



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—JUNE 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—June 2024

ARTICLE: Papua New Guinea Defense Force completes Gender Focal Point training with U.S. DoD Support

REPORTER: *By Gunnery Sgt. Kassie McDole, Marine Rotational Force - Darwin (05.31.24)*

EXCERPT: The Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) recently completed a significant Gender Focal Point training program, conducted in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) from May 20-24, 2024, at the Kumul Leadership Center in Port Moresby. The training, supported by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Office of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), aimed to enhance the PNGDF's institutional effectiveness by integrating gender perspectives into their operational strategies.

READ MORE: <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/3793552/papua-new-guinea-defense-force-completes-gender-focal-point-training-with-us-do/>

ARTICLE: Indian peacekeeper is UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year

REPORTER: *By UN Affairs News (05.30.24)*

EXCERPT: Major Radhika Sen, an Indian peacekeeper in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has been awarded the 2023 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. Major Sen served with the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO) from March 2023 to April 2024, Major Sen led efforts to create community alert networks in North Kivu, facilitating platforms for locals to voice security and humanitarian concerns. Recognized for her compassionate and dedicated service, Major Sen fostered mixed-gender patrols and safe spaces, promoted gender-sensitive engagement, and facilitated educational and vocational training. Her work inspired women's solidarity and amplified their voices in local security discussions.

READ MORE: <https://press.un.org/en/2024/pko825.doc.htm>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security leaders discuss how to operationalize strategy

REPORTER: *By Sarah Hauck, The Army University Public Affairs Office (05.29.24)*

EXCERPT: The Army University's Command and General Staff College hosted a Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) panel on March 7, 2024 at Fort Leavenworth, emphasizing the importance of integrating WPS principles into national security strategy. Panelists, including Brig. Gen. Marlina DeCelle, Brig. Gen. Katherine Trombley, Maj. Danielle Coloma-Flores, Dr. Lisa Brooks Babin, and Mr. Gregg Thompson, shared their experiences and discussed the impact of WPS initiatives. Topics included increasing women's visibility in military roles, fostering international security cooperation, and the necessity of incorporating gender perspectives in operational planning. The WPS Act of 2017 and subsequent

strategies underline the commitment to women's meaningful inclusion in security operations to enhance effectiveness and national security. Continued training of gender focal points remains a priority, with around 300 trained individuals across the Army, including 29 gender advisors.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/274968/women_peace_and_security_leaders_discuss_how_to_operationalize_strategy

ARTICLE: Colonel Léa Yangongo: Inspiring women to join and thrive in the military in the Central African Republic

REPORTER: *By Africa Renewal, UN Peacekeeping (05.29.24)*

EXCERPT: Colonel Ghislaine Léa Yangongo, who first joined the Central African Republic's army (FACA) as a volunteer in 1997, has risen through the ranks to become the head of the Air Force base in Bangui and is currently the Secretary-General of the Superior Council of the Military Condition. She has been instrumental in security sector reform and advocates for the inclusion of women at all levels. Yangongo collaborates with the UN Peacekeeping operation, MINUSCA, to implement the Women, Peace, and Security National Action Plan. Reflecting on the challenges she faced in a male-dominated environment, she emphasizes the importance of women using their unique skills to enhance security institutions. With over 25 years of experience, she encourages young women to pursue careers in the military and advocates for gender equality in the security forces. Her leadership has inspired many women and fostered change within the military, highlighting the critical role women play in achieving peace and security.

