



# WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

## NEWS ROUND UP—FEBRUARY 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 Combined Arms Center-designated 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 on WPS 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, CAC, or PKSOI.*

### Women, Peace, and Security in the Military

#### News Round Up—February 2023

**ARTICLE: Cleared for combat 10 years ago, women still fight for change in military**

**REPORTER:** *By Petula Dvorak, Washington Post (01.26.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Army Capt. Emily Lilly — then a single mother of two just a month shy of her 39th birthday — proved that she had the strength, endurance, grit, tenacity, and respect from her peers to graduate from the Army’s toughest leadership course two years after it opened to women. But there she was, with the coveted Ranger tab on her shoulder in Kuwait, seven years after the military lifted the ban on women serving in combat roles, and the Army had no women’s body armor for Lilly.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/01/26/women-combat-military-special-forces/>

**ARTICLE: Women at War: Ukraine's Female Soldiers Dream of Freedom, Fight for Survival**

**REPORTER:** *By Aleksander Palikot, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (01.26.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Oksana Hryhoryeva, gender adviser to the commander of the Ukrainian military’s Land Forces, told RFE/RL that, since the beginning of Russian full-scale invasion, she received reports of only two cases of harassment or gender discrimination. But she claimed this is an accurate reflection of reality. Most of her efforts, Hryhoryeva said, are connected to dealing with the consequences of Russian sexual violence in areas recaptured by Ukraine ...

**READ MORE:** <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-war-women-soldiers-female-freedom-survival/32240805.html>

- **RELATED: Ukrainian Military Begins Trial of Uniforms for Women**  
<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-army-women-uniforms/32194558.html>
- **RELATED: Ukraine’s need for women in war conflicts with nation’s gender norms, VCU professor’s new research finds**  
<https://news.vcu.edu/article/2023/01/ukraines-need-for-women-in-war-conflicts-with-nations-gender-norms-new-research-finds>
- **RELATED: Ukrainian women are pivotal to its military, but winning the right to fight was its own battle**  
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-ukraine-women-soldiers/>

**ARTICLE: The disturbing ties between authoritarianism and gender apartheid**

**REPORTER:** *By Naheed A. Farid, Opinion, The Hill (01.24.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Women pay a higher price under tyrannical regimes due to their vulnerability. For instance, the Taliban declared a blatant and brutal war against Afghan women. The Taliban issued at least 36

oppressive decrees, including a recent ban on girls attending universities and women working for NGOs, since their takeover.

**READ MORE:** <https://thehill.com/opinion/civil-rights/3828551-the-disturbing-ties-between-authoritarianism-and-gender-apartheid/>

**ARTICLE: NAVCENT holds Women, Peace, and Security Symposium in Kenya**

**REPORTER:** *By U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs (01.24.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The WPS Symposium was held in conjunction with Central Partnership Station, a five-day relationship-building mission focused on strengthening regional relationships through professional exchanges and community engagement.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3275466/navcent-holds-women-peace-and-security-symposium-in-kenya/>

**ARTICLE: Joint Task Force – Bravo conducts medical engagement in Olancho, Honduras**

**REPORTER:** *By U.S. Southern Command (01.23.23)*

**EXCERPT:** JTF-Bravo's Medical Detachment provided multiple services to increase the quality of life to those who visited our medical sites including an on-site pharmacy to receive vital medicines and vitamins. With partners *Ciudad Mujer*, a section dedicated to USSOUTHCOM Women, Peace, and Security initiative was available.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.southcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/Article/3275890/joint-task-force-bravo-conducts-medical-engagement-in-olancho-honduras/>

**ARTICLE: The 80th Training Command Welcomes its First Female Commander**

**REPORTER:** *By Staff Sgt. Starla Lewis, Army.mil (01.23.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The 80th Training Command, The Army School System (TASS), welcomed its first female commanding general Brig. Gen. Patricia Wallace, during an Assumption of Command ceremony here at the Frank B. Lotts Conference Center in Northern Chesterfield on January 21, 2023.

**READ MORE:**

[https://www.army.mil/article/263429/the\\_80th\\_training\\_command\\_welcomes\\_its\\_first\\_female\\_commander](https://www.army.mil/article/263429/the_80th_training_command_welcomes_its_first_female_commander)

**ARTICLE: Concerns Over Sexual Assault and Pandemic Response Among Factors Causing Military Recruitment Decline**

**REPORTER:** *By Wisconsin Public Radio (01.21.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Both Hellenbrand and Anderson said recruiters are also reporting that concerns over instances of sexual assault and suicide in the military have also made some people opposed to serving—especially in response to media coverage of high profile incidents like the 2020 murder of Spc. Vanessa Guillén at Fort Hood in Texas.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/syndicated/concerns-sexual-assault-pandemic-response-among-factors-causing-military-recruitment-decline/>

