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Dr. Patricia Sanders Retires from Federal Service

Dr. Patricia Sanders, the Missile Defense Agency's Executive Director since January 2006, is retiring after almost 34 years of Federal service. As Executive Director she served as the MDA's senior advisor on matters related to all operational and management functions of the Agency, and was a key interface to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military services and members of Congress. She was also the senior Agency official in matters concerning civilian personnel, including serving as a dedicated mentor for the MDA workforce. A member of the Senior Executive Service, Dr. Sanders is a recipient of the 1999 and 2005 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives.

Lt. General Henry A. "Trey" Obering, MDA director, called Dr. Sanders "the epitome of the very best within our Federal service—brilliant, dedicated to the mission of public service and a person who cares deeply about the men and women who serve our nation."

One of the nation's foremost experts in defense acquisition and program management, Dr. Sanders joined the then-Ballistic Missile Defense Organization in 1999 as Deputy Director for Test and Assessment. She was part of the team that created the concept for the Ballistic Missile Defense System and led to the establishment of the Missile Defense Agency. Over her nine year tenure with the Agency she has held six different positions including one in which she was charged with the ballistic missile defense integration, and was the senior official charged with managing the development and fielding of a layered, integrated ballistic missile defense system that had formerly consisted of separate, non-integrated system elements. Prior to joining BMDO she was the Director of Test, Systems Engineering and Evaluation in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), responsible for ensuring the effective integration of all engineering disciplines into the system acquisition process.

Prior positions within the Office of the Secretary of Defense included serving as Director of Land Forces in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Program Analysis and Evaluation, and also as a staff specialist for the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation.

She also served as Deputy Director for analysis with U.S. Space Command, Science Advisor to the Command, Control, Communications and Countermeasures Joint Test Force, and as Chief of Modeling and Simulation and Technical Advisor to the Air Force Electronics System Division at the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center.

Dr. Sanders is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). She is a past president of the International Test and Evaluation Association (ITEA) and has served on the board of directors for the Military Operations Research Society. She has been honored with the Allen R. Matthews Award for lasting and significant contributions to the field of test and evaluation and with the DeFlorez Award for outstanding achievement in the application of modeling and simulation to aerospace research and development.

Contact: Rick Lehner, Missile Defense Agency, at (703) 697-8997 or richard.lehner@mda.mil.

