



Eagle Express

Deborah Lee James Confirmed as Next Secretary of the Air Force

Have you heard? On 13 Dec 13, by a Senate vote of 79-6, Ms. Deborah Lee James was confirmed as the 2nd female, and 23rd overall Air Force Secretary. President Obama nominated Ms. James on 1 Aug 13, at which time she was serving as president of the technology and engineering sector at Science Applications International Corporation.

She was sworn in by President Obama on 20 Dec 13, and succeeds Former SecAF Michael Donley, who retired in June, and takes over for Acting SecAF Eric Fanning (who will resume his role as Under Secretary of the Air Force).

Ms. James earned her B.A. in Comparative Area Studies from Duke University and her M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University. As well as having served as Asst. Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, she boasts extensive executive experience in the private sector.



Flag of the Secretary of the Air Force

Secretary James will assume the duties of the Secretary of the AF per [U.S. Code Title 10 Section 8013 \(b\)](#). She will be responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, to include organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of more than 334,000 men and women on active duty, 176,000 members of the Air National Guard / AF Reserve, 170,000 civilians and their families.

Said Air Force Chief of Staff, General Mark Welsh of her confirmation, "I'm confident that she'll lead us with the same vision and passion she's shown throughout her public service and private sector leadership, building on the extraordinary accomplishments of our Acting Secretary Eric Fanning, who has magnificently led our AF these last few months." Acting Secretary Fanning added, "I know firsthand that she is just what the Air Force needs right now. She will be a forceful advocate for airmen and air power."



Acting SecAF Fanning during his visit to Dover in September

SecAF Quick Facts

- 1st SecAF Hon. Stuart Symington sworn in 18 Sep 47...the day AF was born!
- The Secretary of the AF is 4th in the line of succession to Secretary of Defense
- Salary of the SecAF is Executive Schedule Level II, currently \$179,900
- 1st female SecAF was the Hon. Sheila Windall, appointed by President Clinton
- Longest serving SecAF: Hon. Verne Orr (Feb 81– Nov 85, 1,755 days)
- Shortest serving SecAF: Hon. Russell Rourke (Dec 85–Apr 86, 118 days)

Rick L. Donley
"Deliver!"

