

LTG Susan S. Lawrence

Distinguished Member of the Signal Regiment



(Photo by Bill Bengtson)

LTG Susan S. Lawrence, U.S. Army Chief Information Officer/G6, is recognized as a distinguished member of the Signal Regiment by MG LaWarren V. Patterson, U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon Commanding General, in a ceremony held 11 September at the Augusta Marriott Convention Center during TechNet Augusta 2013.

“This award is our regiment’s most prestigious...LTG Lawrence joins a select few who have been recognized over the years as Distinguished Members of the Regiment, designating her as one of the amazing individuals whose contributions and impact on the regiment have ensured her place in Signal Corps history.”

- MG LaWarren V. Patterson
Commanding General
U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence

LTG Susan S. Lawrence became the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 on 2 March 2011. As the CIO, LTG Lawrence reports directly to the Secretary of the Army for setting strategic direction and objectives, and supervises all Army C4 (command, control, communications, and computers) and information technology functions. As the G-6, she supports the Chief of Staff of the Army by advising on network, communications, and signal operations. This includes advising on the impact of communications security, force structure, equipping, and employment of network, communications, and Signal capabilities on Army operations.

Originally from Ida Grove, Iowa, LTG Lawrence enlisted in the Army in 1972 and was commissioned in 1979. Throughout her career, she has served in operational assignments in Europe, Korea, Southwest Asia and the United States. She has commanded at every level from platoon to Army Signal Command. Her principal staff assignments have been as Intelligence and Operations Officer, 67th Signal Battalion at Fort Gordon, Ga.; Branch Chief to U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command-Europe; Deputy G-6, 2nd Armor Division in South

Korea; Executive Officer, 142nd Signal Battalion; Force Development Action Officer, Washington, D.C.; Chief, Signal Career Assignments Branch, Officer Personnel Management Directorate; Chief of Staff and Vice Director, J-6, Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon; CIO/Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6 for United States Europe and 7th Army; Director, Command and Control, Communications and Computer Systems, J-6, United States Central Command; and Special Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Pentagon.

She commanded B Company, 67th Signal Battalion at Fort Gordon; 123rd Signal Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., which deployed in support of Operation Desert Thunder; and 7th Signal Brigade in Germany; served as Commanding General 5th Signal Command, and Commanding General, 9th Signal Command (Army)/NETCOM.

LTG Lawrence has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Campbell University, N. C., where she received her commission, and she holds a Master’s Degree in Information Systems Management from the University of Georgia.

In her own words

Teammates,

When I stepped into the CIO/G-6 position, I knew I would be in for one of the most challenging jobs I'd ever had.

What I didn't know is that it would also be one of the most rewarding.

Together, we have created what I sincerely hope will be irreversible momentum in modernizing our Army and leveraging technology to keep us the most capable force in the world.

During my first few months here, as a team we got the SecArmy and CSA to designate the network a top modernization priority and to see the benefits of an enterprise approach to IT acquisition and management. Since then, we have built an unbreakable foundation that will carry the Army forward for at least the next decade.

When the SecArmy tasked us to consolidate the Army's data center inventory in late 2010, we thought there were approximately 250 data centers.

Today we have identified more than 800 data processing locations. As of September, the Army had completed more than 70 percent of the 185



LTG Susan S. Lawrence, U.S. Army chief information officer was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Signal Regiment 11 September at the Augusta Marriott Convention Center during TechNet Augusta 2013. There she shared reflections on her 41-year career in the Army and where the Signal Corps has come and is going.

targeted data center closures, and identified more than 1,800 applications for retirement.

This effort will reap more than \$29 million in cost savings.

In February, the SecArmy released the Information Technology Management Reform implementation plan to modernize the network,

with a goal of achieving \$1.5 billion in annual savings beginning in fiscal year 2015.

The plan was developed by a collaborative team led by CIO/G-6 and ASA(ALT). Through ITMR, the Army finally will be able to manage IT and the network as a portfolio, improving visibility of our assets, increasing efficiency and facilitating better IT/network decision making.

We also recently implemented the Network Mission Area, an end-to-end portfolio management approach to optimize network capability investments.

Over the past several months, representatives from 31 organizations across the Army developed the NMA framework, which uses an annualized repeatable process linking network imperatives from the Army Campaign Plan

to IT capability development through the Program, Planning, Budgeting and Execution System. We are doing this right -- synchronizing across the Warfighting Mission Area (managed by G-3/5/7) and the Business Mission Area (coordinated by the Office of Business Transformation), and

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- LTG Susan S. Lawrence
U. S. Army Chief Information Officer/G6

providing active governance.

Through the Army Request for Information Technology process, we are making great strides in increasing the visibility of IT expenditures, improving compliance with Army IT policies and generating significant cost savings in the maintenance and operation of the Army’s IT infrastructure. The ARFIT policy framework was completed with the publication of two SecArmy memoranda in 2013 directing implementation and reforming the waiver policy for IT procurement.

This summer, the Army finished the bulk of its migration to DoD Enterprise Email, one of our highest priority IT initiatives and greatest achievements. More than 1.43 million NIPRNet users and 115,000 SIPRNet users can now access their email securely from anywhere in the world at any time. Enterprise Email greatly improves operational effectiveness, security and

efficiency.

Together, we accomplished all of this and much, much more!

On 18 September, I out-briefed the SecArmy and Army Staff on our successes and the irreversible momentum we achieved. The SecArmy praised our efforts and expressed his appreciation for your hard work. The bottom line is that, because of your commitment to excellence and steadfast determination despite sequestration, furloughs and budget constraints, we have an affordable, sustainable network that is secure and effective.

As the Army draws down forces and faces more fiscal uncertainty, you must remain focused. The Army’s mandate is to maintain its expeditionary capability as part of a joint force. For the Signal community, that means continuing to improve network effectiveness and security, and doing so in a financially sound way.

The Army needs your help to keep moving forward and to continue making a difference in the lives of Soldiers across the Army every day.

One critical task is locking in the way ahead for standing up the Cyber Protection Teams. We must execute this to standard -- it is a no-fail mission. It will take the entire team to achieve this goal. To ensure success, we need to identify the right talent and, as individuals are selected, your support to allow them to transition to the CPTs. Our relevancy depends on getting the CPTs into the force quickly and smoothly.

I am extremely proud to have served with every Soldier, civilian and contractor who collectively make up today’s Signal Regiment. I’m equally proud of what we have accomplished and the promise of achievements yet to come.

Our unity as a family has strengthened the Regiment and made us strong. Mr. [Mike] Krieger, CW5 [Ricardo “Rick”] Pina, SGM [Kevin E.] McCrary and I thank each one of you in advance for your unwavering support and service to our Nation. I wish everyone in the Signal community the very best. I will miss you all!

Warmest regards,

LTG Susan Lawrence