



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—MAY 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—May 2023

ARTICLE: US Army Special Operations Command Has Its First Female Senior Enlisted Leader

REPORTER: *By Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, (05.02.23)*

EXCERPT: In a historic first, Command Sgt. Maj. JoAnn Naumann has become the first woman to serve as the senior enlisted leader of U.S. Army Special Operation Command (USASOC). Naumann comes to USASOC after serving as the senior enlisted leader for Special Operations Command-Korea, according to the command's news release.

READ MORE: <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-special-operations-command-female-senior-enlisted-leader-joann-naumann/>

ARTICLE: U.S. Naval War College hosts 9th annual Women, Peace and Security Symposium

REPORTER: *By Leisa Premdas, U.S. Naval War College Public Affairs (05.02.23)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. Naval War College (NWC) hosted the 9th iteration of its Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Symposium, April 27-28. The event titled "Women, Peace, and Security in a Fragile World: Perspectives on Warfighting, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Transitions" was aimed at fostering a shared understanding of the complex and dynamic global security environment through examination of women's influence and experience as stakeholders and catalysts of change alongside men.

READ MORE: <https://usnwc.edu/News-and-Events/News/US-Naval-War-College-Hosts-9th-Women-Peace-and-Security-Symposium>

ARTICLE: Female Army Reserve Soldier Receives Ranger Tab

REPORTER: *By Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Richardson, Army.mil (05.01.23)*

EXCERPT: On Friday, April 28, (1st Lt. Anna) Zaccaria joined the short list of women who have pinned the coveted U.S. Army Ranger Tab. She graduated from the grueling course without any need for recycling or retraining. Zaccaria is also the first female Army Reserve Infantry Officer to pin the Ranger Tab. Prior to Ranger school, she completed the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC), which is touted as another extremely challenging course for soldiers. While there, she became the first female Soldier to ever win the prestigious Iron Man Award.

READ MORE: https://www.army.mil/article/266290/female_army_reserve_soldier_receives_ranger_tab

ARTICLE: U.S. Southern Command Hosts OpWPS 100 Course (Photos)

REPORTER: *By @SOUTHCOM (04.27.23)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Southern Command completed its first ever Operationalizing Women, Peace and Security 100 course in April.

READ MORE: <https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1651613223961911298>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security at the Perry Center

REPORTER: *By Geraldine Cook, Diálogo (04.27.23)*

EXCERPT: Military and civilian personnel from 14 Latin American and Caribbean partner nations gathered at the workshop “Strategic and Political Implications of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: Women, Peace, and Security,” in Washington, D.C., April 12, 2023. The workshop was organized by the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies and U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM).

READ MORE: <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/women-peace-and-security-at-the-perry-center/#.ZFJqp3YpBEa>

- **RELATED: IADB representatives participate in the Workshop “Strategic Implications for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.”**

<https://www.jid.org/en/iadb-representatives-participate-in-the-workshop-strategic-implications-for-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda/>

ARTICLE: Canada Urges UN to Include Women in Looming Talks that Could Give Taliban Legitimacy

REPORTER: *By Dylan Robertson, The Canadian Press (04.27.23)*

EXCERPT: Canada says the United Nations' controversial move to enter dialogue with the Taliban must include women, as the organization mulls recognizing the terrorist group as the government of Afghanistan. Canada's ambassador for women, peace, and security, Jacqueline O'Neill, endorsed a letter calling for women to be at the table ... She posted a letter from the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, which warned Guterres that not having female leaders, persecuted minorities and human rights defenders at the meeting next week could set a grave precedent.

