



HONORING SERVICE & SACRIFICE

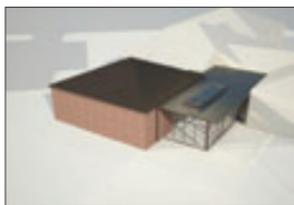
The Flagpole

Fall 2009

The Newsletter of the U.S. Army Women's Foundation

Volume LX No. 2

MUSEUM EXPANSION GROUNDBREAKING!



The expansion of the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia is finally becoming a reality.

The Army Women's

Foundation signed the contracts, and construction of the new 2,400 square foot facility began in September. When complete, the addition will include an entry atrium and a state-of-the-art conference room that can accommodate 100 people in a classroom setting.



While the U.S. Army funds the majority of the museum's basic operations and salaries, there is little allowance for expanding the facility. While there certainly will be a need for future expansions of exhibit and archival space, the immediate concern was the lack of classroom space to accommodate soldier and field trip programs. The new addition will allow for this while also functioning as a conference facility to host museum and community events.



A groundbreaking event was held on September 2nd with Dee Ann McWilliams, President, and Peggy Trossen, Executive Director of the Army Women's Foundation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Army Women's Foundation continues to focus on supporting today's soldier, while honoring Army women's service across generations. This balance between present and past is also a bridge to the future for thousands of women whose common bond is their service to our country.

We are excited about several projects underway in 2009–10:

- In fulfillment of a long held dream, ground has been broken for the Army Women's Museum expansion with a brightly lit atrium and a state of the art multi-purpose room. An opening celebration is targeted for the spring of 2010.
- We are expanding our Legacy Scholarship program to provide needed educational funds for Army women and their children.
- Planning has begun for our second symposium on transitioning Army women. Symposium II, in March 2010, will bring soldiers, educators, employers and legislators into a dialogue to influence how soldiers move from combat into the workforce.

We cannot do our work alone. This year we forged a partnership with AUSA to bring the foundation's mission to the floor of the annual convention in October 2009. Our research projects continue through our partnership with George Mason University, and we have a special exhibit with WIMSA and Virginia Commonwealth University, "When Janey Comes Marching Home," in the spring of 2010.

In an effort to connect with and engage Army women in our programs, we are using the latest in digital and social media communications, as well as traditional one-to-one relationship building. We want every Army woman—past and present—to be able to connect to fellow soldiers and access relevant information, while giving them a voice to express experiences, challenges and aspirations.

All of this would not be possible without you, our supporters. Your time, talent and financial commitments make the activities of this foundation successful. We appreciate your contributions.

Warmest regards,
Dee Ann McWilliams
MG, USA (Ret)
President

and Judy Matteson, Director, U.S. Army Women's Museum each holding symbolic shovels representing different eras of the museum's history. Construction is expected to be complete in the spring of 2010.

Updates on the construction and planned ribbon cutting will be posted on our website, www.awfdn.org, as they become available. ★

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LESSONS LEARNED: LIFE IN THE ARMY

by Caryn Wagner,
Army Women's Foundation Director

I was commissioned on May 13, 1979, the day after I graduated from the College of William and Mary in Virginia. I spent eight years on active duty as a Signals Intelligence/Electronic Warfare Officer, and another few years as a not-very-successful reservist before leaving the Army.

I went on to have a rewarding civilian career, always recognizing that I owed a great debt to the Army for my civilian success. Many of my colleagues express the same feeling of indebtedness for the unparalleled opportunities to lead, to make mistakes, and to become comfortable with responsibility and accountability. For each of us, our experiences shaped the type of leaders and managers we became. I tried to dig a little deeper and share a few of my personal career and life lessons.

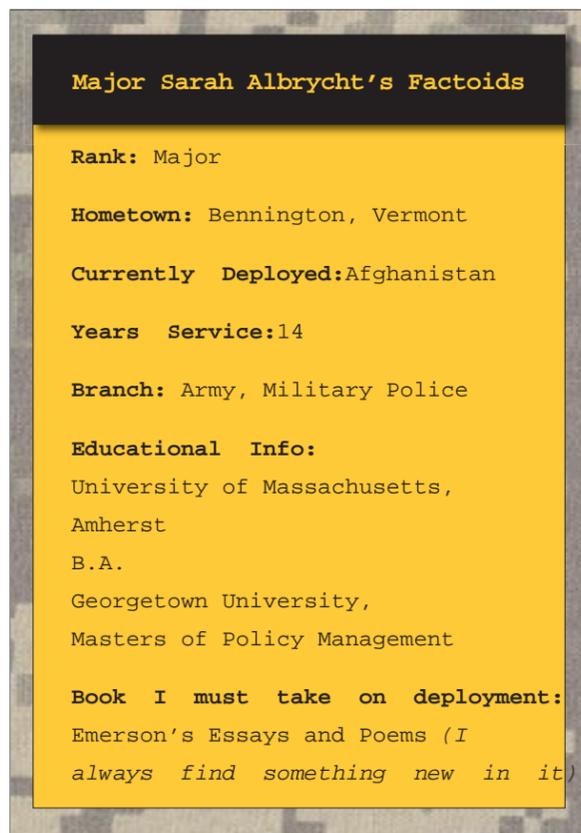
Training is Not Alchemy. Leadership training provides an important understanding of the behaviors and attributes of leaders, but no amount of leadership training can transform people who have none of those attributes into leaders.

