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Kayla spent eight years at the RAND Corporation researching servicemember and veteran health needs and benefits, international security, and intelligence policy. Ms. Williams was enlisted for five years as an Arabic linguist, serving in a Military Intelligence company of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). She is the author of *Love My Rifle More Than You: Young and Female in the U.S. Army*, a memoir about her deployment to Iraq, and *Plenty of Time*

When We Get Home: Love and Recovery in the Aftermath of War, about her family's journey from war trauma to healing.

Kayla graduated cum laude with a BA in English Literature from Bowling Green State University and earned an MA in International Affairs with a focus on the Middle East from American University. She is a former member of the VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and the Army Education Advisory Committee, a 2013 White House Woman Veteran Champion of Change, and a 2015 Lincoln Award recipient.