

Colonel Haileyesus (Hailey) Bairu



COL Haileyesus (Hailey) Bairu was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio after immigrating to the United States in 1980. Upon graduating high school, COL Bairu attended the United States Military Academy where he earned a bachelor's of science degree in Systems Engineering and was commissioned as an Air Defense Officer in 2003.

COL Bairu's operational experience after graduating Officer Basic Course in 2004 includes, serving as Platoon Leader and Battery Executive Officer for Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Campbell, KY and deploying with the Battalion to Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2005.

After attending the Air Defense Career Course in 2006, COL Bairu assumed command of Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Fort Bliss, TX in 2007, while there he deployed the battery to Suwon AB in the Republic of Korea in 2008. In 2010, COL Bairu assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss, TX.

COL Bairu graduated Command and General Staff College in 2012 and was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment where he served as both the Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer; in 2014, COL Bairu finished his time at Fort Bliss as the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's Operations Officer. In March of 2018 COL Bairu assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, the Army's first Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battlefield Command System (IBCS) unit. After command, COL Bairu deployed to Qatar to serve as the G-3 Forward for 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, only to return two years later as the G-3 for the same command after graduating the United States Army War College in 2023.

COL Bairu's principle staff positions include, Aide de Camp to the Fort Bliss Commanding General in 2009, as an Air Defense Assignments Officer, Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, KY and as a member of the Forces Command's Force Integration Division, G-3/5/7 Fort Liberty, NC.

COL Bairu's awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (8 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal, the Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

COL Bairu and his wife of 19 years, Sunny, have 2 children, Sofia (10) and Brook (7).