



WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE MILITARY

NEWS ROUND UP—DECEMBER 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—December 2024

ARTICLE: Working toward disability inclusion in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Arab Region

REPORTER: *By Reliefweb/ Source: ESCWA (11.29.24)*

EXCERPT: The ESCWA report "Working toward Disability Inclusion in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Arab Region" addresses the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities, who experience significant social, political, and economic exclusion despite improved legal protections. Representing 19.2% of the global female population, they encounter intersectional discrimination that heightens their vulnerabilities, especially during conflicts.

READ MORE: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/working-toward-disability-inclusion-women-peace-and-security-agenda-arab-region>

ARTICLE: Chaplain (Maj.) Grace W. Kim: A Sister's Keeper for the Forever Soldier

REPORTER: *By Monique Freemon, U.S. Army (11.29.24)*

EXCERPT: Chaplain (Maj.) Grace W. Kim, serving at Osan Airbase in South Korea, reflects on her journey as a fourth-generation pastor and the only female chaplain on the peninsula. In her presentation "Sisters Keepers: Personal and Professional Development," she emphasizes the importance of self-care and resilience, focusing on the holistic well-being of soldiers. Kim addresses the challenges she faces as an Asian woman in the Army and highlights the role of women in fostering diversity within the military. Her message encourages individuals to practice self-love and kindness, reinforcing the idea that personal well-being is essential for supporting others effectively.

READ MORE: [Chaplain \(Maj.\) Grace W. Kim: A Sister's Keeper for the Forever Soldier | Article | The United States Army](#)

ARTICLE: Sudary makes proposals to advance women, peace and security agenda

REPORTER: *Ben Sokhean, Khmer Times (11.29.24)*

EXCERPT: National Assembly President Khuon Sudary convened a seminar on women, peace, and security in Phnom Penh on November 28, 2024, emphasizing the essential role of women in peacebuilding. She proposed four key actions to empower women in peace processes: developing legal frameworks, strengthening networks for women parliamentarians, enhancing the capacity of women leaders, and promoting training for women mediators. Sudary highlighted the need to eliminate barriers

to women's participation in peace initiatives, citing research that shows peace processes with active female involvement are more likely to succeed.

READ MORE: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501599841/sudary-makes-proposals-to-advance-women-peace-and-security-agenda/>

ARTICLE: Qatar Participates in Conference on Women, Peace and Security

REPORTER: *By Qatar News Agency (11.28.24)*

EXCERPT: Qatar participated in the 4th high-level ministerial conference on women, peace, and security in Cairo, organized in partnership with UN Women. The conference focused on enhancing the protection and response to the needs of women in conflict zones, highlighting challenges such as human rights violations and instability. Attended by various ministers and experts, it served as a platform for developing effective strategies and empowering women within the peace and security agenda.

READ MORE: <https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2024-11/28/0068-qatar-participates-in-conference-on-women,-peace-and-security>

STATEMENT: DNI Avril Haines Awarded NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Women for Peace and Security Award

REPORTER: *By The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (11.26.24)*

EXCERPT: Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines received the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's "Women for Peace and Security Award" on November 25 during its 70th annual session in Montreal. This award honored her as the first female director of the U.S. Intelligence Community for championing women's equal participation in peace and security matters.

READ MORE: <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/news-articles/news-articles-2024/4033-dni-haines-awarded-nato-parliamentary-assembly-women-peace-security>

ARTICLE: Women are carving out their roles and importance in the military

REPORTER: *By MaryTherese Griffin, U.S Army (11.26.24)*

EXCERPT: The article focuses on the important roles and contributions of women in the military, featuring the experiences of Dr. Krystal Morris, a recently retired Army Major who served twenty years as a physical therapist. She emphasized the significance of her work in the Army Recovery Care Program, particularly in adaptive reconditioning, which helps soldiers recover and thrive. Encouraging women to consider military service, her story represents the growing influence and leadership of women in the military.

