

# ADVOCATE

## Women in subs:

### How, where and when female sailors would join the silent service

By Andrew Scutro and Mark D. Faram, *Navy Times*

A handful of female seniors at the Naval Academy or in the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps could very well be



the first women to be assigned to a U.S. submarine. And if initial plans fall into

place, those women — joined by some seasoned supply and surface nuke lieutenants already in the fleet — will be included in four crews assigned to two Ohio-class submarines by late 2011.

In exclusive interviews with *Navy Times*, the heads of Fleet Forces Command and the Submarine Force laid out near-term plans for integrating women into the undersea fleet. The plans, which must be approved by senior Navy and Pentagon leadership, un-

derscore how quickly the service is pushing the initiative.

The interviews also produced a surprising amount of detail, since the statements came less than one week after the chief of naval operations and Navy secretary told *Navy Times* that they wanted to end the ban on assigning women to submarines. Plans are so far along, admirals said, because they have been working this issue for years.

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## Eighth Conference on Women in the Military convened September 24-25 AND honors Garry Trudeau and Capt. Barbara Brehm

The AND/WREI Eighth Conference on Women in the Military, *Women in the Military: Moving Forward Using the Lessons of the Past Decade*, was highlighted by the presentation of the Alliance for National Defense Positive Voice Awards to Doonesbury creator Garry Trudeau and Capt. Barbara Brehm, USN (ret.), a keynote address by Brigadier General Rhonda

Cornum, Medical Corps, U.S. Army, and discussions on a wide range of timely, relevant subjects including issues related to women deploying, military culture, health, and female veterans.

Presentations and photos are on the AND website.

Pictured on the right are Capt. Brehm, AND National Advisory Council Member and conference sponsor Robert

M. Kaufman, Garry Trudeau and Alliance President Capt. Pat Gormley, JAGC, USN (ret.)



**The Alliance for National Defense (AND)** is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to being a positive voice for military women. Supporters included officer and enlisted military personnel from all Services (active, retired, reserve and guard) and civilians interested in military issues. Support comes from contributors and outside donors such as individuals and foundations.

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## A Letter from AND

Dear Alliance Supporter:

Another birthday -- The Alliance for National Defense just turned 11! It is hard to believe that it has been that long. In 1998, we started this adventuresome project to be a "voice for military women" – a silent minority serving in the military, who could not speak for themselves. As many of you may recall, this was a period when there was considerable "ranting" about how military women negatively affected unit cohesion and their service was just part of a bad "social experiment". You may also remember, at this point in time, the Services were notably silent and there was no "counterpoint" or positive dialogue. It was in this climate, the Alliance was born to "fill the gap" and speak up about the inherent value that women bring to the military and national security.

Today, as women continue to play increasingly important roles in national defense and serve with distinction, things have changed. Forward thinking leaders such as Secretary of the Navy Mabus, Admiral Mullen (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs) and, Admiral Roughead (Chief of Naval Operations) are initiating steps toward changing the way Navy women serve and the opportunities open to them. Opening the Submarine Service to permit all who volunteer and qualify is huge! Thank you Gentlemen – it is very powerful to have such high-level, visible leaders recognizing the value of including women in the talent pool for the "silent service".

After learning about the potential for women to serve on submarines, I started thinking about how we might document the overall progress that the Services have made in two separate areas: (1) Women at the Service Academies (1980/2013) and (2) the Percentage of women, by Service, for 3 periods (1993, DoD policy enacted opening new positions; 2002, 9 years after that major policy change and; 2007, most recent DoD Population Representation in the Military Services). Below are "Quick Look" tables for each of the areas.

### AREA 1. Women at the Academies

This table shows the percentage of the Classes of 1980 and 2013 that were/are women and demonstrates the change over a 23 year period. \*NOTE. Percents were unavailable for comparison; however, the USCGA indicates that as of July 2009, 27% of the current cadets are women.

Service Academy	1980	2013
USMA (Army)	8%	14%
USNA (Navy)	6%	24%
USAFA (Air Force)	10%	20.3%
USCGA (Coast Guard)	*	*

### AREA 2. Women in each Service

This table shows the percentage of women in each Service and the gradual change over time. With one exception, each Service has witnessed percentage increases with more women serving than ever before

Service	1993	2002	2007
Army	12%	15%	13.7%
Marine Corps	4%	6%	6.3%
Navy	10%	14%	14.7%
Air Force	15%	19%	19.6%
Coast Guard	8%	10%	12.2%

For the most part, the integration of women has been a gradual process of increasing the numbers (and percentages) of women serving with each Service. However, the Army, unlike the other Services appears to be decreasing the percentage of women serving. Why? Without careful examination of Army policy, directives and numerical data, I can only speculate. However, this may be an area of interest for the recently established Congressional commission (Military Leadership Diversity Commission) as well as the DACOWITS.

Lastly, I have spent the past year working as a staff member supporting the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services. This month the Task Force forwarded their report to the Secretary of Defense and the Service Secretaries for comment. Upon completion of this process, the report is intended for delivery to both Armed Services Committees. The Alliance will provide report highlights in the next newsletter. I wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season.

*Barbara Lee*  
Colonel, USA (ret.)

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## How, where and when female sailors would join the silent service

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And after leaping one legislative hurdle, the first steps toward integration could happen fast.

