

January 1 - May 1, 2021



**OKINAWA
LEADERSHIP
SEMINAR**

MID-YEAR REPORT

Brought to you by:
OLS Executive Board



Participants at Four Lenses Training
January 6, 2021 | Camp Foster Chapel Center

"Fostering tomorrow's leaders... by and for military spouses"

WELCOME

Kristin Stephens
President



We can probably all agree that the past year has been one of adjustment. Most of us have been living in the unnerving state of "penciling in" our lives, expecting that whatever it is we hope to do will change at least once, if not ten times, along the way.

COVID has taught all of us to be flexible, innovative, and grateful. As military spouses, we were uniquely positioned to adapt to the changing environment - "pivoting" is certainly a life tool in our toolboxes! This year, the strengths that are so often associated with military spouses: Adaptability, Creativity, Flexibility, and Initiative were clearly exemplified by the volunteers at Okinawa Leadership Seminar.

After postponing our seminar not once, but twice, in 2020 due to COVID, our team knew that it was imperative that we find a way to facilitate our spring seminar, regardless of what COVID conditions currently were. Thanks to our flexible and innovative team of volunteers, we were able to welcome a new cohort of spouse leaders (who had been patiently waiting for over a year to attend!) in March thanks to our hybrid-virtual format. My deepest thanks to everyone who came together, prioritized the mission and vision of OLS, and helped make this seminar a resounding success!

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Kristin Stephens

Vice President: Mona Sims

Administrative Director: Emily McNulty

Treasurer: Meg Ashton

Public Relations Director: Sarah Carter

Parliamentarian: Maria Paige

OUR FUTURE

Mona Sims
Vice President



We have just completed another impressive seminar and we are now in a position for our graduates and volunteers to demonstrate their strengths in supporting the military community on-island. The Education and Curriculum team continues to seek out ways to educate and support spouses in ways beyond our three-day seminar, including monthly book club meetings and focused professional development events.

As Okinawa Leadership Seminar expands its educational offerings, identifying funding sources is an ongoing challenge. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce that OLS is in the process of securing 501(c)3 status! While we have always been a non-profit organization, the Executive Board believes that being classified as a 501(c)3 will allow us to better expand our organization for continued growth and stability. Thank you for your continued support of Okinawa Leadership Seminar!





Participants at Four Lenses Training January 6, 2021 | Camp Foster Chapel Center

OVERVIEW

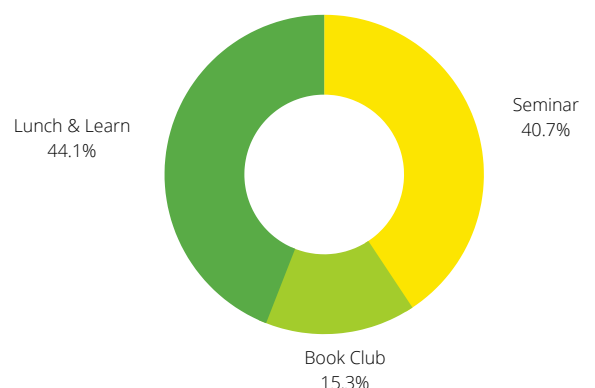
Okinawa Leadership Seminar provides training and education on effective leadership principles to active-duty military spouses in Okinawa. Operated on a no-charge basis by military spouses for military spouses, our vision is to equip current and emerging spouse leaders with the skills necessary to positively impact all communities they touch, now and in the future.

Through our flagship three-day leadership seminar as well as leadership-focused monthly professional development events, Okinawa Leadership Seminar strives to enrich the lives of our members, regardless of branch of service affiliation or spouse's rank, through enhanced leadership capability that can be applied in both volunteer and professional career endeavors.

IMPACT

Okinawa Leadership Seminar hosted fifty-nine leaders through four training and professional development events in the first quarter of 2021.

All events are offered at no-cost to participants.



ABOUT US

Our Seminar

Our three-day intensive training empowers emerging leaders in the spouse community across all services and ranks. OLS provides an opportunity for spouses to learn and hone skills in leadership, communication, team dynamics and goal setting. These skills can be applied in the military community, as well as their personal and professional lives.

