



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



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### DACOWITS in the News

1. [Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services visits Peterson SFB](#)  
*(11 Apr) Space Base Delta 1 Public Affairs, By Airman 1st Class Cody Friend*  
The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, visited Peterson Space Force Base April 8, and April 9, 2024, to speak with service members and gather data about their experiences in the armed forces.
2. [DACOWITS Visits Makin Island](#)  
*(19 Apr) DVIDS, By Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Martinez*  
The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) visited amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), on April 19, 2024, to conduct independent research for the Secretary of Defense.
3. [U.S. Marines Give Insight..](#)  
*(29 Apr) Marines.mil, By PFC Serefino Gamez*  
Robin Kelleher, a representative from the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, discusses the role women play in the Marine Corps during a luncheon with U.S. Marines stationed on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, on MCAS Miramar, California, April 22, 2024.
4. [MCAS Miramar and 3RD MAW Marines Support Research on Women in the Armed Forces](#)  
*(30 Apr) 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, By Cpl. Nikolas Mascroft*  
U.S. Marines with Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing hosted the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services from April 22-23, 2024, to support research on service member experiences, attitudes, and recommendations related to personnel policies in the Marine Corps.
5. [The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services toured Joint Base Lewis-McChord](#)  
*(4 May) Army.mil, By Pvt. Jolene Cintron*  
The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) toured Joint Base Lewis-McChord to engage with Service members across the installation May 2-3, 2024.

### Recruitment & Retention

6. [Congress presses SECNAV for answers on recruiting challenges](#)  
*(1 May) Military Times, By Diana Stancy*  
A lawmaker from the House Armed Services Committee grilled Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro Wednesday about how the Navy plans to rectify its challenges recruiting new sailors, after the service missed its recruitment goals for the first time ever in fiscal year 2023.
7. [How the Corps is trying to get exiting Marines to stay as reservists](#)  
*(1 May) Marine Corps Times, By Irene Loewenson*  
The Marine Corps wants seasoned Marines to continue being Marines, even if just for one weekend a month.
8. [People with autism navigate roadblocks to serving in the military](#)  
*(2 May) ABC News, By John Donovan, Marjorie McAfee, Katy Sheward, Justin Green, and Aria Young*  
For people on the autism spectrum, finding their place in the American military can be an arduous process. The U.S. Department of Defense considers having autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to be a “disqualifying condition” to join the military. Many candidates are turned away because of their diagnosis.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



