



# BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## BRIGADIER GENERAL YVONNE L. MAYS

Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays is The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military Affairs. She commands more than 8,400 Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard and leads, directs, and manages the New Jersey Department of Military Affairs in the execution of federal and state missions.

Brig. Gen. Mays enlisted in the Air Force in August 1983 and completed Basic Military Training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. While serving as an enlisted Airman in the active component and prior to commissioning, she supported numerous operations such as Operation Just Cause and deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm. Brig. Gen. Mays earned her commission from the Palmetto Military Academy, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in 1999. Brig. Gen. Mays began her National Guard career as the Director of Personnel and Commander of the Mission Support Flight, 177th Fighter Wing, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey in 1999. In 2003, she went on to be the 177 FW Executive Officer before becoming the Deputy Chief of Staff, New Jersey Air National Guard in 2008. In 2009, Brig. Gen. Mays was

appointed as the Public Affairs Officer for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. In 2010, she was assigned as Bilateral Affairs Officer to the New Jersey National Guard's first State Partnership Program with the Republic of Albania, later becoming the New Jersey National Guard's State Partnership Program Manager. Starting in 2011, Brig. Gen. Mays served several special staff roles to The Adjutant General.

During her tenure as an officer in the New Jersey Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Mays supported Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom and served multiple roles including Director of Staff and Deputy Joint Task Force Commander supporting New Jersey's COVID-19 Response Operations. Prior to selection by Governor Philip D. Murphy in July 2024 and New Jersey State Senate Confirmation in October 2024, Brig. Gen. Mays served as the Deputy Adjutant General of New Jersey where she was the principal advisor to The Adjutant General and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on all matters concerning military readiness, mobilizations, homeland security, defense support to civil authorities, human resources, logistics, training, and financial management.

## EDUCATION

1983 Basic Military Training, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas  
1986 Noncommissioned Officer Prep Course, Altus AFB, Okla.  
1991 Noncommissioned Officer Course, Charleston AFB, S.C.  
1992 Bachelor of Arts, Education Curriculum Development, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill.  
1997 Master of Arts, Human Resources/Management, Webster University, Saint Louis, Mo.  
1999 Officer Candidate School, Palmetto Military Academy, U.S. Army, Fort Jackson, S.C.  
2000 Personnel Officer School, Keesler AFB, Miss.





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2004 Expeditionary Aerospace Communications Officer Training, Keesler AFB, Miss.  
2005 Communications Officer School, Keesler AFB, Miss.  
2006 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence  
2010 Defense Institute of Security Assistance, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio  
2011 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence  
2016 Crisis Management Course, Harvard Kennedy School, Boston, Mass.  
2016 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, by correspondence  
2019 Duals Status Commander Course, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.  
2019 Joint Task Force Commander Course, NORAD, Peterson AFB, Colo.  
2019 Safety and Accident Investigation Board, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1983 – December 1985, 305th Aerial Port Squadron McGuire AFB, N.J.
2. December 1985 – December 1986, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea
3. December 1986 – October 1989, Altus AFB, Okla.
4. October 1989 – June 1998, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
5. October 1999 – October 2000, Director of Personnel, 177th Fighter Wing, Egg Harbor Township, N.J.
6. October 2000 – May 2003, Commander Mission Support Flight, 177th Fighter Wing, Egg Harbor Township, N.J.
7. May 2003 – June 2008, Wing Executive Officer, 177th Fighter Wing, Egg Harbor Township, N.J.
8. June 2008 – June 2009, Deputy Chief of Staff-Air, Joint Force Headquarters, McGuire AFB, N.J.
9. June 2009 – June 2010, State Public Affairs Officer, New Jersey National Guard, Trenton, N.J.
10. June 2010 – June 2011, Bilateral Affairs Officer, HQ USEUCOM, Tirana, Albania
11. June 2011 – June 2012, State Partnership Program Coordinator NJNG and NGB, Trenton, N.J.
12. June 2012 – December 2017, Executive Officer to The Adjutant General of New Jersey, NJNG, Trenton, New Jersey
13. December 2017 – June 2022, Director of Staff, New Jersey Air National Guard - Headquarters, JB-MDL, N.J.
14. June 2022 – October 2023, Mission Support Group Commander, New Jersey Air National Guard, 177th Fighter Wing, Egg Harbor Township, N.J.
15. October 2023 – July 2024, Assistant Adjutant General-Air, New Jersey Air National Guard - Headquarters, JB-MDL, N.J.
16. July 2024 – October 2024, Acting Adjutant General of New Jersey, Lawrenceville, N.J.
17. October 2024 – Present, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, Lawrenceville, N.J.

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit  
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air and Space Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Air and Space Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters  
Joint Meritorious Unit Award  
Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with **five** oak leaf clusters  
Air and Space Organizational Excellence Award with two oak leaf clusters

## EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant	July 31, 1999
First Lieutenant	July 31, 2001
Captain	July 31, 2003
Major	July 31, 2007





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Lieutenant Colonel	March 8, 2012
Colonel	April 26, 2018
Brigadier General	October 28, 2024

(Current as of January 2026)

