



## WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

### NEWS ROUND UP—DECEMBER 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—December 2023

**ARTICLE: Gendered Implementation of the Global Fragility Act: A Case for Haiti**

**REPORTER:** *By Marvin Dee Mathelier and Tahina Montoya, WIIS (November 2023)*

**EXCERPT:** In Spring 2023, four years after the passing of the Global Fragility Act (GFA), the U.S. State Department released a 10-Year Strategic Plan for four priority countries and one priority region. Haiti is one of the SPCPS-designated priority states. ... The SPCPS specifically links the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) to its work, recognizing that the root causes of violent extremism are gendered and thus intimately linked to structural inequalities and discriminations that must be addressed to reduce state fragility. Haiti's own 10-Year Strategic Plan identifies severe gender inequality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as elements that undermine Haiti's stability.

**READ MORE:** [https://wiisglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/GenderedImplementationoftheGlobalFragilityAct\\_A-CaseforHaiti.pdf](https://wiisglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/GenderedImplementationoftheGlobalFragilityAct_A-CaseforHaiti.pdf)

**ARTICLE: Combating Terrorism and Misogyny Together**

**REPORTER:** *By Annie Pforzheimer and Shabnam Nasimi, Ms. Magazine (11.30.23)*

**EXCERPT:** In the grim landscape of global conflict, one element stands starkly at its core: the systematic oppression and subjugation of women. ISIS, Hamas and the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda use rape as a weapon of war. The resurgence of the Taliban demonstrates what an extremist terrorist group will do with an entire country: create a brutal reality where misogyny is not a byproduct but a fundamental pillar of extremist ideology. Extremists in Europe and the United States conduct deadly, misogyny-fueled lone wolf attacks. The narrative of international security and foreign policy ignores gender, overlooking the crucial role women play in the fabric of societal stability. Even after 2000, with the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the world only fitfully recognizes gender-based violence in armed conflict as a critical issue.

**READ MORE:** <https://msmagazine.com/2023/11/30/terrorism-misogyny-women-rape-taliban-afghanistan/>

**ARTICLE: Memo for Armed Forces of Ukraine Personnel on Interaction with Survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (Soldier's Card)**

**REPORTER:** *By Alinea International (11.28.23)*

**EXCERPT:** In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, the (Alinea International) team developed a memo for Ukrainian Armed forces personnel on how to identify and respond to incidents of conflict related sexual violence with the aim to integrate a survivor-centered approach.

**READ MORE:** English: <https://www.alineainternational.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/PROTECT-memo-EN.pdf>

**ARTICLE: DoD Commends Release of 2023 Women, Peace, and Security Strategy and National Action Plan**

**REPORTER:** *By Department of Defense (11.20.23)*

**EXCERPT:** WPS principles are integral to U.S. national security and advance National Defense Strategy objectives by enhancing the recruitment, readiness, and retention of our joint force and defense workforce; shaping DoD operations to incorporate a gender perspective; and working with allies and partners on WPS implementation to build resilience against competitors' coercive actions.

In the last four years, DoD has made significant strides implementing and institutionalizing WPS.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3595108/dod-commends-release-of-2023-women-peace-and-security-strategy-and-national-act/>

**ARTICLE: Military Women's Deaths by Suicide Linked to Sexual Trauma**

**REPORTER:** *By Sonner Kehrt, The War Horse (11.20.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The military has long struggled with the twin plagues of suicide and sexual assault, but it rarely explicitly ties the two together. While men in the military also have high rates of death by suicide, the deaths among military women are increasing at a faster rate, and their experiences of military culture—and the reasons they kill themselves—differ from men's.

**READ MORE:** <https://thewarhorse.org/us-military-women-suicide-deaths-linked-to-sexual-trauma/>

**ARTICLE: Using Nominal Group Technique to Identify the Planning Considerations for UK Armed Forces Medical Personnel Delivering Defence Engagement First Aid Training Activities**

**REPORTER:** *By Mark Anthony Middleton and J. Whitaker, Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (11.17.23)*

**EXCERPT:** UK Defence Medical Services (DMS) personnel regularly deploy overseas to deliver training activities as part of defence engagement (DE). Successful DE, which positively influences partners and others, relies on the delivered training being perceived as credible. ... The characteristics of high-quality training include following a systematic approach and selecting the right mix of individuals to deliver the training. Of particular importance is considering the role and mix of gender within the team's design, in accordance with the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda.