9. [\*\*Air Force, Navy likely to fall short on reserve recruits in 2024\*\*](#)  
*(2 May) Military Times, By Jonathan Lehrfeld*  
Leaders from the Air Force Reserve and Navy Reserve told lawmakers in written testimonies Tuesday that their forces are expected to fall short of this year's fiscal year recruitment goals.
10. [\*\*Secretive Army group's recruiting video is chock-full of hidden meanings, viewers say\*\*](#)  
*(7 May) Charlotte Observer, By Mark Price*  
A secretive U.S. Army group known as the "Masters of Influence" has emerged from the shadows of Fort Liberty with a recruitment video that is strange, a little chilling — and crammed with subliminal messages. Much like a horror movie trailer, with echoing quotes about the power of ideas, unsettling images of societal breakdown and isolation, and hidden symbolism.
11. [\*\*The Navy is embedding info-warfare chiefs in recruiting commands\*\*](#)  
*(7 May) Defense One, By Lauren C. Williams*  
Navy is boosting recruiting for information warfare and cyber operators nationwide in the wake of retention challenges, the Navy's IW boss said. It's part of a new initiative to attract and retain young tech talent. The
12. [\*\*Most Air Guard members affected by proposal to shift to Space Force would rather retrain or retire, officials say\*\*](#)  
*(7 May) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer*  
Air National Guard leaders estimated up to 70% of their space-focused airmen would resist a transfer to Space Force should Congress approve an Air Force proposal to move 14 Guard units into the newest service branch.
13. [\*\*Army debuts new recruiting ads aimed at high-tech civilians rather than soldiers\*\*](#)  
*(9 May) Task & Purpose, By Patty Nieberg*  
The Army's latest television spots are aimed at different recruits than the service's typical high-energy, parachute-and-tanks ads. In two new ads, the Army wants to catch the attention of civilians already working in science and engineering fields and sell them on similar jobs working for the military.
14. [\*\*Marines want to wear their uniform for high school graduation, but their school said no\*\*](#)  
*(9 May) Task & Purpose, By Patty Nieberg*  
Three Marines who graduated boot camp in April were looking forward to representing their recent accomplishment at their Colorado high school graduation later this month. That was until they were told by school officials that they would not be allowed to wear their dress blues unless it was covered by a cap and gown.
15. [\*\*Moving Air Guard troops to Space Force hurts recruiting, retired general warns\*\*](#)  
*(9 May) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer*  
An Air Force proposal to transfer some operations jobs from the National Guard to the active-duty force will set the Defense Department back decades and hurt the recruiting and retention of part-time troops trained to fight, a retired Army general warned Thursday.
16. [\*\*Protecting the all-volunteer force-provide our troops the quality of life they deserve\*\*](#)  
*(9 May) Real Clear Defense, By Tom Jurkowski*  
The House Armed Services Committee's recently released report on how to improve the quality of life for our troops and their families sends a strong message: If we want the All-Volunteer Force to survive, here is a list of things that need focus.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



17. [\*\*Navy, Marine Corps focus on smaller eligible population as recruitment problems mount\*\*](#)  
*(13 May) USNI News, By John Grady*  
The Navy's ongoing struggle to meet recruitment missions and the Marine Corps' growing concerns over the shrinking pool of possible enlistees topped a Senate panel's hearing on personnel issues facing the sea services last week.
18. [\*\*Japan's military needs more women. But it's still failing on harassment.\*\*](#)  
*(14 May) Reuters, By Sakura Murakami and Tim Kelly*  
Following a wave of sexual harassment cases, the number of women applying to join the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) decreased by 12% in the year ending March 2023, after several years of steady growth. Some victims have said an entrenched culture of harassment could deter women from signing up.
19. [\*\*Approximately 30 percent of sailors remain in same area following new billet assignment, CNP says\*\*](#)  
*(15 May) USNI News, By Heather Mongilio*  
Three in 10 sailors did not have to move due to their new billet assignments, the head of naval personnel said Wednesday.
20. [\*\*Navy pushes for more access to high schools amid recruiting struggle\*\*](#)  
*(16 May) Stars & Stripes, By Svetlana Shkolnikova*  
Navy leaders on Thursday said they are pushing for more access to high schools as the service faces another recruiting shortfall this year and recruiters across the military complain of limited admission to campuses.
21. [\*\*Marijuana testing for recruits could end under House's must-pass defense policy bill\*\*](#)  
*(17 May) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel*  
Potential military recruits and prospective officers soon may not need to worry about drug testing if they recently used marijuana.
22. [\*\*Lawmakers seek to lower out-of-pocket medical costs for military applicants\*\*](#)  
*(20 May) Stars & Stripes, By Svetlana Shkolnikova*  
Civilians who face unexpected medical costs while applying to serve in the military could receive financial assistance under a new bill that lawmakers believe will help with recruiting.
23. [\*\*Many armies struggle for recruits. In Sweden they turn them away.\*\*](#)  
*(20 May) Wall Street Journal, By Sune Engel Rasmussen*  
U.S. and European militaries are straining to reinforce their ranks to deter Russia. Sweden's answer is to conscript only the brightest.
24. [\*\*Lawmakers move to automate Selective Service registration for all men\*\*](#)  
*(22 May) Military Times, By Leo Shane III and Bryant Harris*  
A new plan from House lawmakers would automatically register men for a potential military draft when they hit age 18, avoiding potential legal consequences connected to failing to file the paperwork at the proper time.
25. [\*\*Air Force raises maximum amount for retention bonuses to \\$180,000\*\*](#)  
*(26 May) Task & Purpose, By Nicholas Slayton*  
This fall the U.S. Air Force is raising the maximum payout available for airmen in certain fields. This past week the service announced it was increasing the amount of money service members in certain specialized careers can get in reenlistment bonuses, up to \$180,000 from a previous high of \$100,000.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



