



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—APRIL 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—April 2024

ARTICLE: USARIEM Leads the Way in Female Warfighter Research

REPORTER: *By Carey Phillips, Medical Research and Development Command (03.28.24)*

EXCERPT: During the recent 2024 Military Women's Symposium—Amplifying Women's Combat Capacity, hosted by The Valkyrie Project and MIT Lincoln Laboratory, some of USARIEM's researchers focused on the female Warfighter. Karl Friedl, Ph.D., Holly McClung, MS RDN CSSD, and Gabrielle Giersch, Ph.D., joined the discussion designed to advance dialogue around empowering female Warfighters to meet their full potential.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/467249/usariem-leads-way-female-warfighter-research>

ARTICLE: USSOF Civil Affairs Continues to Forge African Bonds

REPORTER: *By Senior Airman Anabel Del Valle, Special Operations Command Africa (03.28.24)*

EXCERPT: Civil Affairs efforts recently brought Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and members from an all-women Kenyan SWAT team together to conduct Tactical Combat Casualty Care training in Nairobi, Kenya, March 13-15, 2024. The training echoed the SOCAFRICA Women, Peace and Security initiative to empower women in security occupations. Trainings like this are meant to empower women with knowledge to promote equal and meaningful participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts throughout Africa.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/467213/ussoc-civil-affairs-continues-forge-african-bonds>

ARTICLE: Disarming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: the Case for Centering the United Nations General Assembly

REPORTER: *By Catherine O'Rourke, Journal of Conflict and Security Law (03.27.24)*

EXCERPT: After over two decades of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda at the UN Security Council, involving the adoption of 10 thematic resolutions, there is now increasing momentum towards the de-centering of the Council from feminist engagement and from broader institutional activity on WPS. Against this backdrop, this article lays out arguments for centering the WPS agenda instead in the UN General Assembly. Given its broader membership and mandate, its role in international law-making, and critically, its leadership on disarmament, the article argues that the General Assembly offers more propitious opportunities for the institutionalization of a feminist peace agenda.

READ MORE: <https://academic.oup.com/jcsl/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jcsl/krae005/7636364>

ARTICLE: WPS Message Guide: A Gender Perspective on AI Risks to National Security

REPORTER: *By Our Secure Future (03.27.24)*

EXCERPT: This message guide, building on Executive Order 14110 on the Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, contextualizes the top gendered risks of AI to national security and outlines key recommendations for developing gender-sensitive AI policy, focusing in particular on the importance of aligning AI policy with existing human rights frameworks and norms. This guide accompanies an upcoming in-depth report on the application of a Women, Peace and Security framework in the digital ecosystem.

READ MORE: <https://oursecurefuture.org/our-secure-future/publication/wps-message-guide-gender-perspective-ai-risks-national-security>

ARTICLE: International Humanitarian Law and a Gender Perspective in the Planning and Conduct of Military Operations

REPORTER: *By International Committee of the Red Cross (03.22.24)*

EXCERPT: Gender inequality persists in all countries worldwide and tends to be more severe in conflict-affected contexts. It can shape how different women, men, girls and boys experience the violence of war and its effects. This report provides guidance as to how gendered harm arising from military operations can be better understood and sets out good practices to avoid and reduce it. It draws in particular from applicable international law, including IHL and international human rights law (IHRL), as well as policies, directives, and practices both at national level and within the framework of the United Nations (UN) Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

READ MORE: <https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/4741-international-humanitarian-law-and-gender-perspective-planning-and-conduct-military>

ARTICLE: TSC Launches Women, Peace, and Security Program

REPORTER: *By Hannah Smith, Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (03.21.24)*

EXCERPT: In celebration of Women's History Month, the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies is launching its Women, Peace, and Security program. The TSC WPS program recognizes the diverse roles women play as agents of change in preventing and resolving conflict in the Arctic region.

"We celebrate the tremendous contributions of women across the Arctic, making it a more secure, peaceful, and prosperous region," said Randy "Church" Kee, director of the Ted Stevens Center. "The Women, Peace, and Security program will highlight these stories in order to advance women's and girls' civic and political leadership across the Arctic region"

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/466805/tsc-launches-women-peace-and-security-program>

ARTICLE: Navy Launches Women's Initiatives Team to Aid Retention, Recruitment

REPORTER: *By Diana Stancy, Navy Times (03.15.24)*

EXCERPT: The Navy is standing up a Women's Initiatives Team, or WIT, as it aims to foster more inclusive warfighting teams while improving recruitment and retention across the fleet. The team is part of an effort to provide structure to identifying and eliminating potential barriers for women across the service. Representatives from the Navy's 17 communities, as well as 11 fleet, education and infrastructure stakeholders, will comprise the team and meet periodically.

