



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

16-31 March 2023



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### RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Pentagon seeking more money for recruitment ads as Army, Navy, Air Force expect more shortfalls](#)  
(15 Mar) *Stars & Stripes*, By Svetlana Shkolnikova  
The Defense Department wants to spend \$40 million to promote military service to young people as lawmakers warn the Army, Navy and Air Force are on track to miss their enlistment goals this year amid persistent recruitment struggles.
2. [Senators push DoD to approve recruits who've sought mental health care](#)  
(16 Mar) *Military Times*, By Meghann Myers  
Lawmakers argued this week that too many potential recruits are being barred from military service if they admit to seeking mental health treatment.
3. [First all-Space Force flight graduates from Officer Training School](#)  
(17 Mar) *Air & Space Forces Magazine*, By Greg Hadley  
A group of 15 Guardians became the first all-Space Force flight to graduate from the Department of the Air Force's Officer Training School on March 10—another milestone as the new service carves out space-specific education.
4. [Woke-ism not an issue, top military leaders say](#)  
(21 Mar) *Defense One*, By Audrey Decker  
Inclusion is actually a critical part of unit cohesion, Air Force chief and Marine commandant said.
5. [Navy follows Army in offering prep courses to recruits who don't meet fitness, academic standards](#)  
(22 Mar) *Military.com*, By Rebecca Kheel  
The Navy is now offering recruits who do not meet fitness standards a chance to get in shape before boot camp in an effort to expand the pool of young Americans eligible to serve.
6. [Pentagon is pressed on worsening recruiting shortfalls](#)  
(22 Mar) *Washington Post*, By Dan Lamothe  
The recruiting problem is particularly acute in the Army, which set a lofty goal of a half-million active-duty soldiers a few years ago.
7. [Navy official defends lower enlistment test requirements as lawmakers raise concerns about service readiness](#)  
(22 Mar) *Stars & Stripes*, By Staff  
The Navy's second-highest civilian leader on Wednesday defended the service's recent decision to accept lower scores on its entrance exam as lawmakers worried the move would hurt Navy readiness.
8. [Boosting enlisted pay to boost recruiting? Nope.](#)  
(22 Mar) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III  
Military service officials say they'll use a mix of bonuses and other financial incentives, instead of raising enlisted pay, to meet this year's recruiting goals.



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9. [\*\*The Sinking Ship Of Theseus: Adapting The U.S. Military To The Modern Family\*\*](#)  
*(22 Mar) War on the Rocks, By Ryan Pallas*  
The U.S. military continues to repair and maintain the current personnel system despite obvious evidence that an entirely new model is required to keep the system afloat. The military must imagine and implement a new career model that is no longer at odds with the modern family.
10. [\*\*Army pulls 'Be All You Can Be' ads after on-screen narrator arrested\*\*](#)  
*(26 Mar) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
Actor Jonathan Majors' arrest for alleged assault, strangulation and harassment derailed the Army's rebrand project.
11. [\*\*Consider benefits of shorter military enlistments\*\*](#)  
*(26 Mar) The Hill, By Erich J. Prince*  
In recent comments made at George Washington University, Christine Wormuth, the United States Secretary of the Army, affirmed that her leading priority in 2023 "is fixing our recruiting problem." Acknowledging that the Army fell short of its recruiting goal in 2022 by 15,000 enlistees, which translates to a 25 percent shortfall, she nevertheless expressed confidence that such recruiting challenges could soon be overcome.
12. [\*\*Is the Army's \\$117 million rebrand dead after Jonathan Majors' arrest?\*\*](#)  
*(27 Mar) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
The future of the Army's major rebrand effort remained in limbo Monday.
13. [\*\*Experts question military recruiting fixes such as pre-boot camp courses\*\*](#)  
*(27 Mar) Military.com, By Konstantin Toropin*  
The military grew complacent with recruiting during the Global War on Terror, and that left it unprepared for the difficulties of finding new recruits after recent shocks from the pandemic and a newly competitive labor market, according to a group of experts Monday.
14. [\*\*Army unveils ribbon for soldiers who refer a friend\*\*](#)  
*(27 Mar) Military Times, By Sarah Sicard*  
The Army has ribbons for just about everything. And now, that extensive list of awards includes a recently unveiled ribbon given to eligible soldiers who refer a friend for a life of embracing the suck.
15. [\*\*Refreshed 'Be all you can be' ads coming after Jonathan Majors arrest\*\*](#)  
*(28 Mar) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
The Army is working to retrofit old advertisements with new messages after the actor's arrest.
16. [\*\*Better goals, data tracking could help ease military recruiting strain, GAO finds\*\*](#)  
*(28 Mar) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By David Roza*  
The Department of Defense needs to collect and track more data, develop better goals and strategies, and monitor the effectiveness of its plans when it comes to recruiting and retaining service members, the Government Accountability Office said in a report released March 28.



