



Science  
for Peace and  
Security (SPS)  
Programme

**NATO SPS Advanced Research Workshop**  
***A Gender Lens Approach to  
Military to Civilian Transition  
and Reintegration for  
Ukraine Joint Forces Operation  
Women Combatants***

Emerging  
Security Challenges  
Division

**Thursday, November 4, 2021**

5:00 AM - 7:30 AM PDT | 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM EDT |  
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM CET | 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM EET



# Context

In Ukraine, Canada and other NATO allied and partner nations, the advancement of women's participation and integration into military service followed by a successful transition and reintegration to civilian life is a top priority. Military to civilian transition (MCT) research demonstrates that while many releasing military personnel experience unique challenges and needs, most reintegrate successfully, especially with the benefit of preparation and adequate access to effective supports. However, some will experience severe difficulties in varying areas of life, such as: forming a civilian identity, employment, finances, mental health, PTSD and other common mental health conditions. The societal impacts of a failed MCT have been well documented. For these reasons, adopting effective evidence-based policies to support successful MCT is a high priority internationally.

In recent years, research has emerged that provides guidance to nations for effective MCT policies and programs. Nevertheless, key areas remain understudied, including the development of transition theories and multi-domain frameworks to support transition policymaking, with emphasis on meeting the specialized needs of women transitioning out of military service. One key priority area is understanding how women experience PTSD and other common mental health conditions when they return from combat zones.

## Goal

Apply a gender lens to translate existing research to policy opportunities and define priorities for new research relevant to MCT policy development for NATO member and partner nations.



## Impact

The project will adapt current frameworks, and examples reviewed through gender-based lenses to better support policy development to advance successful MCT for woman combatants.





## Deliverables

During the virtual workshop, speakers from Ukraine, Canada and the United States will apply a gender lens to MCT research findings, theories, and frameworks, to advance this area of research. Released or releasing Joint Force Operations (JFO) women combatants in Ukraine with lived experience will be given a voice to inform the workshop proceedings and outcomes. The final workshop report will summarize immediate research-to-action opportunities and clarify the path forward for possible new projects and studies.



# Agenda

Thursday, November 4, 2021: 5:00 AM - 7:30 AM PDT | 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM EDT  
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**8:00 AM**

## Opening Remarks

Emcee: **Maj (Ret'd) Yvonne Cooper**, CD, Executive Director, Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR)

**Olena Suslova**, Women's Information Consultative Center (WICC), Ukraine

**David Pedlar, PhD**, Scientific Director, CIMVHR, Canada

**8:10 AM**

## Perspective from NATO

**David van Weel**, Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO

**8:15 AM**

## Perspective from Ukraine

**H. E. Ms. Nataliia Galibarenko**, Head of the Mission of Ukraine to NATO

**8:20 AM**

## Perspective from Canada

**H.E. Ms. Larisa Galadza**, Ambassador of Canada to Ukraine

**8:25 AM**

## A personal perspective

**Yuliya Hromova**, Ukrainian Veteran

## BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM DEFINITION

**8:40 AM**

## Military to Civilian Transition (MCT) - The Big Picture

**Carl Castro, PhD**, Professor and Director of the University of Southern California for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families and the Military and Veterans Program

**Sanela Dursun, PhD**, Chief Scientist, Department of National Defence, Canada

**8:50 AM**

## Summarize NATO, United Nations and Ukraine Support for Advancing Women's Integration as Priority Citing Past Declarations

**Olena Suslova**, WICC, Ukraine

**8:40 AM**

## NATO SPS Programme

**Dr. Deniz Beten**, Senior SPS And Partnership Cooperation Advisor, NATO Emerging Security Challenges Division

9:00 AM

Overview of Women in Military and as Veterans in Ukraine, Canada, and the United States

**Ivona Kostyna**, Chairperson, The Ukraine Veteran Hub, Ukraine  
Sanela Dursun, PhD, Chief Scientist, Department of National Defence, Canada  
**Dawne Vogt, PhD**, Health Research Scientist, Women’s Health Sciences Division of NCPTSD, VA Boston Healthcare System & Professor of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine, USA

RESEARCH METHODS TO STUDY MCT

9:15 AM

The Needs of Women Veterans in Transition to Post- Service Life

**Margaret C. McKinnon, PhD**, CPsych, Homewood Chair in Mental Health and Trauma, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Research, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, McMaster University  
**Linna Tam-Seto, PhD**, Research Associate, McMaster University, Canada

