



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—JUNE 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—June 2023

ARTICLE: Colombia and US NCOs Lead the Way in WPS Initiatives

REPORTER: *By Geraldine Cook, Diálogo (05.31.23)*

EXCERPT: Colombian and U.S. noncommissioned officers (NCOs) planned and spearheaded the second hybrid Senior Enlisted Leader (SEL) Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Seminar in Santa Marta, Colombia, May 22-24, 2023. Joint Command Sergeant Major Consuelo Díaz Álvarez, sergeant major of the Colombian Military Forces, and U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Benjamin Jones, command senior enlisted leader at U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), worked together with their teams to host the largest in person and virtual SEL WPS event.

READ MORE:

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/senior-enlisted-leader-wps-seminar-a-catalyst-for-change/>

ARTICLE: From Serving in Secret to Delivering a Key Address, Women are More Visible in the Military

REPORTER: *By Frank Witsil, Detroit Free Press (05.27.2023)*

EXCERPT: Women hold leadership positions at all levels, including secretary of the Army, top brass, noncommissioned officers and graduating cadets who will soon be second lieutenants — and that's just the Army. Overall, women make up less than 20% of America's active-duty force, and some hope that if more women serve it can help ease the military's recruiting challenges.

READ MORE: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2023/05/27/women-us-military-kamala-harris-west-point-speech-memorial-day/70206366007/>

ARTICLE: Gendering Cybersecurity Through Women, Peace and Security

REPORTER: *By Julia-Silvana Hofstetter, ICT4Peace Foundation; and Panthea Pourmalek, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (05.31.2023)*

EXCERPT: New risks created by emerging and modern technologies have gendered dimensions and impacts, which remain unrecognized and unaddressed by most policy approaches to technology and cybersecurity. Building on earlier research on women's use of information and communication technologies for peacebuilding, the GNWP ... developed this research report on the connections and synergies between national level policies on Women, Peace and Security, and cybersecurity.

READ MORE: <https://gnwp.org/gender-cybersecurity-through-women-peace-security/>

ARTICLE: Portugal Passes the Position of Chair of the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives to the United States

REPORTER: *By NATO (05.25.23)*

EXCERPT: On 23rd May 2023, the Director General of the NATO International Military Staff (IMS), Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak hosted the handover ceremony for the Chair of the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives (NCGP). Lieutenant Colonel Diana Morais (Portugal) handed the position over to the Chair-Elect Lieutenant Colonel Jane Male (USA). The NCGP promotes gender mainstreaming as a strategy for making the concerns and experiences men, women, boys and girls an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and military operations.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_214903.htm?selectedLocale=en

ARTICLE: Women, Peace and Security in the Digital Age: Key Take-aways from Panel Discussion

REPORTER: *By PeaceRep, University of Edinburgh Law School (05.23.2023)*

EXCERPT: On May 9th, PeaceRep hosted a public event at the University of Edinburgh to discuss opportunities and challenges that the Digital Age offers women's equality advocates who are seeking to influence conflict transitions. Panelists shared their insights as experts on Women, Peace and Security, peace and conflict, and PeaceTech. The event also showcased PeaceFem, a mobile app co-created by PeaceRep researchers and partners as a digital tool to support women's inclusion in peacemaking.

READ MORE: <https://peacerep.org/2023/05/23/women-peace-security-digital-age-key-takeaways/>

ARTICLE: Women and Civil Society Must Play Vital Roles in Ukraine's Postwar Recovery (OPINION)

REPORTER: *By Melanne Vermeer, director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security; and Jess Keller (05.23.2023)*

EXCERPT: Ukrainian and international leaders are gathering in London next month for a summit to generate critical support for Ukraine's economic and social recovery ... The meeting is also an opportunity to "build forward," according to Karbowska, and to lay the groundwork for a new social contract to ensure inclusive, sustainable recovery for all Ukrainians. Placing gender equality and women's meaningful participation at the forefront of these efforts is key to success. This means recognizing that the war is affecting women and girls differently from men and boys and taking into account their needs and priorities from the start of the recovery and reconstruction process. It also means ensuring that women and civil society — who have been indispensable as first responders in the war — are central to the planning, distribution and oversight of funds in the reconstruction effort.

READ MORE: <https://www.passblue.com/2023/05/30/women-and-civil-society-must-play-vital-roles-in-ukraines-postwar-recovery/>

ARTICLE: Gen. Richardson Visits Colombia, Brazil (PHOTO)

REPORTER: *Photo courtesy U.S. Embassy Brazil (05.24.2023)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Army Gen. Laura Richardson, commander of U.S. Southern Command, joins U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, Brazil military leaders and service members to discuss the role of women in security during an event focused on Women, Peace, and Security aims.

