



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—JULY 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—July 2024

ARTICLE: Biden issues blanket pardon to troops expelled from the military for their sexuality

REPORTER: *By Clayton Kincade, Quil Lawrenc, NPR (06.28.24)*

EXCERPT: President Joe Biden issued a blanket pardon to LGBTQI+ service members expelled from the military based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. This move, announced during Pride Month, aims to rectify historic injustices stemming from a ban on consensual gay sex, which Congress repealed in 2013. The pardon impacts roughly 2,000 veterans, addressing dignitary harms and facilitating better access to VA benefits and employment opportunities, which were previously hindered by other-than-honorable discharges.

READ MORE: <https://www.npr.org/2024/06/26/g-s1-6364/biden-pardon-troops-lgbtqi-sexuality>

ARTICLE: NATO and Japan discuss cooperation at the military staff talks

REPORTER: *By NATO News (06.26.24)*

EXCERPT: On 26 June 2024, NATO hosted military staff talks with Japan at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, focusing on the ongoing partnership, security challenges, resilience building, and future cooperation opportunities. A key part of the discussions included sessions on NATO's relations with Indo-Pacific partners and on gender in the military, both in NATO and Japan. These sessions emphasized gender mainstreaming to ensure that women and men can work together with equal opportunities, highlighting its importance as a key success factor for operations.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_227082.htm

ARTICLE: “It is a Forever Stigma” – The Role of Gender Discrimination in the Syrian Government’s Detention and Torture System

REPORTER: *By ReliefWeb (06.26.24)*

EXCERPT: The Syrian government's detention and torture system have been deeply marked by pervasive gender discrimination, yet this aspect has been relatively unexplored. The government has utilized gender discrimination as a tool to exert control and further its oppressive aims. Testimonies from former detainees shed light on the brutal reality faced by individuals in Syrian detention, detailing egregious acts of torture, including sexual violence. Men and boys often suffer violence due to their perceived opposition roles, while women and girls are targeted for their association with revolution participants.

READ MORE: <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/it-forever-stigma-role-gender-discrimination-syrian-governments-detention-and-torture-system-june-2024-enar>

ARTICLE: How to advance peace and security through a climate and gender lens? Reflections from youth at the UN Women's GEN-Forum 2024

REPORTER: *By Clare Steiner & Khaing Su Lwin, SEI Asia (06.25.24)*

EXCERPT: The United Nations Security Council adopted the resolution on Women, Peace, and Security in 2000 to acknowledge the vital role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Climate change is increasingly becoming a focus within this agenda, as seen in national and regional action plans across Asia and the Pacific that address the intersections of gender, security, and climate.

READ MORE: <https://www.sei.org/perspectives/peace-security-climate-gender-lens-reflections/>

ARTICLE: Nurturing the Growth of Women in the Pakistani Military

REPORTER: *By Heather Moxon, Bureau of Political Military Affairs (06.21.24)*

EXCERPT: The pioneering efforts of Pakistani female military personnel in the International Military Education and Training program symbolize progress towards gender inclusion in the military. Led by program managers Raja Ali and Nasir Ayub, and supported by the first female local staff member, Saba Javed, the team actively advocates for the professional advancement of women in the Pakistani military. With women now in the combat arms ranks in the Pakistani military, female officers are attending professional military education courses and returning to the force to be considered for leadership positions.

READ MORE: <https://www.state.gov/nurturing-the-growth-of-women-in-the-pakistani-military/>

PRESS RELEASE: Second meeting of the Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

REPORTER: *By Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Japan (06.21.24)*

EXCERPT: Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, KAMIKAWA Yoko hosted the second meeting of the Taskforce on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). The meeting reviewed the Ministry's progress on WPS since January and presented initiatives by other government entities on disaster prevention and response, as well as how these experiences can be applied in diplomatic activities.

