



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—JANUARY 2023

The WPS in the Military News Round Up is a new initiative from the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI), the U.S. Army Office of Primary Responsibility for WPS implementation, to provide the U.S. Army WPS community of interest with a monthly round up of military related WPS articles to increase knowledge and raise awareness of WPS efforts and initiatives. The articles in the WPS News Round Up are provided for your situational awareness, only. The contents do not reflect the official views of, nor are they endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or PKSOI.

Women, Peace, and Security in the Military

News Round Up—January 2023

ARTICLE: USNS Comfort Completes 12th Iteration of Continuing Promise 2022

REPORTER: *By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Deven Fernandez, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet (12. 21.22)*

EXCERPT: Continuing Promise 2022 saw more than 13,000 patients, participated in more than 25 subject matter expert exchanges, conducted five humanitarian assistance and disaster relief workshops, shared in 18 Women, Peace and Security initiative events, and partook in 11 community relations engagements.

READ MORE: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3252189/usns-comfort-completes-12th-iteration-of-continuing-promise-2022/>

- **Related:** *2ND Marine Division Marines Participate in Continuing Promise 2022*
<https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/3250020/2nd-marine-division-marines-participate-in-continuing-promise-2022/>
- **Related:** *Photo— Haiti Medical Site Day 2*
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/7570051/haiti-medical-site-day-2>

ARTICLE: Army Recruits Members to Join the Army Women’s Initiatives Team

REPORTER: *By Francis Rivera, U.S. Army (12.20.22)*

EXCERPT: The Women’s Initiatives Team, which reports to and receives direction from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), allows representatives from across the Department of the Army to recommend policy, program, and resource changes to create opportunities for success in women’s recruitment, retention, readiness, and advancement across the Total Army.

READ MORE: <https://www.army.mil/article/262848>

- **Related:** *New ‘Women’s Initiatives Team’ seeking soldiers — men and women*
<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2022/12/28/new-womens-initiatives-team-seeking-soldiers-men-and-women/>

ARTICLE: NORTHCOM and SPACECOM host Gender Focal Point Training—PHOTOS

REPORTER: *USNORTHCOM (12.19.22)*

EXCERPT: The training included a USNORTHCOM senior leader panel on WPS. The discussion was moderated by USNORTHCOM Gender Advisor Tiffani Phillips, and participants included Rear Admiral Daniel Cheever, Rear Admiral Scott Robertson, Brig. Gen. Connie Jenkins, and Brig. Gen. Melissa Coburn.

READ MORE:

<https://www.facebook.com/USNORTHCOM/posts/pfbid02K5vXtxVcKxU3mk9DhRwjQfzvbJ6LoBmiKcP3i2quKagfLp69QnMFzU64toEjhK7pl>

ARTICLE: For the 1st time, a Black female Marine is set to be a 2-star general

REPORTER: *Irene Loewenson, Marine Corps Times (12.16.22)*

EXCERPT: One Marine will make Corps history by becoming the first Black woman to serve as a two-star general in the service. President Joe Biden appointed Brig. Gen. Lorna Mahlock to the grade of major general, the Pentagon announced on Dec. 6, and the Senate confirmed her Dec. 8. Mahlock is the deputy director of cybersecurity for combat support at the National Security Agency at Fort Meade., Md.

READ MORE: <https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2022/12/16/for-the-1st-time-a-black-female-marine-is-set-to-be-a-2-star-general/>

ARTICLE: Discrimination, sex assault are among barriers that prevent more women from serving in special ops forces, watchdog study says

REPORTER: *Doug G. Ware, Stars & Stripes (12.16.22)*

EXCERPT: There are several possible reasons why less than 10% of the military's special operations forces are women – including discrimination, sexual assault and conflicting military policies, a government watchdog concluded in a study released this week.

READ MORE: <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/us/2022-12-16/special-operations-women-study-pentagon-8445539.html>

- **Full GAO Report:** Women in Special Operations: Improvements to Policy, Data, and Assessments Needed to Better Understand and Address Career Barriers
<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-23-105168.pdf>

ARTICLE: Old inequalities, new space? Women, peace and space security

REPORTER: *By Elise Stephenson and Cassandra Steer, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (12.13.22)*

EXCERPT: Senior U.S. Space Force officials visiting Australia have warned that a conflict in space in the next few years is a very real prospect. From Australia's participation in the UN open-ended working group on reducing space threats, to the establishment of the Defence Space Command in January, space security is becoming an increasingly critical focus. To date, however, there's been no overlap between Australia's approach to space security and its commitments to international security through the UN women, peace and security (WPS) agenda. Why? And where are the women in space security?

READ MORE: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/old-inequalities-new-space-women-peace-and-space-security/>

ARTICLE: Analysis: War in Ukraine and Women in Combat

REPORTER: *By Dr. Keshab Giri, Australian Institute of International Affairs (12.13.22)*

EXCERPT: Women in combat face daunting challenges that are often misunderstood or neglected in armed forces settings. To move beyond the logics of masculinity in conflict, militaries need to better examine the intersection between gender, militarism, patriarchy, and war.

