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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSEMAJOR GENERAL RICHARD L. LAWSON  
Biographical Data

Major General Richard L. Lawson has been Military Assistant to the President since August 9, 1974. He succeeded Air Force Brigadier General Brent Scowcroft, who is Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

From February 1973, General Lawson served as Deputy Director of Operations in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Force for Plans and Operations. He was promoted to his present rank at that time. In July 1971 General Lawson was assigned to Air Force Headquarters in the Directorate of Operations with duties as Chief of the Strategic Division and in July 1972 he was assigned as Deputy Director for Strategic Operational Forces.

After studying at the National War College (1968-69), General Lawson became Deputy Commander for Operations of the 306th Bombardment Wing at McCoy Air Force Base, Florida. In February 1970 he assumed command of the 28th Bombardment Wing, on temporary duty in the Western Pacific area. He returned from Southeast Asia with the Wing in March 1970 to Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, and commanded the 28th Wing until June 1971.

He was born on December 19, 1929, in Fairfield, Iowa. He attended the University of Iowa and graduated from Parsons College in 1951 with a B. S. degree. He received his M. P. A. from George Washington University in 1964. During college, he enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard and was called to active duty as the 133rd Infantry Regimental Sergeant Major at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was commissioned as an officer in 1951 and assigned to the 133rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Alexandria, Louisiana. He entered pilot training in 1952 and held several flying, staff and command assignments through 1960.

In 1961 he was assigned to Headquarters Strategic Air Command at Offut Air Force Base, Nebraska, and served as a member of the European Force Application Team, Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff. In 1963 General Lawson entered the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, then returned to SAC Headquarters as Operations Planner in the Concepts Division, Operations Plans Directorate. He became Chief of the Future Concepts Branch in February 1967.

General Lawson is a command pilot and has flown more than 6,000 hours. He flew 73 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

He is married to the former Joan Graber of Fairfield, Iowa. They have two sons and two daughters.

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