



Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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Lifting off from Norwich: Shaeleigh Strange '22

Established 200 years after Norwich University was founded—and 45 years after [Diane Gionet '75](#) became the first NU woman commissioned in the U.S. Air Force—the U.S. Space Force became the sixth branch of the U.S. military in 2019. Space Force is the coequal sister service within the Department of the Air Force.



The Space Force is responsible for securing “our Nation’s interests in, from, and to space.” The motto “Semper Supra” means “always above,” representing the service’s role in establishing, maintaining and preserving U.S. freedom of operations in the ultimate high ground. The Space Force logo is a delta shape with the North Star at the center to serve as a guiding light while the service works to secure the space domain. Space Force personnel are titled “Guardians” and are counterparts to Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen.



Norwich University’s Air Force ROTC Detachment 867 commissioned its first female Space Force Guardian, **Shaeleigh Strange** in 2022. As a mechanical engineering major, Shaeleigh wanted to pursue her passion for engineering in the military. While at Norwich, she participated in women’s club ice hockey and volunteered as a math tutor. During the summer months, she helped recruit students to attend Norwich.

Lieutenant Strange’s first assignment was to the Space Systems Command - Innovation & Prototyping Acquisition Delta at Kirkland Air Force Base in New Mexico. There she was tasked to fill spacecraft procurement gaps within the Space Test Program (STP). STP is the primary provider of spaceflight for the U.S. Department of Defense space and technology community.

Since its first launch in 1965, the STP program has deployed more than 300 missions.






Starting early in the new STP's approach to buying satellite buses capable of carrying multiple experiments to orbit, Shaeleigh was the Mission Manager for STP Sat-8, a 12U CubeSat slated to launch in 2026. The cube-shaped nanosatellites are spacecraft sized in standardized units or Us. Her efforts in enabling the CubeSat launch will help ensure space experiments can be hosted on free-flyer satellite buses.

Shaeleigh is now a member of the Navigation Technology Satellite-3 (NTS-3) team, the Department of Defense's first experimental, integrated navigation satellite system in nearly 50 years.

Following in the footsteps of Diane Gionet and all Norwich women commissioned before her, Shaeleigh and other Space Force Guardians are leading the way on the vast frontier of space.

Records documenting women's history and experience at Norwich are available through the University Archives. <https://archives.norwich.edu/>

Check out the Women Kicking Glass Auction featuring more than 50 fun and unique items!

<p>#62</p>  <p>Handcrafted wood 30"x30" Athena relief</p>	<p>#32</p>  <p>Cigar humidor signed by CIA Director George Tenet</p>	<p>#54</p>  <p>"Kreitzberg Library" by Peter Huntoon</p>
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Auction closes Friday, September 20 at 7:15 p.m. See <https://one.bidpal.net/womenkickingglass/browse/all> to bid on items!



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 - PLUMLEY ARMORY

TICKETS SELLING FAST: Homecoming Women Kicking Glass Gala!

Friday, September 20, 2024 - [Women Kicking Glass Gala](#), Plumley Armory,
Norwich