READ MORE: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/may-2024/colonel-l%C3%A9a-yangongo-inspiring-women-join-and-thrive-military-central-african>

ARTICLE: Memorial Day Keynote Address at the Military Women's Memorial/ May 27, 2024

REPORTER: *By David Resnick, The Army University Public Affairs Office (05.28.24)*

EXCERPT: On May 27, 2024, a keynote address was delivered at the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington Cemetery in honor of Memorial Day. The speaker celebrated the invaluable contributions and sacrifices of women in the U.S. military, highlighting historical figures like Deborah Sampson and Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, as well as contemporary service members who have displayed extraordinary valor. The address emphasized that over 3 million women have served since the Revolutionary War, often facing significant barriers but always volunteering out of a deep sense of duty. Speaker reflected on the progress made, with women now achieving high ranks and pivotal roles in military leadership.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/276688/memorial_day_keynote_address_at_the_military_womens_memorial_may_27_2024

ARTICLE: Gender equality, youth aspirations keys to sustainable peace, Security Council hears

REPORTER: *By UN Affairs News (05.28.24)*

EXCERPT: UN Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo emphasized the pivotal roles of gender equality and youth aspirations in achieving sustainable peace and security during a Security Council open debate, highlighting the severe challenges faced by women globally, particularly in Afghanistan where they are denied basic rights. DiCarlo called for dismantling patriarchal structures and ensuring equal opportunities. She also underscored the importance of youth inclusion in peace processes, noting that young people are essential contributors to current and future societal building.

READ MORE: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/05/1150331>

ARTICLE: Gen. Richardson visits Brazil, Panama

REPORTER: *By Steve McCloud, U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs U.S. Army U.S. (05.24.24)*

EXCERPT: U.S. Army Gen. Laura Richardson, commander of U.S. Southern Command, concluded official visits to Brazil and Panama from May 20-24, 2024. In Brazil, Richardson met with officials and leaders and joined the celebration of the bicentennial of U.S.-Brazil diplomatic relations aboard the visiting USS George Washington (CVN 73). She participated in a Women, Peace, and Security panel in São Paulo and discussed aerospace partnerships at Embraer headquarters.

READ MORE: <https://www.southcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/Article/3788681/gen-richardson-visits-brazil-panama/>

ARTICLE: 403rd Army Field Support Brigade Personality Spotlight: Harumi Kobayashi – Logistics Readiness Center-Honshu

REPORTER: *By 403rd AFSB Public Affairs (05.24.24)*

EXCERPT: Susumu Harumi Kobayashi, featured in the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade Personality Spotlight. Kobayashi has dedicated 28 years to the U.S. Army, currently serving as a Transportation Division Program Analyst at the Logistics Readiness Center-Honshu. Kobayashi's role involves providing critical information to various military echelons and managing communication for information requests.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/276657/403rd_army_field_support_brigade_personality_spotlight_harumi_kobayashi_logistics_readiness_center_honshu

ARTICLE: Empowering Women's Health: GYN-COE's 20-Year Journey of Innovation and Impact

REPORTER: *by Vivian Mason USU News (05. 23.24)*

EXCERPT: The Gynecologic Cancer Center of Excellence (GYN-COE) commemorates its 20th anniversary, celebrating a legacy of pioneering research and commitment to women's health. Established to advance early detection, prevention, and precision treatment of gynecologic cancers. The Center has become a vital asset to the Department of Defense and the Uniformed Services University. It fosters national and international collaborations and has significantly impacted cancer care through initiatives like the APOLLO Program and support from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

READ MORE: <https://news.usuhs.edu/2024/05/empowering-womens-health-gyn-coes-20.html>

ARTICLE: Senior Leaders Focused on Restoring Trust as DOD Makes Sexual Assault Reforms

REPORTER: *By Joseph Clark, DoD News (05.22.24)*

EXCERPT: The Department of Defense (DoD) is intensifying efforts to restore service members' trust through significant military justice reforms aimed at reducing sexual assault. The establishment of the

Offices of Special Trial Counsel, which independently prosecute serious crimes, marks the most substantial change to the Uniform Code of Military Justice since its inception in 1950. These reforms are part of a broader strategy initiated by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III to tackle sexual assault, which included launching the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in 2021.