**ARTICLE: Sri Lanka and U.S. militaries Commence CARAT/MAREX Sri Lanka**

**REPORTER:** *By U.S. 7th Fleet and DESRON 7 Public Affairs (01.19.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The shore phase trainings will consist of classroom subject matter expert exchanges (SMEE), practical education, and a Women, Peace and Security roundtable hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.cpf.navy.mil/Newsroom/News/Article/3272698/sri-lanka-and-us-militaries-commence-caratmarex-sri-lanka/>

**ARTICLE: Colombian Army Has First female Huey II Helicopter Pilot**

**REPORTER:** *By Myriam Ortega, Diálogo (01.18.23)*

**EXCERPT:** In late November 2022, 1st Lt. Romero kept up with her training by joining binational exercise Southern Vanguard 23, held at Fort Tolemaida. The U.S. Army South-led, two-week-long training, conducted for the third time in Colombia, aims to improve readiness, security, and capabilities of participants ... A seminar on Women, Peace, and Security was also held as part of this training.

**READ MORE:** <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/colombian-army-has-first-female-huey-ii-helicopter-pilot/#.Y9LjEHZOIEZ>

**ARTICLE: Countering Terrorism—Ghana to host Exercise Flintlock for the first time in 15 years**

**REPORTER:** *By Eric Appah Marfo, Ghana News Agency (01.14.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Col. Robert Zyla, Deputy Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command Africa, said Ghana had demonstrated tremendous leadership through multilateral peacekeeping missions across the continent. Col. Zyla said this year’s Flintlock would feature Civil Affairs, medical and dental civic action engagements. “We are also working with our African partners to highlight key women, peace, and security initiatives,” he added.

**READ MORE:** <https://gna.org.gh/2023/01/countering-terrorism-ghana-to-host-exercise-flintlock-for-the-first-time-in-15-years/>

- **RELATED: Soldiers sensitised on gender mainstreaming in the (Ghana) Armed Forces**  
<https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2023/01/27/soldiers-sensitised-on-gender-mainstreaming-in-the-armed-forces/>

**ARTICLE: Joint Interagency Task Force West Supports Women Peace and Security in Vietnam**

**REPORTER:** *By Joint Interagency Task Force West (01.12.23)*

**EXCERPT:** JIATF West executes Building Partner Capacity (BPC) 333 programs (10 U.S.C. § 333) which have long served to build partnerships with foreign nations by providing equipment and training to enhance partner nations’ capabilities. In recent years, JIATF West added the integration of Women Peace and Security (WPS) to further enhance the effectiveness of these activities.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/437036/joint-interagency-task-force-west-supports-women-peace-and-security-vietnam>

**ARTICLE: Congress must not abandon female Afghan soldiers who fought alongside us**

**REPORTER:** *By Bill Richardson, Opinion, AZCentral.com (01.11.23)*

**EXCERPT:** These Afghan women, the Female Tactical Platoon (FTP), part of the Afghan National Army Special Operations Command, went through rigorous screening and training by U.S. Army Rangers and other U.S. agencies. As Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in 2021, the Afghan women FTPs weren’t on anyone’s radar to be evacuated. Attention focused on male interpreters and former U.S. government employees.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2023/01/11/congress-cant-abandon-female-afghan-soldiers-allies/69791127007/>

**ARTICLE: Mentorship Imbalance Could Affect Soldiers' Careers**

**REPORTER:** *By Association of the United States Army (01.11.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Based on surveys with about 1,200 Army special operations personnel and focus groups with 198 of them, the study from the University of Kansas found that while men in the study viewed mentorship as an opportunity for career advancement, the women saw it as a way to survive.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.ausa.org/news/mentorship-imbalance-could-affect-soldiers-careers>

- **FULL REPORT: "Up the Chain: Gendered Mentoring in the U.S. Army"**  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/eprint/JXKY89ASWQZJ3HQFQ5/full>
- **RELATED: Mentors offer advice at Women's Professional Leadership Forum**  
[https://www.army.mil/article/263441/mentors\\_offer\\_advice\\_at\\_womens\\_professional\\_leadership\\_forum](https://www.army.mil/article/263441/mentors_offer_advice_at_womens_professional_leadership_forum)

**ARTICLE: 'Our world will be more secure': Young women weigh in on the future of national security**

**REPORTER:** *By Mariele Padilla, The 19<sup>th</sup> (01.10.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The national security sector — which includes the military, foreign intelligence, and internal security — is recognized as one of the most powerful political sectors in the world and comprises a large percentage of the federal budget. Still, women account for about 20 percent of the workforce across the board, Buitta said.

