

## **Janessa M. Goldbeck**

### **Professional Biography**

On 17 September 1985, Janessa Marie Goldbeck was born in La Jolla, CA. She attended high school at San Dieguito Academy in Encinitas, CA, where she was member of Interact from 1999-2001 and club president from 2001-2003. Janessa attended Northwestern University in Chicago, IL, studied abroad in Uganda and Rwanda, and graduated with honors in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism (BSJ) and certificates in African Studies and Sustainable Development.

From 2007-2012, Janessa Goldbeck worked in Washington, DC, directing cutting-edge advocacy and media campaigns around mass atrocity prevention in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Myanmar. Her work focused on mobilizing American citizens to pass state and federal legislation to fund peacekeeping efforts, enforce sanctions, and protect civilians. She spent time on Capitol Hill, in Africa, and at the Pentagon. In 2012, she was recognized by *Diplomatic Courier* magazine as a member of the “Top 99 Foreign Policy Professionals Under 33.”

In 2012, Janessa served as the national spokesperson for an advocacy campaign, “Make US Strong,” highlighting the critical role international development plays in America’s national security strategy. As part of this effort, she rode her bicycle 4,287 miles from San Francisco, CA, to Washington, DC, meeting with more than twenty members of Congress along the way and speaking at colleges, with civic organizations, and to local newspapers and television stations. Her solo ride culminated with an event on Capitol Hill featuring top military leaders as well as speakers from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and OXFAM International.

In 2012, Janessa departed for Officer Candidates School in Quantico, VA, earning her commission in the United States Marine Corps on 14 December 2012. She graduated from Combat Engineer Officer Course at Courthouse Bay, NC, in 2014 and received orders to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 in Miramar, CA, where she served as the Squadron Training Officer and Engineer Company Executive Officer. She was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and recognized by the San Diego chapter of ASIS International as the “Military Professional of the Month,” as well as the Military Honoree - District 6 by the San Diego City Council.

In 2015, 1stLt Goldbeck attended Civil-Military Operations School in Quantico, VA, where she earned the secondary military occupational specialty of Civil Affairs Officer and was the class honor graduate. She received orders to Combat Logistics Battalion 8 at Camp Lejeune, NC. She served as a Uniform Victim Advocate, representing service members who had experienced sexual assault. In 2016, she embarked on a British ship, the HMS OCEAN, and deployed in support of Exercise Baltic Operations, conducting amphibious operations with a multinational infantry force on the shores of six Baltic countries.

In October 2016, 1stLt Goldbeck was promoted to the rank of Captain and assumed command of Combat Logistics Company. In 2017, she deployed with the Black Sea Rotational Force and Marine Rotational Forces – Europe, with Marines and Sailors split between Romania and Norway in direct support of 1st Battalion, 2d Marine Division. Over the course of the deployment, Captain Goldbeck’s company established a forward Marine Corps base in Norway and provided combat service support to ten NATO theater security cooperation exercises in seven countries. She was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

In August 2017, Capt Goldbeck received orders to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, where she currently serves as the Operations Officer with Facilities Maintenance Division. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) with a certificate in Public Policy from the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California.

Janessa is the founding principal of Sui Generis Strategies, LLC, a strategic engagement firm that has provided public policy and communications services to nonprofit, government, and corporate clients since 2008, including the Department of Defense, the Office of Opinion Research at the Department of State, Campaign Consultation, Inc., AmeriCorps VISTA, Mobilize.org, and the Foreign Service Institute. As an active duty service member, Janessa’s work is currently limited to nonpartisan advocacy work for nonprofit clients, but she is looking forward to expanding upon her exit from active duty service in August 2019.

Janessa is an active member of the San Diego community, serving on the board of the Women’s Museum of California and as co-founder/member of the San Diego chapter of the Truman National Security Project. She is a founding member of USC Veterans at Price, serving as the Online Student Representative, and is a member of the national Women Marines Association. In her free time, Janessa enjoys paddle boarding with her dog, Koa, backpacking, off-roading in her Tacoma, hanging with friends and family, playing guitar, cooking, discussing foreign policy, and exploring San Diego county’s tremendous outdoor spaces.