



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—JANUARY 2024

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—January 2024

ARTICLE: Sexual Assault Now Tried Outside Military Chain of Command

REPORTER: *By DOD News (12.28.23)*

EXCERPT: Beginning today, the decision to prosecute sexual assault and several other serious crimes has moved from an accused service member's chain of command to new Offices of Special Trial Counsel, which have general or flag officer leaders who report directly to the secretaries of the military departments.

READ MORE: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3627107/sexual-assault-now-tried-outside-military-chain-of-command/>

ARTICLE: US and Chilean Navies Strengthen Interoperability with Naval Exercise

REPORTER: *By Guillermo Saavedra, DIÁLOGO (12.20.23)*

EXCERPT: With the aim of increasing interoperability, readiness, and strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation, the navies of the United States and Chile completed a new edition of naval exercise Teamwork South, October 6-12, between the regions of Coquimbo and Valparaíso, in central Chile. ... A Women, Peace, and Security panel was also carried out on board the frigate Lynch, the Chilean Navy said, adding that the naval institution has processes for the incorporation of women in different areas, including the entry of the first female cadets to the Naval School in 2007.

READ MORE: <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/us-and-chilean-navies-strengthen-interoperability-with-naval-exercise/>

ARTICLE: Our Secure Future Presents Mobilizing Men as Allies for WPS Workshop at National Defense University

REPORTER: *By Our Secure Future (12.20.23)*

EXCERPT: On December 13 Ambassador Donald Steinberg and Our Secure Future (OSF) Director Sahana Dharmapuri delivered a presentation to a National Defense University (NDU) student affinity group, Women in National Security (WINS). The presentation highlighted the importance of male allies in peace and security as well as the implications across the WPS policy landscape.

READ MORE: <https://oursecurefuture.org/news/our-secure-future-presents-mobilizing-men-allies-wps-workshop-national-defense-university>

ARTICLE: A Global Commitment to End All Gender-Based Violence

REPORTER: *By Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, Ambassador-At-Large For Global Women's Issues at the U.S. State Department, Ms. Magazine (12.19.23)*

EXCERPT: We have seen time and again that the risk and incidence of GBV increase during conflict. In Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iran, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen—in every region—women and girls are raped, sexually assaulted, subjected to domestic and intimate partner violence, and trafficked. Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), a form of GBV constituting incidents or patterns of sexual violence occurring in conflict or post-conflict settings with a direct or indirect link to conflict, can be an early warning sign for the onset of atrocities and an atrocity itself. The current crisis in the Middle East is front of mind for many of us.

READ MORE: <https://msmagazine.com/2023/12/19/gender-sexual-violence-rape-war/>

ARTICLE: Female Chaplain Retires With a Legacy of Faith, Service, and Inclusion

REPORTER: *By 1st Lt. Katherine Sibilla (12.16.23)*

EXCERPT: Most of Browne's tenure as a chaplain has been focused on creating a more inclusive environment within the chaplaincy. Her doctoral work centered on recruiting strategies for female chaplains, resulting in an improvement in female representation during her years of service. She leaves behind a legacy of advocating for diversity and ensuring that every soldier, regardless of gender, felt seen and supported.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/272538/female_chaplain_retires_with_a_legacy_of_faith_service_and_inclusion

ARTICLE: NATO Conference Double Feature: UNO Professors Illuminate Gender Perspectives in Modern Warfare

REPORTER: *By Courtni Kopietz, UNO (12.15.23)*

EXCERPT: University of Nebraska Omaha political science professors Lana Obradovic, Ph.D., and Jody Neathery-Castro, Ph.D. ... presented their now-published NATO Open Perspectives Exchange Network (OPEN) report on "Integrating Gender Perspective in Cognitive Warfare" at the ICDE Conference. They were invited to write a report that addresses a paradigm shift in modern warfare, where information technology, neurocognitive science, and AI play pivotal roles in manipulating human cognition as it relates to gender. The primary goal was to understand the nature of gendered cognitive warfare and examine its implications for democratic societies and national security interests.

