



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2024



DACOWITS in the News

1. [New Members Appointed to the DACOWITS](#)

(27 Jun) DoD Immediate Release

This week, the Department of Defense announced the appointment of eight new members to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). The newly appointed committee members include Retired Major General Peggy C. Combs, U.S. Army; Retired Major General Mari K. Eder, U.S. Army; Dr. Kyleanne M. Hunter, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran; Retired Sergeant Major Angela M. Maness, U.S. Marine Corps; Retired Lieutenant General Mark C. Schwartz, U.S. Army; Retired Captain David G. Smith, PhD, U.S. Navy; Retired Commander Patricia J. Tutalo, U.S. Coast Guard; and Dr. Elizabeth Van Winkle, former Executive Director, Office of Force Resiliency.

Recruitment & Retention

2. [Young men flee Myanmar in panic after struggling military starts draft](#)

(3 Jun) Washington Post, By Rebecca Tan

Tens of thousands have left for Thailand after Myanmar's military, facing repeated battlefield losses, announced it aimed to conscript 60,000 soldiers.

3. [Australia's military will recruit some noncitizens in a bid to boost troop numbers](#)

(4 Jun) The Associated Press, By Rod Mcguirk

The Australian military will begin recruiting some noncitizens in a bid to boost troop numbers, the government said Tuesday.

4. [No retirement required: How JROTC aims to combat an instructor shortage](#)

(4 Jun) Military.com, By Steve Beynon

Army planners are hoping a new law dramatically expanding who can teach high school students in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or JROTC, can dig the program out of a significant instructor shortage.

5. [Hicks: Every Qualified American Is Welcome at Recruiting Stations](#)

(5 Jun) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez

As part of a Pride Month commemorative event today at the Pentagon, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks noted that now, more than ever before, anyone who is qualified to serve in America's military is welcome to apply. And, that everybody is also needed.

6. [Head of Ohio State Army ROTC suspended, under investigation for allegedly violating 'stay away' order](#)

(7 Jun) Military.com, By Steve Beynon

The top officer for Ohio State University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or ROTC, has been suspended from his role on campus amid an ongoing investigation related to sexual misconduct, according to a university spokesperson.

7. [Mandatory conscription and subway stations as bunkers: Germany outlines wartime plans](#)

(9 Jun) CNN, By Sophie Tanno and Nadine Schmidt

Conscription, rationing, and subway stations turned into bunkers. For the first time since the Cold War, Germany has updated its plans should conflict erupt in Europe, with ministers citing the threat posed by Russia.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2024



8. [Germany outlines plans for 'new' model of military service](#)
(12 Jun) DW News, By Richard Connor
Germany unveils a new military service model to strengthen the Bundeswehr amid rising security concerns from Russia. The plan focuses on volunteer recruitment with potential mandatory elements.
9. [The Army's recruiting problem is male](#)
(14 Jun) Military.com, By Steve Beynon and Kelsey Baker
The issue is convincing men to put on the uniform. A decade of declining recruitment numbers for the Army is almost entirely attributable to a significant drop in male recruiting as female enlistments have remained relatively flat, internal service data reviewed by Military.com shows.
10. [A betrayal: How a decorated Army officer fell from grace in a university ROTC sex scandal](#)
(14 Jun) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
An investigation found that Kelvington was fired from his role in April and formally replaced June 7 amid allegations of sexual misconduct. The misconduct allegedly involved at least three cadets, ranging from touching them inappropriately, making overt sexual references and gestures to having at least one prolonged sexual relationship. In some cases, those encounters or advances may have happened on campus and sometimes involved alcohol.
11. [Marines move some recruiting centers to urban hubs in massive realignment](#)
(17 Jun) Marine Corps Times, By Hope Hodge Seck
As the military services seek to recruit an increasingly disinterested and underinformed population of young Americans, the Marine Corps has quietly begun relocating some of its recruiting hubs, Marine Corps Times has learned.
12. [Social media among many barriers to bringing back a draft, report says](#)
(20 Jun) Military Times, By Hope Hodge Seck
Amid a revived national discussion about a possible return to mandatory military service, a new think tank report illustrates how doing so in today's America would require the Defense Department to navigate unprecedented social and cultural challenges.
13. [Should women be drafted? Congress weighs the question yet again](#)
(20 Jun) Task & Purpose, By Patty Nieberg
Congress is debating — yet again — the idea of including women in a national military draft more than a decade after the end of rules that kept them from combat roles.
14. [Israel's ultra-Orthodox men must serve in the military, top court rules in blow to Netanyahu](#)
(25 Jun) NBC News, By Chantal Da Silva
Most Israelis are by law expected to serve in the military. But for decades, exemptions have existed for the ultra-Orthodox, who make up about 13% of Israeli society, to allow them to study full-time in religious seminaries.
15. [Yes, women should be part of the military draft](#)
(25 Jun) The Hill, By James Durso
“You’ve come a long way, baby” — but not far enough, according to Democrats in the U.S. Congress. Senate Republicans were angered by the Democrats’ proposed amendment to the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last week that would require women 18-26 years of age be automatically enrolled in the Selective Service System (commonly known as “the draft”).



