



YOU TELL THE STORY / WE TELL THE WORLD **1-877-DVIDS-247**

HOME NEWS IMAGES VIDEO AUDIO PUBLICATIONS MEDIA REQUESTS ABOUT DVIDS

Top Stories | Most Recent | Highest Rated | Most Popular

News » Detailed View

Like **216** Tweet **1** **8+1** Share

News: Arizona's new general: Accept opportunities, be versatile, be grateful

Arizona National Guard Public Affairs

Story by [Maj. Gabe Johnson](#)

PHOENIX – The Arizona National Guard congratulated its newest brigadier general at a promotion ceremony for the state's joint staff director here June 7.



Senior Airman Rashaunda Williams U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Kerry L. Muehlenbeck laughs with the audience during her promotion ceremony June 7, 2014, at the 161st Air Refueling Wing, Phoenix. "The military is a big part of me – but it's not all of me. I've tried to balance all aspects of my life over the years," said Muehlenbeck

Air Force Brig. Gen. Kerry Muehlenbeck now wears the rank commensurate with her duty to direct Arizona Army and Air Guard joint operations, special staff agencies, and joint policies and programs. Humbled by her promotion's significance, she said she will approach her job with a perspective that served her well during her 22-year military career.

"For me, this is another opportunity to do something new, broaden my scope, and contribute," said Muehlenbeck, a judge advocate, or attorney, by trade. "It's another opportunity to either succeed or fail. I prefer success, but you can't be afraid to fail, especially if you learn from it. You've got to go out and try. That's what my parents always taught me."

Muehlenbeck, a native of Saginaw, Michigan, began her career as an active duty judge advocate at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. She transitioned to the Arizona Air National Guard in 1997 and has since served in the legal offices of the 161st Air Refueling Wing at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport – the site of her recent promotion ceremony – and at the Arizona National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters also located in Phoenix.

Most notably, she developed and instructed the Air National Guard's contemporary base issues course, a course well-known in Air Guard circles nationwide for preparing commanders and their support staff to face command and legal issues as a team.

"She's taught thousands of commanders, chiefs and first sergeants about how to handle very complex issues," said Master Sgt. Lori Jung, who assisted Muehlenbeck with the CBI course for nearly a decade. "She has a sharp sense of humor and she's the best teacher I've seen. She's by the book and knows how to find the answer to anything."

"She's been the most incredible mentor I've had in my entire life and I'm ecstatic that she is now a general officer. Though she never thought so, I always knew someday she would be a general. We're very lucky to have her," said Jung who continues to serve as the law office superintendent at the 161st.

In her civilian career, Muehlenbeck is a professor at Mesa Community College and an adjunct faculty member at Arizona State University. As a teacher she works with a diverse cross section of students that, she said, keep her people and management skills uniquely honed for service as a military leader.

For the new general, success as a civilian and as a Citizen-Airman is achieved through finding equilibrium among her various roles – never placing her entire identity into one basket.

"The military is a big part of me – but it's not all of me. I've tried to balance all aspects of my life over the years," said Muehlenbeck. "So, as much as I may be a brigadier general, I am as much a daughter that values what my parents tell me, and I am as much a sister that still teases her sibling. The key is to find that balance and learn not to take yourself so seriously."

Date Taken: 06.07.2014
Date Posted: 06.08.2014 15:03
Location: PHOENIX, AZ, US
Hometown: [SAGINAW, MI, US](#)

More Like This



News Tags

[Arizona Air National Guard](#), [First Female General](#)

Options

[Register/Login to Download](#)
 [Printable Version](#)



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

SELECT A HOLIDAY:

Please Select

VIDEO ON DEMAND



OTHER AREAS

- Operation Enduring Freedom
- Operation New Dawn
- Natochannel.tv
- Pentagon Channel
- DIMOC Video
- Media Presskit



Muehlenbeck is the first woman in the Arizona National Guard to serve as a general officer. While it is yet another label she gladly accepts, she maintains a practical point of view on being the first.

"If I succeed or fail, it's not because I am a woman, it's because I did or didn't do a good job," she said. "I am not a pioneer. There were certainly pioneers within the generations of women who came before me, and those are the shoulders I've been standing on throughout my career. They fought battles that I didn't have to fight."

The general's fresh perspective and legal background are expected to play a key role within the Arizona National Guard's senior leadership cadre as they shape a post-war future for Guard members, their families, and all Arizonans. Promotion and the responsibilities that come with it, Muehlenbeck said, cause her to reflect on many factors.

"Gratitude," she said. "Gratitude is most important because there are many people who have the talent and qualifications to be where I am. I am very thankful for the opportunity."

Connected Media

Arizona's new... U.S. Air Force Col. Kerry L. Muehlenbeck w as promoted to...
Arizona's new... U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Michael McGuire, the adjutant...
Arizona's new... U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Kerry L. Muehlenbeck laughs...



Add a comment..

Comment using...



Ed Balaban

Heartiest congratulations and very well earned.

Reply · Like · 3 · Yesterday at 1:44am

Facebook social plugin

Table with 2 columns: Metric (Web Views, Downloads, Podcast Hits) and Value (490, 3, 0)



This work, Arizona's new general: Accept opportunities, be versatile, be grateful, by Maj. Gabe Johnson, identified by DVIDS, is free of known copyright restrictions under U.S. copyright law.

News

- Top Stories
Most Recent
Highest Rated
Most Popular

Images

- Most Recent
Highest Rated
Most Popular

Video

- HD
Holiday Greetings Map
B-Roll
Briefings
Commercials
Greetings
In The Fight
Interviews
Newscasts
Package
PSA
Series

Audio

- Most Recent
Highest Rated
Most Popular

Publications

- Recent Issues
Archived Issues

Media Requests

- Create Request
Media Press Kit

About DVIDS

- Personnel Bios
Contact Us
Privacy & Security
FAQs
Copyright Information
Suggestion Box