



## **WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY**

### **NEWS ROUND UP—MAY 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—May 2024**

#### **ARTICLE: U.S. Naval War College to Host 10th Women, Peace, and Security Symposium**

**REPORTER:** *By Leisa Premdas, U.S. Naval War College Public Affairs (04.30.24)*

**EXCERPT:** The U.S. Naval War College (NWC) will hold the 10th iteration of its Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Symposium onboard Naval Station Newport, May 2-3.

With this year's theme, "Advancing Gendered Security in a Complex World: Hard Power, Smart Power, Soft Power," the symposium will focus on the impact of allyship across multiple instruments on national power. ... Registration for virtual attendance and participation in this year's WPS Symposium can be completed here. For additional information about the event, please contact [wps-womenpeaceandsecurity@usnwc.edu](mailto:wps-womenpeaceandsecurity@usnwc.edu).

**READ MORE:** <https://usnwc.edu/News-and-Events/News/US-Naval-War-College-to-Host-10th-Women-Peace-and-Security-Symposium>

#### **ARTICLE: United States Holds Women, Peace, and Security Working Group for XVI Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas**

**REPORTER:** *By Department of Defense (04.26.24)*

**EXCERPT:** On April 23-24, the United States Department of Defense hosted the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas (CDMA) Ad-Hoc Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) ahead of the XVI CDMA to be held in Mendoza, Argentina in October 2024. Delegations from defense and security ministries from twenty-four (24) partners from across the Western Hemisphere gathered in Washington, DC to discuss and share perspectives on developing and implementing WPS National Action Plans, expanding the meaningful participation of women in the armed forces and defense sector, and implementing WPS in mission areas including humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HA/DR), maritime operations, and peacekeeping operations (PKO).

**READ MORE:** <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3757034/united-states-holds-women-peace-and-security-working-group-for-xvi-conference-o/>

#### **ARTICLE: CARAT Sri Lanka 2024 Kicks Off**

**REPORTER:** *By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Charles Oki, 7th Fleet Public Affairs (04.24.24)*

**EXCERPT:** The U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy and Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) began exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Sri Lanka 2024 with the SLN in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, April 22, 2024.

CARAT Sri Lanka is taking place ashore at SLN Vidura alongside the Sri Lankan Marines from April 22-26. ... As part of the exchange of ideas, this year's CARAT includes a seminar on Women, Peace, and Security, highlighting the role of gender in humanitarian and disaster situations, further strengthening U.S. and Sri Lankan response capabilities when disaster strikes.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.cpf.navy.mil/Newsroom/News/Article/3754996/carat-sri-lanka-2024-kicks-off/>

**ARTICLE: U.S. Army Women's Museum Launches Exhibit Honoring 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion**

**REPORTER:** *By Capt. Janeen R. Phelps (04.24.24)*

**EXCERPT:** The U.S. Army Women's Museum (AWM) and the Combined Arms Support Command will partner to host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newest exhibit; Courage to Deliver: The Women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, as part of the first annual Fort Gregg-Adams Day. Both the celebration and the exhibit are designed to continue military and civilian education about Lt. Col. Charity Adams and the "Six Triple Eight." Adams was the first Black officer commissioned in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (which eventually became known as the Women's Army Corps) in World War II.

**READ MORE:**

[https://www.army.mil/article/275623/u\\_s\\_army\\_womens\\_museum\\_launches\\_exhibit\\_honoring\\_6888th\\_central\\_postal\\_directory\\_battalion](https://www.army.mil/article/275623/u_s_army_womens_museum_launches_exhibit_honoring_6888th_central_postal_directory_battalion)

**ARTICLE: SOUTHCOM Commander Meets with Guatemalan Leaders, Central American Security Chiefs in Guatemala**

**REPORTER:** *By U.S. Southern Command, Diálogo Américas (04.24.24)*

**EXCERPT:** Gen. Richardson and Sgt. Maj. Rafael Rodriguez joined Minister Sáenz, senior Guatemalan military leaders, and service members for a Women, Peace, and Security discussion focused on the importance of harnessing the talent and contributions of women in the security and defense sectors. From April 17-18, Gen. Richardson joined senior U.S. defense and regional security leaders for CENTSEC 2024. Security cooperation between the United States and Guatemala focuses on shared interests including combating transnational criminal organizations and other malign actors; disaster preparedness; cyber security; promoting respect for human rights; and the expanded integration of women in security, peace, and defense missions.

