



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—SEPTEMBER 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—September 2023

ARTICLE: Gendering the Climate-Conflict Nexus

REPORTER: *By Tobias Ide, Toda Peace Institute (08.29.23)*

EXCERPT: But even from the limited research and discussion so far, one thing becomes clear: Gender is a key dimension of the climate-conflict nexus. My recent study, for instance, finds that if rebel groups have a large share of female members, they are more likely to escalate violence after climate-related disasters, and less likely to reduce fighting. This is because women provide additional labour and fighting force. Furthermore, women are often better than men in conducting specialised tasks, such as establishing relations with civilians (on which rebels might depend for support after disasters) or intelligence gathering (which is key in rapidly changing post-disaster contexts).

READ MORE: <https://toda.org/global-outlook/2023/gendering-the-climate-conflict-nexus.html>

ARTICLE: More than Female Engagement Teams: The Value of Gender Advisors on Operation Allies Welcome

REPORTER: *By Monica Herrera, We The Possible (08.28.23)*

EXCERPT: Tomorrow marks two years since the United States initiated Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), an effort to provide temporary housing, transportation, medical screening, sustainment, and other support services for evacuees from Afghanistan as they were expedited through the resettlement process in the U.S. following the fall of Kabul. Between September to December 2021, I served as a Department of Defense (DoD) Gender Advisor at Task Force Liberty, one of eight “safe haven” locations that supported OAW.

I’ve been speaking about my experiences from OAW as part of DoD Gender Focal Point and Gender Advisor training and on panels at various conferences alongside my Women, Peace & Security (WPS) colleagues who also participated.

READ MORE: https://wethepossible.substack.com/p/beyond-female-engagement-teams-lessons?trk=feed_main-feed-card_feed-article-content

ARTICLE: HHBN, ARSOUTH All-Female Command Team Speaks on Inclusion and Equity

REPORTER: *By Staff Sgt. ShaTyra Reed-Cox, U.S. Army South (08.26. 23)*

EXCERPT: “We use this day to appreciate where we’ve come from and re-dedicate ourselves to continuing our commitment to ensuring all women are able to live freely and enjoy the same liberties as anyone else.”

These were the words Command Sgt. Maj. Deitra Alam, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Army South Command Sgt. Maj., used to explain what Women's Equality Day means to her.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/452215/womens-equality-day-2023-hhbn-arsouth-all-female-command-team-speaks-inclusion-and-equity>

- **RELATED: Army Celebrates Women's Equality Day**
https://www.army.mil/article/269426/army_celebrates_womens_equality_day

ARTICLE: Female Advisors in the 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade Lead the Way in Advancing Women, Peace and Security in the Indo-Pacific: A Tribute to Women's Equality Day

REPORTER: *By Maj. Sara Ingrao, Army.mil (08.26.23)*

EXCERPT: In 2019, the U.S. government released the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) strategy with three lines of effort aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment globally. The 5th SFAB has taken an essential step in advancing this strategy by assigning female Advisors to nearly every position across its formation. This move is significant and timely as it aims to promote women's participation in peacekeeping and security, a space where men (generally) occupy most decision-making roles.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/269412/female_advisors_in_the_5th_security_force_assistance_brigade_lead_the_way_in_advancing_women_peace_and_security_in_the_indo_pacific_a_tribute_to_womens_equality_day

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security in Santa Marta, Colombia

REPORTER: *By Lt.j.g. Nickolas West, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet (08.25.23)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) held a Women, Peace and Security Symposium (WPS), Aug. 22-23, as part of Continuing Promise 2023 in Santa Marta, Colombia. The symposium included a panel discussion with representatives from Colombia and the United States. The conversation focused on the prevention of conflict and promotion of peace through the empowerment of women.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/452202/women-peace-and-security-santa-marta-colombia>

ARTICLE: 1st TSC Trailblazing Chief of Staff Achieves Many Army Firsts

REPORTER: *By Barbara Gersna, 1st Theater Sustainment Command (08.25.23)*

EXCERPT: Adding to her list of firsts, Prichard-Brown became the first African American woman to command the 59th Ordnance Brigade at Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia. This is where she founded the Female Mentoring and Morale Program. The FMMP is an all-inclusive, Secretary of the Army endorsed platform in support of the "People First" strategy that provides personal and professional development to male and female service members and civilians with a focus on empowering Department of the Army women in and out of uniform.

