



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

30 September 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [Air Guard Will Fall Short of Recruiting Goal Despite Virtual Initiatives](#)**
(14 Sep) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
Despite efforts to increase virtual recruiting, the director of the Air National Guard said Monday that his command will likely fall short of meeting its authorized strength of 107,700 airmen.
- [Spare your life: please, don't enlist in the military](#)**
(15 Sep) Georgia State Signal, By Susana Duran
Please do not join the military. Don't risk losing your life at the hands of your comrades. There are absurdly high levels of sexual assault and retaliation in the military. Who is not only allowing this to happen but covering it up?
- [From uniforms to first sergeants, Space Force gets down to basics](#)**
(15 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
About nine months into its existence, the Space Force is working on the nuts-and-bolts elements of how it will operate as its own military service.
- [Air Force will set new diversity recruiting targets in 2021](#)**
(15 Sep) Military.com, By Gina Harkins
The Air Force is setting new targets to ensure it is recruiting a force that represents the country's diversity, shaking up how it finds prospective members, the service's top recruiting chief said this week.
- [Chief Bass looks for new ways to track experience in promotion considerations](#)**
(16 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass is looking for a way to once again consider enlisted airmen's experience as part of the promotion process.
- [High school closures during pandemic could harm military recruiting goals, general says](#)**
(16 Sep) Military.com, By Gina Harkins
The Air Force was able to meet its recruiting goal in 2020, but the historic closures of schools across the country during the coronavirus pandemic has leaders bracing for challenges in meeting next year's mark.
- [New recruiting ad tells Gen Z to ditch the digital world and join the Marines](#)**
(17 Sep) Military.com, By Gina Harkins
Young people feeling suffocated by the constant barrage of social media and other digital alerts can leave the shallow online world for a place where they can form real bonds.
- [Air Force sets diversity targets for recruiting](#)**
(18 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
The Air Force is setting targets for improving the diversity of the airmen it recruits in fiscal 2021 — and it particularly wants to improve the representation of minorities in the ranks of rated officers it brings in.
- ['I feel a sense of duty:' Recruiters note influx of Hispanics enlisting in U.S. Army](#)**
(21 Sep) Click Orlando, By Ezzy Castro
22% of Hispanic females are currently serving, according to U.S. Army.



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10. **[USAF wants promotions to be more equitable, Brown says](#)**
(21 Sep) Air Force Magazine, By Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory
USAF is exploring ways to make promotions less biased based on Air Force Specialty Codes and other demographics, Air Force Chief of Staff Charles Q. Brown Jr. told reporters on Sept. 16.
11. **[Fifth Circuit Overturns Selective Service Ruling, Setting Up Supreme Court Fight](#)**
(22 Sep) Lawfare, By Russell Spivak
On Aug. 13, a unanimous panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit held that the Selective Service's male-only registration requirement did not violate the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause. In doing so, the panel overturned the Southern District of Texas's ruling to the contrary. The panel relied on a 1981 Supreme Court case on the same topic, albeit one adjudicated in a decidedly different era and facing decidedly different factual circumstances vis-à-vis female military service.
12. **[Washington Air National Guard Mobilizes Student Flight, Historic First](#)**
(23 Sep) Defense Department, By Air Force Capt. Hans Zeiger
Members of the Washington Air National Guard are serving in a domestic operations support role for the first time in state history, working at food banks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
13. **[Services to consider removing all identifying information from promotion board packets](#)**
(24 Sep) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
Soon, there will be no photos on packets sent to promotion boards, but that may just be the first step. The feeling now, according to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is that all identifying information should be stripped from documents when boards consider troops for promotion.
14. **[US Space Force may become a possibility for a few Naval Academy graduates](#)**
(28 Sep) Seapower, By Richard R. Burgess
In the future, a commission in the U.S. Space Force may be a possibility for a few new graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy.
15. **[Why the Navy must embrace diverse backgrounds and experiences](#)**
(28 Sep) Military.com, By Frances Salazar
In 2018, Hispanics accounted for 15% of active-duty Navy sailors; women accounted for only 19%. I proudly represent both of those demographics and used my diversity to craft noteworthy experiences during my time of service.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

16. **[Esper promised more diversity at the Pentagon. The White House had other ideas.](#)**
(15 Sep) Politico, By Lara Seligman and Sarah Cammarata
The Trump administration has moved or promoted at least 11 white men to senior positions at the Pentagon in the past three months, even as Defense Secretary Mark Esper has pledged to increase diversity at the department.
17. **[Army nominates first Hispanic-American woman to be service's top lawyer](#)**
(16 Sep) Army News Service, By Devon L. Suits
Michele Pearce was nominated to serve as the next Army general counsel. If confirmed by the Senate, she will be the first Hispanic-American woman to serve in the position.
18. **['Steely eyed killers' no more: What will the Corps' culture look like under a new force design?](#)**
(18 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
Throughout the past 244 years, an aggressive arrogance has become as much a part of a Marine's uniform as the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.



