

THE MILITARY TIMES FOUNDATION
PRESENTS

MILITARY TIMES
SERVICE MEMBERS
of the **YEAR**
— 2023 —

JULY 18, 2023
THE RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C.



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FOUNDATION
SALUTES
THOSE
WHO
SERVE**

Fisher House Foundation CONGRATULATES THE 2023 SERVICE MEMBERS OF THE YEAR.

On any given night, up to 1,300 service members, veterans, and their families can call Fisher House home. We are honored to serve you and all military, veterans, and their families.

**NO-COST LODGING | HERO MILES | HOTELS FOR HEROES
SCHOLARSHIPS | FISHER SERVICE AWARD**

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Welcome

Welcome to the 2023 Service Members of the Year awards. This evening, we gather to honor seven brave men and women who have served our country with great distinction. This year's recipients represent the best of us. They are the embodiment of our nation's ideals and we are privileged to showcase their bravery, sense of duty, and selflessness.

Since 2001, the Military Times' Service Members of the Year awards have recognized and celebrated the extraordinary achievements and actions of one individual from each branch of the military. In 2018 we established The Military Times Foundation in order to formalize our philanthropic commitment. Through the launch of our Spotlight Programs we have already donated more than \$15 million to over 400 organizations, military connected families, and veteran-owned small businesses. The core objective of the Military Times Foundation is to support the exemplary service of active-duty personnel serving in each branch of the U.S. Armed Services and their families.

Tonight's program offers us the opportunity to honor and express gratitude to this year's recipients for their sacrifices, thoughtfulness, and unwavering dedication to their communities and to our nation. Their actions in the face of formidable challenges and perilous circumstances serves as a stirring reminder that we are blessed to be surrounded by individuals of unparalleled courage and unwavering fortitude. This ceremony also holds a special significance as we recognize the inaugural Guardian of the Year from the U.S. Space Force.

We also want to welcome the distinguished guests including senior military leadership, members of congress and the families of this years' Service Members of the Year that have joined us for this important event.

This evening would not be possible without the support of our sponsors and community partners. Special thanks to Fisher House, Elbit America, Leonardo DRS, Delta, IHG Army Hotels, Veterans Benefit Guide and National University.

Please join us in extending our warmest congratulations to each recipient and expressing our sincere gratitude for their extraordinary contributions.

Michael Reinstein

Chairman, Military Times Foundation

Sightline Media Group

Military Times | Defense News | C4ISRNET | Federal Times



About the Foundation

Military Times Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that recognizes, salutes and highlights the exemplary service of active duty personnel serving in each branch of the U.S. Armed Services and supports other organizations conducting activities with similar goals. The Military Times Foundation's flagship program, Service Members of the Year, recognizes and awards outstanding service members and veterans each year.

OUR SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS:

VSO Spotlight:

Supports veteran and military service organizations.

Small Business Spotlight:

Provides no-charge print and digital ad campaigns to small and mid-sized active duty, veteran and spouse-run companies.

Legacy Spotlight:

Provides free obituary posts to veteran families.



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Heroes Fund | KPBS - GI Film Festival | Luke's Wings | Memories of Honor | Mutt's Sauce |
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| Special Operations Warrior Foundation | Spectrum | TAPS | The Bar X Project | The Elk Institute |
The Mobile Cigar Lounge | Tough Chance Logistics | Travis Manion / JFF | USO - Metro |
Valor Homes | Veterans Connection | Veterans Network | Veterans Transition Forum
| Warrior Games | Warrior Reunion Foundation | Yellow Ribbon Fund | +150 MORE



Testimonials

“

The support of Military Times for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors has given us a powerful platform to share the TAPS mission. They have expanded our reach exponentially and given us a forum to recruit military mentors.”

Bonnie Carroll

Founder and President
TAPS

“

I credit the Military Times Foundation with putting Donor Outreach for Veterans, Corp. (DOVE) on the map. Because of the increased visibility provided through the donated ad space, there are five Veterans who received living donor kidney transplants.”

Sharyn Kreitzer

Executive Director
Donor Outreach for Veterans, Corp. (DOVE)

“

Military Times Foundation has exponentially increased awareness of Our Military Kids unique mission through a generous pro-bono media package allowing us to further impact the well-being of military and Veteran communities.”