READ MORE: <https://www.1tsc.army.mil/News/Article/3506314/1st-tsc-trailblazing-chief-of-staff-achieves-many-army-firsts/>

ARTICLE: VIDEO: Joint Statement Delivered by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield at the UN Security Council Stakeout on Women, Peace, and Security

REPORTER: *By United Nations (08.25.23)*

EXCERPT: We, the Security Council signatories of the Statement of Shared Commitments for the principles of Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Japan, Malta, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States have come together to express grave concern regarding the use of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) as a strategy and tactic by terrorist groups, such as Da'esh. We underscore conflict-related sexual violence can constitute a violation of international law.

READ MORE: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1/k1ldoa0t8b>

ARTICLE: Tennessee Guard Hosts Women, Peace and Security Conference

REPORTER: *By William Jones, Tennessee National Guard Public Affairs Office (08.23.23)*

EXCERPT: The Tennessee National Guard hosted a three-day conference about the disproportionate effect of wartime violence on women and children and the meaningful insights women add to leadership positions. More than 60 Soldiers, Airmen and Marines from across the United States who attended the conference Aug. 15-17 learned about the positive effect well-informed, educated women have in senior leadership roles and how women can positively change their communities.

READ MORE: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article-View/Article/3501708/tennessee-guard-hosts-women-peace-and-security-conference/>

ARTICLE: USASOC Study Outlines Measures to Optimize Female Soldiers

REPORTER: *By Joe Lacdan, Army News Service (08.22.23)*

EXCERPT: To better address obstacles facing female Soldiers serving in special operations units and to retain its top talent, Army Special Operations Command outlined 42 recommendations in a study released Monday. The research's findings will guide USASOC in optimizing female warfighters while noting their physical and anatomical differences.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/269270/usasoc_study_outlines_measures_to_optimize_female_soldiers

ARTICLE: Filling the Blanks: Putting Gender into Military A.I.

REPORTER: *By Shimona Mohan, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology at ORF (08.21.23)*

EXCERPT: Defence structures around the world are seeing a technological upheaving as new and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) are being added to military arsenals. However, military AI largely lacks precision and is often developed without any threat-modelling which takes gender into account, examples of which are already being seen in civilian applications of AI. Translated into a conflict environment, deploying such AI systems could mean that women and other genders would be disproportionately impacted by algorithmic biases. As military AI becomes more commonplace, the imperative is to mobilise gender-equal agendas for security and emerging technologies. This brief examines the gender-shaped gaps in the application of military AI and offers multi-faceted solutions to fill them.

READ MORE: <https://www.orfonline.org/research/filling-the-blanks-putting-gender-into-military-ai/>

- **RELATED: Gender Disinformation Through AI Amplification**

<https://oursecurefuture.org/news/gender-disinformation-through-ai-amplification>

ARTICLE: Advancing Space Power by Maximizing the Future Workforce with Allies and Partners

REPORTER: *By U.S. Space Command Public Affairs (08.21.23)*

EXCERPT: As part of security cooperation programs focused on relationship strengthening and institutional capacity, USSPACECOM sponsored women space operators from Thailand, Colombia, and Brazil to engage on topics related to building the space workforce, overcoming barriers to recruiting and retaining talent, and strategies to building an inclusive force essential for optimal operational effectiveness.

READ MORE: <https://www.spacecom.mil/Newsroom/News/Article-Display/Article/3499692/advancing-space-power-by-maximizing-the-future-workforce-with-allies-and-partne/>

ARTICLE: Women Face Misogyny, Barriers to Promotion in SOF, US Army Study Says

REPORTER: *By Sam Skove, Defense One (08.21.23)*

EXCERPT: Women fighting in the U.S. Army's special operations forces face misogyny, gender-based barriers to promotion, and ill-fitting equipment, according to a 2021 report released today by U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

READ MORE: <https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2023/08/women-face-misogyny-barriers-promotion-special-operations-forces-us-army-study-says/389603/>

- **RELATED: Women in Army SOF Resorted to Buying Their Own Armor, Study Finds**
<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2023/08/21/women-in-army-sof-resorted-to-buying-their-own-armor-study-finds/>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security Symposium Held in Almirante, Panama

