



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

August 2023

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### Recruitment & Retention

1. [Poll says confidence in US military lowest in 25 years](#)  
(31 Jul) *Military Times*, By Jonathan Lehrfeld  
American confidence in the United States military recently reached its lowest point in 25 years, according to a new poll.
2. [A Communication Gap Across the Generation Gap](#)  
(1 Aug) *The War Room*, By Antonio Perez & Ron Granieri  
Tony Perez feels that one of the major shortcomings of the recruiting game is communication. He sees an issue with the inability of military recruiters to explain why the military provides so many of the things that the next generation desires in a job or even a career.
3. [Seneca High School ending Marine Corps JROTC program after more than 40 years](#)  
(4 Aug) *WLKY*, By Matthew Keck  
After more than 40 years, Seneca High School's Marine Corps JROTC program will be coming to an end. Officials say this is due to the nationwide teacher shortage.
4. [Blended Retirement System is helping troops prepare for their future](#)  
(4 Aug) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers  
When the Blended Retirement System was created more than five years ago, one of its primary goals was to help service members set themselves up financially for the future, even if they didn't stay for 20 years and retire.
5. [Are thousands of potential recruits being disqualified unnecessarily?](#)  
(4 Aug) *The War Horse*, By Jennifer Barnhill  
About 4% of eligible applicants would be ruled out for psychological and developmental diagnoses, such as autism, depression or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, according to the Defense Department, which works out to thousands of potential recruits a year.
6. [Air Force leadership pushing for greater diversity among officers, as Academy sees roughly stable numbers among women, rise in Asian students](#)  
(9 Aug) *Colorado Springs Gazette*, By Mary Shinn  
Across the lines of freshmen joining their new squadrons at the Air Force Academy Wednesday marched 325 women representing about a little less than a third of the class.
7. [Naval aviators are being offered more cash to become commanding officers](#)  
(11 Aug) *Military.com*, By Konstantin Toropin  
Big cash bonuses are not just for Navy recruits. The Navy's recruiting website for new enlisted sailors boasts that future active-duty sailors who leave for boot camp before October can earn up to \$140,000 between bonuses and loan repayment offerings.
8. [5 places the military should look for new recruits](#)  
(11 Aug) *Military Times*, By Sarah Sicard  
Unless you live under a rock, you're probably aware the U.S. military is mired in a bit of a recruiting crisis. With all branches, except the Marine Corps, expected to fail to hit target numbers this year, it's becoming clear that new strategies are needed.



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9. [\*\*The Military recruiting crisis and Gen Z\*\*](#)  
*(n.d.) Wall Street Journal, By Staff*  
Students discuss enlisting and serving in the armed forces.
10. [\*\*It's time for a national security strategy for military recruiting\*\*](#)  
*(17 Aug) The Heritage Foundation, By Thomas Spoehr*  
Our armed forces are shrinking in size and capacity. The current crisis in military recruiting qualifies as a direct threat to U.S. national security.
11. [\*\*Pentagon set to allow calculator use on military entrance exam as recruiting slumps\*\*](#)  
*(18 Aug) Military.com, By Steve Beynon*  
The change in the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or ASVAB, could help relieve an ongoing recruiting slump, which is attributed to many young Americans not scoring high enough to qualify for enlistment.
12. [\*\*New Be All You Can Be ads arrive amid Army marketing leadership change\*\*](#)  
*(21 Aug) Army Times, By Davis Winkie*  
Watch the Army's new "Be All You Can Be" advertisements here.
13. [\*\*A Gen Z Marine explores solutions to the military's recruiting crisis in 'We Don't Want You, Uncle Sam'\*\*](#)  
*(22 Aug) Military.com, By Blake Stilwell*  
Second Lt. Matthew Weiss is a 25-year-old Marine Corps intelligence officer whose new book, "We Don't Want You, Uncle Sam: Examining the Military Recruiting Crisis with Generation Z" lays out what he believes are some of the major problems his generation has with military service -- and what the military can do about it.
14. [\*\*Government report finds diversity growing in ROTC programs\*\*](#)  
*(29 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Jennifer H. Svan*  
The percentage of women and minorities enrolled in college ROTC programs nationwide grew between 2011 and 2021, a new government watchdog agency report has found.
15. [\*\*Once a pilot, Army program for recruits who fall short of weight, academic standards is becoming permanent\*\*](#)  
*(30 Aug) Military.com, By Steve Beynon*  
The Future Soldier Preparatory Course was launched as a pilot program in August last year, with most of it held here at Fort Jackson.

