



**2024**

**MILITARY SPOUSE**  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM

*Cohort  
Participants*

PRESENTING SPONSOR



# AIR FORCE Affiliated



**Adela Wilson** is married to an Air Force veteran and is a mom to three incredible young men. In 2019, Adela relaunched her career through participation in the Dog Tag Fellowship, where she completed 150 learning labs, a capstone project, and earned a Business Administration Certificate from Georgetown University School of Continuing Education. Adela has over 15 years of experience in recruitment, business development, and program management in the US and Europe. As a Senior Program Manager at Hiring Our Heroes, Adela helped over 800 Corporate Fellowship fellows transition to civilian careers since 2022. Adela is a Subject Matter Expert in military transition employment, and assists program participants in obtaining fellowships and launching their post-military careers.



**Ashley Love** is an active-duty military spouse, educator, and public health professional with over two decades of experience. As the State Epidemiologist at the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, she helped control the state's spread of disease by working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal & state entities. Ashley has played a key role in developing public health interventions to improve the health status of populations through communication, collaboration, and cooperation between federal, state, and local agencies and community stakeholders.



**Becky Harris** is an Air Force Key Spouse. Over eight assignments, spanning 17 years, she utilized her experiences as a military spouse and mother of two children, to help others build resilient families. As a school psychologist, Becky has continued sharing her expertise in and advocating for the unique needs of military connected students. She has been a member of a district level process action team, presented workshops to educators and families, and has played an integral role in fostering programs that focus on the needs of military connected students.



**Brittani Johnson** is a servant leader with a passion for advocating for others through service. Brittani is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator and she has a passion for providing compassionate and professional care and building an inclusive community for all residents within various long-term care VA facility settings. Brittani received her Master's of Public Health at The Brody School of Medicine where she participated in research focused on public health disparities. Additionally, Brittani volunteers in disadvantaged, low-income communities to help improve public health outcomes and prevent health inequities. Brittani enjoys connecting and spending time with other military spouses during her free time. Her goal is to become a key spouse and provide support to Air Force spouses in need.



**Christine Hinrichs** is a military spouse, marketing strategist, life and business coach for military spouses, mom of three, and coffee connoisseur. She is the founder and host of the Milspouse Mastermind Show, a podcast that empowers military spouses to get unstuck and craft a life with purpose. In 2023, Christine was named the AFI Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Spouse of the Year. She currently serves as Vice President of Events for the Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club and the Key Spouse Mentor for the 735th Air Mobility Squadron. Christine is a certified Air Force Resilience Training Assistant, and is passionate about helping military spouses trade frustration for fulfillment, and isolation for a life of impact. She believes that every day is better with a cup of good coffee.

# AIR FORCE Affiliated



**Heather Campbell** is an Air Force spouse, mom of three, family meal expert, and serial connector. While studying pediatric nutrition in graduate school, she met and married her husband. However, traditional employment has proved challenging in remote locations while growing a young family. As a military spouse, Heather has leveraged the connections, networking, and volunteer opportunities in the local and national community to not only continue to grow in her career, but also to cultivate her passion for serving fellow military families. Heather believes the foundation of mission readiness and family resilience starts at home through intentional relationship building around the meals together. Over the years, through continuous connection opportunities, Heather's expertise in pediatric nutrition, experience as a young military family, and employment history have helped her stand out as one of the leading experts in the complexity of food insecurity in the military. Today, Heather serves in a variety of advisory and SME roles to multiple organizations in the fight against military food insecurity.



**Jenni Kain** currently volunteers as the Lead Spouse for the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) Women's Initiatives Team (WIT), overseeing their "Spouse Inclusivity" Mission Area Work Group (MAWG) and is the only volunteer spouse in WIT Leadership across the force. Having served as a Key Spouse under several commanders across two different Major Commands and her time as an enlisted ANG spouse and an Active Duty officer's spouse gives her a unique perspective on USAF families' challenges. In 2019, Jenni was recognized with AFSOC's Key Spouse of the Year award and the opportunity to teach the Key Spouse Program (KSP) at AFSOC's Command Course. She was selected for Air University's Leadership Development Course as the first spouse to participate in their capstone project. Throughout 2022-23, Jenni spearheaded the KSP Reform LOE, developing a case study and proof of concept to mold the KSP to improve AFSOC's military family readiness.