READ MORE:

https://www.army.mil/article/281600/women_are_carving_out_their_roles_and_importance_in_the_military

ARTICLE: CARAT Brunei 2024 concludes

REPORTER: *By Lt. Victor Murkowski, U.S. Navy News (11.26.24)*

EXCERPT: On November 25, 2024, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and Royal Brunei Armed Forces trained together with the aim of further strengthening their cooperative maritime security capabilities in

support of peace and stability. This year CARAT exercise featured a variety of subject matter expert exchange events, covering topics that included cyber security, emission control, force protection, international maritime law, maritime domain awareness, public affairs for humanitarian assistance disaster relief and women, peace and security, recognizing the vital role of women in contributing to peace and security efforts in military operations. The exercise aimed to enhance the capabilities of both navies in addressing maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

READ MORE: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3978512/carat-brunei-2024-concludes/>

ARTICLE: Army Reserve trailblazer honored as sponsor of U.S. Navy ship

REPORTER: *By Lt. Ayifa Brooks Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (11.25.24)*

EXCERPT: On November 24, 2024, the USS Beloit, a littoral combat ship, was commissioned in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with retired Maj. Gen. Marcia M. Anderson serving as the ship's sponsor. Maj. Gen. Anderson made history as the first Black woman to achieve the rank of Major General in the U.S. Army Reserve, with her promotion in 2011 marking her as the highest-ranked African American woman in the Army at that time. The USS Beloit is now considered tested and battle-ready, ready to serve in the U.S. Navy.

READ MORE: <https://innovation.army.mil/News/Article-View/Article/3977920/army-reserve-trailblazer-honored-as-sponsor-of-us-navy-ship/>

ARTICLE: Fires, first aid and guns: meet the Finnish women training for war with Russia

REPORTER: *By Miranda Bryant, The Guardian (11.24.24)*

EXCERPT: In response to rising concerns about potential Russian aggression following its invasion of Ukraine, approximately 75 Finnish women participated in a survival training course at a military base in Lohtaja, Finland. Nasta training has surged since 2022, with a notable increase in demand for shooting courses and preparedness workshops. Finland's historical conflicts with Russia have heightened awareness of national defense; the country maintains compulsory military service for men, while women can enlist voluntarily. The Nasta program is part of broader efforts to enhance societal resilience and readiness in the face of perceived threats.

READ MORE: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/23/fires-first-aid-and-guns-meet-the-finnish-women-training-for-war-with-russia>

ARTICLE: Breaking Barriers, Building Peace: The Women of El Salvador

REPORTER: *By UN Sustainable Development Group (11.20.24)*

EXCERPT: On November 20, 2024, the UN in El Salvador highlighted the transformative impact of the "De Una! Transforming My Community" program in Valle Verde, which empowers women and youth to play essential roles in peacebuilding. Through community-led initiatives, residents reclaimed neglected spaces and created safe environments, promoting social cohesion and economic opportunities. The program exemplifies the Women, Peace and Security agenda by recognizing that women and young people are crucial agents of change in fostering lasting peace, addressing root causes of conflict, and promoting sustainable development in their communities.

READ MORE: <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/breaking-barriers-building-peace-women-el-salvador>

ARTICLE: Open seminar with NATO's Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security

REPORTER: *By The Swedish Defence University (11.20.24)*

EXCERPT: Irene Fellin, NATO's Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security (WPS), visited Sweden to host an open seminar focused on the evolution of NATO's WPS Agenda, including the newly endorsed 2024 NATO Policy on WPS. The seminar aimed to outline future priorities and initiatives. Appointed in November 2021, Fellin is an experienced WPS expert and peacebuilder, having previously served as a Senior Gender Adviser and worked with various international organizations.

READ MORE: <https://www.fhs.se/en/swedish-defence-university/events/2024-11-19-open-seminar-with-nato%C2%B4s-special-representative-on-women-peace-and-security.html>

INTERVIEW: Defense Secretary Austin says women in military 'make us stronger'

REPORTER: *By Courtney Kube and Mosheh Gains, NBC News (11.20.24)*

EXCERPT: In an interview with NBC News on November 20, 2024, outgoing Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin emphasized the importance of women and racial diversity in strengthening the U.S. military. Reflecting on his 41 years of service, he praised the capabilities of women in combat, stating they significantly enhance military readiness. Secretary Austin affirmed the military's commitment to remaining a diverse and meritocratic force, underscoring that diversity is essential for operational effectiveness.

