

Remarks before the House and Senate Committees  
by Colonel Rosanne Greco, USAF (Retired)  
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Good afternoon. Thank you for accommodating me at the last minute. I received the questions last evening, and will try to answer them, but perhaps not in the order they were listed.

First, my background. I was born in Scranton, PA. My father worked in the coal mines and died of black lung disease when I was nine years old. My mother worked in garment factories and cleaned houses to support my brother and myself. After eighth grade, I entered the convent and became a nun. I left the convent after six-and-a-half years. I worked my way through college and earned a BA in Psychology. After graduation, I couldn't find a job, but heard the military paid for higher education. So because I couldn't get a job in Psychology, and couldn't afford graduate school, I joined the Air Force for the educational benefits. While on active duty, I earned a Master Degree in Counseling and Guidance, and completed all my course work for a PhD in International Relations and Arms Control. I served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years and retired in 2003 as a full Colonel. I lived in five foreign countries and nine U.S. states.

I held many jobs during my military career, but I specialized in strategic intelligence and arms control. I was a member of the Intelligence Community and held TOP SECRET/SCI (Sensitive Compartmented Information) security clearances for 35 years. I was a U.S. delegate to four international arms control treaties: the Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty (START), the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty's Standing Consultative Commission (SCC), the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE), and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). I also worked with the United Nations headquarters in New York City on peacekeeping and humanitarian affairs. I managed a \$60 million budget, and led and supervised over a thousand people providing intelligence, budgetary, logistical, personnel, security and IT systems support. I was twice assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon.

After I retired from the Air Force, I met my first (and last) husband. We moved to Vermont in 2007. I couldn't get a job in Vermont, so I did a lot of volunteer work: preparing and serving meals at the Chittenden County Food Shelf, being a chaperone for the parent-child visitation visits at the Chittenden County Correction Facility, worked on some Habitat for Humanity home builds, and I did a lot of activism work trying to preserve rural lands, and more. I currently work part-time for Weight Watchers helping people to lose weight and to become healthier. In 2011, I was elected to the South Burlington City Council, and in 2012, I was elected its Chair. It was at that time that the residents asked the city council to get involved in the F-35 basing proposal.

I decided to run for Vermont's Adjutant General for three main reasons — actually... concerns:

1. My concern for the wellbeing of the women of the Vermont Guard
2. My concern for Vermonters because of the dangers associated with having a nuclear bomber based in Vermont
3. My concern about the imbalances between the Army and Air components of the Guard

- First, the women of the Guard. I couldn't stay silent after reading the VTDigger articles about the treatment of women and whistle-blowers, the lack of accountability for inappropriate, unprofessional, and unethical behaviors, the preferential treatment of pilots, and the boys-club atmosphere and culture. This prompted me to speak to the women's caucus last week. In the week since then, I decided to run for Adjutant General.

In my military career, I personally experienced discrimination and harassment; and I witnessed it in many of the organizations to which I have been assigned, up to and including the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I developed ways to handle it personally, and I helped other women along the way. And, when I got into positions of authority I helped change the behaviors and the culture. As a junior officer, I remember thinking that if I ever got promoted to a senior rank, I'd do something about how women were treated. And I did. And I did.

Over the years, I've seen positive changes in how women are treated in the military. However, recent reports from both the active duty forces, and right here in our Vermont Guard are very concerning and show we are backsliding. I know we can transform our Vermont Guard so that everyone feels safe and listened to and is treated fairly and justly and with respect. This is not rocket science...and I've done rocket science. We had a saying in the military, that we can't regulate how you think, but we can regulate how you behave.

But, the change ... and the accountability... has to start at the very top with the Adjutant General. Senior commanders set the tone for the troops. They have to model the expected behaviors and they have to hold accountable those individuals—regardless of their rank—or even if they are their friends—who do not behave appropriately. All Guard members must have the freedom to tell the truth without fear of retaliation or reprisal. I think the Vermont Guard's leadership has to re-gain the trust of Guard members

- Secondly, the F-35. As some people know, I have been an outspoken opponent of the basing of the F-35 in Vermont. Many people do not know that initially I was in favor of the basing. It was only after I read the Air Force's 8,500-page Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and I learned the facts and the impacts to over 6,600 people living around the airport, that I re-considered my un-informed views, and became an activist against it.

- However, it was only last year that I learned of the F-35's nuclear role. About a month ago, I read the Department of Defense' updated Nuclear Posture Review. In that document, it states unequivocally that the F-35 has been designated as the Pentagon's newest nuclear weapon system, and that the F-35 is being integrated into our strategic nuclear planning and targeting. DoD is developing a specific nuclear bomb just for the F-35. The implications for Vermont of the F-35s nuclear capability and role must be addressed. We have to at least talk about this.
- And thirdly — imbalances between Army and Air components of the Guard. In this area, I don't have the personal experiences I have with sexual discrimination; and I have not done years of research as I have with the F-35. But, from what I have observed from the outside, it appears that there are imbalances in resources and in positions of responsibility between the Army and Air Guard components. This seems unfair, considering that there are over twice the number of Army members as Air Guard members. And, again from the outside looking in, it seems that the Army Guard members provide the bulk of the on-the-ground help and support to Vermonters. However, I always do my homework and get the facts before taking any position or action. I don't yet have the data on this third issue; but I'll make sure I get it before I make any recommendations for corrective action.

And, lastly, if I were elected Adjutant General, I would not take a salary. My military retirement salary is enough to pay our bills. If for legal reasons, I have to take it, then I would donate it to the Guard women and the Guard whistle-blowers who may have incurred legal bills fighting for justice.