**READ MORE:** <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/southcom-commander-meets-with-guatemalan-leaders-central-american-security-chiefs-in-guatemala/>

**ARTICLE: Women, Peace and Security - The Key to Lasting Peace in Niger**

**REPORTER:** *By Oxfam (04.24.24)*

**EXCERPT:** "In the early days, our NGO was frequently asked to help mediate between the government and students. We were also involved in solving issues such as those that arose in Diffa and during the first rebellion in Niger. Our former coordinator went to Agadez with the help of the NGO "Femmes contre la Guerre", which facilitated contact with the leaders of the rebellion in order to negotiate peace. At the time, these conflicts could be considered minor in scale compared with the challenges we face today."

**READ MORE:** <https://africa.oxfam.org/women-peace-and-security-key-lasting-peace-niger>

**ARTICLE: Women in the U.S. Military Are Gaining More Pregnancy Weight Than Civilians**

**REPORTER:** *By Jane Kelly, University of Virginia (04.23.24)*

**EXCERPT:** New research from the University of Virginia has found excessive weight gain during pregnancy is more frequent among women in the military – especially women who were active-duty personnel – than in the civilian population.

The research also found the women with pregnancy weight gain above national guidelines were three times more likely to have substantial postpartum weight retention, which can lead to expensive health complications and potentially derail a woman’s long-term military career.

**READ MORE:** <https://news.virginia.edu/content/women-us-military-are-gaining-more-pregnancy-weight-civilians>

**ARTICLE: Women, Peace and Security: Advances in the U.S. Army Through Key Events**

**REPORTER:** *By Antonieta Rico, PKSOI (04.23.24)*

**EXCERPT:** According to Mr. Gregg Thompson, the Deputy to the Commanding General of CAC, “Environmental complexities affecting military operations today, and what we expect in the future, necessitate our efforts as the WPS outcomes in this program become increasingly important.”

Through the application of WPS principles—such as using a gender perspective and ensuring the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of Army activities and operations — the Army aims to improve its readiness, as well as its operational and strategic effectiveness.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.army.mil/article/275605>

**ARTICLE: Military Women at Greater Risk of Having Babies with Low Birth Weight, Scientific Review Finds**

**REPORTER:** *By Rebecca Kheel, Military.com (04.23.24)*

**EXCERPT:** Women in the military could have a higher risk of giving birth to low-weight babies than their civilian counterparts, according to a scientific review published this week.

The review, which analyzed 21 separate studies of pregnancies in the U.S. military from 1979 to 2023, found that about two-thirds of the studies concluded that active-duty servicewomen may be at heightened risk of having babies with a low birth weight.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/23/military-women-greater-risk-of-having-babies-low-birth-weight-scientific-review-finds.html>

**ARTICLE: Gender Equality is a Marker of Peace and Security**

**REPORTER:** *By Laetitia Courtois, Permanent Observer to the UN & Head of Delegation for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (04.23.24)*

**EXCERPT:** But more gender perspective is needed at the level of military operations, too. Sexual violence and other gendered harm is reduced when a culture of restraint and compliance with the law is promoted across armed forces’ doctrine, education, training and disciplinary systems. It should be communicated in a way that is relatable and actionable across all ranks.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.icrc.org/en/unsc-wps-crsv-statement>

**ARTICLE: Living Legacies of Service: Native American Women in the U.S. Military**

**REPORTER:** *By Tanya Roth, The Saturday Evening Post (04.23.24)*

**EXCERPT:** During World War II, more than 800 Native American women served in the Women’s Army Corps, the Navy’s WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), and the Women Marine

