
  21. [Bass announces changes to assignment policies — including job swaps](#)  
*(21 Sep) Air and Space Forces Magazine, By Greg Hadley*  
The Air Force is poised to revamp how it does assignments, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass announced Sept. 21—including a policy allowing Airmen to swap assignments with each other.
  22. [Pentagon bedeviled by recruitment failures as solutions prove elusive](#)  
*(21 Sep) Washington Post, By Alex Horton*  
Military officials and lawmakers painted a grim picture of recruiting efforts within the Defense Department.
  23. [Pentagon admits lack of oversight to stop Junior ROTC sexual abuse](#)  
*(21 Sep) New York Times, By Staff*  
Facing questions from senators about repeated cases of abuse, military leaders said they wanted to increase scrutiny of the instructors.
  24. [Social media and influencers key to military recruitment of young people, defense officials say](#)  
*(22 Sep) Stars & Stripes, By Svetlana Shkolnikova*  
The Pentagon should harness the power of social media and influencers to change young peoples' perception of the military and entice them to enlist amid a challenging recruiting environment, defense officials told a Senate panel on Wednesday.
  25. [The Air Force's top recruiter is personally reviewing recruits' hand tattoos so they can enlist](#)  
*(22 Sep) Task & Purpose, By David Roza*  
The top Air Force recruiter is taking the issue of hand tattoos into his own, well, hands.
  26. [Air Force's new job assignment policies aim for flexibility, stability](#)  
*(23 Sep) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen*  
Enlisted airmen will eventually be able to trade job assignments in an effort to offer troops more career flexibility, the Air Force's top enlisted leader said here Wednesday.



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27. [What's missing from the conversation on Air Force recruiting?](#)  
(24 Sep) *Air Force Times*, By Rachel S. Cohen  
The Air Force is on track to meet its 2022 recruitment goal by Sept. 30, but warns it's limping across the finish line with less cushion than it'd like.
  28. [The Army is having no issue retaining soldiers, amid a crisis recruiting new ones](#)  
(26 Sep) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon  
The Army is in the midst of a historic recruiting slump, but the active-duty soldiers who do get into the uniform want to stay.
  29. [Aim high: Air Force green-lights waivers for THC-positive applicants](#)  
(27 Sep) *Air Force Times*, By Rachel S. Cohen  
The Air Force and Space Force are now offering a second chance to applicants who test positive for the high-inducing chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) during their entrance physical.
  30. [The private sector courts military personnel](#)  
(27 Sep) *Wall Street Journal*, By Staff  
Amid the biggest recruiting shortfall in years, capable service members are leaving in droves.
  31. [Will the Marines be the only branch to reach 2022 recruitment numbers?](#)  
(28 Sep) *Marine Corps Times*, By Jonathan Lehrfeld and Irene Loewenson  
Thanks to high retention, the Marine Corps is set to meet a slightly adjusted goal for 2022.

## EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

32. [The intertwining legacy of women in the military and the Forever War](#)  
(2 Sep) *Military Times*, By Rachel Nostrant  
Over the 20-year war, thousands of women walked the same dusty footprints on the same bomb-riddled roads, flew combat missions and provided support the same as their male counterparts. Their actions on those draining deployments, top officials said, led to the 2013 decision to open all combat roles to women, permanently intertwining the legacy of female service members' performance while forward deployed with the 'forever war'.
33. [Marine Corps will move away from tape test when measuring body fat](#)  
(7 Sep) *Marine Corps Times*, By Jonathan Lehrfeld  
Female Marines also will be given a 1% increase in total allowable body fat.
34. [Navy orders high-level outside investigation of SEAL course](#)  
(9 Sep) *New York Times*, By Staff  
The punishing selection course for the Navy's most elite force has come under new scrutiny after a sailor's death exposed illicit drug use and other problems.
35. [A new reality show will put a bunch of celebrities through 'Special Forces' training. What could go wrong?](#)  
(9 Sep) *Task & Purpose*, By Max Hauptman  
Picture yourself as part of an elite special operations unit on a covert mission. You've got the beard, the velcro, the dip, everything. On your right, Mel B, who you might remember as Scary Spice from the Spice Girls. On



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your left, Dwight Howard, who you might remember as a basketball player who admitted to eating 24 candy bars a day.