**Jennifer Tyler** is an attorney with a Bachelor's in Journalism and a Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma. She is passionate about building organizations and positively influencing her military and local communities. The military lifestyle has afforded her diverse professional and volunteer opportunities. She previously clerked for a Minnesota district court judge and developed strong leadership skills through her work on political campaigns and in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. She has served as a school volunteer, on spouses boards, and as an Air Force Key Spouse. Jennifer lives with her husband and four children, and enjoys traveling, following news and current events, podcasts, and personality tests.



**Karin Tidgewell's** over 20 years of time spent on military installations around the world identified issues of critical concern to military families. She found that her background with legislative processes and strategic communication helped give voice to these challenges. Karin has advocated on behalf of military families to military leadership as well as, national, state, and local officials. Her advocacy for policy changes include: military children and spouse education, medical care, mental health, resiliency, housing, employment, and food insecurity. As a doctoral student in public policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Karin researched ways to reduce the negative impact of moving on military children's education led to additional policy recommendations benefiting civilian student populations who also move frequently. She works to ensure that military family experiences are heard, understood, and applied to the creation of policies affecting them at all levels of government.

# AIR FORCE Affiliated



**Samantha Domingo**, MBA is a Staff, Military Relations & Critical Programs Talent Strategist at Lockheed Martin Space, the President for The KEY Community & a cofounder of #MilCityMeetup in San Antonio, TX. She is a proud Air Force Veteran Spouse of 17 years. With over 11 years of experience in talent acquisitions, human resources & program development she is a recognized leader specializing in Military, Cleared & Technical Recruiting, Talent Branding, Employee Resource Group Leadership, Event Management & Diversity & Military Hiring initiatives and program development within the Big Tech and Aerospace and Defense Industries. She has sourced/recruited talent for organizations like Rackspace Technology, USAA, Amazon Web Services, Twitter and Lockheed Martin Space. Samantha's dedication to competitive employment for the military community has led to over 200 speaking engagements, panels, events and the receipt of multiple awards, to include the prestigious Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse Volunteer Impact Award, We are the Mighty - Mighty 25: Influential People Supporting the Military Community, Amazon's Military Spouse Icon Award and the JS Foundations 2023 Veteran Volunteer Award.



**Turana Mammadova** is a naturalized American who has been a military spouse since 2014. Currently stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Doha, Qatar, Turana first took on the role of General Manager for the American Embassy Employee Association. In this position, she focused on providing support and services to the American community assigned to the embassy. She has been selected for the State Department's Expanded Professional Association Program and will soon begin her new role as the OMS for the Afghan unit. Turana has also been entrusted with the task of rebuilding and reestablishing the Embassy Doha Employee Association to better serve the embassy's community. She actively participated in an international military spouses group and provided guidance on immigration issues and highlighted job opportunities, ensuring that others had the resources they needed to thrive. Her commitment to community building and her ability to bring people together were evident in her efforts.



**Alicia Taylor-Byers** is an Air Force spouse with a background in social work and congregational ministry with an MDIV from Princeton Theological Seminary. Alicia has been an active member of Air Force spouse clubs, has volunteered at her children's schools through membership in the PTO, and has been active in local church life. Alicia is looking forward to the opportunity to learn more pathways to offer support, advocacy, and compassionate community to fellow military spouses and their families. She is also eager to dig into ideas addressing military spouse loneliness, obstacles to military spouse career advancement, and creative ways for military spouses to feel more anchored and rooted in the local communities to which they are assigned.

# COAST GUARD Affiliated



**Andrea Kunze** has been a part of the military community since she was 18 and joined the US Coast Guard. Andi met her active-duty husband while serving. Over the last 13 years, she has been able to cultivate her own career within the engineering field, while also frequently moving around the country. The Kunzes have one young daughter. Andi values the close-knit community with each of the new duty stations. While stationed in WA state, she volunteered for five years assisting with the Washington Alliance for Better Schools after-school STEM program teaching elementary school children basic engineering problem solving skills. Andi strives to provide one-on-one support for others in similar situations when they find themselves far from family members, especially those with small children.

