

Kayla Williams - Bio

Kayla M. Williams is an author, veteran, and advocate; she is currently a Senior Policy Advisor at VoteVets. She was most recently a Senior Policy Researcher at RAND, where she focused on military personnel and veterans' policy. Ms. Williams previously served as Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where she was formerly Director of the Center for Women Veterans. Kayla was also a Senior Fellow and Director of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). Ms. Williams was enlisted for five years as an Arabic linguist, serving in a Military Intelligence company of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). She authored the memoirs Love My Rifle More Than You and Plenty of Time When We Get Home, published by W.W. Norton. Kayla graduated *cum laude* with a BA in English Literature from Bowling Green State University and earned an MA in International Affairs from American University. She is a former member of the Department of Labor Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach; the VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans; and the Army Education Advisory Committee; a 2013 White House Woman Veteran Champion of Change; and recipient of the 2020 Student Veterans of America Distinguished Public Service award.