



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—NOVEMBER 2024

The WPS in the Military News Round Up is an initiative from the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI), an organization of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC). 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—November 2024

ARTICLE: Imee highlights crucial roles of Filipino women at ICWPS 2024

REPORTER: *By Wilnard Bacelonia, Philippine News Agency (10.30.24)*

EXCERPT: At the International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security (ICWPS) 2024, a significant emphasis was placed on the crucial contributions of Filipino women in addressing national challenges, particularly in maritime disputes like the West Philippine Sea. Highlighting the peaceful resolution achieved through diplomatic dialogue led by women, the conference highlighted the vital role of women in conflict resolution and governance. The conference called for increased investment in women's roles across all sectors, reinforcing their impact on sustainable peace and development.

READ MORE: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1236785>

ARTICLE: African women mobilize to end hostilities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in structured support to ongoing peace processes

REPORTER: *By APO Group on behalf of African Union (10.25.24)*

EXCERPT: At a recent High-Level Regional Forum in Luanda, Angola, African women leaders rallied to bolster peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the broader Great Lakes region. This event emphasized the critical role of women in peacebuilding and aimed to strengthen their participation in conflict resolution and peace processes. Despite challenges highlighted by ongoing conflicts, the event underscored the necessity of women's involvement for sustainable peace and recognized efforts, such as those by President João Lourenço, for supporting women's empowerment.

READ MORE: <https://www.africa.com/african-women-mobilize-to-end-hostilities-in-the-democratic-republic-of-congo-drc-in-structured-support-to-ongoing-peace-processes/>

STATEMENT: By Wai Wai Nu at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security

REPORTER: *By UN Women (10.24.24)*

EXCERPT: At the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security on October 24, 2024, Wai Wai Nu, Founder and Executive Director of the Women's Peace Network, emphasized the critical state of women's rights amid global conflicts. She highlighted the severe challenges faced by women in places like Myanmar, Gaza, and other conflict zones, where gender-based violence and persecution are rampant. Stressing the importance of women's participation in peace processes, she called for accountability for perpetrators of violence and urged the Council to take decisive actions to support

women's leadership and rights. Nu argued that meaningful change hinges on addressing the root causes of conflict and ensuring that women's voices are integral to peacebuilding initiatives.

READ MORE: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/statement/2024/10/statement-by-wai-wai-nu-at-the-un-security-council-open-debate-on-women-peace-and-security>

SPEECH: Women's voices rising without fear: our goal and challenge for peace and security

REPORTER: *By UN Women News (10.24.24)*

EXCERPT: During of the UN Security Council on October 24, 2024, UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous emphasized the urgent need for women's voices to be heard without fear in efforts towards peace and security. Highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by women in conflict zones, she stressed that gender inequality exacerbates violence and instability. Bahous called for increased implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, emphasizing the necessity of women's participation in decision-making processes. She urged the international community to provide resources and support for women's empowerment, advocating for concrete actions ahead of the 25th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 to ensure tangible progress in securing peace and equality for women worldwide.

READ MORE: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/speech/2024/10/womens-voices-rising-without-fear-our-goal-and-challenge-for-peace-and-security>

ARTICLE: New SIPRI research takes stock of the women, peace and security agenda

REPORTER: *By Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (10.18.24)*

EXCERPT: As the 24th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security (WPS) approaches, SIPRI has released new research assessing the state of women's representation in multilateral peace operations. The publication, "Women in Multilateral Peace Operations in 2024," analyzes participation across UN, EU, and OSCE missions. SIPRI highlights challenges facing the WPS agenda, emphasizing that its narrow focus on women's representation in military roles often overshadows critical areas such as protection and recovery. Commentary pieces discuss the need to integrate the WPS agenda with discussions on weapons of mass destruction and advocate for a more holistic approach to peace and security, reinforcing all four pillars of the WPS framework.