# ARMY Affiliated



**Alison Portis**, MS, CPT is a certified wellness professional with a demonstrated history in the mind-body connection, biofeedback, fitness training, injury prevention, and outdoor education. Alison specializes in teaching the importance of getting outside and all of nature's benefits regarding healing optimization and health promotion. Alison is passionate about developing a sense of connection among individuals, and empowering them to be resilient, mindful, and holistic in their approach to a healthy lifestyle.



**Brinay Prashain Prasai** attended Virginia Commonwealth University for her undergraduate education, and is currently attending Western Governors University, pursuing a master's of Information Technology Management. She has worked as an AmeriCorps Member in Washington, D.C., a legislative intern for a MD senator, and most recently, as Technical Director Support and Next Level Leader Program Member for the Defense Information Systems Agency. Brinay enjoys exploring new languages and cultures and giving back to the community through volunteering. She has studied multiple languages, most notably Korean. She has attended the San Antonio King Sejong Institute for three years, participating in speech contests and winning the noraebang (singing) contest. Brinay has volunteered with the USO, the Washington English Center, and started a social group called the English Language Exchange- in which she volunteered her time as an English conversation partner.



**Craig Wymer** is the son of an Army veteran and is an Army spouse. Since 2022, Craig has been the NC/SC Program Manager for the Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program. Craig provides military career support to over 300 transitioning service members, military spouses and veterans annually. Craig previously served 2016-2017 as a Human Relations Commissioner for the City of Fayetteville and is a graduate of Leadership Wilmington, NC. Craig is passionate about animal welfare and has volunteered for the Savannah Humane Society, Eglin AFB Animal Welfare Group, Fayetteville Animal Protection Society and Southeast German Shepherd Rescue. Additionally, Craig volunteered for Hire Heroes USA from 2016-2019 by organizing fundraising events and supporting military spouses with their job search. Craig's previous work with the military included supporting the Preservation of the Force and Family (POTFF) contract for the Army and Air Force as a Strength and Conditioning Coach.



**Cynthia Fierro Giesecke**, a dynamic Army spouse, demonstrates an unwavering commitment to advocating for military families, particularly in financial readiness. As a critical financial assistance caseworker at Operation Homefront, she aided over a hundred military families facing overdue bills or critical needs, leveraging skills gained through The FINRA Foundation Military Spouse Fellowship program. Cynthia dedicated over 1,000 hours to providing financial counseling and education through various programs, earning accolades such as Fort Huachuca Military Spouse of the Year. Additionally, she served as a Constituent Services Representative and Community Outreach Liaison for a U.S. House Representative, addressing financial hardship cases and fostering awareness of resources for military families. With a background in Biology, a Master's in Education, and a Master of Public Leadership, Cynthia is equipped with skills for success in public office, congressional affairs, campaign management, advocacy, and civic leadership.



**Daphne Graskewicz-Prado** is a Senior Program Manager for Aetna and the co-founder of the Kinslow TUBB4A Leukodystrophy Foundation, as well as an Army Spouse and mama to three. Over her eight years at Aetna, she has advocated for military spouse hiring initiatives and helped refer and place dozens of spouses into remote roles. Her foundation was started in 2023 after the diagnosis of her two year old daughter, Harlow, with a rare disease with no current treatment or cure. With a goal of raising two million dollars to pioneer gene editing tool to save her daughter and the nearly 200 kids like her, Daphne is seeking to hone her leadership skills to advocate and be a voice for change and action for both the rare disease community and military spouse community that she is passionate about. Profiled by both CVS and President of Aetna Brian Kane, Daphne is described as some one who is "continuously moving mountains as a colleague, mother, and spouse".

# ARMY Affiliated



**Elisheva McManus** has been an Army spouse for 20 years. Eli first became a military spouse in 2004 as a 17 year old newlywed to her high-school sweetheart, Steven Melton. They had over six years of marriage, two lovely daughters, a couple deployments, injuries, and military experiences and memories together before his death in 2011. Eli remarried in 2018 to her Green Beret husband and currently supports him in his battalion command at Fort Sill. She volunteers three days a week with SOS and ACS. Eli is always looking to deepen her education and experience in supporting community.