## Employment & Integration

16. [\*\*They fought alongside the US — now this female Afghan military platoon is in limbo\*\*](#)  
*(1 Aug) NPR, By Kai McNamee*  
After serving alongside the U.S., an all-female Afghan military platoon is in immigration limbo.



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17. [\*\*In the military, physical fitness outranks gender 'equity'\*\*](#)  
*(3 Aug) The Hill, By Thomas Spoehr*  
On Thursday night, the Senate approved its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Section 557 of that bill would scrap the current Army Combat Fitness Test and replace it with the old Army Physical Fitness Test. Meanwhile, the House version of the NDAA proposes requiring a gender-neutral fitness test for combat arms positions.
18. [\*\*Incoming Sergeant Major of the Army sees AI-powered health monitors as path to higher readiness\*\*](#)  
*(4 Aug) Defense One, By Sam Svoke*  
Weimer highlighted a program at his old command that uses health data to help candidates going through the rigorous Army physical tests.
19. [\*\*Military services can't agree on where service members' waists are\*\*](#)  
*(8 Aug) Military Times, By Hope Hodge Seck*  
No two services can agree on where to measure a service member's waist when deploying the hated, but hard-to-eliminate tape test.
20. [\*\*I was thrown out of the Army under the old standards because I was too fit. The new standards are a step forward.\*\*](#)  
*(8 Aug) Military.com, By S.J. Pendergraft*  
I am a 2013 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. I was discharged in 2015 for being too fat.
21. [\*\*Naval aviation commanders could receive up to \\$105,000 in bonus\*\*](#)  
*(10 Aug) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*  
The deal is \$5,000 more than what active commanding officers were offered the past three fiscal years under the Aviation Command Retention Bonus.
22. [\*\*Air Force pilots have one month to extend contracts for up to \\$50,000 per year in bonuses\*\*](#)  
*(15 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly*  
Air Force officials are allowing certain pilots to join a new test program that could offer up to \$50,000 in bonus money per year if aviators sign extensions to their contracts.
23. [\*\*Obesity among US soldiers swelled to almost 25% during pandemic, study finds\*\*](#)  
*(16 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Phillip Walter Wellman*  
American soldiers piled on the pounds during the pandemic, with about three-quarters of the roughly 192,000 active-duty subjects analyzed in a newly published study deemed overweight or obese during a nine-month stretch.
24. [\*\*Here's how the Air Force's new pilot retention bonuses will work\*\*](#)  
*(18 Aug) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen*  
The Air Force is now accepting applications for a new bonus program that offers certain pilots up to \$50,000 a year to renew their contracts.
25. [\*\*Women in Army SOF resorted to buying their own armor, study finds\*\*](#)  
*(21 Aug) Army Times, By Hope Hodge Seck*  
Nearly half of the women in U.S. Army Special Operations Command reported problems with the way their gear fits and some have resorted to buying their own.



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26. [Women in Army SOF sidelined by ‘benevolent sexism,’ study finds](#)  
*(21 Aug) Army Times, By Hope Hodge Seck*  
Those are some of the key findings from an internal study by U.S. Army Special Operations Command on barriers to service for women in the ranks.
27. [Today's Episode: Women face gender-related challenges in Army Special Ops](#)  
*(22 Aug) Early Bird Brief*  
An internal study by the U.S. Army Special Operations Command aimed to address barriers to service for women in the ranks.
28. [Women In Army Special Ops Face ‘Blatant Sexism’ And Must Wear Equipment That Doesn’t Fit, According To Study](#)  
*(24 Aug) Forbes, By Kim Elsesser*  
Women serving in the U.S. Army's elite Special Operation Forces face "blatant sexism," according to a new study by the US Army Special Operations Command. And nearly half of the women in this military branch must wear equipment that doesn't fit correctly.
29. [DOD Launches 2023 Gender Relations Survey](#)  
*(28 Aug) Immediate Release*  
The bi-annual Workplace and Gender Relations (WGR) survey is the Department's official source of data collection relating to gender relations in the workplace, which helps DOD leaders improve and develop policies and programs that better support Service members.
30. [An Army Special Operations probe sheds light on misogyny in the military](#)  
*(31 Aug) Washington Post, By Editorial Board*  
Nearly eight years ago, the United States opened up all military combat roles to women, clearing a pathway for female service members to join the most elite military forces. But even before the first women qualified to become part of the revered Green Berets or 75th Ranger Regiment, thousands worked in noncombat roles dating as far back as the Revolutionary War. During the war in Afghanistan, women deployed, and one died, working alongside the Green Berets and Army Rangers.

