

For more information  
Karen Anderson Tatum  
Southeastern Community College  
P.O. Box 151  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
910-642-7141, ext. 259  
E-mail: [ktatum@scnc.edu](mailto:ktatum@scnc.edu)

News Release

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For immediate release

### **Sen. McCain Pins SCC Instructor with Second Lieutenant Bars**

Katherine Jenerette, an adjunct instructor of U.S. History and African American History at Southeastern Community College, has accepted a Direct Commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve. U.S. Senator John McCain pinned the gold bars on Jenerette's uniform during his visit to South Carolina last week.



Jenerette, who is a U.S. Army Veteran of the Persian Gulf War – Operation Desert Storm, has received orders to active duty for training and has been assigned to the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C. After training, she is slated to serve with the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade that has deployed teams on missions worldwide including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I am looking forward to joining one of my unit's teams, which is deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan and to working directly with the people of those nations for their future,” stated Jenerette. “This includes working with local governments and tribal leaders on everything from infrastructure and schools to counter insurgencies. I also am looking forward to having the opportunity to serve under one of America's finest and most honorable soldiers, General David H. Petraeus.”

Many of her college students ask her why she wants to return to active duty. She answers, “I wanted to put back on the uniform after 9-11; however, I waited to volunteer until all of my children were in school. My son is now in high school, and the other three are scattered through the rest of the grades. Therefore, last year seemed like the right time to come back, and I volunteered for a Direct Commission in the Army Reserves.”

Jenerette's life is a testament to service to her country. She has served as a U.S. Congressional Field Representative for the 1<sup>st</sup> District in South Carolina. In addition, she was a candidate for the South Carolina Senate in 2004.

“My experiences in the Gulf War and later as a Congressional Field Representative allowed me to see the political and policy sides of the ‘War against Terror.’ They have shown me that this war is not like Vietnam, which we could just leave. If we leave Iraq and the Middle East,

these terrorists will follow us home and I don't want any more of them here; my family and children are here.”

“I feel very humbled and privileged to be able to serve our country again in these trying times as an U.S. Army Officer. But most of all, knowing the value of the freedom that America has for all of our people; I am looking forward to the opportunity to do my small part for this great nation that has given so much to me.”

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, who had nominated Jenerette for the appointment, was present for the ceremony along with Jenerette's husband, Van, an SCC instructor of sociology and political science, and their four children, Christian, Benjamin, Drake and Wilson.