READ MORE: <https://www.sipri.org/news/2024/new-sipri-research-takes-stock-women-peace-and-security-agenda>

ARTICLE: The current failure of leadership is not gender neutral

REPORTER: *By The Elders (10.16.24)*

EXCERPT: During the Kofi Annan Peace Address at Geneva Peace Week 2024, Mary Robinson emphasized the urgent need for gender parity in leadership to address the current global failure in peace efforts. Highlighting the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and the need for their inclusion in peacebuilding, she pointed to ongoing crises in regions such as Gaza, Ukraine, and Myanmar, where women's rights continue to be violated. Robinson condemned the lack of accountability for perpetrators of violence and called for meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes.

READ MORE: <https://theelders.org/news/current-failure-leadership-not-gender-neutral>

ARTICLE: Palestine Is a Canadian Women, Peace, and Security Issue

REPORTER: *By Rachel Small, Canada Organizer for World BEYOND War (10.16.24)*

EXCERPT: The Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada's report emphasizes the urgent need for an arms embargo on Israel, in light of its ongoing assault on Gaza, which has resulted in massive destruction and loss of life. Despite widespread calls from Canadians for action, the Canadian government has been criticized for its complicity through arms export permits to Israel, amounting to significant monetary values.

READ MORE: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/palestine-is-a-canadian-women-peace-and-security-issue/>

ARTICLE: Connecting the dots: Annual event educates girls about STEM opportunities

REPORTER: *By Christine Paul, U.S. Army (10.15.24)*

EXCERPT: The "a Girl to Engineering Day," hosted by the Kansas City District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, aims to inspire middle and high school girls to pursue careers in STEM fields. The annual event provided mentorship, hands-on activities, and a college and career fair, allowing girls to interact with female engineers and learn about various engineering disciplines. Volunteers emphasized the importance of addressing imposter syndrome and reinforcing that women can excel in STEM just as much as men.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/280494/connecting_the_dots_annual_event_educates_girls_about_stem_opportunities

STATEMENT: Joint Statement by the Security Council Signatories of the Statement of Shared Commitments for the Principles of Women, Peace and Security on Colombia

REPORTER: *By United States Mission to the United Nations, Office of Press and Public Diplomacy (10.15.24)*

EXCERPT: On October 15, 2024, representatives from multiple countries, including the United States and Switzerland, delivered a joint statement at the UN Security Council, emphasizing the importance of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. They commended Colombia's 2016 Peace Agreement for its integration of gender provisions and discussed the outcomes of a recent Security Council visit to Colombia, which highlighted the urgent need for security guarantees and equitable land distribution. The signatories expressed concern over ongoing violence against women, particularly in leadership roles, and called for the full implementation of gender-related provisions in the Peace Agreement. They also stressed the need for the UN Verification Mission in Colombia to incorporate a gender perspective and urged the protection of civil society, particularly women's organizations, in peacebuilding efforts.

READ MORE: <https://usun.usmission.gov/joint-statement-by-the-security-council-signatories-of-the-statement-of-shared-commitments-for-the-principles-of-women-peace-and-security-on-colombia/>

ARTICLE: How to improve global stability through the Women, Peace & Security framework

REPORTER: *By Natalie Runyon, Thomson Reuters Institute (10.14.24)*

EXCERPT: Empirical evidence supports the idea that integrating the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) framework into national and international security decision-making enhances peace and stability. Research shows that gender inequality leads to negative security outcomes, with countries displaying high gender inequality being more likely to be fragile states. Involving women in peace processes increases the likelihood of stability by 20% over two years and 35% over fifteen years.

READ MORE: <https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/posts/esg/women-peace-security-framework/>

Presidential Actions: A Proclamation on International Day of the Girl, 2024**REPORTER:** *By The White House (10.10.24)*

EXCERPT: In a proclamation for International Day of the Girl on October 11, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. emphasized the vital role of girls in shaping a brighter future and the importance of providing them with equal opportunities. He highlighted the U.S. government's initiatives to support girls, including the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, investments in mental health services, and efforts to combat gender-based violence. The proclamation also condemned violence against girls in global conflicts and called for programs to promote equity and opportunity for girls.

