



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—JULY 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—July 2023

ARTICLE: Gender Equality at the Heart of Recovery: Advocating for Gender-Responsive Procurement in Ukraine

REPORTER: *By Marion Provencher Langlois, International Institute for Sustainable Development (06.28.23)*

EXCERPT: Procuring goods, services, and infrastructure creates local jobs, promotes transparency and prevents corruption, all while contributing to the reconstruction of infrastructure necessary for the livelihoods of millions in a post-war context. But for procurement to also help empower women and other groups disproportionately affected by the war, public procurement policies must be gender responsive.

READ MORE: <https://www.iisd.org/articles/deep-dive/gender-equality-heart-recovery-advocating-gender-responsive-procurement-ukraine>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Cybersecurity

REPORTER: *By Diana Park and Kinsey Spears, Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy (06.28.2023)*

EXCERPT: Since the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda entered the discussion among policymakers three decades ago, the security environment has been transformed, in part due to innovations in information and communications technology (ICT). As the cyber policy community grapples with the implications of cyberspace, a uniquely human-constructed domain of warfare, there is ample opportunity for WPS engagement in these issues. Discussions have yet to evolve and expand around gender and cyberspace operations.

READ MORE: <https://newlinesinstitute.org/gender/women-peace-and-cybersecurity/>

ARTICLE: The Army's Yearlong Fight Over Its Controversial New Fitness Test Isn't Over Yet

REPORTER: *By Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose (06.28.2023)*

EXCERPT: ... But separate proposals in Congress have left the ACFT's future unclear. The House version of next fiscal year's National Defense Authorization Act would require the Army to adopt gender-neutral standards for combat arms soldiers on the ACFT, reverting to its original concept. Meanwhile, the Senate version of the NDAA would direct the service to restore the APFT, as the service's test of record while allowing the Army to continue to make changes to the ACFT, said a congressional staffer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

READ MORE: <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-combat-fitness-test-problems-congress/>

ARTICLE: Women Shouldering the Cost of War: Pre-empting a Gender-Based Violence Crisis in Sudan (OPINION)

REPORTER: *By Tugela Pepin, Women's Leadership initiative, Manara Magazine, Cambridge Middle East and North Africa Forum (06.27.2023)*

EXCERPT: Reports of Gender Based Violence (GBV) against women across the country are beginning to break through into international news with progressive frequency. Multiple accounts of rape at the hands of the RSF have been reported, and overall rates of sexual violence across Sudan have increased since the outbreak of the conflict. Contributing to this hostile environment, according to the World Health Organisation, women across Sudan face extremely limited access to medical services, with as many as 61% of hospitals closing in the capital of Khartoum alone.

READ MORE: <https://manaramagazine.org/2023/06/a-gender-based-violence-crisis-in-sudan/>

- **RELATED: Rapid Gender Analysis Policy Brief: Sudan Conflict Response**
<https://www.care-international.org/resources/rapid-gender-analysis-policy-brief-sudan-conflict-response>
- **RELATED: African Women's Group Urges UN Security Council to Take Action on Sudan**
<https://sudantribune.com/article274717/>

ARTICLE: Friday Essay: The Forgotten Female Soldiers Who Fought Long Ago – And Why Their Stories Matter Today

REPORTER: *By Sarah Percy, The University of Queensland (06.29.2023)*

EXCERPT: Women have long fought in wars, but their contribution is often erased. The military historian John Keegan famously wrote in 1993 that: “...*if warfare is as old as history and as universal as mankind, we must now enter the supremely important limitation that it is an entirely masculine activity...*”

But it turns out history is full of examples of women on the frontlines: women who fought in their own right, women who dressed as men in order to fight, and women who faced great danger supporting male troops in the teeth of battle. Women have survived and even thrived as part of the machine of war – but are rarely part of military history. Why have their stories been forgotten?

