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June 27, 2024



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



Special Edition: Thank You & All My Best

With optimism for the future and pride in all that we have achieved together, I wish to inform you that effective July 1st, I will step down as the 33rd Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. I do so to accept a new assignment as the Director of the Office of the Joint Surgeon General, National Guard Bureau.

Since I assumed my duties in October 2020, I have seen the crucible of overseas and domestic operations test the New Jersey National Guard's capabilities and resilience. The extraordinary level of dedication and expertise that every Soldier and Airman brings to every mission has earned the respect and admiration of our active duty counterparts, our interagency partners, and the public that we are privileged to serve.

Today, New Jersey is investing more, doing more, and achieving more than we ever have in support of Garden State Service Members, Veterans, and their families. I move on from this position proud of our work in the areas of state-delivered veterans benefits, programs, and services. Independent assessments have documented the progress we made through the expansion of veterans services offices to one in every county, improved care in our veterans homes and transitional housing facilities, and the

solemn and dignified work of the busiest state-run veterans cemetery in the United States.

My parents immigrated to the United States. Growing up, they instilled in me the belief that we live in the greatest country in the world, and we are limited only by our desire to work for what we want to achieve. They built their lives from the ground up, and they taught me by their example that the American Dream is achievable through conviction, character, perseverance, and a lot of hard work.

Twenty-nine years ago, when I raised my right hand and swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, my focus was, as it remains today, to support the people of this state and country to the best of my ability. As an officer, to lead, inspire, and protect. As a physician, to diagnose, treat, and heal. This was made possible by the dedicated service of the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard and the devoted civilian staff of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

I wish to offer my gratitude to Governor Philip D. Murphy for providing me with the honor of my professional life. As I move on to my next assignment, I am confident that Colonel Yvonne L. Mays, whom he has selected to serve as the 34th Adjutant General of New Jersey, will lead the force and our team with intelligence, integrity, and a deep knowledge of where we have been and where we are going.

I close with a heartfelt thank you to every member of this incredible organization, our tremendous partners across the state, as well as the people who trained me, invested in me, mentored me, and gave me the opportunity to serve and lead.

To our many Garden State patriots, I wish each of you the best in your future endeavors.

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMAVA.

**Major General Lisa J. Hou, D.O.
The Adjutant General & Commissioner**



News Release



Governor Murphy Announces Departure of Major General Lisa J. Hou and Intent to Nominate Colonel Yvonne L. Mays as Next Adjutant General and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

06/27/2024

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today announced his intent to nominate Colonel Yvonne L. Mays as the next Adjutant General and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) following the departure of Major General Lisa J. Hou, D.O., who has accepted a new assignment as the Director of the Office of the Joint Surgeon General, National Guard Bureau, effective July 1st, 2024.

Beginning July 1st, Colonel Mays will serve as Acting Adjutant General and Acting Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs pending confirmation by the Senate. She will

be the first Black woman to lead the New Jersey National Guard in the state's history.

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NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

101 Eggerts Crossing Road

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

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