

PEACE WITH WOMEN FELLOWSHIP





2023 Fellows with HFX President Peter Van Praagh at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC. ■

OVERVIEW

HFX launched the Peace With Women Fellowship in 2018 because women's participation and leadership in international and security affairs leads directly to more peaceful and equitable outcomes.

With an opportunity to live, work and learn together during a three-week executive study tour of Canada and the United States and to attend the annual Halifax International Security Forum as full participants, the Peace With Women Fellowship is designed to fully equip senior female military officers from NATO and NATO-partner countries for their future leadership positions.

HFX is proud to shape the future with this unmatched program that advances women's leadership and builds a dynamic network of senior military officers from around the world.

PROGRAM

The Fellowship itinerary is designed to broaden the officers' understanding of security. The program includes meetings with military experts but also leaders who have faced threats far from any battlefield. During the three-week program, the Fellows convene informally with senior political, business, technology and thought leaders in Canada and the United States.

The 2023 Fellowship program began on October 24 in Washington, DC. Following meetings at the Pentagon, State Department, Capitol Hill and leading think-tanks and civil society organizations, the Fellows traveled to Toronto where they studied tech and security and received briefings on the most up-to-date public opinion surveys. In Colorado Springs, the Fellows were immersed in NORAD and NORTHCOM priority issues. Back in Canada, the Fellows visited Ottawa for meetings with government and military and participated in the national wreath laying ceremony on November 11, Remembrance Day. The program concluded at the annual Halifax International Security Forum where the Fellows participated alongside ministers, general officers, legislators, industry leaders and experts from the world's democracies.

The intensive program has earned the support of the most senior civilian and military commanders of both nations including the Honourable Bill Blair, Canada's Minister of National Defence and General Wayne Eyre, Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff and the Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III, United States Secretary of Defense and General Charles Q. Brown Jr., United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

PARTICIPANTS

The 2023 Peace With Women Fellows are 11 outstanding senior officers from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and New Zealand.



Colonel Erica Bridge

Assistant Chief of Staff Information Operations and Targeting, 1 German- Netherlands Corps (NATO), British Army, United Kingdom



Colonel Erica Cameron

Strategist, U.S. Army, United States



Colonel Sarah Heer

Special Advisor to the Commander, Canadian Army, Canada



Colonel Randi Åste Huse

Director of Staff, Norwegian Joint Headquarters, Norwegian Army, Norway



Group Captain Hannah Jude-Smith

Assistant Air and Space Attaché, Australian Embassy, Washington, DC, Royal Australian Air Force, Australia



Colonel Kalliroi Landry

Chief, Support Cell, U.S. Space Force, United States



Captain Maxine Lawes

Logistics Commander Maritime, Royal New Zealand Navy, New Zealand



Air Commodore Saskia Siemensma

Director of Innovation and Information, Royal Netherlands Air Force, Netherlands



Captain Cathrin Streier

Director, Major Medical Support Centre, Bundeswehr Joint Medical Service, Germany



Captain Kelly Williamson

Director General Coordination, Strategic Joint Staff, Royal Canadian Navy, Canada



Colonel Elise Vahramian

Fleets Manager Deputy in Land System Maintenance Directorate (SIMMT), French Army, France

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Five leading experts served on the Peace With Women Fellowship Selection Committee that was responsible for reviewing candidate applications and making recommendations for the 2023 Fellowship class.



Chair: Colonel (Ret.) Kathy Graef, United States Armed Forces

Irene Fellin, NATO

Iain Paterson, Well Health Technologies Corporation

Renée Filiatrault, Department of National Defence Canada

Kelly Case, Strategy for Humanity



2023 Fellow, Captain (N) Kelly Williamson, addressing the 15th annual Halifax International Security Forum. ■

IMPACT

Military officers often consider that their career of service only begins once they climb to the senior ranks of their respective armed forces. When the Peace With Women Fellowship concludes at the annual Halifax International Security Forum, Fellows are excited, energized and equipped to excel in the next stage of their careers. Key themes of the 2023 Fellowship included:

- Accountability, transparency and inclusiveness are at the foundation of democracy and robust civil society contributes to a strong national defense.
- Democratic partners and allies create strategic advantages through collaboration and sharing resources.
- Vibrant organizations, including national militaries, seek the best talent and most committed individuals and encourage women's leadership.
- Strategic leaders seek to promote creative thought and a culture of inventiveness, breaking down silos and developing the most capable leaders.
- Climate change and demographic shifts are among the global phenomenon that shape future security challenges.
- The ethics and impact of AI and disruptive technology and misinformation are serious security concerns.

Before the program began, Fellows were asked what topics they would like to see covered throughout the three weeks. On the first day of the Fellowship in Washington, an external monitoring and evaluation team met with the Fellows to discuss their goals and expectations as well as the knowledge, skills and networks they hoped to gain. The impact of the Fellowship was then intentionally measured throughout the study tour.

In the post-Fellowship evaluation, Fellows said that the program was impactful and strengthened their personal and professional development. They also noted that the Fellowship gave them the confidence to speak out more often when they returned home. As one Fellow put it, she now “has the ability to shape the organization.”