36. **[Big Navy investigating SEAL basic training](#)**

*(12 Sep) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz*

Navy leadership has ordered an investigation into “the broader circumstances” of SEAL basic training following the death of a candidate earlier this year and recent media reports that raise questions about the rigors of Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL — or BUD/S — training, as well as the steps sailors are willing to take to get through.

37. **[Women still unable to break glass ceiling of Navy SEAL qualifications](#)**

*(14 Sep) Military.com, By Patricia Kime*

During a meeting Sept. 13 of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, or DACOWITS, a Navy officer told the board that there were two women currently in the "pipeline" to become Navy SEALs -- one enlisted and one officer. In the past three years, two women were selected to start the grueling process of becoming Navy SEALs, but neither made it, Military.com has learned.

38. **[Air Force's new \\$66M Special Warfare training center will have mixed-gender facilities](#)**

*(26 Sep) Military.com, By Thomas Novelty*

A new \$66 million aquatic training center being constructed for Air Force Special Warfare candidates will include mixed-sex restrooms, locker rooms and showers as the service tries to further integrate its facilities.

39. **[Navy proposes stringent blood testing for elite SEALs training program to address drug use](#)**

*(28 Sep) CNN, By Barbara Starr and Ellie Kaufman*

Senior Navy officials are concerned about the use of performance enhancing drugs by Navy SEAL trainees and have asked the Pentagon to approve blood testing to detect potentially illegal or banned substances used by the elite forces.

## WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

40. **[Free drill weekend childcare pilot coming for Guard soldiers](#)**

*(16 Aug) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*

Army National Guard troops across six states will soon have a new option for securing childcare for drill weekends, according to a National Guard Bureau memorandum obtained by Army Times.

41. **[Reported sexual assaults across US military increase by 13%](#)**

*(31 Aug) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor*

Reports of sexual assaults across the U.S. military jumped by 13% last year, driven by significant increases in the Army and the Navy as bases began to move out of pandemic restrictions and public venues reopened, The Associated Press has learned.

42. **[2021 was one of the Army's worst years ever for sexual assault](#)**

*(31 Aug) Military Times, By Meghann Myers*

The number of soldiers who reported unwanted sexual contact jumped 26% from 2020 to 2021, according to the Army's annual sexual assault prevention and response report, due for release on Thursday.



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43. [Department of Defense Releases Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military](#)  
*(1 Sep) Immediate Release*  
The Department of Defense released the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. This year's report, which is required by Congress and published by DOD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, contains survey results, reporting data, and military justice case outcomes.
44. [Actions to Address and Prevent Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in the Military](#)  
*(1 Sep) DoD Publications*  
A memo regarding actions to address and prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military.
45. [The military's sexual assault problem is only getting worse](#)  
*(1 Sep) Military Times, By Meghann Myers*  
More incidents, less reporting, plummeting confidence in the system to get justice ? those are the takeaways from the Defense Department's most recent annual sexual assault prevention and response report, released Thursday.
46. [US service members in Germany face chronic child care backlog](#)  
*(1 Sep) Stars & Stripes, By Alexander Riedel*  
A chronic staffing shortage at child care centers in the largest overseas U.S. military community has left hundreds of kids on waitlists and few options for parents.
47. [DOD Takes Proactive Measures as Sexual Assault Annual Report Numbers Released](#)  
*(2 Sep) DoD News, By Defense.gov*  
The congressionally mandated report indicates that unhealthy conditions have been on the rise in the military. In 2021, the Department estimates that 8.4 percent of active-duty women and 1.5 percent of active-duty men experienced at least one incident of unwanted sexual contact in the year before the survey was conducted.
48. [Gender Stereotypes and Our Perception of Fertilization](#)  
*(2 Sep) Science and the Culture, Dr. Raven the Science Maven*  
I've previously written about the lack of representation in STEM, the unnecessary mystery of female biology, and period hacks (as many of them are not well known)—because there are discrepancies and deltas in how society discusses these topics. Today, I want to shift to a very blatant example of a major misconception promoted for decades by science communicators, educators and the media: How babies are made!
49. [Sailors face down abortion and job loss as discharge paperwork delays force impossible life decisions](#)  
*(2 Sep) Military.com, By Konstantin Toropin*  
Military.com has received more than a dozen notes from service members asking for help getting their paperwork processed after a July story about similar paperwork delays included reference to a sailor receiving his orders just days after inquiries by a Military.com reporter.
50. [A sailor, harassed by her XO, alleges her superiors didn't intervene](#)  
*(6 Sep) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz*  
Despite the constant high-level military messaging and training that urges intervention, the sailor's ordeal suggests the tension at play when correcting a superior in an institution built on respecting rank.