26. [\*\*Air Force reservists can soon apply to join the Space Force\*\*](#)  
(28 May) *Air Force Times*, By Rachel S. Cohen  
The Space Force on Saturday will begin accepting applications from Air Force reservists to join the newest service as full-time guardians, the service said in a release.
27. [\*\*Air Force dangles big bucks, expands eligibility for retention bonuses\*\*](#)  
(31 May) *Military Times*, By Courtney Mabeus-Brown  
Thinking about reenlisting? Eligible airmen in critical jobs can now nab bonuses of up to \$180,000, up from \$100,000 in previous years, for agreeing to stay in the service.

### Employment & Integration

28. [\*\*How grooming standards have changed in the US military\*\*](#)  
(30 Apr) *Task & Purpose*, By Joshua Skovlund  
Now, soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and guardians have some leeway with their hairstyles, but they must adhere to the parameters established by their branch of service's grooming standards.
29. [\*\*Army quickly expanding holistic health and fitness teams following promising early results\*\*](#)  
(2 May) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon  
The Army is fast-tracking the expansion of its Holistic Health and Fitness, or H2F, program as early results show soldiers in brigades recover faster, shoot better and have higher performance on critical fitness tests with the assistance.
30. [\*\*Boy Scouts of America changing name to more inclusive Scouting America after years of woes\*\*](#)  
(7 May) *The Associated Press*, By Jamie Stengle  
There were nearly 1,000 young women in the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts in 2021, including Selby Chipman. The all-girls troop she was a founding member of in her hometown of Oak Ridge, North Carolina, has grown from five girls to nearly 50, and she thinks the name change will encourage even more girls to realize they can join.
31. [\*\*How Shannon Kent became a trailblazer among US Special Operations Forces\*\*](#)  
(7 May) *Military.com*, By Marty Skovlund Jr. and Joe Kent  
Excerpt: It was an overcast October day at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, perfect for weapons familiarization training. Shannon was the only woman in this Naval Special Warfare Direct Support Course class, and the only woman on the range that day. But that's not what she was thinking about; she just wanted to get to the part where she was sending rounds and burning brass.
32. [\*\*The woman keeping the 'special relationship' special\*\*](#)  
(7 May) *The Atlantic*, By Elaine Godfrey  
American partisanship turns diplomacy into a delicate dance even for the closest of allies. British Ambassador Karen Pierce's duty is to lobby for her country and offer advice on delicate matters during heated international moments.
33. [\*\*House Armed Services Committee adds second Virginia submarine in FY25\*\*](#)  
(13 May) *Defense News*, By  
"The committee continues to be perplexed by the Navy's inconsistent funding of shipbuilding and specifically that of Virginia class submarines. For the second time in less than 5 years, the Navy has surprised both Congress and industry by removing a submarine from the budget request that had previously been planned for



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



[gender] inclusion,” according to a section of the FY25 defense authorization bill by the committee’s sea power panel.

34. **[Rethinking Combat Fitness: Is the ACFT Aligned With Modern Warfare Needs?](#)**

*(15 May) The Defense Post, By Amy Forza*

Fitness tests should be gender-specific to accurately assess fitness levels across the board, ensuring the force is strategically optimized for the challenges of modern warfare.