The Pentagon must notify Congress of the intent to change policy to allow women on subs, then wait 30 days before moving ahead, and before spending any money. The Navy's working on that notification right now, said Vice Adm. Jay Donnelly, head of the Submarine Force.

"I would think that would start making its way from the Navy, through the secretary of the Navy and the secretary of defense in the month or so ahead," he said.

The first women assigned to submarines will be junior officers, said Adm. John Harvey, head of Fleet Forces Command.

"We'll start with the officers because you can get to it soonest," Harvey said. "I am very certain that you will start with junior officers that will come in right to the submarine force."

Both Harvey and Donnelly said bringing female sailors aboard will be more complex due to manning requirements — and more expensive because of berthing modifications. Adding junior female officers to subs will require no money for modifications, they said.

The admirals also said that, in the near term, integration will occur only in the Navy's Ohio-class submarines, which consist of 14 ballistic-missile subs

and four guided-missile subs.

The Navy's three classes of smaller, fast-attack subs — Los Angeles, Seawolf and Virginia — are another story.

"When you look at the one we're building now, the Virginia class, that's what I'd call a mature design," Harvey said. "Now that we're in serial production, to go back and undo things to make it viable for females in the crew, that's a pretty tall order.

"Can it be done? I just don't know where we are on that and at what cost, etc.," he said. "But I know we can get at it much more rapidly with the SSGNs and SSBNs, so that's where the focus will be."

### **Choosing the first to go**

Donnelly was careful to point out that he was speaking about how the sub force "might" integrate quickly and not how it "will."

The plan will likely involve integrating four crews at first: the blue and gold crews of a ballistic sub on one coast and the blue and gold crews of a Tomahawk shooter on the other, officials said.

The first group would come from the Class of 2010. Seniors interested in surface and undersea nuclear careers are already undergoing personal interviews with Adm. Kirkland Donald, head of Naval Reactors. Right now, women being interviewed are eligible only for nuclear propulsion billets aboard aircraft carriers. The men are eligible for carriers and subs.

Donnelly said the first female officer cadre would depend on volunteers this school year.

It's already a healthy pool. In the academy class that graduated last spring, half of the 32 ensigns headed to nuclear propulsion school were women. That bodes well for finding volunteers among this year's crop of seniors.

"I think it would be possible to go back to that pool [of senior midshipmen] that has been accepted into the nuclear propulsion program with the intent of going into the surface community, to go back and say, 'Are there any of you that would care to volunteer for submarine duty?'" Donnelly said.

After graduation in May 2010, they would enter the submarine officer pipeline with their male classmates.

"They'd go to six months of nuclear power school in Charleston, S.C., followed by six months of pro-totype training, followed by three months at the basic submarine officers' course we teach," he said. "That's 15 to 16 months of training before women officers from that class get to their ships. So we're talking some time in late 2011 at the earliest, or into early 2012."

### **Big subs only**

The Navy's three classes of fast-attack subs are tightly packed, making Ohio-class subs roomy by comparison.

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## How, where and when female sailors would join the silent service

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The modifications to berthing areas to accommodate women on attack boats would be exceedingly expensive and maybe not even possible, according to experts.

On the other hand, aboard the larger Ohios, officer berthing for department heads and below makes integration simple, as it is limited to two staterooms with three bunks and three with two bunks.

The officers would share their existing head, and just use a flip-pable sign on the door denoting whether women or men are in the head.

"There is no modification," Donnelly said. "There is no cost."

As far as crew composition, Donnelly said, the surface fleet's 16-year experience in gender integration found about 10 percent to 15 percent of officers and enlisted need to be women. The initial female cadres — in this case, as few as two to four officers per crew — need to have one member who is senior in order to mentor the junior.

"I might be able to find some women supply officers who have been to sea in a mixed-gender crew who kind of know the ropes," he said, "and put them in that initial cadre along with some nuclear-trained ensigns coming out of sub school."

Female surface warfare officers coming off an initial sea tour and headed into the nuclear pipeline to be nuclear SWOs might be another source of senior cadre.

Officers will be phased in.

"I think it would be probably multiple ships, not the entire force initially; we need to ramp this up. I'd look to do this on BNs and GNs, multiple crews, in both home ports, Kings Bay [Ga.] and Bangor [Wash.]."

### **The enlisted issue**

Bringing in enlisted women is a tougher issue. It's going to take money, modifications and careful training, both admirals said.

"We're not going to see a young female sailor swinging her seabag on her shoulder and walking aboard the USS Maryland next month," Harvey said.

"But we will — it will be a couple of years. We have to recruit, bring them in the program.

Having that lead time, he said, will give manpower planners a chance to move forward "in a thoughtful, very controlled, very deliberate manner."

Probably the most critical lesson learned in the surface force, Harvey said, is the need to have strong officer and senior enlisted leadership in place before bringing in junior enlisted women.

That's because incidents of pregnancy and fraternization are less frequent in crews with strong female leaders onboard.

"It can't be 'I'm the woman on the submarine' — that's just a terrible burden to put on everybody, particularly that young woman," Harvey said.

He said it will take some time to build a "critical mass" of female leadership needed to seed the integrated crews.

"You'd have to get at least a small cadre of female chiefs or first-class petty officers, and those, of course, would have to come from other parts of the Navy initially," Donnelly said. "Then they would have to have sufficient time to qualify in submarines in order to have, I think, the credibility as leaders on the ship, and that takes some time."