READ MORE: <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/news/2023/12/nato-conference-double-feature-uno-professors-illuminate-gender-perspectives-in-modern-warfare.php>

ARTICLE: New Global Health & Gender Policy Brief: Women and Girls in Wartime

REPORTER: *By Maternal Health Initiative Staff, New Policy Beat, Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Program (12.13.23)*

EXCERPT: The world is currently bearing witness to a surge of ongoing conflicts, each with complex geopolitical, socioeconomic, and cultural factors, which contribute to their continuation and intractability. The impact on women is clear. In 2022, some 600,000,000 women lived within 50 kilometers of armed conflict. Evidence shows that armed conflict increases the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and maternal deaths, decreases girls' attendance in school and women's participation in

the paid economy, and has led to the displacement of more than 40 million women and children. GBV is even more prevalent among women and girls who have been forcibly displaced.

READ MORE: <https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2023/12/new-global-health-gender-policy-brief-women-and-girls-in-wartime/>

ARTICLE: USTRANSCOM Commander Commends PNG Advancements In Military Gender Inclusivity During Keynote Visit

REPORTER: *By USTRANSCOM (12.13.23)*

EXCERPT: Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) commander, recognized Papua New Guinea Defence Force's (PNGDF) advancements in gender inclusivity within its ranks, underscoring the country's emergence as a regional beacon for Women's Peace and Security. ...

"Today's dialogue with PNG's gender focal points and advisors in uniform was truly inspiring," Van Ovost said. "They are trailblazers who exemplify our united effort to build a more inclusive and empowered defense force."

READ MORE: <https://www.ustranscom.mil/cmd/panewsreader.cfm?ID=E148F47C-E751-118A-2D071CFCD3F29316&yr=2023>

ARTICLE: Women and Gender Equality in the Ukrainian Armed Forces

REPORTER: *By Tamara Martsenyuk, Chapter 10 in "Dispossessions: Anthropological Perspectives on Russia's War Against Ukraine" (12.08.23)*

EXCERPT: Since Ukrainian independence in 1991, equality and human rights have become more important values in Ukrainian society. Gender equality improved during and after the Revolution of Dignity (a.k.a. the Euromaidan Protests) of 2013–2014. During this and other historical events, Ukrainian women played an important role in fighting for freedom, equality, and dignity. Grassroots activism has a long tradition in Ukraine, and women have actively participated in bringing forth "bottom-up" changes in the country, including new ideas about gender.

READ MORE: <https://ekmair.ukma.edu.ua/items/0557e367-5953-4532-bc10-6dc4f562e5ac>

ARTICLE: San Antonio Native Rear Adm. Yvette Davids Becomes First Woman to Lead U.S. Naval Academy

REPORTER: *By Shepard Price, San Antonio Express News (12.08.23)*

EXCERPT: The highly decorated Rear Adm. Yvette Davids has a couple of firsts to her name. That includes being the first Latina to command a warship in the U.S. Navy. Now, the San Antonio native will be the first woman to lead the Naval Academy.

READ MORE: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/yvette-davids-naval-academy-first-woman-18541600.php>

ARTICLE: Congress Tells Army to Set Higher Fitness Standards for Combat Arms Soldiers

REPORTER: *By Steve Beynon, Military.com (12.07.23)*

EXCERPT: Congress is set to direct the Army to boost fitness standards for most combat-arms jobs through a compromise defense policy bill unveiled Wednesday.

The must-pass National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, which sets funding and policy priorities for the Pentagon, directs the service to increase the baseline standards in the Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, for ground troops including infantry, cavalry scouts and Special Forces within 18 months of the bill

being signed into law by the president. ... The NDAA does not prescribe the new standards to be gender neutral, an about-face from what a draft version of the House version of the bill called for and what some Army planners were mulling behind the scenes.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/07/congress-tells-army-set-higher-fitness-standards-combat-arms-soldiers.html>

ARTICLE: How the Taliban Enables Violence Against Women

REPORTER: *By Belquis Ahmadi, USIP (12.07.23)*

EXCERPT: In just 28 months, the Taliban have dismantled Afghan women's and girls' rights — imposing draconian restrictions regarding their education, employment and freedom of movement. Any perceived violation of these oppressive policies is often met with harassment, intimidation, and verbal and physical abuse orchestrated by the Taliban's Ministry of Vice and Virtue. And when women are detained by authorities, they have been subjected to cruel treatment, including torture.

