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**AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES MELANNE VERVEER,
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' ASSISTANT SECRETARY L. TAMMY
DUCKWORTH AMONG NOTED SPEAKERS AT SEA SERVICE LEADERSHIP
ASSOCIATION'S 24th ANNUAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

Women of all branches will have opportunity to learn leadership skills and network

Washington, D.C. (February 9, 2011) – **Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer** and **Department of Veterans Affairs' Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs L. Tammy Duckworth** are among the confirmed speakers at the [Sea Service Leadership Association \(SSLA\)](http://www.sealeader.org)'s 24th Annual Women's Leadership Symposium. The symposium will take place March 15-16, 2011 at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego, Calif. The conference is slated to be one of the largest gatherings of women in uniform nationwide.

Additional confirmed participants include retired **Army Capt. Dawn Halfaker**, an Iraq war veteran, business leader and U.S. Military Academy at West Point graduate who earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star following serious injuries at war and **New York Times reporter Elisabeth Bumiller**. Bumiller spent time embedded with the Marine female engagement team in the Helmand province of Afghanistan.

Themed "Connect. Empower. Succeed," this year's symposium will offer women from all service branches an opportunity to focus on their leadership development while also highlighting the achievements of women leaders on the front lines across the globe. In addition to the Marines, Navy and Coast Guard, this year the Army and Air Force are participating partners in the Women's Leadership Symposium, making it truly a joint event. **Attendees can register at www.sealeader.org until March 14, 2011, as well as find additional conference information.**

Ambassador Verveer, Assistant Secretary Duckworth and retired Army Capt. Halfaker will speak during the first day of the conference, which will feature speakers and panel sessions on issues relevant to all military women, such as "Achieving Career Success," "Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle" and "Financial Management." A female general officer panel including representatives from all branches will address leadership issues. **Elisabeth Bumiller** will moderate the "Women Building Global Security and Stability" panel.

The second day will include high ranking senior officer speakers and agendas specific to each of the service branches. The Navy's agenda will include a workshop on issues for joint military marriages. A presentation by the Army Women's History Museum on the "History of Women in the Army," will be part of the agenda for Army attendees. The Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard will offer speakers on topics including "Career Development: Characteristics of Career Progression," mentoring lunches and breakout sessions for officers from similar assignments.

"The Sea Service Leadership Association is honored to have Ambassador Verveer, Assistant Secretary Duckworth, and Dawn Halfaker among the confirmed speakers at this year's 24th annual Women's Leadership Symposium," said Rear Adm. Janice Hamby, U.S. Navy Senior Board Member of SSLA. "These are amazing and inspiring women and they'll be joined by other distinguished speakers from both industry and the military. Symposium attendees will be sure to benefit from hearing their valuable leadership experiences and insights. We're very pleased by the program and the range of leadership building activities that will be a part of the symposium."

To speak with a representative from the Sea Service Leadership Association about the symposium, please contact Victoria Shapiro at (202) 414-0774, or through e-mail at vshapiro@susandavis.com.

Confirmed sponsors of the Sea Service Leadership Association's 24th Annual Women's Leadership Symposium to date include: WAVES National, Women of the Sea Services; The PenFed Foundation; Walmart; and Booz Allen Hamilton.

The Sea Service Leadership Association was established in 1978. It is the only non-profit organization in the United States dedicated to providing professional development through networking, education, and mentorship of women from all three maritime armed forces - the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The Sea Service Leadership Association is a national non-profit and non-political organization.

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