



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—AUGUST 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—August 2024

ARTICLE: Interview with Special Envoy for Women Peace & Security

REPORTER: *by Regena Kowitz, Navy Medicin News (07.30.24)*

EXCERPT: On July 30, 2024, AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security, Mme. Bineta Diop, highlighted the severe plight of forcibly displaced African women and girls. She stressed that forced displacement exacerbates issues like discrimination and gender-based violence. Diop called for sustainable peace solutions and regional cooperation to address these challenges. She emphasized the importance of inclusive peacebuilding involving women and youth to secure lasting stability and support for displaced individuals in Africa.

READ MORE: <https://au.int/ar/node/37027>

ARTICLE: New report identifies barriers and opportunities to increase the deployment of Cambodian women to UN Peacekeeping Operations

REPORTER: *By Women In Security (07.30.24)*

EXCERPT: On July 30, 2024, the Cambodian Government released a report aimed at increasing the deployment of women from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. The report identifies barriers and opportunities for women's meaningful participation in the military and includes recommendations for capacity building, enhanced training, and specific support needs during deployment.

READ MORE: <https://www.securitywomen.org/post/new-report-identifies-barriers-and-opportunities-to-increase-the-deployment-of-cambodian-women-to-un-peacekeeping-operations>

ARTICLE: The Impact of Brexit on Women, Peace and Security in Northern Ireland: Spotlight on Violence Against Women

REPORTER: *By Katharine A. M. Wright, Ruth McAreavey, Rebecca Donaldson, Wiley Library (07.25.24)*

EXCERPT: The policy commentary titled "The Impact of Brexit on Women, Peace and Security in Northern Ireland: Spotlight on Violence Against Women," highlights how Brexit has adversely affected initiatives aimed at addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Northern Ireland.

READ MORE: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jcms.13663>

ARTICLE: The Women, Peace, and Security agenda made important strides at NATO's Washington summit

REPORTER: *By Sarah Dawn Petrin, Atlantic Council News (07.24.24)*

EXCERPT: At NATO's recent Washington summit, the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda made notable progress. Leaders recognized advancements in implementing inclusive military strategies and women's roles in political leadership. Key actions included adopting a new NATO policy on WPS and committing to fund equipment for Ukrainian female soldiers. The summit highlighted the U.S. bipartisan support for women's inclusion in national security strategies.

READ MORE: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/the-women-peace-and-security-agenda-made-important-strides-at-natos-washington-summit/>

ARTICLE: USCENTCOM Announces Inaugural 2024 Nurses and Medical Technicians Conference

REPORTER: *By Maged L. Benjamin-Elias USCENTCOM (07.23.24)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) hosted its inaugural Nurses and Medical Technicians Conference from July 15-18, 2024, in Tampa, Florida, supported by CENTCOM's Women, Peace, and Security Program. This groundbreaking event, which focused on nursing leadership, innovation, and professional development, brought together nurses and medical technicians, including Majors and Non-Commissioned Officers, from 15 countries.

READ MORE: <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/News-Article-View/Article/3847156/uscentcom-announces-inaugural-2024-nurses-and-medical-technicians-conference/>

ARTICLE: High-Level Political Forum places women and girls at the heart of the 2030 Agenda

REPORTER: *By UN Women News (07.19.24)*

EXCERPT: The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), convened on July 8, 2024, emphasized the urgent need to prioritize women and girls amidst global threats such as conflict, climate change, and human rights rollbacks. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed highlighted ongoing discrimination against women and stressed the need for gender-responsive policies as essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

READ MORE: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/news/2024/07/high-level-political-forum-places-women-and-girls-at-the-heart-of-the-2030-agenda>

ARTICLE: USNS Burlington Arrives in Limon, Costa Rica, for Continuing Promise 2024 Deployment

REPORTER: *By USNAVSOUTH/4TH FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS (07.19.24)*

EXCERPT: The USNS Burlington arrived in Limón, Costa Rica, on July 16, 2024, as part of the Continuing Promise 2024 mission, focused on enhancing goodwill and partnerships in the region. Over 25 U.S. Navy medical professionals will collaborate with local practitioners to provide healthcare services. The mission also features Women, Peace, and Security seminars addressing gender-based violence. The Burlington is scheduled to depart Limón on July 24, continuing on to Honduras, Colombia, and Panama.

READ MORE: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3845207/usns-burlington-arrives-in-limon-costa-rica-for-continuing-promise-2024-deploy/>

ARTICLE: Patrick SFB holds event to inspire next generation of female pilots

REPORTER: *By Heidi M. Hunt, Space Launch Delta 45 (07.17.24)*

EXCERPT: Patrick Space Force Base hosted its first “Fly Like a Girl” event on July 12, 2024, aimed at inspiring middle and high school girls to pursue careers in aviation and other military professions. The event provided students with the opportunity to engage with female military personnel and explore various aviation-related and STEM careers, promoting the significant contributions and potential of women in these fields.

