

Lieutenant Colonel Grant E. Bollen distinguished himself by outstanding service to the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard during a career spanning over 32 years.

Lieutenant Colonel Bollen began his military career by enlisting in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard at 19 years of age serving initially as an Air Operations Specialist in the 112th Fighter Group. After graduating as an Honor Graduate from the United States Air Force Jet Engine Mechanic School, he served with the 112th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron until he was selected to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training and F-102 Interceptor Pilot Training. From 1971 through 1979, Lieutenant Colonel Bollen flew F-102s and then A-7Ds, accruing over 1550 hours. During this time, he also served in various capacities including Supervisor of Flying, Electronic Warfare and Aircraft Defensive Systems Instructor, and Group Safety Officer. He also attended the United States Air Force Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course and the Jet Engine Accident Investigation Course and later served as Chief of the 112th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

In the summer of 1976, after identifying a requirement to provide a better training area for aircrew to achieve and maintain their combat readiness, Lieutenant Colonel Bollen began researching and developing an Air-to-Ground weapons range to be located at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. After three years of planning, Bollen Range was officially opened for business, with Lieutenant Colonel Bollen as the first Range Commander. For the next 19 years, Colonel Bollen served as Commander as he continued to develop the target arrays and capabilities of the range to allow aircrew to drop practice bombs, fire cannons and 2.75 inch rockets while being able to score each delivery. Additionally, Bollen Range offered Combat Search and Rescue Training, Laser Target Training, Electronic Combat, Surface-to-Air Missile and Anti-Aircraft Artillery Simulators, Communications Jamming, Aerial Resupply and Drop Zone Operations, and the ability to conduct all of this training both day and night.

Lieutenant Colonel Bollen was quickly recognized as the Air National Guard range community "expert" in weapons, safety, airspace management, night vision and laser safety. He wrote the Air Force Instruction for Night Operations and was instrumental in writing the Department of Defense Laser Range Safety Standard. Many of the other programs developed by Colonel Bollen were adopted by the United States Air Force as the standard by which all ranges would operate.

Today the Air National Guard operates 14 different air-to-ground ranges across the United States. Bollen Range is collocated with numerous Army direct and indirect fire ranges, and is adjacent to Muir Army Airfield, making it ideally suited for the Joint Training that occurs there regularly. Bollen Range continues to be one of the most utilized of the Air National Guard ranges by aviators and ground personnel alike, from all of the services. The tens of thousands of hours of combat training and the thousands of military warriors that have prepared for battle at Bollen Range since its inception were made possible in large part by the vision and dedication of one individual, Lieutenant Colonel Grant E. Bollen.

The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Grant E. Bollen during a life of service to others, reflect great credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, and therefore warrant his induction into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.