

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



2015

Written by Major Joseph E. Myers CAP
Middle East Region Historian

Col John M. Knowles CAP
Commander Middle East Region

RCS NCHO (CAP)

HISTORY
OF THE
MIDDLE EAST REGION
CIVIL AIR PATROL
1 January - 31 December 2014
Assigned to
Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force Auxiliary

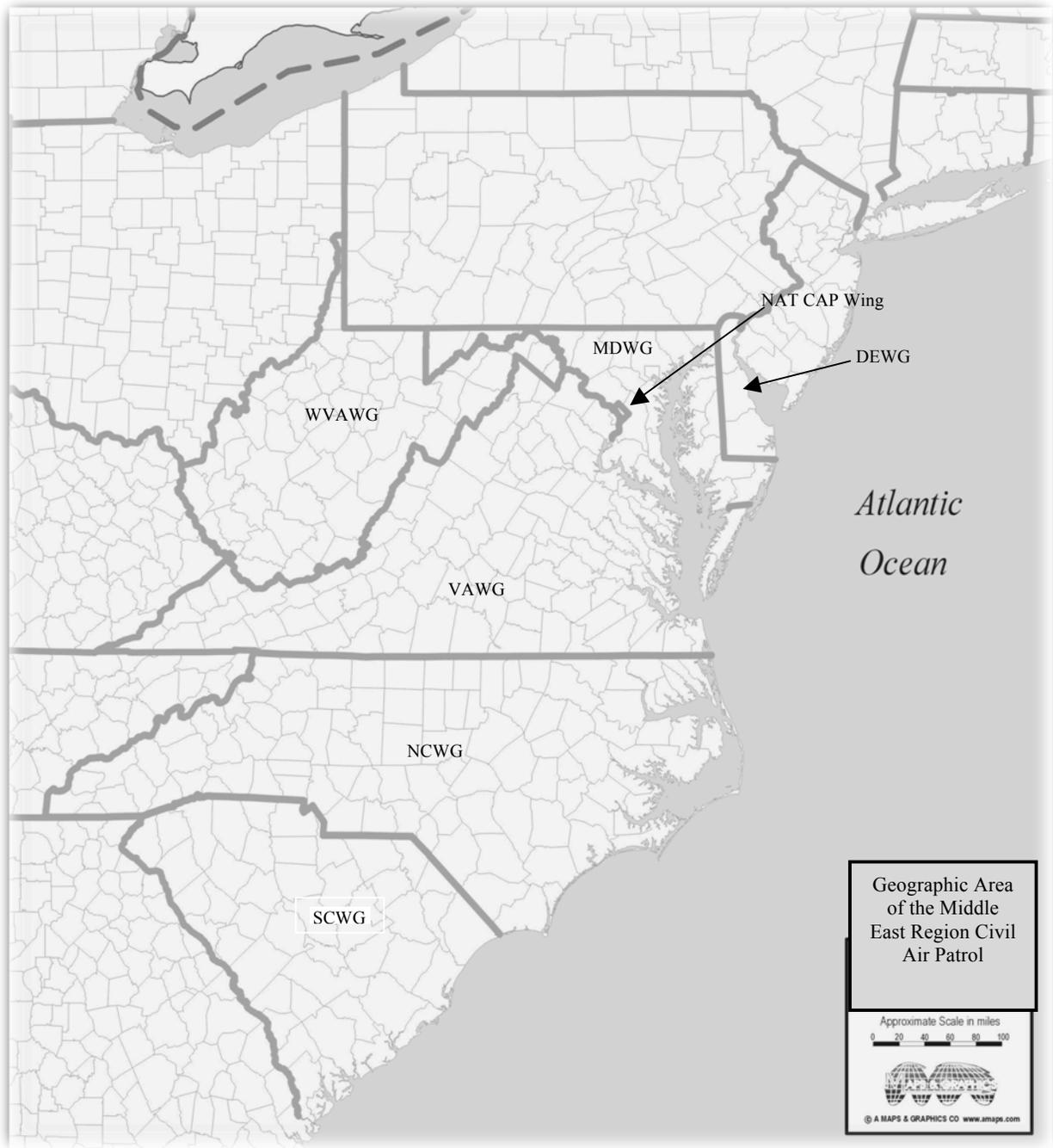
Headquartered at
Ashton, Maryland

Joseph Myers
Maj. CAP
Region Historian

John M. Knowles
Col. CAP
Region Commander

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Multiple Sources

Map of the Middle East Region Civil Air Patrol



Chronology

January

- 4 C A C conference call
- 11 C A C conference call
- 26 DDR Training
- 30 - 1 February Joint MER SCWG conference

