

History of the Middle East Region
Civil Air Patrol
United States Air Force Auxiliary



2013

Volume 1

Narrative

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RCS NCHO (CAP)

HISTORY
OF THE
MIDDLE EAST REGION
CIVIL AIR PATROL
1 January - 31 December 2013
Assigned to
Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force Auxiliary

Headquartered at
Sanford, North Carolina

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Statistics by Wing

Wing Statistics MER

DE (Delaware)

272 Senior members
173 Cadets
72 Aircrew personnel
279 Emergency responders
Squadrons
10 locations statewide
Aircraft
6 single engine
Vehicles
15 vehicles
Interoperable Communications
5 VHF/FM repeaters
64 VHF/FM stations
10 HF stations
Missions
5 search and rescue missions
11 finds
24 other state support missions
Cadet Flying
126 cadet orientation flights
Total Hours Flown 1,064

Wing Commander: William S. Bernfeld Col CAP
Vice Commander - North: Timothy E. Kinsella Lt Col CAP
Vice Commander - South: Elmer R. Boyer, Jr. Lt Col CAP

MD (Maryland)

783 Senior members
789 Cadets
205 Aircrew personnel
807 Emergency responders
Squadrons
35 locations statewide
Aircraft
11 single engine
Vehicles
38 vehicles
Interoperable Communications
13 VHF/FM repeaters
117 VHF/FM stations
16 HF stations
Missions
10 search and rescue missions
9 finds
34 other state support missions
Cadet Flying
996 cadet orientation flights
Total Hours Flown 2,329

Wing Commander: Col John M. Knowles CAP
Vice Commander: Lt Col Bill Parris CAP
Chief of Staff: Lt Col Joseph R. Winter CAP

National Capitol

236 Senior members
178 Cadets
74 Aircrew personnel
236 Emergency responders
Squadrons
8 locations statewide
Aircraft
4 single engine
15 vehicles
Interoperable Communications
6 VHF/FM repeaters
77 VHF/FM stations
8 HF stations
Missions
3 search and rescue missions

Wing Commander: Col Bruce Heinlein CAP
Vice Commander: Lt Col Janon "JD" Ellis CAP
Chief of Staff : Lt Col Jason Secrest CAP

4 finds
27 other support missions
Cadet Flying
179 cadet orientation flights
Total Hours Flown 1,150

NC (North Carolina)

855 Senior members
681 cadets
276 Aircrew personnel
974 Emergency responders
Squadrons
39 locations statewide
Aircraft
11 single engine
1 glider
Vehicles
18 vehicles
Interoperable Communications
13 VHF/FM fixed repeaters
2 VHF/FM airborne/technical
Repeaters
242 VHF/FM stations
39 HF stations
Missions
15 search and rescue missions
11 finds
7 other state support missions
Cadet Flying
879 cadet orientation flights
Total Hours Flown 2,738

Wing Commander: Col David Crawford CAP
Vice Commander: Lt Col Andrew Wiggs CAP
Chief of Staff: Maj Jason Bailey CAP

SC (South Carolina)

534 Senior members
364 Cadets
141 Aircrew personnel
480 Emergency responders
Squadrons
21 locations statewide
Aircraft
9 single engine
1 glider
Vehicles
28 vehicles
Interoperable Communications
23 VHF/FM repeaters
168 VHF/FM stations
30 HF stations
Missions
6 search and rescue missions
3 finds
28 other state support missions
Cadet Flying
815 cadet orientation flights
Total Hours Flown 1,601

Wing Commander: Col Francis Smith CAP
Vice Commander: Lt Col Art Giles CAP
Chief of Staff: Maj Lee Safley CAP

VA (Virginia)

891 Senior members
828 Cadets
193 Aircrew personnel
909 Emergency responders
Squadrons
29 locations statewide
Aircraft
11 single engine
1 glider
Vehicles

Wing Commander: James A. Covel CAP

MER Region Cadet Leadership School South

Dates: 8-12 July 2013
Location: Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC
Activity Director: Maj Alisha Christian
Cadet Participants: 35
Senior Participants: 5

MER Honor Guard Academy - Justice Academy West, NC

Dates: 30 Jun – 07 Jul 2013
Location: Justice Academy West, Edneyville, NC
Activity Director: Lt Col Jett Mayhew
Cadet Participants: 17
Senior Participants: 7