READ MORE: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/defense-secretary-austin-says-women-military-make-us-stronger-rcna180937>

PRESS RELEASE: 1,000 days of the full-scale war: Ukrainian women drive humanitarian response and recovery amid growing security threats

REPORTER: *By UN Women (11.18.24)*

EXCERPT: As Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine marks its 1,000th day, civilians, particularly women and girls, continue to face intensifying attacks and a worsening humanitarian crisis. With millions displaced and a significant portion of the population requiring urgent assistance, women are at the forefront of the response, leading volunteer efforts and advocating for recovery through organizations and government roles. Despite their critical contributions, women remain underrepresented in decision-making positions and face systemic underfunding in recovery efforts.

READ MORE: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2024/11/1000-days-of-the-full-scale-war-ukrainian-women-drive-humanitarian-response-and-recovery-amid-growing-security-threats>

ARTICLE: Gallantry under fire: RAF Lakenheath honors decorated Airmen for repelling mass Iranian drone attack

REPORTER: *By Airman 1st Class Delanie Brow, 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs (11.15.24)*

EXCERPT: Capt. Lacie Hester and Maj. Benjamin Coffey were honored with Silver Stars at a ceremony on November 12, 2024, at RAF Lakenheath in England for their courageous actions during an unprecedented Iranian missile and drone attack against Israel earlier this year. Capt. Hester's Silver Star

marks her as the first woman in the Air Force to receive this honor, emphasizing the significant contributions of female service members in combat.

READMORE: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3966248/gallantry-under-fire-raf-lakenheath-honors-decorated-airmen-for-repelling-mass/>

ARTICLE: Native American Women Take Pride in Their Military Service

REPORTER: *By Dave Vergun, DOD News (11.15.24)*

EXCERPT: Native American women have a rich history of military service, contributing significantly throughout U.S. history. They served as active-duty nurses during the Spanish-American War and were part of the Army Nurse Corps in World War I. During World War II, around 800 Native American women served in various roles, including in the Women's Auxiliary Air Corps and as pilots in the Women Airforce Service Pilots program. Their contributions continued in more recent conflicts, where Native American women have served in combat and support roles, showcasing their dedication and the interplay of their cultural identity with national service. This ongoing legacy underscores their invaluable impact on the military and highlights the importance of recognizing their sacrifices and achievements.

READ MORE: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/3966343/native-american-women-take-pride-in-their-military-service/>

BRIEF: Countering China and Russia: The Hidden Advantages of Women, Peace, and Security

REPORTER: *By Kathleen McInnis, Benjamin Jensen, Audrey Aldisert, and Alexis Day, CSIS (11.14.24)*

EXCERPT: The brief highlights the strategic advantages of incorporating the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda into U.S. defense strategies to counter authoritarian regimes like China and Russia. It posits that understanding gender dynamics can provide the U.S. military with significant leverage in its deterrence efforts. The analysis stresses that gender plays a critical role in shaping societal structures and power dynamics, which can be exploited to undermine adversaries. By leveraging WPS tools, the U.S. can enhance its relationships with allies, improve operational strategies, and strengthen societal resilience against authoritarianism.

READ MORE: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/countering-china-and-russia-hidden-advantages-women-peace-and-security>

RELATED: Roundtable, Countering China and Russia: The Hidden Advantages of Women, Peace, and Security

Featuring Dr. Kathleen McInnis, Director, Smart Women, Smart Power Initiative, CSIS, Dr. Kyleanne Hunter, Director, RAND Women, Peace, and Security Initiative, and Monica S. Herrera, Acting Director for International Humanitarian Policy and Senior Gender Advisor, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, U.S. Department of Defense.

LIVESTREAMED: (11.15.24)

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2Y8-VbX9Ic>

ARTICLE: Empowering Women Leaders in Iraq: IRC's Impact on the Women Peace Network - a Success Story Compilation of Impactful Iraqi Women

REPORTER: *By Reliefweb/ Source: IRC (11.14.24)*

EXCERPT: The International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) hosted a five-day training program in Iraq for 20 members of the Women Peace Network (WPN) under the Women in Local Leadership (WILL) initiative, aimed at enhancing leadership and advocacy skills. This training strengthened the network's alignment with Iraq's National Strategy for Women Empowerment and encouraged collaboration among participants. By equipping women to lead effectively in their communities, the initiative seeks to advance women's rights and support the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Iraq.

