



Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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Senior Executive Service: Annette Redmond '83 and Susan Fertig-Dykes M'09



Annette (LaCasse) Redmond '83

The Senior Executive Service is a cadre of top-level leaders in the U.S. federal government. SES members are flag-officer equivalent civil servants, responsible for leading and implementing government policies and programs. Members of the SES serve in the key positions just below the top Presidential appointees. In addition to the military leaders grown from Norwich University's stock, several graduates have reached SES. Annette (LaCasse) Redmond '83 and Susan Fertig-Dykes M '09, are among Norwich's civilian leader alumni.



Susan Fertig-Dykes M '09

Commissioning into the Army from Norwich, **Annette Redmond** served as a military intelligence officer for over 21 years. She commanded units in Germany during the Cold War, in the Opposing Force at the National Training Center, and in numerous other locations. She was the Joint Chief of Staff's Intelligence Directorate (J-2) and had several deployments including as the Joint Task Force J-2 in Israel. Her military service culminated on Army Staff as the Deputy Chief of Staff's Director of the Army Intelligence Master Plan creating intelligence strategy, force structure and doctrine.

Continuing to serve the nation after military retirement, Annette was selected as the Director of Enterprise Integration & Information on the Joint Staff. She then served as the US Army Intelligence CIO before being recruited to establish the State Department Intelligence Environment. Her final assignment before retiring as an SES Level III (3-star equivalent flag officer) was as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intel Policy and Coordination at the US Department of State.

In addition to Norwich, Annette graduated from the National Intelligence University with a Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence. She received numerous awards throughout her career including the coveted National Public Service Award. In 2023, Annette retired as

Norwich University's highest government-ranking female alumna. She is now consulting ~~and~~ serving on corporate boards in the national security arena.

A three-time political appointee in the administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, **Susan Fertig-Dykes** served as an SES in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture. She then became chief of the Democracy and Governance Division in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). While there, she pursued key foreign assistance research and a Master of Public Administration degree through Norwich's College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.

Born in the Philippines during WWII, while her father, Claude Fertig, and her uncle Wendell Fertig, were first fighting with the U.S. Army and then later with the guerrillas, Susan acquired a commitment to international work from an early age. Initially studying communications, she spent much of her career engaged in international development work and democracy promotion.

Before her years of government service, she developed a lifelong affiliation with the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA). Upon joining her husband, a USAID employee, in the Balkans, Susan worked with ICA training facilitators and led multi-ethnic initiatives in Croatia and Bosnia. While overseas, she joined the staff of World Vision, a faith-based international non-governmental organization (NGO), to increase cooperation between local governments and local NGOs.

In 1999, she returned to the U.S. with World Vision as an international recruiter responsible for staffing overseas programs funded by government grants. Following retirement, Susan volunteered for The Falls Church Anglican church and Norwich's Board of Fellows.

Susan has also been listed as a noteworthy international media and business consultant by Marquis Who's Who.

Ann and Susan are prime examples of the military and civilian leadership expertise that flourishes among Norwich University alumnae.

Records documenting women's history and experience at Norwich are available through the University Archives. <https://archives.norwich.edu/>

In 1972, Vermont College merged with Norwich University. 2024 marks the **50th anniversary** of the first women to live on the Northfield campus and the first to join the NU Corps of Cadets—two years prior to the US Service Academies!

Women Kicking Glass is hosting Dressing for Success

An event providing our female students with professional work attire and support to succeed in work and life.

Help fill our clothes racks. We are seeking donations of gently worn and fashionable women's work outfits.

[See more here.](#)