February

- 1 CAC conference call
- 4 MER Staff meeting
- 8 CAC conference call
- 13 - 31 March Middle East Region Safety Blitz
- 23 NUC Meeting
DDR Training
- 26 CAP Legislative Day
- 26-28 Winter Command Council Meeting
- 28 Spatz Association Dinner

March

- 1 New Middle East Region Website Rollout
- 1 CAC conference call
- 4 MER Staff meeting
- 8 CAC conference call
- 15 Quarterly MER Cadet Programs/DDR meeting
- 23 CPPT summary conversation
- 28 DEWG conference

April

- 5 CAC conference call
- 6 Squadron of Distinction for 2015 named Leesburg Composite Squadron (VAWG)
- 8 MER Staff meeting
- 12 CAC conference call
- 16 - 17 BoG meeting
- 20 NUC meeting

May

- 2 - 3 VAWG Conference
- 9 - 15 MER Chaplain Corps Region Staff College
- 13 MER Staff meeting
- 15 Constant Watch Communications Exercise
- 15 - 17 MER SAR
- 18 MER Wing Commanders Call
NUC Meeting
- 25 - 30 Tri Wing (NCWG, VAWG, WVAWG) SAR Evaluation
- 31 - 6 June Middle East Region Staff College

June

- 5 - 7 Inspector General Senior Course
- 6 - 7 Inspector General Summit
- 1 - 26 July Online Unit Commanders Course hosted by MDWG
- 14 CAC conference call
- 27 - 5 July MER Flight Academy
- 28 Quarterly MER Cadet Programs/ DDR meeting.

July

- 1 - 30 Tri Wing Operations Evaluation (NCWG, VAWG, WVAWG)
- 3 - 12 Tri Wing Encampment (NatCap, MDWG, DEWG)
- 8 MER Staff meeting
- 12 - 17 MER Cadet Leadership School South
- 12 CAC conference call
- 17 - 24 MER Cadet Leadership School North

20 MER Wing Commanders Call
25 - 1 Aug MER Honor Guard Academy
25 - 2 Aug NCWG Encampment

August

9 CAC conference call
12 MER Staff meeting
16 CLS South staff debriefing
23 CLS North staff debriefing
25 - 26 BoG meeting
27 - 29 CAP National Conference
28 CAP Named "Airmen" as a part of USAF Total Force

September

9 MER Staff meeting
13 CAC conference call
18 Quality Cadet Unit Awards Announced 37 from MER
25 - 27 MER Cadet Competition

October

4 Quarterly Cadet Programs/DDR conference call
5 Hurricane Joaquin causes flooding in South Carolina
11 CAC conference call
19 MER Wing Commanders Call

November

5 - 8 CSAG meeting at Maxwell AFB
8 CAC conference call
11 MER Staff meeting
20 - 22 MER Commanders Retreat

December

1 Civil Air Patrol's 74th Anniversary
9 MER Staff meeting
13 CAC conference call
14 MER Commanders Staff call

Introduction

During 2015 major emphasis has been placed on the Region Staff supporting their wing counterparts, as subject matter experts, mentors and facilitators. This embodies the Middle East Region motto of "No Boundaries, No Limits". Professional Development, Recruiting and Retention, and Cadet Programs have also been areas of emphasis during 2015.

This was a very active year for the members of the Middle East Region, with Cadets and Senior Members participating in numerous training events and actual missions across the region. The members have responded with dedication and professionalism to events from a Tri Wing Sar Eval to Hurricane Joaquin and the resulting flooding and devastation in South Carolina.

Public affairs initiatives conducted by the 7 wings within the Middle East Region were active. 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 Recruiting Booths.

- o Each Wing Each Wing participated in the Red Ribbon Week, drug awareness initiative.
- o Major emphasis was placed on recognition of the Civil Air Patrol's WW 2 Veterans centered on recognition events for the Congressional Gold Medal for CAP's Coastal Patrol veterans.
- o Significant media coverage includes: Recognition by government officials for Disaster response; training events, Spatz and Earhart awards, new commanders, orientation flights, tree lighting ceremonies, Veteran's Day honors and more.
- o Participated in the annual national "Legislative Day" activities held in Washington, DC
- o 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.

Statistics by Wing

Listed below are the statistics for each wing of the Middle East Region as found in the Annual Report to Congress.