Corps Reserve. Grace Thorpe, of Sac and Fox heritage, was assigned as a WAC recruiter first in the western United States, and then in the Philippines, New Guinea, and Japan. Ola Mildred (Millie) Rexroat, an Oglala Lakota woman, was the only Native woman in the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) of World War II. Eva Mirabal of the Taos Pueblo was a WAC who gained national fame for her comic strip G.I. Gertie, featuring the antics of a young servicewoman. Minnie Spotted Wolf, a Blackfoot from Montana, became the first Native American woman in the Women Marine Corps Reserve in 1943. Celia Mix, of the Potawatomi, and Viola Eastman of the Ojibwa, also had the distinction of being one of the first Native American women in the Marines alongside Spotted Wolf.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2024/04/living-legacies-of-service-native-american-women-in-the-u-s-military/>

**ARTICLE: Canada Works With Philippine Partners to Advance the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Southeast Asia**

**REPORTER:** *By Lieutenant-Commander Delphine Bonnardot, PhD, Women, Peace and Security and IWGPAF instructor in the Philippines (04.22.24)*

**EXCERPT:** On 1 March 2024, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Military Training and Cooperation Program (MTCP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) co-hosted a Symposium on Gender-Responsive Leadership in Manila. This key leader engagement event marked the conclusion of the MTCP's Integration of Women and Gender Perspectives in Armed Forces (IWGPAF) workshop delivered from February 26 to March 1, 2024.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2024/04/canada-works-philippine-partners-advance-women-peace-security-agenda-southeast-asia.html>

**ARTICLE: US Says Taliban Will Not Be Recognised Until it Allows Women's Participation in Society**

**REPORTER:** *By Arpan Raj, The Independent (04.19.24)*

**EXCERPT:** The Taliban will not be recognised as the legitimate government of Afghanistan till it allows the participation of girls and women in the war-torn country's society and economy, the US State Department has said. Equal rights for Afghan women and girls continue to be a "key tenet" of America's Afghanistan policy, said Vedant Patel, the principal deputy spokesperson for the department, speaking at a news briefing on Wednesday. "...We continue to reiterate regularly, through relevant channels, with the Taliban that their self-stated goal of legitimacy can only be achieved – and will likely be impossible to achieve if half of their population is being left out of participating in its society, participating in its economy," Mr Patel said.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.independent.co.uk/asia/south-asia/taliban-us-afghanistan-women-ban-latest-b2531422.html>

**ARTICLE: CJTF-HOA Women, Peace and Security [VIDEO]**

**REPORTER:** *U.S. Air National Guard Video by Senior Airman Kevin Nious (04.12.24)*

**EXCERPT:** In recognition of Women's History Month, the CJTF-HOA Women, Peace and Security team hosted a series of self-defense workshops on March 14 and March 28, 2024, inside the fitness tent at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

The classes were designed to empower women with the knowledge to identify threatening body language, and the skills to take down an attacker.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.safie.hq.af.mil/News/Video/mod/61713/player/0/WPS/>

**ARTICLE: AFN INCIRLIK RADIO NEWSCAST: Women, Peace, and Security Panel [AUDIO]**

**REPORTER:** *By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Belio, Incirlik Air Base, Türkiye (04.11.24)*

**EXCERPT:** American Forces Network Incirlik reports on the Military Women's Memorial hosting a Women, Peace, and Security panel on April 11, 2024.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.dvidshub.net/audio/79872/afn-incirlik-radio-newscast-women-peace-and-security-panel>

**ARTICLE: Naval War College's Women, Peace, and Security Chair Dr. Saira Yamin Speaks at the U.S. Embassy Finland [PHOTO]**

**REPORTER:** *By Naval War College (04.09.24)*

**EXCERPT:** Dr. Saira Yamin shared expertise, insights, and inspiration on #WomenPeaceAndSecurity related topics during Finland visit.

