



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

MICHAEL E. SAUNDERS

Michael E. Saunders, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations and Environment, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. Mr. Saunders is responsible for the formulation, review and execution of plans, policies, programs, and budgets to meet Air Force installations, energy, environment, safety and occupational health objectives.

Mr. Saunders was commissioned in the Air Force in 1990 upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy. During his 26-year military career, he commanded three civil engineer squadrons, as well as an Expeditionary Mission Support Advisory Group and Vice Commander at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. He also completed staff tours at U.S. Air Forces Central Command as Director of Installations, Air Combat Command and the Air Staff.

In his previous position, Mr. Saunders served as Director, Real Estate, Logistics, and Operations for Program Support Center, a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this position, he oversaw multiple support services provided to the department and other federal agencies including building operations; real property management; supply chain management; transportation; mail and publishing, physical security and emergency management; intake, suitability and badging, and Fed Response services. He also oversaw the HHS Department policy and oversight functions for these same areas and represented the Department at numerous government-wide executive councils including the Federal Real Property Council and Federal Travel Management Council.



EDUCATION

1990 Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

1994 Master of Engineering, University of South Florida, Tampa

1996 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2001 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2005 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2007 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence

2011 Master of Science, National Resource Strategy, Eisenhower School of the National Defense University, Washington, D.C.

2012 Air Force Leadership Enhancement Program, Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, N.C.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

1. August 1990–May 1994, Readiness Flight Commander, Design Engineer, and Chief of Production Control, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron then 6th CES, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

2. June 1994–August 1997, Chief of Base Development & Resources Flight Commander, 36th CES, and Executive Officer, 36th Air Base Wing, Andersen AFB, Guam

3. August 1997–June 2000, Chief of Environmental Compliance, 86th CES, and Commander, Sembach Operations Flight, 786th CES, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

4. July 2000–May 2003, Environmental Program Manager, and Assistant Executive Officer, Office of the Civil Engineer, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

5. July 2003–July 2004, Commander, Operations Flight, 89th CES, Andrews AFB, Md.

6. November 2003–March 2004, Commander, 506th Expeditionary CES, Kirkuk AB, Iraq

7. July 2004–June 2005, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

8. June 2005–June 2007, Chief, Stop Work Authority Construction Branch, and Chief, Contingency Programs and Operations Branch, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.

9. July 2007–July 2008, Commander, 379th Expeditionary CES, Al Udeid AB

10. July 2008–July 2010, Commander, 316th CES, Andrews AFB, Md.

11. August 2010–June 2011, Student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

12. July 2011–December 2011, Commander, 321st Expeditionary Mission Support Advisory Group, Tikrit, Iraq

13. January 2012–June 2012, Special Assistant to the Air Force Civil Engineer, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

14. June 2012–July 2014, Vice Commander and Commander, Air Force Element, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.

15. July 2014–September 2016, Director of Installations, U.S. Air Forces Central Command, Shaw AFB, S.C.

16. October 2016–April 2024, Director, Real Estate, Logistics, and Operations for Program Support Center, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.

17. April 2024–January 2025, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment,

Department of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

18. January 2025–present, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Department of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Air and Space Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Meritorious Unit Award

Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with silver oak leaf cluster

Air and Space Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster

National Defense Service Medal with service star

Iraq Campaign Medal with service star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal with two service Stars

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Air Command Staff College Research Award for Logistics Excellence, June 2005

Air Combat Command Maj Gen L. Dean Fox Award (Senior Military Manager), 2008 (AF Runner-Up)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Maryland #22940

(Current as of February 2025)