35. **[What Does It Look Like To Fight Like A Girl?](#)**

*(21 May) War Room (Podcast), By Qiana Harder, Seana Jardin, Carina Kelley, and Ron Granieri*

With nearly seventy years of combined experience, these three soldiers point out that while there is still plenty of room for improvement, military service for women has come a long way. They believe there are plentiful opportunities open to the next generation of women for a successful, fulfilling career in the U.S. Army. And these three ladies prove that fighting like a girl is a good thing.

### Well-Being & Treatment

36. **[Tricare fails pregnant service members. Here’s how to fix it.](#)**

*(2 May) Air Force Times, By Maj. Amanda Rebhi*

With over 222,000 women in active service (nearly 18% of the force) and around 12,000 babies born each year to active duty women, the implication of these studies is critical, given the confinement of obstetric care to the base.

37. **[After downsizing health care for years, Pentagon says medical readiness was a casualty](#)**

*(4 May) NPR, By Quil Lawrence*

After a decade of downsizing, Defense Department officials also admit they need to rebuild the medical force and the general health of active duty troops. But restoring medical readiness to where it was during the last war, much less where it needs to be for the next one, is a by all accounts a herculean task.

38. **[How sexual harassment and the shipyard crippled a Navy warship](#)**

*(7 May) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz and Diana Stancy*

By the time the junior officer emailed her peers in March 2022, reminding them to do their jobs and protect their sailors from each other, the men and women of the Navy destroyer Bulkeley had suffered through a rough couple of years.

39. **[Service members and veterans are fighting for the right to fertility treatments](#)**

*(9 May) NBC News, By Maite Amorebieta, Chloe Atkins and Courtney Kube*

Though infertility rates may be far higher for service members than civilians, the military makes them prove their infertility is service-related before it covers the high cost of IVF.

40. **[How to shorten the 12,000-child waitlist for military child care](#)**

*(9 May) Air & Space Forces Magazine, By David Roza*

The chair of the Senate Armed Services personnel subcommittee wants the Pentagon to bump up pay for military child care staff, which she sees as a key factor contributing to long waitlists at military child care centers around the world. About 12,000 children were on those waitlists last year, while staff was short about 3,900 caregivers, said Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who estimated the number is likely higher due to families who give up on the wait list entirely.





# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



41. [French minister vows better protection of military sexual abuse victims -Le Monde](#)  
*(10 May) Reuters, By Staff*  
French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu is putting in place a special task force to better protect victims and punish perpetrators of sexual violence in the army, he announced in an op-ed published by newspaper Le Monde.
42. [Navy seeks to develop reusable menstrual underwear for women sailors](#)  
*(13 May) Military Times, By Hope Hodge Seck*  
The Navy is seeking \$60,000 in research-and-development funds for reusable underwear for its female sailors when they on their periods, according to the sea service's fiscal 2025 budget request justification records.
43. [Troops are reimbursed for shipping breast milk during temporary duty but not moves — that could change](#)  
*(13 May) Military.com, By Patricia Kime*  
When the Defense Department changed its travel regulations in 2022 to reimburse female service members and civilian employees for costs associated with shipping breast milk during official travel, the policy skipped an important component of military life: permanent change of station moves.
44. [Watchdog finds 'gaps' in DON sexual misconduct policies](#)  
*(14 May) Military Times, By Diana Stancy*  
The Department of the Navy's policies surrounding sexual harassment and assault don't require thorough enough documentation or training for officials overseeing such cases, according to a Department of Defense Inspector General report.
45. [In reversal of recent years, military sex assault reports drop](#)  
*(15 May) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor*  
The number of reported sexual assaults across the military decreased last year, and a confidential survey found a 19% drop in the number of service members who said they had experienced some type of unwanted sexual contact, according to new figures obtained by The Associated Press. Both are dramatic reversals of what has been a growing problem in recent years.
46. [Military must track why it struggles to retain child care workers, GAO says](#)  
*(15 May) Stars & Stripes, By Jennifer H. Svan*  
The military doesn't track the effectiveness of recruiting and retention at its day care centers despite employee turnover as high as 50%, a federal watchdog agency study found.
47. [Department of Defense Releases Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military](#)  
*(16 May) DoD Immediate Release*  
This year's annual report shows that the estimated prevalence of sexual assault and harassment declined in the active force, compared to levels last measured in 2021. This is the first time in nearly 10 years that the Department has seen a decrease in sexual assault prevalence. The report also shows that a greater share of Service members reported their sexual incidents to a DoD authority, which the Department always encourages.
48. [Secretary of Defense Statement on the FY23 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military](#)  
*(16 May) DoD Immediate Release*  
Over the past three years, the Department has taken unprecedented steps to tackle this problem. This includes swift and rigorous implementation of the approved recommendations of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, as well as the establishment of the Offices of Special Trial Counsel.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