“The Navy-WIT will broaden awareness and influence policy changes to increase recruitment and retention of Servicewomen throughout the Navy,” a new naval administrative message released last month said.

READ MORE: <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2024/03/14/navy-launches-womens-initiatives-team-to-aid-retention-recruitment/>

ARTICLE: Pentagon Committee Recommends Full Gender Integration for Marine Recruits, Policies to Protect Pregnant Troops in Annual Report on Women’s Issues

REPORTER: *By Corey Dickstein, Stars & Stripes (03.15.24)*

EXCERPT: The Marine Corps should train male and female recruits in gender-integrated platoons at both of its recruit depots and the Pentagon should adopt new policies to protect the careers of pregnant troops, a Pentagon panel focused on issues affecting women recommended in a report released Friday. The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, or DACOWITS, recommended Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin order the Marines to train male and female recruits in platoons together and institute gender-integrated drill instructor teams. Committee members wrote they believe better integrating recruit training efforts would improve male Marines’ acceptance of women in their ranks and better prepare them to serve together in integrated units in the fleet.

READ MORE: https://www.stripes.com/branches/marine_corps/2024-03-15/pentagon-women-integrated-marines-pregnancy-reform-13330407.html

ARTICLE: Pioneering Women: Redefining Military Leadership and Inspiring Generations

REPORTER: *By Maj. Lindsay Roman, U.S. Army Cyber Command (03.15.24)*

EXCERPT: As Women's History Month unfolds, it's crucial to highlight the extraordinary achievements of pioneering women who have navigated personal and professional challenges, often facing adversity and discrimination, to redefine possibilities. These women's journeys, marked by resilience and perseverance, exemplify the transformative impact of diligence and courage, and inspire others to pursue their dreams with unwavering commitment.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/466294/pioneering-women-redefining-military-leadership-and-inspiring-generations>

- **RELATED: Women’s History Month: Women Who Have Made Great Achievements in Medicine**
<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/466309/womens-history-month-women-who-have-made-great-achievements-medicine>

ARTICLE: Women Make Waves in East Africa’s Cutlass Express 2024

REPORTER: *By Lt. Cmdr. Tyler Barker, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet (03.11.24)*

EXCERPT: Sailors, Coast Guard personnel and civilians from multiple partner nations demonstrated the impact and value of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiative during exercise Cutlass Express 2024. In Djibouti, Kenya, and the Seychelles, U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) WPS facilitators Carrie Compton and Lt. Cmdr. Kristell Faustino, along with Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CTJF-HOA) WPS facilitator Sgt. 1st Class James Huggins, led a series of familiarization briefs and discussions with partner nation participants about the role of women in national and international peace processes and security efforts.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/465861/women-make-waves-east-africas-cutlass-express-2024>

ARTICLE: Promoting Empowerment of Women in Ukraine’s Justice and Emergency Services

REPORTER: *By UNDP Ukraine (03.08.24)*

EXCERPT: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine, supported by the Government of Japan and the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, has held an impactful event aimed at elevating the visibility and leadership of women in the peace and security sector.

The event, promoting the UN’s “Women, Peace, and Security” agenda, brought together women and men serving in Ukraine’s justice institutions and emergency services, along with representatives of partner organizations, united by their common goal of supporting war-affected populations and promoting access to justice for all. The event focused on promoting security by and for women, within and beyond justice and emergency institutions.

READ MORE: <https://www.undp.org/ukraine/press-releases/promoting-empowerment-women-ukraines-justice-and-emergency-services>

ARTICLE: How the First Female Pilot to Die on Active Duty With the US Military Cultivated Her Love of Flying

REPORTER: *By Stephen Ruiz, Military.com (03.08.24)*

EXCERPT: Cornelia Fort was less than a year into her job as a flight instructor in Hawaii when she and her student pilot narrowly avoided a midair collision, saved only when Fort grabbed the controls and caused their single-engine plane to climb rapidly. Not sure who the other plane belonged to, Fort’s doubts were erased when she glimpsed Japan’s rising-sun insignia on its wing, then noticed smoke over nearby Pearl Harbor. It was Dec. 7, 1941, and Fort was among the first to realize that the United States was under attack.