### Well-Being & Treatment

31. [Executive Order Changes How Military Handles Sexual Assaults](#)  
*(1 Aug) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez*  
The president on Friday signed an executive order that changes how some crimes — including sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and murder — are handled within the military justice system.
32. [New Benefit Gives Military Families More Flexibility in Paying for Dependent Care](#)  
*(3 Aug) DoD Immediate Release*  
In coordination with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has expanded eligibility for a benefit that will provide military families with another financial option for reducing the burden of the cost of dependent care, ultimately bolstering military readiness. The Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (DCFSA) initiative provides accounts that allow eligible service members to set aside up to \$5,000 per household in pre-tax earnings for qualified dependent care expenses.



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33. [Where and why the Air Force is building 5 new child development centers](#)  
*(3 Aug) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By David Roza*  
Good news for Air Force families: The service is building five new child development centers (CDCs) to address unmet demands across the branch. The Air Force also rolled out new child care staffing incentives last October, which may have played a role in a recent five percent bump in staffing levels at CDCs.
  34. [Navy expands maternity uniform options in pilot program](#)  
*(4 Aug) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll*  
The Navy is modifying its maternity uniform pilot program so pregnant sailors may choose the uniforms that accommodate their work environment best.
  35. [Former Coast Guard head covered up secret investigation into sexual assaults at the Coast Guard Academy](#)  
*(8 Aug) CNN, By Melanie Hicken, Blake Ellis, Curt Devine, Pamela Brown and Scott Bronstein*  
The then-leader of the US Coast Guard covered up an explosive investigation four years ago into rapes and sexual assaults at the agency's academy despite prior plans by top officials to come clean about the inquiry, a CNN investigation found.
  36. [Frat house behavior: National Guard leader fired after sexism, toxic culture complaints](#)  
*(9 Aug) USA Today, By Tom Vanden Brook*  
The National Guard's personnel chief was fired for being at the center of an office that was "a toxic cacophony of misconduct."
  37. [DOD Makes Tax-Free Dependent Care Spending Accounts Available to Service Members](#)  
*(10 Aug) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez*  
The Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, or DCFSA, is a financial benefit that will be made available to eligible service members beginning in 2024. It will enable them to have money from their paychecks diverted to an account that can be used to pay for dependent care services such as preschool, summer day camp, before- or after-school programs, and child or adult daycare.
  38. [Guard 2-star in charge of personnel fired amid complaints of sexism](#)  
*(10 Aug) Army Times, By James Clark*  
A National Guard general, whose duties included overseeing sexual assault prevention, was fired amid complaints that he fostered a sexist work culture.
  39. [What military sexual-assault victims think of the new way cases are prosecuted](#)  
*(11 Aug) Defense One, By Jennifer Hlad*  
President Biden signed an executive order last month that removes legal decision-making authority from commanders for most serious crimes.
  40. [A Coast Guard Academy graduate's harassment story](#)  
*(13 Aug) The Day, By Brian Hallenbeck*  
It's a story from a female cadet who experienced bullying and verbal harassment rather than sexual abuse.



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41. [Army, Navy and Marine Corps sexual harassment, bullying, hazing response under investigation by Pentagon watchdog](#)

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

The Defense Department's inspector general has launched reviews of the Navy and Marine Corps' sexual harassment complaint process, as well as the Army's handling of harassment prevention and response to determine whether the services are effectively managing their efforts to protect service members.

42. [How the US military became collateral damage in the fight over abortion rights](#)

(14 Aug) *Task & Purpose*, By Jeff Schogol

The nominations of nearly 650 general and flag officers could be in limbo over abortion access.

43. [Department of Defense Releases Actions to Transform Climate and Enhance Prevention of Harmful Behaviors at Military Service Academies](#)

(17 Aug) *Immediate Release*

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin directed multiple actions to transform climate and enhance prevention of harmful behaviors at the Military Service Academies (MSAs). In a memorandum to Department of Defense (DoD) senior leaders, Secretary Austin noted that while the MSAs are dominant in many domains, they have far more work to do to halt sexual assault and harassment.

