



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—MARCH 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—March 2024

ARTICLE: Justified Accord Brings Experts Together at Women, Peace and Security Course

REPORTER: *By 1st Lt. Katherine Sibilla, U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (02.28.24)*

EXCERPT: When Zambian Army Capt. Suwilanji Tembo arrived in Central Africa as a part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, she saw the impact that war has on women and children with her own eyes. At Justified Accord 2024, held in Kenya from Feb. 26 to Mar. 8, Tembo and joint service members from 23 partner nations learned about the importance of, and tools for implementing, Women, Peace and Security initiatives.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/274108/justified_accord_brings_experts_together_at_women_peace_and_security_course

- **RELATED: Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers speak at Justified Accord WPS event**
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/8261590/massachusetts-national-guard-soldiers-speak-women-peace-and-security-during-ja24> (PHOTOS)

ARTICLE: USAFE-AFAFRICA Airmen Team with Zambian Counterparts for Domestic Violence Awareness Workshop

REPORTER: *By Mr. Al Phillips, U.S. Africa Command Public Affairs (02. 28.24)*

EXCERPT: Airmen from Headquarters U.S. Air Forces Europe and Africa supported the Uniformed Services University in a collaboration with more than 50 members of the Zambian Defence Forces during a four-day Prevention of Gender-Based Violence Workshop here. ... Other senior leader participants at the workshop were Col. Michael Kersten, USAFE-AFAFRICA Surgeon General Office's Medical Readiness Division Chief, and his Zambian counterpart, Army Colonel Cynthia Chimpusa. Both Kersten and Chimpusa stated that all military leaders must stand up and support Women, Peace and Security initiatives as a priority for all commanders.

READ MORE: <https://www.africom.mil/article/35419/usafe-afafrika-airmen-team-with-zambian-counterparts-for-domestic-violence-awareness-works>

ARTICLE: Signatories to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Commitments on the Situation of Women in Afghanistan - Security Council Media Stakeout

REPORTER: *By UN Department of Global Communications (02.26.24)*

EXCERPT: Joint media stakeout delivered by Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations and President of the Security Council for February 2024, on behalf of the Signatories of the Shared Commitments to the Principles of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) —

Ecuador, France, Japan, Malta, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the UK, the US, and Guyana — on the situation of women in Afghanistan.

READ MORE: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1g/k1g6p1z8jl>

ARTICLE: Our Secure Future Hosts Hill Briefing: WPS Policy Responses to CRSV Globally

REPORTER: *By Our Secure Future (02.23.24)*

EXCERPT: On February 15, 2024, Our Secure Future, in coordination with the bipartisan Congressional Women, Peace and Security Caucus, held an in-person, off-the-record briefing at the U.S. Capitol on “Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Policy Responses to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) Globally.” The event focused on shining a light on lessons learned in addressing CRSV globally and how U.S. policymakers can adhere to the WPS Act mandate to include women’s voices in peace and security decision-making.

READ MORE: <https://oursecurefuture.org/our-secure-future/news/our-secure-future-hosts-hill-briefing-wps-policy-responses-crsv-globally>

ARTICLE: For Ukraine, There is No Peace Without Justice and No Recovery Without Women’s Leadership

REPORTER: *By Ana Lejava, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (02.21.24)*

EXCERPT: Women’s civil society organizations, such as the Ukrainian Women’s Fund, have been at the forefront of supporting women’s economic empowerment and adjusting their operations to deliver much-needed health and humanitarian assistance across Ukraine during the war. Sixty thousand women have been serving in the nation’s armed forces, with more than 42,000 in military positions, including 5,000 female soldiers on the front line. Women have also been a driving force behind the nation’s wartime economy, engaging in innovative entrepreneurship and assuming pivotal political roles to shape policies that align the country with present-day realities. This is best exemplified by Ukraine’s rapid digitalization campaign, spearheaded by young women leaders, including Valeriya Ionan, the Deputy Minister for Eurointegration at the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine.

READ MORE: <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/for-ukraine-there-is-no-peace-without-justice-and-no-recovery-without-womens-leadership/>

ARTICLE: A Zone of Silence: Obstetric Violence in Gaza and Beyond

REPORTER: *By Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, former U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, Just Security (02.21.24)*

EXCERPT: In fact, a (necessary) focus on sexually violated women displaces and ignores obstetric harm to pregnant, birthing, and post-partum women and girls in war. Recognition and protection are not mutually exclusive trade-offs, there is ample room to address both. ... In particular, given the unique protections set out in the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols for maternity, newly born, and young children under the law of war, it is extraordinary that the international community has devoted so little effort to hold States and combatants accountable for their failure to implement these specific obligations. It is also an indictment of the selectiveness of the WPS agenda that while rape in armed conflict makes headlines obstetric violence against women and girls generally does not.