MER Flight Academy (Powered) - Fort Pickett, VA

Dates: 29 Jun – 8 Jul 2013
Location: Fort Pickett, VA
Activity Director: Col Gene Hartman
Cadet Participants: 24
Senior Participants: 21

Middle East Region Cadet Awards For 2013

Spatz	8
Eaker	21
Earhart	59
Mitchell	165

Awards for 2013

- Exceptional Service Awards
- Lt Col Francis Smith – Awarded for his 2008-2010 tenure as South Carolina Wing Chief of Staff and 2010-2012 tenure as South Carolina Wing Vice Commander, during which time he spearheaded efforts during three compliance inspections, oversaw multiple personnel changes, and led the oversight and directional guidance of subordinate units throughout the wing
- Lt Col Mark Bailey – Awarded for time served as an Incident Commander during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Col William Bernfeld – Awarded for time served in a command role during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Col John Knowles – Awarded for time served as an Incident Commander and Liaison Officer during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Col Lawrence Trick – Awarded for time served as an Incident Commander and Liaison Officer during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Lt Col Eugene Jackson – Awarded for time served as an Incident Commander during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts

- Meritorious Service Awards
- Captain Robert Hotchkiss – Awarded for his 2010-2013 tenure as Commander of Delaware Air National Guard Cadet Squadron, during which time the unit received the Unit Citation Award, was the recipient of the Squadron of Merit Award three times, and was named Delaware's Squadron of the Year
- Maj Jerusha McLeod – Awarded for her 2011-2012 tenure as National Capital Wing's Director of Emergency Services, during which time she directed multiple emergency

services training exercises, coordinated training courses, and led a major disaster relief effort

- Lt Col Stephen Hepperle – Awarded for his 2008-2013 tenure as Commander of Minuteman Composite Squadron, during which time he rebuilt the squadron's membership, reorganized the squadron staff, and revitalized a unit that had been a candidate for a downgrade to a flight
- Col Rodney Moore – Awarded for his 2011-2013 tenure as West Virginia Wing's Director of Operations, during which time he coordinated flight training programs, ensured compliance with National Headquarters flight requirements and time standards, and led efforts that resulted in successful ratings from USAF evaluators
- Lt Col Alvin Fox – Awarded for his 2009-2011 tenure as West Virginia Wing Chief of Staff and 2011-2013 tenure as West Virginia Wing Vice Commander, during which time he represented West Virginia Wing at state-level committees, ensured state funding, and handled sensitive personnel issues throughout the wing
- Maj Thomas Plass – Awarded for his 2012-2013 tenure as Beckley Composite Squadron's Deputy Commander for Seniors and Emergency Services Officer, during which time he oversaw a squadron meeting location renovation project, designed and executed multiple emergency services qualification training exercises, and guided cadets through a Wing-wide search and rescue exercise
- Col Lyle Letteer – Awarded for his involvement in sixteen Subordinate Unit Inspections throughout South Carolina Wing and efforts to complete SUI reports previously left unresolved, ensuring wing-wide compliance with national standards
- Maj Julie Holley – Awarded for her 2012-2013 tenure as Maryland Wing's Deputy Chief of Staff (Manpower/Personnel), during which time she expanded and refined an electronic personnel and awards system and coordinated the wing's "Of the Year" awards process
- Maj Grace Stapf – Awarded for her 2012-2013 tenure as Maryland Wing's Director of Cadet Programs, during which time she provided guidance to the wing's cadet corps, gave advice as a former cadet to senior cadets, and worked individually with cadets throughout the wing to develop cadet advancement efforts
- Col Richard Moseley – Awarded for his actions as an Incident Commander during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Col Gerard Weiss – Awarded for his actions as an Incident Commander and Liaison Officer during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Col David Crawford – Awarded for his actions as an Incident Commander during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Lt Col Jay Langley – Awarded for his actions while leading operations during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Col Bruce Heinlein – Awarded for his actions as a Mission Observer during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Lt Col John Henderson – Awarded for his actions as a Mission Pilot during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Lt Col Christopher Howell – Awarded for his actions as an Incident Commander during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts
- Lt Col James Steinmeier – Awarded for his actions as an Incident Commander during Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts

- 2013 Middle East Region “Of the Year” Awards
- Maj Gen Jeanne M. Holm Aerospace Education Officer of the Year: Maj Everett Bennett
- Cadet NCO of the Year: C/SMSGT Conor Roberson
- Cadet of the Year: C/Lt Col Josiah Gourley
- Communicator of the Year: Col William Nimmo
- Col Dion DeCamp Ground Team of the Year: Burlington Composite Squadron
- Col Edwin Lewis Incident Staff Member of the Year: Lt Col Mark Bailey
- Director of Finance of the Year: Maj Paul Oliver
- DDR Member of the Year: Maj Rose Reeder
- DDR Wing of the Year: Maryland Wing
- **George Texido Legislative Officer of the Year: Lt Col Paul Meade
- John V. “Jack” Sorensen Cadet Program Officer of the Year: 2d Lt Leigh Seville
- Col Lester E. Hopper Historian of the Year: 1st Lt Khanh Tran
- Inspector General of the Year: Lt Col Paul Blechinger
- **Property Manager of the Year: 1st Lt Robert Bailey
- Professional Development of the Year: Maj Mark Kukucka
- **Paul W. Turner Safety Award: National Capital Wing
- **Robert “Bud” Payton PAO of the Year: 1st Lt Lisa Sylvia
- Safety Officer of the Year: C/SMSGT Noah Eudy
- Senior Member of the Year: Lt Col Leslie Carter
- Senior Chaplain of the Year: Ch (Lt Col) Greg Hill
- Squadron Chaplain of the Year: Ch (Maj) Alvianette Kennedy
- Squadron of Distinction: Wicomico Composite Squadron
- ** Selected by National Headquarters as the National recipient and awarded during the 2013 National Conference

Aerospace Education

Lt Col Bob Beichner continues to scan for interesting aerospace “tidbits” and sends them out to Wing DAEs for their distribution. (For example, an International Space Station tracker was recently sent out.) He provides assistance and resources as questions and requests come in to him. Deputy DCS Col Larry Trick offers his years of experience and guidance to the entire MER effort. It would not be able to offer its services without him.

Major Milestones:

A region-wide AEO school was held in May. It was well attended and provided NASA training and certification to attendees for borrowing and exhibiting lunar samples.

Wings:

- Delaware-Maj Derald Wentzien continues to maintain high levels of effort, especially in his work with schoolteachers.
- Maryland-Lt Col Bob Terry continues to provide outstanding leadership to his Wing by offering workshops and multiple resources, plus his willingness to share his AE expertise, which is considerable.
- National Capital-Maj John Fuld has been successful at getting all his Squadrons to have AEOs. Unit visits are being made and efforts to build resources are in progress.
- North Carolina-Lt Col James Williams retired after many years of service to CAP’s AE work. Maj Eric Orgain has taken over and is applying his own considerable experience to the task. Rocket programs continue to be a strong suit for the Wing. Two AE articles were published as well.
- Virginia-new DAE Maj Clay Wilkins is doing a good job writing newsletters, providing workshops, visiting local schools, etc.

- South Carolina-DAE Maj Larry Nelson is providing a wide variety of resources and support for his Squadrons, especially in encouraging the AEX awards.
- West Virginia-Maj Ken Dilley took over in February 2013 and is working to bring the Wing to speed.

Public Affairs

Public affairs initiatives conducted by the 7 wings within the Middle East Region were varied, and active. Though the list looks sparse, each wing had significant media coverage and public recognition for 2013.

The following is a short list of some of the activities that our region and wings participated in as a whole:

- Each Wing along with Region has a pro-active website that provides internal and external (public) information. Some of the external information includes photos and news releases about CAP activities.
- Each Wing participated in multiple “community support” activities including Color Guard Color Presentations, Parades, Air Shows, manning AF Recruiting Booths.
- Each Wing contacted their congressmen and women in an effort to secure support for the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal (Award/Recognition) Congressional Bill to recognize CAP members and their contributions and efforts in the early years of WWII.
- Each Wing participated in the Red Ribbon Week, drug awareness initiative.
- Significant media coverage includes: Recognition by government officials for Hurricane Sandy response; training events, Spaatz and Earhart awards, new commanders, orientation flights, tree lighting ceremonies, Veteran’s Day honors and more.
- Participated in the annual national “Legislative Day” activities held in Washington, DC
- Each Wing participated in the annual national “Wreaths Across America” event, laying wreaths in Veteran Cemeteries across their wing.
- Wings throughout participated in various ES missions, which yielded public awareness.