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17. [Basic training without yelling: Army recruits get 2nd chance](#)  
(29 Mar) *The Associated Press*, By Lolita C. Baldor  
Last August, Daysia Holiday decided to try one more time to join the Army.
  18. [US Army to 'overhaul' recruiting school amid personnel shortage](#)  
(29 Mar) *Defense News*, By Davis Winkie  
As the U.S. Army tries to reinvent recruiting after falling short of its goal, the service will "overhaul" how it selects and trains recruiters, senior officials told Army Times.

### EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

19. [NASA reveals spacesuit for new Moon mission that better fits women](#)  
(16 Mar) *Axios*, By Rebecca Falconer  
NASA and Axiom Space unveiled Wednesday the first prototype of a "next generation" spacesuit for humanity's return to the moon in 2025 during an event in Houston, Texas.
20. [Get the score, skip the tape: This fitness score waives body fat test](#)  
(17 Mar) *Army Times*, By Todd South  
It's official, the Army issued a directive Thursday that exempts soldiers who score a 540 or higher on the Army Combat Fitness Test from body fat assessment.
21. [A surprising \(and growing\) gender gap in the most dangerous jobs](#)  
(17 Mar) *The Washington Post*, By Andrew Van Dam  
By almost every measure, the American workplace is getting safer. But one troubling type of injury is on the rise: violent attacks that cause injuries so severe that the victim misses a day of work. And the increase has come almost entirely in attacks against women.
22. [How the war in Iraq changed the military for women](#)  
(19 Mar) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon and Rebecca Kheel  
More than 100 American women would die as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the largest loss of uniformed women since World War II, a campaign that began 20 years ago this week with air operations commencing March 20, 2003.
23. [Female shipyard workers fighting to 'be treated equal' at Newport News Shipbuilding](#)  
(19 Mar) *Virginian-Pilot*, By Staff  
Felicia Harvey, Deborah Melton and Celeste Armstrong joined the United Steelworkers Union Local 8888 to give a voice to approximately 4,500 women working elbow to elbow with 20,000 men at Newport News Shipbuilding.
24. [Eating disorders, diabetes, obesity up among US troops during pandemic, research finds](#)  
(20 Mar) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime  
The pandemic wreaked havoc on service members' eating habits, leading to increases in obesity, diabetes and eating disorders, according to new Pentagon research.