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49. [\*\*Military sexual assault totals down, but trust among women remains low\*\*](#)  
*(16 May) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*  
A Pentagon report released Thursday found that less than half of women in the military trust their chain of command to properly handle reports of sexual assault, posing a continued problem for service leaders even as the number of assault cases fell significantly last year.
  50. [\*\*Media Roundtable on Annual Report of Sexual Assault in the Military\*\*](#)  
*(16 May) DoD News, By Beth Foster, Executive Director, Office of Force Resiliency; Dr. Nate Galbreath, Acting Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office; and Dr. Andra Tharp, Director, Violence Prevention Cell*  
“In September 2021 the Secretary approved all 82 recommendations and directed the department to complete implementation by fiscal year 2028. Since that time, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of defense have closely overseen implementation of these reforms.”
  51. [\*\*Housing and child care in the same building? Lawmakers want study of idea to ease twin problems facing troops\*\*](#)  
*(17 May) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel*  
As service members struggle with both housing availability and child care access, a bipartisan pair of lawmakers thinks they have a solution: Why not put them in the same building?
  52. [\*\*Va. Gov. Youngkin vetoes bills on birth control\*\*](#)  
*(18 May) Washington Post, By Laura Vozzella*  
Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) vetoed bills meant to ensure access to contraceptives. “By vetoing our legislation, Governor Youngkin is now on the record agreeing with the extremists in his party who conflate contraception with abortion,” state Sen. Ghazala F. Hashmi (D-Chesterfield) and Del. Marcia S. “Cia” Price (D-Newport News) said in a written statement about a pair of identical bills they sponsored that would have put a right to obtain and use contraception into Virginia law.
  53. [\*\*AI-created porn targeted Taylor Swift — now, lawmakers want to make sure that's a crime in the military\*\*](#)  
*(20 May) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel*  
In the draft text of its must-pass annual defense policy bill released last week, the House Armed Services Committee would order a military advisory panel to produce recommendations on updating the Uniform Code of Military Justice to ensure it covers the nonconsensual distribution of digitally manipulated intimate images, colloquially known as deepfake revenge porn.
  54. [\*\*Senior Leaders Focused on Restoring Trust as DOD Makes Sexual Assault Reforms\*\*](#)  
*(22 May) DoD News, By Joseph Clark*  
The Defense Department remains focused on restoring service members' trust as military justice reforms aimed at strengthening the department's response to sexual assault take root across the services.
  55. [\*\*Military's handling of abuse at day cares under increasing pressure from Congress, Inspector General\*\*](#)  
*(23 May) Military.com, By Steve Beynon*  
House lawmakers want to force the military to improve oversight at its child day cares, including a 24-hour rule on notification of parents in cases of abuse, following reporting by Military.com.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