READ MORE: <https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-the-forgotten-female-soldiers-who-fought-long-ago-and-why-their-stories-matter-today-208455>

ARTICLE: Ranger-tabbed Infantry Officer Says Army Needs More Women

REPORTER: *By Denise Caskey, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (06.26.2023)*

EXCERPT: Haver challenges the assumption that the Army is a man's sport. “It's not any gender sport,” she said. “It is a team sport, and we need people on the team who want to better themselves and better the strength of our national security because it is so vital to preserving the way that we get to live.” With more than 200 career tracks available, Haver said to encourage more women to join, the Army needs to show them that they are needed. She added that by demonstrating how serving can offer them stability and opportunities to apply their skills and explore their interests, the Army can help women “Be All You Can Be.”

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/447973/ranger-tabbed-infantry-officer-says-army-needs-more-women>

ARTICLE: Exploring Black Female U.S. Army Officers' Perceptions Regarding Equal Opportunity: An Interpretative Phenomenological Study

REPORTER: *By Margie J. Grines, National University School of Business, PhD Dissertation (06.26.23)*

EXCERPT: The problem addressed by this study was the underrepresentation of Black females among the senior ranks of leadership in the U.S. Army. There is a significant issue regarding the presence of Black females at the senior levels of leadership in the U.S. Army. Black females are considerably underrepresented at the officer ranks from O4 to O6. This lack of representation contributes to the imbalance among the ranks and presents challenges with diversity and inclusion.

READ MORE: <https://www.proquest.com/openview/d2eb282a7fbd44d1e0a9aa956d6ae0e5/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>

ARTICLE: What is WPS? (VIDEO)

REPORTER: *Video by Staff Sgt. Terrence Clyburn and Sgt. 1st Class Katie Theusch, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (06.23.23)*

EXCERPT: Women Peace and Security (WPS) and its impact in the Horn of Africa from 2022 to 2023. The video explains WPS and shows initiatives through multiple countries in Africa along with giving first-hand experiences.

READ MORE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmLQHX5MAc>

ARTICLE: Tennessee National Guard's Women, Peace, and Security Delegation Partners with Bulgarian Military

REPORTER: *By Tech. Sgt. Darrell Hamm and Lt. Col. Marlin Malone, Tennessee National Guard Public Affairs Office (06.22.23)*

EXCERPT: SOFIA, Bulgaria – During the week of June 19-23, the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard collaborated with the Bulgarian Military for one of the first Women, Peace, and Security meetings with their Bulgarian counterparts. This meeting was part of Thracian Sentry 23, a multi-national exercise throughout Eastern Europe, and the celebration of the 30-year partnership between the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense and the Tennessee National Guard.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/448209/tennessee-national-guards-women-peace-and-security-delegation-partners-with-bulgarian-military>

ARTICLE: Elsie Initiative Fund, KAIPTC, GAF National Female Recruitment Campaign Takes Off

REPORTER: *By the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (06.21.23)*

EXCERPT: A national campaign spearheaded by the Women, Peace and Security Institute (WPSI) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in collaboration with the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) to sensitise and encourage women to choose combat and combat-support roles in the GAF has been launched at KAIPTC. The campaign forms part of the “Increasing Women Recruitment into the Ghana Armed Forces for increased participation in UN Peace Operations” project funded by (the Canadian) The Elsie Initiative Fund (EIF) for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations.

READ MORE: <https://www.kaiptc.org/elsie-initiative-fund-kaiptc-gaf-national-female-recruitment-campaign-takes-of/>

ARTICLE: Is the Army's New Tactical Bra Ready for Deployment?

REPORTER: *By Patricia Marx, New Yorker (06.19.23)*

EXCERPT: Conceived four years ago, the garment is still being tinkered with, but one day it will be a wardrobe staple for all women in the Army. ... Ashley Cushon, the project engineer of the team working on the item, assured me that it would “reduce the cognitive burden on the wearer.” And a military Web

site reported that the A.T.B. would improve “overall soldier performance and lethality.” Gadzooks! Yes, it’s flame-resistant, but what else can it do?

READ MORE: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/06/26/is-the-armys-new-tactical-bra-ready-for-deployment>

- **RELATED: *The New Yorker Makes a Joke of the Army’s Tactical Bra. It’s Not.***
<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-tactical-bra-new-yorker/>

ARTICLE: DAF Releases Women, Peace, Security Strategic Action Plan

REPORTER: *By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs (06.16.23)*

EXCERPT: The Department of the Air Force recently released its Women, Peace, and Security, or WPS, Strategic Action Plan to operationalize WPS concepts across the Air and Space Forces.