Converting into the submarine community at the E-7 or above level would be difficult, according to a retired senior submariner familiar with the Navy's plans. He asked not to be named because of his continued ties with the Navy.

"Really, to be in the chiefs' mess on a submarine you already need to be qualified in submarines — if you're not, you would be a burden more than an asset," he said.

He said it would make sense to convert experienced petty officers and grow them into submarine chiefs.

But even as they're building the enlisted leadership picture, officials also must work on the other piece — recruiting junior female submariners from the street.

For many of the nontechnical ratings such as yeoman and culinary specialist, that could be fairly easy and quick, as it would require only about six months at "A" school and

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## Female sailors and the silent service

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the six-week submarine school in Groton, Conn., as happens today with male sailors.

Donnelly said it was too early to say which ratings will be open to women. But over time, all submarine ratings could be open, the retired sub source said.

But to truly build a proper representation of women in the submarine force, the source said, women must be recruited and trained in technical ratings, too.

Training female sailors in highly technical ratings has been a challenge on the surface side. Of the 12,845 nuclear-power-qualified sailors, just 752 are women and 241 of those are in training. Only 22 are chiefs, and two are senior chiefs; there are no female master chief nukes.

Growing female enlisted nukes will take time. It takes about 18 months once a sailor reports to nuclear power school in Charleston for that person to join a sub crew.

Enlisted modifications The other issue, besides personnel, will be to modify enlisted berthing on the Ohios. Donnelly said the volume of that hull allows for relatively uncomplicated modifications. But fairness is key to any change.

“I would not entertain a solution that forced the men to hot-bunk on one of those ships. So we’ll do this right, and the right answer is give the women their own head,” he

said, “and make sure the men aren’t inconvenienced or treated unfairly in any way.”

As they exist now, the modification plans are little more than drawings, as money can’t be committed prior to congressional notification.

“We haven’t actually gone to the ship design engineers,” Donnelly said.

The timeline is somewhat flexible for enlisted berthing modifications, which could be completed on the boomers during their refueling overhauls. The four SSGNs already completed their midlife overhaul and conversion. There are also shorter yard periods when the work might be done, depending on the complexity.

Donnelly estimates the cost of those modifications at \$8 million to \$10 million. But he offered a warning. “Those prices never go down,” he said. “They always go up.”

### Women Submariners

LCDR Marilisa Elrod gets sec-



ond looks when people notice the twin dolphins on her uniform signifying that she is a submarine-qualified officer.

Those dolphins mean that she knows enough about every function of the sub to save it in an emergency. Now she is a doctor and undersea medical officer and has ridden on several subs. She is one of twelve women who are submarine qualified.

## DOD releases sexual assault report

In Dec 2009, the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services released its report on the results of a detailed assessment of DOD programs, policies, and practices that address sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces – as either victims or assailants. It concluded that DOD's progress in addressing sexual assault since the establishment of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program in 2005 is evident, but uneven. Specifically, DOD has made significant progress in improving response to victims' needs; the Task Force noted success when commanders take an active role. However, greater focus and effort are required to fully address the spectrum of sexual assault prevention and response. With this in mind, the Task Force offered major recommendations concerning strategic direction and oversight of the SAPR Program, prevention and training strategies, response to victims, and accountability. Its recommendations highlight the need for institutional change to more effectively prevent sexual assault and address related issues. It said that doing so is not only ethically and morally correct, but also essential to military readiness – all the more critical at this time in our Nation's history. The full report is available on the AND web site.

## Marines try a woman's touch to reach Afghan hearts

By Alfred de Montesquiou, AP KHAWJA JAMAL, Afghanistan – Put on body armor, check weapons, cover head and shoulders with a scarf.

That was the drill for female American Marines who set out on patrol this week with a mission to make friends with Afghan women in a war zone by showing respect for Muslim standards of modesty.

The all-female unit of 46 Marines is the military's latest innovation in its rivalry with the Taliban for the populace's loyalty. Afghan women are viewed as good intelligence sources, and more open to the basics of the military's hearts-and-minds effort — hygiene, education and an end to the violence.

"It's part of the effort to show we're sensitive to local culture," said Capt. Jennifer Gregoire, of East Strasburg, Pa. She leads the Female Engagement Team in the Now Zad Valley of Helmand province, the heartland of the Taliban insurgency.

"If you show your hair, its kind of like seeing a nude picture here, because women are very covered up," she said.

Women are technically barred from combat units in the Marines, and some infantrymen have been surprised to see them in brightly colored head scarves under their helmets, deployed in the most intense combat zones in the country.

"But ... I think they understand that what we're doing is vital to operations and vital to the counterinsurgency program they want to run," said Gregoire.

Women soldiers were assigned to search women at checkpoints in Iraq, and the experi-

ence fed into the Afghan effort, said Cpl. Sarah Furrer, from Colorado Springs, Colo., who served in both war zones.

"I'm not married and I don't have children, so they think that's awkward because I'm 24," Furrer said of her Iraq experience. But as a result, "we're not so much afraid of



engaging the women" in Afghanistan, she said.

"I've found you get great intel from the female population," said Capt. Zachary Martin, who commands the Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, stationed in Now Zad. "The women don't want their men out there conducting jihad and getting killed."

Martin said units have frequently received tips from women about weapons caches or hidden bombs.

But just to find the women is a challenge. There were none in sight as Gregoire's team entered Khwaja Jamal, a village of mud brick homes with no electricity or government presence.