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19. **[Diversity is about saving Marines' lives, not political correctness, commandant says](#)**
(21 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol
The Marine Corps needs to become more diverse in order to save Marines' lives, Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger said on Wednesday.
20. **[Three times Ruth Bader Ginsburg championed equal rights for troops](#)**
(22 Sep) Connecting Vets, By Elizabeth Howe
Here are three noteworthy moments in history when Ginsburg championed equal rights for women service members:
In 1970, Ginsburg's legal advocacy pushed the military to drop its policy on abortion.
In 1973, Ginsburg helped secure equal benefits for women service members.
In 1996, Ginsburg helped open the Virginia Military Institute to women.
21. **['Reshape from within': How Berger plans to transform the Corps without a budget increase](#)**
(23 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
The future Marine force will be smaller, lighter, more maneuverable and with less room for inefficiencies, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger said Wednesday.
22. **[The Army is rolling out a new fitness test: Will it hold back women?](#)**
(24 Sep) Washington Post, By Missy Ryan
An Army initiative to create a stronger, fitter fighting force has yielded a dramatic gender gap, raising questions about whether the service might unintentionally compound barriers for women trying to move up the ranks.
23. **[Will Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego have female drill instructors this winter?](#)**
(24 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Philip Athey
The Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego may see its first female drill instructors training recruits as early as "this winter," Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger said Thursday.
24. **[Army leaders say new diversity efforts will work because service culture is so different from a decade ago](#)**
(24 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
Army leaders spearheading the service's diversity and inclusion programs said on Thursday that their new efforts would be successful because the Army has a totally different culture today than it did a decade ago.
25. **[Marines weigh closing Parris Island and San Diego to open new coed boot camp](#)**
(24 Sep) Military.com, By Gina Harkins
The Marine Corps is considering a plan in which it could close its two existing boot camp locations and funnel all recruits to a new base where men and women would train together.
26. **[The Marines are nowhere near ready for gender-integrated boot camp, commandant says](#)**
(24 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol
Despite making efforts to integrate male and female recruits at boot camp, the Marine Corps is still a long way off from being able to have men and women training in the same platoons, Marine Commandant Gen. David Berger said Thursday.
27. **[Navy updates SEAL ethos with gender-neutral language](#)**
(29 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Paul Szoldra
The Navy has modified its SEAL ethos and creed for special warfare combatant crewmen to remove references to "man" and "brotherhood" in favor of gender-neutral language, a Navy official said Monday.



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WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

28. [Paid parental leave is on the horizon, but feds still have questions](#)
(14 Sep) Federal Times, By Jessie Bur
The availability of paid parental leave for federal employees kicks off in just over two weeks, but employees and their representative organizations have informed the Office of Personnel Management that policies surrounding the use of that leave are still unclear or overly restrictive.
29. [The new Army Reserve chief is planning to \(virtually\) crash your staff meetings](#)
(15 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels isn't going to wait to see if Army Reserve units actually live out the service's "This Is My Squad" mantra — she's planning to show up, unannounced, and ensure they are herself. "This is My Squad" seems to be the Army's focus on how to address many of the challenges that the service is facing, such as stopping sexual harassment, assault, and suicide, and increasing diversity in the ranks.
30. [Navy 'gray-zone behavior' study part of military sexual assault prevention and response effort](#)
(16 Sep) Military Times, By Jared Morgan
In an effort to get ahead of potential sexual misconduct, the Navy has been using research and training models to learn more about "gray-zone behavior," or acts that don't meet the Navy's definition of sexual harassment or sexual assault.
31. [Soldier's Death Spurs Harder Look at Military Sexual Assault Across DOD](#)
(18 Sep) Air Force Magazine, By Rachel S. Cohen
The Air Force has more to do to lead by example, and to create a culture where people feel comfortable discussing sexual assault and other forms of violence with their superiors, service leadership said.
32. [Sexual harassment should not be the price of admission for women in the military](#)
(20 Sep) Air Force Times, By Maj. Grace Miller
Last week, the Air Force announced that it would be distributing a survey to Air and Space Force personnel about their experiences with interpersonal violence.
33. [Nursing mothers must have refrigerator access under new Air Force rules](#)
(21 Sep) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey
The Air Force has expanded the support nursing mothers must receive when lactating at work after having a new baby.
34. [CATCH a Serial Offender Program Available for Sexual Assault Victims Amid COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
(23 Sep) Defense Department, Immediate Release
The CATCH a Serial Offender program continues to be available for sexual assault victims amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
35. [Sergeant Major of the Army questions military child care in wake of COVID](#)
(22 Sep) Military Times, By Karen Jowers
Defense officials should expand child care capacity to ensure that military families' needs are met during crisis conditions such as the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a recommendation on its way to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper from the high-level DoD Military Family Readiness Council.
36. [In Response To Vanessa Guillen's Death, Legislation Would Make Military Sexual Harassment A Crime](#)
(22 Sep) KBPS, By Staff
Vanessa Guillen's death has become almost synonymous with the military's often criticized sexual assault and harassment response.



