



COLONEL YVONNE L. MAYS

Col. Yvonne L. Mays is The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans 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 and Veterans Affairs in the execution of federal and state missions. In addition, she manages all state veterans' programs, commissions, and facilities in New Jersey.

Col. 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. Col. Mays earned her commission from the Palmetto Military Academy, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in 1999.

Col. 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 177th FW Executive Officer before becoming the Deputy Chief of Staff, New Jersey Air National Guard in 2008. In 2009, Col. 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, Col. Mays served several special staff roles to The Adjutant General.

During her tenure as an officer in the New Jersey Air National Guard, Col. 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 for her current position by Governor Philip D. Murphy on June 27, 2024, Col. 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. The duties include the supervision and management of the Department's 3,200 full-time State and Federal employees, and more than 30 armories and associated properties.



EDUCATION

- 1983 Basic Military Training, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas
- 1986 Noncommissioned Officer Prep Course, Altus AFB, Oklahoma
- 1991 Noncommissioned Officer Course, Charleston AFB, South Carolina
- 1992 Bachelor of Arts, Education Curriculum Development, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois
- 1997 Master of Arts, Human Resources/Management, Webster University, Saint Louis, Missouri
- 1999 Officer Candidate School, Palmetto Military Academy, U.S Army, Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- 2000 Personnel Officer School, Keesler AFB, Mississippi
- 2004 Expeditionary Aerospace Communications Officer Training, Keesler AFB, Mississippi
- 2005 Communications Officer School, Keesler AFB, Mississippi
- 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, Massachusetts
- 2016 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, by correspondence

- 2019 Duals Status Commander Course, Peterson AFB (North American Aerospace Defense Command), Colorado
- 2019 Joint Task Force Commander Course, Peterson AFB (NORAD), Colorado
- 2019 Safety and Accident Investigation Board, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1999 – October 2000, Director of Personnel, 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City Air National Guard Base, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey
2. October 2000 – May 2003, Commander Mission Support Flight, 177th Fighter Wing, ACANGB, Egg Harbor TWP, New Jersey
3. May 2003 – June 2008, Wing Executive Officer, 177th Fighter Wing, ACANGB, Egg Harbor TWP, New Jersey
4. June 2008 – September 2009, Deputy Chief of Staff-Air, Joint Force Headquarters, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey
5. September 2009 – September 2010, State Public Affairs Officer, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Lawrenceville, N.J.
6. September 2010 – September 2011, Bilateral Affairs Officer, Headquarters, United States European Command, Tirana, Republic of Albania
7. October 2011 – June 2012, State Partnership Program Coordinator, New Jersey National Guard and National Guard Bureau, NJDMAVA, Trenton, New Jersey
8. June 2012 – December 2017, Executive Officer to The Adjutant General, NJDMAVA, Lawrenceville, New Jersey
9. December 2017 – April 2022, Director of Staff, New Jersey Air National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters – Air, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey
10. April 2022 – July 2024, Deputy Adjutant General, NJDMAVA, Lawrenceville, New Jersey
11. July 2024 – October 2024, Acting Adjutant General of New Jersey, Lawrenceville, New Jersey
12. Oct. 2024 – Present, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, Lawrenceville, New Jersey

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Legion of Merit
- Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Joint Meritorious Unit Award
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Good Conduct Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
- National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star
- Armed Forces Service Medal
- Humanitarian Service Medal
- Air Force Longevity Service with silver oak leaf cluster and three oak leaf clusters
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass
- United States Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with oak leaf cluster
- Air Force Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

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| Second Lieutenant | July 31, 1999 |
| First Lieutenant | July 31, 2001 |
| Captain | July 31, 2003 |
| Major | July 31, 2007 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | March 8, 2012 |
| Colonel | April 26, 2018 |

(Current as of October 2024)