
June 24, 2008

1st Woman Chosen for 4-Star Rank

By **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, a woman has been chosen for promotion to four-star general.

The Pentagon announced Monday that President Bush had nominated Lt. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody to head the Army Materiel Command, responsible for equipping, outfitting and arming soldiers throughout the Army.

If confirmed by the Senate, she would be the first woman to attain the rank of a full general. By law, the Army is limited to 11 active-duty four-stars, including the Army chief of staff, Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

Women have not reached four-star rank because by law they are excluded from serving in combat roles, which historically have been the path to the highest-ranking positions. That exclusion still applies, but with General Dunwoody the Army has chosen to cast aside its customary limitations on promotion.

General Dunwoody is one of only two women with three stars in the Army; the other is Lt. Gen. Kathleen Gainey, director of logistics on the Joint Staff.

“Her 33 years of service, highlighted by extraordinary leadership and devotion to duty, make

her exceptionally qualified for this senior position,” Defense Secretary [Robert M. Gates](#) said of General Dunwoody in a statement.

General Dunwoody is currently deputy commander of Army Materiel Command. Among her earlier assignments, she was commander of Army Combined Arms Support Command and the Army deputy chief of staff for logistics.

She is a native of New York and received her Army commission after graduating from SUNY Cortland in 1975.

[Copyright 2008 The New York Times Company](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) [Search](#) [Corrections](#) [RSS](#) [First Look](#) [Help](#) [Contact Us](#) [Work for Us](#) [Site Map](#)