READ MORE: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/10/10/a-proclamation-on-international-day-of-the-girl-2024/>

ARTICLE: USAFE-AFAFRICA, Zambian military leaders hold workshop to address gender-based violence**REPORTER:** *By: USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs (10.10.24)*

EXCERPT: In Lusaka, Zambia, a collaborative workshop was held from September 23 to October 2, 2024, to bolster the Zambian Defense Force's efforts in combating gender-based violence. Led by Brig. Gen. Otis C. Jones, representatives from U.S. Air Forces Africa and U.S. Africa Command partnered with Zambian military leaders to integrate the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) framework into their strategies. The event emphasized the vital role of addressing gender-based violence in creating a cohesive and effective defense force. This workshop marked the successful completion of the third phase of Zambia's Preventing Gender-Based Violence program, with ongoing efforts planned for 2025.

READ MORE: <https://www.usafe.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3932274/usafe-afafrika-zambian-military-leaders-hold-workshop-to-address-gender-based-v/>

ARTICLE: Team McChord Airmen return from deployment**REPORTER:** *By Airman 1st Class Megan Geiger, 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs (10.04.24)*

EXCERPT: Airmen from the 62nd Airlift Wing and 627th Air Base Group returned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord after a six-month deployment to Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. During their deployment, they supported the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing's mission to provide airlift, intelligence, and surveillance capabilities to secure the CENTCOM area. Their efforts included over 3,600 sorties, delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza, and hosting a Women, Peace, and Security symposium.

READ MORE: https://www.army.mil/article/280270/team_mcchord_airmen_return_from_deployment

ARTICLE: Relations with Ukraine**REPORTER:** *By NATO (10.03.24)*

EXCERPT: As of October 3, 2024, NATO is committed to enhancing women's participation and rights within Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict with Russia. The alliance supports the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), which underscores the vital role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making processes. Ukrainian women have increasingly taken on significant roles in the military and various sectors, contributing to resilience and recovery efforts.

READ MORE: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_37750.htm

ARTICLE: A century later, the Hello Girls receive recognition

REPORTER: *By The American Legion (10.03.24)*

EXCERPT: The Senate has unanimously passed the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act, to honor women who served as telephone operators in World War I, facilitating communication between American and French forces. This act recognizes their unparalleled service and their 60-year struggle for veteran recognition. The bill, endorsed by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, will now move to the House of Representatives. The American Legion has been a strong advocate for this recognition, highlighting the historical importance of these 223 women who were among the first female soldiers in the U.S., paving the way for future generations.

READ MORE: <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/honor/2024/october/a-century-later-the-hello-girls-receive-recognition>

ARTICLE: Mexico's first woman president announces reforms to battle gender discrimination

REPORTER: *By Brendan O'Boyle and Ana Isabel Martinez, Reuters (10.02.24)*

EXCERPT: Claudia Sheinbaum, Mexico's first female president, announced a series of reforms aimed at combating gender discrimination just two days into her presidency. The proposed reforms include a constitutional guarantee of equal pay, measures to ensure freedom from violence, and mandates for gender parity in government positions. These changes, which will modify six constitutional articles and seven secondary laws, are expected to gain support in Congress. Despite recent strides in women's representation in Mexico, issues like violence against women remain pervasive, with over 70% of women experiencing some form of violence. Sheinbaum emphasized the need for awareness of women's rights and the recognition of gender-based discrimination.

READ MORE: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/mexico-s-first-woman-president-announces-reforms-to-battle-gender-discrimination/ar-AA1rEAC2?ocid=socialshare>

ARTICLE: U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Concludes Second Indo-Pacific Regional Military Gender Advisor Course

REPORTER: *By U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (10.01.24)*

EXCERPT: The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command concluded its second Indo-Pacific Regional Military Gender Advisor Course in Honolulu. This 10-day training gathered 29 military gender advisors from 16 nations across the region, including Australia, Bangladesh, and the United States. The course emphasized the importance of integrating gender perspectives in military operations, aimed at enhancing preparedness and responsiveness to diverse populations. This initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen regional collaboration among military gender advisors.

