



**Army Women's Foundation Sixth Annual  
Hall of Fame Honors and Summit**  
*Army Women: Ready and Resilient*

***Executive Summary***

Throughout America's history, women have volunteered to serve in the US military. During the birth of the nation and as it took shape, women rendered medical aid to wounded patriots, and some hid their own identities to fight alongside men. In the modern force they've developed personnel policy, driven and maintained trucks and automobiles, piloted aircraft and held their own during firefights and ambushes in wars without clear front lines. The lifting of the combat exclusion rule in 2013 is opening even more doors for women who want to serve their country.

As the Army reviews and implements gender integration over the next two years, the Army Women's Foundation is helping to map the course ahead.

During a two-day event in March, women's history month, the Army Women's Foundation brought together thought leaders, policy makers and legendary Army women to recognize women's contributions to the Army and to facilitate dialog about issues facing today's soldiers and veterans.

The summit, *Army Women: Ready and Resilient*, marked the sixth year that the Foundation has hosted a discussion to examine transition issues for soldiers, whether they remain in the military or move on to civilian careers.

Honorees and speakers over the two-day event included two women combat veterans who are serving in Congress; women veterans who are in senior positions at the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs; women veterans in leadership positions in the private sector and nonprofits; and senior commissioned and non-commissioned officers in the active and reserve components.

The summit featured two panel discussions, *Resilient on the Battlefield*, and *Resilient on the Homefront*.

Overall the tone was an optimistic yet pragmatic one. As foundation president MG (Ret) Dee McWilliams summed it up: "A new generation of women veterans are in leadership positions in our government, in industry and in nonprofits. That will affect a change in our country, and it will be a good one."

Key points shared at the summit:

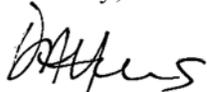
- Diverse perspectives and ideas strengthen organizations, and by bringing women into combat arms it will bring diverse perspectives.

- Women should not feel embarrassed because they have a different perspective than men.
- Men who served with women are more accepting of them in combat.
- Men have been among some of the strong supporters of legendary women.
- To best prepare for integration of women into combat arms, leaders must set their intent and support integration.
- Physical standards for combat arms jobs are not being lowered.
- Women are the fastest growing population of military veterans.
- Eighty-four percent of women veterans are of working age.
- Unemployment among women veterans is declining.
- Not all women who have served in the military identify themselves as veterans.
- The Army Women's Foundation values the contributions of today's soldiers and veterans, and supports their educational goals. As such, the Foundation awarded scholarships to 29 female soldiers, veterans and their children for a total sum of \$51,000.

The U.S. Army Women's Foundation is the premier center for educational excellence, the national network for today's Army women, and a dynamic advocate for telling the history of Army women. Through its programs, research, and scholarships, the Foundation honors the service of Army women and supports the U.S. Army Women's Museum. Originally established in 1969, the Foundation is headquartered in Fort Lee, Virginia. For more information, please visit [www.awfdn.org](http://www.awfdn.org).

We hope that you will consider the Foundation a resource for you on matters related to active duty servicewomen and women veterans, as well as a resource for your constituents who are transitioning from military to civilian life.

Sincerely,



Dee McWilliams  
Major General, USA (Ret)  
President



Peggy Trossen  
Executive Director