Fort was killed on March 21, 1943, while serving with the Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP, becoming the first female American pilot to die while on active duty.

READ MORE: <https://www.military.com/history/how-first-female-pilot-die-active-duty-us-military-cultivated-her-love-of-flying.html>

ARTICLE: Few Women Are Trying for Elite Special Operations Roles, New Data Shows

REPORTER: *By Hope Hodge Seck, Military Times (03.08.24)*

EXCERPT: Data shows some services have had more success than others in attracting female candidates for special operations. In the Air Force, 54 women have entered training to join the special tactics, combat rescue and pararescue, tactical air control party and special reconnaissance career fields since 2016, with a handful successfully completing training and joining units.

The Army has seen 41 women volunteer for Special Forces assessment and selection — the first phase of the service’s Special Forces Qualification Course, also known as the “Q” Course.

Three female soldiers have graduated from the Q Course, earning the coveted Green Beret, and received assignments in Special Forces groups, according to service data. One female soldier, at the time of the data compilation, was currently attempting the course.

READ MORE: <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2024/03/08/few-women-are-trying-for-elite-special-operations-roles-new-data-shows/>

ARTICLE: Fixing Systems, Not Women: Space and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (PODCAST)

REPORTER: *By The National Security Podcast (03.07.24)*

EXCERPT: How does the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda apply to space policy? Why is better integration of the WPS agenda into the space sector crucial for Australia? And how does Australia

compare to its international peers in this area? In this episode, Cassandra Steer and Elise Stephenson join Danielle Ireland-Piper to discuss the importance of incorporating the Women, Peace, and Security agenda into the Australian space sector.

READ MORE: <https://shows.acast.com/the-national-security-podcast/episodes/wps-in-space>

ARTICLE: All-Women Paratrooper Jump at JBER Fosters Military Camaraderie in Honor Of Women's History Month

REPORTER: *By Marc Leste, Anchorage Daily News (03.07.24)*

EXCERPT: An all-female assemblage of 70 paratroopers from the Army's 11th Airborne Division on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson jumped from an aircraft operated by an all-women Air Force flight crew Thursday. The training exercise was designed in honor of Women's History Month.

Army Lt. Col. Elizabeth Knox, who served as commander of the exercise, said the day was a rare chance to see a training event in which such a large contingent of female soldiers jump and rapidly assemble for a tactical mission. "We do that individually all the time, but to be able to do it together is very unique," she said. "Less than 7% of paratroopers in 11th Airborne Division are women. I'm the only female battalion commander in the division ...," Knox said.

READ MORE: <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/military/2024/03/07/all-women-paratrooper-jump-at-jber-fosters-military-camaraderie-in-honor-of-womens-history-month/>

- **RELATED: Jump by Women of 173rd Airborne is Brigade's First All-Female Airborne Operation**
<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2024-03-15/female-paratrooper-airborne-operation-13317049.html>

ARTICLE: While Wars Rage On, Women Wage Peace in the Middle East

REPORTER: *By Marcy Grossman, The Atlantic Council (03.07.24)*

EXCERPT: With cruel and almost prescient timing, just three days before the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack, some 1,500 Israeli and Palestinian representatives of Women Wage Peace and Women of the Sun descended on Jerusalem and the shores of the Dead Sea, calling for their governments to find a diplomatic solution to the ongoing situation, elevate the role of peacemaking, and stop further violence. The two distinct, yet fully aligned grassroots peace organizations gathered to demand an end to the "cycle of bloodshed" consuming their communities and for their respective leaders to return to the negotiating table to secure a nonviolent resolution to their decades-long conflict.

READ MORE: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/israel-peace-women-wage-peace-sun/>

- **RELATED: Roughly 9,000 Women Killed So Far in Gaza War: UN Women**
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147167>

ARTICLE: Forum for Security Cooperation Security Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security (REMARKS)

REPORTER: *By Ambassador Michael R. Carpenter, U.S. Mission to the OSCE (03.06.24)*

EXCERPT: "First, Ukraine has prioritized, as we have just heard, women's participation in order to defend its internationally recognized borders against Russia's brutal, illegal invasion and occupation. Ukraine abolished restrictions on women's roles in the military, and more than 60,000 Ukrainian women subsequently answered their country's call to arms, as we heard, over 6,000 of whom are currently engaged in front-line combat operations. These numbers correspond to a 40 percent jump in women's representation and participation in Ukraine's armed forces.