44. [DoD review calls for reforms after sexual assault spike at academies](#)

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

The U.S. military academies must improve their leadership, stop toxic practices such as hazing and shift behavior training into the classrooms, according to a Pentagon study aimed at addressing an alarming spike in sexual assaults and misconduct.

45. [New Army pilot program aims to help Reserve soldiers find child care providers](#)

(17 Aug) *Stars & Stripes*, By Doug G. Ware

The Army is launching a pilot program designed to help Reserve soldiers find licensed child care providers, which has become an increasing problem for many military families in recent years, officials announced Thursday.

46. [Six months after new abortion leave policy, Pentagon doesn't know how many troops have used it](#)

(17 Aug) *Military.com*, By Rebecca Kheel and Konstantin Toropin

As an Alabama senator's ongoing protest over the Pentagon's abortion leave policy has left three service chief positions vacant, a key question remains: How many service members have actually used the policy to seek abortions?

47. [Coast Guard attorneys will decide on prosecuting sexual assaults beginning in December](#)

(17 Aug) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime

The Coast Guard has updated its guidance on sexual assault response and prosecution following changes to military law that gave military attorneys, not commanders, the responsibility to decide whether such cases should be prosecuted.

48. [Guard battalion commander faces assault, sexual harassment charges](#)

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

A New Hampshire National Guard officer, Lt. Col. Mark B. Patterson, who commanded a battalion deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border now faces a general court-martial amid allegations of assault and sexual harassment, among other charges.



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49. [Coast Guard Academy official linked to sexual misconduct coverup resigns](#)  
*(19 Aug) The Day, By Brian Hallenbeck*  
Retired Adm. Charles Ray, former vice commandant of the Coast Guard, has resigned from the Coast Guard Academy's Loy Institute for Leadership over his connection to the coverup of an internal investigation into sexual misconduct at the academy.
50. [Lawmakers want to protect Coast Guard cadets who report sexual assault](#)  
*(22 Aug) The Associated Press, By Staff*  
Bipartisan legislation introduced on Tuesday would put the Coast Guard Academy in line with policies at Department of Defense military academies.
51. [Fort Cavazos opens military's 1st breast milk drop-off site](#)  
*(30 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer*  
Fort Cavazos opened the military's first breast milk donation center this month to allow mothers to share their excess milk with patients across the country.

### Servicewomen in the News

52. [Meet Jeannette Greene, one of only 2 female commanding officers serving on the Great Lakes](#)  
*(1 Aug) WZZM 13, By Staff*  
Jeannette Greene is the commanding officer of the USCGC Mackinaw, where she oversees a crew of 55 personnel.
53. [Tomb Guard Braves Storm](#)  
*(4 Aug) DoD News, By Kevin M. Hymel, ANC Historian*  
Army Pfc. Jessica Kwiatkowski leaned forward as she walked against the wind and rain. As a Tomb Guard with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, she walked her twenty-one steps in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in the middle of a violent rainstorm on the evening of Saturday, July 29, 2023. Amid the storm, she walked her post without the ability to see.
54. [Husband passes guidon to his wife during rare Air Force change-of-command ceremony](#)  
*(2 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By David Choi*  
Col. Kathryn Gaetke took over on June 14 from her husband, Col. Matthew Gaetke, who moved over to lead the 607th Air Operations Center at Osan.



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55. [General Officer Assignments](#)

*(14 Aug) DoD Immediate Release*

The acting chief of staff of the Army announces the following officer assignments:

- Maj. Gen. Michelle A. Schmidt to commanding general, 7th Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. She most recently served as director, Force Development, G-8, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.
- Brig. Gen. Antoinette R. Gant, commanding general, South Pacific Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco, California, to chief, Army Enterprise Marketing Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Chicago, Illinois.
- Maj. Gen. Kris A. Belanger, special assistant to the assistant secretary of the Army (Individual Mobilized Augmentee), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Washington, D.C., to commanding general, (Troop Program Unit) 99th Readiness Division, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.
- Maj. Gen. Tracy L. Smith, commander (Troop Program Unit), 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support), Salt Lake City, Utah, to commanding general, (Troop Program Unit), 63rd Readiness Division, Mountain View, California.
- Brig. Gen. Katherine A. Simonson, director, Research and Development, Defense Health Agency, Falls Church, Virginia, to deputy commander (Troop Program Unit), 3rd Medical Command (Mission Support Element), Fort Gillem, Georgia.

