



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—APRIL 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—April 2023

ARTICLE: Bronco Brigade Reintroduces Bronco Women’s Mentorship Group

REPORTER: *By Spc. Darbi Colson, 3rd IBC, 25th Infantry Division (03.26.23)*

EXCERPT: The Bronco Women’s Mentorship Group was reestablished at the beginning of 2023 to provide an open forum for Soldiers to mentor, learn, and grow through shared experiences, networking, and camaraderie. “I think this group is important, specifically for a lot of new Soldiers like me, because we don’t know what we don’t know,” said Spc. Sylvia Middleton, an intelligence analyst assigned to 29th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The Bronco Women’s Mentorship Group’s mission aligns with the U.S. Army’s recently launched Women’s Initiative Team, which was created to analyze policies and military norms in an effort to improve quality of life across the branch, boost retention, and further readiness and advancement in the Army.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/441216/bronco-brigade-reintroduces-bronco-womens-mentorship-group>

ARTICLE: How the War in Iraq Changed the Military for Women

REPORTER: *By Steve Beynon and Rebecca Kheel, Military.com (03.19.23)*

EXCERPT: The very same war that would spur decades of chaos in the country of her birth also radically changed the American military to which she would one day pledge her life. The trail U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Zahraa Frelund now blazes was mapped by women who fought in Iraq at a time when American policymakers were still queasy about the prospect of women in combat.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/03/19/how-war-iraq-changed-military-women.html>

ARTICLE: Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing on Posture of USCENTCOM And USAFRICOM in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for FY24 and the Future Years Defense Program

REPORTER: *By DoD Transcripts (03.17.23)*

EXCERPT: *Note:* During the SASC posture hearing, Senator Mazie Hirono asked some questions on implementation of WPS in AFRICOM and CENTCOM regions to GEN Michael Kurilla (USA), CENTCOM Commander, and GEN Michael Langley (USMC), AFRICOM Commander.

READ MORE: <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/Transcripts/Article/3332606/senate-armed-services-committee-hearing-on-posture-of-uscentcom-and-usafricom-i/>

ARTICLE: Leadership: A Way of Life

REPORTER: *By Staff Sgt. Mahsima Alkamooneh, Minnesota National Guard (03.14.2023)*

EXCERPT: Leadership is more than just a word for Minnesota National Guard service members, Air Force Lt. Col. Gina Keppeler, of Duluth, Minnesota, and Army Lt. Col. Sarah Witt, of St. Paul, Minnesota, who are currently attending the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Instead, they say, it is a way of life. The Army War College is one of four resident U.S. senior service colleges. Each school has a different focus and brings together the next generation of senior strategic leaders to prepare them for the next steps in their careers. The school's first female student attended in 1969 and this year, nearly 20% of the over 300-strong class is made up of female leaders.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/440362/leadership-way-life>

ARTICLE: Making Space for Women: Gender, Diversity, and Outer Space

REPORTER: *By Dr. Elise Stephenson, UN Women (03.14.23)*

EXCERPT: Finally, early evidence shows government commitments to gender equality are not consistently applied to space portfolios. There is an urgent need to 'join the dots' and demonstrate the relevance of current gender and diversity policies in the space sector, space industry, space security, and responsible governance of space.

READ MORE: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2023/03/making-space-for-women-gender-diversity-and-outer-space>

ARTICLE: The Essential Role of Ukrainian Women in the War Against Russia

REPORTER: *By Vital Voices (03.13.23)*

EXCERPT: "Forty thousand Ukrainian women right now are on the frontlines," noted Horbunova, who joined the panel via Zoom from Ukraine. "At the same time, Ukrainian women are demonstrating outstanding solidarity, leadership, and courage to deliver support to the most vulnerable people."

READ MORE: <https://www.vitalvoices.org/news-articles/event/the-essential-role-of-ukrainian-women-in-the-war-against-russia/>

ARTICLE: Addressing the U.S. Military Recruiting Crisis

REPORTER: *By Retired Lt. Gen. David W. Barno, and Dr. Nora Bensahel, War on the Rocks (03.10.23)*

EXCERPT: All of the services need to invest far more time, energy, and money in efforts that specifically focus on recruiting qualified women, since an increasing number of women have both the education and skills needed for military service. Although women constitute just under half of the population between ages 15 and 24, more of them earn high school diplomas every year than their male peers (89.4 percent versus 84.2 percent) and more of them attend college and earn advanced degrees. In addition, more young women are physically fit than ever before. According to the NCAA, for example, girls and women constitute 43 percent of high school athletes, 47 percent of Division I college athletes, and more than 40 percent of Division II and III athletes. Yet women still only constitute 17 percent of the active force — and they are particularly underrepresented in the Army and the Marine Corps, comprising 15.5 percent and a paltry 9.1 percent, respectively.