READ MORE: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3784780/senior-leaders-focused-on-restoring-trust-as-dod-makes-sexual-assault-reforms/>

ARTICLE: 'Making change for the better': Brig. Gen. Eveline Yao shares how she keeps her momentum of curiosity and sense of adventure

REPORTER: *By USTRANSCOM News (05.20.24)*

EXCERPT: Brig. Gen. Eveline Yao's 29-year career in the U.S. Air Force centers on human connection and adaptability. Yao chose family medicine for its longitudinal care, later becoming a flight surgeon and earning extensive flight experience. Her career features roles such as U.S. Transportation Command's command surgeon and leadership positions in Japan and Florida. She emphasizes patient care and trust, integrating this ethos into initiatives like "Trusted Care".

READ MORE: <https://www.ustranscom.mil/cmd/panewsreader.cfm?ID=EA889613-D442-A147-8C817E8DB16C85DA&yr=2024>

ARTICLE: Unity and skills shine at Women, Peace, and Security challenge

REPORTER: *By Staff Sergeant Shatyra Reed-Cox/U.S. Army South, DIÁLOGO (05.16.24)*

EXCERPT: The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Team Building Challenge held during Tradewinds 24 at Paragon Army Base, Barbados, featured teams from eight countries engaging in physically demanding events including a beach run, terrain race, and obstacle course. Team Barbados emerged victorious, highlighting their hosting prowess and cooperative spirit. The competition concluded with a surprise reshuffling of teams, pairing participants from different nations to apply WPS principles in simulated humanitarian scenarios. The event emphasized gender considerations, teamwork, and cross-national camaraderie, showcasing both physical endurance and collaborative strength.

READ MORE: <https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/tradewinds-24-unity-and-skills-shine-at-wps-challenge/>

ARTICLE: The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services toured Joint Base Lewis-McChord

REPORTER: *By Pvt. Jolene Cintron U.S. Army (05.16.24)*

EXCERPT: JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash.— The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) toured Joint Base Lewis-McChord from May 2-3, 2024. The visit aimed to engage with Service members and gather insights on policies affecting servicewomen. DACOWITS, established in 1951 and consisting of appointees by the Secretary of Defense, provides recommendations on recruitment, retention, employment, integration, well-being, and treatment of women in the Armed Forces.

READ MORE:

<https://www.army.mil/article/276403/the-defense-advisory-committee-on-women-in-the-services-toured-joint-base-lewis-mcchord>

ARTICLE: DOD Report: Prevalence of Sexual Assault Declined Across Services in 2023

REPORTER: *By Joseph Clark, DoD News (05.17.24)*

EXCERPT: The prevalence of sexual assault in the U.S. active-duty military has decreased for the first time in nearly a decade, according to the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. Unwanted sexual contact among active-duty women dropped from 8.4% to 6.8% between 2021 and 2023, while the rate for men slightly decreased from 1.5% to 1.3%, though this change was not statistically significant. In total, nearly 7,000 fewer service members experienced sexual assault in 2023 compared to 2021. The decline is attributed to the Defense Department's reforms and initiatives, spearheaded by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, including the establishment of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault, significant amendments to the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, and increased funding for prevention efforts.

READ MORE: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3779672/dod-report-prevalence-of-sexual-assault-declined-across-services-in-2023/>

ARTICLE: Planning for Women in a Postwar Gaza

REPORTER: *By Faria Nasruddin, Wilson Center (05.15.24)*

EXCERPT: The article highlights the crucial need for including women in postwar planning in Gaza to ensure their long-term social and economic recovery. It underscores that women and children have been primary victims of the conflict, which has fundamentally altered Gaza's society. With high numbers of female-headed households, pregnant women, and displaced individuals, women have taken on essential leadership roles during the war. The article argues that postwar reconstruction must not only focus on physical security and economic projects but also prioritize the voices and needs of women, as neglecting them could lead to failed recovery efforts and continued vulnerability. Lessons from other conflicts show that militarized solutions and male-dominated reconstruction often marginalize women. Hence, a comprehensive rebuilding plan should include women's perspectives to foster sustainable peace and development.