**Glenn Revell** is deeply involved in the San Antonio business, education, and nonprofit community. He is a graduate of Leadership San Antonio Class 44, Steering Committee Member for Leadership San Antonio Class 47, a graduate of Leadership SAISD Class of 2022 and the Manager of United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County's Emerging Leaders. He is currently the President of the Hardin-Simmons University Board of Young Associates, sits on the Angelo State University Recreation and Sports Leadership Advisory Committee, the Volunteer Committee for the Valero Alamo Bowl and serves as the Honorary Commander for the US Air Force Special Warfare Human Performance Support Group located at Lackland AFB. He can be found coaching at EnergyX Fitness in Hemisfair, broadcasting high school football games, and as an aspiring improv player at theaters around town.



**Heather Hathaway Miranda, M.A.**, stands as a beacon of resilience, advocating tirelessly for justice and equity across borders and boundaries. With over two decades of academic expertise and a profound commitment to amplifying the voices of the marginalized, Heather emerges as a fierce scholar-activist and compassionate servant leader. Her journey, marked by triumphs and tribulations, embodies the strength of the human spirit. She has fearlessly confronted oppression, utilizing her bilingualism and biculturalism as powerful tools for change. Through Hathaway Miranda LLC, Heather channels her passion into transformative speaking engagements, workshops, and consultations, catalyzing healing and empowerment. Her impact extends far beyond academia, touching the lives of survivors of domestic violence and advocating for Indigenous Peoples' rights. With unwavering dedication, she navigates personal challenges while excelling academically and nurturing her role as a parent and military spouse. Heather's story is one of resilience, courage, and unwavering commitment to building a more just and equitable world.



**Laura Bingham** is founder and owner of Laura Bingham Creative, specializing in graphic design and marketing solutions for nonprofits and businesses, small and large. With nearly two decades of experience, she thrives on building brands with the right creative solution with everything from initial conception and research to visual execution and delivery. Her true passion is creating positive change and value for her clients and their brand—and seeing them make a difference in their communities.



**Lauren McNight**, a Career Coach at Hire Heroes USA, assists veterans and military spouses by providing the tools to enable them to find secure employment in the civilian workforce. She has been a military spouse for over 10 years and has gained over eight years of professional experience in guiding clients throughout their job search, providing administrative support, coordinating recruitment, conducting interviews, and providing individualized training and mentorship to new employees. Her passion is to help others achieve their career goals and overcome the challenges and uncertainties of the military lifestyle. She prides herself in building a strong rapport with her clients, promoting trust, and serving as a friend, coach, and mentor wherever possible. Lauren believes that collaboration, communication, and innovation are the keys to success that help us develop and implement best practices and strategies to support one another.

# ARMY Affiliated



**Lena Lewis** is the daughter of an Army veteran and military spouse of over 16 years. Currently she serves as the Soldier Family Readiness Group Leader for my husband's unit for going on 14 years. Lena also served as a Brand Ambassador for Vets4Warriors and volunteered with Operation Homefront assisting with Christmas toys and school supplies for military children. Lena has helped homeless soldiers and veterans obtain housing, assisted with legal aid while working for a Veterans Legal Clinic and is currently the North Florida Survivor Outreach Support Coordinator for the Army and National Guard. Lena has been serving the military and veterans community for a great portion of her professional career. She states, "it's not a job for me it's truly my passion." In addition, Lena supports and serves her church, her community and has served on Board of Directors for several veterans organizations.



**Malia Cacheiro** is a public servant of Pierce County, Washington. She currently works in special education as a para educator. Malia has served and counseled families across western Washington working in the field of case management. She holds a B.A. in Sociology and graduated summa cum laude from California Baptist University. During her time as a clinical coordinator she responded to critical incidents, worked with community resources and law enforcement. She has served as a Rape Crisis Center advocate for the Riverside area in California. This is where she learned the inner workings of empathy and advocacy for victims.



**Megan Harless** is an Army Veteran, military spouse, mom to three amazing children, and is passionate about educating others on the regulations and policies of PCS while working on reform efforts to streamline and simplify the process for military families. Her family has PCS'd 10 times in the past 15 years which has led her to her passion of improving the process. Since the fall of 2018, Megan has worked with members of Congress, US Transportation Command, and members of the moving industry to identify key pain points of the process to draft solutions to be implemented for families. During this time as she has become the leading Military Spouse PCS expert as noted in her receiving the 2020 Military.com Spouse Changemaker of the Year award.



