



Military Spouse of the Year Awards Luncheon

May 5, 2011 – Reserve Officers Association, Washington, DC

Erin Voirol MSCCN Gateway Coordinator and Applicant Specialist was recently invited to the 4th Annual Military Spouse of the Year Awards Luncheon presented by Military Spouse Magazine and Armed Forces Insurance.

This event highlights the best of Military Spouses from all branches of service. These women and men have backgrounds that exemplify what it means to be a military spouse. They volunteer their time to other military spouses and their communities; they raise children and support their service members in remarkable ways.

The Military Spouses are nominated by friends and loved ones and voted on by a panel, one overall winner is chosen to represent all 5 branches of service. This year's overall winner **Bianca Strzalkowski** is a Marine Corps spouse from North Carolina. Bianca is a mother of three, full-time student and the sole volunteer for Recruiter Station Raleigh's Family Readiness Program.

Military Spouse magazine also presented a "Legislative Impact Award" to **U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris** whose work on the Military Spouse Caucus has made a difference in many quality of life issues for Military Spouses.

This year Military Spouse magazine began a new award, the Honorary Military Spouse of the Year Award, this first award was presented to **U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords**, who is an Air Force Spouse and currently in rehabilitation from injuries she received as the victim of an attack during a public speaking engagement in January.



Erin Voirol and **Roxie Merritt**, Director of Community Relations and New Media Policy at the Department of Defense



Mrs. Bianca Strzalkowski, 2011 Military Spouse of the Year and **Erin Voirol**



Mark D. Smith, Executive Director, Blue Star Families and **Erin Voirol**