

Defense Logistics Agency

Maj. Gen. Mary L. Saunders **Vice Director of the Defense Logistics Agency**

United States Air Force

Maj. Gen. Mary L. Saunders is currently serving as the Vice Director of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

DLA, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, is responsible for providing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and other federal agencies with a variety of logistics, acquisition and technical services in peace and war. These services include logistics information; materiel management; procurement; warehousing and distribution of spare parts, food, clothing, medical supplies and fuel; reutilization of surplus military materiel; and document automation and production. This worldwide mission is performed by about 23,000 civilian and military personnel.



Major General Saunders was born in Nacogdoches, Texas, and grew up in Houston. She graduated from Texas Woman's University, Denton, in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree in social work. She began her military career through the Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. She was commissioned a second lieutenant and entered active duty in 1971. She completed Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in 1973 and received a Master of Arts degree in guidance and counseling from Rider College, Lawrenceville, N.J., in 1978. She is a 1993 graduate of Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and a 1997 graduate of the National Security Leadership Course, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. In 1999, she completed the Leadership Development Program, Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, N.C.

She has held various assignments in transportation and logistics plans in the squadron, wing, numbered air force, headquarters and joint arenas. Her first assignment in 1971 was as a protocol officer for the 437th Aerial Port Squadron, Charleston AFB, SC. From November 1971 through February 1973, she served as traffic duty officer, 437th Aerial Port Squadron. In February 1973, she again served as traffic management officer for the 610th Military Airlift Support Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan. Later that year in November she was selected and attended Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala. Upon graduation, she went back to Yokota and took over as air terminal operations officer, then served as the assistant air freight officer for the 610th MASS.

In January 1976, she moved to McGuire AFB, NJ and took the reigns as Deputy Commander and Commander, Military Air Traffic Coordinating Office, Military Traffic Management Command. In July 1979, she moved to Headquarters 10th Air Force, Bergstrom AFB, TX, and served as the transportation staff officer. From April 1982 to May 1983, she served as Chief of Transportation for the 6168th Combat Support Squadron, Taegu AB, South Korea. From there she went back to Yokota Air Base, Japan, as the Deputy Director for Transportation for the 5th Air Force. In November 1984, she was stepped up to Commander, 475th Transportation Squadron, Yokota AB.

In July 1986, she was reassigned to MacDill AFB, FL, and served as the transportation staff officer, Joint Deployment Agency. From there, in 1988, she moved to U.S. Transportation Command at Scott AFB, IL, as the transportation officer for J5. October 1990, she was assigned as Chief, Contingency Plans Division, J5, U.S. Southern Command, Quarry Heights, Panama. Upon the completion of this tour in August 1992, she was selected to attend the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

After graduating the Air War College in July 1993, she was stationed at Robins AFB, GA, and served as the Chief of Logistics Plans, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. In August 1996, she was sent to serve as the Director of Transportation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C.

In August 1998, she served as commander of DLA's Defense Supply Center Columbus, Columbus, Ohio, until September 2001. From September to July 2002, she was the Director of Supply, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

Maj Gen Saunders' personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with service star.