READ MORE: <https://www.southcom.mil/MEDIA/IMAGERY/igphoto/2003230810/>

ARTICLE: Women's Secret War: The Inside Story of How the US Military Sent Female Soldiers On Covert Combat Missions to Afghanistan

REPORTER: *By Jennifer Greenburg, Lecturer in International Relations, University of Sheffield (05.24.2023)*

EXCERPT: Women were still banned from direct assignment to ground combat units. However, these female soldiers were deployed to access Afghan women and their households in the so-called "battle for hearts and minds" during the Afghanistan war, which began on October 7, 2001, when the US and British militaries carried out an air assault, followed by a ground invasion, in response to the September 11 attacks. And these women also played critical roles in gathering intelligence. Their (gender) – ironically, the basis of the excuse the US military had long given for avoiding integrating women into combat units – was now seen as an intelligence asset.

READ MORE: <https://theconversation.com/womens-secret-war-the-inside-story-of-how-the-us-military-sent-female-soldiers-on-covert-combat-missions-to-afghanistan-205669>

ARTICLE: Through Struggle and Strife, Women of West Point Carve out a Military Legacy

REPORTER: *By Jorge Garcia, Army.mil (05.24.2023)*

EXCERPT: In the past, many of the military skills learned in the Army were measured by a man's intelligence, strength and dexterity, despite the fact that women are no less capable of lugging a rucksack, mastering marksmanship or leading Soldiers. Consequently, over the years, the Army has steadily taken strides to pass regulations allowing women to serve in equal standing to men.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/266970/through_struggle_and_strife_women_of_west_point_carve_out_a_military_legacy

ARTICLE: Nearly 1 in 3 Female Recruits Were Injured in Army Basic Training Last Year

REPORTER: *By Steve Beynon, Military.com (05.18.2023)*

EXCERPT: Women are at least twice as likely as men to be injured in Army basic training, according to data collected over six years by the service. Most of those injuries were musculoskeletal -- meaning they affect the bones, muscles, joints and tendons of female recruits. During 2022, nearly 30% of female recruits were injured on average each month during Army basic training. The average was 23% per month between 2017 and 2022, the data shows. During those years, about 12% of male recruits were injured each month.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/05/18/nearly-1-3-female-recruits-were-injured-army-basic-training-last-year.html>

(Note: The Defense Health Board's Active Duty Women's Health Care Services Report 2020, identified best musculoskeletal injury prevention practices for Active Duty women. The report is available here: <https://www.health.mil/About-MHS/MHS-Elements/Defense-Health-Board/Reports>)

ARTICLE: Did Women Just Not Exist?

REPORTER: *By MG (Ret.) Mari Eder, War Room, U.S. Army War College (05.18.2023)*

EXCERPT: That high school senior said "Here in 2021, young women are told we can make history and achieve anything. But that's difficult to believe when history curriculums marginalize or ignore women's accomplishments. When these facts are omitted from compulsory education, it becomes more difficult for students to see how gender-based inequities remain entrenched – which in turn will make it harder

for us to escape them.” The significance of teaching history that includes women isn’t just important in high school or university courses. Military education must do better as well.

READ MORE: <https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/articles/women/>

ARTICLE: Increasing Post-Partum Return-to-Fitness Time Advances Women’s Health, Military Readiness

REPORTER: *By V. Hauschild, MPH, Defense Centers for Public Health (05.16.2023)*

EXCERPT: The DOD report reviewed existing scientific data, military health policies and women’s health services and products and provided recommendations to improve Active Duty Women’s musculoskeletal, reproductive and psychological health.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/266739/increasing_post_partum_return_to_fitness_time_advances_womens_health_military_readiness

ARTICLE: Michigan National Guard to Receive Nearly \$26 Million to Upgrade Women’s Facilities

REPORTER: *By Matt Jaworowski, WLNS.com (05.16.2023)*

EXCERPT: The Michigan Army National Guard will receive nearly \$26 million in federal funding to upgrade its facilities for women service members. Sen. Gary Peters, D-Michigan, was able to add a provision to the Department of Defense’s annual budget bill to allocate funding to update armories with new showers, bathrooms and lactation rooms. Peters noted that while the armories were built with an “all-male force” in mind, women now make up approximately 18% of the Michigan Army National Guard.

