



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—OCTOBER 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—October 2023

ARTICLE: CJTF - HOA Hosts Women, Peace, and Security Summit

REPORTER: *By Sgt. Jalen Miller, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (09.26.23)*

EXCERPT: The Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) committee and members from the CJTF-HOA plans and policy section organized a three-day class in Djibouti City, Djibouti, Sept. 25-27. The WPS level 100 class allowed students to engage in group discussions with their peers to focus on ways they can better integrate the WPS model and gender perspectives across management, development, and employment within the joint forces. ...

U.S. Maj. Gen. Jami Shawley, CJTF-HOA commanding general, emphasized the importance WPS plays within the command, the African continent, and the military as a whole.

“If one woman is in the room, will she have a voice that has the power of every other voice,” said Shawley. “If not, use your voice, I promise you that for as long as you are here in my command, you will be supported and you will be listened to.”

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/454527/cjtf-hoa-hosts-women-peace-and-security-summit>

ARTICLE: Women Veterans Lobby Congress as a New Study Shows the Barriers they Face

REPORTER: *By Julie Tsirkin, NBC News (09.22.23)*

EXCERPT: A new comprehensive study from the Wounded Warrior Project found that female veterans face higher rates of unemployment and are more likely to have depression, PTSD and anxiety than their male counterparts. ... Compared to male veterans, women are more likely to seek care through the VA but face more barriers than men do, the report found. Gender-specific care, which includes routine mammograms and OB-GYN checkups, is difficult to come by, and some VA clinics do not offer these services, according to the report.

READ MORE: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/women-veterans-lobby-congress-new-study-shows-barriers-face-rcna107980>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security Symposium Held in St. George's, Grenada

REPORTER: *By Lt.j.g. Nickolas West, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet (09.22.23)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) held a Women, Peace and Security Symposium (WPS), Sept. 18-21, as part of Continuing Promise 2023 on board the USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10) and at Grenada's National Cricket Stadium in St. George's, Grenada.

The symposium included a panel discussion with U.S. Navy service members attached to the USNS Burlington, members of Grenada's Ministry of Social & Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs, and members of the Royal Grenada Police Force. The conversation focused on the prevention of conflict and promotion of peace through the empowerment of women.

READ MORE: <https://www.southcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/Article/3536429/women-peace-and-security-symposium-held-in-st-georges-grenada/>

ARTICLE: Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken remarks at the Advancing the Sustainability and Adaptability of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda Event (VIDEO)

REPORTER: *Courtesy Video By U.S. Department of State (09.21.23)*

EXCERPT: Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken remarks at the Advancing the Sustainability and Adaptability of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda Event in New York City, New York.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/897912/secretary-state-antony-j-blinken-remarks-advancing-sustainability-and-adaptability-women-peace-and-security>

ARTICLE: Connecting the Dots: Women, Peace, and Security and Reproductive Health

REPORTER: *By Bridget Kelly, Wilson Center—New Security Beat (09.20.23)*

EXCERPT: The heightened risk for women and girls during times of upheaval carries with it a more pressing need for ensuring access to SRH (Sexual and Reproductive Health) services. Funding for SRHR continues to be a critical component often overlooked in matters of peace and security. However, greater investments in SRHR can enable women's full and meaningful participation in paths to peace—as it also accelerates progress toward ensuring the health and wellbeing of their communities.

READ MORE: <https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2023/09/connecting-dots-women-peace-security-reproductive-health/>

ARTICLE: Breaking the Silos: A New U.S. Strategy Linking Gender Equality & Climate Action

REPORTER: *By Aubrey R. Paris, Ph.D., Office Of Global Women's Issues, State Department (09.18.23)*

EXCERPT: Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment strengthens our ability to combat climate change, helping us to reduce emissions and build resilience. In 2021, the U.S. government elevated the importance of simultaneously promoting gender equality and tackling the climate crisis in its first-ever U.S. National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality. Earlier this year, we put pen to paper to develop yet another first: the United States Strategy to Respond to the Effects of Climate Change on Women.