READMORE: <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/3923322/us-indo-pacific-command-concludes-second-indo-pacific-regional-military-gender/>

ARTICLE: Swiss to Spotlight Women's Rights but Mideast Wars Will Control the Agenda

REPORTER: *By Damilola Banjo, Pass Blue (10.01.24)*

EXCERPT: In October 2024, Switzerland, under Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl, is chairing the UN Security Council with a focus on women's rights, particularly empowering women mediators for sustainable peace through the Women, Peace, and Security Resolution 1325. Despite this focus, escalating conflicts in the Middle East, notably between Israel, Lebanon, and Iran, are dominating discussions.

READ MORE: <https://www.passblue.com/2024/10/01/swiss-to-spotlight-womens-rights-but-mideast-wars-will-control-the-agenda/>

PRESS CONFERENCE: By Security Council President on Programme of Work for October

REPORTER: *By United Nations News, Security Council (10.01.24)*

EXCERPT: During a press conference, Switzerland's UN Security Council President, Pascale Christine Baeriswyl, outlined the October agenda, which includes two open debates, a signature event, and five mandate renewals. Highlights include a briefing on the impact of scientific developments on peace and security on October 21 and an open debate on women, peace, and security on October 24. Baeriswyl expressed concern over escalating tensions in the Middle East and emphasized the need for a ceasefire. She also addressed the challenges faced by the Security Council in implementing resolutions and the importance of respecting existing instruments to achieve durable peace.

READ MORE: https://press.un.org/en/2024/241001_sc.doc.htm

Events:

WHO: Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) and the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) WPS Committees

WHAT: WHINSEC and MCoE WPS Committees Meet and Greet.

WHEN: 10 OCT 2024

WHY: The purpose of the collaboration meeting between the WHINSEC and MCoE Women, Peace, & Security (WPS) Committees was to foster a dialogue and exchange of ideas on integrating WPS principles into our organizations. This meeting aimed to enhance security cooperation, promote gender equality, and support inclusive leadership practices within Fort Moore, GA.

ENDSTATE: The WPS Committees from WHINSEC and MCoE will have identified and recommended initiatives that align with their respective missions and strategic objectives.

EFFECTS: Strengthen the collaboration between WHINSEC and MCoE, leading to a more cohesive approach in implementing WPS principles. The discussion also supported the review, development, planning, and coordination of WPS objectives and initiatives, identifying key areas of interest and equities.



WHO: WHINSEC WPS Committee

WHAT: WHINSEC Senior Alumni Conference Women, Peace, & Security Panel.

WHEN: 24 SEP 2024

WHY: Expose participants to the importance of promoting gender equality and enhancing security cooperation through inclusive leadership and innovative practices.

ENDSTATE: Participants gain new perspectives on the role of senior military leaders in promoting and integrating gender perspectives within their armed forces to enhance operational effectiveness and security across the Western Hemisphere.

EFFECTS: Before attending the WPS panel, only 15.6% of participants had a strong understanding of WPS concepts. Following the session, 81.3% reported a high level of comprehension. The discussion reinforced the operational and strategic value of integrating gender perspectives into military planning, with 93.8% indicating a high likelihood of applying these principles in their professional settings.



United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM), Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), Monthly Newsletter – October 2022, By Ayman Aziz.

In-Person Operationalizing WPS 100 Course: From October 7-9, the first OpWPS 100 of FY 2025 was held at Ft McNair, Washington, D.C. This session brought together 20 students from across the DoD, including nine men and 11 women. The group included military, civilian, and contractors, with five participants from USCYBERCOM. Together with the course owner, JS J5 Mobile Training Team, USCYBERCOM helped instruct and facilitate the Gender Focal Point (GFP) training course. It was a productive iteration with a very engaged group of future certified GFPs.

Upcoming Events

WHAT: The 10th Annual Texas Symposium on Women, Peace, and Security

WHEN: November 15, 2024

WHERE: Program on Women, Peace, and Security at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, will take place in the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center

READ MORE: <https://bush.tamu.edu/wps/outreach/>

WHAT: Washington Post Live, 2024 Global Women's Summit

WHEN: November 21, 2024

WHERE: Online

READ MORE: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/washington-post-live/global-womens-summit-2024/>

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/Events/11th-Annual-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.

Good luck and may the best design win!

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/>