



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

September 2023



DACOWITS in the News

1. [Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks Meets With Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services \(DACOWITS\)](#)
(15 Sep) Immediate Release, By Eric Pahon
Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks met with the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) yesterday at the Pentagon to thank committee members for their work and discuss their experiences while serving on DACOWITS.

Recruitment & Retention

2. [Too heavy to fight? How the Army is combating the obesity crisis to find recruits](#)
(1 Sep) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
Recruits at the fitness prep course lose 1.5% body fat each week, but drill sergeants will intervene if they lose 3% or more per week to see whether the soldier is participating in any unhealthy weight loss tactics.
3. [Army recruiters at two-thirds of contract goals as fiscal year closes](#)
(7 Sep) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
With one month remaining in fiscal 2023, data obtained by Army Times indicates in previously unreported detail that Army recruiters are collectively failing to reach their quotas for fiscal 2023.
4. [Air Force to miss recruiting goals for first time in more than 2 decades](#)
(11 Sep) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly
The Air Force will, as expected, miss its active-duty recruiting goals for the first time since 1999, Secretary Frank Kendall said during a conference here Monday.
5. [Army pauses retention cash bonuses amid sky-high re-up rate](#)
(13 Sep) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
After meeting its retention goals early, the Army paused its reenlistment bonus program Tuesday as the fiscal year comes to a close, according to an internal announcement.
6. [Senators press Pentagon on new medical system's recruiting impact](#)
(14 Sep) Military Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz and Irene Loewenson
A letter to the Defense Department Wednesday seeks answers on how the Genesis military health system, and the need for more waivers, affects recruiting.
7. [Marine drill instructor accused of peeping on recruit in porta-potty](#)
(14 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Irene Loewenson
Female recruits claimed the drill instructor asked them if their "hot moms or sisters" were coming to graduation and made some recruits do his laundry.
8. [Navy will miss recruiting goals by 7,000 sailors this year](#)
(14 Sep) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
The Navy is expected to miss its recruiting goals for FY23 by roughly 7,000 sailors, according to acting Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti.



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9. [Entire Air Force to miss recruiting goal, the first failure since 1999](#)
(14 Sep) *Air Force Times*, By Rachel S. Cohen
The Air Force will miss its annual enlisted recruiting goal across all three components for the first time since 1999, as waning interest in military service and administrative hurdles continue to plague efforts to train the next generation of troops.
10. [Army recruiting: better than last year, still short of goal, officials say](#)
(15 Sep) *Defense One*, By Sam Skove
The service inducted around 9,000 more new soldiers this year than in 2022, commander says.
11. [Air Force to fall short of annual training goal by about 120 pilots](#)
(15 Sep) *Stars & Stripes*, By Matthew Adams
The Air Force will miss its fiscal 2023 training goal by about 120 pilots, the service said.
12. [The all-volunteer force is dying. Here's how to save it.](#)
(21 Sep) *Washington Post*, By Mark T. Esper
America's all-volunteer force is slowly dying. And unless we take action soon to reverse the trend, we are putting our nation's future security at risk.
13. [Air Force revamps 'Zero Week' at BMT to better prepare recruits for stress](#)
(22 Sep) *Air & Space Forces Magazine*, By David Roza
When Air Force and Space Force recruits arrive to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, for the first five days of Basic Military Training next month, it will be different compared to what previous generations went through.
14. [Constant relocations are a struggle for military families. It's on us to support them.](#)
(26 Sep) *San Diego Union-Tribune*, By Maggie Meza
As a nation, we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to those who dedicate their lives to serving in the armed forces. These brave men and women, along with their families, make profound sacrifices to protect and defend our freedoms. One aspect of military life that is often overlooked is the significant impact of frequent relocations on these families. Approximately 600,000 military and veteran families relocate each year, and they experience immense challenges each time. It's time we recognize and support these unsung heroes.
15. [Gen Z Marine lays out some ideas for fixing military recruitment](#)
(28 Sep) *Marine Corps Times*, By Irene Loewenson
Some people think of Gen Z as the "everyone-gets-a-trophy generation," 2nd Lt. Matthew Weiss said. But that's not how he sees it.

Employment & Integration

16. [U.S. Army report shows women serving in the special forces face intense sexism](#)
(7 Sep) *NPR*, By Steve Walsh
Women in the U.S. military's special forces still face intense sexism according to recent reports, including one that focuses on Army Rangers.



