



National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues

June 20-22, 2008

Sponsored by
Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Women Veterans
Employee Education System (EES)
VA Learning University

Co-sponsored by
American Legion Auxiliary
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Disabled American Veterans
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Goals:

The Summit will provide women veterans, women veterans service providers, Federal and State agency representatives, legislative staffers, and other interested individuals:

- a forum in which to review issues raised in Summit 2004;
- VA's progress on these issues;
- identify and discuss current initiatives for women veterans;
- identify issues of concern to the women veteran community;
- develop recommendations to address concerns through legislative, programmatic and outreach activities; and
- develop a plan for continuous progress on women veterans issues.

Objectives:

1. Update participants on current Federal initiatives addressing women veterans.
2. Identify issues of current concern to the women veteran's community.
3. Prepare a formal document incorporating the issues and concerns of the participants. This document will be distributed to VA program officials, other Federal and State agencies, the U.S. Congress, veterans' service organizations, and veteran service providers for consideration in organizational strategic planning activities.

Agenda

Thursday, June 19, 2008

3:00 - 5:30 pm **Orientation for Facilitators**

5:00 - 7:00 pm **Early Registration**

Friday, June 20, 2008

7:00 - 8:15 am **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

8:15 am • **Welcome**

Irene Trowell-Harris, RN, EdD
Director, Center for Women Veterans
Department of Veterans Affairs

• **Presentation of the Colors**
Joint Armed Forces Color Guard

• **National Anthem**

• **Pledge of Allegiance**

• **Invocation**
Reverend Veronica Graves
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

8:30 am **Plenary Session**

Moderators:
Irene Trowell-Harris, RN, EdD
Director, Center for Women Veterans
Betty Moseley Brown, EdD
Associate Director, Center for Women Veterans

- **Opening Remarks**
 - *The Honorable James B. Peake*
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 - *The Honorable Michael J. Kussman*
Under Secretary for Health
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

Friday, June 20, 2008

- *Michael Walcoff*
Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits
Veterans Benefits Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
- *The Honorable William F. Tuerk*
Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

9:45 am **Remembrance Ceremony**

10:00 am **Break**

10:15 am **Overview of Summit Agenda**

VA Panel on Updates: What's New Since 2004

- Women Veterans' Healthcare –
Patricia Hayes, PhD
- Mental Health –
Antoinette Zeiss, PhD
- Homeless Programs –
Pete Dougherty
- Benefits –
Keith Pedigo
- Employment –
Greg Alleyne
- VA/DoD-OEF/OIF Initiatives for Returning Veterans –
Karen Malebranche
- Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS)
Mary Nelson, PhD

11:30 am **Tour Exhibits**

Noon **Luncheon**

Sponsored by:
AMVETS
Disabled American Veterans
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Speaker: *Vernice G. Armour*
Former U. S. Marine Corps Captain

Sponsored by TriWest

TriWest Healthcare Alliance partners with the Department of Defense to do "Whatever It Takes" to support the health care needs of 2.9 million members of America's military family.

Friday, June 20, 2008

1:30 pm Tour Exhibits

2:00 pm **Concurrent Workshop Sessions I**
(*Select one session*)

**1. Challenges During and After Deployment for
Guard/Reserve Women Veterans**

Facilitator: *Commander Rene Campos, USN, Retired*
VA Advisory Committee on Women
Veterans

Moderator: • *Marianne Mathewson-Chapman, PhD*
Major General, U. S. Army (Ret.), Army National Guard
OEF/OIF Outreach Office for Guard/Reserve and Families
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

- Speakers:**
- *Colonel Gloria Maser*
U. S. Army Reserve
 - *Technical Sergeant Susan Mayer*
Air Force Reserve
Military Equal Opportunity Advisor
Washington, DC
 - *Brigadier General Deborah McManus*
Deputy Adjutant General
Alaska Air National Guard
 - *Major Cynthia Rasmussen*
U. S. Army Reserves, Combat Stress Team
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 - *Second Lieutenant Tulsı Tamayo*
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 - *Leanne Weldin*
Army National Guard
Veterans Service Center Manager
Pittsburgh VA Regional Office
Veterans Benefits Administration
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**2. Military Sexual Trauma/
Readjustment Counseling**

Facilitator: *First Sergeant Pamela J. B. Cypert, USA, Retired*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Friday, June 20, 2008

Moderator: • **Susan McCutcheon, RN, EdD**
*Director, Family Services, Women's Mental Health and
Military Sexual Trauma
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*

Speakers: • **Stephanie Cooper**
*Senior National Service Officer
Disabled American Veterans*

• **Rachel Kimerling, PhD**
*Staff Psychologist, VA Palo Alto Health System
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*

• **Amy Marcotte**
*Team Leader, Sanford Maine Vet Center
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*