READ MORE: https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_00384.html

ARTICLE: US Army Marksmanship Unit's connection to the Olympic Games Readiness Center-Honshu

REPORTER: *By Lt. Col. Michelle Lunato, US Army (06.20.24)*

EXCERPT: On 20 June 2024, the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) celebrated its longstanding connection to the Olympic Games and highlighted the achievements of its women members. Since women's inclusion in shooting events, USAMU women have excelled, with Maj. Margret Murdock being the first woman to win an Olympic shooting medal, securing silver in the men's three-position smallbore rifle event in 1976 before separate women's events were established in 1984.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/277435/us_army_marksmanship_units_connection_to_the_olympic_games

ARTICLE: Ghana Navy's First Female Commanding Officer Inspires Others

REPORTER: *By Security Women (06.20.24)*

EXCERPT: Lt. Cdr. Priscilla Ami Dogbeda Dzokoto, the first female commanding officer of a Ghana Navy ship, stands as a beacon of inspiration within the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF), which has been progressively integrating women into various roles, including combat positions, since the enlistment of the first female officer in 1958. Dzokoto's leadership signifies the GAF's commitment to gender equality

and empowerment of women in the military. Her achievements reflect the success of GAF's gender policies, with initiatives to increase female enlistment and provide opportunities for women across all branches of the armed forces, challenging gender stereotypes and promoting inclusion. As a trailblazer, Dzokoto's journey exemplifies the GAF's dedication to gender equality and the advancement of women in military leadership roles.

READ MORE: <https://www.securitywomen.org/post/ghana-navys-first-female-commanding-officer-inspires-others>

ARTICLE: Deep Dive Recap: Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and the Gender Perspective

REPORTER: *By NATO News (06.19.24)*

EXCERPT: On June 19, 2024, NATO's GENAD hosted a session discussing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) and the Gender Perspective. Experts highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to address CRSV, emphasizing policy development, operational guidance, and coordination across military and civilian sectors. Lessons learned from UN Peace Operations, gaps in addressing violence against men and boys, and the importance of prevention and response strategies were discussed. Effective prevention and response to CRSV are seen as essential for peace and security.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_227072.htm

ARTICLE: Stakeout on the situation for women and girls in Sudan

REPORTER: *By Permanent mission of France to the United Nations (06.18.24)*

EXCERPT: On June 18, 2024, representatives from eleven countries, including the United States, South Korea, and France, issued a joint statement concerning the severe impact of the ongoing conflict in Sudan on women and girls. They called for an immediate ceasefire, adherence to the arms embargo, and unrestricted humanitarian access. The statement condemned sexual violence as a war tactic and emphasized support for survivors and women's participation in peace processes. The signatories urged international funding for women-led organizations, demanded accountability for human rights violations, and stressed the inclusion of Sudanese women in political and humanitarian efforts. They also called for the protection of women human rights defenders.

READ MORE: <https://onu.delegfrance.org/stakeout-on-the-situation-for-women-and-girls-in-sudan>

ARTICLE: UN releases Navigating Challenges and Driving Change report on Women, Peace and Security

REPORTER: *By Security Women (06.18.24)*

EXCERPT: The United Nations recently published the "Navigating Challenges and Driving Change, Women, Peace, and Security Highlights of UN Peacekeeping in 2023" report, unveiling the progress made towards Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) goals. The report emphasizes strategies to enhance women's participation in peace processes, integrate a gender perspective across all phases, and boost female representation in peacekeeping missions.

READ MORE: <https://www.securitywomen.org/post/un-releases-navigating-challenges-and-driving-change-report-on-women-peace-and-security>

ARTICLE: Newest major non-NATO ally Kenya, US begin planning Justified Accord 2025

REPORTER: *By Maj. Joe Legros, U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (06.17.24)*

EXCERPT: The initial planning event (IPE) for exercise Justified Accord 2025 (JA25) took place from June 10-13, setting the stage for the multinational military exercise scheduled for Feb. 10-21, 2025 in Kenya. JA25 aims to enhance cooperation and interoperability among participating nations, featuring a

multinational field training exercise at the Counter Insurgency, Terrorism and Stability Operations Centre (CITSO) in Nanyuki. A key highlight of the exercise includes workshops on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Rule of Law at Nairobi's Humanitarian Peace Support School (HPSS). These workshops emphasize the importance of integrating gender perspectives into military and civilian decision-making and improving legal support for peacekeeping operations.

READ MORE: [Newest major non-NATO ally Kenya, US begin planning Justified Accord 2025 | Article | The United States Army](#)

ARTICLE: Under the patronage of Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, General Women's Union launches 4th Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace and Security initiative

REPORTER: *By Abu Dhabi Media Office (06.15.24)*

EXCERPT: Under the patronage of Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, the General Women's Union welcomed the fourth cohort of the Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiative cadets. This initiative, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense and the UN Women Liaison Office for the GCC, highlights the UAE's commitment to enhancing women's roles in peace, security, and development.

