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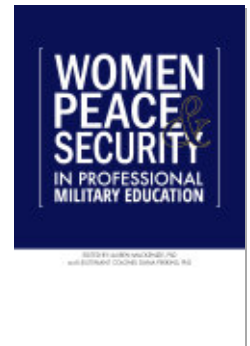
## Epilogue

### Published by

Women, Peace, and Security in Professional Military Education.

Marine Corps University Press, 2022.

Project MUSE. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/book.102414>.



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<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/102414>



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## EPILOGUE

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### **The Value of Rewarding Good Writing**

It is unlikely we would be reading a monograph like this had it not been for Neyla Arnas's years of dedication to WPS at the National Defense University (NDU). Before her retirement, she shared her ideas (including the NDU WPS Writing Award) with Marine Corps University (MCU) faculty during the 2018 summer Faculty Development Program, and with generous support from the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), the WPS Writing Award was launched in 2018 as a means of attracting and rewarding WPS-related research and writing among MCU students. The inclusion of this new writing award alongside the other long-standing writing awards continues to serve several important functions. First, the announcement of the award through each college's distance learning platform and an email to all students and faculty informs the MCU learning community about what WPS is and why it is important, and incentivizes student participation through a monetary award. Additionally, the call for papers offers a tangible display for faculty after a WPS class session or panel to help move the yardstick from "So what?" to "Now what?" and give students an opportunity to address WPS-related topics for a research paper with the potential for recognition and reward.

### **The MCU WPS Writing Award**

The MCU WPS Writing Award seeks to draw on the perspective and recommendations of the nation's best and brightest to find unique ways to better leverage the power of all our citizens in conflict prevention and resolution. Papers are judged on their connection to the U.S. WPS Strategy, the United Nations WPS agenda, or the value of a gendered perspective relating to conflict prevention and resolution more broadly. Winning papers emphasize one or more of the following issues:

- Women and conflict resolution
- Women's roles in conflict prevention
- Protections for women during and after conflict (relief and recovery)
- Mitigation of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls
- Comments on the U.S. WPS Strategy
- National and international stakeholders' respective roles in setting and advancing the WPS agenda
- Gender perspectives: The importance of the diversification of thought and viewpoints when planning and executing conflict prevention and resolution

The WPS Writing Award selection committee consists of five members of the MCU faculty who judge the degree to which each submission 1) connects to at least one of the WPS issues as described in the call for papers (listed above); 2) contains a well-thought-out and solidly researched argument; and 3) reflects graduate-level writing. The winner is awarded a certificate of achievement and monetary prize (ranging from \$250–\$500) from NNOA, presented by the MCU

president and NNOA Quantico Chapter president. In years past, the MCU WPS Writing Award winners were:

**2019:** Major Emily Barton, USMC, Command and Staff College, for her paper titled “Birthing a Cultural Change: Pregnancy and Marine Corps Policy.”

**2020:** Sergeant Dakota Kotula, USMC, College of Distance Education and Training, for his paper titled “Gender-Mainstreaming: Changing Perceptions of Female Engagement in Terror Analysis.”

**2021:** Major Danielle Villanueva, USA, Command and Staff College, for her paper titled “Operationalizing Women, Peace, and Security in the Armed Services: An Army Strategic Implementation Plan”

## The “Best of” WPS Writing Award

2021 was the first year that the Joint PME “Best of” WPS Writing Award competition was launched with the goal of bringing together the top papers selected from across the various PME schoolhouses for review by a panel of subject matter experts. The idea emerged as a result of a discussion led by Colonel Veronica Oswald-Hrutkay, USAR, during the inaugural Joint WPS Academic Forum Workshop hosted by the U.S. Army War College (USAWC) in August 2020. Dr. Lauren Mackenzie of MCU volunteered to chair the selection committee, which included Lieutenant Colonel Dana Perkins, USAR, from USAWC, Associate Professor Brenda Oppermann from the Naval War College, and Dr. Susan Yoshihara from the Defense Security Cooperation University—all of whom generously gave of their time and knowledge to review the papers submitted for consideration. Command and General Staff College student Major Sarah Salvo’s, paper titled “The Effect of Hegemonic Masculinities on the Endemic of Sexual Misconduct in the United States Army” was selected as the winner, and she was recognized with the USAWC WPS coin as well as a certificate and letter from Air Force brigadier general Rebecca Sonkiss, deputy director of Counter Threats and International Cooperation (J-5), the Joint Staff, Washington, DC.

As of this writing, PME schools from around the United States are selecting their writing award recipients, and it has been the goal of this monograph not only to showcase the “best of the best” across branches of Service and levels of learning but also to pave the way for future recognition of military students’ research and writing devoted to the relevance of WPS at tactical, operational, and strategic levels. As an additional incentive, the Academic Year 2022 “Best of” WPS Writing Award winner will receive a \$500 cash prize donated by Colonel Oswald-Hrutkay in her retirement.

## A Word of Thanks

It will come as no surprise to those familiar with military culture that many of the uniformed leaders of the WPS effort in recent years are transitioning out of their roles in 2022. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Colonel Oswald-Hrutkay and Lieutenant

Colonel Perkins for their leadership roles in the Joint WPS Academic Forum in recent years, and we welcome Lieutenant Colonel Amanda Clare, USAR, as she takes over the reigns as the new forum leader. Since the release of the DOD *WPS Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan*, a variety of new working groups have emerged across the DOD, and the Joint WPS Academic Forum exists to bring together military and civilian leaders dedicated to integrating WPS into their respective PME institutions and training programs. The forum has benefited tremendously from the WPS initiatives undertaken by Colonel Oswald-Hrutkay and Lieutenant Colonel Perkins to advance the work of military students and educators. The WPS academic community—with its various educational initiatives spanning the PME spectrum—have grown and strengthened as a result of their dedication.

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