The Taliban's anti-women policies, combined with an emboldened patriarchal system, have made Afghanistan the lowest-ranked country in the 2023 Women, Peace and Security Index.

READ MORE: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/12/how-taliban-enables-violence-against-women>

- **RELATED: Afghanistan: Taliban Sends Abused Women To Prison – UN**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-67724424>

ARTICLE: U.S. Commitments at the 2023 Accra Peacekeeping Ministerial

REPORTER: *By Office of the Spokesperson, U.S. Department of State (12. 07.23)*

EXCERPT: To continue our robust and longstanding peacekeeping capacity-building efforts, address UN Action for Peacekeeping priorities, and support ambitious action globally, on December 6, 2023, the United States pledged to 1) Operationalize our Commitment to Women, Peace, and Security Objectives through the Establishment of a New Partnership to Implement a Women's Body Armor Pilot Project. The United States continues to prioritize and undertake initiatives that promote the full, equal, and meaningful participation and operational imperative of women in peacekeeping. In recognition of Ghana's and Zambia's leadership in expanding the meaningful participation of women in UN peacekeeping deployments, the United States, the Netherlands, Ghana, and Zambia are partnering on a quadrilateral women's body armor pilot program.

READ MORE: <https://www.state.gov/u-s-commitments-at-the-2023-accra-peacekeeping-ministerial/>

ARTICLE: Sexual Violence is Not an Inevitable Cost of War

REPORTER: *By Kathleen Kuehnast, Ph.D., USIP (12.07.23)*

EXCERPT: The ever-growing list of conflict zones in which sexual violence has been reported globally this year, including in Israel, Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti, underscores the persistent horror of this scourge. Acts of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) violate not only the physical and mental integrity of the victims but also breach international humanitarian law and human rights principles. The consequences extend beyond the immediate trauma, impacting individuals, families, communities and countries for years, even decades, afterward.

READ MORE: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/12/sexual-violence-not-inevitable-cost-war>

ARTICLE: California National Guard to Revitalize Collaboration with NAF

REPORTER: *By Soonest Nathaniel, Channels Television Nigeria (12.07.23)*

EXCERPT: The California National Guard (CNG) has promised to revitalize and enhance its existing partnership with the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) in the ongoing fight against terrorism in Nigeria and across Africa. Adjutant General of the CNG, Major General Matthew Beevers, gave this reaffirmation when he paid a courtesy visit to Headquarters NAF on Wednesday. ... Major General Beevers, who stated this also emphasized the pivotal role of the NAF as an important strategic ally in the global effort against terrorism. ... Major General Beevers was accompanied by Mr. Joseph Kraus who is the Political-Military Officer at the US Embassy Abuja, Lieutenant Colonel Megan Stromberg, the Women, Peace and Security Representative at the CNG, Command Sergeant Major Kristin Caldwell of 340th Brigade Support Battalion as well as staff of the US Embassy Defence Section.

READ MORE: <https://www.channelstv.com/2023/12/07/california-national-guard-to-revitalize-collaboration-with-naf/>

ARTICLE: Short Changed: Military Women Face Assault, Harassment, Death. Is Culture to Blame?

REPORTER: *By Kristin Davis, The War Horse (12.07.23)*

EXCERPT: “Can culture change? Yes,” said John Kotter, a Harvard Business School’s Konosuke Matsushita professor of leadership, emeritus, who has written extensively on organizational change. “The bigger the operation in general, the more slowly it changes. There’s no question about that. You’ve got so many people who have got to change their norms and behaviors.” ... It takes work—recognizing those who made the change, and applauding and communicating the results, Kotter said. But it can be done, even in the largest organizations. And while change doesn’t have to start at the top, those at the top can stymie it “if they are strong enough and powerful enough.” In successful cases, though, “at a certain point there is enough evidence, energy, and enthusiasm around this new way of operating,” he said. “At a minimum [leaders] don’t block it. In the best cases, they become champions.”

