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News Release

St Marys native selected for promotion to colonel

[Karen Gausman](#), a native of St Marys, Pa., was selected for promotion to colonel in the U.S. Army.

Currently Lt. Col. Gausman, an Army Nurse Corps Officer, is serving as commandant of the Graduate School of Nursing, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md.

Lt. Col. Gausman, daughter of Alfred and Edna Gausman, began her military career while finishing her senior year at Elk County Christian High School as an enlisted soldier in the local U.S. Army Reserve unit. She completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., followed by specialty training in automatic data processing at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. During eight years in the reserves, she drilled with Pennsylvania units in St Marys, Clearfield, and Altoona. While attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania she enrolled in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program and at the end of her second year she was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve. While completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree, she served as a personnel officer and platoon leader with the 331st Medical Clearing Company in Altoona.

In 1982, she entered the active component and developed a diverse clinical background as a medical-surgical nurse while working in neonatal intensive care, obstetrics and gynecology, and adult and geriatric nursing. Awarded a Master's of Science in Nursing Degree in 1991, she received the Graduate Award for Excellence in Nursing Administration and a Certificate in Education at George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.

Lt. Col. Gausman's experience in operational medicine began when she deployed with the 15th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va., for REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany). Assigned as chief nurse and executive officer, 85th General Hospital (Caretaker) at Fort Meade, Md., she was instrumental in planning and coordinating medical support for the 35,000 scouts and 60,000 visitors participating in the 1997 National Boy Scout Jamboree, Fort A.P. Hill, Va., and the deployment of personnel and equipment for a 100-bed hospital to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., in support of the 10th Mountain Division.

Lt. Col. Gausman is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, and the American Nurses Association. She is board certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in Nursing Administration, Advanced; and she has been honored with the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Awards and decorations that Lt. Col. Gausman has received include the Army Meritorious Service Medal (with four oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), the Expert Field Medical Badge, and the Parachutist Badge. In addition to her military accomplishments, Lt. Col. Gausman completed the Army Ten Miler in 2000 and the Marine Corps Marathon in 2002. She is married to Carl Burnett and they have two children: Kathryn, a senior at Paint Branch High School in Maryland and Robyn, a freshman at Randolph Macon Women's College in Virginia.