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17. [**Air Force to fall nearly 150 pilots short of annual training goal**](#)
(11 Sep) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
The shortfall makes it more difficult for the service to fill a pilot shortage of around 2,000 people that has persisted for years.
 18. [**Army's top enlisted soldier backs ACFT as Congress mulls future of the fitness test**](#)
(12 Sep) Stars & Stripes, By Corey Dickstein
The new sergeant major of the Army offered a full-throated endorsement of the Army Combat Fitness Test on Tuesday as lawmakers on Capitol Hill debate defense spending and the future of the controversial physical assessment.
 19. [**Army's top enlisted soldier backs ACFT as Congress mulls future of the fitness test**](#)
(12 Sep) Stars & Stripes, By Corey Dickstein
The new sergeant major of the Army offered a full-throated endorsement of the Army Combat Fitness Test on Tuesday as lawmakers on Capitol Hill debate defense spending and the future of the controversial physical assessment.
 20. [**Army to speed up fielding of holistic health and fitness program**](#)
(14 Sep) Army Times, By Todd South
The Army's new all-around fitness program may be coming to your unit sooner than previously planned.
 21. [**There is now no Marine uniform that requires women to wear skirts**](#)
(21 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Irene Loewenson
Female officers and staff noncommissioned officers can now wear slacks instead of skirts with their evening dress uniform.
 22. [**Marine Corps leaders struggle with how to train female infantry officers amid worries about standards**](#)
(28 Sep) Military.com, By Shawn Snow
Nearly 90 pages of internal communications from Marine leadership regarding gender integration efforts at IOC obtained by Military.com highlight growing pains as the Corps adapted its infantry officer training following the opening of combat arms to women in 2013.

Well-Being & Treatment

23. [**Vets hope to broker fixes for military base quality-of-life issues**](#)
(1 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
A new program from the American Legion will send leaders to installations to talk to families about housing, child care and other military life challenges.
24. [**Army charges military doctor over alleged sexual abuse**](#)
(1 Sep) Army Times, By Jonathan Lehrfeld
Military officials recently charged an Army doctor assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, with alleged sexual abuse following an investigation. The case may involve at least 23 alleged victims.



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25. [**Military justice gets a long overdue upgrade**](#)
(4 Sep) Washington Post, By the Editorial Board
Few things at the Pentagon happen quickly, but rarely have its powers of delay been as regrettable as in its decades-long reconsideration of how to handle allegations of sex crimes in the ranks. For years, the military insisted that decisions about whether to investigate and prosecute alleged sexual harassment, assault and rape were best left in the hands of unit commanders, who are responsible for the readiness and morale of their sailors, Marines, soldiers or airmen. The Pentagon stuck to this position even as reports of mishandled sex crimes dogged the services and recruiting flagged.
 26. [**Defense Department Adjusts Child Care Fees, Expands Flex Spending to Increase Military Access to Quality Child Care**](#)
(13 Sep) DoD News, Immediate Release
The Defense Department is adjusting how much service members pay in child care fees for the 2023-2024 school year to reduce the burden on lower income families and meet the intent of Executive Order 14095.
 27. [**Air Force promises biggest building boom in a decade for child development centers**](#)
(13 Sep) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By Patrick Reardon
The Air Force is planning to pour \$205 million into building 19 new child development centers over the next five years, the service's largest investment in CDCs in over a decade and part of a larger \$1.6 billion in infrastructure funding for dorms and child care, an Air Force official announced Sept. 12.
 28. [**After infant formula crisis, lawmakers look to donor milk**](#)
(14 Sep) Roll Call, By Ariel Cohen
Bill aims to increase access to pasteurized donor milk for infants and push the FDA to regulate the practice
 29. [**DOD Hosts Child Care Summit to Give Military Families, Providers Voice**](#)
(15 Sep) DoD News, By Joseph Clark
Pentagon leaders are gathering input from service members and their spouses, child development experts and early childhood educators aimed at generating discussions and gathering ideas for how to improve the Defense Department's child care programs.
 30. [**Cover-up of Coast Guard sex abuse cases prompts Senate inquiry**](#)
(15 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
Senators this week launched a formal investigation into reports that Coast Guard leaders mishandled sexual assault investigations at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy for years and then hid the mistakes from public view.
 31. [**Their babies died when Camp Lejeune's water was poisoned. But justice has been hard to find**](#)
(18 Sep) NBC News, By Anna Schechter, Cynthia McFadden and Melissa Chan
"It's like we're invisible," said a veteran, who had a stillbirth and nine miscarriages. Such cases have been uniquely difficult to litigate, attorneys say.
 32. [**Expectant service members lack support. Doulas could help.**](#)
(23 Sep) The War Horse, By Anne Marshall-Chalmers
Members of the military who are pregnant lack options when it comes to giving birth. That might be changing, but challenges persist.



