

Colonel Judson E. Stailey

Colonel Judson E. Stailey (Jud) grew up in central Ohio. He earned an engineering degree from The Ohio State University in 1971 and worked briefly for Rockwell International as a design engineer before entering the Air Force in July 1972.

As a new lieutenant Jud studied meteorology for a year at the University of Texas in Austin and then served for three years as a weather forecaster at Ft. Sill Army base in Oklahoma. There he was honored as his weather wing's junior officer of the year and earned the Army Commendation Medal. After Air Force-sponsored graduate school at MIT, he was assigned to Los Angeles Air Force Station, where he supported the development of advanced space systems, earning the first of his seven Air Force Meritorious Service Medals.

From Los Angeles, Jud moved to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, where he was the science officer for the weather squadron and commanded the base weather detachment. After a brief tour of duty at Air Weather Service headquarters at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, Jud became the chief of operations for the weather squadron at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas. He was then selected to command the 9th Weather Squadron, headquartered at March Air Force Base in Riverside, California. There he led the squadron's extensive support to Operation Desert Storm. He then returned to Scott Air Force Base to command the Air Force's climatology center, where he led advances in digitizing and visualizing climatological information and rapid response to requirements for tailored climate data to support short notice military deployments.

Jud then moved to this area to represent the Air Force in the NOAA office in Silver Spring that coordinates weather activities between agencies of the Federal government. That assignment led to his promotion to colonel and reassignment to NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, where he served as the senior staff meteorologist for the alliance. In addition to his duties coordinating weather support across the nations, Jud was a command briefer and speech writer for the senior military leaders. He earned two Defense Meritorious Service Medals for his work at NATO Headquarters, including one for his support to Allied Force, the NATO response to the invasion of Kosovo.

Returning to the DC area, he also returned to the NOAA office he had left four years earlier to complete his 30-year Air Force career. During those 30 years he earned three National Defense Service Medals, the NOAA Special Achievement Award Medal, three Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards, and two Outstanding Unit Awards. Upon retirement in 2002, Jud was awarded the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services."

After retirement from the Air Force, he worked as a senior program manager for a small company supporting NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and Langley Research Center. In 2008 he moved to a civil servant position in NOAA, where he served as a Lead Meteorologist until retirement in 2017. He currently applies his extensive background in consulting and works part time supporting a national space weather initiative. Jud is an avid runner, and has competed in marathons from Anchorage to Paris. He recently finished his seventh Boston Marathon.

Jud is a member of the American Meteorological Society, the National Weather Association, and the American Geophysical Union. He is married to the former Laura Connell of Kettering, OH. They are parents of two daughters: Elspeth (Shaw) of North Bethesda and Breton, of Frederick. Jud and Laura are active members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg. They live 30 feet west of Gaithersburg in North Potomac.