56. [Adm. Franchetti, first woman nominated to run the Navy, held up over abortion protest](#)

*(14 Aug) NPR, By Steve Walsh*

Admiral Lisa Franchetti is set to become the first woman to head the Navy. Her confirmation is being held up by one Republican senator as part of a protest over abortion policy within the military.

57. [Acting Navy chief takes over a fleet on the cusp of major changes](#)

*(14 Aug) Defense News, By Megan Eckstein*

As Adm. Mike Gilday handed command of the U.S. Navy over to Adm. Lisa Franchetti — who joins a growing list of acting service chiefs — top Navy and Pentagon leaders said the service is on the verge of a technological and operational overhaul.

58. [Woman who helped hide Vanessa Guillén's body sentenced to prison](#)

*(14 Aug) The Associated Press, By Acacia Coronado*

A federal judge has sentenced a Texas woman to 30 years in prison for helping to dispose of the body of U.S. soldier Vanessa Guillén.

59. [This former Marine Cobra pilot saw combat in Afghanistan. Now, she's commanding her first space mission](#)

*(14 Aug) Sandboxx, By Hope Seck*

Marine Lt. Col. Jasmin "Jaws" Moghbeli is about to go where very few helicopter pilots have gone before.

60. [Former Army captain sets sites on another shot at gold](#)

*(16 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Matt Wagner*

Kelly Elmlinger heard stories about Olympians and Paralympians pushing themselves even harder after a first taste of competing at the highest level.





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61. [Her flight instructor sexually harassed her. The Marine Corps tried to kick her out.](#)  
*(18 Aug) The War Horse, By Sonner Kehrt*  
The invitation to the Padre Island Burger Club in Texas came in while Marine Corps 1st Lt. Allison Bennett was out sailing on a friend's boat. A flight instructor in her naval aviation training squadron texted that he was meeting with a future flight student. He wanted to know if Bennett could swing by to give her some tips.
62. [Watch military mom surprise daughter at school lunch table after 6 months apart](#)  
*(29 Aug) USA Today, By Zulekha Nathoo*  
After six months apart, 7-year-old Leila is about to see her mom again. Taylor Mason has been on military deployment in the Middle East. The 29-year-old single parent had never been separated from her daughter before, so the distance has been hard on both of them.

### Women Veterans

63. [Veterans and advocates sue DoD, VA over fertility policies](#)  
*(2 Aug) Military Times, By*  
Veterans and civil rights advocates filed two lawsuits against the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs Wednesday, alleging they were denied federal aid for in-vitro fertilization because of issues like their marital status, sexual orientation and the extent of their service injuries.
64. [VA offers free breast cancer screenings to burn-pit vets 40 and under](#)  
*(2 Aug) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*  
Younger women veterans who served near burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan are being encouraged to get free breast cancer screenings from Veterans Affairs physicians in an effort to identify serious health issues as soon as possible.
65. [College program supporting women vets' transition embarks on year two](#)  
*(3 Aug) Military Times, By Korie Wilkins*  
In a first-of-its-kind program, Stephens College in Missouri is poised to begin the second year of Mission Promise Kept, a program that supports women veterans as they transition from military to college life.
66. [This Rosie the Riveter repaired war-torn WWII fighter planes. She's finally getting a thank you](#)  
*(3 Aug) Military.com, By Nathan Solis*  
Shirley Virginia Bellemeur holds up an imaginary piece of metal with her delicate fingers. She punches it repeatedly with her other hand, as though she's holding a rivet gun.
67. [Retired Army major general who writes about unheralded women wins historian of the year award](#)  
*(10 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Phillip Walter Wellman*  
A retired Army major general with at least seven books to her name is receiving an honorific as a historian, based on her post-military work aimed at increasing awareness about notable women. Mari K. Eder was announced Wednesday as the winner of the historian of the year award presented annually by Historic Hotels of America, an affiliate of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
68. [Fort AP Hill renamed Fort Walker to honor Army's first female surgeon](#)  
*(25 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Doug G. Ware*  
The Army on Friday renamed Fort A.P. Hill, a training outpost near the nation's capital, as Fort Walker to honor the service's first female surgeon and Medal of Honor recipient from the Civil War.