Kara Dallman

Executive Director
Our Military Kids

Menu

First Course

HEIRLOOM TOMATO CARPACCIO
(GF, VG, NF)

Main Course

BEEF TENDERLOIN
Risotto style potatoes with asparagus,
Morel mushroom sauce (NF)

STUFFED ROASTED TOMATO
Vegetarian option (GF, NF)

Dessert

ASSORTED MINI DESSERTS
Cheesecake: lemon blueberry on graham cracker crust (NF)
Cupcake: classic carrot cake
Parfait: triple chocolate mousse (GF, NF)

DECAFFEINATED COFFEE AND TEA

Program

PRESENTATION OF COLORS & NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

BG Andrew Harewood, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army Reserve

WELCOME REMARKS

Mr. Michael Reinstein, Chairman / Director, Military Times Foundation

REMARKS FROM PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER

Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF (Ret), 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,
Board of Trustees Member with the Fisher House Foundation

2023 COAST GUARDSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Lt. Chelsea Sheehy, USCG

2023 VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

CSM Lindsey Streeter, USA (Ret)

DINNER

2023 GUARDIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Capt. Victoria Garcia, USSF

2023 SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

MSG Justin Bolin

2023 SAILOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

HM2 Anthony Anglikowski, USN

2023 MARINE OF THE YEAR AWARD

MSgt. Kevin Haunschild, USMC

2023 AIRMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Maj. Katie Lunning, USAF

CLOSING REMARKS

Special thanks to our Masters of Ceremony

Kyra Phillips, Anchor/Correspondent, *ABC News*
John Roberts, Co-anchor, *America Reports*, *Fox News Channel*

OUR MISSION IS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY



**At Fisher House Foundation, we believe
a family's love is good medicine.**

We are an international nonprofit organization established to improve the quality of life for service members, veterans, and their families. There are nearly 100 Fisher Houses at military and VA medical centers around the country and overseas that make up our core mission, but our programming goes beyond the doors of the houses. Through Scholarships for Military Children, Heroes' Legacy Scholarships, the Fisher Service Award, Hotels for Heroes, Hero Miles, and support to adaptive sports programs, our mission is to help you throughout your healing journey.

FISHERHOUSE.ORG



SCHOLARSHIPS

Fisher House Foundation provides scholarships for military children and children of the fallen and 100% disabled. The Foundation awarded over \$2.4 million in scholarships in 2022, helping more than 1,200 students achieve their educational goals.

FISHER SERVICE AWARD

In partnership with Military Times, the Fisher Service Award is a grant that recognizes and celebrates innovative programs of other nonprofits that support and strengthen our military and veteran communities.

FISHER SERVICE AWARD

FOR MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICE



HOTELS FOR HEROES

There are times when a Fisher House is unavailable. Our Hotels for Heroes program steps in when this happens and provides a hotel room for families eligible to stay in a Fisher House.

HERO MILES

Life doesn't stop when a service member is injured or becomes ill. Hero Miles provides flights enabling these heroes and their loved ones to balance hospital and home life.



ADAPTIVE SPORTS SUPPORT

Fisher House Foundation helps service members, veterans, and their families celebrate how far they have come by sponsoring the family programs at the Department of Defense Warrior Games and the international adaptive sports event Invictus Games.

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SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

MSG.

JUSTIN BOLIN

WEIDEN, GERMANY

He'd seen it coming — everyone in the Germany-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment did — but Justin Bolin remembers the day that everything changed.

In early 2022, after months of warnings that Russia would invade Ukraine, Master Sgt. Bolin, the regimental headquarters first sergeant, received a phone call.

"'You need to deploy the regiment to Romania within the next two weeks,'" he recalled being told.

Bolin was responsible for getting the regiment's staff set up and ready to operate at Romania's Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base. He knew the base from a previous mission, and who to call for support from other commands and agencies.

Less than a month after the regiment arrived, Russian troops advanced across the border into Ukraine. Bolin's unit was the first to respond, and others quickly followed as the U.S. Army rapidly expanded its forward-deployed presence.

While Ukraine's experienced units slugged it out with Russia, Kyiv's fresher, inexperienced troops needed to quickly get up to speed.

