MEDIA BIO

Dr. Kamal S. Kalsi, *D.O.*

Founder, Sikh American Veterans Alliance · Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve · Emergency medicine physician · Integrative Medicine / Regenerative Medicine Physician

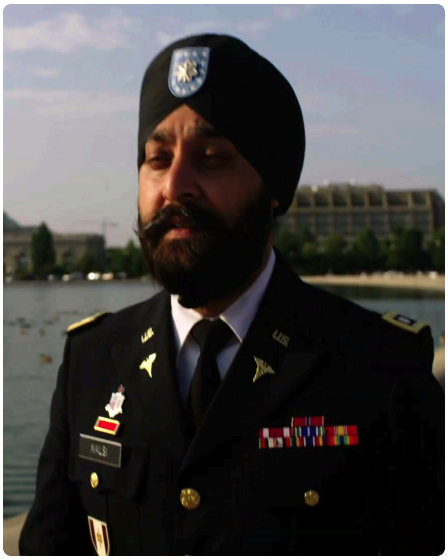


Photo courtesy of SAVA, from *Colonel Kalsi: Beyond the Call*. Free to use with credit. A high-resolution copy is in the press kit at sava.org/press.html.

NAME	Dr. Kamal S. Kalsi, D.O., on first reference; Dr. Kalsi after that
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Dr. Kamal S. Kalsi, D.O., is an Army physician, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, and the founder of the Sikh American Veterans Alliance (SAVA). An emergency medicine physician, he was among one of the first Sikh American soldiers of his generation allowed to serve with his turban and beard. After a decades-long effort by the Sikh community, he helped bring about the Army's 2017 policy that lets soldiers keep their articles of faith for a whole career.

That change opened the door for other Americans who wear religious head coverings, such as turbans and yarmulkes, to serve their country. Through SAVA, Dr. Kalsi works so that every American who can meet the military's standards, including religious Americans, can serve without giving up the core tenets of their faith, and for uniform and grooming policies that give leaders and commanders clear rules to apply.

In 2022, SAVA joined a friend-of-the-court brief supporting three Sikh recruits whom a federal appeals court then allowed to begin Marine Corps boot camp with their turbans and beards. SAVA presented *Colonel Kalsi: Beyond the Call*, the documentary about the fight to serve with turban and beard, directed by Anand Kamalakar and Geeta Gandbhir.

In 2011 he deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, for seven months, treating hundreds of combat casualties, and was awarded the Bronze Star. In civilian practice, Dr. Kalsi is an Integrative Medicine / Regenerative Medicine Physician.

Speaks on

- Religious accommodation in the U.S. military, including the Army's 2017 policy and the 2026 review of existing accommodations
- The experience of Sikh Americans in uniform, from 1918 to today
- The making of *Colonel Kalsi: Beyond the Call*

Sources: U.S. Army (Mar 2010), Stars and Stripes (Oct 2009, Feb 2017), The New York Times (Jul 2013), Military.com (Aug 2023).