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37. **[Divorce rate among active duty troops remains stable](#)**

(23 Sep) Military.com, By Amy Bushatz

The divorce rate among female troops, both officer and enlisted, is historically much higher than that of their male counterparts, and that remained true in 2019. For example, the divorce rate among female soldiers is close to triple that of their male soldiers, at 7% compared to 2.5%. In the Marine Corps.

38. **[Twitter poll calls Army work-life balance into question](#)**

(23 Sep) Military Times, By Sarah Sicard

A Twitter poll shared by @mil_Leader on Sept. 22 asked soldiers on the platform whether the Army promotes a healthy balance of work and life. Though the survey will run through the end of the week, as it currently stands, the answer overwhelmingly is “no.”

39. **[Will Vanessa Guillén's Murder Finally Reform Sexual Assault Reporting In The Military?](#)**

(24 Sep) Elle Magazine, By Rose Minutaglio

When Teresa Beasley first heard about Vanessa Guillén, the 20-year-old Army specialist who was allegedly sexually harassed by a superior and then went missing from Fort Hood, she was heartbroken. But not surprised. During her ten years as a military counselor, Beasley met hundreds of young women who told her they were sexually harassed or assaulted by fellow military members.

40. **[No, military women are not getting pregnant to avoid deployment](#)**

(29 Sep) Task & Purpose, By David Roza

Jeannette Haynie loved flying Cobra helicopters. By 2006, the Marine officer had deployed three times, flown countless missions, and planned to keep flying on active duty for as long as she could. Kids were never part of the picture... until she got pregnant.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

41. **[Soldier and Boxer Naomi Graham Has Her Eyes on Olympic Gold: 'I Never Would've Imagined' It](#)**

(11 Sep) People Magazine, By Lindsay Kimble

Staff Sgt. Naomi Graham never thought she'd be on the cusp of Olympic glory — albeit, a year behind schedule. The Army active-duty soldier — who was recently named one of USA Boxing's team captains and will compete at the Tokyo Summer Games next year — tells PEOPLE, "I never would've imagined that I'd be on this level representing the U.S. Army, representing Team USA."

42. **['This all could have been prevented' — Inside the disappearance and death of Vanessa Guillén](#)**

(14 Sep) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky

Lupe Guillén used to think she wanted to join the military. And why wouldn't she? Her older sister Vanessa always dreamed of military service, and growing up, Lupe wanted to do everything Vanessa did.

43. **[25 years ago, Shannon Faulkner left The Citadel in tears. But she changed the corps](#)**

(15 Sep) The State, By Lyn Riddle

Even though 25 years have passed since she became the first woman to join the Citadel Corps of Cadets, people still ask, “are you THE Shannon Faulkner?” It happens so often her friends say “THE” is her first name. Faulkner spent two years battling through the federal courts to win a place in the corps, but she left the Charleston military school the same week she enrolled, in a driving rainstorm, sick and emotionally broken.



