

Colonel William G. Stidom, 1st Brigade Commander



Colonel William G. Stidom was born in Portsmouth, Ohio, and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, where he attended public schools. He is a 1972 graduate of The University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree. He received his Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant designations from the American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 1984 and 1985, respectively. He has practiced financial consulting in Columbia for 32 years, currently serving as senior investment advisor at South Carolina Federal Investment Solutions in Columbia.

Colonel Stidom served in the United States Navy from January 1974 to December 1979 with assignments as Communications Officer and Assistant Operations Officer onboard *USS Spartanburg County (LST-1192)* and Surface Operations Officer and Tactical Action Officer onboard *USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67)*. His military education includes Naval ROTC at the University of South Carolina, United States Naval Surface Warfare Officer School, Communications Officer School, Intelligence Officer School, Amphibious Warfare School and Tactical Action Officer School. His entire military service was active duty at sea. His active military honors and decorations include: Navy Battle Efficiency "E" Ribbon, Navy Communications Efficiency "E" Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Rifleman Ribbon and Navy Pistol Sharpshooter Ribbon.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attack on the United States Colonel Stidom once again answered the call to serve, joining the South Carolina State Guard in 2002. In 2006, Colonel Stidom was Officer-in-Charge of State Guard personnel responding to the Governor's state of disaster declaration in the town of Great Falls. He was responsible for the 100+ State Guard personnel who donated over 4500 hours of service during this disaster. He personally directed the two-day air assault on the chemical fire with the use of specially equipped South Carolina National Guard firefighting helicopters placed under his command. In 2008, Colonel Stidom led the Military Department's effort to organize, recruit and train general aviation pilots and support personnel to the State Guard Aviation Detachment and served as its Commander until unit deactivation in 2011. He is an instrument rated, private pilot with over 800 general aviation hours mostly in his Piper Arrow II, N910GS, based at Columbia Metropolitan Airport. His most recent assignment in the State Guard was Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

Colonel Stidom's honors and decorations include: Master Aviator Badge, Master Emergency Management Specialist, State Guard Medal of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster, Commendation Medal, Longevity Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster, Individual Achievement Ribbon with 4 bronze oak leaf clusters, Humanitarian Service Ribbon with bronze oak leaf cluster, Service Ribbon with two silver oak leaf clusters and one bronze star devices, Emergency Services Training Ribbon, Volunteer Service Ribbon with bronze oak leaf cluster, Military Readiness Ribbon, Recruiting Achievement Ribbon and Military Proficiency Ribbon with gold torch device.

Colonel Stidom is happily married to the former Lynn Jordan of Cayce. They have three children and three adorable grandchildren.