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25. [\*\*Air Force testing another system to provide bladder relief for women on long flights\*\*](#)  
*(20 Mar) Stars & Stripes, By John Vandiver*  
The days of diapers and sponges on long, toiletless flights could be numbered for female service members, thanks to a new cup designed for women.
26. [\*\*Air Force tests in-flight bladder relief system for female pilots\*\*](#)  
*(21 Mar) Air Force Times, By Sarah Sicard*  
The Air Force is testing a new system designed to provide in-flight bladder relief to female pilots.
27. [\*\*Purses, parkas, and patches—Air Force Uniform Board unveils new changes, but no beards\*\*](#)  
*(21 Mar) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By David Roza*  
The Air Force Uniform Board unveiled changes to Air Force and Space Force dress and appearance regulations March 21, including updates to cold weather gear, purses and handbags, and “heritage-like” morale patches.
28. [\*\*Air Force solidifies fitness standards for special warfare trainees\*\*](#)  
*(23 Mar) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen*  
Nearly one year after the Air Force graduated its first female special tactics officer amid a firestorm of public criticism, the service says it has used the experience to improve the special warfare training pipeline and rebuild trust between leadership and instructors.
29. [\*\*Reserve naval aviation commanders eligible for \\$100,000 bonus\*\*](#)  
*(24 Mar) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*  
The Navy is offering \$100,000 to reserve officers through the Training and Administration of the Reserve Aviation Command Retention Bonus — the same amount offered last year.
30. [\*\*Part-time wingmen: CCAs won’t always be ‘tethered’ to crewed platforms\*\*](#)  
*(27 Mar) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By John A. Tirpak*  
Collaborative Combat Aircraft will be able to carry out missions without direction from crewed aircraft and may not always fly as their “wingmen,” in order to maximize employment flexibility, Air Force leaders developing and testing the new platforms said March 27.
31. [\*\*Military pilots avoid health care to keep flying, new study suggests\*\*](#)  
*(27 Mar) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By David Roza*  
U.S. military pilots avoid health care or misrepresent and withhold health information from their flight surgeon at greater rates than civilian pilots out of fear they might lose their flying status, according to a new study conducted by Air Force and civilian medical experts.
32. [\*\*From catapults to cars: Sailors take advantage of Navy’s ‘Do It Herself’ auto class\*\*](#)  
*(29 Mar) Virginian-Pilot, By Caitlyn Burchett*  
Twice a month, the class — coined “Do It Herself” — draws a handful of women to the garage that is usually only occupied by men at Naval Station Norfolk’s Auto Skills Center as part of Hampton Roads Morale, Welfare & Recreation Program.



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### WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

33. [Failed oversight, lax punishments: How the Coast Guard has allowed sexual assault at sea to go unchecked](#)  
*(16 Mar) CNN, By Blake Ellis and Melanie Hicken*  
As a branch of the US military overseen by the Department of Homeland Security, the Coast Guard is known for protecting the nation's shorelines, rescuing those lost out at sea and cracking down on drug smuggling, oil spills and potential security threats.
34. [Army says no foul play evident so far in soldier's death](#)  
*(17 Mar) Newsbreak, By Nadine El-Bawab*  
No foul play is evident so far in the death of 21-year-old Pvt. Ana Basalduaruz, a combat engineer at Fort Hood, Texas, who had served with the division for the last 15 months, Army officials said.
35. [Space Force grows with new delta, faces challenges in Colorado Springs around facilities, child care](#)  
*(22 Mar) Colorado Springs Gazette, By Mary Shinn*  
The Space Force is growing with the creation of a new delta that will focus on protecting and defending satellites with agency partners outside the military.
36. [DOD Announces Six New Measures to Enhance Well-Being of Military Force and Their Families](#)  
*(22 Mar) DoD Immediate Release*  
Today, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III unveiled a comprehensive plan aimed at improving the lives of our dedicated military force and their families. The new plan consists of six additional actions that address essential needs in education, childcare, parental leave, and career advancement.
37. [DoD to offer tax-saving child care accounts, other benefits for troops](#)  
*(23 Mar) Military Times, By Karen Jowers*  
Dependent care flexible spending accounts, which help defray the cost of child care by providing tax savings, are coming for active duty service members.
38. [Abortion fight in Senate snarls hundreds of military promotions](#)  
*(24 Mar) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*  
Hundreds of military promotions and confirmations are stalled in the Senate over one Republican senator's objection to the Defense Department's abortion policies, and even more could pile up in coming weeks if a compromise isn't found soon.
39. [Tricare isn't covering a treatment for eating disorders. Senators want to know why.](#)  
*(24 Mar) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel*  
A law enacted in late 2021 was intended to expand military health care coverage for eating disorders. But it still hasn't been fully implemented despite an October 2022 deadline to do so, and senators are demanding to know why.
40. [Senate Democrats urge Pentagon to safeguard abortion access](#)  
*(27 Mar) The Hill, By Ellen Mitchell*  
The majority of Senate Democrats on Monday pressed Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to maintain access to abortion care for service members and their dependents, warning that restricting such care could hurt national security.



