

Ladda Tammy Duckworth MWAOHI Interview – July 17, 2019

Abstract

Ladda Tammy Duckworth was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve while pursuing her PhD at Northern Illinois University. She entered flight training at Fort Rucker, AL in 1993 and later deployed in support of the following Operations: Bright Star, New Horizons, and Iraqi Freedom. On November 12, 2004, CPT Duckworth was flying as a UH-60 Blackhawk copilot when a Rocket-Propelled Grenade exploded, severely injuring both of her legs and her right arm, requiring a battlefield evacuation. Despite a remarkable recovery, and a demonstrated ability to pilot the aircraft in the simulator, her injuries rendered her non-deployable. Duckworth served a total of 23 years in the Army Reserve and the Illinois National Guard, retiring in 2014 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. Senator Duckworth is the first disabled woman veteran to be elected to the House of Representatives (2012) and the Senate (2016).

Aircraft: UH-1H, UH-60

Acronyms and Keywords: Afghanistan, Air Defense Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Baghdad, battalion, Bilad, Blackhawk, branch, Bright Star, chalk, charlie, Combat Arms, company, complex aircraft, CWO, cyclic, Egypt, Fort Rucker, governor, Green Zone, Guyana, helicopter, Huey, Iceland, IERW, Illinois, Iraqi Freedom, Kiowa, NATO, New Horizons, NG, ROTC, RPG, S3, scout, SOP, Thailand, TOC, unit, Vietnam

Names: Chris Fierce, Kurt Hannemann, Dan Milberg