



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—NOVEMBER 2023

The WPS in the Military News Round Up is an 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 of 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—November 2023

ARTICLE: Release of the 2023 Women, Peace and Security Strategy and National Action Plan

REPORTER: *By The White House (10.31.23)*

EXCERPT: Promoting women’s meaningful participation, leadership and engagement in decision-making at all levels is both a moral and a strategic imperative for U.S. foreign policy and national security. Wherever the rights of women and girls are under threat, so, too, is democracy, peace, and stability.

READ MORE: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/31/fact-sheet-release-of-the-2023-women-peace-and-security-strategy-and-national-action-plan/>

- **RELATED: U.S. Strategy and National Action Plan on Women, Peace And Security October 2023 (FULL DOCUMENT)**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/U.S.-Strategy-and-National-Action-Plan-on-Women-Peace-and-Security.pdf>

ARTICLE: Defence Must Recognise that Women, Peace and Security Isn’t Just a Personnel Issue

REPORTER: *By Susan Hutchinson, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (10.27.23)*

EXCERPT: ...WPS is not just a people issue. The issues raised in the culture reforms ... are often confused with WPS and the tasks specified in the resolutions, such as having a gendered understanding of conflict, protecting women from conflict-related sexual violence, and including local women in security sector reform; disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration activities; and peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction. The Security Council, which promulgates the resolutions, is not the UN Human Rights Council; it is the premier organ of the UN that discusses matters of international peace and security. The WPS agenda is a matter of international security that needs to be addressed in Defence’s joint preparedness and operational cycles, regardless of any overlap with gender equality and human rights.

READ MORE: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/defence-must-recognise-that-women-peace-and-security-isnt-just-a-personnel-issue/>

ARTICLE: 2023 Women, Peace, and Security Index

REPORTER: *By the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security (10.24.23)*

EXCERPT: The 2023 edition of the global Women Peace and Security Index (WPS Index) scores and ranks 177 countries in terms of women’s inclusion, justice, and security.

No country performs perfectly on the WPS Index and the results reveal wide disparities across countries, regions, and indicators. The WPS Index offers a tool for identifying where resources and accountability are needed most to advance women's status - which benefits us all. The WPS Index is published by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

READ MORE: <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/>

ARTICLE: Including Women in Security Missions Prevents Violence, Boosts Intel, Report Finds

REPORTER: *By Kelsey Baker, Military.com (10.20.23)*

EXCERPT: Women serving in tactical peacekeeping and security operations often work better with the civilian populations they're charged with protecting because of cultural norms, according to a report released this month. The report pointed to several areas where having women involved in decision-making and mission execution yielded better results, according to the authors. Those included preventing violence.

"It's really to help commanders, the people making decisions, understand how gender factors might come into play and may impact operations," said co-author of the report Joslyn Fleming, a researcher at the think tank Rand Corp.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/20/including-women-security-missions-prevents-violence-boosts-intel-report-finds.html>

ARTICLE: U.S. Military Has More Work To Do Integrating Women, Report Finds

REPORTER: *By Meghann Myers, Military Times (10.20.23)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. and its partner nations will need to continue to integrate women, at all ranks, to be able to solve complex security challenges, the report said, using the "Women, Peace and Security" concept developed by the UN in 2000. As it currently stands, women make up 18% of the Army. In the Marine Corps, the representation is half that.

READ MORE: <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2023/10/20/us-military-has-more-work-to-do-integrating-women-report-finds/>

ARTICLE: Longer Maternity Leave Linked to Lower Attrition in U.S. Military

REPORTER: *By Scott Schrage, University of Nebraska, Communication and Marketing (10.19.23)*

EXCERPT: Overall, 21% of the women [pregnant and postpartum women in the study] exited the military within that 21-month window. But the researchers discovered a trend when comparing attrition from 2011-2015, when maternity leave was still six weeks, against 2016-2019, after the leave had doubled. Whereas 23% of the pregnant women departed under the previous policy, only 18% did so when afforded 12 weeks of paid leave. Chai and Herrick also found that the link between leave length and attrition varied with rank, especially when it came to women who generally lacked it. Among junior-enlisted women — those ranking lowest in their respective branches — 29.2% exited under the six-week policy, compared to just 22% of those receiving 12 weeks' leave.