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2024



16. [Advocacy group calls on Pentagon to ease financial strain on troops by reviewing duty-station moves](#)
(26 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Rose L. Thayer
An advocacy group on Wednesday is calling on the Defense Department to review how frequently it moves troops to new duty stations after survey results showed the moves impact the financial and emotional well-being of military families.
17. [Senators' latest idea to fix military recruiting slump? Sharing enlistment data with high schools](#)
(26 Jun) *Military.com*, By Rebecca Kheel
Under the recently introduced Military and Educational Data Integration Act, the Defense Department would have to set up a program to allow state and local school boards to access information on the outcomes of students who enlist in the military, including the highest level of education they obtained, their scores on the Armed Forces Qualification Test and their area of expertise or military occupational speciality.
18. [Do military families really need to move so much?](#)
(27 Jun) *Navy Times*, By Karen Jowers
Moving to a new base every few years is among the most taxing requirements military families face. But is all that effort to uproot really necessary? A new report from a leading advocacy group argues it's time to give the pace of those moves, known as permanent changes of station, a fresh look.

Employment & Integration

19. [Report: Perspective—Women in the Military](#)
(16 May) *American Security Project*
Today, women in the U.S. military comprise approximately 17 percent of personnel and are a vital part of modern force structure. Women in the military provide numerous benefits to the Armed Forces. Despite their importance, women face many structural and cultural challenges in their military experience. The military must continuously work to improve conditions for women within its ranks, as women are vital to filling those ranks. Considering the recruitment and retention problems across branches, addressing the issues women face will help to improve overall military readiness.
20. [How do you measure up? Here's how soldiers are scoring on the Army combat fitness test](#)
(10 Jun) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon
Most soldiers in the Army are passing the service's physical fitness test — 98% of active-duty men and 95% of active-duty women — after troops have been taking it for about five years, according to internal data reviewed by Military.com that includes scores since October 2022.

Well-Being & Treatment

21. ['Lactation pods' debut for nursing mothers at Air Force base on Okinawa](#)
(5 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Jonathan Snyder
The Air Force recently opened three private compact rooms for nursing mothers at the home of the 18th Wing on Okinawa.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2024