READ MORE: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/planning-women-postwar-gaza>

ARTICLE: El Salvador Sends First Female Firefighter to Participate in CENTAM SMOKE

REPORTER: *By Staff Sergeant Shelby Pruitt-Johnson/Joint Task Force Bravo (05.10.24)*

EXCERPT: A milestone was achieved as El Salvador Fire Department sent its first female firefighter, Yoselin Alejandra Orellana Ramos, to participate in CENTAM SMOKE at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, marking an 18% female participation rate in the multinational exercise. Orellana expressed gratitude for the opportunity and successfully trained alongside firefighters from various nations on critical firefighting skills. Her experience not only enhances her skills but also contributes to a more supportive work environment. Orellana's successful participation highlights the value of increasing female representation in firefighting and its positive impact on emergency response capabilities in Central America.

READ MORE: <https://dialogo-amicas.com/articles/el-salvador-sends-first-female-firefighter-to-participate-in-centam-smoke/>

ARTICLE: The 48th Annual Conference for the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives focused on “Military Planning and Partnerships: A New Era of Gender Perspective at NATO”

REPORTER: *By NATO News (05.08.24)*

EXCERPT: From May 6-8, 2024, NATO hosted the 48th Annual Conference on Gender Perspectives, attracting over 300 participants from 47 Allied and Partner Nations at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. The event, themed "Military Planning and Partnerships: A New Era of Gender Perspective at NATO," featured key speakers such as Admiral Rob Bauer, Ms. Irene Fellin, and Lt. Gen. Andrew M. Rohling, who underscored the critical role of integrating gender perspectives into military operations. The conference highlighted NATO's commitment to gender integration, featuring panels on practical implementation, a review of the Summary of National Report (SNR), and findings from gender-resilience wargames.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_225304.htm#top

ARTICLE: Unit's first female African-American commander overseas joins African Lion 2024

REPORTER: *By 1st Lt. Logan Whorton U.S. Army (05.08.23)*

EXCERPT: Capt. Markia “Kia” Hobbs, the first African-American female commander of the 642nd Regional Support Group (642nd RSG), led the unit's first overseas mission in over a decade during African Lion 2024 (AL24) at Ben Ghilouf Training Area (BGTA) in Tunisia. Tasked with running the mayor cell, Hobbs coordinated logistics, lodging, and other necessities for nearly 2,500 participants. Despite initial trepidation and language barriers, Hobbs embraced her role, fostering strong relationships with both U.S. and Tunisian counterparts.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/276077/units_first_female_african_american_commander_overseas_joins_african_lion_2024

ARTICLE: Women’s full inclusion in peace and security efforts focus of OSCE Asian partners meeting

REPORTER: *By Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, OSCE (05.07.24)*

EXCERPT: The OSCE Asian Partners for Co-Operation Group and participating States convened to discuss the crucial role of women in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding. Despite strides made since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000, achieving gender equality in peace and security remains a challenge. OSCE states reiterated their commitment to empowering women in peace processes and enhancing their leadership and mediation skills.

READ MORE: <https://www.osce.org/partners-for-cooperation/568096>

ARTICLE: Fort Gregg-Adams AWM celebrates opening of exhibit ‘Courage to Deliver’

REPORTER: *By Ericka Gillespie U.S. Army (05.03.24)*

EXCERPT: FORT GREGG-ADAMS, Va. – The Army Women’s Museum celebrated the opening of its "Courage to Deliver" exhibit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, honoring the legacy of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, a World War II unit commanded by Lt. Col. Charity Adams. This primarily African American female unit, which also included women from Latin American, Hispanic, Caribbean, and Asian Pacific Islander backgrounds, played a crucial role in sorting mail for millions of service members. The exhibit aims to educate, inspire, and preserve the history of these trailblazing women who challenged gender and racial stereotypes.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/275997/fort_gregg_adams_awm_celebrates_opening_of_exhibit_courage_to_deliver

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, 2024. 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.

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

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