



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

30 November 2020



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- [Senate weighs in on Space Force transfers, procurement](#)**
(15 Nov) Air Force Magazine, By Rachel S. Cohen
The Senate Appropriations Committee's version of the fiscal 2021 defense spending bill looks to continue shaping the young Space Force with provisions on personnel and acquisition.
- [From the Halls of Montezuma to infinity and beyond: now introducing Space Marines](#)**
(15 Nov) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
As if 2020 hasn't brought us enough surprises, U.S. Space Command announced on Friday that the U.S. military can now count Space Marines among its ranks ... or something along those lines.
- [DOD Diversity Must Start With Youngest Americans](#)**
(17 Nov) DoD News, By C. Todd Lopez
Diversity and inclusion are a top priority for the Defense Department, the department's director for manpower and personnel said.
- [Veterans may earn more than civilians in post-military careers, study shows](#)**
(16 Nov) Military.com, By Blake Stilwell
In many ways, the United States military is one of the most successful middle-class jobs programs ever created. No matter what someone's background is, they can join the military, learn a new skill while working, and leave with years of experience and education under their belt.
- [Space Force to Remain 'Lean, Agile, Fast'](#)**
(18 Nov) DoD News, By David Vergun
To better compete, Space Force places a premium on speed, the chief of space operations said at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics conference.
- [Brown: Diversity push changing personnel decision process](#)**
(17 Nov) Air Force Magazine, By Brian W. Everstine
Diversity and inclusion are now focal points in Air Force personnel decisions, Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. said.
- [Pentagon expected to increase Space Force funding in coming years](#)**
(20 Nov) C4ISRNET, By Nathan Strout
U.S. Space Force leadership is confident the new service's budget will increase in the coming years as the Pentagon continues to prioritize spending on space systems, according to the head of the Space Force's main acquisitions body.
- [As Army cuts recruiters, service deploys 2-man mobile recruiting stations](#)**
(21 Nov) Military.com, By Matthew Cox
U.S. Army Recruiting Command is reducing its force by roughly 1,700 recruiters over the next year. In an effort to be more efficient, it has launched a pilot program that equips select recruiters with mobile recruiting station gear to connect with young people in untapped areas of the country.
- [Trump's ban on transgender troops hurt the military, former service surgeons general say](#)**
(22 Nov) Washington Post, By Alex Horton
President Trump's order banning many transgender people from serving has eroded the military's ability to fight and win wars by narrowing its recruiting pool and lowering morale among transgender troops exempt from the policy, former top military physicians said in a study.



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10. [Space Force Attracting Digitally Savvy Young People, Leader Says](#)

(22 Nov) *DoD News*, By David Vergun

The Space Force is building out the service with the goals of not only defending U.S. and partner assets in space, but also developing capabilities that might be needed in the future, said its leader, who also mentioned that young people are excited about joining the service.

11. [Big Navy plans to offer 'early out' options for certain enlisted sailors](#)

(24 Nov) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz

Big Navy plans to offer "limited, voluntary early separations" for sailors in certain overmanned ratings and year groups who want to leave the service before their contractual obligations are up.

12. [Army doubling virtual recruiting events in push to outsmart the pandemic](#)

(24 Nov) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox

Army recruiting brigades across the country hope to double the number of virtual job fairs through the end of the year to become more savvy at reaching young people amid COVID-19 restrictions likely to persist into 2021.

13. [Chief of Space Operations Discusses Need for Outreach to Partners, State of Space Force](#)

(25 Nov) *DoD News*, By Jim Garamone

The importance of space to the modern world cannot be underestimated, and the U.S. Space Force will be key to defending the ultimate "high ground," the chief of space operations for the new service said.

14. [Air Force Academy looks to become a place for space](#)

(25 Nov) *Air Force Magazine*, By Rachel S. Cohen

The U.S. Air Force Academy has long been the training ground for cadets headed for careers in military space. But with the creation of a Space Force, the Colorado school is looking to expand the opportunities available to space-minded students.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

15. [What a Flournoy Pentagon could mean for the Air Force](#)

(13 Nov) *Air Force Magazine*, By Brian W. Everstine

Michèle A. Flournoy, the former under secretary of defense for policy, has emerged as the frontrunner to take over as defense secretary once the presumptive President-elect Joe Biden takes office in January.