While heavily armed Marines fanned out, the four women started by trying to strike up conversations with the few old men and young children who ventured outdoors.

The several hundred villagers grow wheat and opium poppies in the crossfire between Marines and Taliban fighters who

are in the woods less than a mile away.

"They look at us through binoculars. They'll kill anybody who talks to the Americans," said Abdul Gayom to explain why the villagers were so wary of meeting the patrol.

1st Lt. Victoria Sherwood was undaunted, talking to him through her Afghan translator. She gave him painkillers for his back, and small presents for the children timidly clustering around. Some of them begged to try on her sunglasses, and promptly made off with them.

Sherwood, from Woodbury, Conn., got Gayom to promise he might let her into his compound to meet his wife, who he said with a shrug is "so old, the Taliban probably won't care."

But there was a snag: The translator was male. Could he be in the wife's presence? "No way," said Gayom, then asked the Marines for more medicine and goods.

Deeper in the village, an elderly woman eventually appeared on a doorstep. Gusha Halam claimed she was 120 — so old she could do what she pleased. Her black head scarf left her wrinkled face uncovered and revealed some hair, dyed bright orange with henna.

"The Taliban took everything from us. Make them leave," Halam said, before her sons and grandsons arrived, stopped the conversation and hustled her indoors.



## Female Marine Awarded Combat V

**Editor's note:** Lance Corporal Alesha R. Guard has written a riveting story for Marine Corps News of the events that led up to First Lt. Rebecca M. Turpin's winning the Navy and Marine Corps Combat Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device. Due to space constraints, a condensed, edited version appears below. The article appears in its entirety on the AND website.

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - First Lt. Rebecca M. Turpin received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device at Combat Logistics Battalion 3's Warriors' Field, for her actions under enemy fire. Her story:

### **The First Hour (Daily Dose)**

First Lt. Rebecca M. Turpin woke up to her alarm at 1:30 a.m. after a couple hours of restless sleep. Today she would be leading her second convoy as a platoon commander for Motor Transportation Company, CLB-3. She was nervous, but confident.

### **The Second Hour (80 Miles to Go)**

Combat Logistics Patrol 1 departed Forward Operating Base Bastion in Southern Helmand Province, at 4 a.m. for what they thought would be a standard day-long cross country movement to FOB Musa Qalah, more than 80 miles away.

### **The Seventh Hour (Off Roding)**

The 18-vehicle convoy headed north toward Wadi after exiting the only paved road in Afghanistan to begin their rocky off-road journey

through sand dunes, dry river beds and gravel.

Shortly after leaving the paved road, an improvised explosive device hit vehicle nine, destroying the driver side wheel.

"Turpin immediately provided direction...to cordon the site, sweep for secondary devices, and have the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team assess the site," wrote Lt. Col. Michael Jernigan, commanding officer, CLB-3, in his award recommendation. "EOD found two additional IEDs, and she directed them to exploit the IED for intelligence and then destroy them in place in order to continue with the patrol."

### **The 15th Hour (Déjà Vu)**

Suddenly, another IED exploded, hitting vehicle one of the convoy. It destroyed the attached mine roller, littering the surrounding area with metal fragments, making it impossible to sweep for secondary IEDs.

### **The 35th Hour (Sinking Feeling)**

Around the halfway point of the convoy's trek, the patrol began making its way through a medium-sized village with men farming their land and children playing soccer in the streets. Shortly after entering the village, the routine movement was interrupted.

"The men in the village began rushing the women and children into the houses and began gathering; I had a sinking feeling when I saw this," Turpin said. "I heard my gunner yell, 'RPG!' and heard the RPG strike our refueler's en-

gine block, disabling the vehicle."

The hit initiated a complex attack with small arms fire and several more RPG's from



multiple firing positions from covered areas in the village. An RPG struck the engine of Vehicle 15, the refuel MTRV, resulting in a mobility kill.

"[Then] our Joint Tactical Air Controller coordinated our air support with Cobra helicopters and other fixed-wing air support..." Turpin said. "Our machine gunners engaged the positively identified fighting positions, and once all vehicles were able to roll, we moved out of the valley."

### **The 37th Hour (Out Of the Valley)**

Once half the patrol was out of the valley, suddenly the rear of the convoy was attacked with four RPGs and machine gun fire.

Turpin directed four separate 'gun runs' from the Cobras, eliminating the enemy threat. More than two days after its beginning, the patrol reached its destination, Fighting fatigue, Turpin then carried out the mission of supply distribution and maintenance as well as directed the repairs of the downed vehicles.

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# News From At Home and Around the World

## Waiver lets pregnant mid graduate

By Paul Ewing in *Navy Times*

Top Defense Department officials allowed a pregnant Naval Academy midshipman to graduate in May, the first known such case in the 33 years women have been admitted to the school.

The woman, whom the Navy would not identify because of privacy concerns, is now an ensign, but she was reassigned from her original sea duty to a shore tour because of the pregnancy, Navy spokesman Cmdr. Cappy Surette said.

Officials say the Naval Academy's policies forbidding marriage and pregnancy - or, in the case of men, being responsible for a child - stand. Because of the proximity to graduation, this pregnant midshipman was a special case, they said.

"There were unique circumstances surrounding this case, to include the fact that she had completed all academic requirements for graduation," Cmdr. Brenda Malone, spokeswoman for the chief of naval personnel, wrote in a statement.