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56. [Younger troops got more vasectomies after Supreme Court struck down abortion rights, researchers say](#)  
(23 May) *Military.com*, By Patricia Kime  
Military patients — especially younger troops and dependents — sought vasectomies at higher rates in the months after the Supreme Court removed federal protections for abortion, new research has found.
57. [Air Force 2-star accused of sexual assault won't be allowed to retire](#)  
(24 May) *Air Force Times*, By Courtney Mabeus-Brown  
An Air Force two-star general who sought to retire in lieu of facing court-martial on sexual assault and other charges has had his request denied.
58. [Soldier who was inspector general noncommissioned officer of the year faces sexual assault, harassment charges](#)  
(24 May) *Military.com*, By Kelsey Baker  
The Army inspector general's noncommissioned officer of the year for 2019 is facing a general court-martial on charges related to sex crimes, according to court documents.
59. [Younger troops get more vasectomies after Dobbs decision, study finds](#)  
(24 May) *Military Times*, By Zamone Perez  
Younger, unmarried troops were more likely to get vasectomies following the 2022 Supreme Court decision that struck down nationwide abortion rights, according to a new study in the International Journal of Impotence Research published on May 18.
60. [America's child care shortage is pushing military families to a breaking point](#)  
(27 May) *NBC News*, By Shannon Pettypiece  
A shortage of child care providers has left around 9,000 children waiting months for spots at one of the military's child care centers.

### Servicewomen in the News

61. [General Officer Assignments](#)  
(1 May) *DoD Immediate Release*  
The Chief of Staff of the Army announces the following officer assignments:
- Col. (Promotable) W M. Bochat, commandant, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to commanding general, 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.
  - Brig. Gen. Katherine A. Trombley, deputy commanding general, (Individual Mobilized Augmentee), Reserve Affairs, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to commander (Troop Program Unit), 9th Mission Support Command, Honolulu, Hawaii.
62. [Fort Jackson trainee dies at Army basic training](#)  
(3 May) *Military Times*, By Zamone Perez  
Pfc. Veronica Wynn, 39, with 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, became unresponsive during “structured and disciplined pickup in the company area,” according to the statement.





# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



63. [Flag Officer Assignments](#)

*(3 May) DoD Immediate Release*

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

- Rear Adm. Heidi K. Berg will be assigned as deputy commander, Navy Space Command; and deputy commander, Fleet Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Maryland. 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.
- Rear Adm. (lower half) Kristin Acquavella will be assigned as commander, Naval Supply Systems Command Weapons Systems Support, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Acquavella is currently serving as director, Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, N4, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- Capt. Cassidy C. Norman, selected for promotion to rear admiral (lower half), will be assigned as director, Joint/Fleet Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Norman is currently serving as chief of staff, Naval Air Force Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia.

64. [General Officer Announcement](#)

*(9 May) DoD Immediate Release*

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced that the president has made the following nomination: Air Force Col. Lisa A. Nemeth for appointment to the grade of brigadier general. Nemeth is currently serving as the Air National Guard advisor to the commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

65. [Korean-American mother, daughter inspire each other as Army Reserve nurses](#)

*(9 May) Army Reserve Medical Command, By Sgt. 1st Class Neil W. McCabe*

The Army Reserve officer daughter of a Korean-born Army Reserve nurse graduated May 3 from an accelerated University of Indiana nursing program so she could join her mother serving in the Army Nurse Corps.

66. [Motherhood wasn't part of the mission for first Black female fighter pilot, until it was](#)

*(12 May) Colorado Springs Gazette, By Stephanie Earls*

Rochelle Kimbrell, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, is a mom to two teen boys. Being a mother, she says, is "way more challenging than being a fighter pilot."

67. [We found your chief! Warrant officer represents Team USA for BMX Racing](#)

*(16 May) Task & Purpose, By Joshua Skovlund*

We all like to joke about the missing warrant officer, but this time, we found one who is doing something pretty rad in her free time. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Morgan Brady is representing Team USA for BMX racing during the UCI BMX World Championships.

68. [Flag Officer Announcement](#)

*(17 May) DoD Immediate Release*

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced today that the president has made the following nomination: Navy Rear Adm. Nancy S. Lacore for appointment to the grade of vice admiral, with assignment as chief of Navy Reserve, N095, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Lacore is currently serving as commandant, Naval District Washington, Washington, D.C.