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51. [After Roe, 'we do have options' to avoid anti-abortion states, Army chief says](#)  
*(7 Sep) Defense One, By Kevin Baron*  
As ever, soldiers can indicate their station preferences—but the Army's needs come first, Gen. McConville says.
  52. [Advocates draw battle lines ahead of looming VA abortion fight](#)  
*(7 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*  
Democratic senators vowed to fight to protect the Department of Veterans Affairs from looming attacks over its recent decision to provide abortions to veterans in limited circumstances, calling the move a critical step to protecting women's health and lives.
  53. [Soldiers can't transfer just because of abortion bans or LGBTQ laws, Army chief says](#)  
*(8 Sep) Military.com, By Steve Beynon*  
The Army's top general said the service is not considering allowing soldiers to be reassigned to new bases if they feel local laws discriminate against them, following Republican criticism after the service recently began mulling the idea.
  54. [How bad is the lack of child-care? Ask these Florida military families](#)  
*(8 Sep) Military Times, By Karen Jowers*  
Even at bases where there are child development centers, the pandemic and staffing shortages have exacerbated the shortage.
  55. [Army National Guard launches free child care for soldiers during drill weekends](#)  
*(9 Sep) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer*  
The National Guard Bureau launched a \$3.6 million pilot program this month that provides free child care to eligible Guard soldiers in six states during drill weekends to help retain single parents in the service.
  56. [3 Subtle Ways Women Are Undermined At Work – And How To Handle Them](#)  
*(12 Sep) Too Ambitious, By Stefanie O'Connell Rodriguez*  
How to recognize and call out the biases women still experience in the workplace
  57. [No Abortion Access for 40 Percent of Female Troops, Study Finds](#)  
*(14 Sep) Defense One, By Jacqueline Feldscher*  
Because of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, at least 5,000 women per year working for the Defense Department are expected to face challenges when seeking abortions under new state laws, RAND analysts predicted in a paper released Wednesday, concluding that it's "logical" to believe more women will leave the military.
  58. [DoD attempts to get its head around how the end of Roe affects troops](#)  
*(14 Sep) Military Times, By Meghann Myers*  
In the months since the Supreme Court overturned a federal right to abortion access, the Defense Department has been doing some soul searching on how to respond. A Pentagon-funded report released Wednesday shows there's little policy recourse under existing laws, concluding that better education about birth control might stem female service members' demand for abortions.



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59. [\*\*Military sexual assault reform is slow going, but that's the plan\*\*](#)  
*(21 Sep) Military Times, By Meghann Myers*  
It's been a year since the Defense Department launched an implementation road map for more than 80 projects intended to reform the way the services prevent and respond to sexual assault. Very little concrete change has been made, but there are reasons for that.
  60. [\*\*No-cost tube tying surgeries will be available for some through Tricare next year, but not vasectomies\*\*](#)  
*(21 Sep) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel*  
Military family members, reservists and some retirees covered by Tricare will be able to get the female sterilization surgery known as tubal ligation from civilian doctors at no cost starting Jan. 1, the Defense Health Agency confirmed.
  61. [\*\*Navy to add 225 prevention workers in Pentagon-wide effort to stem sexual assault\*\*](#)  
*(22 Sep) USNI News, By Heather Mongilio*  
Over the next year, the Navy will hire 82 workers to help provide service commands with resources for addressing military sexual trauma with a goal hiring 225 by the end of Fiscal Year 2024, the under secretary of the Navy told the House Armed Services Committee Wednesday.
  62. [\*\*Trial ends in acquittal of Navy midshipman accused of sexually assaulting fellow Naval Academy student\*\*](#)  
*(22 Sep) The Capital, By Dan Belson*  
A Naval Academy midshipman was found not guilty of second-degree rape by a jury following more than a week of arguments. Several witnesses testified in the trial of Garrett Lee Holsen. Last week, the woman and her fellow midshipmen testified she was heavily intoxicated during the party, and did not give consent to have sex with Holsen that evening. She said she did not have any sexual interest in Holsen.
  63. [\*\*Air Force Academy says inclusive language controversy is overblown\*\*](#)  
*(23 Sep) Colorado Springs Gazette, By Stephanie Earls*  
The U.S. Air Force Academy is pushing back after recent reports accusing it of overly "woke" policies that bar cadets from using "gender-specific terms" such as Mom or Dad, boyfriend or girlfriend.
  64. [\*\*Thousands of troops have lost access to abortion. Biden should act to protect the rest\*\*](#)  
*(25 Sep) Defense One, By Allison Jaslow*  
Biden should block Space Command's move to Alabama, to start.
  65. [\*\*Navy master chief loses rank and gets confinement at court-martial\*\*](#)  
*(27 Sep) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz*  
The former senior enlisted leader of a California-based training command was convicted this summer on charges that he sexually harassed other sailors and engaged in sexual activity with junior service members in training, officials confirmed this week.
  66. [\*\*Democrats introduce new path to protect troops' abortion access\*\*](#)  
*(28 Sep) Defense One, By Jacqueline Feldscher*  
An NDAA amendment that would give troops the time and money to cross state lines for an abortion has 23 Democratic co-sponsors.