Our Why

Our amazing volunteer alumni invest their time and energy to help other spouses identify and utilize their strengths -- here in Okinawa and wherever their next adventure leads them. We recognize that knowledge is not a depletable resource, and our community is collectively stronger when we share our individual talents to help each other flourish and grow.

Our History

OLS was conceptualized in 2016 and actualized in 2017. Alumni of Camp Pendleton's Leadership Education Seminar who had moved to Okinawa recognized a need for leadership training and mentorship at their new location. We've continued to grow since then, expanding to include monthly leadership book club discussion groups, lunch and learns, and other recurring professional development events! OLS has built a military spouse community that favors neither service nor rank and excels at supporting and empowering one another.

Our Mission and Vision

To enrich the military community serving on Okinawa by educating our active-duty spouses in the principles of effective leadership.

To equip spouses with the leadership skills necessary to positively impact all communities they touch, now and in the future.

Our Goals

- Provide participants methods and techniques for leadership development.
- Learn how to establish and cultivate dynamic teams through mentorship and shared values.
- Empower participants to reach their organization's vision and goals.
- Foster skills to mitigate and resolve team-based conflict through effective communication.
- Develop techniques to build professional relationships and networking skills.
- Provide versatile tools and knowledge that can be utilized in all aspects of life - military, community, personal, and professional.

Our Values

- Professionalism
- Inclusivity
- Empowerment
- Collaboration
- Teamwork
- Respect

SPRING 2021 SEMINAR

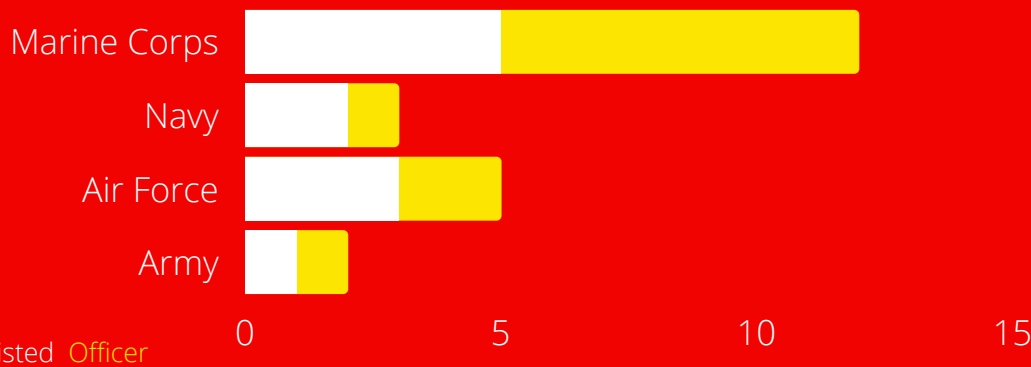
8 Facilitators
24 Participants
13 Speakers
12 Assistants



Okinawa Leadership Seminar's flagship three-day leadership seminar was held March 3-5, 2021. Due to the COVID environment, the seminar was presented in a hybrid-virtual format for the first time in the organization's history.

Participants met in one of four small groups (Kadena Air Base, Camp Courtney, Camp Foster, or Virtual) to watch speakers present via Zoom and participate in small group breakout discussions with their volunteer facilitators.

Seminar Participants by Sponsor Affiliation



"I am really grateful that the seminar was able to be held this year and applaud everyone's efforts to be creative to figure out how to make it work. Everyone did a great job!"

--Spring Seminar Participant



Spring Seminar Small Groups
March 3-5, 2021 | Okinawa, Japan

FINANCIAL

Okinawa Leadership Seminar operates solely on donations provided by generous organizations, businesses, and individuals. All programs are provided at no-cost thanks to our generous supporters.

OLS has contracted with Patricia Dingcong, CPA, to begin the process of incorporation and filing to become an IRS 501(c)3 organization.