3. Valuing Diversity (Friday Only)

Facilitators: **The Honorable Mary Antoinette (Toni) Lawrie**
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
Chief Master Sergeant Helena R. Carapellatti
USAF, Retired
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Speakers: • **Regina T. Akers, PhD**
*Archivist, Oral Historian, and
Specialist on Minorities in the Military
Naval Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard*

• **Lucretia McClenney**
*Director, Center for Minority Veterans
Department of Veterans Affairs*

4. Environmental Exposure Concerns: WWII to Present (Friday Only)

Facilitators: **The Honorable Brenda Moore, PhD**
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
Marlene Kramel
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Speakers: • **Mark A. Brown, PhD**
*Director, Environmental Agents Service
Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*

- **Tom Pamperin**
*Deputy Director, Compensation and Pension Service
Veterans Benefits Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*

5. What the Health Data Show

Facilitator: *Colonel Jacqueline Morgan, USAF, Retired
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans*

- Speaker:**
- **Patricia Hayes, PhD**
*Chief Consultant, Women Veterans Health
Strategic Health Care Group
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*

6. VA Benefits and Services

Facilitators: *Chief Petty Officer Kathleen Janoski, USN, Retired
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
Cheryl Rawls
Ex-officio, VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans,
Veterans Benefits Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*

- Speakers:**
- **Carolyn Bryant**
*Lead, Women Veterans Program Coordinator
Compensation and Pension Service
Veterans Benefits Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*
 - **Blondell Robinson**
*Lead, Women Veterans Program Coordinator
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Veterans Benefits Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*
 - **Deputy Field Directors &
Lead Women Veterans Program Managers**
*Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs*

7. Playing by the Unwritten Rules: Personal and Professional Influence

Facilitators: *Technical Sergeant Barbara Pittman, USAF, Retired
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
Celia Szelwach
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans*

Friday, June 20, 2008

Speaker: • *Indigo Johnson*
CEO, Careers in Transition, Inc.

8. VA and Families: The Silent Connection: During Transition Years 1-5 (Friday Only)

Speakers: • *Velma Hart*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
• *Joanna Truitt*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

3:30 pm **Break**

3:50 pm **Concurrent Workshop Sessions II**
(*Select one session*)

1. Challenges During and After Deployment for Guard/Reserve Women Veterans

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Veterans

Moderator: • *Marianne Mathewson-Chapman, PhD*
Major General, U. S. Army (Ret.), Army National Guard
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• *Second Lieutenant Tulsi Tamayo*
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Hawaii Army National Guard

- **Leanne Weldin**
*Army National Guard
Veterans Service Center Manager
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2. Military Sexual Trauma/Readjustment Counseling

Facilitator: *First Sergeant Pamela J. B. Cypert, USA, Retired
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Moderator: • **Susan McCutcheon, RN, EdD**
*Director, Family Services, Women's Mental Health and
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- Speakers:**
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*Senior National Service Officer
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 - **Rachel Kimerling, PhD**
*Staff Psychologist, VA Palo Alto Health System
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 - **Amy Marcotte**
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Speakers:

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Compensation and Pension Service
Veterans Benefits Administration
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- **Blondell Robinson**
Lead, Women Veterans Program Coordinator
Compensation and Pension Service
Veterans Benefits Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

Friday, June 20, 2008

- *Deputy Field Directors & Lead Women Veterans Program Managers*
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

7. Playing by the Unwritten Rules: Personal and Professional Influence

Facilitators: *Technical Sergeant Barbara Pittman, USAF, Retired*
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Speaker: • *Indigo Johnson*
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VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
• *Joanna Truitt*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

5:20 pm **Bus transportation from hotel to reception at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA)**

6:30 - 8:30 pm **Reception**
Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary
WIMSA
Arlington National Cemetery

A 20 minute preview of Lioness documentary will be shown at this Reception with a complete showing tomorrow following the Town Hall Meeting.

LIONESS follows five female support soldiers who served together for a year in Iraq and became the first in U.S. history to be sent into direct ground combat, in violation of official policy. An unprecedented look at the unforeseen consequences of war, *Lioness* bridges the gap between perception and reality of the essential role female soldiers are playing in the military today.

Counselors from the Vet Center program will be available for assistance after the showing of the documentary film "Lioness," which will be shown in part on Friday night at WIMSA and in full on Saturday following the Town Hall Meeting. The Vet Center counselors will be wearing denim blue shirts and will be found in the hallways of WIMSA on Friday night and at their table in the exhibition hall on Saturday. All of the Vet Center counselors are veterans themselves and would enjoy meeting with other veterans and providing any assistance needed.