READ MORE: <https://www.wlns.com/news/michigan-national-guard-to-receive-nearly-26-million-to-upgrade-womens-facilities/>

ARTICLE: NESAFRICOM 2023 Workshop Series and NESACenter Women, Peace, and Security E-Book Release

REPORTER: *By NESACenter for strategic Studies (05.15.2023)*

EXCERPT: From 29 April – 6 May 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESACenter) Center for Strategic Studies, in partnership with U.S. Africa Command, held three back-to-back workshop series in Bangkok, Thailand, for senior government and civilian security experts and a “whole of society” approach from 24 countries with a total of 53 female participants.

READ MORE: https://nesacenter.org/nesa-africom_workshops_and_nesacenter_wps_e-book/

ARTICLE: African Military Law Forum Advisory Council at NCNG Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina (PHOTO)

REPORTER: *By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jordan, North Carolina National Guard (05.12.2023)*

EXCERPT: Maj. Mike Sterling, North Carolina National Guard State Partnership Director, greets Uganda People’s Defense Forces Brig. Gen. Godard Busingye at the African Military Law Forum Advisory Council at NCNG Joint Force Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina, April 26 - 28, 2022. The formation of the Women’s Peace and Security component to the ongoing forum was announced during the conference.

READ MORE: <https://www.africom.mil/image/34410/nc-guard-hosts-africa-military-law-forum-advisory-council>

ARTICLE: Royal Thai Navy and U.S. Navy commence CARAT Thailand 2023

REPORTER: *By Destroyer Squadron 7 Public Affairs (05.10.23)*

EXCERPT: CARAT Thailand is a bilateral maritime exercise taking place ashore in Sattahip and at sea in the Gulf of Thailand ... The shore phase will consist of relationship building events, classroom subject matter expert exchanges (SMEE), and practical education. SMEEs will focus on topics such as medical, cyber, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), MDA, EOD, diving, aviation, unmanned ariel systems, legal, anti-submarine warfare, force protection, and Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

READ MORE: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3390919/royal-thai-navy-and-us-navy-commence-carat-thailand-2023/>

ARTICLE: Stronger together: AFCENT hosts Senior Enlisted Leaders Summit at Nellis AFB

REPORTER: *By Lt. Col. Marnee Losurdo, Ninth Air Force (Air Forces Central) Public Affairs (05.09.2023)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kati A. Grabham, Ninth Air Force (Air Forces Central) Command Chief, hosted the AFCENT Senior Enlisted Leader International Summit May 2-4 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada ... Grabham said the event focused on enlisted force development, women, peace and security, the State Partnership Program and subject matter expert exchanges. She added that the event is an investment in people and partnerships.

READ MORE: <https://www.afcent.af.mil/News/Article/3389034/stronger-together-afcent-hosts-senior-enlisted-leaders-summit-at-nellis-afb/>

ARTICLE: CENTCAST Episode 12: CENTCOM's Women, Peace, and Security Program Explained in 15 Minutes

REPORTER: *By U.S. Central Command Public Affairs (05.09.2023)*

EXCERPT: Episode 12 of the CENTCAST highlights a critical plank in our Partnership programs: the Women, Peace, and Security program. The program empowers and highlights women serving and leading in their countries' national security. In so doing, the effort offers military forces throughout the CENTCOM region a strategic advantage of our adversaries and competitors.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/audio/74111/centcast-episode-12-centcoms-women-peace-and-security-program-explained-15-minutes>

ARTICLE: NATO Secretary General's Special Representative in Kyiv: Ukrainian Women Inspire the World

REPORTER: *By NATO (05.04.2023)*

EXCERPT: Irene Fellin, the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, visited Kyiv on Thursday (4 May 2023), delivering remarks at the Ukrainian Women's Congress (UWC), and holding talks with Ukrainian officials ... Ms. Fellin added that the use of sexual violence in war underscores the importance of integrating a gender perspective into conflict management, resolution, peacebuilding, reconstruction and the development of defence capabilities.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_214342.htm?selectedLocale=en

Upcoming Events

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

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: Joint Women's Leadership Symposium

WHEN: June 29 to July 1, 2023

WHERE: San Diego, California

The Joint Women's Leadership Symposium (JWLS) is open to Active, Reserve and Retired Military service members from all service branches, DoD Civilians, the National Guard, NOAA and our international allies who are interested in supporting uniformed service women. The event is hosted by the Sea Services Leadership Association (SSLA), the only non-profit dedicated to the advancement of women in the sea services, but it is supported by all U.S. uniformed services. SSLA Joint Women's Leadership Symposium is the largest gathering of military women in the nation and is the premier professional development conference for women in the uniformed services and DoD.

READ MORE: <https://www.sslajwls.org/event/ff03eacd-d052-48ee-881b-fb0fdc18ca7d/websitePage:6404b8a7-4768-4b53-8178-b94dbe111f95>

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