

Colonel James O. Bartlett, Jr. had a distinguished military career that spanned more than 25 years, with 21 of those years spent making many valuable and significant contributions to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Colonel Bartlett started his illustrious career on active duty, as a Second Lieutenant with the Army Air Corps. He was able to use his education and experience in assignments as a Radar Officer, Signal Officer, and Communications and Engineering Officer in places like Hawaii and Saipan.

In January 1947, Colonel Bartlett brought his progressive style to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. With Colonel Bartlett as the first commanding officer, the 103rd Communications Squadron became the first non-flying tactical unit in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard to be federally recognized following World War II. Colonel Bartlett used superior leadership, unbounded knowledge and flawless organizational skills to transform the 103rd Communications Squadron into the award winning 271st Combat Communications Squadron.

He served proudly as the Deputy Commander of the 153 AC & W Group during the Korean War. From here, Colonel Bartlett became a valuable part of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Headquarters staff, serving as Communications and Electronics Staff Officer, then Director of Civil Engineering and lastly as the Director of Communication for the State Headquarters. Colonel Bartlett was the driving force behind the development and eventual deployment of the state-wide tactical communications network. Because of his determination, valuable contributions, and desire to see positive results, Pennsylvania has an effective and highly needed communications system that has been utilized during many state emergencies.

During Colonel Bartlett's distinguished career, his engineering expertise and communications background enabled the Pennsylvania Air National Guard to realize significant cost savings, enhanced combat effectiveness and readiness that benefited the whole nation. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Colonel James O. Bartlett, Jr., reflect great credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, and truly warrant his induction into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.