READ MORE: <https://www.mediaoffice.abudhabi/en/community/under-the-patronage-of-sheikha-fatima-bint-mubarak-general-womens-union-launches-4th-sheikha-fatima-bint-mubarak-women-peace-and-security-initiative/>

ARTICLE: Ukrainian NGO 'Arm Women Now' exhibit on display at NATO HQ

REPORTER: *By NATO News (06.13.24)*

EXCERPT: A Ukrainian NGO, "Arm Women Now," is pioneering the production of female-specific military uniforms, body armor, and other non-lethal equipment, which is showcased in an exhibit at NATO Headquarters. This initiative highlights the importance of adapting military gear to meet women's needs, especially heightened amid Russia's war against Ukraine. The exhibition, supported by NATO's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security Irene Fellin, promotes the integration of gender perspectives into armed forces. The project aims to advance equality, dignity, and respect for women in security and defense, providing customized equipment to thousands of Ukrainian servicewomen free of charge, and aligns with NATO's Women, Peace, and Security policy.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_226479.htm

ARTICLE: Branch Health Clinic China Lake Helps Expectant Moms Navigate Care in a Rural Setting

REPORTER: *by Regena Kowitz, Navy Medicine News (06.12.24)*

EXCERPT: On 12 June 2024, Branch Health Clinic (BHC) China Lake in Ridgecrest, California, highlighted their efforts to assist expectant mothers through their Obstetrics Navigator Program, launched in January 2024. This initiative addresses the complexities of accessing prenatal and delivery care in rural areas, especially after the closure of the local maternity ward in Ridgecrest. Cmdr. William "PJ" Martin and Registered Nurse Catherine Sayre lead the program, helping patients navigate referrals, find appropriate birthing centers, and utilize TRICARE benefits for travel. This program underscores BHC China Lake's commitment to comprehensive healthcare, both for military families and the civilian workforce at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

READ MORE: <https://www.med.navy.mil/Media/News/News-Article/Article/3805175/branch-health-clinic-china-lake-helps-expectant-moms-navigate-care-in-a-rural-s/>

ARTICLE: The 76th Anniversary and Women Driving Change

REPORTER: *By U.S. Army Combined Arms Center Public Affairs (06.12.24)*

EXCERPT: Col. Greta Railsback, the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center's (CAC) most senior female soldier and current acting Chief of Staff, marks her achievements as a result of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. Reflecting on the 76th anniversary of the Act, Railsback emphasizes its impact on gender equality and military opportunities for women. Railsback, who oversees talent management and personnel policy, stresses the need for better recruitment and retention of women in the Army.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/277158/the_76th_anniversary_and_women_driving_change

ARTICLE: Failures in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda are Stunting Peace in the Middle East

REPORTER: *By Rachel George, Wilson Center (06.12.24)*

EXCERPT: The article discusses the significant oversight of excluding women from peace negotiations in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), which is undermining peace efforts. Despite 24 years since the UN's Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda called for women's inclusion in peace processes, implementation remains poor. Evidence shows that peace agreements are more likely to last when women are involved, yet women are still largely absent from key negotiations in conflicts such as those in Gaza, Yemen, and Sudan.

READ MORE: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/failures-women-peace-and-security-agenda-are-stunting-peace-middle-east>

ARTICLE: U.S. 4TH Fleet Announces Continuing Promise 2024 Deployment

REPORTER: *By USNAVSOUTH/4TH Fleet Public Affairs (06.12.24)*

EXCERPT: The USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10) of the U.S. Navy will deploy in July and August for the Continuing Promise 2024 mission, visiting Jamaica, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia, and Panama. This mission aims to foster goodwill, strengthen partnerships, and provide medical support in collaboration with local healthcare providers. The team includes U.S. Navy medical professionals, U.S. Army veterinary specialists, and Navy Seabees who will assist with community projects and disaster preparedness training. Continuing Promise will also continue its popular series of seminars on gender-based violence prevention and cultural exchanges in support of the mission's Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiative.

