

Women Veterans Informer

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Volume 2, Issue 8 - Women Veterans Informer



The College of Southern Nevada
Proudly Presents:
Military to Medic/Corpsman to LPN program

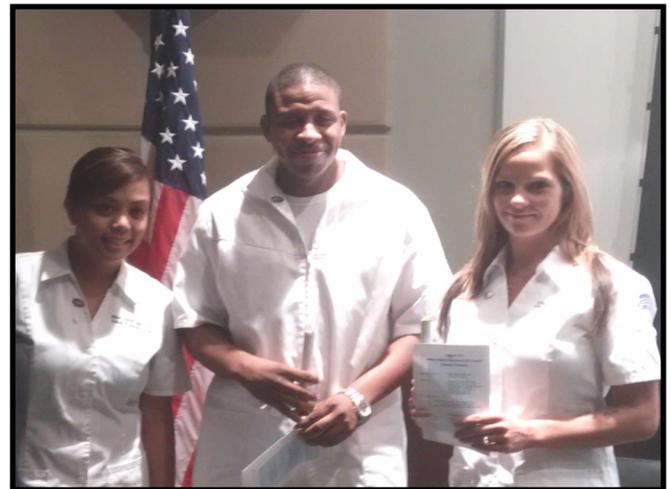


On a beautiful Saturday, the College of Southern Nevada celebrated the first set of students to complete the Military to Medic/Corpsman to LPN program.

This program puts military and veteran students on the fast track to becoming licensed in Nevada as an LPN/licensed practical nurse.

July 25, 2015, CSN hosted a pinning ceremony in honor of their graduates.

Saturday's ceremony included all of CSN's LPN graduates, Darnell Dobbins, Carlina Linama and Shari Apryll Tauro. Each student had the opportunity to be pinned by their loved ones.



Left to Right: Shari Apryll Tauro, Darnell Dobbins, and Carlina Linam



Left to Right: Darnell Dobbins, Carlina Linam and Shari Apryll Tauro recite the Florence Nightingale Pledge before the audience.



Also in attendance, CSN faculty members, community supporters, local organizations, mentors, family and friends.

College of Southern Nevada is the only college in Nevada that has the Military to Medic/Corpsman to LPN program and one of the only successful programs running in the nation.

To learn more about CSN's nursing and healthcare programs visit their website: <http://sites.csn.edu/health/nursing.html>



Fighter pilot makes history at USAF Weapons School

By Susan Garcia, U.S. Air Force Weapons School / Published July 07, 2015



MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho (AFNS) -- Capt. Kari Armstrong, an F-15E Strike Eagle weapon systems officer with the 389th Fighter Squadron, received more than a diploma from the U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, June 27. Armstrong also became the first female F-15E weapons school officer and the second female student in a fighter platform -- after Col. Jeannie Leavitt in June 1998 -- to complete the graduate-level school.

While she appreciates the historical aspect of her experience, Armstrong said her vision for the future goes beyond her gender. Her ultimate goals are to be the best instructor she can be and to inspire others to excel in the same way her mentors did.

Those goals motivated her to apply to the weapons school in the first place.

Armstrong did not have to put herself through weapons school -- a rigorous school that selects only the top 3 percent of F-15E aircrew, with an elimination rate of 10 percent per class. However, Armstrong had observed and admired the graduates -- also known as "Patches" -- at her unit for some time.

"I realized that the people I wanted to emulate the most happened to be Patches," Armstrong said. "They really summed up the 'humble, approachable, credible' motto of the weapons school. To me, a Patch means being very proficient at your job, but also being willing and available to help those around you."

Her skills and teaching acumen resulted in her selection to the 17th Weapons Squadron's F-15E Weapons Instructor Course on her first application to the weapons school. After arriving, Armstrong soon realized she might be the first female weapons school officer to graduate from the fighter weapons instructor course; however, she could not allow herself to think about that. She had to focus on the 260 academic hours, 28 flying missions and a course designed to contain the toughest operational conditions most students ever see.

"Going through the course, I didn't feel singled out," Armstrong said. "At the end of the day, (gender) doesn't matter in the briefing rooms. All that matters is the quality of your brief, execution and debrief."