READ MORE: <https://www.justsecurity.org/92562/a-zone-of-silence-obstetric-violence-in-gaza-and-beyond/>

ARTICLE: Global Sentinel Partners Discuss Women, Peace and Security

REPORTER: *By Maj. Erin Leon U.S. Space Forces – Space Public Affairs (02.20.24)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Traci Kueker-Murphy, U.S. Space Command Strategy, Plans and Policy deputy director, U.K. Royal Air Force Group Captain John Hetherington, Deputy Head of Space enablement, and Royal Canadian Air Force Col. CJ Marchetti, 7th Wing Space Commander, spoke to Global Sentinel attendees about Women, Peace and Security here Feb. 8.

The discussion, moderated by USSPACECOM’s WPS Strategic Planner Ms. Carolyn Bird, focused on integrating WPS concepts into security cooperation plans. These concepts are based upon a UN peacekeeping resolution that addresses, and ultimately seeks to mitigate, conflict’s often disproportionate effects on women and children.

READ MORE: <https://www.spacecom.mil/Newsroom/News/Article-Display/Article/3680578/global-sentinel-partners-discuss-women-peace-and-security/>

ARTICLE: The Little Colonel That Could: Mary Hallaren and the Fight for Women in the Military

REPORTER: *By Tanya Roth, The Saturday Evening Post (02.18.24)*

EXCERPT: During World War II, 350,000 women volunteered for the armed forces. After the war ended, government and military leaders were ready to return them to their domestic roles. But one woman had other ideas. Mary Hallaren, who joined the military in 1942 ... was one of the earliest recruits to the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), which was the early version of the Women’s Army Corps. Like the majority of WAACs, she remained in service when Congress gave the women full military status in 1943, creating the Women’s Army Corps. Hallaren supervised all WACs serving in Europe during the war. After the fighting ended, she was promoted to colonel and became the director of the Women’s Army Corps. She quickly gained the nickname “the little colonel,” because she stood only five feet tall. Colonel Hallaren may have been short, but she had a long-reaching vision.

READ MORE: <https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2024/02/the-little-colonel-that-could-mary-hallaren-and-the-fight-for-women-in-the-military/>

ARTICLE: WWII Monuments Men Weren’t All Men. Female Members Finally Move Into the Spotlight

REPORTER: *By Jamie Stengle, Associated Press(02.17.24)*

EXCERPT: After World War II, the U.S. Army’s art experts set out to find and return millions of works stolen by the Nazis. Known as the Monuments Men, they included Mary Regan Quessenberry, who from her base in Berlin traveled to examine stolen works, tracked looting cases and investigated suspicious art dealers. Decades later, Quessenberry and the other female members are getting recognition. The Dallas-based foundation honoring the group updated its name in recent years to recognize their contributions, highlighted their work in a new exhibit at a national museum, and is set to publish for the first time in English a memoir in which one of the women describes spying on the Nazis while working at a Paris museum.

READ MORE: <https://apnews.com/article/monuments-men-women-nazis-stolen-art-42cb40c2a6c0704d424758706d758b38>

ARTICLE: U.S. Navy Leaders Visit Madagascar for Women, Peace and Security, Bilateral Engagements

REPORTER: *By U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Public Affairs (02.13.24)*

EXCERPT: Juliet Beyler, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF)’s Executive Director, visited Antananarivo, Madagascar for a Women, Peace and Security (WPS) event organized and hosted by NAVAF and the U.S. Embassy, as well as engagements with U.S. and Malagasy officials, Feb. 12-13, 2024.

During the WPS engagement, Beyler and representatives from Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, and Uganda discussed operationalizing Regional and National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security within their individual navies and coast guards. The discussion also included evaluation and assessment of WPS programs to mitigate operational blind spots during maritime security operations by using a gender perspective.

READ MORE: <https://www.cfm.navy.mil/Press-Room/News/News-Display/Article/3675089/us-navy-leaders-visit-madagascar-for-women-peace-and-security-bilateral-engagem/>

ARTICLE: It's A First! NATO AWACS All-Female Aircrew Complete Sortie in Support of Enhanced Vigilance Activities

REPORTER: *By NATO (02.12.24)*

EXCERPT: For the first time ever, the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force (NAEW&CF) conducted command and control (C2) operations on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, with an all-female aircrew composition. The flight was a regular mission sortie for the multinational crew in support of NATO's enhanced Vigilance Activities (eVA). With the flight NATO AWACS highlights the women working in the Airborne Early Warning community and shines a light on female aviation.

READ MORE: <https://awacs.nato.int/media-center/press-releases/2024/nato-awacs-allfemale-aircrew-complete-sortie-in-support-of-enhanced-vigilance-activities>

ARTICLE: From Yeomanettes to Fighter Jets: A Century of Women in the U.S. Navy (BOOK EXCERPT)

REPORTER: *By Commander Randy Carol Goguen, U.S. Naval Institute (February 2024)*

EXCERPT: The recruitment of women into the Navy was supposed to be a temporary wartime measure—but the success of the WAVES paved the way for the future. ... As the military situation in Europe continued to deteriorate, the U.S. government began to gear up its mobilization machinery. In September 1940 the first peacetime Selective Service Act was signed into law. Just as earlier U.S. Army studies had predicted, women's organizations across the country became increasingly insistent on being given a substantive role in the war effort. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt proposed that American women should perform antiaircraft barrage duty, as women in Britain were currently doing. She also recommended the establishment of a pool of women under government control that could be drawn upon by all the services as needed. In a nod to its World War I experience, the Navy proposed to amend the Naval Reserve Act of 1938 to establish a Women's Auxiliary Reserve as a branch of the Naval Reserve.

