



**TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE**  
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

---

1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • FAX: 512-475-1415

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Voices of Veterans: Brig. Gen. Robin Akin Shares Her Story of Service on Women's Veterans Day**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 12, 2024**

**Contact: Kimberly Hubbard**  
**(512) 936-9582**  
**[media@glo.texas.gov](mailto:media@glo.texas.gov)**

Austin — Today, Texas Land Commissioner and Veterans Land Board (VLB) Chairwoman Dawn Buckingham, M.D., is proud to introduce the next installment of the series highlighting the VLB's Voices of Veterans oral history program. In this episode, we hear the story of Brig. Gen. Veteran Robin Akin of the U.S. Army.

Akin was born in Nashville, Tennessee and grew up in a single-parent household with three brothers. Akin said she is proud of how things turned out for her, as the only high school and college graduate in her immediate family.

"I just decided to stick with it and I was the only one who finished high school and college, so it was a weird bringing up but in respect to how I grew up and what I became, I was very happy," Akin said.



## VOICES OF VETERANS

name <b>Akin, Robin</b>		
military branch <b>Army</b>	rank <b>Brig Gen</b>	conflict <b>Gulf War, Iraq/Afghanistan</b>
date interviewed <b>08/04/2023</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> interview available on <a href="http://voicesofveterans.org">voicesofveterans.org</a>

Robin Akin attended the University of Tennessee and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in March 1982. She was the only female in the Master Parachutist class of 1986, with 155 jumps. Mrs. Akin served worldwide, including in Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. She was the Joint Logistics Commander for Humanitarian Relief during Operation Unified Response in Haiti and served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, a position her father-in-law held 25 years earlier. In 2016, Brigadier General Akin was inducted into the University of Tennessee's Army ROTC Hall of Fame.

Akin's military career in the United States Army is rife with accomplishments. How her military career began, however, was a story she had to tell after graduating early from the University of Tennessee.

"Funny story, after graduating early from college in 1982, I went to Airborne School and I got my first and only ticket trying to get from the University of Tennessee to Fort Benning, Georgia," Akin shared with a subtle laugh. "I was speeding like no tomorrow so I could get there and sign in. In the end, the cop did let me go and told me I was going the right direction, just to slow it down a little."

Akin was commissioned as a second lieutenant in March 1982 and spent the first seven months in classes before reporting to Fort Bragg, North Carolina and immediately went on jump status there. She said her experience there, as only one of two females in her unit, was unique and eye-opening.



From left are Col. Robin Akin; her father-in-law, retired Maj. Gen. George Akin; and her husband, Lt. Col. Greg Akin. Around Christmas, Robin Akin will replace her brother-in-law, Col. Mark Akin, as commander of the Corps Distribution Center. All are Army logistics officers. Lt. Col. Greg Akin is the fourth member of his family to command a battalion.

# Family Support

From the 7th Transportation Battalion to the Corps Distribution Center, the Akins are a commanding presence in Army logistics.

By Henry Cunningham  
Military writer

Earlier this month, Col. Robin Akin watched her husband, Lt. Col. Greg Akin, take over command of the 7th Transportation Battalion at Fort Bragg.

Robin Akin is a student at the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania.

But later this year she will come to COSCOM as chief of staff. She will be responsible for the unit remaining at Fort Bragg while the commander, Brig. Gen. Yves Fustater, is in Iraq.

Then around Christmas, she will replace her brother-in-law, Col. Mark Akin, as commander of the Corps Distribution Center, which has 600 to 700 soldiers.

"I know my brother-in-law," she said. "It inheres a great organization."

Greg and Robin Akin's command assignments have been in the 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg.

"I think they need to dedicate a street on Fort Bragg after the Akin family," said Robin Akin, who is 44.

"We've always had one Akin in the COSCOM. It seems, for a while now," said Greg Akin, who is 42.

Army logistics is a family affair with the Akins.

Greg's father, Maj. Gen. George Akin of Fort Worth, Texas, retired from the Army in 1961. He commanded the Army Test and

See FAMILY, Page 10

## VOICES OF VETERANS

VLB CHAIRWOMAN, DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

"My first run, I fell out of the run because I couldn't keep up with the men and my Company Commander said 'you're never going to make it in the military,'" Akin

remembered with a laugh. "Come to find out, he got out of the military as a Lieutenant Colonel and I got out as a General, so I guess he didn't know what he was talking about."

Akin served worldwide and saw multiple conflicts, including Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom, and served as the Joint Logistics Commander in support of Humanitarian Relief during Operation Unified Response in Haiti. Akin was also the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at South Korea-U.S Combined Forces Command (CFC), the same position her father-in-law served in twenty-five years before her.

While times have changed in the military since Akin's career began, she said she really had to learn how to make a difference along the way and while she wasn't afraid to do so, she learned from some of the best to ever serve.

"As a female leader, I had one female leader who mentored me, she became the first 4-Star General in the military, Ann Dunwoody, she would always say 'just look up and look out, don't look down because you're not going to make a difference if you're looking down,'" Akin recalled. "So, I just conquered every mission I could do, I would sometimes walk over men's backs to make it happen."



## VOICES OF VETERANS

VLB CHAIRWOMAN, DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

Today, Akin said she's making up for lost time with her family and spends a lot of her time volunteering for non-profits, including the Daughters of American Revolution, having found immense enjoyment in giving back and continuing to serve her country.

"It's enjoying to give back in a volunteer way. People look at you differently, they don't believe you did all that, but they admire that you did it," she explained. "I'm very driven, very honest when I say that more ladies, more women, are going to stand up for the cause and make a difference in our military and in our world. If I get a chance to be part of that, I'm all for it, I'm all in."

In 2016, Brigadier General Akin was inducted into the University of Tennessee's Army ROTC Hall of Fame. Mrs. Akin retired in 2013 after spending over thirty-one and a half years in the Army and now resides in Fort Worth, Texas.

To listen to Brig. Gen. Akins tell her story, click the button below.

[Brig. Gen. Robin Akin's Story](#)

---

Veterans can email [VoicesofVeterans@glo.texas.gov](mailto:VoicesofVeterans@glo.texas.gov) to tell their stories. Please note that the Veteran must be a resident of Texas at the time of their interview.

Voices of Veterans is a state agency's first Veteran oral history program. It records the stories of Texas Veterans through their time in service and after returning home from combat.

The VLB records interviews with veterans over the phone or in person. Their interviews are then permanently archived in the Office of Veterans Records at the GLO, where they join the historical documents of other Texas heroes such as Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, and William Barret Travis.

Veterans' interviews are also available to researchers, historians, genealogists, and the public. These precious records inspire future generations and remind us of our Veterans' sacrifices.

To listen to the over 500 archived stories of Veterans documented through the GLO's Voices of Veterans oral history program, click the button below:

[Voices of Veterans](#)