REPORTER: *By Lt.j.g. Nickolas West, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet (08.16.23)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet (USNAVSOUTH/FOURTHFLT) held a Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Symposium as part of the Continuing Promise 2023 mission in Almirante, Panama, Aug. 15-16. "The Women, Peace, and Security symposium was an incredible opportunity for me to interact with the people of Almirante and experience a different culture," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Heidi Reatiga, a U.S. Navy representative at the WPS symposium. "In order to make a more peaceful world, we have to understand the people we work alongside. Events such as the Women, Peace, and Security Symposium provide us the opportunity to bridge the gap between both of our cultures."

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/451668/women-peace-and-security-symposium-held-almirante-panama>

ARTICLE: U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Hosts Inaugural Regional Military Gender Advisor Course

REPORTER: *By U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (08.16.23)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) welcomed defense partners from 11 regional nations for the inaugural Indo-Pacific Regional Military Gender Advisor Course, Aug. 14 -25. This course is part of a five-year initiative by the USINDOPACOM Office of Women, Peace & Security (WPS) to develop a fully trained network of certified military Gender Advisors within the Indo-Pacific.

READ MORE: <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/3495609/us-indo-pacific-command-hosts-inaugural-regional--military-gender-advisor-course/>

ARTICLE: How Women, Peace, and Security Could Improve Integrated Deterrence

REPORTER: *By Kinsey Spears, Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy (08.14.23)*

EXCERPT: In recent years, the U.S. has been increasingly focusing on the overarching goals of strategic competition and integrated deterrence, and including the WPS agenda will be vital to achieving those

goals. Strategic competition is interpreted in a variety of ways within the U.S. government. However, in comments made at the Baltic Military Conference in 2021, Department of Defense (DOD) then-Undersecretary Colin Kahl defined an important component of integrated deterrence to be “working alongside our allies and partners to advance common interests and shared values.” WPS can provide crucial additional perspectives and approaches to this work, so institutionalizing the WPS agenda within strategic competition and integrated deterrence is a low-cost, high-reward value-add for the department.

READ MORE: <https://newlinesinstitute.org/u-s-foreign-policy/how-women-peace-and-security-could-improve-integrated-deterrence/>

ARTICLE: ISG Facilitates Seminal South Asia Regional Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange

REPORTER: *By Institute for Security Governance (08.14.23)*

EXCERPT: The themes of the eight-day exercise were regional cooperation, civil-military integration, and coordinated Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response for disasters in South Asia. The event was sponsored by the United States Army Pacific (USARPAC). It brought together more than 120 participants from nine nations, as well as government, non-governmental, and international organizations. Personnel worked together either through phased events that included expert academic discussions; a special focus session on Women, Peace, and Security; a tabletop, and a field training exercise.

READ MORE: <https://instituteforsecuritygovernance.org/-/isg-facilitates-seminal-south-asia-regional-disaster-response-exercise-and-exchange>

ARTICLE: 10th Mountain Division Hosts Women Warriors of the Mountain Foot March 2023

REPORTER: *By Spc. Kade Bowers, 27th Public Affairs Detachment (08.10.23)*

EXCERPT: Soldiers, family members, and civilians from across the 10th Mountain Division (LI) and Fort Drum participated in the Women Warriors of the Mountain Foot March, hosted by the 10th Mountain Division Sustainment Brigade, Aug. 10. The foot march was designed to encourage Women Warriors serving in the ranks of the 10th Mountain Division and to promote cohesion, mental and physical health, and leader development.

READ MORE: <https://home.army.mil/drum/about/news/news-archives-august-2023/fostering-support>

ARTICLE: Wisconsin Guard Members Seek to Elevate Women in Aviation

REPORTER: *By Vaughn R. Larson, Department of Military Affairs (08.08.23)*

EXCERPT: Four Wisconsin Army National Guard female Soldiers in the aviation field spoke about their experiences during a Women in Aviation panel July 26 at the Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture. The EAA was celebrating 30 years of women in combat aviation, marked by 1st Lt. Jeannie Leavitt — still serving today as a major general — becoming the first female combat pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

READ MORE: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/3486861/wisconsin-guard-members-seek-to-elevate-women-in-aviation/>

ARTICLE: U.S. and Pacific Islands Elevate Women’s Leadership in Climate Security

REPORTER: *By U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Public Affairs (08.05.23)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Office of Women, Peace & Security (WPS), the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), and Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation

(WCAPS) co-hosted a workshop from July 11-12 in Suva, Fiji, focusing on “Building Inclusive Resilience” and exploring the nexus of gender, climate, and food security.

