



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—OCTOBER 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. 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—October 2024

ARTICLE: Women and girls in Sudan disproportionately impacted by ongoing conflict

REPORTER: *By United Nations News (09.27.24)*

EXCERPT: Women in Sudan are disproportionately affected by the ongoing conflict between rival militaries, with 5.8 million displaced. The demand for gender-based violence services has doubled since the crisis began in April 2023. Conflict-related sexual violence is increasing, while food and healthcare shortages severely impact female-headed households. Additionally, 1.63 million women lack adequate healthcare, and many face challenges accessing clean water due to safety and affordability concerns.

READ MORE: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1155056>

ARTICLE: USecAF highlights contributions of women in national security

REPORTER: *By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs (09.25.24)*

EXCERPT: At the 2024 Women in Defense National Conference, Under Secretary of the Air Force Melissa Dalton highlighted the critical role women play in national security. She emphasized that effective defense relies on a "triangle" of men and women in uniform, civil service, and the defense industrial base. Dalton shared stories of brave female service members and acknowledged the efforts to remove barriers to women's service, such as policy changes enabling parental leave and accommodations for women. She called for collective action to further integrate women into national security, stressing their contributions as a U.S. competitive advantage.

READ MORE: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3916672/usecaf-highlights-contributions-of-women-in-national-security/>

ARTICLE: Gen-Forum 2024: Pacific voices contribute to youth-led outcomes on women, peace and security

REPORTER: *By UN Women, (09.24.24)*

EXCERPT: The Gen-Forum 2024, held in Bangkok, gathered young leaders from the Pacific to shape recommendations advancing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in Asia and the Pacific. Participants from Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa contributed to six key recommendations, emphasizing youth leadership, the intersection of climate change, and women, peace, and security. The forum highlighted the importance of including marginalized voices in decision-making and provided a platform for Pacific perspectives. These recommendations are influencing regional and global peacebuilding efforts and were developed in partnership with UN Women and the Australian Government.

READ MORE: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2024/09/pacific-voices-contribute-to-youth-led-outcomes-on-women-peace-and-security>

ARTICLE: Afghanistan: No future without women's participation

REPORTER: *By United Nations News (09.23.24)*

EXCERPT: On September 23, 2024, a UN meeting addressed the urgent need for women's inclusion in Afghanistan's future amid ongoing Taliban repression. Women in Afghanistan are facing severe restrictions on their rights, including bans on education, public singing, and access to public spaces. The Taliban's enforcement of oppressive laws underscores the critical need to incorporate women into all aspects of Afghanistan's governance and recovery. Participants highlighted that the future of the country cannot be built on the exclusion of women, emphasizing that their participation is essential for meaningful progress and stability. Calls were made for international solidarity and the application of UN Security Council resolution 1325 to enhance women's roles in peace and security efforts.

READ MORE: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154721>

ARTICLE: Pact for the Future: World leaders pledge action for peace, sustainable development

REPORTER: *By United Nations News (09.23.24)*

EXCERPT: World leaders adopted the Pact for the Future at the Summit of the Future, pledging concrete actions across areas including sustainable development, peace and security, and global governance reform. A key commitment is to accelerate implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, which focuses on addressing the root causes of conflicts and ensuring women's involvement in peacebuilding. The Pact includes the Global Digital Compact, addressing AI regulation, and the Declaration on Future Generations, which emphasizes intergenerational equity. Secretary-General António Guterres called for global cooperation to tackle these challenges.

READ MORE: <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/pact-future-world-leaders-pledge-action-peace-sustainable-development>

ARTICLE: US Indo-Pacific Highlights State Partnerships

REPORTER: *By Staff Sgt. Angela Crawford, Nevada Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs (09.20.24)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command hosted the annual senior leader forum for the State Partnership Program (SPP) at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, from September 10-16, 2024. This program links the National Guard of U.S. states with partner countries to bolster security, understanding, and cooperation. During this forum, senior officials discussed key issues, successful initiatives, and challenges. They emphasized the program's role in building long-term relationships, enhancing global security, and acting as a force multiplier. Special focus was given to topics such as women, peace and security, disaster aid, and climate resilience.

