

2016 National Training Conference

Keynote Speaker

General George W. Casey Jr. (Ret)
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army



General George W. Casey, Jr. enjoyed a 41-year career in the U.S. Army following his graduation from Georgetown University. He is an accomplished leader and an authority on strategic leadership.

He led the U.S. Army from 2007-2011 and is widely credited with restoring balance to a war-weary Army and leading the transformation to keep it relevant in the 21st Century. He is a stalwart advocate for military families, wounded Soldiers, and survivors of the fallen, and took on the tough issues of suicide and reducing the stigma attached to combat stress. Prior to this, he commanded the Multi-National Force – Iraq, a coalition of more than 30 countries, where he guided the Iraq mission through its toughest days.

He held numerous other senior leadership positions in Europe, the Middle East and in the United States in his 15 years as a general officer.

He is currently serving as a Distinguished Senior Lecturer of Leadership at the Samuel Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University and lecturing internationally on leadership at other business schools and to the leaders of national and multinational corporations. He also lectures on International Relations at the Korbel School, University of Denver.

He is Chairman of the USO Board of Governors and serves on several corporate boards and boards of other organizations that support our servicemen and women, our veterans and their families.

He has published a book, Strategic Reflections, Operation Iraqi Freedom, July 2004-2007 (October 2012), about his experiences in Iraq, and two articles on leadership: “Leading in a VUCA World”, Fortune Magazine (March 20, 2014), and “Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous: Leadership Lessons from Iraq”, Chapter 1, Changing Mindsets to Transform Security, (December 2013).

He holds a Master’s Degree in International Relations from Denver University, and served as a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States, a foreign policy think-tank. He has broad international experience. Born in Japan, he served in operational assignments in Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East.

He and his wife, Sheila, have two sons, two wonderful daughters-in-law and six grandchildren.

Guest Speakers

Catharine Grimes

Director, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation



Catharine has over 20 years in the pharmaceutical / healthcare industry. She has been with Bristol-Myers Squibb since 1997, where she has served in many different roles in the commercial operations from sales training and management to advocacy and community relations and across multiple therapeutic areas, before moving to her current role as Director at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation in 2010. Catharine directs 3 of the Foundation's 6 global grant programs: the Mental Health and Well-being grant program, focused on improving health outcomes and community reintegration of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan; Bridging Cancer Care in Central and Eastern Europe – a capacity building program for nurses in five countries in CEE; and the new Bridging Cancer Care program in the US, which aims to improve the outcomes and quality of life for lung cancer patients, survivors, their families and caregivers. Each of the grant programs under Catharine's direction operates on the same strategic platform of mobilizing

communities to achieve greater health outcomes. Catharine earned a MBA in Healthcare Administration from the Baruch College / Mt. Sinai School of Medicine Executive MBA program, and a Bachelor's degree in Accountancy from the University of Mississippi. She is also a CPA. Catharine lives in New York City with and her husband, Dr. Bruce Polsky.

Kacie Kelly

Senior Program Manager, Mental Health Strategic Partnerships, Department of Veterans Affairs



Ms. Kelly has worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the past 14 years in a variety of capacities across the country and currently serves as the Senior Program Manager for Mental Health in VA Strategic Partnerships at VA Central Office. In this role, she works to leverage public-private partnerships to enhance mental healthcare for Veterans and their families. In addition, she has a leading role to promote military culture competence throughout the healthcare community and a variety of other outreach efforts to reduce stigma associated with seeking mental healthcare and enhance provider education. Prior to her current role, she served in leadership capacities targeting evidence-based mental health care policy and dissemination across VA-DoD enterprises. She earned her Master of Health Sciences (MHS) at Louisiana State University and has a Graduate Certificate in Women in Public Policy and Politics from the University of Massachusetts - Boston. Ms. Kelly is also an active volunteer in the New Orleans

community where she serves as a Commissioner on the BioDistrict Board of New Orleans and on the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross.

Jared Lyon

President and CEO, Student Veterans of America (SVA)



Jared Lyon was appointed President and CEO of Student Veterans of America (SVA) on January 4, 2016. Before joining SVA, Lyon was the national program manager at the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University for the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) and EBV-Families (EBV-F), providing small business management and entrepreneurship instruction free of charge in workshops held at eight universities annually.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Lyon served as a submariner and diver, taking part in multiple deployments around the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Lyon returned to higher education, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University (FSU) in December 2011. He was inducted in FSU's first class of "Thirty Under 30" at its Young Alumni Awards Reception in 2012.

Lyon holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where he is an adjunct professor at the Whitman School of Management. He serves as a board member of the Florida State University Student Veterans Film Festival and Veterans Center Advisory Board.