



ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
NINTH ANNUAL SUMMIT
MARCH 8, 2017
U.S. CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER
*EVOLVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARMY WOMEN:
EQUIP—EMPOWER—ENGAGE*

Executive Summary

Pride and passion were the hallmarks of the Army Women's Foundation's 9th Annual Summit and Hall of Fame Reception held on March 8, 2017 at the US Capitol. Presenters and participants in the Summit focused on the theme: "*Evolving Opportunities for Army Women: Equip - Empower- Engage,*" while repeatedly emphasizing pride in the U.S. Army and passion about the emerging opportunities and roles for women soldiers.

Kicking off the program, Congressman Chris Stewart (R-Utah) enthusiastically introduced Major General Hugh Van Roosen, Deputy G 1, Department of the Army. General Van Roosen's outstanding presentation, "*2020 Soldier Implementation - Right Soldier, Right Job,*" detailed the history, current status, and future steps in the Army's implementation of the 10 March 2016, Army plan directing full integration of women into all Army MOS's. He explained that creating a new culture and training leadership are critical to successful integration. As such, the Army set its timetable for achieving an appropriate climate within the Army, then initiating gender neutral training, and eventually assigning qualified women to operational units. Standards were not changed or lowered and there are no quotas. Following 88 women Infantry and Armor officers and noncommissioned officers, 342 women soldiers have been assessed and are being trained for assignment to Infantry and Armored units. Several longitudinal studies are under way to validate various aspects of the plan. A lively question and answer session followed. The Army's commitment to 'Right Soldier, Right Job' without regard to gender was evident in Major General Van Roosen's passion for his subject, noted AWF President Anne Macdonald, Brigadier General, USA, Ret. in her remarks thanking him for his comprehensive explanation of progress and plans.

Following a well-attended luncheon affording speakers and their audience to interact, former Army Surgeon General Patricia Horoho (Lieutenant General, USA, Retired), both enlightened Summit attendees with respect to gender-focused health issues and a passionate call for further action. Pointing out the myriad ways men and women differ in their health needs, she cited the fact that women are susceptible to different diseases, respond differently to treatments, and react differently to stress, than their male counterparts. LTG Horoho called for more research in support of gender appropriate prevention and treatments. With palpable feeling, LTG Horoho called upon women to make their voices heard. She expressed pride in what had been accomplished by the Army to date, but made the case that more has to be done to ensure tailored, person-directed health (and not just healthcare) programs in the service.

The Summit then addressed the needs and opportunities of current and future women soldiers, with a continuing affirmation of the themes of pride in the Army “family”, and passion about the accomplishments and opportunities for women.

First, under the enthusiastic guidance of CSM Donna Brock USA, Retired, the audience heard “*The Army Experience of Extraordinary Women.*” Vice President and Corporate Counsel of Prudential Financial, Amy Woltman, a Harvard Law graduate, explained how her service as an enlisted soldier impacted her career in the civilian world. BG Diane Holland, USA, Commandant of the US Corps of Cadets, West Point, emphasized the resilience that comes from regularly being assigned to new positions and the team work required in the Army. CSM Billie Jo Boersma, USA, Garrison Commandant, Fort Belvoir, VA (and the Army’s first woman Drill Instructor of the Year) enthusiastically endorsed the Army’s confluence of leadership and sense of family, enabling accomplishment of important goals, both individual and organizational. She thanked both male and female mentors for her opportunities to succeed. SGT Elizabeth Marks USA, a gold-medal Paralympian received standing applause for her expression of the importance to her recovery and accomplishments of the Army family support as she continued to fight against being found unfit for duty because of her disabilities. The support helped her push personal boundaries. This led her to ask attendees to empower others by believing in them. All participants in the panel agreed that Army culture was being changed by and for women soldiers.

A second panel focused on “*Opportunities in the Private Sector and How to find them*”. Presenters from Prudential, Walmart, Sierra Nevada, and GE, with extensive experience in recruitment of veterans for their organizations discuss the extensive programs these, and other corporations, have for veterans. To find the positions, they emphasized starting early in one’s military career to identify what they might want to do after leaving the Army, taking advantage, then, of Army training and credentialing opportunities. Several encouraged building networks within the Service including people who might precede you into the private sector when interviewing for a private position, there was a consensus that job-seekers should be proud of their Army experience and emphasize the wide-variety of skills learned and applied in whatever operational specialty. The audience was provided with a number of other specific, valuable tips.