DE (Delaware)

Wing Commander: Col Michael Moyer CAP

256 Senior members
 144 Cadets
 72 Aircrew personnel
 235 Emergency responders
 Squadrons
 11 locations statewide
 Aircraft
 5 single engine
 Vehicles
 12 vehicles
 Interoperable Communications
 5 VHF/FM repeaters
 64 VHF/FM stations
 12 HF stations
 Missions
 4 Search and rescue missions
 2 Finds
 12 Other state support missions
 130 Orientation flights
 Total Hours Flown 946

MD (Maryland)

Wing Commander: Col William Parris,

751 Senior members
 CAP
 731 Cadets
 172 Aircrew personnel
 781 Emergency responders
 Squadrons
 33 locations statewide
 Aircraft
 12 single engine
 Vehicles
 14 vehicles
 Interoperable Communications
 10 VHF/FM repeaters
 102 VHF/FM stations
 18 HF stations
 Missions
 6 Search and rescue missions
 6 Finds
 14 Other state support missions
 860 Orientation flights
 Total Hours Flown 2,074

National Capitol

Wing Commander: Col Bruce Heinlein

252 Senior members
 CAP
 181 Cadets

64 Aircrew personnel
256 Emergency responders
Squadrons
8 locations statewide
Aircraft
5 single engine
13 vehicles
Interoperable Communications
6 VHF/FM repeaters
78 VHF/FM stations
10 HF stations
Missions 185 cadet orientation flights
Total Hours Flown 1,213

North Carolina

864 Senior members
889 cadets
246 Aircrew personnel
1075 Emergency responders
Squadrons
38 locations statewide
Aircraft
13 single engine
1 glider
Vehicles
21 vehicles
Interoperable Communications
20 VHF/FM fixed repeaters
2 VHF/FM airborne/technical
Repeaters
364 VHF/FM stations
44 HF stations
Missions
18 Search and rescue missions
11 Finds
2 Saves
1,142 Orientation flights
Total Hours Flown 3,086

Wing Commander: Col David Crawford CAP

South Carolina

499 Senior members
269 Cadets
119 Aircrew personnel
480 Emergency responders
Squadrons
19 locations statewide
Aircraft
10 single engine
1 glider
Vehicles
15 vehicles
Interoperable Communications
14 VHF/FM repeaters
152 VHF/FM stations
31 HF stations
Missions
11 Search and rescue missions
7 finds
404 Orientation flights

Wing Commander: Col Francis Smith CAP

Total Hours Flown 1,870

VA (Virginia)

939 Senior members

CAP

824 Cadets

235 Aircrew personnel

942 Emergency responders

Squadrons

30 locations statewide

Aircraft

12 single engine

1 glider

Vehicles

23 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

14 VHF/FM repeaters

236 VHF/FM stations

45 HF stations

Missions

13 Search and rescue missions

7 finds

1 Save

746 Orientation flights

Total Hours Flown 2,325

Wing Commander: Col James A. Covell

West Virginia

365 Senior members

254 cadets

75 Aircrew personnel

358 Emergency responders

Squadrons

15 locations statewide

Aircraft

6 single engine

1 glider

Vehicles

24 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

10 VHF/FM repeaters

173 VHF/FM stations

36 HF stations

Missions

4 Search and rescue missions

2 Finds

383 Orientation flights

Total Hours Flown 1,211

Wing Commander: Col Paul McCroskey CAP

Middle East Region Summary statistics for 2015;

12,625 Hours Flown
3,665 Orientation Flights
83 Missions, 35 Finds, and 3 Saves
63 Aircraft
4 Gliders
122 Other Vehicles
81 VHF/FM Repeaters
1,169 VHF/FM stations
184 HF Stations
3,960 Senior Members
3,292 Cadet Members
Total Personnel 7,252
154 Squadrons

Statistics for 2014;
12,132.7 Hours Flown
3,708 Orientation Flights
151 Missions, 33 Finds
1 Save
68 Aircraft
4 Gliders
149 Other Vehicles
74 VHF/ FM Repeaters
1,066 VHF/ FM Stations
177 HF Stations
3,681 Senior Members
3,036 Cadet Members
6,717 Total Personnel
146 Squadrons

Awards

Cadet Awards for 2015

Spaatz	3
Eaker	19
Earhart	65
Mitchell	189

Cadet Awards For 2014

9
15
47
149



Senior Member Awards for 2015

Gill Rob Wilson	14
Garber	24
Leoning	64

Senior Member Awards for 2014

13
33
64



The awards listed above represent the hard work and dedication of the Senior Members and Cadets of the Middle East Region during the listed periods.