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33. [**Air Force Academy cadet faces court-martial in sexual assault case**](#)
(26 Sep) *Colorado Springs Gazette*, By Mary Shinn
The court-martial for Air Force Academy Cadet Eamon McHugh started Monday over allegations he sexually assaulted a fellow female cadet in 2021.
34. [**Army command sergeant major demoted and discharged for sex offenses in Bosnia**](#)
(26 Sep) *Stars & Stripes*, By Phillip Walter Wellman
CSM Joseph Lundberg pleaded guilty to two counts of assault that stemmed from a drunken evening at a bar at Camp Butmir, where the NATO headquarters is located. He admitted to snapping a female colleague's bra strap and making an inappropriate comment while at the bar. Later that night, another acquaintance who lived off base was too intoxicated to go home and instead went to Lundberg's quarters to sleep. While she was there, Lundberg touched her breasts without consent.
35. [**Air Force finds success by putting sexual assault, abuse, stalking resources in one office**](#)
(27 Sep) *Military.com*, By Thomas Novelly
The Air Force says a pilot program has found that putting resources for survivors of sexual assault, domestic abuse, stalking and cyberbullying in one central base office made reporting and finding support easier.
36. [**Legal review refutes claim that DoD abortion rules need congressional approval**](#)
(28 Sep) *Stars & Stripes*, By Phillip Walter Wellman
The Defense Department did not need congressional approval to implement a trio of reproductive health care rules earlier this year, including one that allows service members to use federal funds to travel out of state for abortions, a government watchdog agency determined.
37. [**Child care fees plunge for many military families**](#)
(28 Sep) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers
The cost of child care is going down for many military families. In some cases they will be paying 30% to 40% less.

Servicewomen in the News

38. [**Face of Defense: A Childhood Love of Tech Led Her to the Space Force**](#)
(1 Sep) *Joint Task Force-Space Defense*, By Bridget Bonnette
Why did you transfer into the Space Force? I was working at Peterson Space Force Base [in Colorado Springs, Colo.] when we became the U.S. Space Force headquarters, and the question became, 'Why not?' I jumped on the opportunity to be a small part of history.
39. [**Marine test pilot settles into International Space Station**](#)
(1 Sep) *Marine Corps Times*, By Irene Loewenson
A Marine pilot-turned-astronaut successfully led a crew into space, just months after another Marine pilot returned from a five-month stint at the International Space Station, the Marine Corps said. Lt. Col. Jasmine Moghbeli made her first trip into space as a mission commander of SpaceX Crew-7, launching Aug. 26 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, according to a Marine Corps news release.
40. [**Illinois National Guard member vying for Miss United States title**](#)
(13 Sep) *FOX 32 News*, By Staff
Miss Illinois United States has quite the resume: college student, boutique owner and member of the Illinois National Guard. But now, she's ready to take on another title.



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41. [Senate launches inquiry into Coast Guard sexual assault coverups exposed by CNN report](#)
(14 Sep) CNN, By Melanie Hicken and Pamela Brown
The US Senate has launched a formal inquiry into the Coast Guard's handling of a secret, yearslong investigation that found rapes, sexual assaults and other serious misconduct at the agency's academy had been ignored and, at times, covered up by high-ranking officials.
42. [For Navy chaplain, first the loss of a baby, then the loss of legal rights](#)
(14 Sep) Washington Post, By Ian Shapira
Navy chaplain Mercedes Petitfrere has accused Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune of substandard medical care that she believes cost her son's life and resulted in his stillbirth.
43. [Woman slain in suspected Fayetteville murder-suicide was soldier at Fort Liberty](#)
(21 Sep) Fayetteville Observer, By
A woman who was found slain in her Fayetteville home last week was a paratrooper stationed at Fort Liberty, officials confirmed Tuesday. The body of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jessica Moore, 35, was found about 10 p.m. Sept. 14 in her home on Kentyre Drive, according to the Fayetteville Police Department. Tito Matos of Fayetteville, who was in a "domestic relationship" with Moore, is believed to have killed her, police said.
44. [First Tomb Badge Awarded to Female Infantry Soldier](#)
(22 Sep) DoD News, By Kevin M. Hymel, Arlington National Cemetery Historian
Army Pfc. Jessica Kwiatkowski made history on Sept. 18, 2023, when she became the first woman infantry soldier to earn the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge. Other women have earned the badge, but they have come from other career fields. Tomb Guards who earn the badge also earn the distinction of being referred to as Sentinels.
45. [General Officer Assignments](#)
(22 Sep) Immediate Release
The chief of staff of the Army announces the following officer assignments:
 - Brig. Gen. Daphne D. Davis, deputy commanding general (Support) (Inactive Ready Reserve), U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky, to commander (Troop Program Unit), 95th Training Division (Initial Entry Training), Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
 - Brig. Gen. Susie S. Kuilan, commander (Troop Program Unit), 95th Training Division (Initial Entry Training), Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to deputy commander (Troop Program Unit), 108th Training Command, Charlotte, North Carolina.
46. [She's currently the only Black woman leading a state military. Here's how it happened](#)
(24 Sep) NPR, By Ajani Daniel and Jonathan Franklin
Maj. Gen. Janeen Birkhead of Maryland only became a soldier to help pay for college.
47. [Trailblazer Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, first USAF female fighter pilot, retires](#)
(25 Sep) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By Unshin Lee Harpley
An Air Force trailblazer's career came to a close this weekend, as Maj. Gen. Jeannie M. Leavitt, the service's first female fighter pilot, retired after 31 years in uniform.