READ MORE: <https://thewarhorse.org/military-women-face-violence-in-service-some-blame-culture/>

ARTICLE: Honduras Hosts Human Rights Conference

REPORTER: *By Kay Valle, Diálogo (12. 07.23)*

EXCERPT: Military and law enforcement leaders from 10 countries came together for the Central American Human Rights Initiative Conference in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, November 29-30, to analyze human rights directives and policies applied in participating countries. The Conference was made possible thanks to the Honduran Ministry of Defense and U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). ... Given the importance of women’s participation, the conference also addressed the Women, Peace, and Security Initiative. “It’s a subject matter that SOUTHCOM promotes in the region in the countries with which we work,” Lt. Col. Rodríguez told Diálogo.

READ MORE: <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/honduras-hosts-human-rights-conference/>

ARTICLE: Weapon or Tool? How the Tech Community Can Shape Robust Standards and Norms for AI, Gender, and Peacebuilding

REPORTER: *By Nick Zuroski, Manager for Policy & Advocacy at the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Global Network on Extremism and Technology (12.06.23)*

EXCERPT: In October, following earlier remarks that artificial intelligence (AI) poses “enormous potential and enormous danger,” President Biden issued a sprawling executive order (EO) on the technology. The EO establishes a White House AI Council and tasks agencies with forming guidelines for the safe use of AI, from disinformation to cybersecurity. While the Gender Policy Council—established by President

Biden in 2021 to advance gender equity and equality in US domestic and foreign policy—is included in the AI Council, the EO fails to mention gender, violence, or conflict in relation to AI best practices. The international community lacks standards and norms to ensure that AI contributes to gender equality and builds sustainable peace. Evidence shows that digital technologies can drive gendered violence and violent conflict.

READ MORE: <https://gnet-research.org/2023/12/06/weapon-or-tool-how-the-tech-community-can-shape-robust-standards-and-norms-for-ai-gender-and-peacebuilding/>

ARTICLE: Celebrating the Women Warrior Leaders of the Hawaii Air National Guard

REPORTER: *By Airman 1st Class Roann Gatdula, 154th Wing Public Affairs (12.05.23)*

EXCERPT: Since being founded in 1946, the Hawaii Air National Guard continues to make strides towards equality at all levels of leadership, perpetuated by its most recent change of command in the 154th Security Forces Squadron. Maj. Allison Delos Santos became the first female to receive the guidon of the 154th Security Forces Squadron, accepting the role of its commander Dec. 1, 2023. In the military where women are on average outnumbered by their male counterparts by a ratio of 5-1, the women leaders of the Hawaii Air National Guard are blazing their trails along the way.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/459198/celebrating-women-warrior-leaders-hawaii-air-national-guard>

ARTICLE: Sky Soldier Makes History as First Active Duty Female Army Sniper

REPORTER: *By Maj. Joe Legros, 173rd Airborne Brigade (12.04.23)*

EXCERPT: “My nickname growing up was ‘Sniper,’” said U.S. Army Sgt. Maciel Hay, a cavalry scout with 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (1-91 CAV), 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Not only did she make it through basic training while qualifying as an expert with the M4 assault rifle, she quickly followed that up by graduating from airborne school. Now she is truly living up to her childhood nickname as the first active duty female U.S. Army sniper. Prior to Hay's accomplishment, only a female National Guardsman from Montana had completed the course.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/459017/sky-soldier-makes-history-first-active-duty-female-army-sniper>

- **RELATED: South Carolina Guardsman Conquers French Desert Commando Course**
https://www.army.mil/article/272638/south_carolina_guardsman_conquers_french_desert_commando_course

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, Security: Thinking Creatively to Pursue National Security Through Gender Equality

REPORTER: *By Geoffrey Brasse and Joan Johnson-Freese, War on the Rocks (12.04.23)*

EXCERPT: Twenty-three years after the U.N. Security Council passed the Women, Peace, and Security framework and six years after the United States became the only country to legislatively mandate its implementation, widespread misunderstanding remains about why it matters to national security. Contrary to what is sometimes heard among U.S. security practitioners in classrooms, conferences, and conversations, this is not a social justice program. It is not a diversity, equity, and inclusion mandate, or a call for the government to “do the right thing.” And regardless of what the name might make you think, it is not just about women.