READ MORE: <https://www.spaceforce.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3842087/patrick-sfb-holds-event-to-inspire-next-generation-of-female-pilots/>

ARTICLE: Continuing Promise 2024 Hosts Women, Peace and Security Symposium in Jamaica

REPORTER: *By USNAVSOUTH/4TH FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS (07.16.24)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet’s Continuing Promise 2024 mission launched a multi-day Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Symposium at the Jamaica Defense Force’s Up Park Camp in Kingston. The symposium brought together nearly 35 government and community leaders, including personnel from the JDF and law enforcement, to engage in discussions and exercises aimed at preventing gender-based violence (GBV).

READ MORE: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3840359/continuing-promise-2024-hosts-women-peace-and-security-symposium-in-jamaica/>

ARTICLE: Women, Peace, and Security Symposium 2024, For the Warfighter

REPORTER: *By Carrie Castillo, U.S. Forces Korea (07.15.24)*

EXCERPT: On July 9-10, 2024, U.S. Forces Korea hosted the second Tri-Command Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Symposium at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys in South Korea, focusing on the theme “Operationalizing WPS for the Warfighter.” The symposium aimed to promote the meaningful contributions of women in defense and security on the Korean Peninsula while advancing USFK’s WPS program.

READ MORE: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/476387/women-peace-and-security-symposium-2024-warfighter>

ARTICLE: IDF delays tentative pilot program for female tank troops by another year

REPORTER: *By Emanuel Fabian, Time of Israel (07.15.24)*

EXCERPT: On July 15, 2024, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced a delay in their pilot program for female soldiers to serve in the Armored Corps, rescheduling it to November 2025 due to a shortage of operational tanks, attributed to damage sustained during ongoing conflicts. This decision contradicts earlier military statements regarding tank availability. Currently, women can serve in tanks within the IDF’s Border Defense Corps relatively close to their home bases but not in combat roles.

READ MORE: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-delays-tentative-pilot-program-for-female-tank-troops-by-another-year/>

ARTICLE: Advancing Women, Peace, and Security through Security Cooperation in NATO

REPORTER: *By Courtney Clarksen, Tyler McAnally, and Kathleen McInnis, CSIS (07.12.24)*

EXCERPT: In the future, NATO may advance its women, peace, and security agenda by mandating gender considerations in security cooperation, encouraging female participation in capacity-building activities, and strengthening operational effectiveness. Critics argue that WPS efforts hinder military efficiency, but evidence shows diverse teams enhance decision-making and problem-solving.

READ MORE: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/advancing-women-peace-and-security-through-security-cooperation-nato>

ARTICLE: Tracking War's Disproportionate Impacts on Women

REPORTER: *By Wilfred Chan, Carnegie (07.11.24)*

EXCERPT: Days before the October 7, 2024, attacks, thousands of Israeli and Palestinian women met in Jerusalem to talk about peace. They were part of two groups, Israel's Women Wage Peace and Palestine's Women of the Sun that have convened for decades to call for an end to armed conflict in the region. Women are significantly impacted by armed conflicts but are often excluded from peace negotiations. The new Women, Peace, and Security Conflict Tracker aims to address this gap by monitoring 25 conflict-affected countries through a gender lens.

READ MORE: <https://www.carnegie.org/our-work/article/tracking-wars-disproportionate-impacts-on-women/>

ARTICLE: Army Reserve Careers Group leader impacted by Joint Women's Leadership Symposium

REPORTER: *By Maj. John May, Army Reserve Careers Group (07.11.24)*

EXCERPT: Over 1,300 women from various military branches and civilian services attended the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium in Arlington, Virginia, from June 26-28, focusing on professional development through networking and mentorship. The event provided vital insights into the challenges faced by female service members and the importance of collaboration for driving change and support within the military community.

READ MORE: <https://www.usar.army.mil/News/News-Display/Article/3835498/army-reserve-careers-group-leader-impacted-by-joint-womens-leadership-symposium/>

ARTICLE: NATO Policy on Women, Peace and Security (2024)

REPORTER: *By NATO News (07.10.24)*

EXCERPT: NATO's 2024 Policy on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) reaffirms its commitment to gender equality as integral to peace and stability. The policy, aligned with the UN's WPS agenda, emphasizes women's meaningful participation in decision-making, recognizes the gendered impact of conflicts, and integrates gender perspectives into NATO's core functions. The policy aims to improve operational effectiveness through inclusive practices and underscores the importance of collaboration with partners, civil society, and integrating these principles across all NATO operations and activities.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_227578.htm

FACT SHEET: Advancing Women, Peace and Security at the NATO 75th Anniversary Summit

REPORTER: *By The White House (07.10.24)*

EXCERPT: At the NATO 75th Anniversary Summit, significant strides were made to advance the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, highlighting the crucial role of women in fostering peace and security. The United States announced collaborative initiatives, including the revision of NATO's WPS policy to address contemporary security threats and the launch of Women LEAD, a partnership aimed at enhancing women's leadership globally. Recognition of women's meaningful participation and leadership in national security and conflict resolution was underscored as vital for democratic strength and effective military operations. This commitment reflects a broader understanding that empowering women contributes not only to gender equality but also to greater stability and security in societies worldwide.