Second, Russia's military attacks resulted in widespread violence against Ukrainian women and girls, the very group that UNSCR 1325 commits us all to protect."

READ MORE: <https://osce.usmission.gov/forum-for-security-cooperation-security-dialogue-on-women-peace-and-security/>

ARTICLE: A Report Card on Women's Integration Into Arab Militaries

REPORTER: *By Dina Arakji, Middle East Institute (03.06.24)*

EXCERPT: It is important to be clear on the reasons why women should have opportunities to join the security apparatus and the value of streamlining gender integration into the defense sector. Gender diversity in the security sector allows all citizens of a country to be perceived as equal in all aspects of their duties and obligations to the nation state, including defending it. Studies have shown that allowing women into the military enhances operational effectiveness and increases diversity in perspectives to resolve conflicts. Specifically, allowing women to join the military in both a combat and noncombat capacity can advance a society's perspective on females in nontraditional gender-based roles.

READ MORE: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/report-card-womens-integration-arab-militaries>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace and Security as Deterrence? NATO and Russia's War Against Ukraine

REPORTER: *By Mila O'Sullivan, International Affairs (03.04.24)*

EXCERPT: NATO's security turn following Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine opened new prospects for adopting the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda from external operations to all tasks of the alliance. Drawing on feminist institutionalism and feminist pragmatist approach to security, this article interrogates NATO's WPS localization in deterrence and territorial defence. ... these institutional factors made NATO's WPS implementation only reactive and ultimately ill-prepared for such gendered security crisis as the one caused by Russia's full-out war against Ukraine in 2022. The article makes the case for rethinking feminist conceptualization of deterrence through the convergence of WPS and resilience agendas. This concerns going beyond military deterrence and centering social and political practices which are linked to societal resilience.

READ MORE: <https://academic.oup.com/ia/article/100/2/549/7617220>

ARTICLE: USNORTHCOM Hosts Multinational Discussion on the Future of Women, Peace, and Security

REPORTER: *By Master Sgt. William Reinier, Joint Task Force-NCR (03.01.24)*

EXCERPT: After the evacuation of nearly 75,000 people from Afghanistan, U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) assisted efforts across the federal government to support vulnerable Afghans, including those who worked alongside American forces for the past two decades, as they safely resettled in the United States. One of the most critical objectives of the operation was ensuring all guests had the support they needed to integrate into American communities. Understanding the unique role of women in Afghan culture is how Tiffani Phillips came to lead one of the first-ever operationalizations of gender advisory during a defense support of civil authorities mission.

As director of human security and resilience at North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and USNORTHCOM's Security Cooperation Division, Phillips understands that solutions across the peace and security enterprise must account for the needs of all members of society.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/465278/usnorthcom-hosts-multinational-discussion-future-women-peace-and-security>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace and Security Makes Historic Strides During AACS 2024

REPORTER: *By Senior Airman Regan Spinner, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Africa Public Affairs (03.01.24)*

EXCERPT: A Women, Peace and Security panel made momentous strides during the 2024 African Air Chiefs Symposium held Feb. 26 to Mar. 1 in Tunis, Tunisia.

This year, 30 Association of African Forces member nations voted to integrate WPS initiatives into the association, based on a proposal created in 2023.

The WPS concept is centered on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which addresses the impact of war on women and the importance of women's full and equal participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction.

Keynote speaker Gen. Birame Diop, United Nations Department of Peace Operations military adviser, emphasized the importance of WPS integration into military services.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/465183/women-peace-and-security-makes-historic-strides-during-aacs-2024>

- **RELATED: 13th African Air Chiefs Symposium Kindles an Operationalized Future**
<https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3694932/13th-african-air-chiefs-symposium-kindles-an-operationalized-future/>

Upcoming Events

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.

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

WHAT: ICYMI—"Women, Peace, and Security in a Shifting Security Landscape"

WHEN: March 4, 2024

WHERE: Video now available online. Hosted by the Atlantic Council and Our Secure Future.

Key milestones framed the discussion, including the forthcoming 25th anniversary of the United Nations' Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and NATO's 75th anniversary. Panelists underscored the importance of integrating gender perspectives into policy responses for emergent geopolitical challenges, such as climate change, technological advancements, and the global refugee crisis, to fortify collective security and defense alliances.

LEARN MORE: <https://oursecurefuture.org/our-secure-future/news/osf-and-atlantic-council-host-event-wps-todays-security-landscape>

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