**READ MORE:** <https://militaryhealth.bmj.com/content/early/2023/11/17/military-2023-002477>

**ARTICLE: Five Gains and Gaps in the Campaign to End Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

**REPORTER:** *By Chantal de Jonge Oudraat and Kathleen Kuehnast, Ph.D., USIP (11.15.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Although wartime sexual violence has been outlawed since 1907, it was not until the 1990s, under the aegis of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, that explicit charges were brought forward for wartime sexual violence. Rape as a war crime was further codified in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998. In March 2016, the ICC pronounced its first conviction for wartime sexual violence crimes. Since that time, the court has expanded its jurisprudence and developed new policies, including one on gender-based crimes and crimes against children, with the finalized versions set to be released in December 2023. Of the 10 U.N. Security Council resolutions on WPS, five have explicitly focused on CRSV.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/11/five-gains-and-gaps-campaign-end-conflict-related-sexual-violence>

**ARTICLE: United States Embassy Hosts Women, Peace and Security Panel and Roundtable Discussion**

**REPORTER:** *By Zoila Palma Gonzalez, Breaking Belize News (11.15.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The United States Embassy in Belize recently hosted a Women, Peace and Security panel and roundtable discussion. ... U.S. Ambassador Michelle Kwan and U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) Women, Peace and Security Chief Lt Col Aries Hopf along with 41 members of the Belizean interagency participated in this important event.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2023/11/09/united-states-embassy-hosts-women-peace-and-security-panel-and-roundtable-discussion/>

**ARTICLE: Promise Crawford is the SD Army National Guard's First Female Native American Sergeant Major**

**REPORTER:** *By Staff, Dakota News Now (11.14.23)*

**EXCERPT:** Elizabeth "Promise" Crawford was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major in the South Dakota Army National Guard last week. The ceremony was held at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid on Nov. 9. Crawford is the first female Native American Soldier to be promoted to the rank of Sgt. Maj. in the South Dakota National Guard.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.dakotanewsnow.com/2023/11/14/promise-crawford-is-sd-army-national-guards-first-female-native-american-sergeant-major/>

**ARTICLE: Deep Dive Recap: the Sahel and the Gender Perspective**

**REPORTER:** *By NATO (11.13.23)*

**EXCERPT:** On 13 November 2023, the NATO International Military Staff (IMS) Office of the Gender Advisor convened its third regional Deep Dive session on the Sahel and the Gender Perspective. The discussion centered on the challenges that women and girls face in the region in amidst volatile political and security environments. It also explored how different local and international actors are promoting the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda in the Sahel.

**READ MORE:** [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_220947.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_220947.htm)

**ARTICLE: National Guard Joins Air Force African Senior Enlisted Leader Summit**

**REPORTER:** *By Staff Sgt. Heather Ley, USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs (11.13.23)*

**EXCERPT:** One summit section focused on advancing the Women, Peace and Security initiative, which recognizes women as critical to achieving sustainable international peace and security. ... "A topic we discussed that greatly interests me is the Women, Peace and Security initiative," said (Côte d'Ivoire air force senior enlisted leader) Denis. "We need to improve the life of women in the military and how to help female NCOs manage their careers and find that work-life balance that many struggle with."

**READ MORE:** <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article-View/Article/3586600/national-guard-joins-air-force-african-senior-enlisted-leader-summit/>

**ARTICLE: 'Women Don't Fight.' On the Forgotten Contribution of Female Soldiers (OPINION)**

**REPORTER:** *By Sarah Percy, The Globe and Mail (11.10.23)*

**EXCERPT:** More recent wars confirm the lessons of the past: that women are entirely capable of fighting. Remembering the history of women in combat demonstrates that women were never inferior to men, not even on the battlefield. It was never the case that women could not fight, or lacked courage, or could not stand up to the rigours of the battlefield. When given the opportunity to do so (or when they took that opportunity themselves), women demonstrated that there was little difference between men

and women even in warfare, the most masculine of pursuits. As women continue to break into combat around the world and bring down barriers in the military, it may well serve as a reminder that the barriers keeping them out were artificial in the first place.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-women-dont-fight-on-the-forgotten-contribution-of-female-soldiers/>