Middle East Region staff members also participated in many activities in support of our wings and local units.

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Communications

Communications in Middle East Region played a significant part in supporting the operational missions for the Civil Air Patrol throughout the region. Delaware and Maryland and South Carolina wings were the only wings to submit any information for the Region Historical report.

Delaware Wing reported that they had a quiet year with reduced funding due to the government shut down, but they managed to adapt and continue to train in spite of the difficulties. The wing reported that they went from participating in one SAREX per month to one per Quarter along with participation in some regional exercises. Delaware Wing credits this as a way to show the "Region without Borders" concept, as well as a hindrance to training new communications staff.

Maryland Wing sent a thorough synopsis of their activities for 2013 shown below: Here is a synopsis of the contributions that MD Wing Communications provided in 2013 to support CAPs missions.

EMERGENCY SERVICES - In 2013, MD wing has reinstated regularly scheduled nets both on the VHF bands and the HF bands. A wing NCS was appointed (Capt Bob Dickey) who schedules and manages the Tuesday and Thursday VHF nets. During 2013, we have had 39 MD stations that have checked into at least one net, with 9 stations that are considered "core" stations checking in regularly. On HF, we appointed a Message Center Station (Capt Bob Carter) who represents MD wing on the national nets and acts as one of our NCS stations on our HF nets. We reinstated our HF nets in 2013, and this past summer we merged our nets with DE and Nat Cap to support our "region without boundaries" direction from the region commander. The nets are a basis for ensuring that our network is ready for extreme disasters.

MD Wing heavily contributed to the 2013 Wreaths across America in Arlington. MD Wing provided two communications assets (MICP and TICP), set up a portable repeater, and provided the CUL planning and support for the mission.

MD Wing fully participated in the National COMEX in December. MD wing deployed RDP HF sets in two distinct locations in the state and relayed 9 messages to the practice FEMA HQ or other regions.

MD Wing communications provided support for this year's Bay Patrol. Per a suggestion from Lt Col Dave Friedenbergh who was a guest on one of our conferences, we have moved from simplex operations to utilizing a repeater deployed close to the middle of the bay. This has allowed for a much wider range of communications options allowing more ICs and mission bases to be utilized.

The TICP and MICP infrastructure were increased in capability and infrastructure during 2013, providing more ES support. These assets were deployed on a majority of our training missions.

During the 2013 Tri-Wing SAREX, we tested and utilized many different methods of communications between two mission bases (Baker and Potomac/Berkley airport). We set up a portable repeater on a ridge between bases for VHF traffic, set up and utilized HF/ALE, and coordinated with the state for use of VTAC.

MD Wing communications staff conducted 6 ICUT classes in 2013, including one at the Tri-Wing SAREX, Tri-Wing Encampment, and the MD Wing Communications Conference. We also conducted a "train the trainer" to communications staff to certify ICUT at the local level. The ICUT certification is a requirement for many ES positions.

For all ES training during 2013 which required communications assets, staff setup and provided CULs and MROs for the missions. Additionally we provided communications training opportunities during these missions.

CADET PROGRAMS - For the 2013 Tri-Wing encampment, our engineering officer, Maj Tim Strickland, programmed over 60 donated Visar radios for use with Encampment staff. We coordinated with the state

emergency services agency (MEMA) to set up our portable repeater to support the encampment for the radios. Additionally for the Encampment, we set up our MICP at the airport to support cadet O-Flights scheduled for that week, and coordinated communications between sites.

MD Wing communications presented a communications presentation to the Cadet track of the MD Wing conference (Cadet opportunities in Communications). During that time we recruited two cadets to the wing engineering department.

South Carolina Below is the information submitted by South Carolina Wing.

Fertile Keynote Intercept Missions:

Since March of 2008 SC Wing Communications has been providing communications support for the Fertile Keynote Intercept Missions. These missions have typically been conducted twice a month. Initially these missions were to provide training for the 20th Fighter Wing F-16 pilots at Shaw Air Force Base, in recent years the training has been for the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

The missions typically consisted of one or two CAP 182 target aircraft supported by a CAP High Bird and CAP ground communications. During the mission a telephone conference call is placed between the Air Force Mission Director, CAP Incident Commander and CAP Communications. This allowed situation reports and missions changes to be made as needed.