**Rachael Androski** is a dedicated relationship builder and passionate advocate for bringing healing art practices to all. Rachael has a BFA in studio art from FIT in NYC and MA in education from Texas A&M. With over 20 years as a teaching artist, she has overseen impactful art programs, making a significant difference in the lives of participants and their families. As a military spouse, Rachael has served as a K-12 art teacher at various duty stations across the United States, including stations in New York, Texas, Hawaii, Alaska, and Washington. She has witnessed the challenges faced by diverse communities and is committed to ensuring they have the support they need. Rachael finds joy in creative projects, specializing in theatrical set design, thriving on creative challenges and building strong relationships.



**Wykita Burns** is a healthcare administrator, board certified coach, and passionate volunteer. She has over 15 years of experience in healthcare administration. She is committed to ensuring quality access to care and fostering a collaborative environment. In 2023, Wykita's professional efforts were recognized as she was awarded the Civilian Service Commendation Medal for leadership, professionalism, and commitment to excellence. Wykita has a passion for supporting the military community by advocating for multiple causes including military spouse employment, providing mentorship and invaluable assistance to military families. Wykita embodies true leadership in every aspect of her professional and volunteer accomplishments.

# NAVY Affiliated



**Britni Miltner** was a military spouse for 16 years and has a passion for military spouse empowerment. During those 16 years, she served on the board for various spouse support groups, acted as a Mentor at MSAN, e-Mentor, created MilSpouse Resource, and co-created MilSpouse CoffeeHouse, a podcast for military spouses. She earned the honor of being named Gables Residential's Corporate Office Associate of the year in 2015, and in 2019 she was named the AFI Military Spouse of the year NSA MidSouth Base Recipient. Britni has been working remotely since 2009, and was selected to participate in Gables Residential's Leadership Institute in 2019 due to the success of her department under her leadership. In addition, she earned a full scholarship to participate in #GirlsClub, a Sales Leadership course, earning the "Certified Protege" in 2022.



**Carla Vasquez-Angeles** currently works as Behavioral Health Services Manager and is focused on providing high quality behavioral health management and mental health support services for individuals throughout Texas. She has over 15 years of experience working in social services agencies at local county, state, and federal level aimed at supporting service members, veterans, and local community. She has worked with Department of Navy Fleet and Family Support Center and held positions of Education Services Facilitator and Clinical Counselor with Family Advocacy Program. Carla's experience has allowed her to work to support veterans facing food and housing instability, provide mental health counseling services to service members and family members who are survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Carla volunteers her time to advocate, assist, and provide peer based support to other families in the local community with accessing special education services for their child utilizing personal knowledge gained as a EMFP family member.



**Cassandra Hert**, a seasoned professional in the social services field, moved to Florida in 2020, following her family's relocation due to military service. In 2022, she completed her Master's in Psychology, and she is currently overseeing all behavioral health and social services programs at Angel Kids P.A. With over a decade of experience spanning private, nonprofit, and government sectors, Cassandra brings a wealth of knowledge to her role. Passionate about effecting positive change, she played a pivotal role in establishing a military workgroup at Northeast Florida's largest pediatric business, spanning 44,000 patients and one of the largest military communities nationwide. This initiative resulted in comprehensive training company-wide, focusing on military culture, veteran suicide prevention, and improved access to behavioral and mental health services for military families in the region. Cassandra is committed to creating change in her community and beyond.



**Gina Bernier** is a US Navy Veteran and spouse. She currently serves as the Ombudsman for her husband's command. She is originally from Reno, Nevada. She has been married to her husband for seven years and has learned to navigate the spouse side of the military. She served in the Navy for seven years before that. She has been a dental hygienist for 24 years. She loves to spend time with her husband and dogs, garden, read, cook/bake, volunteer in the community, and travel!