Enter Bolin, yet again. After handing off the reins to the 101st Airborne Division in Romania, the seasoned cavalry scout transferred from the 2nd Cavalry headquarters to become the operations sergeant major for its 2nd Squadron. It's new mission: to train Ukrainian troops.

Bolin said his four combat deployments and experience as a drill sergeant were essential for designing training plans tailored to the largely novice troops that Ukraine had sent.

"The soldiers were 100% on board ... and we had a lot of support to make these training events happen," he said. "I looked at my first sergeants, and every single one of them had a face of confidence — most of them were former drill sergeants [and] a couple Ranger battalion guys."

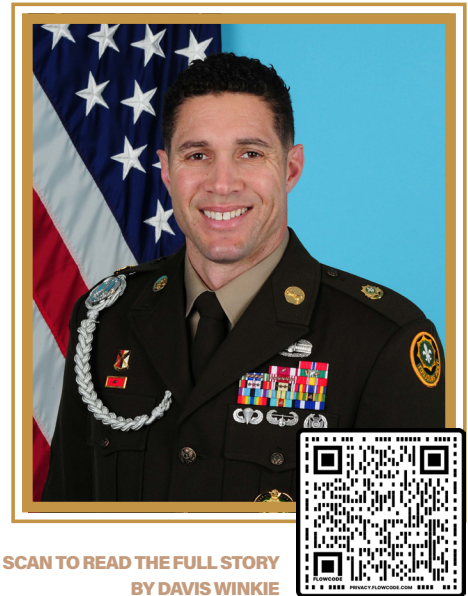
As Ukraine's summer counteroffensive plays out in the country's east, Bolin is holding his breath. Watching his former trainees put their skills to use evokes "complex" feelings, he said.

"People not in the know, they turn on the news and they see blips on screens, and they see soldiers pushing back against the Russian aggression," he explained. "For a lot of us in the [training] circle ... these are husbands, fathers, wives, farmers, mechanics — these aren't your typical soldier that we think of. These are people who want a home to come home to so that way they can raise their family."

Bolin joined the Army in 2004 and quickly learned the meaning of quality training and leadership when he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, with 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment immediately after graduating from training in 2005. There, Bolin received an Army Commendation Medal with valor device for his response to an improvised explosive device killing two of his mentors.

Bolin will soon attend the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

That day and other challenges in his career, Bolin explained, have made him passionate about fostering community among veterans. He has volunteered to coordinate a Thanksgiving event in Germany, and also volunteered with the Vilseck High School Junior ROTC program.



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY
BY DAVIS WINKIE

Congratulations 2023 Service Members of the Year

**We're Proud to Join Military
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Military and Veterans.**

VBG commends this year's Service Members of the Year for their outstanding service and exemplary leadership.

As an organization that was founded by a Veteran, VBG is committed to making a positive difference in Veterans' lives.



VETERAN
BENEFITS GUIDE

MARINE OF THE YEAR

MSgt.

KEVIN HAUNSCHILD

JACKSONVILLE, NC

Master Sgt. Kevin Haunschild thought his 2021 deployment with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit would be typical.

A seasoned air traffic controller who had previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2014, he was the senior enlisted Marine for the air traffic control officers in the unit. But then he and other Marines from the unit flew into Kabul for what would become the largest noncombatant evacuation in military history.

As civilian controllers departed the airport, it was up to Haunschild and his Marines — and, as time went on, some airmen as well — to coordinate the arrivals and departures of aircraft, many of which carried evacuees.

And they succeeded, handling about 110 flights per day with no aircraft mishaps. In January, Haunschild received a Bronze Star for his efforts, as well as his quick thinking and leadership in rescuing a civilian contractor.

At first, only four Marines from the air control detachment arrived at Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport on Aug. 13, 2021. Two days later, the Taliban took over the city, plunging the airport into chaos.

Then, an Afghan plane with a blown tire had to abort its takeoff, obstructing the runway, according to a news release announcing his Bronze Star.

Along with three other service members, Haunschild jumped into a pickup truck, attached straps to the plane and towed it off the runway.

Later that day, Haunschild rescued an Afghan air traffic controller who was stranded with important radio equipment in a crowd that included both Afghan civilians and the Taliban. Haunschild and a soldier made their way through the crowd, bringing body armor to the civilian and taking him to safety.

