

Karen Wilhelm – Paulding High School Class of 1974

Karen enlisted in the United State Air Force following high school graduation and served as an automatic flight control systems specialist at Andersen AFB, Guam before being selected to attend the United States Air Force Academy as a member of the first class to admit women cadets. She graduated from the Academy in 1980 and served in the Air Force until her retirement in 2007, with the rank of Colonel. During her career, Karen served on the faculty of the Air Force Academy, served as a speech writer for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and commanded maintenance operations in several settings. Her final active duty assignment was on the faculty of the National War College in Washington D.C. While there, she served as department chair and core course director. In addition to her B.S. degree in military history from the United States Air Force Academy, Karen holds four masters degrees and is currently a doctoral candidate at Georgetown University.



Colonel Karen Wilhelm  
Inducted May 30, 2010

Paulding High School		1974
United State Air Force Academy	B.S.	1980
Air Force Institute of Technology	M.S.	1984
Louisiana Tech University	M.A.	1986
U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies	M.M.A.S.	1995
National War College	M.S.	1999