



**Kristina J. Keenan**  
**Deputy Director**  
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**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

Kristina Keenan is Deputy Director for the National Legislative Service of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Her portfolio covers legislative advocacy related to disability assistance and memorial affairs, including toxic exposures.

Kristina grew up in Northfield, Minn., and joined the Minnesota Army National Guard in 1999 as a Counterintelligence Agent. She deployed in 2003 with the 34th Infantry Division to Tuzla, Bosnia, as part of the Stabilization Force (SFOR), a NATO peacekeeping operation. Immediately following her deployment, Kristina volunteered for a second deployment to Bosnia, working in both Sarajevo and Mostar as a Tactical Human Intelligence Team Leader with an allied military intelligence battalion. She finished her military service in 2005 with the rank of Sergeant.



Following her discharge, Kristina completed a bachelor's degree in Political Science at the American University of Paris in France. She later earned a master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action from the *Institut d'études politiques de Paris* (Paris Institute of Political Studies, commonly known as Sciences Po). Kristina completed a 10-month internship in 2008 at NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), in Mons, Belgium, where she was an intelligence analyst on counternarcotics issues in Afghanistan. Kristina then returned to Paris and worked at the American University of Paris in alumni affairs, communications, and fundraising from 2009 to 2018.

During her time in Paris, Kristina discovered an active American veteran community and joined VFW Post 605, the oldest post in Europe. She served two years as the post commander, organizing and participating in numerous commemorations, memorials, and ceremonies at the American cemeteries and individual gravesites throughout France. Kristina was also elected VFW Department of Europe Chaplain, Student Veterans of America (SVA) Chairwoman, and a member of the National Women Veterans Advisory Committee.

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