

## **Diana (Betsy) Lizotte**

**About:** Betsy knows what it is like to live through and succeed during tough times. She writes thought-provoking, often humorous essays and stories in the hopes that her writing will inspire readers to celebrate, appreciate, and support the underdog.

Betsy is a retired U.S. Army officer, mother of two children, and the spouse of an Army colonel. While on active duty, she deployed to war twice and stayed on the home front taking care of the children half a dozen times while her husband deployed. After retiring in 2009, she followed her husband around the world as his dependent. These experiences have given her a panoramic view of issues facing not only women in the military and around the world, but of underprivileged people everywhere. Some of the issues she has witnessed include gender oppression in Saudi Arabia, poverty in the Horn of Africa, marginalization of military spouses in South Korea, and a variety of diversity issues in the U.S. Army.

**Publications:** Betsy has written several essays about her experiences, including "The Great and Powerful Ogg," a basic training memoir that was published in the 2017 edition of *The Magnificat*, Marymount's journal of nonfiction writing. Other published pieces are:

**Honors:** During her student career, she has received a special award for her *Marymount Banner* newspaper articles about a homeless shelter and the Women's March and was inducted into the International English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta. During her years as a military spouse, she received a Military Public Service Award for service to the military community in Daegu, South Korea; a certificate of appreciation for teaching Yoga and relaxation to pregnant Army women; and a certificate of appreciation as the keynote speaker at a Women's Equality Day celebration. During her military career, she received many military awards and decorations culminating in the Legion of Merit award.

**Current Occupation:** Student, Marymount University (1/16 to Present).

**Spouse and Children:** Her husband is COL James Bogart who is currently assigned to a NATO unit in Turkey. Her children are Clint Bogart who has applied to enter the U.S. Marine Corps, and Tara Bogart who is a junior in high school.

**US Army service:** Retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in February 2009. Received an ROTC commission as a Second Lieutenant in May 1986. Served in the Massachusetts National Guard from May 1986 to January 1988. Served on Active Duty from January 1988 to February 2009.

**Where She Has Served and Lived:** Massachusetts National Guard; Maryland; Saudi Arabia; Fort Hood, TX; Seoul, Uijongbu, and Daegu, South Korea; Fort Campbell, KY; Wiesbaden, Germany; Fort Bragg, NC; Djibouti - Horn of Africa; England; South Korea again; Hawaii; and Virginia.

**Positions Held:** Homeschool Teacher, Self-employed Personal Trainer and Fitness Instructor, Sunday School Superintendent, Spouses' Club President and Treasurer, Military Police Platoon Leader, Shop Officer, Class IX Accountable Officer, Battalion S1 (Personnel Officer), Battalion S4 (Logistics Officer), Plans Officer, Brigade S1, Brigade S4, Support Operations Officer, COSCOM (Corps Support Command) G1 (Personnel Officer), USASOC (US Army Special Operation Command) Equal Opportunity Program Manager, USASOC Deputy G1, and USASOC G1.

**Education:**

- Bachelor of Arts in Writing, Marymount University, Currently Attending
- Master of Science in Logistics, Florida Institute of Technology, December 1998
- Master of Science in Business, University of Central Texas, June 1999
- Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology, University of Massachusetts, January 1988

**Travels and Hobbies:** She has traveled to and lived in many countries all over the world, from A to Z so to speak, from Africa to the United Arab Emirates. She loves visiting Paris and writing in the cafes while sipping basil mojitos. Her hobbies include reading, writing, SCUBA diving, and taking care of her family and three miniature dachshunds named Chewey, Cookie and

Muffin. She enjoys all sorts of exercise and physical activity and helping other people to get in shape and have good health.