9:30 AM

Break

SUMMARY OF ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS ABOUT WOMEN VETERANS

9:35 AM

Integrated Summary of Issues and Challenges

**Linna Tam-Seto, PhD**, Research Associate, McMaster University, Canada  
**Ivona Kostyna**, Chairperson, The Ukraine Veteran Hub, Ukraine

CONCLUDING REMARKS

10:10 AM

Open Discussion and Comments

**David Pedlar**, CIMVHR  
**Olena Suslova**, WICC

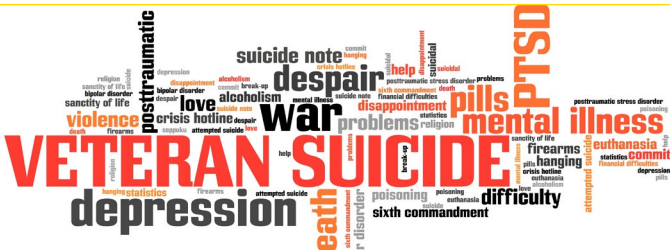
10:20 AM

Closing Remarks

**Deniz Yuksel-Beten, PhD**, Senior SPS & Partnership Cooperation Advisor, NATO  
**David Pedlar**, CIMVHR  
**Olena Suslova**, WICC

10:30 AM

Workshop Ends



# Participating Institutions



**CIMVHR | ICRSMV**

## **Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR)**

CIMVHR is an innovative organization that engages existing academic research resources and facilitates the development of new research, research capacity and effective knowledge translation. Founded by Queen's University and the Royal Military College, CIMVHR has a network of academic researchers from across Canada and serves as the hub for 46 Canadian universities and 14 Global Affiliates who work together in addressing the health research requirements of the Canadian military, Veterans and their families.



## **Women's Information Consultative Centre (WICC)**

The WICC was established in 1995. The main objective of the WICC is to provide a forum for discussion of gender-related issues in society, in all sectors and at all levels, to aid in understanding gender transformation, eliminate gender discrimination, and ensure gender equality. The center's activities to achieve these goals focus on disseminating information, providing education and training, conducting research and analysis, and advocacy work. Since 2014 the WICC works actively on Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.





Corporal Shannon Clayton, an Aviation Systems Technician aboard HMCS CALGARY loads a torpedo on to a CH-148 Cyclone Helicopter during operation PROJECTION in the Indian Ocean, 14 April 2021.

© Corporal Lynette Ai Dang, Her Majesty's Canadian Ship CALGARY, Imagery Technician

# The Science for Peace and Security

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme is an established brand for NATO based on four pillars: science, partnership, security, and unconventional issues (hybrid threats). It has been contributing to the core goals of the Alliance for more than six decades. Today, the SPS Programme continues to be one of the largest and most important partnership programmes addressing 21st century security challenges, particularly cyber defence, counter-terrorism, CBRN defence, energy security and advanced technologies.

The NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme enhances security-related civil science and technology to address emerging security challenges and their impacts on international security. It connects scientists, experts and officials from NATO and Partner countries to work together to address these challenges. The SPS Programme provides funding and expert advice for security-relevant activities in the form of Multi-Year Projects (MYP), Advanced Research Workshops (ARW), Advanced Training Courses (ATC), and Advanced Study Institutes (ASI). SPS activities are always demand-driven, modular, and designed to meet the requirements of the nation(s) and end user(s). The relevance of SPS activities in response to NATO Strategic Objectives and political priorities is reinforced also via special calls, which are issued on an ad hoc basis to draw the attention of the scientific community towards current topics of interest for Allies.

# (SPS) Programme

*Every year, approximately 2000 experts participate in SPS activities and help to build capacity in partner nations, and support NATO's security efforts.*

*More than 20 Nobel Laureates have been involved in the SPS Programme, a testament to the scientific excellence supported by the SPS Programme.*

*Young scientists are also actively supported through SPS activities, which contribute to broaden their professional network and scientific expertise.*

The SPS Programme also has a high public diplomacy value for NATO, providing the Alliance with separate, non-military communication channels by bringing together experts from NATO and Partner countries, often in situations or regions where other forms of dialogue more directly focused on defence and security are difficult to establish. Accordingly, the Programme enables NATO to become actively involved in such regions, often serving as the first concrete link between NATO and a new Partner.



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You can find further information  
on our website:

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