22. [**The Coast Guard Used Me to Lie to Victims of Sexual Assault at the Coast Guard Academy as Part of their Operation Fouled Anchor Coverup. I Can No Longer Be Part of this System**](#)
(9 Jun) Maritime Legal Aide, By Shannon Norenberg
For the past 11 years I have served as the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) at the United States Coast Guard Academy. It has been the greatest honor to serve in this role, and to be blessed with the opportunity to work with victims and survivors of sexual assault at the Academy. However, it deeply pains me to have arrived at a place where I feel morally and ethically compelled to resign from my position at the Academy.
23. [**Coast Guard Academy official resigns before sexual assault hearing**](#)
(10 Jun) Military Times, By Zamone Perez
Ahead of a highly anticipated congressional hearing for Coast Guard leaders this week, a Coast Guard Academy official announced her resignation Sunday, alleging she was directed to lie and discourage sexual assault victims from coming forward.
24. [**DOD Will Offer Reimbursements for Breast Milk Shipping Expenses Under New Policy**](#)
(11 Jun) DoD News, By Joseph Clark
The Defense Department issued a new policy this month to cover costs associated with the shipment of breast milk during permanent change of station moves. Under the new policy, which was published in the Joint Travel Regulations, the department will reimburse up to \$1,000 of expenses for service members who are breastfeeding children up to 12 months old.
25. [**US Coast Guard boss says she is not trying to hide the branch's failure to handle sex assault cases**](#)
(11 Jun) The Associated Press, By Susan Haigh
The commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard tried Tuesday to assure skeptical and frustrated U.S. senators that she is not attempting to cover up the branch's failure to adequately handle cases of sexual assault and harassment at the service academy in Connecticut.
26. [**DOD now repaying up to \\$1,000 for cost of transporting breast milk during moves**](#)
(12 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By John Vandiver
The costs of shipping breast milk during service members' moves will now be covered under a new Defense Department policy aimed at curtailing out-of-pocket expenses for military families.
27. [**Coast Guard acted to 'cover up' sexual assault report, senators say**](#)
(12 Jun) Military Times, By Zamone Perez
Senators on Tuesday questioned the Coast Guard's top official about the service's cooperation with a congressional inquiry into a report that detailed decades of sexual assaults at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.
28. [**Army undercounted 4,000 domestic abuse cases, according to audit**](#)
(13 Jun) Task & Purpose, By Matt White
An Army audit found that thousands of domestic violence incidents involving soldiers fell through the cracks without oversight, resulting in cases of victims being reharmed and even killed by perpetrators who had already been identified as abusers.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2024



-
29. [**Breastfeeding troops can recoup cost of shipping milk during PCS moves**](#)
(13 Jun) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
Nursing military mothers traveling on permanent change of station orders are now eligible to get reimbursed for up to \$1,000 of the cost of shipping their breast milk back to their child.
 30. [**House defense bill would undo Pentagon's abortion travel policy**](#)
(14 Jun) Federal Times, By Molly Weisner
House lawmakers are attempting to undo policies allowing Defense Department service members to use leave, and travel and transportation allowances to obtain reproductive care for themselves or their dependents.
 31. [**Coast Guard relieves commander of biggest station for failing to act on harassment claims**](#)
(14 Jun) Military.com, By Patricia Kime
The Coast Guard has removed the commanding officer of its largest small boat station, Station New York.
 32. [**What about the children? Republicans' attack on IVF is an attack on family values.**](#)
(17 Jun) USA Today, By Marla Bautista
Denying military families access to in vitro fertilization treatments disregards the profound sacrifices made by service members.
 33. [**All troops could have IVF covered by military health care under proposal in must-pass defense bill**](#)
(18 Jun) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel
Service members and dependents would be able to get fertility treatments such as in vitro fertilization covered by military health care in any circumstance, under an amendment added to the Senate's version of the annual must-pass defense policy bill.
 34. [**Guam lacks a newborn intensive care unit, potentially putting hundreds of babies born to troops each year at risk**](#)
(18 Jun) Military.com, By Patricia Kime
In late 2022, a baby born to an active-duty U.S. military family on Guam needed immediate, advanced medical care for a life-threatening pulmonary condition. With no neonatal intensive care unit, or NICU, on the island that meets U.S. standards, a specialty neonatal team was dispatched from U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan, to provide care. The team arrived 24 hours later, but the newborn was too ill to move.
 35. [**Acquitted of rape, midshipman may face assault charge after July hearing**](#)
(19 Jun) Capital Gazette, By Luke Parker
Whether a circuit court judge will be permitted to rehear an assault case against a Naval Academy midshipman now that the matter was successfully appealed by the state will be determined in July. After a six-day trial in 2022, Garrett Lee Holsen was acquitted of raping one of his classmates at an off-campus party.
 36. [**Democrats push Pentagon on birth control for service members as defense bill looks to ease access**](#)
(25 Jun) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel
As studies show service members continue to struggle to access birth control, a group of Senate Democrats is pushing the Defense Department to do more to expand contraception services and counseling.
 37. [**Air Force officer testifies in general's sex-assault court-martial she couldn't say 'no' to him**](#)
(26 Jun) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer
An Air Force officer testified over two days, often through tears, that she did not know how to say "no" when her boss, a two-star general, invited her into his hotel bedroom during an alcohol-fueled night on a work trip.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2024



