Retirement Ceremony



In honor of

Colonel
Nkemakonam I. Okpokwasili

5 December 2026
1400 hours

National Museum of the
United States Army
1775 Liberty Drive
Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060

Sequence of Events

Arrival of the
Official Party

National Anthem
Judge Bertram Okpokwasili
Dr. Ebele
Okpokwasili-Johnson
Mrs. Ije Hoffmann

Invocation
Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel)
Glen Clarkson

Host Remarks
Lieutenant General
Mary K. Izaguirre

Retirement Award

Presentation of Awards

Honoree Remarks
Colonel (Retired)
Nkemakonam I.
Okpokwasili

The Army Song

Receiving Line

Reception



Lieutenant General Mary K. Izaguirre

The Surgeon General and Commanding General
United States Army Medical Command

Lieutenant General Mary K. Izaguirre is the 46th Surgeon General of the United States Army and Commanding General, United States Army Medical Command. Prior to her appointment as the Surgeon General and Commanding General, she served as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Readiness Command, East and Chief of the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

LTG Izaguirre received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Houghton University in 1991 and was commissioned through the Health Professions scholarship program as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. She received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in 1995 from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and completed residency training in Family Medicine in 1998, and Faculty Development Fellowship in 2002, both at Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Washington.

LTG Izaguirre is board certified in Family Medicine and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She received a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington in 2002, a Master of Military Arts and Science from the Command and General Staff College in 2008, and a Master in National Security and Resource Strategy at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Strategy in 2015.

LTG Izaguirre's military education includes the War College, Army Command and General Staff College, AMEDD Officer Advanced Course, AMEDD Officer Basic Course, Army Flight Surgeon Course, Division Surgeon Course, and Brigade Command Course.

LTG Izaguirre's military assignments include Commander, Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii from 2018-2020; Supervisory Assistant Deputy Health Affairs, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, (MPQ), Pentagon, Washington, DC from 2015-2018; Commander, U.S. Army Health Clinic Schofield Barracks, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii from 2012-2014; Division Surgeon, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, and Tikrit, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn from 2009-2012; Chief of Soldier Care, Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado from 2008-2009; Director of Residency Training, Department of Family Medicine, Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 2005-2007; Associate Program Director, Department of Family Medicine, Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 2003-2005; Deputy Surgeon, Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force, Bagram, Afghanistan in 2003; Director of Research, Family Medicine Residency Program, Dewitt Army Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Faculty Development Fellow, Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Washington from 2000-2002, and Family Medicine Residency Faculty, Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Washington from 1998-2000. Prior to her current position, she served as the Commanding General for Medical Readiness Command, East from 2021-2023 and Chief of the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 2022-2024.

LTG Izaguirre's military awards include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (two Oak Leaf Clusters), and the Army Achievement Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster). LTG Izaguirre is an Army Flight Surgeon, has earned the Master Combat Medical Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Expert Field Medical Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge, and holds The Surgeon General's 9A Designation. LTG Izaguirre is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.

LTG Izaguirre and her husband Joseph Izaguirre remain grounded through the joy and adventures of parenting their five children.



Colonel
Nkemakonam I. Okpokwasili

Chief Surgeon
Army National Guard

Colonel Nkemakonam I. Okpokwasili is the Chief Surgeon for the Army National Guard. He was born and raised in The Bronx, New York, and is the son of Nigerian immigrants. He is a graduate of Columbia University in New York City, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Sociology. He holds a Master of Science degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of New Haven, Connecticut, and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. COL Okpokwasili is board certified in Family Medicine and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

His military education includes the Army Medical Department Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Brigade Surgeon Course, Division Surgeon Course, and Command and General Staff Officer Course. COL Okpokwasili received a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2022.

COL Okpokwasili's significant assignments include service as a General Medical Officer for General Surgery, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center; Brigade Surgeon, 41st Fires Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom; Brigade Surgeon, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade; Chief of Primary Care Services, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California; Division Surgeon, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division; Deputy Commander, Clinical Services, Fort George G. Meade MEDDAC; and Chief Surgeon for the Army National Guard. His overseas experience comprises multiple overseas tours, including a deployment to Iraq.

COL Okpokwasili’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Joint Service Achievement Medal. He is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.

COL Okpokwasili is married and has five wonderful children.

The Army Song

March along, sing our song,
with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true,
who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

First to fight for the right
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
(Two! Three!)
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

The song "The Army Goes Rolling Along" is the official song of the United States Army. The song was dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 1956. The music was composed in 1908 by Lieutenant (later BG) Edmund L. Gruber and was originally known as the "Caisson Song."