This year the Middle East Region conference was held in conjunction with the South Carolina Wing conference at the end of January. It was a wonderful conference and Col Smith and his team working with Col Barron did a great job. The only unfortunate thing about the conference was that it was held before the nominations for the region "of the year" awards were due so we could not honor those selected for the MER of the Year awards. These members and units names were forwarded to National Headquarters as the region's nominees for the national awards.

AWARD	MEMBER/UNIT	WING	UNIT
Ground Team Officer (SM)	Lexington Composite Sqdn Lt Col Peter Hantelman	SC	Lexington Comp
Cadet Officer	C/Col Adam Eudy	DC	Fairfax Comp
Cadet NCO	C/CMSgt Emily Capra	SC	Low Country Comp
Sorenson (CP)	Lt Col Thomas Sadaukas	VA	Fredericksburg Comp
Communications	Lt Col James Friel	DC	Arlington Comp
Public Affairs	1st Lt Mary Baker	DE	DEWG HQ
Inspector General	Lt Col John Mariakis	WV	Potomac Highlands Comp
CDI	Maj Guilford Queen	MD	MDWG HQ
Chaplain	Lt Col Norman Byerly	MD	Parkland Middle School
Squadron Chaplain	Capt Tony Gibbs	NC	NCWG HQ
Counter Drug	Maj Alfred Artz	SC	Greenville Comp
Lewis IC Staff	Lt Col Gene Jackson	VA	Leesburg Comp
AE Teacher	Ms. Sue Lewis	MER	MER HQ
Holm AE Off	1st Lt Justin Kirk	MD	Esperanza Middle School
DDR	Capt Deborah Tuson	VA	Monticello Comp
PD Officer	1st Lt Julie Dimitrov	DE	Eagle Cadet
Brewer-Senior	Capt Frank Panek	SC	Beaufort Comp
Brewer-Cadet	C/Col Robert Lewis	WV	Martinsburg Comp
Brewer AE Ind	Lt Col Lawrence McGovern	MD	St Mary's Comp
Brewer Lifetime	Lt Col William Knight	MD	St Mary's Comp
AFA	C/Capt Nicole Orr	VA	Leesburg Comp
Property Manager	1st Lt Daniel Donahoe	WV	Martinsburg Comp
Paul Turner Safety	West Virginia Wing	MD	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Comp
		WV	

Listed below are the Middle East Region recipients for the Balsem Public Affairs Award. The Balsem award is presented annually to public affairs officers for outstanding entries in nine different public affairs categories.

Category	Award	Name	Wing	Project
Brochure/Poster	Balsem	Capt Alice Raatjes- Carroll Comp.	MDWG	Open House
External Media Coverage	Balsem	Lt Jimmy Kelly - Prince Wm Comp	VAWG	WAA
External Media Coverage	Balsem	Lt Gregory Morgan - Lynchburg Comp	VAWG	Training Exc.
External Media Coverage	Excellence	Lt Col Chris Roche - MDWG HQ	MDWG	2014 Tri- Wing
External Media Coverage	Merit	Lt Jimmy Kelly - Prince Wm Comp	VAWG	WAA Fact Sheet
Photography	Merit	Lt Gregory Morgan - Lynchburg Comp	VAWG	WAA
Slide/PowerPoint	Merit	Capt Alice Raatjes- Carroll Comp.	MDWG	2014 Wing Conf.
Social Media	Balsem	Lt Gregory Morgan - Lynchburg Comp	VAWG	Everyday Hero
Social Media	Balsem	Capt Alice Raatjes- Carroll Comp.	MDWG	Facebook Page
Website	Excellence	Capt Gregory Fletcher- Fredericksburg	VAWG	Unit Website
Website	Excellence	Lt Gregory Morgan - Lynchburg Comp	VAWG	Site Redesign
Website	Merit	Lt Jimmy Kelly - Prince Wm Comp	VAWG	Unit Website
Website	Merit	Capt Alice Raatjes- Carroll Comp.	MDWG	Group II Site

Conclusion

The best way to close out the report for 2015 is with the Region Commander's words from his January 2016 Commanders commentary, it is shown below.

MER Commander's Commentary - January 2016



The month started out with a fantastic visit to the North Carolina Wing conference in Raleigh. I had the opportunity to visit with them, hand out some awards, see a very moving CAP Gold Medal Ceremony, and some of us even had a chance to sing karaoke. It was a lot of fun and Col Dave Crawford and his staff put on a great weekend.