On the drive back, their truck was sprayed with small-arms fire from an unknown source.

Over the coming days, Haunschild and the other Marines from his detachment monitored the skies nonstop, coming under gunfire multiple times the first two nights, he recalled.

When 10 more troops from Marine Air Control Group 28 flew in Aug. 17, the Marine air traffic controllers worked — with just a tailgate-style tent to protect them from the sun — in 12-hour shifts.

Haunschild remains humble about his own accomplishments but extremely proud of his Marines' work.

"They did a phenomenal job for what they had to work with," he said.

Haunschild is now the senior air traffic controller at Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron on Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina.

"Master Sgt. Haunschild doesn't give himself credit for the things that he does because he is a super cool dude," said Gunnery Sgt. Julio Jose Mendez, another air traffic controller who deployed to Kabul in 2021. "He'll tell you things how they are. He's just a Texas boy, and he loves a simple life."

Staff Sgt. Ian Chryst, another of the Marine air traffic controllers who was on Haunschild's team, describes the master sergeant as a great mentor and selfless leader.

"He could lead me into a burning pit, and I'd follow him right in," he said.



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY
BY IRENE LOEWENSON

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US Army photo by Sgt. Sarah Kirby



Photo by Airman 1st Class Karissa Dick



US Air Force photo by
Staff Sgt. Shawn White

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US Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Tonia Ciancanelli

SAILOR OF THE YEAR

HM2

ANTHONY ANGLIKOWSKI

OAK HARBOR, WA

The life of Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Anthony Anglikowski is defined by unpredictability. As a member of the search and rescue unit at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington state, his dangerous job requires steely nerves, expertise and improvisation.

The 28-year-old SAR medical technician and helicopter inland rescue aircrewman responds to distress calls across western Washington.

On May 23, 2021, such a call arrived. Two hikers had gotten into trouble while descending a challenging mountain formation known as "The Brothers." It would be the most technically challenging rescue mission Anglikowski had ever encountered, and one for which he would later receive the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the service's highest award for noncombat heroism.

"HM2 Anglikowski epitomizes the very best in terms of his technical skills as well as his servant leadership approach to all he does," Capt. Juliann Althoff, the commanding officer of his unit, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Oak Harbor, said in a statement. "His valued contributions to our team are a testament to his profound work ethic and dedication to community service."

When Anglikowski and his comrades arrived on the scene, they found some good Samaritan hikers surrounding an injured man, whom they had placed on a rock slab along an icy, 50-degree slope.

The man and his girlfriend had summited the mountain, but had fallen during the descent, Anglikowski said. The woman had slipped into a crevasse, and the injured man was becoming hysterical.

The entrance to the icy hole was about 2-feet-by-2-feet, and descended about 40 feet, where it widened to about 60 feet. A furious waterfall had formed as the mountain's snowpack thawed.

The team quickly evacuated the man via the SAR helicopter, then focused on the woman.

Working with colleagues from the local Jefferson County search and rescue team, the rescuers jury-rigged a two-rope hoist system. They lowered one of the county rescuers into the hole, but he found the woman in the water had died.

"On the way up, she ended up getting lodged under a rock ledge," Anglikowski recalled. "So I hooked into the rope and got lowered down into the waterfall."

Using his own body for leverage, he managed to free her from the rock ledge and get her to the surface.

"It wasn't the ideal ending that everybody wanted," he said.

"Some people end up dealing with [this situation] more than others," he added. "But it's just something that you lean on your team for and cope with in your own, hopefully healthy, way."

Before enlisting, Anglikowski was a paramedic and firefighter back home in Erie, Pennsylvania. But Whidbey SAR has been a whole other beast, he said.

"It's very rewarding to be able to provide that service and that capability to the community, especially the backcountry, outdoor adventure community," Anglikowski said. "Most of us are an avid part of that, so it's nice to be able to give back to the people that we share those spaces with."



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY
BY GEOFF ZIEZULEWICZ



HERO

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You went beyond the call of duty.**

With incredible gratitude, Elbit America honors the 2023 Service Members of the Year award winners for your exceptional acts of service, bravery and sacrifice.

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Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 Service Members of the Year Award. We are grateful for your dedication and selfless service.

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

MAJ.