Organizational Funds
as of 4/30/2021

\$2,894



IN THE NEWS

AFN Okinawa Media Segments:

OLS Overview [1:00]

<http://www.dvidshub.net/video/embed/789520>

Participant Interview [00:30]

<https://youtu.be/Mxm803kRR7U>

DIGITAL PRESENCE

WEBSITE:

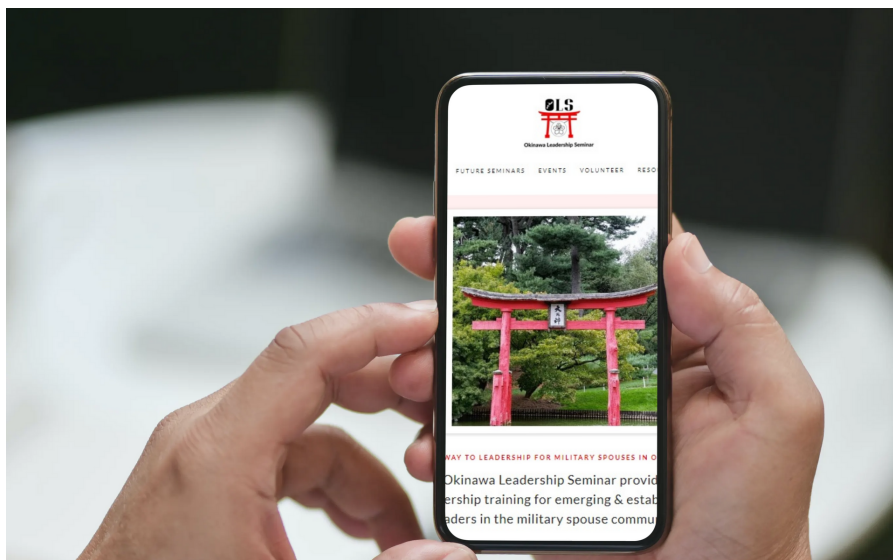
www.okinawaleadershipseminar.org

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/okinawaleadershipseminar

LINKEDIN:

www.linkedin.com/company/okinawaleadershipseminar



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Okinawa Leadership Seminar provides diverse training and education in all facets of leadership. Topics presented in the first quarter of 2021:

Effective Communication

Personality Traits

Conflict Resolution

Values

Group Dynamics

Networking

Social Etiquette

Diplomacy

Servant Leadership

Self-Care

Empowerment

Navigating Change

Teamwork

Stress Management

HIGHLIGHTS

Kristin Stephens and Mona Sims met with III MEF Commanding General Lt. Gen. Clardy on behalf of the OLS leadership team. They were presented with a command coin for their success in facilitating a safe spring seminar within our current COVID environment.



Lt. Gen. Clardy, Kristin Stephens, and Mona Sims
March 10, 2021 | Camp Courtney

"I think this seminar has been useful because it has brought people from all different backgrounds together so they can learn from each other... Military spouses are a great community, they're always willing to support one another. I think anyone at any stage of their military spouse journey would benefit [by attending Okinawa Leadership Seminar]"

-Brenna Bernardino, Spring Seminar Participant

On April 7, our Spring Seminar Volunteers were recognized at our Volunteer Brunch for the generous contribution of their time and skills in helping with the planning and facilitating of our successful seminar. Thank you, volunteer team!

Sarah Carter was presented with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award - Gold for her extensive contributions to the success of Okinawa Leadership Seminar during her service as Public Relations Director.

Kristin Stephens, Mona Sims, and Jordan Lambay met with Consul General Robert Koepcke to discuss diplomacy and leadership on Okinawa. We are grateful for his continued support of our organization.



Volunteers at Facilitator Training
February 24, 2021 | Camp Shields



Sarah Carter receives PVSA
April 7, 2021 | Camp Courtney

GET INVOLVED



VOLUNTEER

Okinawa Leadership Seminar is run entirely by a team of volunteers! We value our volunteer team and it is through their efforts that our organization continues to provide exceptional leadership education opportunities for military spouses.

Volunteer positions are available for a wide array of interests, skill sets, and time commitments. Volunteers serve both in-person and virtually, on long-term projects and single-day events. We are a zero-discrimination organization and prioritize a professional, collaborative, and supportive environment for all volunteers.

To sign-up to volunteer, visit <http://bit.ly/OLSVolunteer> or email olspresident@gmail.com

DONATE

As a non-profit, funds are always welcome. Any donation -- small or large, private or corporate -- will be appreciated. If you have any questions, please email our finance team at olsfinanceteamleader@gmail.com. If you're ready to donate today, checks can be mailed to the following address:

Okinawa Leadership Seminar
c/o MCCS Executive Branch
MCB Camp S.D. Butler
FPO AP 96378-5023



www.okinawaleadershipseminar.com