READ MORE: <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/longer-maternity-leave-linked-to-lower-attrition-in-us-military/>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security in Action: Including Gender Perspectives in Department of Defense Operations, Activities, and Investments (REPORT)

REPORTER: *By Joslyn Fleming, Chandra Garber, Karen M. Sudkamp, Elisa Yoshiara, Abigail S. Post, Victoria M. Smith, Khadesia Howell, RAND (10.18.23)*

EXCERPT: In light of the five-year anniversary of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017, the RAND Corporation sought to understand and portray strategic, operational, and tactical applications of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) principles in U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) operations and activities. A series of vignettes highlights specific efforts to implement DoD's WPS Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan in the military services and during operations with allies and partners.

READ MORE: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1696-1.html

ARTICLE: Reservist Attends Mexico Aerospace Fair as Sole NCO Panelist on Women, Peace and Security Conference

REPORTER: *By Tech. Sgt. Justin Norton, 302nd Airlift Wing (10.16.23)*

EXCERPT: A 302nd Operations Group reservist participated in the 2023 Mexican Aerospace Fair as a panelist on the Women, Peace and Security conference at Santa Lucia Air Base, Mexico, Apr. 26-29, to speak about her experiences as a woman in the Air Force Reserve.

Master Sgt. Sueann Carrasco, 302nd Operations Group commander support staff NCO in charge, spoke in front of 500 conference attendees about her experiences working as a woman in a male-dominated career field. She spoke alongside multiple Air Force officers as the only NCO among the panelists about her female and male mentors throughout her career. She also highlighted how exercise resiliency helped her within the Air Force.

READ MORE: <https://www.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3558695/reservist-attends-mexico-aerospace-fair-as-sole-nco-panelist-on-women-peace-and/>

ARTICLE: Take Five: "Gender Equality And Women's Empowerment Must Be Prioritized In Matters Of National, Regional and International Security"

REPORTER: *By Hansol Kang, UN Women (10.09.23)*

EXCERPT: Gender equality and women's empowerment are not only fundamental principles of the right to non-discrimination, they're also essential inputs for the achievement of peace and security, development and human rights. The research is definitive: gender inequality is a driver of broader social inequality and situations of armed conflict and fragility. Therefore, gender equality and women's empowerment must be prioritized in matters of national, regional and international security.

READ MORE: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/take-five/2023/10/commander-tyson-nicholas>

ARTICLE: The Marines are Moving Gradually and Sometimes Reluctantly to Integrate Women and Men in Boot Camp

REPORTER: *By Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press (10.08.23)*

EXCERPT: While companies of men and women train together at the ring, on the obstacle course or at the range, the line of recruits outside the swimming pool presents a sharp contrast. There the companies are broken up into their smaller platoons that remain separated by gender. So as they line up, there is a small group of women standing rod-straight at the front with groups of men in formation behind them. It's a stark visual reminder that Corps leaders still fervently believe there must be a degree

of segregation as they mold young people into tomorrow's force of what they promote as the Few, the Proud, the Marines.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/10/08/marines-are-moving-gradually-and-sometimes-reluctantly-integrate-women-and-men-boot-camp.html>

ARTICLE: Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Rates Low Among U.S. Army Servicewomen

REPORTER: *By Celeste Crewson, Contemporary OB/GYN (10.06.23)*

EXCERPT: According to a recent study published in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, rates of postpartum long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) are low among active-duty US Army servicewomen. Sixteen percent of active-duty personnel and 19% of active-duty officers are women, with rates of women in the US military rising since the 1970s. Most of these women are of reproductive age, making reproductive health trends vital to evaluate in this population. Servicewomen experience increased rates of unintended pregnancy compared to US civilians, but more research on reproductive healthcare for military women is necessary.

