



## **Deborah Lee James**

**Board Member, Advisor and Speaker**  
**Former Secretary of the US Air Force & President, SAIC**

Deborah Lee James has a three-decade track record of leading, transforming, and driving lasting results in both the Legislative and Executive branches of Government (U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense) and private industry - Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and United Technologies Corporation.

Deborah currently serves on the Board of Directors of public, private and not-for-profit entities as well as an advisor and speaker on national security, business and leadership topics.

She is a non-executive member of the public company Boards of Textron Inc. (NYSE: TXT) and Unisys Corporation (NYSE: UIS ). Her private Boards include TeraThink Corporation and MKACyber, Inc. Deborah is a member of the not-for-profit boards of Noblis, Inc.; the Atlantic Council and the PenFed Credit Union Foundation. She also serves as an Advisor to Bain and Company; the Center for Strategic International Studies and as an Advisory Board Member to Beacon Global Strategies, MIT Lincoln Labs and LeanIn.Org. Deborah is a frequent public speaker affiliated with the Washington Speakers Bureau and the Worldwide Speakers Group.

Deborah has deep expertise in strategic planning, risk management, public policy, cyber security, logistics and innovation. Through January 2017, Deborah served as the 23rd Secretary of the United States Air Force with responsibility for 660,000 military and civilian personnel and a budget of nearly \$140 billion. Prior to that role, she served as President of SAIC's Technical and Engineering sector, a \$2 billion, 8,700 person enterprise. Immediately prior to this role, Deborah served as the Executive Vice President of Communications and Government Affairs.

### **Public Service Experience**

Deborah served for 20 years in the U.S. Government. As the Secretary of the Air Force, she successfully led strategic change in human capital management, training and acquisition approaches, as well as streamlining of headquarter operations and government-wide changes in space and cyber. She navigated people, policy and budgetary matters through the complex legislative and regulatory environment as well as invested R&D dollars to ensure the Air Force remains on the cutting edge of technology for decades to come. On the international scene, Deborah enhanced more than 40 relationships with Air Force partners in the Middle East, Europe and Asia through the advocacy of U.S. defense products, training and interoperability. By establishing goals and metrics, she directed process changes to speed up the Air Force's Foreign Military Sales requirements; introduced a series of initiatives designed to streamline the acquisition life cycle and championed a variety of talent management programs, including ones designed to capitalize upon diversity of background, succession planning, and the identification and development of high potential employees.

As the Secretary, Deborah was "dual-hatted" as the Principal Defense Space Advisor with responsibility for the rewrite and coordination of strategy and budgets for all U.S. national security space efforts. Over several years, this effort resulted in billions of dollars shifted toward making the U.S. space architecture more resilient. She also reintroduced competition for national security space launches.

Earlier in Deborah's career, she served as a Professional Staff Member for the House Armed Services Committee and as the DoD Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

### **Private Sector Experience**

Deborah has 15 years of operating experience in private industry. Throughout her approximate 12 year tenure at Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC), Deborah worked on key governance, financial,

business development, capture management, strategic planning, M&A and program execution areas. Most recently, she was the President of SAIC's Technical and Engineering sector. Her responsibilities included strategic planning, revenue and profit generation, program execution excellence, client satisfaction, cash management and talent development. She worked closely with SAIC's CEO and Board of Directors to co-lead the design effort that resulted in the successful split of SAIC into two distinct public companies (SAIC and Leidos).

Prior to becoming the President of the Technical and Engineering Sector, Deborah served as Executive Vice President for Communications and Government Affairs, which included SAIC's corporate responsibility programs. In this role, Deborah worked extensively with the Board of Directors on reputation risk management issues and led SAIC's Women's Network.

Earlier, she was a Business Unit General Manager of a \$500 million, 2,500 person C4IT business unit. In this role she led the successful integration of a recent acquisition that included significant change management efforts, consolidation of staffs and processes while continuing to execute key programs. She also led the effort that resulted from the U.S. Navy award to install and integrate communications and electronic components on the number one Department of Defense program at the time – the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) program. Prior to that role at SAIC, Deborah served as the Director of Homeland Security.

Before joining SAIC, Deborah served as the Chief Operating Officer for the non-profit entity Business Executives for National Security and spent two years as the Vice President for International Operations and Marketing for United Technologies Corporation (UTC). At UTC, she was responsible for marketing UTC products ranging from air conditioner units to jet engines in five international locations.

## **Education**

Honorary Doctorates: Duke University, the Citadel and the College of Charleston  
Columbia University, New York, NY, Master of International Affairs  
Duke University, Durham, NC, Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Area Studies