READ MORE: <https://www.state.gov/breaking-the-silos-a-new-u-s-strategy-linking-gender-equality-climate-action/>

ARTICLE: Deep Dive Recap: MENA and the Gender Perspective

REPORTER: *By NATO (09.13.23)*

EXCERPT: To mark the upcoming 23rd anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the NATO International Military Staff Office of the Gender Advisor (IMS GENAD) has launched a new series of deep dives focusing on the Gender Perspective in different geographical regions. On 13 September 2023, the first session of this series was held with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_218560.htm

ARTICLE: Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ukraine: Lessons from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Policy Options for Ukraine, the United States, and the International Community

REPORTER: *By Emily Prey Tanya Domi, Dr. Kinsey Spears, Newline Institute (September 2023)*

EXCERPT: Since the start of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2014, there have been countless reports of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) committed by the Russian forces against Ukrainian civilians of all ages and genders. Women in particular have faced extensive sexual violence during this conflict ... Similar to Ukraine, in Bosnia-Herzegovina people of all ages, genders, and sexual orientations were subjected to extensive CRSV, and many of the survivors still have not received justice. The international community must learn from Bosnia to better prepare its response to Ukraine and to aid trauma-informed social reconstruction postwar so that it does not take 30-plus years for survivors to come forward and for communities to heal.

READ MORE: <https://newlinesinstitute.org/gender/conflict-related-sexual-violence-in-ukraine-lessons-from-bosnia-and-herzegovina-and-policy-options-for-ukraine-the-united-states-and-the-international-community/>

ARTICLE: US Ambassador: More Help Needed For Sexual Abuse Victims

REPORTER: *By Clint Chan Tack, Trinidad and Tobago Newsday (09.06.23)*

EXCERPT: US ambassador Candace Bond said it is critical for women and young girls who are the victims of sexual abuse to be able to get the help they need as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Bond spoke after participating in a seminar on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) at the TT Defence Force (TTDF) Military Academy in Corinth on Wednesday.

The WPS is one of the activities undertaken by the US Naval Forces Southern Command as part of its continuing promise mission to the Caribbean/Latin American region. These missions began in 2007.

READ MORE: <https://newsday.co.tt/2023/09/06/us-ambassador-more-help-needed-for-sexual-abuse-victims/>

ARTICLE: Engage Women In Fight Against Violent Extremism, Terrorism

REPORTER: *By Business Ghana (09.05.23)*

EXCERPT: The important role of women in the prevention of violent extremism and terrorism must not be taken for granted, the Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peace Training Centre (KA IPTC), Major General Richard Addo Gyane has said. That, he said, was because women were indispensable change agents in preventing violent extremism. Women, he said, make invaluable contributions to the development of every society, with the domain of peace and security being no exception. He was speaking at the opening of a two-day workshop last Wednesday in Accra on the theme "the role of women and youth in the prevention and fight against violent extremism in West Africa and the Sahel.

READ MORE: <https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/general/293199/Engage-women-in-fight-against-violent-extremism-terrorism>

ARTICLE: No More Boxers: Ukraine's Military To Issue Field Uniforms Specially Designed For Female Soldiers

REPORTER: *By Yulia Zhukova, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (09.03.23)*

EXCERPT: Like men, they may fight as snipers and gunners or serve as scouts and medics, but until this month, Ukraine's estimated 42,000 female soldiers had no uniforms of their own. They had to adapt to men's uniforms.

READ MORE: <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-female-soldiers-uniforms-/32576432.html>

ARTICLE: The Women, Peace and Security Agenda at NATO in Light of the War in Ukraine

REPORTER: *By Stéfanie von Hlatky, Network for Strategic Analysis (09.02.23)*

EXCERPT: The standards derived from the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda are promoted by several international organizations (United Nations, European Union, African Union, etc.), including NATO, which develop initiatives aimed at increasing women's participation – including in military operations – and conducting conflict analyses that are sensitive to gender issues. ... Beyond the diplomatic efforts that have endorsed these norms, the armed forces are often at the forefront of these changes in conflict zones, integrating gender considerations into the planning and execution of missions and training activities within the framework of peace operations.

For troops deployed as part of NATO missions, this often means actively seeking women as interlocutors in their area of operation to enhance intelligence-gathering activities. ... However, little attention has been paid to the relevance of these ideas for collective defence.

READ MORE: <https://ras-nsa.ca/women-peace-security-agenda-nato/>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security in the Pacific

REPORTER: *By Heather Wrathall and Elizabeth Kopel (09.01.23)*

EXCERPT: The Pacific Islands region is not immune to the scourge of gender-based violence, an insidious form of social instability with much wider implications.