**Jacey Eckhart** CPCC is the Transition Master Coach for Military.com's Veteran Employment Project and the founder of SeniorMilitaryTransition.com. She has helped more than 16,000 new military veterans and spouses find their first civilian job by decoding the secrets of the job hunt in her unique transition master classes. With her training in military sociology, Jacey has designed and presented workshops for active duty members and their families for more than 20 years. Eckhart has been featured as a military family subject matter expert by the New York Times, NBC Dateline, MSNBC, CBS Morning News, CNN, NPR, the Washington Post, the Washington Times, Woman's Day magazine and many others. She is a member of the American Sociological Association and holds coaching certificates from the Professional Association of Career Coaches and the American Society for Training and Developing. She is an Air Force brat, an active-duty Navy wife and an Army mom who has a soft place in her heart for all who have served.



# NAVY Affiliated



**Jenny Lynne Stroup** is a writer, blogger, podcaster, mental health and recovery advocate, and the 2022 AFI Naval Station Norfolk Spouse of the Year. As a freelance writer, Jenny Lynne uses stories to bridge the gap between the civilian and military communities. She spends her time at each duty station fostering community. She believes that being vulnerable and sharing her story empowers others to do the same. Jenny Lynne received her Bachelor's degree in Marketing Management from Virginia Tech and her Master's degree in Elementary Education from Old Dominion University. Jenny Lynne is currently the Deputy Director for the Military Spouse Programs team at Hiring our Heroes focusing on sustainable military spouse employment. Prior to this, she served as the Outreach Coordinator for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at WVSD, advocating for military families' mental health. She also taught elementary school and spent her time working with several military organizations and spouse groups including United Through Reading and the USO of Metropolitan New York.



**Joanne Griffin** is a seasoned Naval Special Warfare Spouse of more than 21 years, business owner, Ombudsman, mother of three, proud American and chronic volunteer within the SEAL team community as well as other charitable organizations. She is also an event specialist and booking agent for military speakers. She uses her experiences, skills and relationships to better serve our nation's veterans. Joanne's passion is assisting veterans who are transitioning out of service in the Dallas Fort Worth area by introducing them to amazing business leaders who help them find meaningful work post service.



**Jess Mathis** is currently founding her nonprofit in response to the overwhelming need for advocacy services across Rhode Island. Her motto is, "All children should be seen, heard, believed, and protected." Jess currently serves in these roles: Leadership and Education in Domestic Violence Prevention, Speaker and Advocate with Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships (SOAR), 1 in 3 Campaign for DV Awareness Month, Family Court Awareness Month Coordinator for RI, Special Education Policy Development and ADA Rights Compliance, Empowering Connections with Veterans and their Families in RI Communities. Jess was the 2018 Military Spouse of the Year for Naval Station Newport.



**Lindsay Livingston** is mission-driven leader, advocate, and strategic planner. She is a seasoned military spouse who is passionate about serving the community and leaving a lasting impact. She currently works as a Project Manager for Red Duke Strategies, whose mission is to improve the lives of Veterans, Service Members, and their families by bringing innovation into the systems that support them. When stationed in Oceanside, CA Lindsay was an Outreach Coordinator for The Stephen A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at WVSD advocating for the military community to get access to high-quality mental health services. She also researched, developed, and implemented a plan to establish and build relationships with local and state government officials as part of the enduring presence and delivery of service to post-9/11 veterans and family members. Lindsay successfully started a new Mothers Support Group on Navy Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when, as a new mother, she discovered there was not a successful way to ensure new mothers stationed away from families felt welcomed and supported.



**Nicole Rawlinson** has worked to support communities, youth, and families for over a decade in nonprofits, museums, libraries, and philanthropic foundations. She leads with her passion for stewarding relationships and connecting communities through creative approaches to service and impact. As an inaugural fellow of the Blue Star Families DEPLOY Fellowship program, Nicole built and delivered a national program to connect military families to the outdoors through a partnership with the National Park Service, growing the program to support families in five chapter locations and across the country and leading to continued expansion of the program. Today, Nicole manages a portfolio of grants supporting connecting youth to inspiring outdoor experiences through education and exploration in national parks as the Senior Manager of Youth Programs at the National Park Foundation. She is proud to be a Navy Spouse of over 12 years and mother to two amazing children.