READ MORE: <https://warontherocks.com/2023/12/women-peace-security-thinking-creatively-to-pursue-national-security-through-gender-equality/>

ARTICLE: Women’s Bazaar Brings Together AB 201, Local Community

REPORTER: *By Tech. Sgt. Rose Gudex, 406th Air Expeditionary Wing (12.02.2023)*

EXCERPT: AIR BASE 201, Niger – The 409th Air Expeditionary Group hosted 24 local vendors from the city of Agadez to participate in a Women’s Bazaar on Dec. 2, which generated 7 million Central African Francs (\$11,350) in revenue for the local communities. ... “It helps build a strong relationship between us and the people of Agadez,” (said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Barton Land, 724th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron and installation commander). “This initiative is also part of a greater effort to promote Women, Peace, and Security across the continent.”

What makes this bazaar different is that it was organized and coordinated by the local Women’s Association in Agadez, said U.S. Army Capt. Lindsey Martinez, 437th Civil Affairs Battalion, Alpha Company team leader. “It’s so important to support small local businesses, and especially women-owned businesses because they often get unfairly excluded from the local marketplace,” said Martinez.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/459217/womens-bazaar-brings-together-ab-201-local-community>

ARTICLE: “The Thing With Sexual Exploitation”: Gender Representations and the Brazilian Military in an UN Peace Mission

REPORTER: *By Izadora Xavier do Monte, Centre de Recherches Sociologiques et Politiques de Paris (12.01.23)*

EXCERPT: Based on thematic analysis of 40 semi-directive interviews, observation in Port-au-Prince and Brasilia and following a standpoint feminist and international political sociology approach, the article aims to explore gender representations among Brazilian peacekeepers. Using the Brazilian experience in Haiti as a case study, the article seeks to show how the UNSC agenda on Women, Peace and Security is appropriated by actors on the field. It argues that peacekeepers seek to reduce dissonance between the existing military understanding of gender and UN expectations.

READ MORE: <https://www.scielo.br/j/rbpi/a/swJyhyqPxzT49WpBjfTC6xG>

FROM THE ARCHIVE: Malign Creativity: How Gender, Sex, and Lies are Weaponized Against Women Online (January 2021)

REPORTER: *By Nina Jankowicz, Jillian Hunchak, Alexandra Pavliuc, Celia Davies, Shannon Pierson, and Zoë Kaufmann, The Wilson Center*

EXCERPT: Online gendered abuse and disinformation is a national security issue. In interviews with women targeted by Russian, Iranian, or Chinese state media, the research team found that gendered tropes formed the basis of disinformation and smear campaigns against them. This presents a democratic and national security challenge; as adversaries attempt to exploit widespread misogyny, women may be less likely to choose to participate in public life.

READ MORE: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/malign-creativity-how-gender-sex-and-lies-are-weaponized-against-women-online>

Upcoming Events

WHAT: Bias in Nuclear Security Implementation

WHEN: January 17, 2024 @ 0930 EST

WHERE: [In person](#) and [online](#)

Does U.S. nuclear security culture rely too much on secrecy and exclusion? How does this impact threat perception, access to sensitive information and materials, and hiring practices? In an exploratory study, the Stimson Center spoke with a range of nuclear security stakeholders in government, industry, and civil society to understand how the intersections of structural bias and domestic violent extremism can exacerbate insider threats, as well as how diversity, equity, and inclusion practices can mitigate risks.

READ MORE: <https://www.stimson.org/event/bias-in-nuclear-security-implementation/>

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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