



Mid-Atlantic Chapter | Women In Defense

Women In Defense National President Encourages Members to Become Lifelong Learners

ABERDEEN, Md. - The Women In Defense, Mid-Atlantic Chapter welcomed its National President, Karen Conti, at its first professional development luncheon on January 22, 2015. Ms. Conti spoke to the audience about being a lifelong learner and the importance of having a career development advocate. She expounded on her diverse personal and professional experiences from lessons learned as a military spouse, to becoming the Director of Business Development for Raytheon Seapower.

Speaking to a standing room only audience, Ms. Conti highlighted the importance of:

- Owning your career and not delegating management of it to someone else;
- Keeping your options open and continuing towards upward mobility;
- Adapting early and problem solving because change is inevitable, so lead the implementation;
- Position yourself to take risks and relocate if that is what is required;
- Never stop learning, take advantage of all continued education opportunities;
- Network, network, network.

Ms. Conti's emphasis on continued learning highlighted the importance of the WID Mid-Atlantic Chapter's focus to "Strengthen Women Leaders Through Mentorship" by offering an opportunity to connect, learn and grow through monthly events and professional developmental sessions.

The Chapter's next professional development luncheon will be on March 24, 2015 at Water's Edge Event Center. Brigadier General Sandra Alvey, Deputy Commanding General, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) and Defense Intelligence Agency Intelligence Analyst will address the importance of strong leaders and her perspectives on military and civilian career development.

Ms. Conti has more than 30 years of experience in the defense industry and commercial sectors. She was employed by Lockheed Martin culminating in the position of Vice President of Navy Networks. Previously, Ms. Conti served in various government and industry positions including: Program Manager for the Virginia Class Submarine Combat System Systems Engineering and Integration (SE&I) Program, and Program Manager for the TRIDENT Submarine Command and Control System. She is a certified Level III Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Action (DAWIA) Professional and received the Civil Service Meritorious Service Award, several NAVSEA Quality Champion Awards, and the David Packard Award for Acquisition Reform. Ms. Conti holds a Bachelor of Science, and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island, and completed coursework for the Masters of Systems Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

Women In Defense cultivates and supports the advancement and recognition of women in all aspects of national security. WID was established to provide women a formal environment for professional growth through networking, education, and career development. Women In Defense is an affiliate of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), which represents all facets of the defense and technology industrial base and serves all military services. This affiliation gives WID members a source for defense industry information, increased networking opportunities and professional contacts, and an expanded scope of informative programs. You may contact the Chapter at rsvpwid@gmail.com for more information.

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