WPS is a policy framework that acknowledges the critical roles women play in international peace and security efforts; it calls for the meaningful participation of women in all levels of decision-making to ensure the safety and security of all genders around the globe. In the military, it is a framework used by operational planners to account for gender differences across multiple domains of social life and examines how military operations can have different effects based on this analysis.

READ MORE: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3430870/daf-releases-women-peace-security-strategic-action-plan/>

ARTICLE: Fewer Women are Choosing the Army as the Service Fights to Find Enough Recruits

REPORTER: *By Rose L. Thayer, Stars and Stripes (06.15.23)*

EXCERPT: Fewer women are choosing to join the Army as the largest military branch struggles through another difficult recruiting year, according to data from the service. Army recruitment overall has dropped more than 29% since the coronavirus pandemic began in March 2020, with female enlistments down by 31% during the same time...

READ MORE: <https://www.stripes.com/theaters/us/2023-06-15/army-soldiers-recruiting-women-10451347.html>

- **RELATED: *Female Army enlistments down after Vanessa Guillen’s death, data shows***
<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2023/06/13/female-army-enlistments-down-after-vanessa-guillens-death-data-shows/>

ARTICLE: 2023 Tri-Command Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Symposium (PHOTOS)

REPORTER: *By Pfc. Soo Hyun Lee, U.S. Forces Korea (06.14.2023)*

EXCERPT: The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Symposium held at the Morning Calm Conference Center, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, Republic of Korea, 14 June 2023 ... is held to educate U.S., Korean, and UN Sending State military and civilian officials about the Women, Peace, and Security (framework), its principles and how they impact combined readiness. The symposium also focused on integrating Gender Advisors and Gender Focal Points in planning operations, activities and investments of UNC/CFC/USFK.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/7862138/2023-tri-command-women-peace-and-security-wps-symposium>

ARTICLE: Can NATO Deploy Feminism?

REPORTER: *By Stéfanie Von Hlatky, Centre for International and Defence Policy (06.13.23)*

EXCERPT: In “Deploying Feminism: The Role of Gender in NATO Military Operations,” I chronicle NATO’s journey from the first iteration of its Women, Peace and Security policy in 2007 to the routine, day-to-day work performed by Gender Advisors and Gender Focal Points who provide advice to commanders on how gender considerations are relevant in their operating environment. While NATO has reaffirmed that Women, Peace and Security is integral to its three core tasks (deterrence and defense; crisis prevention and management; and cooperative security), some elements are missing.

READ MORE:

https://inkstickmedia.com/can-nato-deploy-feminism/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

ARTICLE: In 75 Years Since Women's Armed Services Integration Act, Female Service Members Have Excelled

REPORTER: *By C. Todd Lopez, DOD News (06.12.23)*

EXCERPT: "At one hearing, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee questioned why women should serve in our military on the same basis as men," Austin said. "The first witness to respond was Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. And he said, simply, 'We need them.'"

Austin said the U.S. military is the best fighting force in history, and that keeping it that way requires bringing the best warfighters on board in every domain of conflict.

"The only way to make that happen is by drawing on the talents of all of our people, and not just men — who happen to represent less than half of the U.S. population," he said.

READ MORE: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3425621/in-75-years-since-womens-armed-services-integration-act-female-service-members/>

- **RELATED: Black Women’s Leadership In The Military Dates to the Civil War**
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by-history/2023/06/30/tubman-civil-war-black-women/>

ARTICLE: Army Selects Members of the Women’s Initiatives Team

REPORTER: *By Josephine Pride, Army.mil (06.12.23)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. Army is proud to announce the members of its inaugural Women’s Initiatives Team, which is composed of representatives from across the Army who will advocate for Army policy, programs and resource changes to set conditions for success in women’s recruitment, retention, readiness, health, well-being, empowerment and advancement across the Total Army.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/267471/army_selects_members_of_the_womens_initiatives_team

ARTICLE: We’re Still Arguing Over Women in the Military? (OPINION)

REPORTER: *By Retired U.S. Air Force colonel Eileen Bjorkman, Executive Director, Air Force Test Center, Defense One (06.12.23)*

EXCERPT: Women in the military, especially aviators, have a lot to celebrate this year. It’s the 75th anniversary of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, which established a permanent presence for women in the U.S. military. ... Women may now serve in all military career fields, both support and combat specialties, and they make up about 17.4 percent of the active-duty force, up seven-fold from 1973. But even with opportunities for women in the military at an all-time high, I’m disheartened by the way some civilians, especially those who have never served, treat military women. ... These battles send a revolting message to young women who might be thinking about the military: You’re a joke.