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44. **['It's time to fight for her!' Family, lawmakers introduce 'I Am Vanessa Guillén Act'](#)**
(16 Sep) CBS Austin, By Maritza Salazar
A bill named after murdered soldier Vanessa Guillén was introduced at the U.S. Capitol. If approved, the "I Am Vanessa Guillén Act" would offer members of the military a chance to report sexual harassment to a third party instead of going through the normal chain of command.
45. **[New ANG Deputy Director makes history as first non-pilot, first female](#)**
(22 Sep) Air National Guard, By Tech. Sgt. Morgan R. Lipinski
In 1985, newly-commissioned 2nd Lt. Dawne L. Deskins arrived at her first duty station, McChord Air Force Base, ready to take on the job of an air battle manager. Nearly 37 years later, now Maj. Gen. Deskins is making history by becoming the first non-pilot and first female to serve as the deputy director of the Air National Guard.
46. **[DOJ: Settlement reached for Marine sergeant whose vehicle was illegally auctioned](#)**
(23 Sep) Marine Corps Times, By Davis Winkie
More than two years after her car was towed and illegally auctioned off while she was deployed to Okinawa, Japan, Marine veteran Jennifer Wilbur can now shop for a new one thanks to a \$17,500 settlement obtained through the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, or SCRA.
47. **[One of first female Ranger School graduates leads Honor Guard for Justice Ginsburg](#)**
(25 Sep) WRBL, By Chuck Williams
This morning, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg became the first woman to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol. And there was a local connection as a joint military Honor Guard took Ginsburg's body into the rotunda. That Honor Guard was led by U.S. Army Capt. Shaye Haver, one of the first two women to graduate from Ranger School.
48. **[Army specialist from Iowa says military officials mishandled her claims of sexual assault](#)**
(25 Sep) Des Moines Register, By Melody Mercado
Camerina Gonzalez enlisted in the United States Army in 2011 with a desire to serve her country. Now Spc. Gonzalez is fighting the system she serves after she says she was sexually assaulted by a superior.
49. **[One of first females to join the silent service: 'I'm excited to see the day when women being on submarines is not a surprise to people.'](#)**
(25 Sep) The Day, By Julia Bergman
When, during one of her first days of classes at the University of Michigan's Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program, Jeanne Van Gilder was asked what career path she wanted to follow in the Navy, she was clear: if the opportunity opened up, she'd like to serve in the submarine force.
50. **[How this Marine found her voice, confidence to pursue the career she loves](#)**
(29 Sep) NBC News, By Julianne Pepitone
As the child of immigrants, "it took me time to know my self-worth," Cpl. Bonita Rodriguez told Know Your Value. "But I've realized I needed to stop being so quiet and start stepping up."
51. **[Remembering Vanessa Guillen on what would have been her 21st birthday](#)**
(30 Sep) CBS Austin, By Staff
September 30th would have been the 21st birthday of murdered Fort Hood Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen. In Guillen's hometown, Houston ISD has declared Wednesday "Vanessa Guillen Day" across the district.



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WOMEN VETERANS

52. [Graphic novel series highlights first and only woman to ever receive the Medal of Honor](#)
(14 Sep) *Military Times*, By J. D. Simkins
The seventh installment in an illustrated series dedicated to soldiers whose actions earned them the nation's highest award for military valor is now available online.
53. [Flyover Honors Pioneering WWII Female Pilot](#)
(15 Sep) *Spectrum Local News*, By Matt Hunter
During a two-year stretch of the war, Lynn Yonally was one of nearly 1,100 Women Airforce Service Pilots, a group that's better known as the WASPs.
54. [NJ veteran and victim of sex assault pushed to take action after Vanessa Guillen case](#)
(16 Sep) *NorthJersey.com*, By Kaitlyn Kanzler
When Belleville resident and Army veteran Lucy Del Gaudio saw news stories about how Vanessa Guillen, a 20-year-old soldier stationed at Fort Hood, had vanished after telling her mother about sexual harassment by a fellow soldier, she tried not to look too closely. She didn't know what kind of painful memories would be triggered, as a survivor of military sexual trauma.
55. [The oldest living US Marine celebrates her 107th birthday](#)
(19 Sep) *Task & Purpose*, By James Clark
Born Sept. 19, 1913 in Warren, Pennsylvania, when Dorothy (Schmidt) Cole was 29 she enlisted in the Marines at a time when few women served in the Corps.
56. [Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an advocate for military women, will be buried at Arlington](#)
(21 Sep) *Stars & Stripes*, By Steve Beynon
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who had advocated for military women during her career, will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, according to the Supreme Court.
57. ["I was raped while I was in the military," victims of military sexual trauma speak out](#)
(21 Sep) *FOX San Antonio*, By Yami Virgin
They sign up to serve our country, expecting to fight an enemy from another country in another uniform, but instead as Fox San Antonio uncovers, they end of being victimized by their own. To serve and protect our country is a calling, but for some the duty they felt to serve changed their lives forever. Fox San Antonio has agreed with these victims to use only their first names.
58. [House approves bill ordering VA to change gender-exclusive motto](#)
(22 Sep) *Stars & Stripes*, By Nikki Wentling
The House passed bipartisan legislation to change the Department of Veterans Affairs motto to be more inclusive of women who served.
59. [Air Force veteran aims to calm violence and help young victims in her community](#)
(23 Sep) *ABC News*, By Staff
U.S. Air Force veteran Jawanna Hardy knows the tragic story behind all of the young faces she sees in a memorial for kids lost to gun violence in Washington, D.C. Hardy was a E3, Airman First Class, who served for six years, including a one year tour in Qatar. Since leaving her post, she's founded an outreach program called "Guns Down Friday," which is aimed at providing comfort to families who have lost loved ones to gun violence.