38. [As troops struggle to find child care, 24-hour centers offer help](#)

(26 Jun) *Military Times*, By Karen Jowers

In the wee hours of the morning, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Imani Solomon pulls on her Navy uniform, loads her 5-year-old son Isaiah's stuffed backpack into the car, and heads back upstairs to gather her still-sleeping son. The sky is still dark as she gently buckles Isaiah into the car. Most days, it's around 3 a.m. when they arrive at the 24-hour child development center here at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, where Isaiah will grab a few more hours of sleep while his mother heads in to work.

39. [Army makes it harder for commanders to deny soldiers leave for abortions](#)

(27 Jun) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon

The Army has set new policies making it more difficult for units to deny soldiers' requests to take leave to receive reproductive care including abortions, according to a force-wide memo.

Servicewomen in the News

40. [Command senior chief convicted for unauthorized Wi-Fi on her ship](#)

(3 Jun) *Navy Times*, By Diana Stancy

The former command senior chief pleaded guilty at a court-martial in March to charges that she installed an unauthorized Wi-Fi system aboard the ship and then lied about it to superiors. Before her trial, Naval Surface Force Pacific, or SURFPAC, quietly relieved then-Senior Chief Grisel Marrero from her leadership position aboard Manchester in September, due to a "loss of confidence," the command said in a statement.

41. [General Officer Assignments](#)

(7 Jun) *DoD Immediate Release*

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

- Brig. Gen. Stephanie R. Ahern, director, Concepts, Futures and Concepts Center, U.S. Army Futures Command, Adelphi, Maryland, to director, Strategy, Plans and Policy, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.
- Brig. Gen. Martine S. Kidd, deputy director, C-4, Combined Forces Command; director of Logistics, U-4, United Nations Command; and director, J-4, U.S. Forces Korea, Republic of Korea, to director for Logistics, Engineering and Security Cooperation, J-4, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii.
- Brig. Gen. Michelle A. Link, deputy commander (Inactive Ready Reserve), Joint Task Force Red Hill, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii, to commander (Troop Program Unit), 75th Innovation Command, Houston, Texas.

42. [After Guillen memorial marked by graffiti, LULAC plans to expand shrine](#)

(14 Jun) *Killeen Daily Herald*, By Ricky Climent

Early last week the Vanessa Guillen mural on North Fort Hood Street in front of a tattoo parlor was vandalized for the third time since it was created in 2020, according to a local woman who helps take care of the Killeen mural.

43. [Watch: Samoan soldier becomes first to display traditional hand tattoos](#)

(16 Jun) *Defense News Weekly* <Video>

Capt. Isis Sake, breaks ground as the first soldier of Samoan descent to gain permission to display traditional hand tattoos in religious uniform accommodation.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2024



44. [Fort Campbell soldier charged with taking sexually explicit photos, videos of other soldiers, children](#)
(21 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Rose L. Thayer
Pfc. Whitney Shepherd is accused of photographing two other female soldiers — a specialist and a private first class — in January and February 2023, as part of a conspiracy with another person, whose name is redacted from the charge sheet. She also distributed those images, which the charge sheet stated were taken at a time when the women had a reasonable expectation of privacy.
45. [Search continues for Arlington hit-and-run driver that killed Marine reservist on her way to drills](#)
(24 Jun) *Fox 4 News*, By David Sentendrey
The victim, 21-year-old Areauna Laws, was having car trouble and was standing outside when she was hit. She died at the scene.
46. [These three Iowa Guardsmen aren't just squadmates — they're siblings](#)
(27 Jun) *Military Times*, By Jonathan Lehrfeld
For some, an Army unit can feel like a family. For others, that rings true to another degree. Pfc. Maria Juan-Medina, Pfc. Gabriel Juan-Medina and Pfc. Enrique Juan-Medina serve in the same squad in the 113th Cavalry Regiment of the Iowa National Guard are siblings.