The 17th WPS leadership echoed that sentiment. "Captain Armstrong's accomplishments are notable simply because of her ability," said Lt. Col. James Blanton, the 17th WPS commander. "She's a very good aviator and instructor. Regardless of gender, all of our students will be excellent leaders for the (U.S. Air Force)."

Her fellow classmates were essential to Armstrong's success. She advised potential weapons school students to "stay positive and lean on your classmates for support -- look for the little wins."

Small successes during the course are important. They help counter the challenging hours of training and the constructive feedback from instructors.

As she returns to the 389th FS and Mountain Home Air Force Base, Armstrong said she hopes to encourage other weapons school officers to apply for the school. She wants them to know becoming a Patch is an attainable goal; however, "It is not a goal you can complete overnight; it is something you have to work hard at every single day.

"(The weapons school) is challenging, but it's also the best flying I've ever had the opportunity to participate in," Armstrong continued. "Unless you go to a Red Flag, you won't typically see how all the platforms work together. Getting outside your own bubble helps you see the bigger picture of how we all play a role in the overall mission."



U.S. AIR FORCE

Flags of our daughters: Honoring the women warriors who serve our country

By Gayle Tzemach Lemmon/Published July 03, 2015

“Make no mistake about it. These women are warriors.” The man who shared these words was among the most tested special operations leaders of the post-9/11 wars, Lt. Gen. John Mulholland. And he was speaking of Ashley White-Stumpf and her sisters-in-arms who were part of an all-women team recruited, trained and deployed to serve alongside special operations on the battlefield in Afghanistan in 2011 while the combat ban remained very much in place. Battlefield necessity drove the creation and then the recruitment of this all-star band of sisters –women who met as teammates, became friends and ended their deployment as family.

This group of 55 women – 20 of whom served alongside Army Rangers and Navy SEALs and other special operations teams on nighttime combat operations -- went to war as part of Cultural Support Team 2 after answering the call to serve issued by a U.S. Army Special Operations Command recruiting poster urging “Female Soldiers. Become A Part of History.”

These new teams for which only the best would be selected would put women on special operations missions to help U.S. forces could do something that men alone could not in this conservative, traditional country: talk with Afghan women. The idea was for servicewomen to fill the security gap that the strict separation of the sexes so frequently seen in Afghanistan created, and to allow U.S. and Afghan forces to access people and places and information that had previously been out of reach. The wars America is fighting are changing. And so are the people recruited to serve on their front lines.

The women who answered that call to “become part of history” -- serving from Alabama to Alaska and many points in between – raised their hands not to prove a point, but to serve with purpose. Patriotism, not politics, motivated them to go out each night on their nation’s behalf alongside Rangers and SEALs, some of whom were then on their 10th, 11th, 12th deployment in America’s post-9/11 wars.

For these young women all they had ever wanted was a chance to serve a cause greater than themselves. To complete a mission that mattered. To work with the best of the best and to test their limits on America’s behalf. From Kate, a West Pointer who played high school football to Amber, an intel officer who served in Bosnia and had once helped the FBI bust drug gangs to Ashley White, a Kent State grad married to her ROTC sweetheart who loved to cook and bake and loved to ruck march for miles and bust out 25 or 30 pull-ups from a dead hang.

As we pause to celebrate America’s foundations and to remember those who fought valiantly for the nation’s independence, let us also take a moment to celebrate the future force ready to defend the nation come what may. And that force is, increasingly, filled with women like Ashley White and her teammates.

In the Gulf War of 1991 more than 40,000 women went to war for the U.S. By this last decade’s conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, that number had climbed more than seven-fold to close to 300,000.

Today women account for roughly 15 percent of the active-duty military. By January 1, 2016 all combat roles will open to women or a reason given as to why they will not. A whole slew of jobs across the services already have opened. And the Air Force Academy’s incoming class is 30 percent female. As Chairman Dempsey said recently in the 2015 National Military Strategy, “critical to building the best military possible are our efforts to further integrate women across the force by providing them greater opportunities for service.”

Women have broken ground on America’s behalf this past decade of war in ways that we are only now, as a nation, starting to recognize. From recipients of the Silver Star, Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross, to women in uniform flying (history-making all-women) combat missions in Afghanistan and leading military police squads, they have been out there on the front lines asking their nation how they can best use their skills and talents and desire to serve.