KATIE LUNNING

URBANDALE, IA

Capt. Katie Lunning's calm and skill under pressure ensured 22 patients survived the suicide bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan — and more than a dozen others in the days before.

Now a major, she is Military Times' 2023 Airman of the Year.

Lunning, 40, of Urbandale, Iowa, is the chief critical care nurse at the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Medical Group, and the intensive care unit nurse manager at the Iowa Department of Veteran Affairs.

In June 2021, Lunning deployed as a critical care air transport nurse with the 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

When Kabul fell to the Taliban, Lunning's team was asked to provide medical support for the evacuation, arriving on Aug. 18.

"Seeing the desperation of people, leaving everything that they have behind for a chance of an opportunity in a country with freedom — nothing could have prepared me for that," Lunning said.

Armed with only a Beretta M9 pistol, Lunning pushed stretchers from the runway to the airport gates, past throngs of Afghans and down three city blocks as the Taliban proclaimed victory, until she reached the tiny international hospital.

With a stretcher-bound patient in tow, she would return to the plane, hand the individual off to the medical team and head back to the hospital. Once the crew was ready to return to Qatar, the critical care team worked to keep the patients stable.

That rhythm continued for more than a week.

On Aug. 26, Lunning was heading to bed after a 20-hour mission when her phone rang: Something had exploded in Kabul. On the way back to Afghanistan, Lunning learned they would be airlifting Marines.

"It was a different feeling and a sense of urgency, knowing we're getting out our people, and our people had been killed," she said. "Very sobering."

The crowds that had mobbed Abbey Gate before were gone. Lunning retraced her route to the frantic hospital and received her first patient: a severely injured 18-month-old baby. She returned to the hospital again and again — a female Marine with a spinal cord injury; a male Marine whose heart had stopped beating.

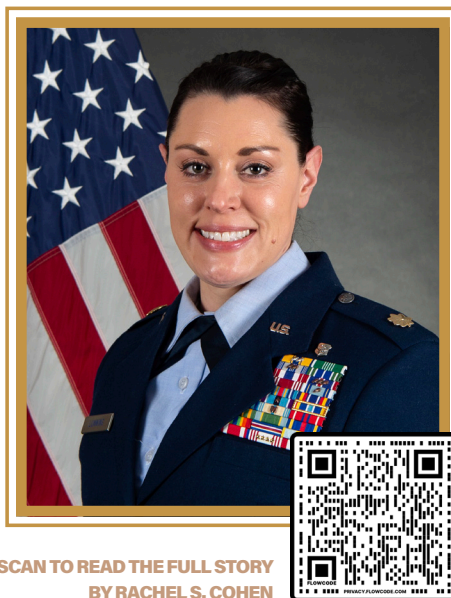
Getting the patients to the C-17 aircraft was just the beginning. The team needed to keep them alive on the eight-hour flight to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, with minimal medical equipment and staff — and even less sleep.

Lunning's team ferried 22 people, including six critical care and 16 noncritical patients. All arrived alive.

She became the first flight nurse in the Air National Guard to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the military's highest honors for courage in aviation, on Jan. 7, 2023.

Lunning said that when she sees what the Marines who survived are doing now, and thinks about the Afghans she helped, she knows she was the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

"They're not just living; a lot of them are thriving," she said. "Everything we did was worth it."



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY
BY RACHEL S. COHEN





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GUARDIAN OF THE YEAR

CAPT.

VICTORIA GARCIA

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

As Russia mounted its assault on Ukraine in early 2022, the U.S. Space Force quietly built a shadowy electronic warfare enterprise in the European countryside to secure U.S. satellite networks.

That effort, led by Capt. Victoria Garcia of El Paso, Texas, safeguarded the travel of two U.S. Cabinet secretaries to Kyiv, deployed a new EW system and set a standard for how the Space Force operates in remote areas.

Her role in leading the first space EW deployment to Europe was the catalyst for Garcia's selection as Military Times' inaugural Guardian of the Year.

The Mexican immigrant, now 37, rose through the Air Force's enlisted ranks before earning her officer commission and transferring into the Space Force. The four-month deployment was a chance for her to do what she'd always dreamed of: lead troops in the field.