**READ MORE:** <https://19thnews.org/2023/01/girl-security-future-national-security/>

**ARTICLE: US military expands leave for new parents in uniform**

**REPORTER:** *By Haley Britzky, CNN (01.05.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The US military introduced new rights on Wednesday for military parents, doubling the amount of leave time for service members who give birth and providing leave for new parents who don't give birth, including those who adopt and foster long-term. The new policy gives 12 weeks of parental leave to service members who give birth, and 12 weeks of leave for the non-birth parent. Previously, only the birthing parent was authorized six weeks of leave.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/05/politics/military-parental-leave-expansion/index.html>

- **RELATED: Military Families Stressed by Delay in Parental Leave Rules from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps**  
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/01/13/military-families-stressed-delay-parental-leave-rules-army-navy-and-marine-corps.html>

**ARTICLE: For the first time, an active-duty female soldier becomes Abrams master gunner**

**REPORTER:** *By Stars & Stripes (01.02.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The first female active-duty soldier has graduated from the M1A2 Abrams Master Gunner Course at Ft. Benning, Ga. Sgt. Cinthia Ramirez, assigned to Avenger Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, completed the roughly two-month course in December on her second try, according to a news release.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.stripes.com/branches/army/2023-01-02/first-female-abrams-master-gunner-8619117.html>

**ARTICLE: 'Rent the Camo' puts pregnant Air Force women in maternity uniforms**

**REPORTER:** *By Kelly Agee, Stars & Stripes (12.30.22)*

**EXCERPT:** This isn't Maj. Diana Halferty's first pregnancy in the Air Force. But it is the first in which she's able to easily find a maternity uniform that fits and is issued to her temporarily at no cost.

**READ MORE:** [https://www.stripes.com/branches/air\\_force/2022-12-29/air-force-pregnant-maternity-uniforms-8582304.html](https://www.stripes.com/branches/air_force/2022-12-29/air-force-pregnant-maternity-uniforms-8582304.html)

**ARTICLE: SIGNED INTO LAW: Senior Member of Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Shaheen Secures Numerous NH Priorities in FY23 Government Funding Bill**

**REPORTER:** *From Jeanne Shaheen office press release (12.30.22)*

**EXCERPT:** In 2017, Senator Shaheen's bipartisan legislation with Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), the Women, Peace, and Security Act, was signed into law, requiring the U.S. Government to actively work to promote the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peace negotiations. This year ... \$150 million (were secured) for the implementation of a multi-year strategy on women, peace, and security ... (as well as) language to promote women's participation in International Military Education and Training (IMET) courses.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.shaheen.senate.gov/news/press/signed-into-law-senior-member-of-senate-appropriations-committee-senator-shaheen-secures-numerous-nh-priorities-in-fy23-government-funding-bill>

**ARTICLE: Women's Health Equity is a Real Focus for DOD, Mullen Says**

**REPORTER:** *By Janet A. Aker, MHS Communications (12.27.22)*

**EXCERPT:** Health equality for women in service and women beneficiaries is and will remain a top priority for the Department of Defense, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Seileen Mullen made clear during a recent podcast. Talking to the Army Wife Network, Mullen said women have unique needs, including reproductive care and gender-specific care issues, because they differ from men in cardiovascular health, mental health, and musculoskeletal injuries, among other medical issues.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.health.mil/News/Articles/2022/12/27/Womens-Health-Equity-is-a-Real-Focus-for-DOD-Mullen-Says>

- **RELATED: JBLE Medical Clinics stand up Walk-in Contraception Clinic**  
<https://www.jble.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3279032/jble-medical-clinics-stand-up-walk-in-contraception-clinic/>

**ARTICLE: USU professor develops self-diagnosis, treatment kit for common female infections**

**REPORTER:** *By USU External Affairs (12.22.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Women serving in the U.S. military may soon have access to a symptom self-diagnosis and self-treatment kit used for common urogenital infections while deployed overseas or in austere environments. Dr. Elizabeth Kostas-Polston said delays, or missed diagnoses, for common urogenital infections in female warfighters can, and have, led to more severe health issues which can be avoided with self-diagnosis and self-treatment kits.

**READ MORE:** <https://usupulse.blogspot.com/2022/12/usu-professor-develops-self-diagnosis.html>

**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/>

**WHAT: U.S. Naval War College 2023 Women, Peace, and Security Symposium**

**WHEN:** April 26-28, 2023

**WHERE:** Newport, Rhode Island.

The Naval War College (NWC) will host its 9th annual Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Symposium, 26-28 April 2023, in Newport, Rhode Island. This year's theme is "Women, Peace, and Security in a Fragile World: Perspectives on Warfighting, Crisis Management, and Post-Conflict Transitions."

**READ MORE:** <https://usnwc.edu/News-and-Events/Events/US-Naval-War-College-2023-Women-Peace-and-Security-Symposium>

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