



## Brigadier General Rebecca Halstead Visits Head Coaches Workshon

Written By: Columbia University Athletics

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NEW YORK - Retired Brigadier General Rebecca Halstead, the first female graduate of West Point to be promoted to the rank of general, was the featured speaker at the Columbia Athletics professional development workshop for head coaches.

Halstead, who was the featured speaker in the afternoon, arrived at the workshop direct from the 12-mile Cadet March Back, when all new cadets and special guests march from Lake Frederick to West Point.

"General Halstead was an amazing contributor to our head coaches' professional development workshop," M. Dianne Murphy, Director, Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education said. "Her leadership credentials speak for themselves."

Halstead, a member of the second West Point class that admitted women, is a 1981 graduate of the United States Military Academy, earning a BS in engineering. She also has an M.S. in National Resource Strategy and an M.S. Advanced Military Studies.

Halstead founded her own leader consultancy company, STEADFAST Leadership, following 27 years of service in the U.S. military. Nominated in 2003 by then President George W. Bush, Becky was confirmed as Brigadier General in 2004.

"We are committed to providing our head coaches with the tools they need to be great leaders of our student-athletes," added Murphy. "I know that our coaches learned a great deal from General Halstead, and will use these tools in practice and competition."

"After reading General Halstead's impressive resume, I was not surprised to find her presentation on leadership inspiring and dynamic," head women's soccer coach Kevin McCarthy said. "Her message of STEADFAST leadership was thorough, practical and accessible for all the coaches. General Halstead's vision on leadership will definitely help me in continuing to reformatify the core values of the Columbia Women's Soccer program."

"Listening to General Rebecca Halstead speak was absolutely amazing," head cross country and track and field coach Willy Wood said. "She wonderfully delivered her leadership experiences in the military in a manner that made it highly applicable to the everyday challenges we coaches face. She was entertaining, insightful and profoundly intelligent. I have no doubt that I will use much of what was discussed yesterday throughout the course of this year and over the remainder of my coaching tenure."

General Halstead was the senior Commanding General for logistics in Iraq, becoming the first female in U.S. history to command in combat at the strategic level. In this capacity, she was responsible for leading over 200 multi-disciplined units located across 55 different bases, providing supply, maintenance, transportation and distribution support to over 250,000 personnel in Iraq.

General Halstead honorably served with the U.S. Army and retired as a general officer in 2008. The culmination of her career came in 2006 when she became the first female Chief of Ordnance and Commanding General of the Army's Ordnance Center and Schools (equivalent to President of a University).

"General Halstead has an uncanny ability to make her leadership experience practical and relatable to everyday challenges," Murphy concluded. "She was down-to-earth, approachable and incredibly insightful. Those who heard her speak will not forget her message. It was an honor to have her as a guest of Columbia Athletics."

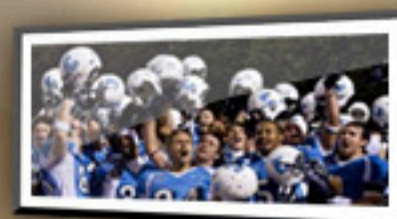


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