READ MORE: <https://www.contemporaryobgyn.net/view/larc-rates-low-among-us-army-servicewomen>

ARTICLE: Deep Dive Recap: Indo-Pacific and the Gender Perspective

REPORTER: *By NATO (10.05.23)*

EXCERPT: On 5 October 2023, the NATO International Military Staff (IMS) Office of the Gender Advisor convened its second regional Deep Dive session on the Indo-Pacific and the Gender Perspective. The discussion focused on the integration of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda into Australia and Japan's respective initiatives, highlighting best practices in terms of their broader regional relations. It also explored how NATO works with its regional partners to promote the Gender Perspective.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_219650.htm?selectedLocale=en

ARTICLE: Sergeants Major Built a Culture of Camaraderie, as Soldiers and as Black Women

REPORTER: *By Eden Stratton and Anne Marshall-Chalmers, The War Horse (10.05.23)*

EXCERPT: As of October 2022, 416 women were serving as sergeants major, the Army's highest enlisted rank, according to U.S. Army Human Resources Command. Of those, nearly half—193—were Black women (who don't also identify as Hispanic), the most of any group. But Black women make up just 36% of enlisted women in the Army. In an organization where the officer corps is mostly white, these women often serve as mentors, both to the young women who follow in their footsteps and to the young officers who depend on their guidance to lead soldiers.

READ MORE: <https://thewarhorse.org/half-of-us-army-women-command-sergeants-major-are-black/>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security: An Underutilized Tool in Countering the People's Republic of China in the U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility

REPORTER: *By Maj Christine Martinez, Air University, Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs (10.05.23)*

EXCERPT: In the face of increasing People's Republic of China (PRC) influence within the US Southern Command's (SOUTHCOM) area of responsibility (AOR), the United States must adopt innovative approaches to maintain its strategic advantage and strengthen international partnerships. One potent tool is the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Program, which promotes the inclusion of women in peace and security efforts globally. AFSOUTH, the Air Component of SOUTHCOM, exemplifies the successful implementation of WPS principles, fostering lasting relationships with partner nation air forces. By identifying barriers and sharing best practices related to gender perspectives, AFSOUTH

enhances opportunities for half of partner nation populations in a non-escalatory and transparent manner. Such commitment to democratic values and human rights strengthens existing relationships and positions the United States as a leader in WPS initiatives, contrasting the PRC's limited efforts in this realm. Through continued progress in implementing WPS, the United States can further solidify its strategic position and promote cooperation in the Western Hemisphere.

READ MORE: <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/JIPA/Display/Article/3540621/women-peace-and-security-an-underutilized-tool-in-counteracting-the-peoples-republ/>

ARTICLE: Sama Sama 2023: Women, Peace, and Security Forum (PHOTOS)

REPORTER: U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sean Lynch, (10.04.23)

EXCERPT: Capt. Casey Scully-O'Shea, left, Royal Australian Navy Gender Advisor, and Capt. Hernane DC Lanes, right, Commander, Naval Installation Facility Southern Luzon, converse during a Women, Peace, and Security Forum at Maritime Training Exercise (MTA) Sama Sama 2023, Oct. 4. MTA Sama Sama is a multilateral exercise including forces from Philippines, the United States, Australia, France, Japan, Canada and the United Kingdom designed to promote regional security cooperation, enhance maritime interoperability, and maintain and strengthen maritime partnerships.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/8058187/sama-sama-2023-women-peace-and-security-forum>

ARTICLE: U.S. Ambassador to Botswana Howard Van Vranken Opens Up

REPORTER: *By Dikarabo Ramadubu, Guardian Sun, Botswana(10.04.23)*

EXCERPT: The United States government has waded into the crisis of Gender Based Violence (GVB) currently besieging the country including the armed forces, Botswana Defence Force (BDF).