The Naval Academy administration discovered the midshipman was pregnant a few weeks before the May 22 graduation, and that "as a result, her eligibility for graduation and commissioning would require review," Surette said.

A Navy official with knowl-

edge of the situation said the academy learned about the pregnancy when the midshipman declined a set of routine inoculations to prepare her for sea duty, worrying they would harm her baby. The source was not authorized to discuss the story and asked not to be identified.

The woman's parents came to Annapolis to meet with her and the administration to discuss her options, the source said. Under academy regulations, she could take a year-long leave of absence and return to finish her coursework, or resign and be required to pay back the cost of her education, about \$150,000. Regulations also state that if a follow-on pregnancy test shows that she is no longer pregnant, she can stay at the academy. The policy does not explicitly spell out abortion as an option.

Complicating this situation, the source said, was that the midshipman was engaged to the baby's father and they planned to marry within a month of her graduating. If she took the leave of absence, she would spend the interim still a midshipman, forbidden from marrying, meaning the wedding would have to be canceled and her child born out of wedlock. Also, when the issue came to light, the woman had two exams left, meaning she would

spend a year away from Annapolis, then return to take just two tests.

Rather than take one of the options, the midshipman and her family lobbied for an exemption so she could graduate, be commissioned, and be married, the source said.

On May 19 - three days before graduation - then-Acting Navy Secretary B.J. Penn sent a waiver request for the midshipman to then-Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Gail McGinn. Penn had the authority to permit a midshipman to graduate, and McGinn had the authority to permit her to be commissioned. Both gave it, and the midshipman received her diploma May 22 with the rest of the graduating class, shaking hands with President Barack Obama at the academy's football stadium.

Surette said Pentagon involvement is necessary when it comes to these waivers. He said he did not know whether Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Adm. Jeffrey Fowler was initially against granting the waiver. Surette said that by the time the waiver was issued, Naval Academy leadership agreed with Penn's and McGinn's decision.

The academy declined to arrange interviews with Fowler and Commandant of Midship-

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men Capt. Matt Klunder. Navy spokesmen declined to say how far along the midshipman was in her pregnancy.

Surette said neither members of Congress nor Obama administration officials were involved with granting the midshipman's waiver. A White House spokeswoman had given no comment as *Navy Times* went to press.

Penn's waiver came two days after Obama delivered a commencement address at the University of Notre Dame, an event that included criticism from anti-abortion groups about the president's support for women's reproductive rights.

Although the Naval Academy has admitted women since 1976, it has kept detailed statistics about pregnancies since only 2005.

May's pregnant midshipman became the fourth since 2005 to require a waiver to graduate because of parental responsibilities; the three earlier cases were men who fathered children.

Four women since 2005 have taken yearlong leaves of absence to have babies, and two have resigned. There was no information immediately available on how many times the administration has learned a woman was pregnant, been shown proof she ended her pregnancy, and permitted her to continue at Annapolis.

## Winged victory

By Ozzie Roberts for the *San Diego Union*



At 88, Vivian Eddy (above) still rails loudly about the disbanding of the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). It was a program through which she and more than 1,000 other women made a lasting if little-mentioned mark on World War II and U.S. combat aviation.

"I thought it was the nastiest thing they (Army Air Forces officials) could have done to us," Eddy says while receiving visitors at her home in Coronado. "They fired us. They gave our jobs to Air Force men who didn't want to go overseas. I would have gone overseas in a minute — I was a (heck of) a good fighter pilot."

Joyce Secciani (right), at home in El Cajon, is calmer on the subject. But despite a fading memory, at 87 she still shares Vivian's passion for the WASP and her disappointment with its demise. She, like Vivian, was

one of the 1,102 women who flew in the all-volunteer program between 1942 and 1944.

"All of us felt bad to lose (our flying jobs) — all of us wanted to keep up our ability to fly," Secciani says. Because they knew that with prevailing chauvinistic attitudes, there would be no pilots' work for them in the civilian realm.

But a small triumph has been wrought for the legacy of the WASP. Last month, President Barack Obama signed into law a bill that awards the Congressional Gold Medal to Women Airforce Service Pilots.

The award — Congress' highest civilian honor — recognizes the women's contributions during the war, and a Capitol celebration, including individual medal presentations to surviving WASPs, is being planned.

Author Amy Goodpaster Strebe, who has become almost obsessed with getting WASP pilots a fair representation in history, is visiting and talking up the award with Eddy and Secciani.

Goodpaster



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## Winged victory

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Strebe, a native San Diegan, became an avid supporter while doing her research a couple of years ago on her recently published book — “Flying For Her Country” — which reports the history of the WASP program.

The pilots, she says, were much more than the first women to fly American military aircraft. They did everything their male counterparts did except fly in combat.

They risked their lives, some — 38 of them — even gave them up. And in the end, amid a lot of politics, they were unceremoniously dismissed and kept a secret in classified archival files for more than 35 years.

Goodpaster Strebe joined support organizations, such as Texas-based Wingtip-to-Wingtip Association, which is dedicated to preserving the WASP legacy and spearheaded a national campaign that led to the congressional medal.

She has met and talked with dozens of surviving WASP members around the country.

“Knowing what I now know about the WASP and meeting them,” she says, “made me want to get the word out about them.”

But now she sits near a table, gripped by Secciani's calm recounting of walking away from a fiery crash landing in her hometown of El Centro nearly 70 years ago.