READ MORE: <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/war-in-ukraine-and-women-in-combat/>

ARTICLE: The Army's Fitness Test Might Be Revamped Yet Again for Gender-Neutral and Job-Specific Standards

REPORTER: *By Steve Beynon, Military.com (12.07.22)*

EXCERPT: The Army will likely have to implement further changes to its embattled fitness test, just months after the long-in-development Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, was finally rolled out, as Congress pushes for gender-neutral and potentially job-specific standards.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/07/armys-fitness-test-might-be-revamped-yet-again-gender-neutral-and-job-specific-standards.html>

ARTICLE: Lawmakers drop proposal to add women to the draft as defense bill headaches mount

REPORTER: *By Connor O'Brien, POLITICO (12.06.22)*

EXCERPT: Compromise defense policy legislation set to be filed Monday will not require women to register for a military draft, according to two people with knowledge of the negotiations, a stunning turnaround after the proposal gained bipartisan support in both the House and Senate this year.

READ MORE: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/12/06/ndaa-women-draft-dropped-523829>

ARTICLE: Human Security and Changing Threats: NATO's Policies for 2022 and Beyond

REPORTER: *By Dominic Solari and Hannah Sweeney, Lawfare (12.05.22)*

EXCERPT: The following synopsis reviews the newest Strategic Concept in contrast to NATO's previous strategic concept from 2010 in concert with the new Guiding Principles. (*Note: Synopsis highlight: "For the first time, the 2022 Strategic Concept emphasizes the high importance of human security, noting 'the cross-cutting importance of investing in human security and the Women, Peace and Security agenda across all core tasks.'"*)

READ MORE: <https://www.lawfareblog.com/human-security-and-changing-threats-natos-policies-2022-and-beyond>

ARTICLE: A record 6 women completed the Marine infantry officer course in 2022

REPORTER: *By Irene Loewenson, Marine Corps Times (11.30.22)*

EXCERPT: Six women — a record high — graduated from the grueling Marine Infantry Officer Course in fiscal year 2022, the Marine Corps has confirmed. A total of 12 women have now completed the course out of 39 female Marines who have attempted it, according to data provided to Marine Corps Times by Capt. Phil Parker, a Training Command spokesman, in November.

READ MORE: <https://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2022/11/30/a-record-6-women-completed-the-marine-infantry-officer-course-in-2022/>

ARTICLE: Opinion: Women fight too, so stop ignoring them in peacebuilding. 'Women and men experience conflict differently and may have different needs as they demobilise.'

REPORTER: *By Dr Siobhan O'Neill, Cristal Downing and Kato Van Broeckhoven, Managing Exits from Armed Conflict (MEAC) project by UNU-CPR and UNIDIR (11.28.22)*

EXCERPT: For a while, Alina Mykhailova's Instagram account was pretty typical for a European twenty-something. A photo in a sparkling dress one New Year's Eve, vacation shots, and occasional glimpses into her work as a Kyiv city council member. Until, that is, she went to war as a member of the Ukrainian armed forces and photographed her experiences. Alina's story is not unique. Many women serve in the Ukrainian forces or volunteered to join the fight against Russia. Recent statistics suggest that women comprise nearly 25% of Ukraine's military.

READ MORE: <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2022/11/28/Women-conflict-peacebuilding-resolution-1325-DDRR>

ARTICLE: 'Attitude shift': How covert teams of female US and Afghan soldiers opened the door for women in combat

REPORTER: *By Ethan Barton and Megan Myers, Fox News (11.24.22)*

EXCERPT: When Shelane Etchison was first embedded with the 75th Ranger Regiment, some male soldiers were understanding and befriended her. But mostly, she faced a cold reception as one of the first women to be put in a combat role. Etchison was a member of the inaugural Cultural Support Team, a 20-woman combat force attached to the 75th Ranger Regiment in 2011. That made her one of the first women in U.S. history to fight alongside men on the front lines before the Department of Defense lifted a female combat ban in 2015.

READ MORE: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/attitude-shift-covert-teams-female-us-afghan-soldiers-opened-door-women-combat>

- **Related: *TAKING ON THE TALIBAN: Elite female soldiers who formed sisterhood fighting in Afghanistan reunite in America***

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/taking-taliban-elite-female-soldiers-formed-sisterhood-fighting-afghanistan-reunite-america>

ARTICLE: Security force assistance primer

REPORTER: *By Center for Army Lessons Learned (11.23.22)*

EXCERPT: The intent of this primer is to review how the Army provides trained and ready SFA capabilities for combatant commands' (CCMDs') security cooperation (SC) programs and related activities coordinated through their theater armies. (*Note: Primer makes two mentions of Women, Peace and Security, p. 12 and p. 37*).

READ MORE: https://www.army.mil/article/262266/security_force_assistance_primer

Upcoming Events

WHAT: Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS)

WHEN: March 21-22, 2023

WHERE: Arlington, Va.

The next quarterly meeting will be March 21-22, 2023. The purpose of the meeting is for the DACOWITS to receive briefings and have discussions on topics related to the recruitment, retention, employment, integration, well-being, and treatment of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

READ MORE: <https://dacowits.defense.gov/>

ICYMI: Strategic blind spots? Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in US national security strategies.

WHEN: Originally held Dec. 19, 2022. Hosted by the Atlantic Council.

The role of gender in foreign and defense policy is a key element missing from the recently released NSS and NDS. How can integrating a gender perspective in US national security strategies help the United States and its allies and partners transform collective security?

Video: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/strategic-blind-spots/>

ICYMI: "Masculinities in Peace and Security."

WHEN: Originally held Nov. 30, 2022. Hosted by the International Peace Institute.

Gendered analyses of violence often focus narrowly on women and overlook the importance of understanding masculinities. To bridge this gap in understanding, IPI in partnership with the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), cohosted a policy forum on “Masculinities in Peace and Security.”

Video: <https://www.ipinst.org/2022/11/masculinities-in-peace-and-security#9>

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