



Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

JUNE 22, 2024

NU WKG, ISSUE #37

Shining Stars: Norwich's First Female Flag Officers

General and flag officers (GFOs) are senior military leaders with a rank that entitles them to a flag to mark the position they command. This includes one-star, two-star, three-star, and four-star officers.

GFOs make up less than 0.4% of the officer corps. The first woman promoted to general and flag officer ranks did not occur until 1970. The following year, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) commissioned its first female flag officer. Both occasions represented a significant milestone in the evolution of military leadership. Nearly 48 years later, Norwich University's first alumna was promoted to general officer.



Brigadier General Kimberly
(Jones) Baumann '87

When **Brigadier General Kimberly (Jones) Baumann '87** commissioned from the Norwich Air Force ROTC Detachment 867, many military career fields were not open to women. Kim

attained a significant 'first' for Norwich women when she was promoted to brigadier general in the Rhode Island Air National Guard in 2017, becoming NU's first female flag officer. Kim graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and earned a Doctor of Philosophy in education technology management, specializing in cybersecurity education. As an Air Force combat communications officer, she served in 23 nations and was the lead forward communications planner for U.S. Central Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Kim held leadership positions at the squadron, wing, major command, and Air Force headquarters level.

In her assignment at the Pentagon, Kim served as Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force Chief Information Officer and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Cyber Effect Operations assignments. Today, she serves as the Assistant Adjutant General–Air and Commander of the Rhode Island Air National Guard where she commands over 1,000 airmen supporting federal airlift and cyber missions, as well as state emergency response. Kim is also a National Joint Cyber Task Force lead. In her civilian capacity, she is an information technology and cybersecurity advisor and small business owner. Kim and her husband, Phil, NU 1986, have two children, Philipp III and Katelyn, NU 2019.



Rear Admiral CJ Jaynes M'08

After earning a master's degree in business administration from Norwich's College of Graduate and Continuing Studies (CGCS) in 2008, **Rear Admiral CJ Jaynes** made naval history in 2012 when she became the Naval Air Systems Command's (NAVAIR) first woman flag officer, as well as the first woman aerospace maintenance duty officer to achieve flag officer rank. She became the Commander, Fleet Readiness Centers, for the Naval Aviation Enterprise. Before retiring from the Navy in 2016, CJ served as Program Executive Officer for air anti-submarine warfare, assault and special mission programs for Naval Aviation. CJ's career spanned 33 years beginning as a Line Division officer in Pensacola, responsible for 60 sailors and 30 aircraft, and culminating as PEO(A) responsible for 15,000 personnel, multiple aircraft platforms and a multi-billion dollar budget.

CJ says her Norwich degree was a stepping-stone to flag officer selection, providing the business background she needed to continue a stellar career through the Navy and beyond. She is currently an Executive Technical Advisor for Precision Navigation Systems at Raytheon.



Brigadier General Kimberly (Davis)
Hamilton '96

In 2022, **Brigadier General Kimberly (Davis) Hamilton** became Norwich's first female Army general when she was promoted to Vice Commander of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) in Norfolk, VA. An electrical engineering major, Kimberly graduated from the Corps of Cadets in 1996. One of her first assignments was as a signal officer in the 11th Signal Brigade, Fort Huachuca, AZ. Using her technical and people skills, Kimberly later deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines as the J6, director of communications, Joint Special Operations Task Force. In 2007, Kimberly transitioned to the 2nd 398th Cavalry Squadron operations and later taught intermediate-level education for the Army Reserve at the Citadel.

After commanding the 2nd 337th Tactical Support Battalion, 157th Infantry Brigade, Kimberly served as a Joint Planner and Chief of Land Operations in the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, U.S. Transportation Command where she mobilized as part of the Joint Alert Force to support U.S. Army Northern Command's Southwest Border Mission. Prior to her promotion to brigadier general, Kimberly commanded the 207th Digital Liaison Detachment at Fort Bragg, NC. When Kimberly's Norwich roommate, **Tracey Poirier**, was promoted to brigadier general in the Vermont Army National Guard in 2023, Kimberly and Tracey became the university's first female roommates to both earn the rank of general officer.

These alumnae have helped pave the way for future generations of women in the military.

Their achievements highlight the increasing recognition of Norwich women's contributions to national defense and security. Their dedication, leadership, and trailblazing spirit is truly inspiring.

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

Attend the Homecoming Women Kicking Glass Gala!

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

Sullivan Museum Seeking Women's Uniforms and Other Objects for Women Kicking Glass Exhibit

The Sullivan Museum and History Center is planning an exhibit highlighting the history of Norwich women. In preparation for that exhibition, and to expand the museum's collection, they are seeking women's uniforms, athletic gear, mementos of student life and other items reflecting the experiences of Norwich women over the past 50 years. To learn more or to donate/loan items for this exhibit, contact Amber Wingerson at awingers@norwich.edu or 802-485-3288.