Lt. Ashley White and her band of sisters trained, recruited and deployed as a team are just one part of this next greatest generation, young Americans lining up to put America first and to contribute to a cause greater than themselves. In the process these women are redefining how we see our heroes. And on this Independence Day their service merits a moment in our memory.



1st Lt. Ashley White Stumpf who was killed during combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on October 22, 2011.
(Courtesy the White family)

Selective Service Act to require the registration of women

Do we value women's military service as much as men's? If we do, it is imperative to allow women to have an equal chance of serving their country. That is why the Reserved Officers Association/ROA supports registering women for the Selective Service System. This simple step would double the available population for the U.S. to draw upon in case of a national emergency that demands resources beyond the current active, reserve and National Guard forces.

ROA met with Senator Gillibrand's staff member Ryan Walsh to discuss the issue of Selective Service Registration for women. The meeting was helpful in highlighting how a substantial amount of female veterans do not value their service as much as their male counterparts and, consequently, do not claim veteran's status. Pushing for women to register for the Selective Service sends the signal to female service members that their contribution is valued as much as their male counterparts by equalizing the basic requirements for national service among men and women.



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RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Selective Service Act Registration of Women Resolution No. 13-03

WHEREAS, fully 14 percent of active duty and 18 percent of National Guard and Reserves are now women; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to today's force, the percentage of women in uniform was just 2 percent in 1950; and

WHEREAS, women comprise 51 percent of the eligible population in this age range to serve in the event of an emergency and would double the available personnel; and

WHEREAS, in 1981 the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Rostker v. Goldberg* that women could be legally exempt from the selective service due to the ground combat restriction; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2013 the Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta rescinded the ground combat exclusion policy "effective immediately;" and

WHEREAS, during the past ten years, 275,000 women have deployed; and

WHEREAS, an inequality exists between men and women between the ages of 18-26 under the Selective Service Act which does not include registration of women; and

WHEREAS, women should be treated equally as responsible, competent, contributing members of America's society.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, chartered by Congress, urge the Congress to support amending the Selective Service Act to require the registration of women ages 18-26.

Adopted by the National Council, March 19, 2013
Submitted by Department of District of Columbia

Career Corner

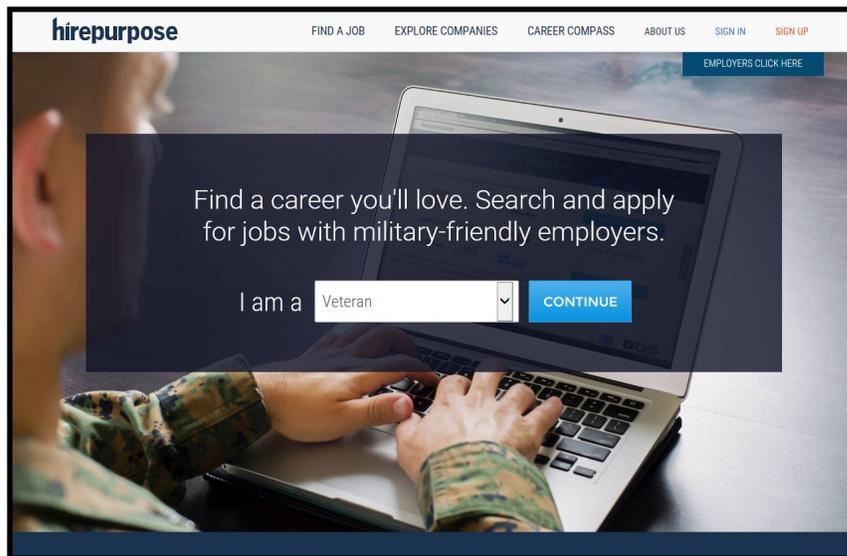
HIREPURPOSE

We believe that human capital is the most valuable resource and that job seekers are much more than their resumes.

As a result, we delve deep into each candidate's story and bring military efficiency to civilian job search. We focus on matching the right talent with the right opportunities so everyone wins.