READ MORE: <https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2023/06/were-still-arguing-over-women-military/387444/>

ARTICLE: USSOCOM WPS Team Participates in Discussions on Slavery and Human Trafficking with NAVSCIATTS Strategic Leaders Course (PHOTOS)

REPORTER: *By Michael Williams, NAVSCIATTS public affairs (06.08.23)*

EXCERPT: Ebony Harris and Stacie Uren, human integrators with the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Women, Peace, and Security Program participates in NAVSCIATTS' Strategic Leaders International Course (SLIC) at the international training command's headquarters located on the NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/7863291/ussocom-wps-team-participates-discussions-slavery-and-human-trafficking-with-navsciatts-strategic-leaders-course>

ARTICLE: Pelvic Health Rehabilitation: A Mission Critical Resource that Enables Military Readiness

REPORTER: *By Lt. Col. Leigh Anne Lechanski, DPT, and Maj. Stephanie Fournier, DPT, Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center (06.07.23)*

EXCERPT: Since the inception of female integration into combat job series in 2016, military women now serve in a diverse array of demanding positions to fight and win the nation's wars. ... Yet, amidst the plethora of performance optimization programming in the military with specialized services and support that cover a wide range of readiness domains, pelvic health is often an overlooked and under-reported aspect of readiness. ... These conditions can significantly impact female service members' physical and emotional health. The physical demands of military life—including rigorous training, high load carriage demands, and prolonged combat deployments and field training exercises in austere environments—can profoundly impact women's pelvic health.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/445733/pelvic-health-rehabilitation-mission-critical-resource-enables-military-readiness>

ARTICLE: (From the Archive) Reassessing Women's Role in Peace And Security in the Middle East

REPORTER: *By Katie Crombe and Erin Moffitt (January 31, 2022)*

EXCERPT: The Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 sought to strengthen efforts to increase women's participation in "processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict." The act acknowledged a long-known fact: Women are integral to conflict prevention, counterterrorism, and durable stabilization efforts.

READ MORE: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/reassessing-womens-role-peace-and-security-middle-east>

Upcoming Events

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

WHEN: September 12-13, 2023

WHERE: Arlington, Va.

The next quarterly meeting will be Sept. 12-13, 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/>

Past Events

WHAT: ICYMI—Why Women Matter to Peace and Security in the Indo-Pacific.

WHEN: June 21, 2023

WHERE: United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC

Amid intensifying competition with China, it is critical that the role of women is considered in U.S. efforts to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. Research demonstrates that peacebuilding and security programs and policies are more successful when they ensure the full participation of women. Recognizing this, the U.S. Women, Peace and Security Strategy aims to promote women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction and mandates the Department of Defense to integrate gender perspectives into defense operations and initiatives. The United States Indo-Pacific Command has been at the forefront of these efforts.

READ MORE: The discussion is now available online: <https://www.usip.org/events/why-women-matter-peace-and-security-indo-pacific>

WHAT: ICYMI— U.S. Naval War College Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Symposium 2023

WHEN: April 26-28, 2023

WHERE: U.S. Naval War College, Newport, R.I.

U.S. Naval War College (NWC) hosted its 9th annual Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Symposium. This year's theme "WPS in a Fragile World: Perspectives on Warfighting, Crisis Management, and Post-Conflict Transitions" brought together U.S. and international scholars, researchers, civilian and military practitioners, and leaders to share their knowledge centered around the gender perspective.

READ MORE: Opening and closing remarks, panels, and sessions now available online:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLam-yp5uUR1a9Zu9li5vio1p9ZtJVJ21B>

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