



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday, October 13, 2012
CONTACT: Katy Otto, Service Women's Action Network
240-478-9387 (cell), or katy@servicewomen.org

Service Women's Action Network Denounces Sexist Ad Mocking Congressional Candidate, Combat Pilot Martha McSally

*Women Veterans Organization Demands Democratic House PAC Recall Ad
and Issue Apology*

New York, NY – Service Women's Action Network (SWAN), a non-partisan organization founded and led by women veterans, is calling on the Democratic House Majority PAC to recall its recent ad denigrating Republican congressional candidate **Martha McSally**, and issue an apology to her campaign. SWAN is denouncing the ad's sexist characterization of McSally, a retired Air Force commander and the first female fighter pilot to fly in combat. The ad features a photo of McSally, superimposed on a kitchen background, with several of her "recipes" for Congress.

One Arizona television station has pulled the ad, but the ad still remains on the PAC's website and on Youtube. Andy Stone, spokesman for the Democratic House Majority PAC, said the PAC stood behind the ad, and stated that no group had called for its removal.

"SWAN will not stand for sexist tactics used against women veteran candidates, regardless of their party affiliation," said Anu Bhagwati, SWAN Executive Director and former Marine Corps captain. "This ad is an offensive and misguided way to depict a retired Colonel who spent her career battling both sexism in the ranks and America's enemies overseas, and needs to be removed immediately, with an apology to Martha McSally. Women who serve in uniform already confront this ignorance while making cracks in the military's brass ceiling--they shouldn't have to battle it again as they pursue public office."

The ad is available for viewing here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Z5AZletb4SI.

*SWAN is a national civil rights organization founded and led by women veterans.
SWAN's mission is to transform military culture by securing equal opportunity and the
freedom to serve in uniform without discrimination, harassment or assault; and to reform
veterans' services to ensure high quality health care and benefits for women veterans and
their families. You can follow Service Women's Action Network on Twitter
at <http://twitter.com/servicewomen>, or on Facebook
at <http://www.facebook.com/servicewomen>.*

###