Leopards Really Can't Change Their Spots. Never promote anyone in the belief that their fundamental behavior will change—it won't. If you've had the experience of working for a senior NCO or officer who knows that he or she has achieved the highest rank they are going to achieve, and is still afraid to make any but the most trivial decisions, you understand what I mean.

Beware the "Substitute System Syndrome." (credit to my Dad, MG Robert E. Wagner, for coining this phrase) It is too easy to lose sight of your primary mission and instead focus on related but secondary activities that are both easier to do and to measure. As a leader, it is important to think about what you are measuring – your incentive system – and if it is sending the right message to your subordinates about your priorities.

Integrity is Power. The courage to admit a mistake or to speak up when something needs to be said is rare—but if you do it, you quickly earn almost universal respect. ★

TODAY'S SOLDIER: AN INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR SARAH ALBRYCHT



Army Major Sarah Albrycht exemplifies today's American woman. Born and raised in Bennington, Vermont, Sarah's family descended from immigrants with a long history of military and civil service. Their dedication to service and country has been passed down from generation to generation, to Sarah, now in her 14th year of continued service in the Army's Military Police Corps.

Sarah provided personal insights and perspective into being a woman in today's Army during a recent interview with Genevieve Chase, Founder and President of American Women Veterans. Excerpts from that conversation appear below; for the complete interview visit www.awfdn.org.

FP: How are women received on deployment and in Afghanistan?

SA: Women are perceived differently both by your troops and by the locals. If you don't expect to be treated differently, grow up or get out. It's reality. We have to acknowledge that we are different. How we act is going to have a huge bearing on how we're treated.

FP: What would you say to people who comment that deployments aren't "safe" for women?

SA: Women do have to watch out for themselves. Like anywhere, there are men here who will take advantage of you. It pisses me off to no end when I hear stories of women being assaulted. I am astounded by the situation some of these women put themselves in and some of the behavior our men and women think is acceptable.

FP: What about sexual assault in the military?

SA: No one thinks it's OK, but no one really knows how to stop it. I think we are very much like a college environment – both men and women think the rules don't apply to them and they can get away with reckless behavior. I am not sure how you stop that, but I am sure that more AFN [Armed Forces Network] commercials and mandatory classes are not the answer.

FP: Sometimes when on deployments, a woman can feel like she's losing her individuality by always being in uniform and "at work." What do you do to get back to being "Sarah," not just "Major Albrycht?"

SA: Deployed women are definitely imaginative and adaptive! We find little ways to have fun and enjoy ourselves like painting our toenails, watching chick flicks or sharing romance novels. We can have fun and be ladies while deployed, but it is all about being smart about when and where you let your hair down.

FP: Women have been accused of not mentoring each other enough. The term "good ol' boys" is a popular one but you don't hear much about women networking. What would you say to the women who will follow in your footsteps?

SA: The only way this will change is if more of us join. Also I think the military has taken giant steps forward in dealing with having more women in the force. Issues like healthcare, child care, opportunities to step out of the career path to have children, and an all-service married couples program are being addressed and will improve over time. The only way these issues will improve, however, is if we are our own advocates. ★

ARMY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

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While visiting our website, check out our online giftshop!

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FACES OF THE FALLEN



SSG Tara J. Smith, 33, from Nashville, NC, died August 8, 2009 in Bagram, Afghanistan from a non-combat related incident that occurred August 4 at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan. She was assigned to the 50th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal

Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC. Tara was born in Spring Lake, NC and joined the military in February 1997. She deployed to Afghanistan in January and also served assignments in Arifjan, Kuwait, Camp Casey, South Korea and Fort Huachuca, AZ. She is survived by her husband, Deron Smith and children, eight year old David, and six year old Jordon. ★



LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Foundation's Legacy Scholarship program recognizes the importance of education by providing financial support toward under-graduate degrees to Army women and their lineal descendants. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service and need. For more information, visit www.awfdn.org.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

Erin Garrity,
Legacy Scholarship Recipient 2008



Receiving the Army Women's Foundation Legacy Scholarship has aided my direction within my academic career and has helped me set overall career goals. The scholarship enabled me to finish my undergraduate degree in Geography, with an emphasis on Human Geography, which is the study of how people relate to their environment.