COL Adam Rocke, Special Assistant to Chief of Staff of the Army and Director of Soldier for Life Program, spoke with both pride and passion about his program, committed to ensuring the strength and support of the Army Family continues after active service. The program partners with the Department of Labor, the VA, DOD, the other services, and private sector corporations, to provide for outgoing soldiers and to support their subsequent endeavors. It boasts a 93% placement rate.

During the Summit, the US Army Women’s Foundation proudly identified the recipients of 35 academic scholarships for 2017 – 2018, granted to Army women, active and retired, and to children of Army women. Additionally, they announced two newly-available full scholarships soon to be awarded to attend American Public University for online degrees.

The day concluded with a reception in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building, where Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), now an officer in the Hawaii Army National Guard, (after earlier serving as a specialist with her field medical unit in Iraq), keynoted the presentation of the 2017 US Army Women’s Foundation Hall of Fame inductees. Representative (and US Army Major) Gabbard called for continuing support for the important work of the Army Women’s Foundation in highlighting and promoting the importance of Army women’s service and sacrifice to the Army and the country.

The Class of 2017 Hall of Fame inductees included The Honorable Coral Wong Pietsch, a former brigadier general who now serves as a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; CW5 Phyllis Wilson, who in more than 35 years of active and reserve service has served at all echelons from tactical to strategic; along with the posthumous induction of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Betty Benson, who remained on active duty until her 30-year mandatory retirement on June 30, 1980.

The Pioneer Women of Cultural Support Teams 1 through 7 also were inducted. They are comprised of female Soldiers from the Army, Guard and Reserve, Air Force and Navy who served on the front lines supporting Rangers, SEALs, and other special operations combat forces during the Afghan war. Also inducted were seven Army Women Olympians and Paralympians who included Cyclists Shawn Cheshire, Shawn Morelli and Jennifer Schuble, sitting volleyball player Kari Miller, paratriathletes Melissa Stockwell and Retired Col. Patricia Collins, along with swimmer Sergeant Elizabeth Marks.

2017 Special Recognition Awards went to Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of the New York Times best seller, *Ashley's War*; The Honorable Leon Panetta and Retired General Martin Dempsey for their decision in lifting the military ban of women in combat MOSs; and Retired Admiral Eric Olson who authorized the establishment of the Cultural Support Team in 2009/2010 during Operations Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.

Sincerely,



Anne Macdonald
Brigadier General, USA (Ret)
President



Peggy Trossen
Executive Director

The U.S. Army Women's Foundation is a premier center for educational excellence, a vibrant national network for today's Army women, and a dynamic advocate for preserving and sharing the history of all Army women. The Foundation is a non-profit organization.

Our mission is to honor and respect the service of Army women past, present and futures. Our values:

- We celebrate the achievements of all Army women and tell their stories
- We support Army women as they support and mentor each other
- We encourage Army leaders to value the contributions of women officer, NCOs and soldiers
- We speak out on Army issues that affect women's opportunities, their performance and their health

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Appendix

The Army Women's Foundation is grateful to its Summit participants for sharing their time and knowledge with U.S. Army soldiers, veterans and supporters.

PARTICIPANTS:

THE ARMY EXPERIENCE OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

Moderator: *CSM Donna Brock, USA, Ret.*, Treasurer, U.S. Army Women's Foundation

www.awfdn.org

CSM Billie Jo Boersma, USA, Garrison Commander, Ft. Belvoir, VA

www.belvoir.army.mil/default.asp

BG Diana Holland, 76th Commandant, U.S. Corps of Cadets U.S. Military Academy, West Point <http://www.usma.edu>

SGT Elizabeth Marks, USA, Paralympian, USA <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/world-class-athlete-program/olympians/paralympians/sgt-elizabeth-marks/>

Amy McNutt Woltman, Vice President and Corporate Counsel, Prudential <http://corporate.prudential.com/view/page/corp/31841>

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND HOW TO FIND THEM

Moderator: *Cpt. James Beamesderfer, USA, Ret.*, Vice President, Veterans Initiatives, Prudential Financial; <http://corporate.prudential.com/view/page/corp/31841>

LTC Jennifer Jensen, (Ret) USA, Vice President, Business Development, Sierra Nevada Corporation, <https://www.sncorp.com>

Jack Hulme, Market Human Resources Manager, Walmart <http://walmartcareerswithamission.com/>

COL Adam Roche, Special Assistant to Chief of Staff of the Army and Director of Soldier for Life Program <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/>

Kris Urbauer, Program Manager, Military Recruiting and Junior Officer Leadership Program, GE Aviation <https://www.ge.com/careers/culture/us-veterans>