Founded in late 2011, Hirepurpose is developed by veterans for veterans and we are committed to addressing some of the incredible gaps that exist in the transition from military service to civilian career success.

Visit HirePurpose today and set up your job search profile:
<http://tinyurl.com/pptxq4k>



Employment and Training Services

U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service

North

59 East Winnie Lane
 Carson City, NV 89706
 Phone: (775) 687-4632

South

1820 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 301
 Las Vegas, NV 89104
 Phone: (702) 486-2883

Veterans Business Outreach Center

745 West Moana Lane, Suite 375
 Reno, NV 89509
 Phone: (916) 393-1690
 (702) 388-6800

Veterans Business Development Office

400 South Fourth Street, Suite 250
 Las Vegas, NV 89101
 Phone:

State of Nevada Casual Labor Office

Veterans Employment Representative
 420 Galletti Way
 Sparks, NV 89431



My Next Move for Veterans

My Next Move for Veterans was established to assist veterans who are currently looking for employment.

This online tool will provide veterans with information about various career fields and civilian careers that are similar to their military career.

For more information, please visit the My Next Move for Veterans website at www.mynextmove.org/vets

Strictly for Veterans



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting Service members and their families with community support, training, services and resources.

Southern Employment Coordinators

Luis Alvarez - 702.632.0552
Miguel Corzo - 702.632.0387

Northern Employment Coordinators

Joseph Tucker - 775.384.5848
Duane Engstrom - 775.384.5812

Behavioral Health Program Coordinator

Charlotte Cage - 775.220.5850

Electronic Exemptions for Veterans at the DMV



After about a week, more than 2,000 Clark County veterans have taken advantage of being able to claim their annual tax exemption during a vehicle registration renewal conducted electronically. Prior to the change, veterans in Clark County could renew only by mail or in person at a DMV office. To use the new service, veterans simply enter their voucher number during the online renewal at dmvnv.com or at a DMV kiosk.

“We are gratified by the early response. This is a great new convenience that veterans have been requesting for years,” said DMV Director Troy Dillard. “We are pleased to offer online and kiosk exemptions to those who have served our country. This service will also help shorten the wait times in the Las Vegas DMV offices.”

Clark County recently completed work to upgrade its computer system to allow the exemptions to be made with DMV electronically. Veteran’s exemptions are issued by the county assessor’s office. With Clark County coming online, all 17 Nevada counties now offer processing of veteran’s exemptions online or at a DMV kiosk.

“We are pleased that the exemptions are finally available for use online at DMV, and thank the veterans for their patience,” said Michele W. Shafe, Clark County Assessor. “Those eligible veterans whom do not yet have their exemption are encouraged to apply. Visit clarkcountynv.gov/assessor for qualifications and an application or call (702) 455-3882.” The exemption can save motorists on the governmental services tax portions of vehicle registration fees. Those who qualify include veterans with certain periods of service and veterans with a service-connected disability of 60 percent or more. Surviving spouses and the blind are also eligible for exemptions.

Clark County veterans, surviving spouses and the blind claim more than 45,000 exemptions on vehicle registration fees per year that total about \$5.7 million. Statewide, veterans, surviving spouses and the blind claim more than 69,000 exemptions totaling \$7.7 million.

“We encourage every eligible veteran to get the exemption and use it online,” said Katherine Miller, Director of the Nevada Department of Veterans Services. “The DMV’s online registration renewal is very easy to use. Claiming the exemption takes just a few extra seconds.”



A veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, their spouse, parent, or child may apply for a Veteran or Female Woman Veteran plates include an image representing women veterans in lieu of the seal of the Armed Forces branch. Military Unit Insignias. Proof of Military Service, Registration, Smog Test and Fees are Applicable.

For additional information visit: dmvnv.com

Veteran Resources



The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era Veterans were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and a branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs. In April 1991, in response to the Persian Gulf War, Congress extended the eligibility to Veterans who served during other periods of armed hostilities after the Vietnam era. Those other periods are identified as Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia and Kosovo/Bosnia. In October 1996, Congress extended the eligibility to include World War II and Korean Combat Veterans. The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible Veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life.

All Vet Center Services are provided at no cost to the Veteran or family.