In May 2009, I graduated from The University of Kansas. Graduating in economic times such as these is a bit scary. As such, I chose to continue my studies here in Lawrence, where I am currently deciding upon my thesis topic. My interests lie in Geopolitics, and I would like to write about how social welfare states utilize their natural environment and the resources it provides. I have other interests as well, making me indecisive about my thesis topic. Currently, I am at my University's Geography Field Camp in Canon City, Colorado, working with the Bureau of Land Management and its "Healthy Forest Initiative."

Whatever I ultimately decide about my thesis, I am very grateful for the Army Women's Foundation and its investment in my future endeavors and research. *(Erin is the daughter of a Retired Army Servicewoman.)* ★

SGM Andrea Farmer,
Legacy Scholarship Recipient 2008



I am honored to be one of the first recipients of the Army Women's Foundation 2008 Legacy Scholarships. The award came at the perfect time and was essential in helping me to achieve my educational goals.

I recently received notification from the University of Oklahoma that I met all requirements to earn a dual degree in Human Relations and International Relations. In the past I relied on the Army Tuition Assistance to fund my education; however, the Army Education Center informed me that the Army would no longer fund dual degrees and it was my responsibility to pay for the remainder of my courses. I used the scholarship to pay for tuition, books and other fees, thus lightening my financial burden and allowing me to focus on the most important aspect of school: learning.

The Army Women's Foundation has inspired me to encourage Army women to set realistic educational goals, and I will try to give back to the Army community by mentoring Army female soldiers. Thank you for your generosity! ★

SFC Tamara Pallone,
Legacy Scholarship Recipient 2009



Scholarships are very important to anyone seeking a degree because they provide not only financial support, but also emotional support to the commitment in starting and finishing a degree.

Many of my family members and friends frowned on my decision to attend college on top of being a mother, being in the Army Reserves and working full time. But the U.S. Army Women's Foundation did not. They encouraged my educational commitment and acknowledged mine and other women's sacrifices to serve our country.

The Army Women's Foundation—an organization of individuals who understand what I am going through—was there by my side with a scholarship and emotional support. Many of the organization members never received a scholarship when they attended college and the road was tougher, but they vowed to help others, and I am lucky to be one. With money not on my list of stresses this semester, I can fully concentrate on other normal stresses in life, such as moving my mother into a nursing home, starting a new job and my second son starting the first grade. I thank the Army Women's Foundation and I plan to be a donor in the future. ★



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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2

Pleasant Hill, CA
Front Line to Home Front – Treating Military and Their Families: Recovery, Resiliency and Wellness Symposium
www.jfku.edu/frontline_main

October 3

Chino, CA
Women in Aviation – Planes of Fame Air Museum Wasp for Living History Flying Day
www.planesoffame.com/pressreleases.php?ID=102

October 5–7

Washington, D.C.
AUSA's 2009 Annual Meeting & Exposition
www.ausa.org

October 9–11

San Francisco, CA
The Coming Home Project's From Combat to Connection Retreat for Women Veterans
www.cominghomeproject.net/ComingHome/

October 22

Superior, WI
America's Women Warrior Expo
www.dva.state.wi.us/Docs/WomenWarrior1009.pdf

October 24

Randolph, MA
Annual Women Veterans' Luncheon
www.mass.gov/Eveterans/docs/luncheon_2009.doc

November 2–6

Salt Lake City, UT
U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association Annual Meeting
www.usawoa.org

November 10

Branson, MO
Women Veterans Rose Petal Memorial & Luncheon
www.bransonveterans.com

February 24–26, 2010

Fort Lauderdale, FL
AUSA Winter Symposium
www.ausa.org

Spring 2010

Fort Lee, VA
Museum Expansion Ribbon Cutting

May 13–15, 2010

Fort Lee, VA
2010 Museum Homecoming
www.awm.lee.army.mil

Spring 2010

Washington, D.C.
When Janey Comes Marching Home at The Women In Military Service For America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery

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An annual contribution of \$25 or more entitles you and/or your Friend to receive our semi-annual newsletter, notices of events and reunions, and program updates.

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_____ Bronze Plaque Memorial Fund* (Name of honoree: _____)
_____ Museum Support

*Individuals or organizations may establish a memorial fund for a specific person. The deceased individual's name is placed on a bronzed memorial plaque once the minimum \$100 donation is reached. The Memorial Plaque is dedicated every two years—the current plaque will run from Jan. 1, 2009–Dec. 31, 2010; you may add names of persons who died in an earlier period.

Person to be Acknowledged:

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Mail or fax this form to: U. S. Army Women's Foundation / P.O. Box 5030 / Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-0300 / **FAX:** (804) 734-3077

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FP Fall 09