

Viewpoint

INFORMATION, OPINIONS AND COMMENTARY

Army promotes first woman to four-star general

Jacqueline M. Hames
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody became the first female four-star general in the U.S. armed forces at a promotion ceremony Friday morning in the Pentagon.

"History will no doubt take note of [Dunwoody's] achievement in breaking through this final 'brass ceiling' to pin on this fourth star," Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates said during opening remarks. "But she would rather be known and remembered first and foremost as a U.S. Army Soldier."

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, hosted the ceremony, praising Dunwoody as a "premiere logistician." He thanked her for her dedicated service to the Army, and wished her well.

"What's happening here today is something our Army can celebrate and take pride in," Casey said of her achievement.

Casey and Dunwoody's husband, Craig Brotchie, pinned on her new rank amidst applause and an enthusiastic "hoohah" from the audience.

The promotion ceremony in the Pentagon auditorium was packed with well-wishers, friends and family. "We invited everyone but the fire marshal," Gates said to the standing-room-only crowd.

"Well, thank you," Dunwoody said with a smile after being promoted. "I wish I could begin to describe the incredible feelings of gratitude, humility, and love that are absolutely consuming me at this very moment. But it's impossible."

Dunwoody said she feels fortunate to have lived a life of firsts, and believes the promotion is "as overwhelming as it is humbling."

Dunwoody was the first woman to hold the deputy chief of staff position for the Army G-4 (Logistics), where she was re-

sponsible for ensuring warfighters had the necessary supplies and services, and that logisticians had the tools and equipment necessary to deliver those supplies and services to Soldiers around the world.

As the commander of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., from 2002-2004, Dunwoody supported the largest deployment and redeployment of U.S. forces since World War II.

She has also commanded the 407th Supply and Transportation Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; the 10th Mountain Division Support Command, Fort Drum, N.Y.; and the 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg. She deployed during the first Gulf War with 82nd as the Division Parachute Officer from September 1990 to March 1991.

Dunwoody received a direct commission as a second lieutenant after graduating from the State University of New York at Cortland in 1975. She has graduate degrees in national resource strategy and logistics management. Her family has a long history of military service, including her husband, who is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel.

"This promotion has taken me back in time like no other event in my entire life. And I didn't appreciate the enormity of the event until the tidal wave of cards, letters and e-mails started coming my way," Dunwoody said.

"I've heard from moms and dads that see this promotion as a beacon of hope for their own daughters, and an affirmation that anything is possible through hard work and commitment," she said.

Dunwoody also received congratulations and expressions of excitement from female veterans of previous wars.

The promotion is the latest first for women in the military, dating back to 1970 when Brig. Gen. Anna Mae Hays was promoted the first female general officer in the U.S. military.



Photo by Jacqueline M. Hames

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. pins the fourth star on Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody during a ceremony at the Pentagon, Nov. 14. Casey is assisted by Dunwoody's husband, Craig Brotchie.

In addition to receiving her fourth star, Dunwoody also took command of U.S. Army Material Command, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., during an afternoon ceremony. As the commanding general, Dunwoody will oversee AMC headquarters' move to Huntsville, Ala., under the 2005 Base Realignment Act. Prior to taking command, she served as the deputy commanding general and chief of staff of AMC.

"Today is all about two simple words: thank you," Dunwoody said.

Computer instructor listens, helps wounded warriors

Jennifer Lindquist
Special to the Signal

Richard Reynolds was a college professor that left his position to travel around the U.S. He endures layovers, hotel stays and being away from his family to help wounded Soldiers transition into civilians.

Cisco Systems approached Reynolds two and a half years ago to work on a project help-

ing Soldiers learn computer systems. He was instructed to go to the Naval Medical Center and test the idea. Instead of making the test group fit to his lessons, he listened to the Soldiers' needs and made the lessons fit them.

Reynolds is an experienced teacher but found that wounded Soldiers were a unique group to teach.

"A lot of Traumatic Brain

Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Soldiers in some ways had forgotten how to learn and can not take in as much information as college students could," he confessed.

To help the warriors learn at their own pace and have time for appointments, Reynolds took a three hour class and broke it into hour segments and delivered the same topic multiple times.

Reynolds told of one TBI student that sat through the same lesson twice in order to understand the concepts to the best of his ability.

The Transition Training Academy not only teaches Soldiers the basics of computer systems, it also helps them network and learn important job searching skills.

"He's a great instructor, he knows what he is doing," Sgt

1st Class Jeff Tuttle.

Reynolds requires each student to start a resume that can be as basic as name, rank and experience. He then works with the students to develop their resume. At the end of the twelve week program Cisco Human Resources from Raleigh will travel to Fort Gordon and interview the Soldiers and help them with their resumes in a free workshop.

Once they have completed the program, the Soldiers receive free laptop computers from USAA.

"(This program) helps Soldiers regain their self esteem and shows them that we care," said Reynolds.

The goal of the program is to help Soldiers "Get out and get a job and become a productive member of society," said Reynolds.

Feedback... Thanksgiving Day is Nov. 27

By Bonnie Heater

For what are you thankful?



I am thankful for my Family, especially my grandchildren. They make holidays more special.

Terry Moehlman
Chief,
Publications/Media
Branch



I am thankful for living in the United States, being able to serve my country and life in general and all that it brings.

Lt. Col. Carla Campbell
Chief Information Officer
Signal Center



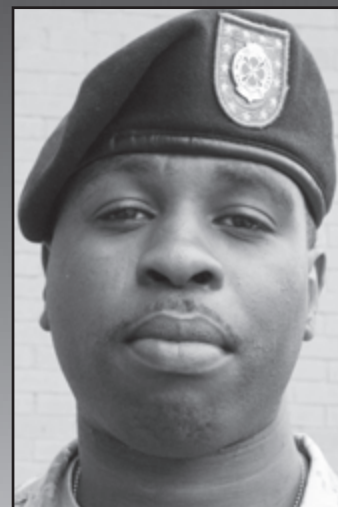
I am thankful for my Family, my job with the Army, and being able to return from Germany to live once again in Georgia.

Alex Morales
Deputy Chief of Information
Signal Center



I am grateful for freedom of religion and being able to speak my mind.

Frank Carter
Visual Information
photographer



I am thankful for having a beautiful Family and for being on TDY [temporary duty] in the states because it's cold in Belgium right now.

Staff Sgt. James Albert
39th Signal Battalion
Supreme Headquarters
Allied Powers Europe



I'm most thankful for Family and good friends. I'm also grateful for learning to guard my heart because I have discovered it determined the course of my life.

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