



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—MARCH 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. It provides 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—March 2023

HIGHLIGHT

ARTICLE: U.S. Army South Hosts Inaugural Women, Peace, and Security Symposium

REPORTER: *By Sgt. 1st Class Alan Brutus, U.S. Army South (02.24.23)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Army South hosted their inaugural Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Symposium in downtown San Antonio, Texas on Feb. 22 and 23, 2023. Representatives from 16 Central and South American and Caribbean partner nations participated in panel discussions, question and answer sessions, senior leader discussions, and a presentation on the overall WPS framework.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/264281/u_s_army_south_hosts_inaugural_women_peace_and_security_symposium

- **RELATED: U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion San Antonio participates in inaugural Women, Peace, and Security Symposium**

https://www.army.mil/article/264324/u_s_army_recruiting_battalion_san_antonio_participate_s_in_inaugural_women_peace_and_security_symposium

ARTICLE: Army Approach to Sexual Assault Prevention May Overlook Hazing and Male Victims, Study Finds

REPORTER: *By John Vandiver, Stars & Stripes (02.28.23)*

EXCERPT: Among the differences in the Army: “a much larger fraction of assaults have male victims; are done with the intent to abuse, bully, or haze the victim; involve multiple perpetrators; do not involve alcohol; or occur in the workplace,” Rand said

READ MORE: <https://www.stripes.com/branches/army/2023-02-28/army-sexual-assault-9280632.html>

ARTICLE: OPINION: One Year of Russia-Ukraine War: How the Conflict is Shaping New Roles and Challenges for Women

REPORTER: *By Akanksha Khullar, Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation (02.27.23)*

EXCERPT: The war has thus, clearly challenged pre-existing, patriarchal perception about gender and broadened some opportunities for women. Yet, it is these very women who are also shouldering a disproportionate impact of conflict with their rights increasingly hindered by the heightened risk of poor health outcomes, economic fragility, and exposure to violence.

READ MORE: <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/one-year-of-russia-ukraine-war-how-the-conflict-is-shaping-new-roles-and-challenges-for-women-12213652.html>

ARTICLE: *Issue Brief: Forward Together: Women, Peace, & Security & Human Security at NATO*

REPORTER: *By Samantha Turner, Stimson Center (02.24.23)*

EXCERPT: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) must adopt a flexible Human Security (HS) approach that can adapt to changing security concerns and addresses the concerns of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) community. Failure to address these concerns could put NATO at risk of falling short of its aspirations for both WPS and HS, potentially jeopardizing the safety of NATO citizens during active conflicts or crises.

READ MORE: <https://www.stimson.org/2023/forward-together-women-peace-security-human-security-at-nato/>

ARTICLE: *Statement on Ukraine by Sima Bahous, UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director*

REPORTER: *By Sima Bahous, UN Women Executive Director (02.24.23)*

EXCERPT: The UN has verified the killing of at least 2,296 women and girls since the start of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The actual numbers are likely significantly higher. Women and their children represent 90 percent of the 7.9 million people who have been forced to move to other countries. Of those displaced inside Ukraine, 68 percent are women. Many have lost their homes and jobs and lack access to basic social services and protection. Twelve months into the conflict 7.8 million women and 2 million girls in the country need assistance.

READ MORE: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/statement/2023/02/statement-on-ukraine-by-sima-bahous-un-under-secretary-general-and-un-women-executive-director>

ARTICLE: *Army Lt. Col. Adams: A Pioneer Worthy of Commemoration*

REPORTER: *By T. Anthony Bell, USAG Fort Lee Public Affairs Office (02.21.23)*

EXCERPT: The officer in the photograph is Maj. Charity E. Adams, performing military duties on one hand but literally hoisting much heavier burdens on another. Her troops are members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, a Women's Army Corps unit that became the only predominately Black women's battalion stationed in the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/264089/army_lt_col_adams_a_pioneer_worthy_of_commemoration

ARTICLE: *Deep Dive Recap: Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and the Gender Perspective*

