



OCTOBER DISPATCHES

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WWW.SERVICEWOMEN.ORG

SWAN SUBMITS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS TO THE PENTAGON, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

SWAN has partnered with the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School and the ACLU to submit a series of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration in an



effort to get an accurate picture of the actual impact of Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

"With these FOIA requests, SWAN intends to educate society about the hidden epidemic of Military Sexual Trauma among our nation's servicemembers and veterans," says Anu Bhagwati, Executive Director of the Service Women's Action Network. "Failure to prosecute sex offenders, destruction of Equal Opportunity investigations and VA rejection rates for veterans who apply for

MST-related disability claims are just a few of the trends we intend to bring to light."

SWAN PREPARES FOR UPCOMING VETERANS DAY EVENTS



VETERANS DAY 5K SWIM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2010 • 11:30 AM

The CIBBOWS Veterans Day Charity Open Water 5K Swim will benefit two celebrated organizations that serve veterans - the Service Women's Action Network (www.servicewomen.org) and the Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org). Participants have the choice of swimming 1 mile, 2 miles, or the full 5K. The race is a 2.5 K straight mile course running parallel to the shore, with turn arounds at majestic Coney Island Pier and at the end of Brighton Beach. In the interest of safety, swimmers have the option of switching distances mid-race.

To sign up or find out how you can support this event, visit: <http://www.cibbows.org/races/>



The upcoming Veterans Day weekend is a busy one for SWAN. On Saturday, November 6th, SWAN is sponsoring an ocean swim. The CIBBOWS Veterans Day Charity Open Water 5K Swim will benefit SWAN and the Wounded Warrior Project. This is a chance for swimmers to test their

mettle in a cold water swim on the cusp of winter, and to make a huge impact by giving back to our nation's veterans during the week designed to honor them. [Click here](#) for more information.

SWAN is making its first appearance in the legendary NYC Veterans Day Parade. We march to remind the world of women's incredible contribution to the United States military. SWAN supports, defends, and speaks for all military women. We especially welcome Military Sexual Trauma survivors and LGBT veterans and servicemembers to join us and to help the nation remember all of those who are otherwise forgotten on this day. Help us make this a historic day by creating the largest women's contingent in NYC Veterans Day Parade History! For details, [click here](#).

SWAN FUNDING UPDATE

This month SWAN was honored to be the designated charity at the latest Washington DC Ladies' Arm Wrestling (DCLAW) event. DCLAW raised over \$3500 for SWAN at their bout, which featured SWAN's own Marlisa Grogan going over the top with legendary DCLAW wrestler



Mommie Dearest. "It felt great to be a part of an event that the ladies of DCLAW

put on not only for fun but for SWAN's benefit," Marlisa said. To learn more about the DC Ladies of Arm Wrestling, go to their [Facebook page](#), and [click here](#) to see coverage of the event on WUSA9 News Now.

SWAN has also been awarded a generous grant from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation. The grant will support SWAN's national women veterans [peer support helpline](#) and SWAN's local NYC community programs in the coming year.

If you are interested in donating to our important work, please [click here](#), or on the DONATE NOW button at the bottom of this page. Your tax deductible donation will help SWAN ensure equality, fairness, and justice for women in the military and dramatically improve resources for women veterans.

STAFF PROFILE: KALIMA DESUZE



Meet Kalima DeSuze, SWAN's Community Development Director. Kalima organizes local workshops and discussion groups for servicewomen and women veterans in the New York City area. Kalima served more than six years in the US

Army as a Battalion Paralegal handling a diverse range of issues from criminal justice to personal property claims. She holds a Bachelors in Social Work in general practice social work from Hood College, including experience providing direct services. Kalima earned a Masters in Social Work (MSW) from Hunter College School of Social Work with a concentration in community organizing and social planning. While earning her MSW, she was the primary organizer for the Undoing Racism Project; she continues to sit on the Undoing Racism Steering Committee. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of National Association of Social Workers-NYC. She is completing her final year of study at Baruch College, pursuing a Masters in Public Administration in Non-Profit Management and Public Policy. To get in touch with Kalima, email her at kalima@servicewomen.org.

SWAN IN THE NEWS

Check out SWAN's recent media appearances



here:

["Log Cabin Republicans React to Ruling on Don't Ask, Don't Tell", National Public Radio](#)

["The State of Equality," In the Life](#)



["Women suffer more under Don't Ask Don't Tell," Feminists For Choice](#)

["Why Women Suffer More Under Don't Ask Don't Tell," Jezebel](#)

["Even When You Can't See the Scars, They are Clearly Visible: Ending Don't Ask, Don't Tell," National Center for Lesbian Rights, Out for Justice Blog](#)

["Sen. John Cornyn says that the annual defense authorization bill includes language that would require military hospitals to provide abortions 'on demand'," Austin-American Statesman and PolitiFact Texas](#)

DONATE NOW!



SWAN is a 501(c)3 organization that urgently needs your financial support. Your tax deductible donation will help SWAN ensure equality, fairness, and justice for women in the military and dramatically improve resources for

women veterans.



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