READ MORE: https://www.army.mil/article/279880/us_indo_pacific_highlights_state_partnerships

ARTICLE: 386th AEW hosts Women Peace and Security Symposium

REPORTER: *By Staff Sergeant Danielle McBride & Senior Airman Simonne Barker, 386th Air Expeditionary Wing (09.19.24)*

EXCERPT: The 386th Air Expeditionary Wing hosted its inaugural Women, Peace, and Security symposium, "Synergistic Strategies: Hard, Soft, and Smart Power," which focused on women's significant roles in peace and security within the Department of Defense and the broader region. The symposium

reinforced U.S.-Kuwait relations and supported the wing's priorities of establishing partnerships and caring for people.

READ MORE: <https://www.afcent.af.mil/Units/386th-Air-Expeditionary-Wing/News/Display/Article/3910737/>

ARTICLE: Navy's first fully gender-integrated submarine joins the fleet. Here's what that means

REPORTER: *By Patty Nieberg, Sr. Staff Writer, Task & Purpose (09.19.24)*

EXCERPT: The Jersey (SSN 796), the Navy's first fully gender-integrated submarine, was commissioned in September 2024. Modifications include more doors for privacy in berthing areas, reflecting the integration of women into submarine crews, an initiative that began in 2011. These changes are part of broader Navy efforts to support mixed-gender crews and aim to enhance recruitment and retention. The Navy plans to standardize these features across future Virginia-class and Columbia-class submarines, supporting women in various roles within the submarine force.

READ MORE: <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/navy-first-all-gender-submarine/>

ARTICLE: Parliaments and Parliamentary Partnerships for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

REPORTER: *By The Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York (09.18.24)*

EXCERPT: The Summit of the Future aims to address global challenges by advancing "A New Agenda for Peace," which emphasizes the integration of peace, development, and human rights. Parliaments play a crucial role in implementing this agenda, particularly the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiative, by adopting laws and policies. A side event at the Summit will explore how parliamentary partnerships can enhance the WPS agenda, highlighting the need for political will and collaborative efforts. This focus aligns with the 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, emphasizing gender dynamics in peace and security.

READ MORE: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/parliaments-and-parliamentary-partnerships-women-peace-and-security-agenda_en

ARTICLE: USINDOPACOM WPS Director Addresses Hawaii National Guard on Women, Peace and Security

REPORTER: *By U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (09.18.24)*

EXCERPT Sharon Feist, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Director, spoke to the Hawaii National Guard at the Joint Commander's Conference in Waimanalo on September 13, emphasizing the significance of integrating a gender perspective into peace and security operations. She pointed out that addressing the needs of all individuals affected by conflict enhances mission effectiveness and aids in recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce. Feist stressed that WPS engagement should be customized for each partner, and incorporating gender considerations can offer operational advantages and improve military effectiveness in tackling complex security challenges.

READ MORE: <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/3910617/>

ARTICLE: Women & Girls in MENA Underfunded Without Next-Generation Female Philanthropists

REPORTER: *By Dr. Ramzi Abou Ismail, Anissa Punjani & Lynn Zovighian, Wilson Center (09.17.24)*

EXCERPT: A study by the Pearl Initiative and the Zovighian Partnership reveals that female philanthropists in the MENA region are key to empowering women and girls. Women and girls remain under-supported amidst ongoing regional crises. The report emphasizes the need for diverse and inclusive philanthropic boards to ensure women receive necessary support. Increasing female

representation in decision-making roles can drive significant positive change. Empowering female philanthropists is essential for regional growth and stability.