READ MORE: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/09/women-peace-and-security-in-the-pacific/>

ARTICLE: U.S. Africa Command Hosts the 2023 Strategic Religious Affairs Conference

REPORTER: *By CH, LT COL Jonathan Bell, CDR Ryan Bareng, CHC, USN, and SGM Robert Blalock, United States Africa Command (09.01.23)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Africa Command held its annual strategic religious affairs conference at Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, from Aug. 15-17, 2023. Chaplains and their Senior Enlisted Religious Affairs Advisors joined from U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) Service Component Commands, U.S. National Guards State Partnership Program, Department of State, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and U.S. European Command. ... Lindsey Brothers, USAFRICOM Gender Advisor (J54), spoke on how Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) considerations and programming are integrated throughout the Combatant Command and Component Commands and how religious affairs support these vital efforts.

READ MORE: <https://www.africom.mil/article/35243/us-africa-command-hosts-the-2023-strategic-religious-affairs-conference>

ARTICLE: Building Holistic Security: Addressing Security Risks of Women Peacebuilders Through Partnerships

REPORTER: *By Ozgunes, et al., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (September 2023)*

EXCERPT: *Building Holistic Security: Addressing Security Risks of Women Peacebuilders Through Partnerships* addresses how international partners who wish to work with women peacebuilders and support them in addressing the risks and insecurity they face need to recognize the scope and nature of peacebuilding work, which is often cross-cutting, overlapping with humanitarian response and development work. Understanding the nuances and breadth of women peacebuilders' work is crucial to identifying the risks they face and providing them with effective legal, political and financial protection – and is thereby essential to creating partnerships that mitigate and address these risks.

READ MORE: <https://digital.sandiego.edu/ipj-research/71/>

Upcoming Events

WHAT: U.S. Army Women's Foundation Leadership Symposium

WHEN: Oct. 9, 2023, 1:30 – 3:30 EDT

WHERE: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Room 202B, Washington, D.C. and Livestream
Join us at our Leadership Symposium at the AUSA Annual Meeting as we host a panel discussion on "The Limitless Possibilities for Army Women - Be All You Can Be." Keynote speakers will be COL Clydea Prichard-Brown and COL Clydellia Prichard-Allen. The panel moderator is CW5 Phyllis J. Wilson. Panelists are: CW5 Yolondria Dixon-Carter, MAJ Sidney Jacques, CSM JoAnn Naumann, and CSM Tonya Sims

READ MORE: <https://www.awfdn.org/join-us-at-ausa-for-the-u-s-army-womens-foundation-leadership-symposium-2/>

WHAT: SecurityWomen Conference 2023

WHEN: Oct. 18, 2023

WHERE: London, UK. In person and Virtual.

Hear from distinguished experts in the field of defence, security and gender how women are shaping security and making a difference. Participate in discussions around:

- UN Peacekeeping and the challenges of today
- Reform of Policing everywhere, taking the example of the UK and progress to date
- The Conflict in Ukraine and women's roles in defence and security.

READ MORE: To register for in-person or online, visit <https://www.securitywomen.org/events>

WHAT: Cynthia Enloe Book Launch: *Twelve Feminist Lessons of War*

WHEN: Oct. 30, 2023 @ 1400 EDT

WHERE: In-person at Women's Center, Brooklyn College, CUNY and Online

Twelve Feminist Lessons of War draws on sharp insights of women as survivors, activists and scholars from Ukraine to Sudan and Myanmar to show how diverse women's experiences of war must be taken seriously to prevent and shorten wars and make gender justice central to recovering from wars.

READ MORE: Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sc-grpjrGNEsuaOm7n3aSStb5fTtakJy#/registration>

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

WHEN: Nov. 7, 2023 @ 1100 EDT

WHERE: MS Teams

The monthly meeting of the U.S. Army WPS Gender Advisory Network is scheduled for Nov. 7, 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

Past Events

WHAT: Innovations in Implementing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

WHEN: On Sept. 20, 2023 IPI together with the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Slovenia,

Switzerland, and Mexico to the UN, cohosted a symposium on Innovations in Implementing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.

WHERE: International Peace institute—video now available online

READ MORE: <https://www.ipinst.org/2023/09/innovations-in-implementing-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda>

WHAT: Combatting Gender Apartheid: The Situation of Women & Girls in Afghanistan

WHEN: United Nations Headquarters, Sept. 22, 2023

WHERE: United Nations Headquarters —Livestream now available online

The resurgence of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan has marked a significant turning point, rekindling profound concerns about the rights and prospects of the Afghan population, with a particular focus on the vulnerable status of women and girls. This event aims to examine why today's Afghanistan is a state of "Gender Apartheid" and shed light on the pressing issues pertaining to women's rights and human rights under the Taliban regime.

READ MORE: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1byqo7kna>

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