Her unit, the 4th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron at Colorado's Peterson Space Force Base, began hearing of a potential deployment in December 2021. What's more, U.S. Space Command wanted to set up a combat detachment from scratch. That task fell to Garcia.

As the squadron's mission support director, she knew how to run the secretive hardware that not only stops enemies from interfering with American and allied use of the electromagnetic spectrum, but also allows the U.S. to collect intelligence from space and ensures adversaries don't intercept classified information.

She also understood the massive logistical effort needed.

Garcia, the deployment commander, began building her team of intel specialists, equipment sherpas, cyber experts and more; the 54-person team left for Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Feb. 2. There, they packed pallets of equipment onto five C-130 Hercules airlifters and took off for their undisclosed destination.

Garcia and a few others arrived early to test the \$2 million electronic warfare system built by a rapid reaction team to speed cutting-edge technologies to the field. Over the next 30 hours, they turned two Soviet-era aircraft hangars into makeshift command centers.

Once their stronghold was up, the unit tracked 84,000 "network events" over 3,000 hours in the field from February to May.

"We had two systems at that site, which were about a mile apart, overseeing the electromagnetic spectrum in this area of this country," Garcia said.

That April, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to Ukraine and Poland, putting the detachment's capabilities to the test. Being in Europe allowed the unit to watch and manipulate parts of the spectrum that they wouldn't otherwise have access to, Garcia said.

"If you think of it like an overwatch surveillance mission, we were there to answer the call ... if things went south," she said.

Garcia, now a speechwriter at Space Operations Command, has continued to keep up with her old unit, now called the 44th Electromagnetic Warfare Combat Detachment.

"There's a deep appreciation of what you do as a Space Force guardian, when you know the capabilities that you operate are feeding a joint fight," she said. "You get the satisfaction of: 'I'm truly part of something that is helping mankind.'"



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY
BY RACHEL S. COHEN

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DELTA



COAST GUARDSMAN OF THE YEAR

Lt.

CHELSEA SHEEHY

KEY WEST, FL

Lt. Chelsea Sheehy remembers exactly what one of her mentors at the Coast Guard Academy told her: "The greatest things in life don't come easy."

In 2010, Sheehy was a cadet struggling to get through an engineering class. Now, she has just wrapped up a tour as the commanding officer of the cutter Charles Sexton out of Key West, Florida.

Sheehy, the Military Times' 2023 Coast Guardsman of the Year, said she shares the advice she received with all those she now guides.

"Because I had really good mentors, it has, I suppose, made me a good mentor," she told Military Times.

Those who work with Sheehy say she is an inspiration to crew members, and they praise the culture of trust and teamwork she has fostered aboard the Sexton, which boasts a crew of 23 members.

Cmdr. Rick Armstrong, deputy commander of Coast Guard Sector Key West, said Sheehy is "squarely on track to be one of the service's brightest future leaders."

"Simply put, she is my best commanding officer," said Armstrong, who nominated Sheehy for the honor.

"She puts the needs of her crew first, doggedly working to ensure they have the training and resources to develop themselves and achieve their personal and professional goals," Armstrong added. "She continually teaches and mentors others both on and off her ship."

The Sexton is responsible for patrolling the Caribbean to halt illicit trafficking, as well as coordinating interdiction efforts and repatriation of migrants at sea. Sheehy's team has interdicted, cared for and processed more than 2,500 migrants, to include rescuing migrants from a capsized vessel off the coast of Key West last May. They have also repatriated 1,021 migrants to their country of origin.

"While they're on our cutter, we provide food, water and other assistance as best we can," Sheehy said. "The migrant mission, it's a hard mission. It's moms, babies and dads with their small children, too. So there is an empathetic side to this mission as well that is draining for the average person."

During U.S. Southern Command's Continuing Promise 2022 mission in Haiti, Sheehy served as the senior U.S. Coast Guard representative coordinating response operations aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort. Medical personnel treated more than 1,000 patients while in Haiti, and the experience provided Sheehy an opportunity to collaborate with other branches of the military as part of a joint operation.

Sheehy was tapped for promotion to lieutenant commander above the zone in 2023 — meaning she will advance a year before her peers.

Her next assignment is serving as a duty officer in the White House Situation Room, where she will monitor national security issues as well as field phone calls and correspondence.