PODCAST GUESTS

Fellows Colonel Sarah Heer, Group Captain Hannah Jude-Smith and Captain (N) Maxine Lawes were featured on the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) *Smart Women, Smart Power* podcast hosted by Kathleen McInnis. The podcast series looks at the extent to which having women in positions of power influences public policy decision-making outcomes.

ALUMNAE

With each new class completing the program, the alumnae network continues to expand and former Fellows continue to rise in the ranks. Among the 68 former Fellows, 17 are ranked as general officers.



2023 Fellows with Canada's Minister of National Defence, Bill Blair, and Canada's Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security, Jacqueline O'Neill.



During the 2023 Halifax International Security Forum, Fellows met with young leaders who took part in the 15@15: Youth Building Democracy program.



2023 Fellows at the Boeing Lunch with President of Boeing Global Dr. Brenden Nelson, HFX Board Chair Dr. Janice Stein, HFX Board member and former President of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, and Chairman of the EU Military Committee General Robert Brieger.



2023 Fellows meet with United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Charles Q. Brown Jr.

CONCLUSION

HFX takes great pride in creating the opportunity for senior officers from NATO and NATO-partner countries to take time away from their professional duties so that they can consider, from a fresh perspective, the challenges of securing their nations. The number of alumnae continues to grow and their shared experiences keep them connected across the globe. When Fellows return home, it is not the end of the Fellowship, it is just the beginning.

APPENDIX: SELECT MEETINGS

U.S. Government

White House:

- Jennifer Klein, Assistant to the President; Director, White House Gender Policy Council
- Cailin Crockett, Senior Advisor, White House Gender Policy Council

U.S. Department of State:

- Kathryn Insley, Deputy Assistant Secretary Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, U.S. Department of State
- Bonnie Jenkins, Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security, U.S. Department of State
- Jessica Lewis, Assistant Secretary Bureau of Political Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State

U.S. Department of Defense:

- James Baker, Director of Net Assessment, U.S. Department of Defense
- General Charles Q. Brown Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Dr. Mara Karlin, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategies, Plans, and Capabilities, U.S. Department of Defense
- Kelly Magsamen, Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense
- Rear Admiral Dean A. VanderLey, Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command/Chief of Civil Engineers

Congress:

- Nicole Bredariol, U.S. Coast Guard Congressional Fellow Subcommittee for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation
- Representative Gerry Connolly, Virginia
- Senator Chris Coons, Delaware
- Representative Jason Crow, Colorado
- Derek Luyten, Executive Director, House Democracy Partnership, United States
- Senator Jim Risch, Idaho
- Senator Mike Rounds, South Dakota
- Senator Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
- Senator Peter Welch, Vermont

Peterson Space Force Base:

- Lieutenant General A.C. Roper, Deputy Commander, USNORTHCOM
- Colonel Danielle Willis, Vice Director, NORAD Operations
- Tiffani Phillips, Gender Advisor, USNORTHCOM

Government of Canada

- Kirsten Hillman, Canadian Ambassador to the United States
- Jacqueline O'Neill, Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security
- Jody Thomas, National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister

Department of National Defence:

- Lieutenant General Frances Allen, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff
- Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence
- Lieutenant General Lise Bourgon, Acting Chief Military Personnel and Acting Commander Military Personnel Command
- Lieutenant General Jennie Carignan, Chief, Professional Conduct and Culture
- General Wayne Eyre, Chief of the Defence Staff
- Raquel Garbers, Director General of Strategic Defence Policy
- Kerry-Lynn Nankivell, Director of Strategic Assessment
- Major General Jaime Speiser-Blanchet, Deputy Commander Royal Canadian Air Force

Institutions and Organizations

- CAE
- Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries
- Canadian Forces College
- Canadian Red Cross
- Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Council on Strategic Risks
- Deloitte
- Georgetown University
- George Washington University
- Girl Security
- Google
- International Republican Institute
- IPSOS
- Marine Corps University
- McCain Institute
- Microsoft
- Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto
- National Democratic Institute
- NATO
- Well Health Technologies
- White House Gender Policy Council
- University of Denver
- United States Air Force Academy
- United States Institute of Peace.

Diplomatic Sessions were hosted in Ottawa by Ines Coppoolse, the Dutch Ambassador to Canada, with support from Women in Defence and Security (WiDS); and by Susannah Goshko, British High Commissioner to Canada, as part of the annual Curry Lunch. Both receptions provided the opportunity for Fellows to meet with their diplomatic representatives. A meeting was also held with Yulia Kovaliv, Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada.

Leadership Sessions took place in Colorado Springs, led by Colonel (Ret.) Kim Campbell, and in Ottawa, led by Lieutenant General Lise Bourgon, allowing Fellows to meet with former military, active-duty military and Department of National Defence leaders to learn how effective leaders meet modern challenges.



2023 Fellows with Debbie Baxter and panelists during a day at Deloitte's Greenhouse in Ottawa.

About HFX

HFX's mission is to strengthen strategic cooperation among the world's democracies.

At HFX, we believe that true security is achieved only when people enjoy the benefits of democracy, leading in turn to economic prosperity and lasting peace. Since 2009, HFX promotes greater understanding, builds trust and deepens ties through its unique and diverse international programming. HFX's annual Halifax International Security Forum is the world's most consequential meeting on democracy and global affairs.

HFX is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, DC.

**HFX thanks the following partners for supporting the
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Deloitte.

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