READ MORE: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/women-girls-mena-underfunded-without-next-generation-female-philanthropists>

ARTICLE: NY Army National Guard woman earns combat engineer's Sapper Tab

REPORTER: *By Eric Durr, U.S Army (09.17.24)*

EXCERPT: 1st Lt. Rebeka "Beki" Eaton of the New York Army National Guard became the first woman in the state to earn the prestigious Sapper Tab, marking her as a top combat engineer. The Sapper Tab is awarded after completing a challenging 28-day course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Eaton's determination helped her succeed after returning from deployment in East Africa. Her achievement highlights her leadership skills and commitment to advancing her career in the engineer branch of the military.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/279783/ny_army_national_guard_woman_earns_combat_engineers_sapper_tab

STATEMENT: UN Security Council Briefing on Yemen by Linda Al Obahi

REPORTER: *By NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (09.12.24)*

EXCERPT: During UN Security Council briefing on September 12, 2024, Linda Al Obahi, Senior Political Affairs and Mediation Advisor at the Peace Track Initiative, highlighted the deteriorating situation for women and girls in Yemen amidst ongoing conflict. She noted that women and girls make up 49% of the 18.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and are at heightened risk of gender-based violence, economic deprivation, and restricted rights. Al Obahi emphasized the vital need for women's meaningful participation in peace processes and called for the immediate and unconditional release of detained women and all humanitarian workers.

READ MORE: <https://www.womenpeacesecurity.org/resource/un-security-council-briefing-yemen-linda-alobahi/>

ARTICLE: Chair of the NATO Military Committee visits Mongolia

REPORTER: *by NATO News (09.10.24)*

EXCERPT: The NATO Military Committee Chair Admiral Bauer visited Mongolia, from September 8-10, 2024, to reinforce NATO's ongoing partnership with the country. His visit included discussions on enhancing dialogue, cooperation, and military capabilities, as well as sharing outcomes from the 2024 Washington DC Summit. Admiral Bauer toured the Five Hills Peace Support Operations Training Center, met with Mongolian military leaders to discuss modernization efforts, and engaged with troops who served in NATO missions. He emphasized that NATO and Mongolia share a commitment to peace and stability. The visit concluded with discussions on integrated civilian and military diplomacy and highlighted the recent transition of Mongolia to an Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO, addressing various security issues, including the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_228521.htm

ARTICLE: Women, Peace and Security at the forefront of conference hosted by Special Operations Command Africa, U.S. Embassy in Benin

REPORTER: *By Master Sgt. Sierra Melendez, Special Operations Command Africa (09.06.24)*

EXCERPT: The Women in Security - Africa Conference was held in Cotonou, Benin, on September 3-4, 2024, co-hosted by Special Operations Command Africa and the U.S. Embassy. The event focused on enhancing women's roles in peace and security in West Africa, bringing together government officials, NGOs, military leaders, and experts. Key speakers, including U.S. Ambassador Brian Shukan and SOCAFRICA Deputy Chief of Staff Faye Cuevas, emphasized the need to integrate gender perspectives into security frameworks. The conference celebrated Benin's historical female warriors, the Agojie, while attendees participated in sessions to create actionable recommendations for improving women's involvement in peacebuilding and security.

READMORE: https://www.army.mil/article/279567/women_peace_and_security_at_the_forefront_of_conference_hosted_by_special_operations_command_africa_u_s_embassy_in_benin

ARTICLE: Dallaire Institute workshop to shine a light on the role of women leaders in building peace

REPORTER: *By Stacey McCarthy, Dallaire Institute (09.06.24)*

EXCERPT: Dallaire Institute is hosting a one-day workshop on September 17 to highlight the crucial but often overlooked role of women in building peace, especially in addressing peace and security challenges affecting children. The event includes two panel sessions featuring women experts discussing the impact of armed conflict on children and interdisciplinary approaches to breaking cycles of violence. The workshop aims to amplify underrepresented voices and explore alternative peace-building methods. The evening session will feature discussions on peace mediation strategies and challenges, with participation from notable figures like Dr. Fatou Bensouda and Muzna Dureid.

READ MORE: <https://www.dal.ca/news/2024/09/06/dallaire-institute-workshop-to-shine-a-light-on-the-role-of-wome.html>

ARTICLE: UNITAS 2024

REPORTER: *By U.S. Southern Command (09.06.24)*

EXCERPT: UNIT2024, hosted by the Chilean Navy from September 2-12, is a multinational maritime exercise involving 24 nations, including the U.S., to improve security cooperation and interoperability in the Atlantic and Pacific waters. The exercise featured 17 ships, two submarines, and over 4,300 personnel, focusing on maritime and amphibious operations. Highlights included live-fire exercises, training in electronic and anti-air warfare, and a forum on women, peace, and security. The program is a cornerstone to SOUTHCOM's mission of promoting security partnerships across the Western Hemisphere. UNITAS aims to strengthen regional partnerships and enhance collaborative defense capabilities.