16. [Want to become a pilot? Officer or enlisted, now's your chance to get core skills](#)

(13 Nov) *Air Force Times*, By Stephen Losey

Airmen and space professionals can now apply for a course that will teach fundamental skills necessary to become a rated officer — and perhaps pave the way to becoming a pilot.

17. [Senate, House take different views on Virginia class sub funding](#)

(16 Nov) *Virginian-Pilot*, By Dave Ress

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have taken different views on the pace of Virginia class submarine construction, a big block of business for Newport News Shipbuilding.

18. [Navy may extend life of Ohio SSBNs to provide cushion for introduction of Columbia-class](#)

(16 Nov) *USNI News*, By Megan Eckstein

The Navy is looking at extending the lives of the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines again — beyond the now 42-year planned life for the SSBNs — to add a little more capability for combatant commanders and a little more cushion in case of delays fielding their replacement.



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19. [Female combat deaths don't erode war support, study finds](#)
(17 Nov) *Stars & Stripes*, By Nancy Montgomery
Women's combat deaths do not erode public support for armed conflicts any more than the deaths of male soldiers, according to a new study.
20. [Group wants to halt ACFT until the Army assesses whether it's fair to female soldiers](#)
(17 Nov) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
An advocacy group for women veterans sent a letter to Congress this week, urging lawmakers to stop implementation of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) until the service completes an independent study of the new assessment's potential impacts on female soldiers.
21. [How the Navy is looking to build better flight training students](#)
(17 Nov) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz
The U.S. Navy has graduated its first group of students from a new aviation program aimed at better preparing would-be aviators and flight officers for the rigors of the flight training pipeline.
22. [Here are the Navy's standards for the new forearm planks, rowing events coming to the PRT](#)
(19 Nov) *Navy Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll
The Navy has released information on how sailors will be evaluated on two new events coming to the Physical Readiness Test: planks and rowing exercises.
23. [Navy confident it could build 3 Virginia SSNs a year, though more study needed on shipyard capacity](#)
(18 Nov) *USNI News*, By Megan Eckstein
The Navy has "full confidence we can ramp up" to building three attack submarines per year if the Navy buildup proposed by former Defense Secretary Mark Esper were to be enacted, despite ongoing delays in Block IV Virginia-class construction, the program executive officer for submarines said today.
24. [Air Force will now offer enlisted troops a path to pilot training](#)
(18 Nov) *Military.com*, By Oriana Pawlyk
The U.S. Air Force is giving enlisted airmen a chance to earn their wings through a program for aspiring pilots and crew.
25. [Servicewomen's advocacy group says the ACFT could deal 'irreparable damage' to the Army](#)
(20 Nov) *Task & Purpose*, By Haley Britzky
The Service Women's Action Network (SWAN), a non-partisan advocacy group for servicewomen and women veterans, joined a growing chorus of voices this week raising concerns over the Army's new fitness test.
26. [Request to delay new Army fitness test not deterring Fort Bragg soldiers](#)
(20 Nov) *The Fayetteville Observer*, By Rachael Riley
Capt. Chelsea Kim had just had a baby when she heard the Army would replace its physical fitness test with the new combat fitness test. Kim said it took a couple of more months postpartum to tackle the leg tucks.
27. [Biden's choice for secretary of Defense still in flux](#)
(23 Nov) *Politico*, By Lara Seligman, Natasha Bertrand and Bryan Bender
While Michèle Flournoy is a strong contender, people close to the president-elect say he's not entirely sold.