69. [Married Marines graduate from Parris Island boot camp together](#)

*(22 May) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol*

Marine Corps privates Jamil Winston Jr. and JuliMarie Winston are a husband and wife who prove that the couple that trains together can stay together. Both graduated on May 17 from boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, just in time for their first wedding anniversary in June.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



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70. [First woman to lead US Navy reflects on her career milestones](#)  
(23 May) *Today Show* <Video>  
Admiral Lisa Franchetti joins TODAY to talk about making history as the first woman to ever lead the U.S. Navy and the first female member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Franchetti looks back on her journey to a life of service and shares her plan to increase Naval recruitment.
  71. [Mother of murdered Fort Campbell soldier and civil rights group offer \\$55,000 for information on killer](#)  
(28 May) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon  
Pfc. Katia Duenas-Aguilar was found dead May 18 in her off-base residence just outside of the installation in Clarksville, Tennessee. On Saturday, the soldier's mother, Carmen Aguilar, and the League of United Latin American Citizens combined to offer the reward as authorities and the Army have offered no updates on Duenas-Aguilar's death.
  72. [Meet the soldier who is taking the Army combatives scene by storm](#)  
(29 May) *Task & Purpose*, By Joshua Skovlund  
The Desert Warrior Week 2024 combatives championship came to a close on May 23 and one of the competitors is blowing up on social media. Staff Sgt. Diane Kancauski ate a hard slap to the face like it was breakfast and returned the favor via a double-leg takedown during the final round of the championship.
  73. [Sisters graduate from Air Force Academy, West Point five days apart](#)  
(30 May) *Colorado Springs Gazette*, By Mary Shinn  
Newly minted officers and sisters Abby and Darby Horne will support each other 364 days a year — taking a day off when Army plays Air Force in football for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy.
  74. [An Arizona guardswoman and high school teacher was exposed as a neo-Nazi](#)  
(31 May) *Arizona Mirror*, By Jerod Macdonald-Evoy  
Ashley Drago is a member of the Arizona Army National Guard, where she plays saxophone for the 108th Army Band and has been pictured in Instagram photos posted by the Army.

## Women Veterans

75. [First look at Kate Winslet as WWII combat photographer Lee Miller](#)  
(6 May) *Military Times*, By Claire Barrett  
The complicated story of prolific World War II photographer Lee Miller — from surviving sexual abuse at the hands of her own father, her numerous romantic liaisons with European elite, to being one of the first to capture the horrors of Dachau — is coming to the big screen.
76. [Veteran convicted of killing pregnant soldier, 19, on US Army base in Germany 23 years ago](#)  
(8 May) *AL.com*, By Howard Koplowitz  
A veteran was convicted by a federal jury Monday of the 2001 strangling and beating death of a pregnant soldier on a U.S. Army base in Germany, prosecutors announced Tuesday. Shannon Wilkerson, 43, was convicted of killing 19-year-old Amanda Gonzales, a fellow Army soldier, in Gonzales' barracks room in Fliegerhorst Kaserne, then a U.S. Army base in Hanau, Germany, the Department of Justice said.
77. [\\$392M price tag stalls bill to expand veterans benefits connected to military sexual trauma](#)  
(8 May) *Stars & Stripes*, By Linda F. Hersey  
At issue is the Servicemember and Veterans' Empowerment and Support Act for expanding access to VA benefits and services related to military sexual trauma in cases where the service member did not go through the



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



military chain of command to report a sexual assault or when the incident report is missing from military records.

78. [VA fertility benefits for military veterans](#)

*(13 May) Military.com, By Amanda Miller*

When the Defense Department expanded U.S. service members' eligibility for certain fertility benefits in 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs had to follow suit by law. But while the VA must cover the same treatments as the DoD, not all the same individuals -- specifically, not surrogates who carry a baby for someone else -- may receive treatment from the VA.