While most missions have been conducted over land, during the summer some over water missions off the coast of SC have been conducted. These required even a higher level of communications reliability.

Up until October of 2012 the High Bird provided verbal relays of traffic when the target aircraft were not able to communicate with mission base. Since that time the High Bird has been equipped with an airborne CAP VHF repeater which has greatly improved the quality and reliability of communications. Wing ground based repeaters and simplex channels are used as backup. All aircraft and ground stations also monitor the CAPGUARD channel for communications coordination when required.

Communications Support for Missions and Exercises

Deployment Readiness Exercises (DRE)

SC Wing Communications has provided communications support for several Deployment Readiness Exercise (DRE) missions. These missions required several CAP aircraft flying precision routes for ground tracking. Reliable air to ground communications was vital to these missions. In one instance the Greenville Communications Trailer was deployed to support a DRE mission.

America Shield Exercise - 2014

The primary objective of the exercise was to train Command and Control (C2) Personnel in Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Operations prior to the Battalion Culminating Training Event (Bn CTE) scheduled for June 2014. During the six day exercise multiple CAP aircraft flew precision routes for ground tracking and equipment calibration. Reliable air to ground communications was provided by using the Greenville Communications Trailer which was located at McEntire Joint Forces Base. Day and evening communications were provided by a team of 12 Mission Radio Operators. During the exercise CAP aircraft flew 49 sorties for a total of 112 hours.

EPIRB & ELT Missions

SC Wing Communications has provided communications support for 19 EPIRB & ELT missions since Oct 2011. Most of these missions required a CAP ground radio station to handle radio traffic between the aircraft, ground team and mission Incident Commander. The Wing's 12 ground based VHF repeaters were essential to handling the radio traffic for these missions. Communications support was also provided for several missing aircraft and missing person missions.

SAR and Other Exercises

SC Wing Communications has provided communications support for all the practice and evaluated exercises conducted by the Wing. This support has included deployment of the communications trailers, radio mission kits, portable repeaters and airborne repeaters. Communication Unit Leaders and Mission Radio Operators have been trained during these exercises.

Wing Radio Communications Effectiveness Evaluation

The two recent Wing Radio Communications Effectiveness Evaluations have been utilized to determine the feasibility of wide area VHF communications for mission support. The first evaluation utilized a VHF airborne repeater over central South Carolina at 9500'. From a ground station in Columbia VHF traffic quality communications were possible with ground stations statewide, vehicle stations within 100 miles and portable stations within 30 miles.

The second evaluation utilized a VHF base station temporarily using the antenna system of our Little Mountain Repeater which is located about 25 miles north of the Wing Headquarters in West Columbia, SC to determine which Wing repeaters could be accessed.. From this temporary base station traffic quality communications was possible through all of the Wing's VHF repeaters in the central and northern part of the state as well as several repeaters in the southern part of the North Carolina Wing. Communications was not possible through the 4 coastal repeaters due their distance from Little Mountain. Simplex communications was possible with Wing Headquarters.

Unfortunately there was no other reporting from any of the other wings in Middle East Region.

Operations:

No data submitted.

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APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY

AEO	Aerospace Education Officer
AF	United States Air Force
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
COMEX	Communications Exercise
DAE	Director of Aerospace Education
DDR	Drug Demand Reduction
Eaker	Cadet Award awarded for completion of phase 4 of the cadet Program. This award is named for General Ira C. Eaker
Earhart	Cadet Award awarded for completion of phase 3 of the cadet program. This award is named for Amelia Earhart
HF	High Frequency
ICUT	Individual Communications User Training
MEMA	Maryland Emergency Management Agency
MER	Middle East Region Civil Air Patrol
MICP	Mobile Incident Command Post
Mitchell	4th Highest cadet award named for General Billy Mitchell
MRO	Mission Radio Operator
NCS	Net Control Station
SAREX	Search and Rescue Exercise
TICP	Transportable Incident Command Post

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APPENDIX 2

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6. 2013 Middle East Region Cadet Programs Report
7. 2013 Middle East Region Communications Report
8. 2013 Middle East Region Public Affairs Summary
9. Middle East Region Staff E-Mails

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