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Service Women's Action Network Commends Appointment of New OutServe-SLDN Director

*Women Veterans Group Applauds the Choice of Army Veteran Allyson
Robinson to Lead Newly Combined LGBT Organization*

New York, NY – Today, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) and OutServe announced the selection of Army veteran Allyson Robinson to lead their newly merged organization. Both organizations defend the rights of LGBT service members, veterans, and their families, and will finalize their merge this weekend. Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) commends the historic decision.

“As longtime allies of OutServe and SLDN, we are thrilled to learn of Allyson’s appointment,” said Anu Bhagwati, executive director of Service Women’s Action Network and former Marine Corps captain. “As we continue to struggle for equality for LGBT service members and veterans, we need brave, dynamic leaders committed to fighting for the right to serve in uniform, free from harassment and discrimination. Allyson’s combination of exemplary military experience and effective LGBT organizing make her the perfect choice.”

Ms. Robinson is a 1994 West Point graduate who majored in physics. Her professional military accomplishments include interning at Los Alamos National Laboratory, commanding Patriot missile units in the United States, Germany and Saudi Arabia, and serving as a senior advisor for NATO. She resigned her commission in 1999 to pursue a calling to ministry and social justice work.

Most recently, Ms. Robinson served as head of the Human Rights Workplace Project at the Human Rights Campaign, developing LGBT cultural competency programming for corporations. A transgender woman herself, Ms. Robinson is a dedicated activist who has worked diligently for transgender inclusion in the professional world – including the military. Her perspective is gravely needed, according to SWAN.

“Don’t Ask Don’t Tell may have happened a year ago, but we still have a military that treats LGB service members and their families like second-class citizens, and bars transgender people from serving at all,” said Ms. Bhagwati. “Ms. Robinson’s leadership, experience and skill come to this movement at very critical time. She has SWAN’s complete support, and we can’t wait to begin working with her.”

SWAN will join Ms. Robinson in Orlando, FL this weekend for OutServe’s annual conference.

View Ms. Robinson’s video statement on her hire [here](#).

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>.

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