READ MORE: <https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/2023/04/27/canada-urges-un-to-include-women-in-looming-talks-that-could-give-taliban-legitimacy.html>

ARTICLE: Army Not Tweaking Fitness Test After Uncertainty Over Gender Standards

REPORTER: *By Steve Beynon, Military.com (04.26.23)*

EXCERPT: The Army is unlikely to change its new physical fitness test despite Congress recently passing a law pressing the service to establish gender-neutral standards, according to two sources with knowledge of the plans.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/04/26/army-fitness-test-wont-get-gender-tweaks-despite-lawmaker-concerns.html>

ARTICLE: Guard Names State Partnership Program Partnerships of the Year

REPORTER: *By Air Force Lt. Col. Allison Stephens, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs (04.25.23)*

EXCERPT: The award criteria included key leader and subject matter expert engagements, the program's capacity to include "whole of government" events, academic exchanges and the inclusion of Women, Peace and Security principles.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/266057/guard_names_state_partnership_program_partnerships_of_the_year

ARTICLE: Department of the Air Force - Women, Peace and Security (Video)

REPORTER: *By Master Sgt. Amber Williams, I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (04.21.23)*

EXCERPT: Around the world, conflict and disasters disproportionately affect women and children, yet women remain under-represented in efforts to secure against and resolve conflict. Women, peace and security is an internationally recognized framework among our allies and partners and signed into law in the U.S. in 2017.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/881028/departement-air-force-women-peace-and-security>

ARTICLE: ArmyU Offers Women, Peace, Security Course

REPORTER: *By Army University (04.20.23)*

EXCERPT: The Combined Arms Center, Army University and the Joint Staff Mobile Training Team will host an in-resident Operationalizing Women, Peace and Security 100 course May 23-25 at Fort Leavenworth. This three-day course is designed to train gender focal points with curriculum focused on CAC mission sets as per the Women, Peace and Security Strategic Framework Implementation Plan in support of the 2017 Women, Peace and Security Act.

READ MORE: <https://www.ftleavenworthlamp.com/2023/04/20/au-offers-women-peace-security-course/>

ARTICLE: Small Changes, Big Impacts: WPS Achievements in Contingent Owned Equipment Manual Negotiations

REPORTER: *By Phoebe Donnelly, The Global Observatory, International Peace Institute, (04.18.23)*

EXCERPT: For example, a woman police peacekeeper noted that, given her remote location, she faced challenges in finding sanitary products (women cannot carry a year's worth of such products due to limits on allocated luggage). These types of logistical considerations create an unnecessary burden for women peacekeepers. Another challenge is equipment. In one study on women deploying to UN peace operations, 109 out of 142 respondents raised the issue of ill-fitting equipment, which prevents women peacekeepers from fully and safely participating in UN peace operations.

READ MORE: <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2023/04/wps-achievements-contingent-owned-equipment-manual/>

ARTICLE: US Army Recruiting: Could Female Soldiers Close The Gap?

REPORTER: *By Kelsey Kernstine, News Nation (04.17.23)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. Army fell short of its recruiting target by about 15,000 in 2022. It's projected that it would again not meet its recruitment goals for the 2023 fiscal year, but could focusing efforts on

attracting service women help close the gap? The Pentagon started allowing women in combat roles 10 years ago. Since then, they've shattered the glass ceiling, but there's still a lot to do.

READ MORE: <https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/military/us-army-recruiting-could-female-soldiers-close-the-gap/>

ARTICLE: Second Women, Peace and Security Conference in Luanda

REPORTER: *By United States Embassy, Public Affairs Section, Luanda, Angola (04.13.23)*

EXCERPT: The Embassy of the United States of America in Angola and São Tomé and Príncipe organized, on April 11-12, 2013, the second Women, Peace and Security Conference in Luanda, capital of Angola, under the auspices of the Department of Defense through the US Africa Command (AFRICOM).

READ MORE: <https://ao.usembassy.gov/second-women-peace-and-security-conference-in-luanda/>

ARTICLE: Getting Serious About Diversity in Australia's Security Discourse

REPORTER: *By Mercedes Page, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (04.12.23)*

EXCERPT: Actively set targets for women and underrepresented groups as speakers at your organisation's events. Aim for more than 50% overall to ensure a diverse and inclusive line-up—particularly in the event someone declines or is a last-minute drop out. Make sure there isn't an overall line-up of all-male keynotes, either. Don't relegate women to panels about women, peace and security. It might surprise some people, but not all women work on women, peace and security or feminist foreign policy—as much as they are important issues that need a stronger focus. We need women and underrepresented groups working across the full spectrum of security issues.