READ MORE: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/07/10/fact-sheet-advancing-women-peace-and-security-at-the-nato-75th-anniversary-summit/>

ARTICLE: Secretary Antony J. Blinken at the NATO Women, Peace, and Security Reception

REPORTER: *By US. Department of States (07.09.24)*

EXCERPT: On July 9, 2024, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken delivered remarks at the NATO Women, Peace, and Security Reception in Washington, D.C. Secretary Blinken highlighted the significance of integrating women into all levels of NATO operations, emphasizing that their inclusion enhances national security, economic stability, and peace. Blinken outlined three key areas for improvement within NATO: increasing women's participation, integrating gender-focused strategic thinking, and sharing best practices beyond the Alliance. He also announced funding for necessary equipment for Ukrainian women soldiers and highlighted international efforts to empower women in conflict zones. The event underscored the critical role of gender equality in achieving global security and stability, with contributions and commitments from various NATO allies.

READ MORE:

<https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-the-nato-women-peace-and-security-reception/#:~:text=And%20thank%20you%20to%20everyone,prioritize%20women's%20equality%20and%20equity>

RELATED: Secretary Blinken Remarks at NATO Women, Peace, and Security Reception/ Video

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?536864-1/secretary-blinken-remarks-nato-women-peace-security-reception>

ARTICLE: US unveils NATO plan to buy body armor for Ukrainian military women

REPORTER: *By Joel Gehrke, Washington Examiner (07.09.24)*

EXCERPT: On July 9, 2024, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced NATO's establishment of a \$7 million fund to provide body armor and equipment for women in the Ukrainian military. This initiative will supply over 10,000 bulletproof vests, uniforms, and boots to support the estimated 65,000 women serving, including 4,000 to 5,000 in combat roles. Blinken highlighted that many Ukrainian women fighters are currently underserved in terms of equipment, forcing them to create their own kits. He emphasized the critical role women have played in defending Ukraine since the start of the invasion.

READ MORE: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense/3074788/us-unveils-nato-plan-body-armor-ukrainian-military-women/>

ARTICLE: Rethinking airbase security through a gender lens

REPORTER: *By Flight Sergeant Vanessa Antalan, Australian Government Defence News (07.09.24)*

EXCERPT: A Gender in Military Operations (GiMO) training program, led by Flight Lieutenant Rob Iglesias at RAAF Base Williamstown, is enhancing airbase security by incorporating a gender perspective. The program helps aviators understand the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of local populations, ensuring military operations consider the needs of vulnerable civilian groups. This training improves threat detection, civil-military relations, and compliance with international obligations, highlighting the importance of gender, peace, and security in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

READ MORE: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2024-07-09/rethinking-airbase-security-through-gender-lens>

ARTICLE: Sudan Women's Peace Dialogue Concludes with a Powerful Call for Inclusive Peace and Security in Sudan

REPORTER: *By Office of the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of AU Commission on Women, Peace and Security (07.08.24)*

EXCERPT: The Sudan Women's Peace Dialogue, held in Kampala on July 3-4, 2024, gathered over 60 Sudanese women to discuss their roles in peace and security. Organized by the African Union, the event emphasized the importance of women's involvement in peace processes. Key figures highlighted the necessity of women's participation for lasting peace in Sudan.

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

Event: Women, Peace & Security Day in the Pentagon

July 23, 2024 — The Department of the Air Force (DAF) hosted a Women, Peace & Security (WPS) event in collaboration with other military departments and services in the Pentagon. This initiative aimed to enhance outreach within the Department of Defense components and other government agencies, raising awareness about the crucial WPS initiatives and objectives. Set in the bustling corridors of the Pentagon, the event provided a unique platform for attendees to learn about the diverse WPS efforts across various military services. Representatives from multiple branches of the military were present, highlighting their individual and collective contributions to advancing the WPS agenda.

Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with WPS experts, gaining insights into the program's impact and exploring ways to get involved. Informational materials, interactive displays, and personal stories of women in peace and security roles illustrated the significant advancements and ongoing challenges in the field.

This event marks a significant step in engaging the wider military and governmental community in the vital work of the WPS agenda, promoting a unified approach to tackling the unique challenges faced by women in global security contexts.



Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Day in the Pentagon. Lt Col Natalie Winkels, Ms. Kieara Avant, Ms. Stacey Vande Linde, Ms. Mayada Shawkat, Dr. LisaRe Brooks Babin, Ms. Christine Widstrom, Ms. Erin Toney, Ms. Nannette Howard.

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%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C&sdata=gubD4hRQ4yXdbfJturiaFlXp7tGk79e6dWhInc9ohww%3D&reserved=0>

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