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28. [**Biden's likely defense secretary pick Flournoy faces progressive pushback**](#)
(23 Nov) *Foreign Policy*, By Jack Detsch and Robbie Gramer
From concerns about ties to defense contractors to worries about forever wars, at least one of the president-elect's potential nominees is raising hackles.
29. [**Biden to nominate Avril Haines as next director of national intelligence; she would be the first woman to hold the position**](#)
(23 Nov) *Washington Post*, By Shane Harris and Ellen Nakashima
President-elect Joe Biden's intention to nominate Avril D. Haines as the next director of national intelligence marks a historic turn — she would be the first woman to hold the country's top intelligence position — and a stabilizing one, installing a national security expert who is expected to restore rigor and independence to an office that has been beset by political intrigue and mismanagement, current and former officials said.
30. [**Meet The Women Who Could Become America's First Female Secretary Of Defense Under Biden**](#)
(23 Nov) *Forbes*, By Monica Haider
As someone whose father served in the army air corps, whose husband served in the navy and whose son is training in the navy, Flournoy has been exposed to the ins and outs of national service. From a professional in the defense department to a daughter, wife and mother to those who served the country, her perspective and vision for the needs of the military would be hard to challenge.
31. [**Biden's gender parity pledge could be watershed moment for women in national security**](#)
(24 Nov) *Defense News*, By Aaron Mehta
In the summer of 2019, when it was unclear who would emerge from a crowded Democratic primary, a small nonprofit without a single full-time staff member managed to convince 17 candidates to sign a pledge that at least 50 percent of their national security Senate-confirmed positions would be women.
32. [**Michele Flournoy could be first woman to run Pentagon, may bring many more women with her**](#)
(24 Nov) *NBC News*, By Courtney Kube
Michele Flournoy, Joe Biden's probable pick to run the Pentagon, would be the first female secretary of defense if confirmed and could appoint an unprecedented number of women to senior roles at the Defense Department.
33. [**Lawmakers, former officials surge support for Flournoy to be Biden's defense secretary**](#)
(25 Nov) *Defense News*, By Joe Gould and Aaron Mehta
With President-elect Joe Biden's pick for defense secretary still in flux, a new surge of support for Michèle Flournoy has emerged.
34. [**Air Force embracing new tech to solve pilot shortage**](#)
(25 Nov) *National Defense*, By Yasmin Tadjdeh
Facing an ongoing pilot shortage, the Air Force has been working to bolster the training of its undergraduate pilots and take advantage of new technologies such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence.
35. [**Tapping Flournoy as SecDef would be a really big deal**](#)
(26 Nov) *Defense One*, By Janine Davidson
The former policy undersecretary would be uniquely positioned to implement some long-overdue personnel changes.
36. [**Trump administration planning to ask US Congress to fund two Virginia-class attack submarines in 2021**](#)
(26 Nov) *Fox News*, By Caitlin McFall
The Trump administration is pushing for a 500-vessel Navy by 2045.



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37. [Biden announces all-female White House communications team](#)
(29 Nov) *Politico*, By Theodoric Meyer
The president-elect is appointing a team of veteran communicators who served in his campaign and in the Obama-Biden White House.
38. [Musing on gender integration in the military with Simone De Beauvoir](#)
(30 Nov) *War On The Rocks*, By Bill Bray
Forty years after the first military service academy classes with women graduated and 25 years after some combat roles were opened to women, gender integration and equality in the military remains incomplete and a challenge for the services.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

39. [So long to smocks? Army considers changes to 40-year-old maternity uniform](#)
(16 Nov) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
So Long to Smocks? Army Considers Changes to 40-Year-Old Maternity Uniform
40. [Norah O'Donnell Investigates Military Sexual Assault in Four-Part CBS News Series](#)
(17 Nov) *Variety*, By Brian Steinberg
Norah O'Donnell spent a year and a half looking into how the U.S. military treats victims of sexual assault, and found what she calls a "consequential failure" to address the needs of service members who are traumatized and harassed as they try to fulfill their mission of defending the United States.
41. [Parents of soldier who died by suicide after sexual assaults call out "complete failure of the Army"](#)
(17 Nov) *CBS Evening News*, By Norah O'donnell, Kristin Steve, Megan Towey, Adam Verdugo, Len Tepper
Army Private Second Class Nicole Burnham, was sexually assaulted in 2017, within two months of arriving at Camp Casey in South Korea. "There was an incident involving multiple male soldiers. We know that she was held down against her will. We know that there were pictures taken," Stacey Burnham told CBS Evening News. Two months later, Nicole was sexually assaulted a second time. She requested an expedited transfer back to the United States, far away from her assailant.
42. [Increased reporting of military sexual assaults has not led to more accountability, CBS News finds](#)
(17 Nov) *Stars and Stripes*, By Rose L. Thayer
Despite service members reporting more sexual assaults over the past decade, courts-martial and convictions for the charge have declined, according to an investigation airing this week on CBS News.
43. ["They took her soul": Army did "nothing" for soldier who reported sexual assault, mom says](#)
(18 Nov) *CBS News*, By Norah O'donnell, Kristin Steve, Megan Towey, Adam Verdugo, Len Tepper
Morgan had been in the Army National Guard for six years when she was sent on her first deployment to Kuwait in 2016. "When she was in Kuwait, she was sexually assaulted and continually harassed by one of her superiors," Debbie said. Morgan reported the assault but the response she received was "nothing," according to her mother. While on that same deployment, Morgan was sent to Afghanistan, where she was sexually assaulted again. Multiple fellow soldiers allegedly gang raped her.
44. [Army Must Take 'Hard Look' at Sexual Assault Prevention Program, Fort Hood Review Finds](#)
(18 Nov) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
An independent review of Fort Hood, Texas, in the wake of Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen's murder has recommended that the service take a "hard look" at the effectiveness of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program at all its installations, according to Under Secretary of the Army James McPherson.