READ MORE: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/getting-serious-about-diversity-in-australias-security-discourse/>

ARTICLE: Together, We Are All Capable

REPORTER: *By U.S. Army Maj. Jason Elmore, 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade (04.11.23)*

EXCERPT: The 1st and 54th SFAB currently provide military advisors to a variety of countries in Latin America. "Events like this can make tremendous headway in building relationships and connections with militaries in which the U.S. employs military advisors," said U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Robert Anspaugh, commander of 4th Battalion, 54th SFAB, who is currently employed in Bogotá, Colombia. The WPS (framework) recognizes the diverse roles women play as agents of change in preventing and resolving conflict, countering terrorism and violent extremism as well as building post-conflict peace and stability in our Hemisphere.

READ MORE: <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/together-we-are-all-capable/>

ARTICLE: The Global Fragility Act Takes Another Step Toward Conflict Prevention, But Bigger Strides Remain

REPORTER: *By Liz Hume, Just Security (04.10.23)*

EXCERPT: The new GFA long-term goal in Papua New Guinea focuses on empowering communities and marginalized populations, especially women, to prevent and resolve conflicts through non-violent means. This reflects the U.S. GFA strategy's effort to draw from a growing canon of laws and policies oriented toward prevention, including the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Act and the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act. ... But the rollout of the WPS policy framework has been slow

globally, and in Papua New Guinea, for the plan to succeed, integrating a robust WPS framework is essential to addressing the epidemic of violence against women.

READ MORE: <https://www.justsecurity.org/85897/the-global-fragility-act-takes-another-step-toward-conflict-prevention-but-bigger-strides-remain/>

ARTICLE: ARC Athena leaps from the minds of Airmen

REPORTER: *By Master Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi, 911th Airlift Wing (04.07.23)*

EXCERPT: According to Lt. Gen. John P. Healy, the chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of AFRC, “Developing a lethal, ready force calls for enacting policies that remove barriers to effective service for everyone. Women represent more than a quarter of the Air Force Reserve, and our overall readiness is strongly influenced by their readiness.”

READ MORE: <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3356153/arc-athena-leaps-from-the-minds-of-airmen/>

ARTICLE: ‘Then, We Lost Everything:’ Afghan Evacuee Experiences of Operation Allies Refuge and Operation Allies Welcome"

REPORTER: *By the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies and the Refugee Dream Center, Brown University (04.04.23)*

EXCERPT: Early on, these meetings - which were oftentimes structured like jirga councils - included only senior Afghan men. It was later adjusted to give a voice to Afghan women and ensure other interest groups were represented. The DoD instrumentalized its gender advisory board during OAW by sending Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) gender advisors to the safe havens to “make adjustments with task force military personnel and US interagency partners on how to allocate resources, implement programming, and deal with critical incident needs.”

READ MORE: <https://watson.brown.edu/research/2023/then-we-lost-everything-afghan-evacuee-experiences-operation-allies-refuge-and>

FULL REPORT:

https://watson.brown.edu/files/watson/imce/news/ResearchBriefs/2023/RDC%20Report_FINAL.pdf

ARTICLE: Ukrainian NCOs, CMSAF, visit and study in the KMC

REPORTER: *By Tech. Sgt. Steven M. Adkins, U.S. Air Forces in Europe/Africa Public Affairs (04.03.23)*

EXCERPT: The Inter-European Air Force Academy on Kapaun Air Station, Germany, hosted 49 Ukrainian NCOs for a three-week course – marking the first time IEAFA has offered a course designed for and offered to only Ukrainian forces. During the course, students strengthened their knowledge, focusing on professional military education, air base defense, tactical combat casualty care and women’s peace and security.

READ MORE: <https://www.youngstown.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3349317/ukrainian-ncos-cmsaf-visit-and-study-in-the-kmc/>

ARTICLE: Celebrating Women’s History Month: Why Representation Matters in the Military

REPORTER: *By Staff Sgt. Kristen Heller 35th Fighter Wing Public Affairs (03.31.23)*

EXCERPT: Rogers expressed that her promotion to the rank of chief is not just about having more women in leadership roles, but it is about the importance of the tangible representation of what’s possible for women, giving other women someone with whom to connect.