READ MORE: <https://warontherocks.com/2023/03/addressing-the-u-s-military-recruiting-crisis/>

ARTICLE: Download in Progress: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Cyber Security

REPORTER: *By Allison Pytlak, Stimson Center (03.08.23)*

EXCERPT: A range of digital technologies amplify and reinforce discrimination and the stereotypes of the so-called offline world and introduce new forms of harm for women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

READ MORE: <https://www.stimson.org/2023/download-in-progress-addressing-the-gender-dimensions-of-cyber-security/>

ARTICLE: Afghan Women's Rights Defenders

REPORTER: *By Susan Hutchinson, Australian Institute of International Affairs (03.09.23)*

EXCERPT: When Kabul fell on 15 August 2021, it was not only photos of men in beards with guns that filled the international news media, but photos of international planes full of men too. Where were all the women? ... While international security forces were still in Kabul, and Afghan men were struggling to get into the airport to get on emergency evacuation flights, female-headed households stood no chance at entry because security forces were requiring passports as proof of ID. For years in Afghanistan, women were included on a man's passport. When that law changed, they still needed a man's permission to apply for a passport.

READ MORE: <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/afghan-womens-rights-defenders/>

ARTICLE: OPINION: America Is Again Failing Afghanistan's Women—and Itself

REPORTER: *By Xanthe Scharff, Foreign Policy (03.08.23)*

EXCERPT: How a nation state empowers or disempowers women is a key predictor of how it will behave among the community of nations. More than two decades of research have affirmed that women are essential to security, and their well-being and empowerment play a determinant role in the prevention of war and assurance of peace. We also know that women have a central role in advancing democratic freedom. Simply put, it is in the strategic interest of the United States to create and maintain a foreign policy that prioritizes women. To do so, it will first have to understand what it got so terribly wrong in Afghanistan.

READ MORE: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/03/08/united-states-afghanistan-taliban-women/>

ARTICLE: The 4 Highest-Ranking Women in the U.S. Military Speak About Their Experiences

REPORTER: *By Norah O'Donnell, CBS News (03.07.23)*

EXCERPT: Only 10 women in U.S. military history have served as four-star generals or four-star admirals, the military's highest ranks. Four of them took part in an exclusive interview with "CBS Evening News" anchor and managing editor Norah O'Donnell to discuss their experiences.

READ MORE: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-4-highest-ranking-women-in-the-us-military-speak-about-their-experiences/>

- **RELATED: DoD, Military Women's Memorial Host Women, Peace, Security panel**
<https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3323944/dod-military-womens-memorial-host-women-peace-security-panel/>

ARTICLE: USARJ Hosts Inaugural Women, Peace and Security Symposium

REPORTER: *By Sean Kimmons, U.S. Army Garrison Japan Public Affairs (03.07.23)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Army Japan held its first-ever Women, Peace and Security symposium at Camp Zama, Japan, March 6-8, to highlight the need for women to play a more significant role in defense sectors.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/264610/usarj_hosts_inaugural_women_peace_and_security_symposium

ARTICLE: ‘Radical Change of Direction’ Needed in Women, Peace and Security Agenda

REPORTER: *By UN Women (03.07.23)*

EXCERPT: New goals and effective plans on women’s involvement in peacebuilding are needed before it is too late, the head of the UN agency leading global efforts to achieve gender equality warned the Security Council on Tuesday. Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, was speaking during a Council meeting to reaffirm the importance of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, adopted in October 2000, and to take stock of implementation since it turned 20 nearly three years ago.

READ MORE: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134287>

- **RELATED: Women, Peace and Security: Ministerial-level Open Debate**
<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2023/03/women-peace-and-security-ministerial-level-open-debate.php>

ARTICLE: Enhancing US Global Competitiveness Through Women, Peace, and Security

REPORTER: *By Brenda Oppermann, Parameters (03.03.23)*

EXCERPT: Global powers, regional hegemony, and non-state actors engaged in a perennial state of competition dominate today’s security environment. In response, the Department of Defense has adopted the competition continuum model of cooperation, competition below armed conflict, and armed conflict. The military could significantly improve its efforts to compete along this continuum and achieve national security objectives by leveraging the Women, Peace, and Security global policy framework that supports gender equality and values women’s diverse roles in global security.