“The ship skidded on the runway and the engine started sputtering,” Secciani says. “I

was anxious when I saw the plane catching on fire, but I'd always had faith in planes and the guys who were taking care of them. So I always felt confident that I was going to get out safely.

“I loved flying,” she adds. “I used to dream of just stretching my arms out and flying.”

She says that love and fearlessness made her sign up without hesitation for the WASP when she heard about the program in January 1943.



Eddy in World War II

“We all just wanted to fly,” she says wistfully.

Eddy recalls that she was two WASP classes behind Secciani and they didn't meet until six years ago, when they got together to compare pictures and other memorabilia.

Eddy agrees eagerly that all the WASP pilots wanted to do was fly — “not so much prove anything to anybody, but just fly.”

“When I was in fourth grade, my granddad took me to an air show and I saw women flying in the show — that got me hooked.”

Eddy was a WASP ferry pilot, who crisscrossed the country at least nine times, flying fighter planes from their manufacturers in Los Angeles to air bases in Newark, N.J., and Great Falls, Mont.

“I could fly any plane the (Air Force) had,” she says, before noting that after the war, the closest to a professional flying job she could get was as a stewardess with one of the major carriers.

“They knew I could fly their planes,” she says. “But they wouldn't let me, because they said it wasn't right for women to fly (professionally). Isn't that terrible?”

Shortly before her visit ends, Goodpaster Strebe notes that researchers figure there are only maybe about 300 WASP survivors left and it will be most appropriate for them to get the congressional medal and the recognition after so long.

Says Eddy, softening: “It's nice to finally be recognized — it's never too late.”

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## Sex assault prevention training to stress ‘bystander intervention’

By Philip Ewing

Sailors and Marines could begin to see more and different training about preventing sexual assaults, specifically focused on getting bystanders to prevent attacks, in the wake of a top-level summit on sex assaults set for early September in Washington.

One of the major themes of the summit is “bystander intervention,” a doctrine aimed at training people who see early signs of sexual assault to stop it. Although a few Navy commands have adopted this technique, it could be ordered across the two services.

The “everyone’s involved” approach is one of the latest trends for consultants and speakers who talk regularly about sexual assault prevention, many of whom have been invited to the conference Sept. 8 and 9 at the Washington Navy Yard. They will brief the service’s top leaders, who will then make recommendations to Navy Secretary Ray Mabus about how the Navy Department should create an office dedicated to preventing sex assaults.

September’s summit will be the first that combines today’s experts and top leadership from the Navy Department, the Navy and the Marine Corps, said Katherine Robertson, who coordinates sexual assault prevention policy for the assistant Navy secretary for man-power and reserve affairs.

The Navy Department is complying with a Defense Department order that each military

service develop its own sexual assault prevention plans, Robertson said. But the initiative took on new urgency after Mabus issued a Navy- and Marine Corps-wide message Aug. 18 that said an internal investigation had found 58 percent of sailors and Marines consider sexual assault to be a problem in the force.

“Sexual assault is absolutely unacceptable in the Navy and Marine Corps. Our sailors and Marines work side by side, day in and day out, all over the world,” Mabus said in a statement released by his spokeswoman. “They lay down their lives for each other. Sexual assault destroys that teamwork, and we need to make sure it doesn’t happen.”

Robertson said the unique qualities of the naval services meant they need their own strategies for stopping sexual violence.

“It’s the expeditionary environment of the Navy and the Marine Corps — we’re not a garrison-based service, and so we need to take what works and look at the recommendations, decide what will work for us,” she said. The prevention strategy, as opposed to a prosecution strategy, requires a culture shift at every level, said Alan Berkowitz, a sexual assault consultant who is scheduled to give a presentation at the September summit.

“Most of us, if we think of our personal lives, are in situations where someone does something that offends or bothers or worries us, and we

don’t do anything, so that’s a natural part of human experience,” Berkowitz said. But being a bystander to sexual assault, “in the case of the Navy and Marines, also means we’re not acting on the core values of our service.”

The Navy is likely to begin training sailors and Marines to constantly be on alert for situations of potential trouble and step in to stop it. Berkowitz gave the example of a group of sailors in a bar where a man spends the evening plying a woman with alcohol, getting her drunk and offering to drive her home.

Ninety percent or more of sexual assaults begin this way, Berkowitz said, so sailors should be trained to identify what’s happening and to stop it.

In bystander intervention training, people are taught to change the subject, enlist groups, and even commit “party fouls”—spilling a drink, for example—to break potential attackers away from their victims. Berkowitz said a special element of the training for military audiences involves how to deal with superior officers.

Navy officials haven’t decided how to deliver this kind of instruction or combine it with the existing sex assault training. The Air Force, which has developed its own “bystander intervention” training, is buying sets of DVDs for airmen of both genders.

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# They Also Served — A Farewell to Old Friends

**Alice F. Jones**, 62, died Aug. 16, 2009, in Brooklyn, NY. She was a 1968 graduate of North Carolina Central College at Durham and became the fourth black female Lieutenant in the U. S. Marine Corps. She dedicated many years to veterans, working for the U. S. Dept. of Labor's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program and the New York State Department of Labor's Division of Veterans' Affairs. In 2004, she was based in Italy and provided training for soldiers from the Iraq War and helped them develop new skills as they embarked upon re-entry into civilian life.

