SPEAKING

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

A soldier's story, told by the soldier. Army physician, lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, founder of the Sikh American Veterans Alliance, and the subject of the documentary *Colonel Kalsi: Beyond the Call*.

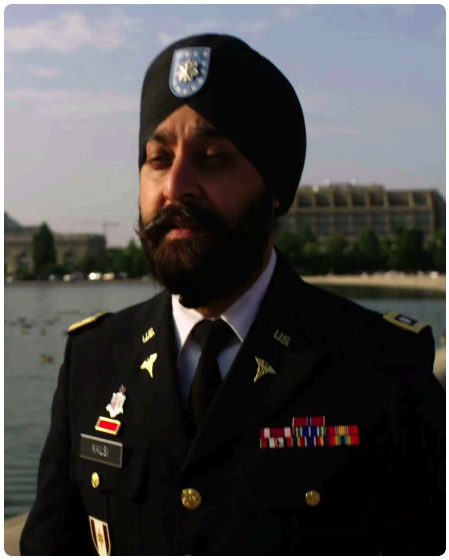


Photo courtesy of SAVA. More in the press kit at sava.org/press.html.

Formats

Keynote · Fireside conversation · Panel · Film screening with conversation after · In person or on camera

Audiences

Military and veterans · Universities · Corporate and employee resource groups · Faith and community organizations · Medical

Booking

media@sava.org
Please say who the audience is and when.

In 2009 a young Army captain asked to keep his turban and beard, and the Army agreed. In 2010 the general in charge of basic training said there was no way, then called it a no-brainer. For the first time in 23 years, Sikh soldiers kept their articles of faith; Dr. Kalsi was one of three. In 2011 he spent seven months in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, treating hundreds of combat casualties, and was awarded the Bronze Star. In 2017 the Army let soldiers keep their articles of faith for a whole career. In 2022 three Sikh recruits took "shave, or go home" to a federal appeals court, with SAVA filing in support, and won the right to start Marine boot camp. In 2026 the Army put existing accommodations under review. The story is not finished.

Talks

WHY NOT BOTH?
Faith and service in the American military: what one accommodation taught the Army, the Marines and a federal court about standards, identity and the strength of a diverse force.

A CENTURY IN UNIFORM
The Sikh soldiers history almost forgot, from the Union line in 1864 and the trenches of 1915 to a veteran's 18-year road to citizenship.

BEYOND THE CALL
The documentary, and the conversation after it: the recruiter who warned him, the general who changed his mind, and the price of serving as yourself.

THE DOCTOR AT THE AID STATION
Leadership under fire, and what a physician learned on the other side of the chart.

See him speak

Short films at sava.org/stories.html · Trailer at sava.org/our-story.html · The film streams on Prime Video and Fawesome.

◇ Booking contact and fee policy to confirm with Kamal.