REPORTER: *By NATO, (02.17.23)*

EXCERPT: On the 17th of February 2023, the International Military Staff (IMS) Gender Advisor, Lieutenant Colonel Katherine Prudhoe and staff hosted their monthly Deep Dive Session discussing the relevancy of the gender perspective in combatting trafficking of human beings (CTHB) as one of the five policy areas covered by NATO's approach to human security to be integrated into NATO's core tasks.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_212285.htm

ARTICLE: *Military to Cover Travel Costs and Offer Leave for Troops Seeking Abortions, Fertility Treatment*

REPORTER: *By Patricia Kime, Military.com (02.16.23)*

EXCERPT: Service women will soon be able to have their travel expenses paid and receive up to three weeks of leave to obtain an abortion out of state or receive fertility treatments; they also will have up to 20 weeks to notify their commands that they are pregnant, according to three new Defense Department policies.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/16/military-cover-travel-costs-and-offer-leave-troops-seeking-abortions-fertility-treatment.html>

- **RELATED: Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care**
<https://www.health.mil/News/In-the-Spotlight/Ensuring-Access-to-Reproductive-Health-Care>

ARTICLE: This Traveling Exhibit Highlights Women of Color Who Helped Protect the Country

REPORTER: *By Elizabeth Holmes, 6 News Richmond (02.14.23)*

EXCERPT: The Color of Freedom Exhibit, now on display at the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Va., brings the stories of those like Jordan's to light. Women of color fighting for their country whose stories are not often shared.

READ MORE: <https://www.wtvr.com/news/local-news/color-of-freedom-exhibit-fort-lee-february-14-2023>

ARTICLE: More Changes Brewing for Embattled Army Fitness Test

REPORTER: *By Drew F. Lawrence, Military.com (02.15.23)*

EXCERPT: The changes are still being formulated, with some of the uncertainty driven by two competing congressional requirements built into last year's annual defense policy bill to "establish gender-neutral fitness standards for combat [jobs] that are higher than those for non-combat [jobs]," while also creating gender-neutral standards for all soldiers.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/02/15/more-changes-brewing-embattled-army-fitness-test.html>

ARTICLE: Army Sees Safety, Not 'Wokeness,' As Top Recruiting Obstacle

REPORTER: *By Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press (02.12.23)*

EXCERPT: Army leaders said very few say they are deterred from enlisting due to "wokeness." In fact, concerns about discrimination against women and minorities is seen as a bigger issue, along with a more general distrust of the military.

READ MORE: <https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-politics-military-and-defense-race-ethnicity-6548adcb0fee590f3427771d1e1e7>

ARTICLE: Women Serve at the Helm of Security Operations During Exercise Obangame Express 23

REPORTER: *By Lt. Taija Griffin, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa / U.S. Sixth Fleet Public Affairs (02.03.23)*

EXCERPT: Women, Peace and Security initiatives are an integral component of efforts to enhance African partner capability by enabling U.S. security cooperation to better leverage the contributions of both men and women. OE23, one of three NAVAF-facilitated regional exercises, provides collaborative opportunities for African and U.S. forces, and international partners to address shared transnational maritime concerns.

READ MORE: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3287251/women-serve-at-the-helm-of-security-operations-during-exercise-obangame-express/>

ARTICLE: Continuing Hope: USU faculty, Staff Raise Awareness of Gender-Based Violence

REPORTER: *By Ian Neligh, Uniformed Services University (02.02.23)*

EXCERPT: Staff and faculty of the Uniformed Services University (USU) recently traveled to countries in the Caribbean, and Central and South America to help raise awareness of gender-based violence and health inequities. The most recent deployment aboard the USNS Comfort ran from Oct. 19 to Dec. 22, and it was the first time a distinct line of effort focused on inequities in public health impacting women's ability to fully participate in institutions and processes that foster peace and security.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/437891/continuing-hope-usu-faculty-staff-raise-awareness-gender-based-violence>

- **RELATED: USU, Canadian Armed Forces Host Military Women's Health Workshop**
<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/438144/usu-canadian-armed-forces-host-military-womens-health-workshop>

ARTICLE: Civilian Harm Mitigation: An Opportunity for Values-Based U.S. Leadership at NATO

REPORTER: *By Marc Garlasco, Andrew Hyde, Lawfare.com (02.02.23)*

EXCERPT: Over the past few years, NATO has broadened its focus on the protection of civilians to a larger human security frame ... Along with civilian protection, these themes include children in armed conflict, conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, combating human trafficking, and cultural property protection. Together, these themes work alongside the priority that NATO has placed on taking an active leadership role in the Women, Peace, and Security agenda over the past decade.