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48. [Flag Officer Announcement](#)

(28 Sep) Immediate Release

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Navy Rear Adm. (lower half) Heidi K. Berg for appointment to the grade of rear admiral. Berg is currently serving as assistant deputy chief of naval operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy, N3/N5B, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Women Veterans

49. [Iraq Combat Veteran Tanya Bradsher confirmed as VA's deputy secretary](#)

(12 Sep) VA News, Immediate Release

Army Veteran Tanya Bradsher was confirmed by the Senate as VA's deputy secretary. In this role, Deputy Secretary Bradsher will help lead the Department of Veterans Affairs as it continues to deliver more care and more benefits to more Veterans than ever before in our nation's history.

50. [Bradsher becomes first woman confirmed to VA's second-highest post](#)

(12 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III

Army veteran Tanya Bradsher will serve as the Department of Veterans Affairs first confirmed female deputy secretary after a 50-46 Senate vote on Tuesday finalized her nomination.

51. [100 minutes celebrating 100 years of Veterans Affairs providing women's health care](#)

(12 Sep) WSAW, By Emily Davies

Veterans Affairs staff and supports are traveling the state ahead of Sept. 14, the 100th anniversary of the VA providing women's health care.

52. [Lawmakers reintroduce bill to expand fertility services to service members, veterans](#)

(14 Sep) Military.com, By Patricia Kime

Senate and House Democrats are trying again to expand fertility treatments for active-duty personnel and veterans whose military-related disabilities render them unable to conceive without help.

53. [Veterans commemorate 100 years of healthcare for women in the military](#)

(14 Sep) weareiowa.com, By Laryssa Leone

Even as the number of women retiring from defending our nation's freedom grows, the care available to them isn't well known.

54. [Because I was a woman who served, I was stereotyped by a stranger](#)

(16 Sep) The War Horse, By Noelle Wiehe

My calendar stood wide open that Saturday as I drove around listening to the local country radio station. So when I heard an advertisement for a resource fair for veterans at my favorite local brewery — Service Brewing Company — I figured I'd give it a shot.

55. [New Navy oiler to be named in honor of Harriet Tubman](#)

(18 Sep) Navy Times, By

The Navy will name the ninth John Lewis-class oiler after American abolitionist and social activist Harriet Tubman.



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56. [Injured women vets lonelier, more stressed than male peers: report](#)
(19 Sep) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
Female veterans, especially those with lingering military injuries, struggle more with loneliness, anxiety and reintegration into civilian life than their male peers, according to new research released by Wounded Warrior Project on Tuesday.

57. [Kate Winslet stars as model-turned-WWII military photographer in 'Lee'](#)
(18 Sep) Military.com, By Blake Stilwell
In August 1944, Operation Overlord was in full swing. The Allies were fighting to break out across France, but standing in their way was the old fortress town of Saint-Malo. The town's 12,000 Nazi defenders had been dug in since 1943 as part of the Atlantic Wall, expecting to hold out for 90 days or more.

58. [Veterans to get extended postpartum care services](#)
(29 Sep) Axios, By Maya Goldman
Pregnant veterans will soon have vastly expanded access to so-called maternity care coordinators who provide a range of supportive services, the Department of Veterans Affairs told Axios first.