Women Veterans

47. [Biden threatens VA budget veto over abortion, gender-affirming care](#)
(4 Jun) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
President Joe Biden threatened to veto the House's \$360 billion appropriations plan for the Department of Veterans Affairs next year over restrictions on abortion and gender-affirming care services included in the measure, accusing lawmakers of "wasting time with partisan bills."
48. [4 women are buried among several thousand men at the US's D-Day cemetery — these are their stories.](#)
(4 Jun) *Stars & Stripes*, By Phillip Walter Wellman
Among the roughly 9,400 graves at Normandy American Cemetery are those of four women: Mary Bankston, Mary Barlow, Dolores Browne and Elizabeth Richardson.
49. [D-Day anniversary shines spotlight on 'Rosies' who built WWII weapons](#)
(5 Jun) *The Associated Press*, By Sylvie Corbet and John Leicester
When the 5,000th B-17 bomber built after Pearl Harbor rolled out of its Boeing factory, teenage riveter Anna Mae Krier made sure it would carry a message from the women of World War II: She signed her name on it.
50. [VA enrolls record number of women veterans in health care](#)
(12 Jun) *Task & Purpose*, By Jeff Schogol
More than 53,000 women veterans enrolled in health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA, between May 2023 and May 2024, the largest enrollment for women veterans on record, the VA announced on Wednesday to mark Women Veterans Recognition Day.
51. [Geneviève de Galard, French 'Angel' of Dien Bien Phu, dies at 99](#)
(14 Jun) *New York Times*, By Adam Nossiter
A nurse, she tended to the wounded as the French were under fateful attack by Viet Minh forces in 1954. Hailed in France and the U.S., she was given a ticker-tape parade down Broadway.



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

June 2024



52. [These women answered the call in WWI — should they receive the Gold Medal?](#)

(14 Jun) *nj.com*, By Richard Cowen

One hundred years ago, a huge crowd gathered in Armory Park in Passaic to hear U.S. Army General John J. Pershing praise the men who fought so bravely in World War I.

53. [Ángeles Flórez Peón, Spanish Civil War's last militiawoman, dies at 105](#)

(21 Jun) *New York Times*, By Adam Nossiter

She was revered as an essential guardian of the country's memory of war and repression long after the Franco dictatorship.

54. [Romay Johnson Davis, veteran of Black women's WWII Army unit, dies at 104](#)

(26 Jun) *Washington Post*, By Emily Langer

Romay Johnson Davis, one of the few surviving members of the only predominantly Black unit of the Women's Army Corps to serve overseas during World War II, a long unheralded group that lifted the spirits of American soldiers — and proved their own skill — by diligently delivering mountains of mail from home, died June 21 in Montgomery, Alabama. She was 104.

Upcoming Events

Title: [2024 National Women Veterans Summit](#)

Location: Washington Hilton, Washington, DC

Date: 5-7 September 2024

Time: Various

Register: [Coming Soon](#)

Details: The Quadrennial VA Women Veterans Summit serves to increase access, decrease barriers, and connect women veterans and transitioning servicewomen directly with information, benefits, services, and opportunities. The summit brings together all the VA's resources and services in one place. Advocates will be available to connect summit participants with resources and help empower participants to navigate the VA health care system.

Title: [DACOWITS Quarterly Business Meeting](#)

Location: AUSA Conference Center, Arlington, VA

Date: 10-11 September 2024

Time: 0800-1500

Register: Coming Soon

Details: DACOWITS provides advice and recommendations on matters and policies relating to the recruitment, retention, employment, integration, well-being, and treatment of women in the Armed Forces of the United States. The Committee gathers information from multiple sources, to include briefings from Defense Department, Service-level military representatives, and subject matter experts.