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41. [Senator's delay of officer promotions over DoD abortion policy is hurting military families, Austin says](#)  
(28 Mar) *Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel*  
A standoff over the Pentagon's abortion policies that is ensnaring normally routine general and flag officer promotions in the Senate is hurting service members and their families, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told senators Tuesday.
42. [The cruel twist that harms women in the military](#)  
(28 Mar) *CNN, By Michael Bennet*  
Days after the Supreme Court ended the constitutional right to an abortion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, I received a call from a former officer in the US Air Force. Like most Americans, she worried about how the ruling could harm the health, privacy and freedom of American women. But she raised another issue that is equally deserving of our attention – the harm to our national security.
43. [DOD Announced New Bereavement Leave Benefit for Members](#)  
(29 Mar) *Immediate Release*  
Today, the Department of Defense announced a new non-chargeable, paid bereavement leave benefit for service members who suffer the loss of their spouses or children.
44. [Service Members Get Extended Parental Leave](#)  
(29 Mar) *DoD News, By David Vergun*  
The Defense Department issued a new policy to provide 12 weeks of paid, non-chargeable parental leave to service members who have a child through birth, adoption or a long-term foster care placement of at least 24 months.

## SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

45. [Women in Aviation: Capt. Orchydia Sackey](#)  
(9 Mar) *6th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs, By Senior Airman Joshua Hastings*  
U.S. Air Force Capt. Orchydia Sackey, who was born in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands and had minimal exposure to aircraft and flying, currently flies the KC-135 Stratotanker for the 50th Air Refueling Squadron. Her dream of becoming a pilot was born when she went on her first commercial flight.
46. [Family says Fort Hood soldier found dead faced sexual harassment](#)  
(16 Mar) *Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
A combat engineer assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, was found dead Monday, officials announced.
47. [General Officer Assignments](#)  
(20 Mar) *DoD Immediate Release*  
The chief of staff of the Army announces the following officer assignments:
  - Brig. Gen. Martine S. Kidd, commanding general, 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to director, J-4, U.S. Forces Korea, and deputy director, C/J-4, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command, Republic of Korea.
  - Maj. Gen. Dianne M. Del Rosso to commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 79th Theater Sustainment Command, Los Alamitos, California. She most recently served as assistant deputy chief of staff (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), G-4, Mobilization and Training, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, Washington, D.C.



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- Brig. Gen. Stacy M. Babcock to chief of staff (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), U.S. Army Reserve Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. She most recently served as deputy commanding general (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky.
  - Brig. Gen. Heather A. Reuter to commander (Troop Program Unit), Army Reserve Sustainment Command, Birmingham, Alabama. She most recently served as deputy commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 75th Innovation Command, Houston, Texas.
  - Brig. Gen. Tomika M. Seaberry to commander (Troop Program Unit), 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. She most recently served as garrison commander (Active Guard Reserve), U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.
  - Brig. Gen. Patricia R. Wallace to commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 80th Training Command (The Army School System), Richmond, Virginia. She most recently served as commanding general (Troop Program Unit), 91st Training Division (Operations), Fort Hunter Liggett, California.
48. [Petty officer died on secret mission after a roof collapse](#)  
*(20 Mar) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz*  
Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class Robin Nicole Collins, 26, was just three days into her deployment when she died on July 18, 2021.
49. [Agency Director's Career Mirrors Growing Opportunities for Women](#)  
*(21 Mar) Defense Logistics Agency, By Beth Reece*  
Navy Vice Adm. Michelle Skubic dodges the limelight as much at 61 as she did at 4. Now nearing the end of her time as the Defense Logistics Agency's first female director, Skubic downplays the history she's made.
50. [General Officer Announcements](#)  
*(22 Mar) DoD Immediate Release*  
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced that the president has made the following nominations:
- Air Force Brig. Gen. Stacy J. Huser for appointment to the grade of major general. Huser is currently serving as the principal assistant deputy administrator, Military Application, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.
  - Air Force Brig. Gen. Rebecca J. Sonkiss for appointment to the grade of major general. Sonkiss is currently serving as the commander, 618th Air Operations Center, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.
51. [Married colonels at Fort Hood fired following criminal investigations](#)  
*(23 Mar) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer*  
Col. Ann Meredith has been fired as commander of the 89th Military Police Brigade at Fort Hood, as she and her husband, also a colonel fired from his command post, faced separate criminal investigations, officials at the Texas base said Thursday.
52. [Female Navy pilot makes historic debut with the Blue Angels](#)  
*(26 Mar) Navy Times, By Alan de Herrera*  
Navy Lt. Amanda Lee, the No. 3 left wing pilot for the Blue Angels, is the first woman to fly fighter jets with the renowned flight demonstration team.
53. [Breaking barriers, enduring advocacy: These Army women made a mark](#)  
*(24 Mar) Army Times, By Todd South*  
The 2023 inductees to the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame and separate awardees included three-star generals, a staff sergeant and even a male Navy commander.