**Barbara Lauwers Podoski**,



95, died Aug 16, 2009 in Washington, DC. She was born in Bulgaria, studied in Paris and received a law degree from the Czech Masaryk University. She married an American and, in 1938, they moved to the Belgian Congo. In 1940, they immigrated to New York where her husband was drafted and she worked in the press section of the Czechoslovak legation.

On Jun 1, 1943, she joined the WAC, but because she was fluent in English, German, Czech, Slovak and French, she was seconded to the new OSS. She was one of the few women OSS operatives and was noted for finding creative ways to undermine German morale. She also launched one of the most successful psychological operations campaigns of WWII that resulted in the surrender of more than 600 Czech soldiers fighting for the Germans. In early 1944 was sent to North Africa and then to Rome. For her work she was awarded the Bronze Star.

**Gertrude Noone**, 110, died Sep 10, 2009 in Milford, CT. She was the oldest known living military veteran in the



world, a fact that boston.com said made her proud. She was one of 10 children, and, according to a great-niece, was "fiercely independent" until the end of her life. "She never gave in to age, never complained about anything. She was a very upbeat person, smart as a tack, and had a clever sense of humor." She read the daily newspaper, watched CNN and voted in the Nov 2008 presidential

election. In March, the Secretary of the Army presented her with a certificate honoring her accomplishments. She served in the Army from 1943 to 1949, attaining the rank of Sergeant First Class. (For further details, see previous edition of the *Advocate*, p.5.)

**Kathleen E. Paul**, 87, died Nov 4, 2009 in Sandpoint, ID. She was born in Newport, RI and raised in Brooklyn, NY. During WW II she was a U.S. Marine and then worked as a draftsman at the Grumman Corporation on Long Island, NY. When she moved to Pensacola, FL she became an Executive Assistant with St. Regis Paper Co. until her retirement. She was a long-time volunteer with the Red Cross. Her husband was also a Marine and served for 20 years, including during WWII and Korea. According to *legacy.com*, "they led a colorful life" full of many travels before the settling in Pensacola.

## Lost and Found: Where is she/he now?

Have you lost track of someone you served with or knew? Provide their name and everything you can recall and we will publish the information in the next newsletter. Maybe one of our readers knows your lost friend and where they are now -- be sure to include your contact information.

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## WWII WAC honored in Florida

*The oldest member of the Tri-County FL Women Veterans Organization, served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II. Women Veterans group's oldest member honored to have served 'the best country in the world'*

**By Theresa Campbell**

*Florida Daily Sun*

THE VILLAGES — Glancing through albums filled with black-and-white photos, Western Union telegrams and other mementos neatly tucked inside the page sleeves, Minnie Kramer, 96, smiles as she reminisces about her military service with the Women's Army Corps during World War II.

"They needed us," Kramer said.

The Village of El Cortez resident was age 30, living in Brooklyn, N.Y., when a newspaper advertisement about WAC caught her eye.

"They were asking for girls to come in; you could be 50 years old," Kramer said. "That is how desperate they were."

As the youngest in a family of eight children, Kramer recalled her mother didn't think it was necessary for her daughter to enlist.

"Girls don't have to go," Kramer's mother told her.

"I reminded her of what I had said all the time, that I was glad that I was born here," she said. Kramer also felt a strong desire to do something for her country.

"My mother was born in Russia and came to America,"

she said. "I was very patriotic and proud to be an American."

Kramer passed a test, her physical, and was sworn into the WAC before being sent off for basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., on Feb. 23, 1944.

She bonded with many of her fellow servicewomen during training camp and also while stationed in New Orleans, where her responsibilities included ordnance stock control for the Army. She filed, kept records and ordered merchandise.

"I really enjoyed my job and meeting all the girls; they were all wonderful," Kramer said.

She proudly notes her oldest brother, some 16 years older, served in World War 1.

"He lied about his age to go in; he was younger than he should have been," Kramer said. She and her brother were the only two siblings of their family who served in the military.

One of her letters from the war years continues to amuse her.

"Are you still interested in joining WAC?" the letter reads from Brooklyn Civil Defense Volunteer Office, dated Feb. 15, 1945, which Kramer's family forwarded to her in New Orleans.

"I got a kick out of that," she said, and couldn't resist replying back.

"You're a year too late. I'm now a sergeant," she wrote.



Kramer shared more anecdotes as she flipped through her photo albums. One page featured a newspaper clipping and photo of her commanding officer's wedding; another page, a colored pencil drawing of windmills given to her by her friend Ollie.

"I had this in my locker," she said of the artwork.

Throughout the years, Kramer has stayed in touch with many of her WAC friends. She has traveled to California, Texas, New Orleans, Pittsburgh and Ohio to see them.

Three came to visit Kramer in The Villages in 1996.

"It was wonderful," she recalled.

Most of the friends that she made during the war years are gone. Two are still alive, and Kramer keeps in touch with them by telephone.

Kramer's late husband of 23 years, Lester Kramer, served 21 1/2 years in the Air Force. Kramer proudly shows the framed certificate for his Silver Star.

A Villager for the past 17 years, she cherishes being a member of the Tri-County Women Veterans Organization. **Continued on P. 14**

# WWII WAC honored in Florida

*Continued from P 13*

“The girls are wonderful,” she said. “They come from all different branches of the service, and it’s nice being with them.”

Lorraine Heffner, club president and Village of Piedmont resident, said Kramer is the

oldest member of Tri-County Women Veterans Organization and always supports the group’s projects.