READ MORE: <https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2024/march/exigent-expendable>

ARTICLE: California National Guard Hosts OpWPS 100 Course (VIDEO)

REPORTER: *By the California National Guard (February 2024)*

EXCERPT: As the California Military Department's Women, Peace, and Security training wraps up, Darcy Totten, Director of External Affairs for the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, reflects on her experience from the event.

READ MORE: <https://twitter.com/CalGuard/status/1755754288863920496> and <https://www.instagram.com/thecalguard/reel/C3EK1Rjv3aG/>

ARTICLE: ICYMI: Institutionalizing Women, Peace and Security: Role of Gender and WPS Advisors in the USG Report Discussion

REPORTER: *By Our Secure Future (01.15.24)*

EXCERPT: On December 14, 2023, Our Secure Future (OSF) convened a small, closed-door roundtable discussion with gender and WPS advisors about the upcoming paper: “Institutionalizing Women, Peace and Security: The Role of Gender and Women, Peace and Security Advisors in the United States Government.” The brief assesses the progress of the United States government in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, specifically through the work of WPS Advisors, Gender Advisors, and related positions. ... The paper highlights a significant increase in WPS integration across U.S. government work. Successes range from a notable increase in WPS gender training and gender advisors to the development of agency implementation plans to advance WPS. However, there are also persistent challenges, such as inconsistent funding, advisors' multiple responsibilities and lack of authority, and insufficient political support. The paper identifies key opportunities including continued consultations with civil society organizations, increased engagement with the WPS Bipartisan Congressional Caucus, and the establishment of a Senior Coordinator or Special Representative/Envoy for WPS.

READ MORE: <https://oursecurefuture.org/our-secure-future/news/institutionalizing-women-peace-and-security-role-gender-and-wps-advisors-usg>

ARTICLE: Women’s Role in Violence and UN Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

REPORTER: *By Çağlayan Başer, Alternatif Politika (2024)*

EXCERPT: The UN’s Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda emphasizes women’s victimhood and peacemaking roles. However, women participate in two-thirds of armed movements and affect conflict outcomes in unique gendered ways. This article argues that excluding female perpetrators from the WPS agenda generates new insecurities for them and broader societies.

READ MORE: <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/ap/issue/83282/1441600>

ARTICLE: ICYMI—WPS in Action: Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security (VIDEO)

REPORTER: *By RAND (02.08.24)*

EXCERPT: Operationalizing WPS principles is of increasing importance to U.S. national security. Both the State Department and Department of Defense are taking steps to apply gender perspectives at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. In this video, Erin Cooper, Acting Director International Humanitarian Policy in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy at the Department of Defense; Sharon Feist, Command Gender Advisor to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command/Women, Peace & Security; and Joslyn Fleming, RAND Defense Policy Researcher, engage in a moderated discussion about what the incorporation of gender perspectives looks like in practice.

READ MORE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYuyfrGwp3w>

Upcoming Events

WHAT: Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Panel at CGSC: Operationalizing the DOD WPS Objectives

WHEN: Thursday, March 7, 2024 @1230-1330 CST

WHERE: Hybrid—Fort Leavenworth, KS, and Online

READ MORE: If you are on campus at the Command General Staff College (CGSC), you can attend in person at the Arnold Conference Room in the Lewis and Clark Building, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. If you are elsewhere, you can join through the TEAMS link: [Click here to join the meeting](#). Or you can view on the CGSC Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/USACGSC>. See attached flyer.

WHAT: WHINSEC WPS Symposium—Allies in Action: Leveraging Women, Peace and Security Through Collaborative Leadership

WHEN: Wednesday, March 13, 1400-1430 EST

WHERE: Hybrid—Fort Moore, GA, and Online

Fort Moore, GA: 7301 Baltzell Ave, Bradley Hall, BLDG 396

Online: <https://www.facebook.com/WHINSEC/>

LEARN MORE: Contact WHINSEC or see attached flyer.

WHAT: MEDCoE Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Leader Professional Development

WHEN: Friday, March 15, 2024 @1000-1100 CST

WHERE: Hybrid—Blesse Auditorium, Fort Sam Houston, Texas and MS Teams

READ MORE: Hosted by Mr. Joseph Holland, MEDCoE DtCG. For more information email CPT Benjamin M. Wheatley or reach out to PKSOI. See attached flyer.

WHAT: Military Women’s Memorial—Women, Peace and Security in Air & Space

WHEN: Monday, April 1, 1500-1700 EST

WHERE: In person and online.

The Military Women’s Memorial Arlington National Cemetery.

Address: Memorial Ave, Schley Dr, Arlington, VA 22202. Reception to follow.

Event will be live-streamed. More details to follow.

LEARN MORE: <https://womensmemorial.org/program/women-peace-security-series-air-space/>

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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