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54. [3 active-duty service members file claims against federal government over jet fuel leak: "Poisoned by the Navy in their own homes"](#)

(29 Mar) CBS News, By Li Cohen

When Army Major Amanda Feindt had the chance to move her husband, toddler and baby to Hawaii in 2021 to be stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, she thought it would be a "dream location to be stationed in paradise." But it turned out to be a nightmare – she says her family's on-base home was being supplied with "toxic water" by the Navy.

### WOMEN VETERANS

55. [VA to change its motto, dropping male-only language](#)

(16 Mar) Military Times, By Leo Shane III

Veterans Affairs leaders are changing the department's mission statement from the current male-only focus to be more welcoming to women veterans, officials announced Thursday.

56. [Improving inclusion of women veterans](#)

(16 Mar) The Hill, By Kayla Williams

Today, Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough announced that the department is formally changing its official mission statement: "to fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors." This is a meaningful step forward in symbolically affirming the VA's dedication to serving all who served.

57. [His mom is suspected in the deaths of 2 romantic partners. He says he's been waiting for her arrest his whole life.](#)

(NBC News, By

Sarah Hartsfield, an Army veteran who has been married five times, fatally shot a man in 2018 and it was ruled self-defense, but authorities re-opened the case after her husband's death in January.

58. [Navy selects first woman to serve as CMC of Combined Maritime Forces](#)

(22 Mar) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll

The Navy this month selected the first woman to serve as the senior enlisted leader of U.S. 5th Fleet's Combined Maritime Forces, the largest naval partnership globally. Naval Forces Central Command Master Chief Celina Miller, who enlisted in the Navy in 1998, is slated to take over the role from Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Cortez Brown in May. Brown has served in that role since August 2021.

59. [These women survived combat. Then they had to fight for health care.](#)

(27 Mar) Washington Post, By Hope Hodge Seck

Years before U.S. military women were formally authorized to hold ground-combat jobs, Jaelyn "Jax" Scott was conducting nighttime raids with Special Operations personnel in northern Afghanistan.

60. [Why a small motto change could have a big impact on female veterans' health](#)

(29 Mar) Military.com, By Andrea Renee Sandoval Rathbun

So, when I read an article describing a positive step the VA has taken to ensure that women veterans access the care they have earned, I felt a moment of validation. Read More



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### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

61. [San Diego women flew planes, were nurses, contributed during WWII, as local historian shares in lecture](#)  
(19 Mar) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, By Lisa Deaderick  
Linda Canada, who volunteers with the San Diego History Center and was formerly the archivist for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, presents “San Diego Women and Their Role in World War II” at the Mission Valley Library during Women’s History Month.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Event: [Officer Women Leadership Symposium](#)

Dates: 13-14 April 2023

Location: George Mason University, Mason Square Campus in Arlington, Virginia

Event: [2023 Women in Combat](#)

Dates: 1-3 May 2023

Location: Online Webinar

Event: [DACOWITS Quarterly Business Meeting](#) (*Streaming Available*)

Dates: 27-28 June March 2023

Location: Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Conference Center, Arlington, Virginia

Event: [Joint Women’s Leadership Symposium](#)

Dates: 29 June – 1 July 2023

Location: San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California