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### SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

67. [First woman to serve as 'chief of the boat' on a submarine reports for duty](#)  
*(31 Aug) Military.com, By Konstantin Toropin*  
The Navy's submarine community has announced a new historic first for women in the silent service: the first top enlisted sailor on a submarine. Master Chief Information Systems Technician (Submarine) Angela Koogler joined the Gold crew of ballistic missile submarine USS Louisiana as their Chief of the Boat on Aug. 22, 2022.
68. [Outstanding airmen of the year: Senior Master Sgt. Megan A. Harper](#)  
*(31 Aug) Air Force Magazine, By Patrick Reardon*  
The Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2022 will be formally recognized at AFA's Air, Space & Cyber Conference from Sept. 19 to 21 in National Harbor, Md. Air Force Magazine is highlighting one each weekday from now until the conference begins. Today, we honor Senior Master Sgt. Megan A. Harper, a security forces manager for the 701st Munitions Support Squadron at the Kleine Brogel Air Base in Belgium.
69. [This sailor is the first woman to serve as chief of the boat](#)  
*(1 Sep) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*  
The Navy has selected the first woman to serve as a chief of the boat — the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding and executive officers of a submarine. Master Chief Information Systems Technician (Submarine) Angela Koogler, who joined the Navy in 2002, became the chief of the boat for nuclear ballistic missile submarine Louisiana Aug. 22. The submarine is based out of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Washington.
70. [First woman commandant steers a US Coast Guard in transition](#)  
*(6 Sep) The Seattle Times, By Hal Bernton*  
During her 37 years in the Coast Guard, Commandant Adm. Linda Fagan has sometimes questioned service traditions.
71. [Army officer, Miss Spirit of St. Louis pageant winner eyes Miss Missouri title next](#)  
*(8 Sep) Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office, By Amanda Sullivan*  
First Lt. Donna Gilbert, executive officer for Company B, 3rd Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, was crowned Miss Spirit of St. Louis during a scholarship pageant at the Kirkwood Theater in St. Louis on Aug. 29. The win qualifies her to compete for the title of Miss Missouri in 2023, and if successful there, Miss America in 2024.
72. [Family airs new video, alleges foul play after soldier dies overseas](#)  
*(16 Sep) Army Times, By Rachel Nostrant*  
Weeks before a soldier was found dead in her barracks room in Germany this summer, she sent a video to her parents showing her crying and covered in bruises following an alleged assault from other U.S. troops, according to new footage released by her family, who believe foul play was involved in their loved one's death. Spc. Denisha Montgomery's Aug. 9 death was announced in a press release from U.S. Army Europe and Africa after the soldier was found unresponsive in her barracks room.
73. [Air National Guard's First Female F-35 Pilot Completes Inaugural Flight](#)  
*(18 Sep) WLEX, By Jordan Mickle*  
A woman from Kentucky made history earlier this month when she became the first woman to pilot an F-35 fighter jet for the Air National Guard. 1st Lt. Kelsey Flannery is a 30-year-old former boxing instructor from Kentucky. According to the Air National Guard, Flannery has been training for three years to pilot the F-35A Lightning II.