# NAVY Affiliated



**Olivia Burley** is the Washington State Military Spouse Liaison, part of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). She is the first state Military Spouse Liaison in the nation and initiated the position in 2021. Olivia serves as an advocate for military families and spouses to policy makers and legislators, leads partner collaborations focused on employment, childcare, and license/credential portability for military spouses, and analyzes data and research. In 2023 Olivia authored a report on childcare for military families through a first-in-the-nation collaborative workgroup comprised of federal, state, and local partners. She is a frequent speaker on military and Veteran family quality of life topics. Olivia outreaches to military spouses and partners to connect them to resources and provide trainings on a variety of topics, including Military Spouse Cultural Competency. She has been a military spouse for 21 years and is the daughter of dual-military parents. Olivia previously worked for Operation Homefront and the American Red Cross. She is an active community volunteer and serves on the Advisory Board of the Blue Star Families Puget Sound Chapter.



**Ryan Brennan** has a passion for advocating for our military families. As a spouse for more than 15 years, she has volunteered with Family Readiness Groups, been a Navy Command Ombudsman for five different commands, has served as Ombudsman Regional Assembly chairs, a Marine Corps Family Readiness Officer, and has held positions in Submarine Spouse organizations, as well as chairing the planning committees for three charity auctions benefiting submarine and military families and organizations. She is also a CNIC Certified Ombudsman Trainer. Ryan has been honored as the recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award. She is a graduate of the College of Charleston with a B.A. in Political Science. Ryan is a certified personal trainer with a passion for fitness and wellness, who loves experiencing new cultures and embracing the new and unknown of each new duty station.

# MARINE COPRS Affiliated



**Anne Dang**, a dedicated military veteran with eight years of service in the Marine Corps. Anne is currently serving as a caregiver at home to her combat-disabled veteran husband. In her current role as a Salesforce Consultant, Anne thrives as a Project Manager, specializing in unraveling complex challenges and devising creative solutions to enhance team efficiency. Her extensive experience includes directing information systems at Operation Gratitude, spearheading education programs at Workshops for Warriors, and designing curriculum at PyschArmor Institute. Driven by a passion for making meaningful change, Anne brings over seven years of impactful contributions to the nonprofit sector. With a wealth of skills and experiences, she envisions channeling her dedication into her next endeavor within the nonprofit sector.



**Maria Juliette Ramberg de Ruyter** specializes in executive support and organizational management as the Senior Executive Assistant to the Founder and CEO at CodePath.org. Having collaborated with top executives and government officials in the US and abroad, Juliette leverages her unique insights to bridge the gap between the foreign-born military spouse community and the workforce. After immigrating to the US from Sweden, Juliette founded the Foreign Military Spouse Association, an offline and online community of over 4,000 members dedicated to empower foreign-born spouses of US service members. She is a strong believer in peer support and personally mentors military spouses through American Corporate Partners.

# MARINE COPRS Affiliated



**Megan Tryon** is a native of North Carolina who currently resides in New Orleans, Louisiana. She attended Meredith College where she graduated with a B.A. in Psychology. Megan went on to attend East Carolina University as a NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative Scholar, and she earned her MSW with a focus in child and family services. Megan possesses an extensive background of working with civilian and military populations in a variety of settings, including family preservation, evidenced-based psychotherapy, military research, and program management. As a military spouse and the granddaughter of a Navy Sailor, Megan has a passion for working with military families and honoring those who have selflessly served their country. In her spare time, Megan serves on the board of her local military spouse organization and enjoys participating in events in her local community.



**Meghann Boyd** currently serves as a Business Strategy Analyst within USAA Bank's Omnichannel Sales and Service Organization. She joined USAA through the Hiring Our Heroes Military Fellowship program in January 2023. Before USAA, Meghann had 12 years of professional experience owning a small business and working as a management consultant for the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA). She owned and operated a boutique fitness studio, Studio Barre Bird Rock, in La Jolla, California where she successfully led the franchise through Covid-19. Prior to small business ownership, Meghann worked as Retirement Plan Consultant for the NADA helping members financially plan for their future. At an early age, Meghann developed an appreciation, respect, and love for the military community. Growing up with a father in the Marine Corps, and now the spouse of an active-duty Marine, she experienced the military family lifestyle and all the unique challenges and rewards that come with it.



