



Amber Smith, Combat Helicopter Pilot and Author, Confirmed as Speaker for WAI 2020 Conference

Already impressive speaker roster augmented further for 31st Annual WAI Conference

February 7, 2020 – Amber Smith, combat helicopter pilot and author of *Danger Close: My Epic Journey as a Combat Helicopter Pilot in Iraq and Afghanistan* has been confirmed as a speaker for the 31st Annual Women in Aviation International Conference, augmenting an incredible roster of speakers. Amber joins Secretary of the U.S. Airforce Barbara Barrett, JetSuite president; Col. Eileen Collins, NASA astronaut; Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, U.S. Air Force; and Joan Robinson-Berry, Boeing Global Services vice president & chief engineer, as keynote speakers for the March 5-7, 2020, Conference at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

Amber Smith's career consists of over 15 years of experience in senior levels of government, a presidential administration, strategic communications and public affairs, as well as multiple combat tours as a light attack/reconnaissance helicopter pilot and air mission commander where she led missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is the author of *Danger Close: My Epic Journey as a Combat Helicopter Pilot in Iraq and Afghanistan*.

Amber is currently the founder and president of Beacon Rock Strategies LLC, a strategic advisory and communications consulting firm. A former OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilot-in-command and air mission commander in the 101st Airborne Division, Amber is a combat veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars where she worked closely with the U.S. Infantry, NATO ground troops, Special Forces, Marines, as well as flew aerial security for Air Force One in Afghanistan in 2008 for the President of the United States. Amber frequently appears on national TV networks as an expert in defense, national security, veterans affairs, and foreign policy.

Secure online registration is available at www.wai.org/20conference. Discounted registration is available for military personnel and full-time students. For more information, visit www.WAI.org.

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Women in Aviation International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing networking, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for women and men who are striving for challenging and fulfilling careers in the aviation and aerospace industries. For more information, contact WAI at 3647 State Route 503 South, West Alexandria, OH 45381, Phone (937) 839-4647; Fax (937) 839-4645 or through www.wai.org.

Contact:

Molly Martin, WAI Outreach Director,
850-508-8769, mmartin@wai.org