READ MORE: <https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/empowering-women-leaders-iraq-ircs-impact-women-peace-network-success-story-compilation-impactful-iraqi-women>

ARTICLE: Gender training in Cambodia

REPORTER: *By Australian Government Defence (11.14.24)*

EXCERPT: During Indo-Pacific Endeavour 24, Australian Defence Force personnel conducted a two-day Gender in Military Operations workshop for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in Kampong Speu, Cambodia. The training, aimed at preparing military police students for their upcoming United Nations peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, included a gender analysis of the mission and discussions on conflict-related violence and health and education standards.

READ MORE: <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2024-11-14/gender-training-cambodia>

REMARKS: UN to conduct review of all its peace operations responding to Member States' request in Pact for the Future, ASG Jenča tells UN General Assembly Fourth Committee

REPORTER: *By The Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, United Nations (11.12.24)*

EXCERPT: In remarks at the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on November 12, 2024, Assistant Secretary-General Jenča emphasized the importance of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in the special political missions. He noted the launch of the "Common Pledge for Women's Full, Equal, and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes" by the Secretary-General, which aims to enhance women's involvement in peace initiatives. Jenča highlighted efforts in Afghanistan and Yemen to advocate for women's rights and priorities, noting that women's participation in peace processes is crucial for achieving lasting peace.

READ MORE: <https://dppa.un.org/en/mtg-ga-79-asg-jenca-spm-12-nov-2024>

ARTICLE: Sudan: Allies of warring generals 'enabling the slaughter', Security Council hears

REPORTER: *By UN News (11.12.24)*

EXCERPT: The ongoing conflict in Sudan has disproportionately affected women, who are facing heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence amid the violence. UN officials have reported alarming rates of such violations, with many women suffering from a lack of access to essential healthcare and support services due to the war. As humanitarian crises escalate, women's rights and safety remain severely compromised, with their voices often marginalized in the ongoing discussions for peace. The need for a ceasefire is critical to protect civilians, particularly women and girls, and ensure

their participation in any future political solutions. Community efforts are urgently needed to address the specific challenges women face in these conflict zones.

READ MORE: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1156861>

STATEMENT: Joint Stakeout: Women play a key role in promoting peace and stability in South Sudan

REPORTER: *By Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (11.7.24)*

EXCERPT: On November 7, 2024, Security Council signatories issued a joint statement emphasizing the critical role of women in promoting peace and stability in South Sudan. They highlighted the need for women’s full and safe participation in the peace process and political landscape, urging the government to fulfill its commitment to a 35% affirmative action quota for women in transitional institutions. The statement also called for urgent action to address high levels of sexual and gender-based violence and emphasized the need for accountability and support for women-led civil society organizations in advancing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

READ MORE: <https://onu.delegfrance.org/joint-stakeout-women-play-a-key-role-in-promoting-peace-and-stability-in-south>

Event: Advancing Women, Peace And Security in the Western Hemisphere

REPORTER: *By U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), (11.19.24)*

U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Northern Command recently hosted a two-week virtual and in-person event aimed at enhancing regional partnerships to promote the meaningful participation of women in global peace and security efforts. The Western Hemisphere Regional for Women, Peace & Security (WPS) took place at the Centro de Estudios Superiores Navales (CESNAV) in Mexico City, gathering leaders and experts from multiple countries, including Argentina, Canada, and the United States. The event focused on strengthening relationships and designing initiatives to advance and sustain the WPS agenda across the hemisphere.

READ MORE:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1012023160963397&set=pcb.1012023404296706>



Upcoming Events

WHAT: Women in Leadership Distinguished Speakers Series

WHEN: December 6, 2024

WHERE: 1750 Presidents Street, Science & Technology Hall (Room 1108), Reston, VA, 20190

READ MORE: <https://www.eventzilla.net/e/women-in-leadership-distinguished-speakers-series-2138627177>

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>

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