READ MORE: <https://www.southcom.mil/Media/Special-Coverage/UNITAS-2024/>

ARTICLE: US, Chilean soldiers reflect on the role of women in the military during Southern Fenix 24

REPORTER: *By Spc. Joseph Liggio, U.S. Army (09.02.24)*

EXCERPT: During Exercise Southern Fenix 24 (SF24) in Chile, U.S., Chilean, and Argentine soldiers highlighted the essential role of women in the military. The exercise, which included the deployment of the HIMARS platform in the U.S. Southern Command area, allowed soldiers to share insights and build international bonds. Women in various military roles emphasized their equal contributions to mission success, reflecting on 50 years of women's integration into the Chilean army. The event aligned with

USSOUTHCOM's Women, Peace, and Security initiatives, reinforcing the importance of gender equality and leadership in enhancing global security.

READ MORE:

<https://www.army.mil/article/279364/us-chilean-soldiers-reflect-on-the-role-of-women-in-the-military-during-southern-fenix-24>

WATCH: Women power on full display at India-US joint military exercise, Yudh Abhyas

REPORTER: *By Web Desk (09.02.24)*

EXCERPT: The 20th edition of the India-USA joint military exercise, Yudh Abhyas 2024, held in Rajasthan, features women combatants from both nations demonstrating their strength and professionalism. The Indian Army's South Western Command highlighted the drills as a testament to "Nari Shakti" and an effort to promote gender equality in the armed forces. The Indian contingent, led by a battalion of the Rajput Regiment, showcases the increasing role of women in defense.

WATCH: <https://www.theweek.in/news/defence/2024/09/19/watch-women-power-on-full-display-at-india-us-joint-military-exercise-yudh-abhyas.html>

Event: Women, Peace and Security Workshop:

September 2024 — The HQDA G-3/5/7 Strategy Division's Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Office conducted a comprehensive workshop from September 16-19, 2024. This workshop gathered input and feedback from key stakeholders within the community of interest to advance the drafting of the Army WPS Implementation Guidance.

The insights and discussions generated during this collaborative event are vital for shaping effective implementation strategies and ensuring the integration of WPS principles throughout Army operations. Further updates will be provided as the drafting process progresses.



Upcoming Events

WHAT: 11th Annual Women, Peace, and Security Symposium

WHEN: December 16-17, 2024

WHERE: U.S. Naval War College, 686 Cushing Rd, Newport, RI 02841

READ MORE: <https://usnwc.edu/News-and-Events/Conferences-and-Symposia/Women-Peace-and-Security-Symposium>

ANNOUNCEMENT



Logo Design Competition Announcement: Army Women, Peace and Security Initiative

Calling all creative minds! We are thrilled to invite you to participate in an exciting new logo design competition celebrating the Army's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiative. We are seeking a logo that embodies strength, peace and security, showcasing the vital role women play in creating a safer world.

Competition Details:

Theme: Army Women, Peace and Security

Deadline: November 30, 2024

Who Can Enter: Open to all Army personnel, military members, civilians, and contractors!

What We're Looking For:

- A design that reflects the values of the Army mission and the powerful role of women in peace and security.
- Creative and original ideas.
 - A versatile logo that can be used across various platforms and materials.

Submission Guidelines:

- Please submit your logo design in a high-resolution format (PDF, PNG, or JPEG).
- Include a brief description of your design and how it represents the WPS initiative.
- Send your submissions to mayada.a.shawkat.ctr@army.mil.

Prizes:

- The winning design will be featured as the official logo for the Army's WPS initiative.
- Recognition across our digital platforms.
- A certificate of appreciation.

Join us in creating a symbol that inspires and represents the powerful role of women in peace and security. We can't wait to see your creativity shine! For more information, feel free to reach out to us.

If you would like to be added or removed from the monthly WPS in the Military News Round Up distro list, please email: mayada.a.shawkat.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/>