



Paula Burns

Vice President and General Manager, Tactical Solutions

Paula Burns is the Vice President and General Manager of the Tactical Solutions (TS) strategic business unit. In this role, she is responsible for Ball Aerospace's portfolio of tactical mission systems and products, enabling warfighters to go forward bravely and return home safely.

Burns started at Ball in 2004, where she helped establish the Program Management Office focused on driving consistency and excellence. Additionally, she served as Manager of the Independent Research and Development portfolio for tactical products focused on developing discriminating technology. As the director of production programs for TS, Burns was instrumental in modernizing and scaling production capabilities. She also served as the Deputy General Manager of TS, where she was responsible for the overall financial performance, operations and facilities management.

Most recently, she has served as the Vice President of Operations, where she was responsible for Facilities, Industrial Operations & New Business, Information Technology Services, Manufacturing and Test Operations, Mission and Process Analytics, and Integrated Supply Chain.

Burns received a B.A. in American History and commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy at the University of Pennsylvania. She attended naval aviator training in Pensacola, Florida, earning her wings in 1987. Burns served as a combat support pilot, flying CH-46 Sea Knight on multiple deployments from several Navy ships. She became the first female mountain search and rescue pilot flying the HH 1N Huey. She was recognized as the most prolific and successful mountain rescue pilot, credited with saving 25 lives and conducting over 35 rescues in one year.

Burns later served as a C-130 pilot in the Air National Guard supporting various missions, most notably supporting NATO in the Kosovo War. She spent the last four years of her military service as the Inspector General for the Colorado Air National Guard and retired from the military in 2008. In 2010, Burns received an MBA from the University of Denver.