**READ MORE:** <https://twitter.com/NavalWarCollege/status/1777714942398935530>

**ARTICLE: 'Women Should Be Involved' in Conflict Recovery: U.S. Special Envoy**

**REPORTER:** *By Tamayo Muto, Nikkei staff writer (04.09.24)*

**EXCERPT:** Geeta Rao Gupta, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for global women's issues, told reporters in Tokyo last week that "women should also be involved in the recovery and rebuilding efforts" from conflicts everywhere, including Asia. "Japan and the U.S. can advocate other countries" to increase their budgets for "women, peace and security" (WPS) initiatives, Gupta said, citing a concept that focuses on the participation of women in the processes of preventing and resolving conflicts.

**READ MORE:** <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Gender/Women-should-be-involved-in-conflict-recovery-U.S.-special-envoy>

**ARTICLE: Empowering Leadership: NAVSCIATTS Strategic Leaders Course Supporting Women, Peace, and Security Principles**

**REPORTER:** *By Angela Fry, Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School (04.08.24)*

**EXCERPT:** In an era marked by global challenges, the Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School (NAVSCIATTS), Naval Special Warfare Command's security cooperation training center, recognizes that addressing all aspects of a society is not simply a matter of equity, but rather a matter of strategic importance. In 2021, through its Strategic Leaders International Course (SLIC), NAVSCIATTS joined with U.S. Special Operations Command's Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) team to incorporate waypoints throughout its curriculum to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives necessary to promote women's inclusion and participation in peace and security efforts worldwide.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.nsw.navy.mil/PRESS-ROOM/News/Article-View/Article/3736019/empowering-leadership-navsciatts-strategic-leaders-course-supporting-women-peace/>

**ARTICLE: Soldier Revolutionizes Army Fitness Standards**

**REPORTER:** *By Blair Dupre, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs (04.05.24)*

**EXCERPT:** There are many phrases that can describe Sgt. 1st Class Latoya Greene, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, III Armored Corps, but "out of shape" is not among them. Greene is the very definition of a fitness enthusiast. She is up and working out in the gym at 4 a.m. most mornings and has participated in challenging physical events, including one of the Strongest Competitions hosted at Fort Cavazos, where she has pulled a vehicle weighing 5,600 pounds.

Despite this, she has been “taped” her entire career. The tape-test is used when a Soldier’s body weight does not fall within the body mass index screening table. ... When Greene’s Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry scan, or DEXA scan, was compared to her results from manual taping, the traditional taping method was 2 to 3% off. ... Now change has already been set in motion. If a Soldier’s MOS requires an ACFT score of more than 540 or above, that Soldier is not required to be taped.

**READ MORE:** [https://www.army.mil/article/275152/soldier\\_revolutionizes\\_army\\_fitness\\_standards](https://www.army.mil/article/275152/soldier_revolutionizes_army_fitness_standards)

**ARTICLE: Women, Peace, Security Panel Marks Anniversary of DAF WPS Strategic Action Plan**

**REPORTER:** *By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs (04.04.24)*

**EXCERPT:** The Military Women’s Memorial hosted a Women, Peace, and Security panel at Arlington National Cemetery, April 1, coinciding with the one-year anniversary of the Department of the Air Force’s WPS Strategic Action Plan.

During a keynote address, Kristyn Jones, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (financial management and comptroller), performing the duties of Under Secretary of the Air Force, underscored the pivotal role of WPS strategies and principles in bolstering national security.

“The Women Peace and Security Act of 2017 seeks to incorporate women in peace and security – not just as a manifestation of our values of equality and inclusion, although those are important; but because of the empirical evidence that their participation leads to better security outcomes,” Jones said.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3731463/women-peace-security-panel-marks-anniversary-of-department-of-the-air-force-str/>

**ARTICLE: Celebrating Strength and Health: The 1st Infantry Division's Women’s Health Seminar**

**REPORTER:** *By Jefferson Grimes, 1st Infantry Division (04.03.24)*

**EXCERPT:** In a dynamic initiative that both celebrated Women’s History Month and addressed the unique needs of female Soldiers, the 1st Infantry Division Holistic Health and Fitness team organized a Women’s Health Seminar that was held at Riley’s Community Center here, March 26.

