

SOCIETY FOR MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY

Presents this 2019 Presidential Citation to

Karin Orvis, PhD

For her, leadership, dedication, and passion in the field of military psychology in areas of research, policy change, advocacy, and service.

Dr. Orvis is currently the Director of DoD's Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO). An industrial/organizational (I/O) psychologist by training, Dr. Orvis has had an indelible impact on our nation's military not just as a research psychologist, but also as a DoD leader and executive who regularly applies psychological principles and research in innovative and powerful ways to successfully lead departments and programs that tackle our nation's most difficult military personnel issues. Dr. Orvis has the rare ability to engage in the details of these issues with the mind of a researcher while also leading teams to find solutions to pressing problems with her leadership and management skills.

Dr. Orvis's affiliation with the military began in 2004, when she was accepted as a Research Fellow with the Consortium of Universities/ U.S. Army Research Institute for Behavioral and Social Sciences (ARI). She subsequently became an ARI Senior Consortium Fellow while serving as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Old Dominion University. In 2011, she joined ARI full-time in the role of a Research Psychologist, focusing on basic research projects including personnel training, testing, leadership development, and organizational effectiveness. During this time, Dr. Orvis was hand-selected to serve on a detail to the presidentially-directed Veterans Employment Initiative Task Force, which had an enormous impact on our nation's warriors and their families.

In 2016, Dr. Orvis became the Director of the DoD's Transition to Veterans Program Office, where her responsibilities involved improving the transition process that service members encounter as they leave the military. Subsequently, as the Acting Principal Director of DoD's Military Community and Family Policy, she was responsible for the policy, oversight, and advocacy of military community quality-of-life programs for service members and their families. Now as the Director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, her current portfolio spans the full spectrum of suicide prevention including policy, program development and evaluation, data surveillance, research, and outreach. She strategically leads multidisciplinary teams in designing, implementing, and evaluating DoD policies and programs in support of over two million service members and over 2.5 million military family members worldwide.

For extraordinary leadership in policy development and advocacy for service members, and her steadfast dedication to serving the military community, I, Stephen V. Bowles, take great pleasure in presenting the Society for Military Psychology Presidential Citation to Dr. Karin Orvis.

Stephen V. Bowles, PhD, ABPP
President, Society for Military Psychology