The Vet Center offers:

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Marital/Family Counseling
- Alcohol/Drug Assessment & Referral
- Sexual Trauma Counseling & Referral
- Benefits Assistance & Referral
- Bereavement Counseling
- Referral to VA & Community Agencies
- Employment Counseling & Referral
- Community Education

HENDERSON:

400 North Stephanie, Suite 180, Henderson, NV 89014
702-791-9100

LAS VEGAS:

1919 South Jones Boulevard, Suite A, Las Vegas, NV 89146
702-251-7873

RENO:

5580 Mill Street, Suite 600 Reno, NV 89502
775-323-1294 / 775-323-1294

www.vetcenter.va.gov

Wreaths Across America

Their mission is to, Remember, Honor, and Teach. WAA coordinates wreath laying ceremonies in Northern and Southern Nevada. They also organize of events including international veteran's tributes and ceremonies.

The program is dependent on the generosity and donations made by individual wreaths sponsors, corporate and volunteer donors.

To Donate or to Learn More visit: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

NDVS has a goal to cover every grave site at the SNVMC and honor all the veterans interred within the cemetery. That number is now over 5,500.

The public is welcome to attend and assist with placing the wreaths following the ceremony.



Nevada Department of Veterans Services

1(866) 630-VETS
1(866) 630-8387

Department of Veterans Affairs

1(800) 827-1000

VA Suicide Prevention Hotline

1(800) 273-TALK
1(800) 273-8255



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaWomenVeterans>



Twitter: https://twitter.com/NDVS_WVC



Google+: <http://tinyurl.com/NDVSGpage>



Website: <http://www.veterans.nv.gov/>



Instagram: [ndvs.wvc](https://www.instagram.com/ndvs.wvc)



Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/NVWVC/>



Email: stevensn@veterans.nv.gov



Honoring Women Veterans

At the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, we're committed to delivering quality services to all Nevada veterans, and these pages will educate you – a woman veteran who proudly defended our freedom – about benefits and resources.



Women have served the cause of freedom in every war and every generation since the Revolution.

Those we honor number some 1.8 million, including nearly 24,000 women veterans currently residing in Nevada. Today, more than 25 percent of our military strength worldwide is women, and women serve in almost every capacity in the armed forces, including in combat zones on land, at sea and in the skies. More than 177,000 women from across the country have served as fighter pilots, medics, military police and in other roles since the start of the Global War on Terror.

It's all too common for women veterans to pack away their uniforms and memories upon return to civilian life, never to discuss their experiences again. Many women who honorably served don't even realize they're veterans – or realize their eligibility for benefits. Through these pages, we acknowledge your service and offer several resources to help you understand your status and what it means. By working together, we will achieve success in establishing a network to further communication and women veterans outreach.

Necole Stevens

Women Veterans
Program Coordinator
Nevada Department
of Veterans Services

**Southern Nevada
Healthcare System
North Las Vegas
VA Medical Center**

**6900 N Pecos Rd
No. Las Vegas, NV 89086**

**Phone: 702.791.9000
ext 15518**



Green Zone Network
"Get connected with
the Nevada

Veteran Community"
Employment, Education
and Wellness

www.greenzonenetwork.org

Nevada Department of
Veteran Services General
Information (866) 630-8387

Visit www.veterans.nv.gov
for information concerning;

Nevada State
Veterans Home
Southern and Northern
Nevada Veteran

Memorial Cemeteries
Veterans Rural Outreach
"ROVER" Calendar

Vision

Nevadans across the state understand and celebrate the legacy of America's servicewomen and all Nevada women veterans understand and have access to benefits to which they are eligible.

Mission

To provide women veteran benefit and activity information; resolve women veteran problems or refer veterans to NDVS service officers and other beneficial service providers for assistance; and to develop programs and activities that ensure Nevada women veterans understand, and are able to obtain, any aid or benefit to which they may be eligible.

Nominate a Woman Vet for Veteran of the Month

To read the Veteran of the Month Guidelines
and access submission forms please go to:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veteran-of-the-month-program>

Submit Pictures and Articles

To submit articles and pictures for publication in the
Women Veterans Informer please email the Women Veterans Coordinator at:

stevensn@veterans.nv.gov



**"Serving America's
Heroes"**