This event was centered on the core themes of performance optimization and injury prevention, specifically tailored to the physiological demands of the female Soldier.

**READ MORE:**

[https://www.army.mil/article/275075/celebrating\\_strength\\_and\\_health\\_the\\_1st\\_infantry\\_divisions\\_womens\\_health\\_seminar](https://www.army.mil/article/275075/celebrating_strength_and_health_the_1st_infantry_divisions_womens_health_seminar)

**ARTICLE: Fostering Inclusivity in Peacekeeping**

**REPORTER:** *By Sanya Malik, University of British Columbia (April 2024)*

**EXCERPT:** The United Nations Peacekeeping operations involve a diverse array of stakeholders on the decision-making and enforcement side, ranging from senior officials to troops and civilian personnel, whose backgrounds and perspectives significantly impact mission effectiveness. Gender considerations within recruitment does form an important part of UN’s engagement especially within its foundational mandate of Women, Peace, and Security as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Intersectionality along with cultural contexts within host countries further complicate the recruitment process. Furthermore, while the deliberate inclusion of women is advocated, it often leads to reinforcing stereotypical roles and ‘side streaming; of gender rather than genuine ‘mainstreaming’ practices.

**READ MORE:** <https://fluxirr.mcgill.ca/article/view/165>



**ARTICLE: Chilean and US Armies Set Stage For Inaugural Exercise Southern Fenix 2024 [PHOTO]**

**REPORTER:** *By Maj. Nadine Wiley De Moura U.S. Army South Public Affairs (04.01.24)*

**EXCERPT:** U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cathy Alston, Women's Peace and Security lead for Southern Fenix 2024, shakes hands with Commander in Chief of the 6th Division of the Chilean Army, Brig. Gen. Ruben Castillo Herrera on the opening day of the mid-planning conference, April 1, 2024, in Iquique, Chile. Southern Fenix 24 (SF24) is a bi-lateral exercise between the U.S. Army and the Chilean Army (CHLAR) in Iquique, Chile. This will be the first U.S. Army-led exercise where the U.S. Army M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) platform is deployed to the United States Southern Command area of operation and piloting new warfighting concepts in partnership with Chile.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/8334444/chilean-and-us-armies-set-stage-inaugural-exercise-southern-fenix-2024>

- **RELATED STORY:** <https://www.southcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/Article/3750686/us-chilean-armies-set-stage-for-inaugural-exercise-southern-fenix-2024/>

**ARTICLE: (ICYM) eFP in Focus: NATO's Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in the Baltic States**

**REPORTER:** *By Stéfanie von Hlatky, Eastern Europe Studies Center (03.28.24)*

**EXCERPT:** On its 75th anniversary, NATO has seized the opportunity to update its policy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), a commitment that was made during the Vilnius Summit in 2023. A greater focus on deterrence and collective defence is a necessary update as the last iteration of the policy, released in 2018, did not fully articulate how WPS principles would be integrated into this core NATO task. In 2024, the strategic picture has changed dramatically two years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and this has informed all the policy updates at NATO.

What is distinct about the policy update on Women, Peace and Security, however, is the engagement with the Civil Society Advisory Panel on Women, Peace and Security, which is a consultative body that has been put in place specifically to provide an external input into NATO policies and practices.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.eesc.lt/en/publication/efp-in-focus-natos-women-peace-and-security-agenda-in-the-baltic-states/>

### Upcoming Events

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

**WHEN:** June 25, 2024

**WHERE:** Arlington, Va.

The next quarterly meeting will be June 25, 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. WPS updates will be provided to DACOWITS during this meeting.

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

*If you would like to be added or removed from the monthly WPS in the Military News Round Up distro list, please email: [antonieta.rico.ctr@army.mil](mailto:antonieta.rico.ctr@army.mil). Please forward the email to other members of the US Army WPS community who might find the contents valuable. To access last month's WPS Round Up, please see the archive here: <https://pksoi.armywarcollege.edu/index.php/wps-news-round-up/>*