READ MORE: <https://www.lawfareblog.com/civilian-harm-mitigation-opportunity-values-based-us-leadership-nato>

ARTICLE: Israel's Sheba Hospital Takes Part in Training Exercise in Kenya

REPORTER: *By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, Jerusalem Post (01.31.23)*

EXCERPT: During the mission's opening day, NAVCENT hosted a Women, Peace and Security Symposium that included a panel discussion with participants from Kenya, Qatar, and the U.S. The conversation focused on the prevention of conflict and the promotion of peace through the empowerment of women.

READ MORE: <https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/article-730225>

ARTICLE: ACC Sword Athena Call for Nominations

REPORTER: *By Staff Sgt. Dana Tourtellotte, Headquarters Air Combat Command (01.31.23)*

EXCERPT: Air Combat Command is seeking nominees to participate in the fourth iteration of Sword Athena for 2023. Sword Athena is a commander ACC (COMACC) sponsored program to reduce female and family-centric barriers to readiness and service.

READ MORE: <https://www.acc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3281870/acc-sword-athena-call-for-nominations/>

ARTICLE: Air Force Wants to Hire More Special Agents to Investigate Domestic Violence

REPORTER: *By Thomas Novelly, Military.com (01.30.23)*

EXCERPT: The Department of the Air Force is doing a 90-day review of how the Air Force and Space Force help victims of domestic violence, an analysis that has already led to plans to hire more special agents for future investigations into cases of abuse. The review comes as a response to a 2021 survey that found that 66% of women and 48% of men in the Air Force reported experiencing some form of

interpersonal violence, meaning abuse that ranged in severity from workplace bullying to physical or sexual assault and family violence.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/01/30/air-force-wants-hire-more-special-agents-investigate-domestic-violence.html>

Upcoming Events

WHAT: NATO International Women's Day Conference

WHEN: March 8, 2023

WHERE: NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium and Virtual

The NATO Special Representative on Women, Peace, and Security will welcome attendees, the keynote from the Deputy Secretary General, as well as a keynote from the Chair of the Military Committee. The event will continue to explore nexus between genders and technology and include a discussion on The Military Approach to Women in Technology.

READ MORE: Watch online: https://nato-int.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-Xte9WyyTZqZhEZTrkNB9A

WHAT: 3rd Virtual Women's Air and Space Power Symposium

WHEN: March 8-10, 2023

WHERE: Virtual

The Secretary of the Air Force Office of Diversity and Inclusion will host the third annual Department of the Air Force Virtual Women's Air and Space Power Symposium. The symposium will be a virtual professional development series open to all, coinciding with Women's History Month and beginning on International Women's Day March 8.

READ MORE: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3311887/daf-hosts-3rd-virtual-womens-air-and-space-power-symposium/>

Register: <https://www.facebook.com/WomensAirAndSpacePowerSymposium/>

WHAT: WHINSEC Women, Peace, and Security Symposium

WHEN: March 15, 2023

WHERE: Fort Benning, Ga.

The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) will host its annual Women, Peace, and Security Symposium March 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm in the WHINSEC Auditorium.

READ MORE: <https://whinsec.org/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, RI

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>

ICYMI: Recruiting Women to the Military

Recently a panel of experts convened at the Naval Academy to discuss what the future of military recruitment could look like in the next decade. Women represent a minority of service members currently, Katherine Kuzminski, director of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at Center for a New American Security, said.

READ MORE: <https://govmatters.tv/recruiting-women-to-the-military/>

If you would like to be added or removed from the monthly WPS in the Military News Round Up distro list, please email: antonieta.rico.ctr@army.mil. Please forward the email to other members of the US Army WPS community who might find the contents valuable.