READ MORE: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3804524/us-4th-fleet-announces-continuing-promise-2024-deployment/>

ARTICLE: The First Female Muslim Army Chaplain Candidate Embraces Diversity

REPORTER: *By Jason Ragucci/U.S. Army News (06.07.24)*

EXCERPT: Second Lt. Khady Ndiaye was commissioned as the first female Muslim Army Chaplain Candidate during the Army Chaplain Experience event at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. Maj. Gen. Bill Green, the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, officiated the ceremony at the All American Chapel on June 5. Ndiaye, inspired to support the moral and emotional well-being of soldiers, will complete her chaplaincy training and join an Army Reserve unit in New York City. The Army Chaplain Corps, which serves over 200 faith groups, plays a critical role in providing spiritual guidance and moral support to soldiers and their families.

READ MORE: [The First Female Muslim Army Chaplain Candidate Embraces Diversity | Article | The United States Army](#)

ARTICLE: A UN case study handbook on gender, peace, and security

REPORTER: *By UN News (06.06.24)*

EXCERPT: The United Nations has released a Case Study Handbook on Gender, Peace, and Security aimed at integrating a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations. This training resource is designed for UN infantry battalions and other military personnel, aligning with the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. Major General Cheryl Pearce emphasized the collective responsibility of gender mainstreaming at the handbook's launch on May 8, 2024.

READ MORE: <https://www.un.org/en/delegate/new-un-case-study-handbook-gender-peace-and-security>

ARTICLE: New Army Reserve Ambassador appointed to New York

REPORTER: *By Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris 99th Readiness Division (06.05.24)*

EXCERPT: Maj. Gen. Kris A. Belanger has announced the appointment of Janice M. Gravely as the United States Army Reserve Ambassador for New York. Gravely, who holds advanced degrees in Public Policy and Instructional Technology, has a rich history of service and leadership within the military and veterans' communities. Retired as a lieutenant colonel in 2018, Gravely was the first female and African-American commander of American Legion Post 789. The Army Reserve Ambassador Program, established in 1998, aims to promote the Army Reserve's goals and foster community support.

READ MORE: <https://www.usar.army.mil/News/Article/3797789/new-army-reserve-ambassador-appointed-to-new-york/>

PRESS RELEASE: Afghan Conference organized by WPS on 3 June 2024

REPORTER: *By London School of Economics and Political Science (06.03.24)*

EXCERPT: The LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security hosted a conference addressing the dire situation for women and girls in Afghanistan, described as "the world's worst place to be a woman or a girl." Over 150 delegates, including Afghan women leaders in exile, denounced the severe restrictions imposed by the Taliban. The conference emphasized the need for Afghan women's inclusion in future negotiations to create a hopeful path forward.

READ MORE: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/support/Press-Release>

ARTICLE: U.S. and Kosovo partner on regional Women, Peace, and Security Center

REPORTER: *By The Department of State (06. 01.24)*

EXCERPT: On April 15 in Pristina, the United States and Kosovo celebrated the launch of the regional Kosovo Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Center of Excellence by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU was signed by Katrina Fotovat, Principal Deputy Office Director for the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, and Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani, with U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey Hovenier in attendance. The event, part of Kosovo's WPS Forum organized by President Osmani's office, convened governments, civil society, academic partners, and representatives to promote the WPS agenda.

READ MORE: <https://statemag.state.gov/2024/06/0624ib02/>

Upcoming Events

WHAT: THE ARMY WOMEN'S INITIATIVE TEAM

WHEN: 15 Aug - 15 Sep 2024

WHERE: Online

The application period to join the team is from 15 Aug to 15 Sep 2024 and is accessible to all Army members, including enlisted personnel, warrant officers, commissioned officers, and DA civilians. Online applications are required within this timeframe. To enhance your chances of being selected, it is advised to promptly engage with your supervisor to secure a "letter of endorsement." Moreover, submitting a "statement of interest" and a Soldier Talent Profile/Biography is vital for a successful application and eventual team membership.

READ MORE:

<https://usg01.safelinks.protection.office365.us/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.milsuite.mil%2Fbook%2Fdocs%2FD0C-1329435&data=05%7C02%7Cgeorge.p.mcdonnell4.civ%40army.mil%7C3d756d8e3a54412cb86a08dc9d3fb371%7Cfae6d70f954b481192b60530d6f84c43%7C0%7C0%7C638558144149954072%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gubD4hRQ4yXdbfJturaFIXp7tGk79e6dWhInc9ohww%3D&reserved=0>

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