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45. [Sexual assault and harassment prevention program 'hasn't achieved its mandate,' says Army secretary](#)
(18 Nov) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
An independent review of Fort Hood's command climate is complete and its findings are slated to be released Dec. 8, but Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said an initial look at the report reveals shortcomings that must be addressed.
46. [Pentagon whistleblowers say they were fired or suspended for reporting sexual assault cover-ups: "People are afraid"](#)
(19 Nov) *CBS News*, By Norah O'donnell, Kristin Steve, Megan Towey, Adam Verdugo, Len Tepper
Three women hired to work for the military's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program are speaking out, alleging improper investigations and retaliation firings despite the Pentagon spending tens of millions of dollars on prevention and pledging to tackle the systemic issue.
47. [Pregnant airmen needed to test out USAF's maternity flight suits](#)
(19 Nov) *Air Force Magazine*, By Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory
The Air Force Uniform Office is searching for 25 pregnant airmen at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to test the service's new Maternity Flight Duty Uniform.
48. [Lawmakers want DoD Family Advocacy Program improved to better help domestic violence victims](#)
(19 Nov) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III
In an effort aimed at reducing domestic violence in the ranks, a pair of senators is pushing for widespread improvements to the Defense Department's Family Advocacy Program to include better outreach about the service to military spouses.
49. [Pentagon's watchdog is pressed over a delayed harassment probe](#)
(19 Nov) *Bloomberg*, By Anthony Capaccio
Two Democratic lawmakers are pressing the Pentagon's inspector general to explain why a 16-month investigation into allegations of sexual harassment against the Navy's former auditor general hasn't been completed.
50. [Can Biden Make the Military Safe for Those Who Serve?](#)
(23 Nov) *Foreign Policy*, By Jamille Bigio, Cailin Crockett
Female and LGBTQ soldiers may face more danger from their colleagues than their enemies. Here's what the president-elect can do.
51. [Army offering \\$7,500 reward in investigation of sexual assault on Camp Buehring, Kuwait](#)
(24 Nov) *Army Times*, By Davis Winkie
The Army is investigating a sexual assault inside the airfield at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on Aug. 31, according to an official reward poster obtained by Military Times and a statement from the Army's Criminal Investigative Command confirming the investigation.
52. [Deployed and pregnant soldiers can receive temporary promotions under expanded policy](#)
(24 Nov) *Army Times*, By Kyle Rempfer
Soldiers deployed to combat or who are pregnant will be able to temporarily promote to the ranks of sergeant through sergeant major before completing the mandatory professional military education courses under an expanded policy that starts Jan. 1.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

53. [Ravenna woman earns U.S. Army's Expert Infantryman Badge](#)
(13 Nov) *Record-Courier*, By Staff
Sgt. Sarah N. Long of Ravenna became the first woman in 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, to earn an Expert Infantryman Badge on Oct. 16 at Fort Carson, Colorado.