**ARTICLE: WPS Gender Panel Discuss Gender Integration at Southern Vanguard 24**

**REPORTER:** *By Staff Sgt. ShaTyra Reed-Cox, U.S. Army South- (11.08.23)*

**EXCERPT:** “It’s incredibly important to improve on our own internal systems, to ensure that we are more inclusive and diverse and representative of the needs of the Army,” said Brig. Gen. Isabel Smith, the Director of Joint Staff for the New York National Guard. “Providing a stronger more diverse military, that includes women at all levels only adds strength to the joint force.”

The U.S. Southern Command WPS program is part of a national effort to promote the meaningful contributions of women in the defense and security sectors around the world as agents of peace via political, economic, and social empowerment.

**READ MORE:**

[https://www.army.mil/article/271530/wps\\_gender\\_panel\\_discuss\\_gender\\_integration\\_at\\_sv24](https://www.army.mil/article/271530/wps_gender_panel_discuss_gender_integration_at_sv24)

**ARTICLE: Documenting Change: The Museum’s Military Women Aviators Oral History Initiative**

**REPORTER:** *By Dorothy Cochrane, National Air and Space Museum (11.07.23)*

**EXCERPT:** In February 2019, the National Air and Space Museum launched the Military Women Aviators Oral History Initiative (MWAOHI) to record histories of some of the groundbreaking women who led incremental change in the military that resulted in women becoming fully vested (combat) military pilots. Military women’s histories are vital components of museum archival collections. Oral histories facilitate more complete representation of military aviation in scholarly works and exhibitions and enable the Museum to present a broad spectrum of aviation faces to the public.

**READ MORE:** <https://airandspace.si.edu/stories/editorial/military-women-aviators-oral-history-initiative>

**ARTICLE: Enhancing the Alliance’s Warfare Development: Insights from the 2023 Gender Advisor Conference**

**REPORTER:** *By NATO (11.03.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The systematic integration of gender perspective across the full spectrum of NATO military operations, missions and activities, in support of operationalising NATO’s Women, Peace and Security agenda, enhances the fighting power of the Alliance and overall effectiveness when delivering its three core tasks. This conference served as a platform for sharing information, raising awareness and for discussions related to how gender perspective in military operations and activities interconnect with other key areas of work at Allied Command Transformation, such as Cognitive Warfare, the AzuritOwl innovation project, Multi-Domain Operations in Urban Environment, Wargaming, Lessons Identified from the war in Ukraine, and the Warfare Development Agenda.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.act.nato.int/article/insights-from-2023-genad-conference/>

**ARTICLE: Sea Sisters Prepare for Bull Shark Exercise**

**REPORTER:** *By Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Maria Olvera Tristan, Djibouti (10.30.23)*

**EXCERPT:** The exercise included classroom training by MSRON-11 and a presentation from Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa’s Women Peace and Security (WPS) committee. After class, teams of

U.S. and Djiboutian service women filled three boats to begin a practical maritime search-and-rescue scenario.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/457252/sea-sisters-prepare-bull-shark-exercise>

**ARTICLE: ICYMI—Leader Up Podcast: Women, Peace, and Security**

**REPORTER:** *By Mr. David Howey, Army Management Staff College (10.19.23)*

**EXCERPT:** In this episode of the Leader Up Podcast, we meet Dr. LisaRe Babin, a Research Psychologist at Army University where she talks about Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), her work as a Department of Defense Gender Advisor, and how gender considerations can be included in your daily work as an Army civilian as the Army implements the three WPS Defense Objectives.

**READ MORE:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-60-women-peace-and-security/id1378682853?i=1000630998131>

### Upcoming Events

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

**WHEN:** January 9, 2024 @ 1100 EDT

**WHERE:** MS Teams

The monthly meeting of the U.S. Army WPS Gender Advisory Network is scheduled for January 9, 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: The Naval War College 10th Annual Women, Peace, and Security Conference**

**WHEN:** May 2-3, 2024

**WHERE:** Newport, Rhode Island

This year's theme is "Advancing Gendered Security in a Complex World: Hard Power, Smart Power, Soft Power." 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.

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

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