8:30 pm **Return transportation to hotel**

Saturday, June 21, 2008

8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

9:00 – 11:00 am **Town Hall Meeting**

Moderator: *Colonel Shirley A. Quarles, USAR*
Chair
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

COMMITTEE MEMBER	STATE	COMMITTEE MEMBER	STATE
Shirley Quarles, Chair	South Carolina	Brenda Moore	New York
Rene A. Campos	Washington, DC	Jacqueline Morgan	Washington
Helena R. Carapellatti	Maryland	Barbara Pittman	Washington, DC
Pamela J. B. Cypert	Kentucky	Celia Szelwach	Florida
Velma Hart	Maryland	Joanna Truitt	Maryland
Kathleen Janoski	Pennsylvania		
Marlene Kramel	Louisiana		
Mary Antoinette (Toni) Lawrie	Florida		
Ex-officios		Advisors	
Colonel Denise Dailey		Patricia Hayes	
Cheryl Rawls		Lindee Lenox	
		Captain Angela Martinelli	

10:00 am – 3:00 pm **Health Expo**

11:00 am - 12:30 pm **Lioness Documentary**

Noon **Lunch**
(On your own - Buffet in the Hotel Restaurant)

1:30 pm **Concurrent Workshop Sessions III**
(*Select one session*)

1. Challenges During and After Deployment for Guard/Reserve Women Veterans

Facilitator: *Commander Rene Campos, USN, Retired*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Moderator: • *Marianne Mathewson-Chapman, PhD*
Major General, U. S. Army (Ret.), Army National Guard
OEF/OIF Outreach Office for Guard/Reserve and Families
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- Speakers:**
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2. Military Sexual Trauma / Readjustment Counseling

Facilitator: *First Sergeant Pamela J. B. Cypert, USA, Retired*
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 - **Amy Marcotte**
Team Leader, Sanford Maine Vet Center
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Department of Veterans Affairs

Saturday, June 21, 2008

3. Updates on VA Programs for Homeless Veterans (Saturday Only)

Facilitator: *Technical Sergeant Barbara Pittman, USAF, Retired*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Moderator: • *Mary Rooney*
Program Specialist, Homeless Veterans Programs
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs

Speakers: • *Cheryl Beversdorf*
President/CEO
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

• *Deborah Lee*
VISN-6 Network Homeless Coordinator
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

• *The Honorable Linda Spoonster Schwartz, DrPH*
Commissioner of Veteran Affairs for the
State of Connecticut

• *Marsha Four*
Director of Homeless Veteran Services
The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center

4. More Than Artificial Limbs: Prosthetics' Interdisciplinary Approach to Healthcare (Saturday Only)

Facilitator: *The Honorable Mary Antoinette (Toni) Lawrie*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Speaker: • *Billie Jane Randolph, PhD, PT*
Colonel, USA, Retired
Deputy Chief Prosthetics Officer
Prosthetics & Clinical Logistics Office
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

5. What the Health Data Show

Facilitator: *The Honorable Brenda Moore, PhD*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
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Speaker: • *Patricia Hayes, PhD*
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6. VA Benefits and Services

Facilitators: *Chief Petty Officer Kathleen Janoski, USN, Retired*
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Speakers:

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- **Deputy Field Directors & Lead Women Veterans Program Managers**
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7. Playing by the Unwritten Rules: Personal and Professional Influence

Facilitator: *Celia Szelwach*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Speaker: • **Indigo Johnson**
CEO, Careers in Transition, Inc.

8. VA and Families: Post Transition Years: 6 Years & Beyond (Saturday Only)

Speakers:

- **Velma Hart**
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
- **Joanna Truitt**
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

3:00 pm Break

Saturday, June 21, 2008

3:20 pm **Concurrent Workshop Sessions IV**
(*Select one session*)

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Moderator: • **Susan McCutcheon, EdD**
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• **Amy Marcotte**
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3. Updates on VA Programs for Homeless Veterans (Saturday Only)

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VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Moderator: • **Mary Rooney**
Program Specialist, Homeless Veterans Programs
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Saturday, June 21, 2008

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• *Joanna Truitt*
VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

4:50 pm Adjourn

Sunday, June 22, 2008

8:30 am **Coffee**

9:00 am **Plenary Session**

Moderator: *Betty Moseley Brown, EdD*

Keynote Address:

• *Donna Washington, MD, MPH*

“Research: What Women Veterans Need to Know”

Director of the Women’s Health and Equity Core

Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D)

Veterans Health Administration

Department Veterans Affairs

9:45 am **Workshop Session Overview**
(Groups 1-4; 10 minutes)

10:20 am **Break**

10:30 am **Workshop Session Overview**
(Group 5-8; 10 minutes)

11:10 am **Remarks:**
Brigadier General Wilma Vaught
USAF, Retired
WIMSA Memorial Foundation

11:30 am **Synthesis & Closing Remarks**
• *Irene Trowell-Harris, RN, EdD*
Director, Center for Women Veterans
Department of Veterans Affairs

Noon **Adjourn**