READ MORE: <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/parameters/vol53/iss1/9/>

ARTICLE: Factoring Gender into Kinetic Operations

REPORTER: *By Jody M. Prescott, Parameters (03.03.23)*

EXCERPT: US military practice neither considers the gendered effects of kinetic actions in planning and executing operations nor tracks and measures them. The DoD’s implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 instead focuses on the role of women in preventing armed conflict and resolving it. The implementation of the Department of Defense’s new Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Action Plan provides an opportunity to close this gap in an operationally relevant way.

READ MORE: <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/parameters/vol53/iss1/10/>

ARTICLE: USNORTHCOM shapes WPS program

REPORTER: *By Master Sgt. Liliana Moreno Miranda, U.S. Northern Command (03.02.23)*

EXCERPT: In its continuing effort to expand and evolve the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) program, U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) hosted a series of WPS barrier analysis focus groups for command members from Feb. 28 to Mar. 3, 2023, at the North American Aerospace Command and USNORTHCOM headquarters on Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/439579/usnorthcom-shapes-wps-program>

ARTICLE: Expanding Access for Contraceptive Care

REPORTER: *By Kirstin Grace-Simons, Madigan Army Medical Center (03.02.23)*

EXCERPT: Reproductive health care is a readiness issue. It is a personal issue and a family issue. Deciding how and when to have or add to a family is a concern that touches the active-duty service member and their family members. Madigan Army Medical Center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., in alignment with Department of Defense initiatives, is working to expand access to reproductive care and contraception options.

READ MORE: https://www.army.mil/article/264495/expanding_access_for_contraceptive_care

ARTICLE: Women Serving in Combat Roles Honored

REPORTER: *By Sgt. Darrell Stembridge, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs (03.02.2023)*

EXCERPT: From the Revolutionary War to current operations around the globe, women have played an unprecedented role in the defense of our nation. During the month of March, we celebrate the many contributions, as well as the courage and sacrifice of women who served across the U.S. Army as leaders, officers, and noncommissioned officers on the battlefield and at home station.

READ MORE: http://www.forthoodsentinel.com/news/women-serving-in-combat-roles-honored/article_c75f925c-b851-11ed-8ac9-77bea79eaeaa.html

- **RELATED: Long Overdue: The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal**
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/african-american-womens-service-and-experience>
- **RELATED: Hundreds Will Gather This Week to Remember the Life of Lori Piestewa**
<https://www.yourvalley.net/stories/hundreds-will-gather-this-week-to-remember-the-life-of-lori-piestewa,378227>
- **RELATED: Women's History Month: Women in the Army Highlights**
https://www.army.mil/women/?from=hp_spotlight

ARTICLE: African nations hold Women, Peace and Security Panel at AACS 2023

REPORTER: *By Staff Sgt. Madeleine Jinks, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Africa Public Affairs, (03.02.23)*

EXCERPT: This year's African Air Chiefs Symposium was enhanced for the first time by a Women, Peace and Security Panel March 1, in Dakar. To kick off this new addition, panelists from Malawi, Benin, Senegal, Tunisia, and Ghana spoke on initiatives impacting recruitment, challenges they face and areas of improvement for each country.

READ MORE: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3316261/african-nations-hold-women-peace-and-security-panel-at-aacs-2023/>

ARTICLE: The MCU Women, Peace and Security Scholars Program: An inaugural year in review

REPORTER: *By Dr. Lauren Mackenzie, Dr. Claire Metelits, & Dr. Bradford Wineman, Marine Corps Gazette (March 2023)*

EXCERPT: Why should Marines care about Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)? Broadly speaking, because WPS is about recognizing the values diverse perspectives can bring to operational effectiveness. ... During the 2021-2022 academic year, a select group of Marine Corps University students and faculty

responded to this call to action by conducting a year-long exploration of gender and security issues relevant to the Armed Services. During the summer of 2022, the WPS Scholars Program was re-named the Reynolds Scholars Program. Named after Lt. Gen. Lori Reynolds, the primary objective of this program remains to advance the WPS effort in professional military education.

READ MORE: PDF attached to email distro.



Gazette WPS March
2023 Article.pdf

Upcoming Events

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>

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

WHEN: June 27-28, 2023

WHERE: Arlington, Va.

The next quarterly meeting will be June 27-28, 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/>

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