79. [Republicans back abortion ban in \\$360B VA budget draft for next year](#)

*(21 May) Military Times, By Leo Shane III*

Republican appropriators advanced a budget bill Tuesday that includes more than \$360 billion for Veterans Affairs operations but also limits on abortion access.

80. [Maj. Marie Rossi-Cayton, the first woman to lead Army helicopters in combat, died in Desert Storm](#)

*(26 May) Task & Purpose, By Patty Nieberg*

On the eve of the 1991 Gulf War, Maj. Marie Rossi-Cayton commanded a company of Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters deployed to Saudi Arabia. No American woman had ever flown, let alone led, helicopters into war before, but Rossi-Cayton's Chinooks had orders to fly soldiers and supplies with the 101st Airborne Division into Iraq when the U.S. invasion began.

81. [She was America's first woman POW in Vietnam — and was never found](#)

*(27 May) Military Times, By Claire Barrett*

In the dense jungle terrain in Darlac Province, near the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot, South Vietnam, American doctor Eleanor Ardel Vietti had found her calling to heal.

82. [Excerpt: 'Send Me: The True Story of a Mother at War'](#)

*(27 May) Military Times, By Marty Skovlund Jr. and Joe Kent*

Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent — a loving wife, daughter, sister, friend, and mother of two — was killed in action alongside Special Forces Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan R. Farmer, loving husband and father of four; former Navy SEAL Scott A. Wirtz; and Ghadir Taher, an American working as a civilian interpreter.

83. [How Martha Gellhorn became the only female journalist at D-Day](#)

*(29 May) Military.com, By Stephen Ruiz*

As a female war correspondent, Martha Gellhorn was not allowed to accompany the Allied invasion force that stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. A less ambitious reporter might have just accepted that edict, but Gellhorn intended to be there — and nothing was going to stop her.

84. [Kempner woman and her brother made history in military aviation](#)

*(30 May) Killeen Daily Herald, By John Clark*

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Catherine Blashack recorded a number of “firsts” during her 23-year military career.

85. [Barred from combat, women working as codebreakers, cartographers and coxswains helped D-Day succeed](#)

*(31 May) The Associated Press, By Danica Kirka*

What did you do in the war, Granny? For British women who came of age during World War II, the answer to that question is often: quite a lot.



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024



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### Upcoming Events

**Title:** [National Women Veterans Recognition Day Celebration](#)  
**Location:** Women's Military Memorial (Arlington National Cemetery)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 June 2024  
**Time:** 1-5pm Eastern  
**Register:** [Click Here](#)  
**Details:** Women Veterans Recognition Day, June 12, is synonymous with the Military Women's Memorial – the place where our nation comes together to honor and celebrate America's military women on this historic day – the day that, with the stroke of the President's pen, granted women a permanent place and an opportunity for a career in the nation's military. Plan to join fellow servicemembers and honored guests at the Military Women's Memorial to celebrate our military women with the nation.

**Title:** [DACOWITS Quarterly Business Meeting](#)  
**Location:** AUSA Conference Center, Arlington, VA  
**Date:** 25 June 2024  
**Time:** 0800-1430  
**Register:** [Click Here](#) for Zoom Link  
**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.

**Title:** [2024 Joint Women's Leadership Symposium](#)  
**Location:** Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA  
**Date:** 26-28 June 2024  
**Time:** Various  
**Register:** [Click Here](#)  
**Details:** The Joint Women's Leadership Symposium 2024 is a two and a half day event focused on mentorship, leadership, and inspiring service women. The symposium will create a unique, unparalleled experience by bringing together service women and men from all eight uniformed services and from across the globe. The overarching theme for this year's symposium is "Strength through Service," which encourages attendees to discover themselves as unique leaders, diving into important topics such as fitness, mental health, professional alignment, and balancing of personal life with military service.

**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



# Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

## Articles of Interest

May 2024

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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.