As a leader, Sheehy said it's most important to prioritize your people.

"The mission will always get done," she said. "We're always going to get the metrics. We're always going to get that, and we're going to be good at it because we're putting the people first."



SCAN TO READ THE FULL STORY
BY DIANA STANCY CORRELL

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VETERAN OF THE YEAR

LINDSEY STREETER

RICHMOND HILL, GA

Becoming the owner of a basketball franchise was never part of Lindsey Streeter's post-military career goals. But it fit in nicely with his game plan for life.

"I like to make big-splash plays, I like to try to do things that will be impactful," said Streeter, who served 31 years in the Army. "And I like to involve others so that I can turn around and give the credit to the whole team — share the glory of whatever comes."

For this veteran, owning a basketball team is about more than filling a stadium. "It's about making the community believe it's their actual team, and they're part of the effort, too," he said.

Streeter, the recipient of the 2023 Veteran of the Year Award from Military Times, was already an all-star in the community outreach game before his latest professional sports venture.

Since 2016, he has handled veterans programs for Bank of America, and is currently the company's senior vice president of global military affairs. He also serves as Georgia's ambassador for the U.S. Army Reserve, lobbying on service member quality-of-life issues. When his wife, Mary Ann, passed away in 2020, he took over leadership of her nonprofit, Quad E, which provides preventive health care options to vulnerable individuals. On Sundays, he serves as a deacon at his local church.

And last year, Streeter became owner of the Savannah Hurricanes of the Triple Threat Basketball League because he saw an opportunity to help his Georgia community through team outreach, putting extra emphasis on training youth.

"All the different jobs and roles feel like a lot, but it's really just one agenda," Streeter said in a phone interview from his car in between a charity appearance and a corporate meeting. "We're looking at ways we can help the community as a whole."

Service and citizenship have always been a part of Streeter's life. He remembers growing up with little to spare in Washington, D.C., but his mother instilled in him the idea of giving back by taking part in local charity efforts.

"I have a personal mission statement that says I'm going to use my time, my talents and my resources to impact others in a meaningful way," he said. "I've got to live my life in a purposeful manner that keeps me focused on that."

When Streeter left the service in 2016, Bank of America gave him the opportunity to stay connected to the military and build community connections.

"They asked me to ensure that the veteran culture there was right," he said. "Our goal was not just to make the company veteran-friendly, but veteran-ready."

Those veteran hiring efforts have also extended to basketball: The Hurricanes' coach and general manager are also retired noncommissioned officers.

"I don't typically lead with my veteran status when folks in the community meet me, but I think it becomes apparent once they hear me talk and start running the show," he said. "I'm always keeping in mind that I am an ambassador for the community."



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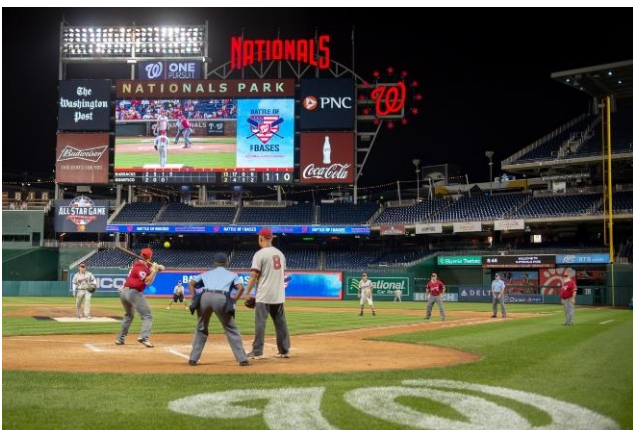


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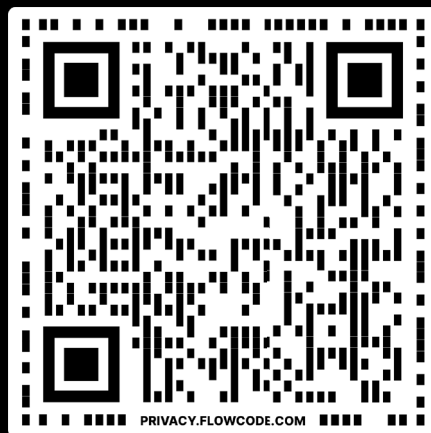
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