Last week through the bilateral cooperation that exist between Botswana and the US governments, the BDF and the US military held a symposium where they discussed gender, GBV and women's role in security. In a wide-ranging interview, the US Ambassador to Botswana, Howard Van Vranken, revealed that last week's symposium formed part of the way forward for US on bilateral cooperation with the BDF on training.

READ MORE: <https://guardiansun.co.bw/news/us-ambassador-to-botswana-howard-van-vranken-opens-up/news>

ARTICLE: Nairobi hosts SETAF-AF, international partners at JA24 mid planning event

REPORTER: *By Maj. Joe Legros, U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (09.19.23)*

EXCERPT: Representatives from U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF) and several partner nations met with exercise planners from the Kenyan Defence Forces to conduct the mid planning event for exercise Justified Accord 2024 (JA24) Sept. 11 - 15, 2023.

"It's exciting that this year's exercise will include a course discussing partner nation gender focal points through the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiative," said U.S. Army Maj. Teisha Barnes, a civil military operations officer with SETAF-AF. "In meeting with my KDF counterpart, Kenya has a significant interest in promoting the role of women in military service."

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/455100/nairobi-hosts-setaf-af-international-partners-ja24-mid-planning-event>

Upcoming Events

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

WHAT: Assessing the 2023 US Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security

WHEN: Nov. 7, 2023 @ 1200-1300 ET

WHERE: Washington, D.C. and Livestream

The Atlantic Council's Transatlantic Security Initiative and Our Secure Future will host a hybrid public event assessing the new United States Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security. *Event description:* "The geopolitical landscape of the twenty-first century is increasingly fraught. From Russia's brutal war of aggression in Ukraine to Israel's war with Hamas, conflicts are erupting aimed at upending the rules-based international order and targeting civilian populations. Women are consistently and disproportionately affected in these conflicts—malign actors weaponize gender and exploit societal fault lines, leverage sexual violence as a tool to raise the civilian cost of war, and impose institutional obstacles that make women's involvement in peace and stabilization efforts difficult."

READ MORE: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/assessing-the-2023-us-strategy-on-women-peace-and-security/>

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

WHEN: Dec. 5, 2023

WHERE: Arlington, Va.

The next quarterly meeting will be Dec. 5, 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. **The**

December meeting will include a briefing by the Services and DOD on Women, Peace and Security. To

register to watch the briefing via videoconference, contact osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.dacowits@mail.mil

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

WHAT: CALL FOR PAPERS: The Naval War College 10th annual Women, Peace, and Security Conference

WHEN: Proposals (abstract and bio) submission deadline: Dec 05, 2023

WHERE: Newport, Rhode Island

The Naval War College welcomes paper proposals for its 10th annual Women, Peace, and Security Conference (May 2-3, 2024) in Newport, Rhode Island. The event brings together U.S. and international scholars and experts, civilian and military practitioners and leaders to better understand our complex and dynamic security environment. It examines women's full and equal participation, decision-making, and leadership, alongside men, in promoting lasting peace and security. Select papers will be considered

for publication in a book related to the Symposium theme “Advancing Gendered Security in a Complex World: Hard Power, Smart Power, Soft Power.”

READ MORE: <https://usnwc.edu/News-and-Events/Events/US-Naval-War-College-2024-Women-Peace-and-Security-Symposium>

Past Events

WHAT: Engaging Men as Allies in Women, Peace and Security

WHEN: Oct. 30, 2023

WHERE: Video Now Available Online

The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, will launch a new report that contributes to bridging the gap between current WPS practices that focus mainly on women and a growing body of research that explores how efforts to improve the status of women are strengthened by engaging with men and masculinities.

READ MORE: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1g/k1gnqir76n>

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