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54. [**The nurse soldier: Why nurses and soldiers are more similar than you think**](#)
(15 Nov) *Military Times*, By Sgt. Leann Roggensack
These two separate experiences, being a nurse and being a soldier, have provided me with a unique perspective in which I can view and analyze both careers objectively as an outsider, but also as an insider.
55. [**Meet the Delaware Guard's only female warrant officer Black Hawk pilot**](#)
(17 Nov) *Army.mil*, By Capt. Nadine Wiley De Moura
Warrant Officer Kristina Multani is the only female warrant officer UH-60 pilot in the Delaware Army National Guard.
56. [**Mom, daughter reunite at mom's BMT graduation**](#)
(17 Nov) *37th Training Wing*, By Annette Crawford
A mother and her daughter had an unconventional reunion at a Basic Military Training graduation ceremony here Nov. 12, 2020. Airman Basic Kimberly Moore graduated while her daughter, Trainee Autumn Bonner, watched from the stands. The mother and daughter are from Elgin, Oklahoma. Moore, who is in the Air Force Reserve, graduated with the 326th Training Squadron and will now attend technical training at Sheppard AFB, Texas, to be an aerospace ground equipment technician.
57. [**Sisters By Blood, Now Sisters-In-Arms: Two Sets Of Sisters Graduate Recruit Training**](#)
(17 Nov) *Marine Corps Recruit Depot*, By Sgt. Dana Beesley
Three days before her grandfather passed away, Ashley Valentine, 19, made a promise to carry on his legacy in the United States armed services. After deciding to join the Marine Corps, her sister Amber, 22, made the decision to enlist as well.
58. [**Ferndale family gets new beginning during National Adoption Month**](#)
(20 Nov) *Detroit News* <video>
Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Michelle Link and her family had plenty to be thankful for this Thanksgiving as they finalized the adoption of two young boys they had been fostering.
59. [**Alaska Native Guardsman reflects on life and selfless service**](#)
(23 Nov) *Alaska National Guard*, By Edward Eagerton
2nd Lt. Laurel Foster, a Cup'ik Eskimo, has served in the military for over 12 years and now serves as the operations officer with the 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard.
60. [**Female service member pairs \\$700 heels with dress blues, causing the internet to implode**](#)
(24 Nov) *Military Times*, By Sarah Sicard
Red heels are the mark of designer Christian Louboutin, whose shoes are a status symbol in the footwear world. But to the online military community, they could be anything from an act of rebellion against uniform regulations to a downright financially irresponsible purchase.
61. [**Kiowa pilot becomes first active-duty soldier to earn extremely rare astronaut device**](#)
(27 Nov) *Military.com*, By Matthew Cox
This month, Lt. Col. Anne McClain became the first active-duty soldier in Army history to earn the rare astronaut uniform device.
62. [**Air Force doctor killed in vehicle accident in United Arab Emirates**](#)
(28 Nov) *Air Force Times*, By Kent Miller
Capt. (Dr.) Kelliann Leli, 30, of Parlin, New Jersey, died Nov. 27 in a non-combat related vehicle incident at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates. The cause of the incident is under investigation.



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63. [**A Coast Guardsman bought dinner for a stranger in Greenland; he turned out to be the prime minister**](#)

(30 Nov) Stars and Stripes, By Chad Garland

Seaman Kate Kilroy saw a stranger sitting alone and bought him a meal, just as she would have done in the small North Carolina town of Apex, outside Raleigh, where she was raised. The stranger turned out to be Greenland's prime minister, Kim Kielsen.

WOMEN VETERANS

64. [**Woman broke down gender barriers throughout Army career**](#)

(11 Nov) The Anson Record, By Liz O'Connell

When Frost joined the Army in 1974, she was surrounded by men, men and more men. It wasn't common for women to join in those days, but she and her family weren't common — she was following two of her older sisters who had joined.

65. [**Women in War: Tarpon Springs WWII veteran shares her story**](#)

(11 Nov) Tampa Bay Times, By Ileana Najarro

Helen Zirpiades served in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service division of the Navy — the WAVES.

66. [**Women's Army Auxiliary Corps WWII vet Golden Barkley turns 100**](#)

(11 Nov) Daily Journal, By Blake Alsup

Golden Crum Barkley turned 100 years old on Oct. 23. She's lived through, and served during, World War II and has witnessed history unfold in the decades since. In her century of life, Barkley only lived outside of her native Tippah County once, when she served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) during World War II.

67. [**San Diego VA Medical Center Could Be Named For A Female Veteran**](#)

(18 Nov) KPBS, By Steve Walsh

In its 2020 annual report, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans recommended the VA make a number of changes, including doing a better job of forecasting the needs of the growing number of female vets.

68. [**Former VA Official Claims Refusal to Discredit Female Veteran Who Complained of Sexual Assault Led to Firing**](#)

(19 Nov) Newsweek, By Naveed Jamali, Tom O'Connor And Ramsey Touchberry

The former Deputy Secretary of Veteran Affairs has claimed in an exclusive interview with Newsweek that he was fired for refusing to damage the reputation of a female Navy veteran who alleged she was the victim of a sexual assault in a V.A. facility.