READ MORE: <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/3484345/us-and-pacific-islands-elevate-womens-leadership-in-climate-security-in-two-day/>

ARTICLE: For the First Time in Decades, Military Academy Cadets Will Be Allowed to Become Parents

REPORTER: *By Desiree D'Iorio, Texas Public Radio (08.02.23)*

EXCERPT: Now, as the U.S. military academies prepare to kick off the fall semester, they will allow cadets to become parents, due to a law Congress passed in 2021. While it still forbids parents from enrolling in the service academies, cadets who become parents after enrolling won't be kicked out.

READ MORE: <https://www.tpr.org/military-veterans-issues/2023-08-02/for-the-first-time-in-decades-military-academy-cadets-will-be-allowed-to-become-parents>

ARTICLE: Tradewinds 23 Highlights Multinational Partnerships

REPORTER: *By Maj. Jeremy Idleman, 70th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (07.31.23)*

EXCERPT: Sarah-Ann Lynch, U.S. ambassador to Guyana said women, peace and security training “was also integrated into several of the training tracks this year, from cyber defense to public order. Highlighting again the importance of gender considerations in military and police operations.”

Lynch commended the Guyana Defence Force for its commitment to human rights after it signed the U.S. Southern Command Human Rights Initiative.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/268705/tradewinds_23_highlights_multinational_partnerships

ARTICLE: ICYMI—Wargaming as a Social Science Experiment

REPORTER: *By Andrew L. Crabb, Joint Special Operations University (06.16.23)*

EXCERPT: In August of 2022, my supervisor at the Joint Special Operations University challenged me with an unusual task. She wanted me to find ways to embed into our courseware operational factors identified in the Department of Defense’s (DoD) Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Strategic Plan and Implementation framework. Although my first thought was that we might be stepping into a political minefield, as she explained the WPS factors—looking at the operational environment (OE) via the lens of gender culture, dynamics, and perspectives—it became readily apparent that this was a facet of planning that was new and held merit. Since special operations forces often claim the “human domain” as its operating milieu (Cleveland, 2016), gaining better and more nuanced insights into the OE was a worthy goal.

READ MORE: <https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/wargaming-social-science-experiment>

Upcoming Events

WHAT: U.S. Army WPS Gender Advisory Network Meeting

WHEN: September 5, 2023

WHERE: MS Teams

The first monthly meeting of the U.S. Army WPS Gender Advisory Network is scheduled for Sept. 5, 2023. The purpose of the meeting is for U.S. Army Gender Advisors, Gender Focal Points, and the Army WPS Community of Interest to discuss actions to enable comprehensive WPS implementation across the U.S. Army enterprise.

READ MORE: Contact PKSOI

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

WHEN: September 12-13, 2023

WHERE: Arlington, Va., and via Videoconference

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. Any member of the public who wishes to participate via videoconference must register by contacting DACOWITS at osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.dacowits@mail.mil. Once registered, the videoconference information will be provided.

READ MORE: <https://dacowits.defense.gov/>

WHAT: Women, Peace and Security in the Inter-American System

WHEN: September 28, 2023

WHERE: Washington, DC and online

The Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) will hold a Seminar on Women, Peace and Security in the Inter-American System, with the objective of disseminating successful experiences on the gender perspective in the field of defense and hemispheric security, as well as to contribute to cooperation among the countries of the continent in this matter.

READ MORE: <https://www.jid.org/en/iadb-will-hold-a-seminar-on-women-peace-and-security/>

If you would like to be added or removed from the monthly WPS in the Military News Round Up distro list, please email: antonietta.rico.ctr@army.mil. Please forward the email to other members of the US Army WPS community who might find the contents valuable. To access last month's WPS Round Up, please see the archive here: <https://pksoi.armywarcollege.edu/index.php/wps-news-round-up/>