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74. [Flag Officer Assignments](#)

*(29 Sep) Immediate Release*

The secretary of the Navy and chief of naval operations announced today the following assignments:

- Rear Admiral Eileen H. Laubacher will be assigned as special assistant to the assistant to the president for national security affairs, National Security Council, Washington, D.C. Laubacher is currently assigned as special assistant to the chief of Navy Reserve, Washington, D.C.
- Rear Admiral (lower half) Jacquelyn McClelland, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as deputy commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. McClelland is currently serving as vice director, Navy Staff, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.
- Rear Admiral (lower half) Pamela C. Miller, selected for promotion to rear admiral, will be assigned as deputy chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Reserve Policy and Integration, Falls Church, Virginia. Miller most recently served as command surgeon, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.
- Captain Ingrid M. Rader, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as reserve deputy director for maritime information warfare, United States Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Rader is currently serving as region commander, Navy Information Force Reserve Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia.
- Captain Kimberley A. Walz, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as deputy commander, Naval Surface Force, United States Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Virginia. Walz is currently serving as Navy Reserve commanding officer, United States Naval Forces Europe and Africa/Sixth Fleet, Detachment 802, Naples, Italy.

75. [Meet the female military trailblazer leading an elite Air Force squad](#)

*(30 Sep) NBC Today, By Anne Thompson*

Major Kristin Wolfe is flying high and carrying on an impressive family legacy as the first female commander of the F35A lightning demonstration team.

## WOMEN VETERANS

76. [VA plans to offer abortions for veterans regardless of state laws](#)

*(2 Sep) The Washington Post, By Kim Bellware and Alex Horton*

The Department of Veterans Affairs, in a historic shift, will provide abortion counseling and abortions in cases of rape, incest or if the pregnancy threatens the health of the pregnant veteran, at its federal health facilities throughout the country, including in states that ban or severely restrict the practice, the department announced Friday.

77. [VA to provide abortions in cases of rape, danger to veteran's health](#)

*(2 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to offer abortion access to veterans and eligible dependents in cases of rape, incest and pregnancies that endanger the life or health of an individual, arguing the change is needed after more than two dozen states banned the procedure this summer.

78. [VA weighs ditching Lincoln quote for motto that's inclusive of women and minorities](#)

*(8 Sep) Military.com, By Patricia Kime*

A change could be coming this year to the Department of Veterans Affairs' motto, a quote from Abraham Lincoln that critics say is not inclusive of women, people of color and LGBTQ veterans.



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79. [VA moves ahead with abortion care as lawsuits and Republican opposition loom](#)  
(9 Sep) *Military.com*, By Rebecca Kheel and Patricia Kime  
The Department of Veterans Affairs on Friday plowed ahead with its plan to offer abortion counseling and services through its hospitals for the first time to veterans, spouses and dependents as abortion is being banned around the country and Republicans are vowing to block the move.
80. [Republicans threaten lawsuits, budget penalties over VA abortion move](#)  
(15 Sep) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III  
Republican lawmakers on Thursday promised a looming battle over Veterans Affairs' officials decision to provide abortions at department medical centers even in states where the procedure is outlawed, but agency leaders responded that they are confident they can win that fight.
81. [Justice Dept says it would defend Veterans Affairs medical workers in abortion cases](#)  
(22 Sep) *Washington Post*, By Perry Stein  
A recently adopted Department of Veterans Affairs policy providing abortions to veterans and their eligible relatives is legally sound and can continue, the Justice Department said.
82. [It's time for equitable reproductive rights for women veterans](#)  
(23 Sep) *Military Times*, By Rep. Julia Brownley and Rep. Mark Takano  
Women veterans are finally getting access to life-saving reproductive health care, but it is already under threat.
83. [Legal, security fears loom as VA begins performing abortions](#)  
(26 Sep) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III  
Last week VA staffers performed the first abortion at a department medical facility under new authorities.
84. [Proposal aims to change how VA handles women's cancer care](#)  
(28 Sep) *The Texas Tribune*, By Allison P. Erickson  
Rep. Sylvia Garcia, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, hopes the pilot program will help female veterans get better access to cancer care.