**Tiffany Afflalo-Williams** is the Founder of Pivoted Innovations Therapy and Development Services. PITDS specializes in psychotherapy, case management and nutritional integrative medicine alternatives for military clientele. As the spouse of a Post 9/11 veteran, and mother to a United States Marine, she believes in empowering military spouses to nurture their purpose. Tiffany obtained a Certification in Women's Entrepreneurship from Cornell University, and received a citation for Academic Achievement from the State of Oklahoma. She provides pro-bono services to military clientele through Give an Hour. She mentors aspiring therapist as a alumnae of Alpha Chi, and advocated for mental health expansion on HBCU campuses through grant work with Morehouse School of Medicine. She was awarded for her advocacy of Oklahoma City youth in the Upward Bound program.



**Tracy Steele** is a program manager with the Military Spouse Fellowships at Hiring Our Heroes. She is a Certified Professional Resume Writer and holds over six years' experience in career coaching and resource referral to help military spouses find meaningful employment. A military spouse and advocate of over 23 years, Tracy holds a passion and expertise in helping military spouses realize their marketable skills from nontraditional career paths and teaches strategies for success to find professional fulfillment. Tracy also supports and elevates the voice of the military spouse and veteran communities through volunteer roles on nonprofit boards such as the Council for Military Spouse Clubs and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. Tracy was named the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year 2020.

# SPACE FORCE Affiliated



**Anna Spafford** volunteers as the Communications Lead at Exceptional Families of the Military (EFM). In this role, Anna assists in using data to bring about systemic changes to legislation surrounding EFMP and special needs for military families. Anna is a Key Spouse volunteer at Vandenberg SFB, where she won Key Spouse of the Year for the 30th Operations group in 2016 at Vandenberg AFB. Anna is graduating with a bachelor's in English with an Emphasis in Professional Writing in February of 2024 from Grand Canyon University. Anna is dedicated to supporting and advocating for military families in quality of life issues and building strong communities. She believes in the power of military spouses working together and supporting each other to bring about change.



**Leslie Shelton Wightman** is a native of Richmond, Virginia and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University majoring in Business Information Systems. Leslie began her professional career as a Data Analyst and Database Administrator gaining over five years of experience progressing in the IT industry. Leslie married Timothy Wightman in the summer of 2005 and embarked on the adventurous journey as a military spouse. Leslie stepped away from the workforce for over a decade due to frequent military moves and a growing family. During which time Leslie served her military community in various volunteer roles with enlisted spouses' clubs, COMPASS, MMOPS, and serving as Ombudsman. Leslie reentered the workforce in 2018 through a Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse Fellowship gaining experience as a Recruiter in the Cyber Government Contracting industry. Wanting to return to her IT career roots, Leslie launched her career in the Salesforce industry with her first (Marketing Cloud Email Specialist) certification in the Fall of 2021 and has since earned two Salesforce certifications (Salesforce Certified Administrator/Slack Certified Administrator) during her over two years of experience as a Salesforce Professional.

# NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVES Affiliated



**Maritza Arroyo Mac Lean** is the Manager of Client Relationships and Operational Strategy at Mediagistic. A dedicated military spouse, she transitioned to remote work when her husband received orders at Tyndall Air Force Base two years ago. Engaging actively in her community, Maritza serves as the Publicity Chair for the Tyndall Spouses Club. Committed to community service, she actively participates in various events and initiatives. Maritza's professional role at Mediagistic involves managing client relationships and operational strategies, showcasing her expertise in both client engagement and strategic planning. Her adaptability and passion for making a positive impact resonate in her remote work setup and community involvement.



**Rebecca Morgan** is a visionary leader and a results-oriented problem solver with exceptional strategic thinking and communication skills. For more than two decades, Morgan has helped some of the world's foremost leaders navigate their respective fields through strategic planning, financial management decisions, media crises, brand development, and helped them position themselves for their desired future. From the American Association of Engineering Societies, to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, Rebecca Morgan has helped organizations and their leadership teams gain the type of recognition they deserve and tell the right story, at the right time, for the right audience. For her clients, Morgan provides sound business acumen, proven decision making, and management skills to lead her value-driven clients. Rebecca identifies, creates, and implements strategic plans to actualize organizational goals. She develops partnerships with organizational stakeholders, coalition partners, and other relevant parties to advance our clients' objectives.