

Colonel Daphne H. Austin

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement)



Colonel Daphne H. Austin assumed the roles of the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement) on February 15, 2025.

Colonel Austin was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps through the Army ROTC program at Columbus State University in 1998. She was assigned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, for her first duty assignment. During her three-year tenure in Hawaii, Colonel Austin served as a Signal Platoon Leader for Alpha Company, 125th Signal Battalion, as the Battalion S-6 for the 25th Military Police Battalion, and as Company Executive Officer for Charlie Company, 125th Signal Battalion.

Upon completion of the Signal Captains Career Course in 2002, Colonel Austin took command of Alpha Company, 442nd Signal Battalion at Fort Eisenhower, Georgia. She then served at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. During her three years at West Point, Colonel Austin instructed hundreds of cadets in the field of Military Science, which earned her the recognition as the Instructor of the Year in 2007 for the Department of Military Instruction.

Following her operational and broadening assignments, Colonel Austin joined the U.S. Army Acquisition Corps in 2007. Her acquisition assignments include Brigade Operations Officer, 408th Contracting Support Brigade at Fort McPherson, Georgia; Team Leader, 709th Contracting Team at Fort Eustis, Virginia; and Team Leader, Deputy Director, and Director of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command—Fort Moore, Georgia. During her assignments in the acquisition field, Colonel Austin executed several deployments to the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility to include multiple deployments to Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve, respectively. Her contributions in Iraq earned her the Richard "Dick" Ginman Contingency Excellence Award in 2017. Colonel Austin served as the Commander of the 921st Contracting Battalion at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, as the first Commander to lead the battalion in the Pacific after re-stationing the organization from Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. In 2020, Colonel Austin graduated from Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, where she received a master's degree in strategic studies.

Colonel Austin served as the Chief of Staff, Mission and Installation Contracting Command in July 2020. Following this assignment, she took command of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade, serving as the Army's Senior Contracting Official for the South America Area of Responsibility supporting the United States Southern Command and U.S. Army South. As the Brigade Commander, Colonel Austin provided both Army and joint commands, installations, and activities with responsive contracting solutions and oversight while providing trained and deployable contracting assets to the operating force.

Colonel Austin holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. Along with her master's degree in strategic studies, she has also earned a Master of Business Administration from Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. Additionally, she is a certified member of the Army Acquisition Corps with a Level III certification in Contracting and is also Level I certified in Program Management.

Colonel Austin is married to Mr. Lorenzo Austin and they have three children, Kendra, Lorenzo Darius, and Jeremy.