

People

The following is excerpted from a story in *People* that focused on the accomplishments of 25 extraordinary women.

Meet the 25 Women Changing the World in 2017

Coming to the rescue, speaking out, shattering barriers — these real-life superheroes help others soar



Photo by Gillian Laub

The photo above appeared in *People* with the story. *From left to right:* ER nurse Kelly Lynch; Marine pilot Major Khadijah M. Nashagh; Southern California firefighter Lovie Jung; actress Gal Gadot; ER pediatrician Dr. Liza Kearn; and Air Force Captain Staci Rouse, a graduate student at the USC Marshall School of Business

By *People* staff

GAL GADOT & FIRST RESPONDERS

Wonder Women

“I think you can’t only empower the women, you have to educate the men too,” the Israeli-born star, 32, says of portraying Wonder Woman onscreen. “For boys to go to the movies and see that women can be amazing and badass and strong and inspiring—I think that’s very important.”

Gadot has a special appreciation for the first responders

she met on the day of the *People* shoot, having served in the Israeli army for two years as a combat trainer. “They are the true heroes,” she says. “They’re the wonder women.” Air Force Capt. Staci Rouse loves the comic-book icon’s message “to be the best you can be for the world around you.” Adds ER nurse Kelly Lynch of seeing Gadot’s character resonate across the world: “It’s a great time to take charge of your future and know you’re no longer held back by your gender.”

USC Marshall student included among *People* magazine's "wonder women"

Air Force Captain Staci Rouse is in USC Marshall's Master of Business for Veterans program

By Julie Tilsner

Staci Rouse wasn't expecting the publicity that would come with being asked to be part of a *People* magazine photo shoot with Wonder Woman actress Gal Gadot.

But Rouse, 26, an Air Force Captain and student in USC Marshall's Master of Business for Veterans (MBV) program decided she would happily represent what she was a part of.

"This was an opportunity to represent the Air Force and the military," she said. "I am very proud to be able to do that and shine a light on all the strong women who are working each and every day for their country and the world."

Rouse was one of five "wonder women" chosen by *People* for its "25 Women Changing the World" issue. The other women were a Marine pilot, an emergency room pediatrician, an ER nurse and a firefighter.

As an active duty Air Force Captain,

Rouse is an acquisitions officer at the Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo. Recognizing her exceptional performance, her leadership approached her last month and asked her to submit a bio and a photo to the magazine. "They asked a number of different women at our base and others to submit from U.S. assignments across the globe," she says. She got a call within the week informing that she'd made the final cut due to her contribution to work done for first responders.

The photo shoot was fun, she reports, but because she's so busy juggling work and school she quickly put it out of her head until the magazine was due to come out.

Then a friend sent her an Instagram message. "You're awesome!" he wrote.

Thanks, she wrote back. But why? "Ha ha," he responded. "Like you don't know!"

She didn't actually know. So her friend took a screen shot of Gal Godot's Instagram page, featuring the photo, which would shortly be in the pages of *People*'s November 13th issue for all the world to see.

From there, Capt. Rouse went viral.

Her MBV cohort is delighted. "They've had a lot of fun with it," she says. "We're like a big family, so we've all been enjoying it together."

Now that she's been featured in *People* magazine, what's next?

Deciding what she wants to do after her current tour with the Air Force. "I'm just figuring out what I want to do next," she says. "I've always been with the Air Force and I've never learned what other options are out there. The MBV program is fantastic in exposing me to so many different kinds of opportunities."