"I have never been too interested in reading any of the books on the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force reading list," said Rogers. "That is until CMSAF Bass." ... "I can't really explain how powerful that was for me to see a woman as the senior enlisted leader of any service."

READ MORE: <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/3348447/celebrating-womens-history-month-why-representation-matters-in-the-military/>

ARTICLE: SOCAFRICA Co-hosts Women in Security Conference with Kenyan Partners in Nairobi

REPORTER: *By Special Operations Command Africa (03.30.23)*

EXCERPT: "SOCAFRICA's Women, Peace, and Security program is focused on operationalizing the WPS agenda at the local level in communities that are affected by or vulnerable to radicalization by extremists or extremist violence," said SOCAFRICA's Deputy Chief of Staff Faye Cuevas. Women, Peace, and Security initiatives enhance African partner capabilities by enabling U.S. security cooperation to better leverage the contributions of both men and women. This conference shared WPS success stories and effects including Kenya's Team Lioness.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/441551/socafrika-co-hosts-women-security-conference-with-kenyan-partners-nairobi>

ARTICLE: Equality and Leading Teams in the Military

REPORTER: *By Natalia Kalmykova, Chester Spell, and Katerina Bezrukova, Psychology Today (03.29.23)*

EXCERPT: Wars are certainly fought differently now than 100 years ago. Yet, while the tools, weapons, and strategies are different, people still think about war as something that engages men primarily, despite the growing presence of women in militaries across the globe ... These beliefs of ancient origin about men as superior fighters are entrenched in many aspects of society and cultures but are especially a part of the military culture. The notion that physical strength and size are prerequisites to effective fighting persists.

READ MORE: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/team-spirit/202303/equality-and-leading-teams-in-the-military>

ARTICLE: Arab Women Break Boundaries and Stereotypes in Middle Eastern Militaries

REPORTER: *By Jasmin Alsaied, Melissa Horvath, and Katie Crombe, The Middle East Institute (03.28.23)*

EXCERPT: Continued U.S. support to advance women's meaningful participation in partner nation defense and security sectors — through Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiatives and various security cooperation and security assistance programs — remains critical. Under the Department of Defense's (DoD) 2020 WPS Strategic Framework Implementation Plan, the department can provide additional opportunities, engagements, training, and education to reinforce these accomplishments.

READ MORE: <https://www.mei.edu/blog/arab-women-break-boundaries-and-stereotypes-middle-eastern-militaries>

ARTICLE: Deep Dive Recap: Counter Terrorism and the Gender Perspective

REPORTER: *By NATO (03.28.23)*

EXCERPT: The NATO International Military Staff Office of the Gender Advisor hosted its tenth Deep Dive Session, this time focused on Counter Terrorism and the Gender Perspective. The session discussed key gender considerations integral to understanding terrorism in order to enhance the effectiveness of counter terrorism measures.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_213838.htm?selectedLocale=en

Upcoming Events

WHAT: U.S. Army/CAC OpWPS 100 Course

WHEN: May 23-25, 2023

WHERE: Fort Leavenworth, KS

The Combined Arms Center, Army University and the Joint Staff Mobile Training Team will host an in-resident Operationalizing Women, Peace and Security 100 course May 23-25 at Fort Leavenworth. This three-day course is designed to train gender focal points with curriculum focused on CAC mission sets as per the Women, Peace and Security Strategic Framework Implementation Plan in support of the 2017 Women, Peace and Security Act.

READ MORE: <https://www.ftleavenworthlamp.com/2023/04/20/au-offers-women-peace-security-course/>

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/>

WHAT: U.S. Army/PKSOI WPS Workshop

WHEN: June 27-28, 2023

WHERE: Carlisle, PA

The intent of the workshop is to convene Action Officers and U.S. Army Gender Focal Points across CAC and the US Army to raise awareness of WPS background and implementation requirements; identify best practices and make recommendations for implementing WPS requirements in Doctrine, Training, and PME; and form a working group to share knowledge, track progress and drive WPS implementation in the Army

READ MORE: Contact PKSOI

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.