“She is a sweet, sweet lady,” Heffner said. “Minnie is so proud of her time in the service, and this group is special to her. I admire most the way

that she looks at life.”

Kramer’s pride for the United States remains just as strong today as when she served in World War II.

“I love America,” she said, with a ready and gentle smile. “With all of its faults, it’s the best country in the world.

## Moving up and on the move

### MOVING UP

#### Colonel Robin B. Akin, USA



has been nominated for promotion to the grade of brigadier general and is serving as Commander, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Knox, KY.

### ON THE MOVE



**Major General Rita M. Broadway, USAR** to Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, VA.



**Brigadier General Jennifer L. Napper, USA** to Commanding General, 7th Signal Command, Fort Gordon, GA.



**Brigadier General Barbara J. Faulkenberry, USAF** to Commander, Fifteenth Expedi-

tionary Mobility Task Force, Air Mobility Command, Travis Air Force Base, CA.



**Brigadier General Susan Y. Desjardins, USAF** to Deputy Director, Strategic Plans, Requirements and Programs, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, IL.



**Major General Polly A. Peyer, USAF** to Commander, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Robins Air Force Base, GA.

### Rear Admiral (lower half)



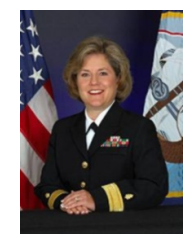
**Margaret D. Klein, USN** to Operations Officer, N3, Naval Network Warfare Command, Norfolk, VA.

### Rear Admiral (lower half)



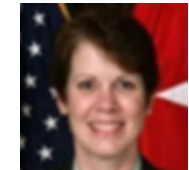
**Cynthia A. Covell, USN** to Director, Total Force Requirements, N12, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC.

### Rear Admiral (lower half)



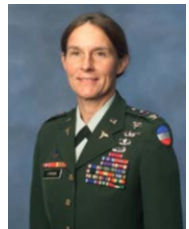
**Elizabeth S. Niemyer, USN** to Director, Tri-care Region West, San Diego, CA.

### Brigadier General Katherine P. Kasun, USAR



to Commandant, Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University, Norfolk, VA.

### Brigadier General Rhonda Cornum, USA



to Director of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, Office of the G-3/5/7, U.S. Army, Washington, DC.



**Staff Sergeant Tara J. Smith, USA**, 33, of Nashville, NC, died Aug 8, 2009 at Camp Phoenix, Ba-

gram, Afghanistan. Assigned to the 50th Signal Battalion, 35<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, she deployed to Afghanistan in Jan 2009. Her battalion commander, Lt. Col. Brian Foley, said that "in addition to being an outstanding noncommissioned officer and leader in the unit, she was a bright and charming young woman who will be missed by all."

**Sergeant Eduvigis G. Wolf,**

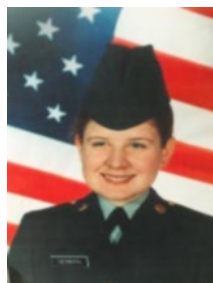


**USA**, 24 of Hawthorne, CA, died Oct 25, 2009 in Kunar province, Af-

ghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked her vehicle with a rocket propelled grenade. She was assigned to the 704<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team. Duvi, as she was known, had emigrated from Mexico and wanted to give back by joining the U.S. military. Larry Altman, a Hawthorne police officer, said she was among America's finest. She was the first to volunteer for "hard stuff" and was mature beyond her years.

## Ultimate Sacrifice

**Staff Sergeant Amy C. Tira-**



**dor, USA**, 29, of Albany, NY, died Nov 4, 2009 in Kirkush, Iraq of injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident. She was assigned to

the 209<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 14<sup>th</sup> Cavalry regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. A native of Albany, NY, in high school she excelled in softball and lacrosse, was a member of the National Honor Society and played the trumpet at funerals of family members who were WWII vets. "What I remember the most about her is her spirit," a teacher told the *Albany New York Times Union*. "For a kid who was so young, she knew how to live." In 2004, she deployed to Iraq as a medic and helped save the life of a soldier while taking small arms fire during an attack on a US convoy for which she was awarded a Bronze Star.

**Killed at Ft. Hood, Texas**  
**Lieutenant Colonel Juanita**



**L. Warman, USAR**, 55, of Havre De Grace, MD was assigned to the 1908th Medical Company, Independence, MO. She was the



most senior person killed at Fort Hood. She was a psychiatric nurse practitioner and an expert in post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. When not on active duty, she had worked at the Perry Point Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Virginia and was very interested in helping women veterans.

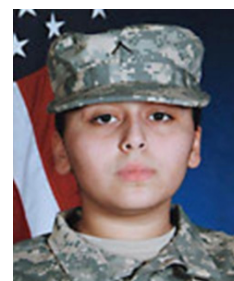
**Sgt. Amy Krueger, USAR,**



29, of Kiel, WI was assigned to the 467th Medical Company, Madison, WI. She graduated in 1998 from Kiel High School where

she had been active in volleyball, basketball, softball and swimming. She earned an associate degree at the University of Wisconsin and was a student at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater majoring in psychology. She enlisted in the Army Reserve after 9/11 and served a tour of duty in a hospital in Afghanistan in 2003.

**Pvt. Francheska Velez, USA**



21, of Chicago, IL, was assigned to the 15th Combat Support Battalion. A 2006 graduate of Kelvyn Park

High School, she spent a year in South Korea and then went to Iraq where she drove fuel trucks.



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