The following week was filled with Wreath Across America ceremonies. Maj Gen Vazquez and the MER Honor Guard presented a wreath at the US Capitol along with both Senators from Maine. The cadets did a great job watching over the wreath, honoring our veterans until sundown. Friday, CAP was honored to assist at the wreath ceremony at the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Gardens. Cadets and seniors assisted the public in mounting a wreath on the wrought iron fence around the garden, one for each person killed during the attack. Lt Col JD Ellis, the DCWG/CV, coordinated the event for CAP and, with some other CAP members working at the Pentagon, gave tours after the ceremony was complete. The final event was the main event for WAA, where a wreath was laid at every gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery. CAP had over 250 volunteers assisting at ANC. The CAP/CC led the group laying wreaths to honor the four airmen buried at Arlington that have CAP achievements named after them.

Meanwhile 220 volunteers, led by Cols Ziggy Bernfeld, Jane Davies and Maj Jason Secrest took on the challenge of working with WAA truck captains to coordinate the unloading of 60+ trailers of wreaths. More than 70,000 people showed up to lay wreaths on the gravesites and it takes a lot of behind the scenes effort to make it appear easy. CAP members met at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall where the incident command post had been set up in a parking lot. Support from the base and the USO helped make the day go smoother.

On top of this, thousands of CAP members supported similar events at more than 1,000 cemeteries across the US and Canada. The WAA motto of "Remember, Honor, and Teach" was demonstrated all across the region by our cadets and senior members. Your support of this program, which started in 1992 as a small effort by the owner of a wreath making company in Maine, has grown into an international event. CAP was there in 1992 and will continue to support WAA all across the country. Thank you to every member who helped on the 12th and who supported WAA through fund raising and selling wreaths in order to place as many as possible on our veterans' graves.

As we start each New Year, many of us make New Year's resolutions. I know that each new year I resolve to be healthier and a little more patient among other things. One thing I would like to challenge all of you with this new year is to live by our core values. They are Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect. I try and live my life every day turning these words into action. All of them are equally important but this month I would like to focus on Respect.

As many of you know, I was asked to wear-test the USAF ABU utility uniform for CAP by Gen Vazquez. This change is something that many CAP members have been asking for and our national leadership and the Air Force are working to make it happen. There is no guarantee we will make this change and it is a lot more complicated than most people realize but as part of the review process a handful of members have been asked to help out. A photograph of myself and the NER/CC Col Leclair wearing two slightly different variations of the ABU was taken at the WAA Pentagon ceremony. While it is a stretch to say we "broke the internet," the resulting traffic on social media was so great that while I was still at the Pentagon I received several text messages and calls from staff public affairs members of CAP letting me know that there was a significant increase in the volume of responses to the pictures. I clarified to them that Col Leclair and I were wear-testing the uniform for CAP with the approval of the CAP/CC and CAP-USAF and that the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force was aware of the test. By now you may be asking yourself, why are we focusing on Respect? It is because of the rather large amount of hateful comments made by people posting on a number of web sites and forums around the internet. My favorite definition of Integrity is to do the right thing even when no one is looking. It appears that some of us need to redefine the definition of respect to include "even when I am posting anonymously online." Respect doesn't get put on hold when you sit down at a computer or pull out your smart phone and sign in as "airman#1" or some other nom de plume. It is with each of us in every comment we say or write. Spewing rude or vulgar comments behind the cloak of anonymity online is simply unacceptable. I do realize that some of these people are not CAP members. Most likely some are disgruntled former members who, for reasons known only to themselves, chose to troll sites related to CAP and provide their opinions. However, I am equally sure that some of our current members find themselves unable to resist jumping into the fray. Respect, just like integrity, means treating everyone the way you would like to be treated even when they don't know who you are. To be very clear, we are all entitled to our own opinions. In fact a wear-test is all about getting feedback on your opinions. Some opinions are negative and that is okay; what is not okay is crossing the line of respect in expressing your negative opinion.

I've touched on one aspect of communicating in writing on websites and social media but there is another potential pitfall that many people are not aware of. When most of us write it is almost impossible to express emotion or tone. When a reader is interpreting what you wrote they are affected by their own mood, the words they saw before your words and their overall thoughts on what you wrote about. If you were speaking to them they would have the benefit of your tone and nonverbal cues, but writing does not offer this to the reader. One method I use to help with this is to have multiple people proofread what I write. Yes, I am confessing that before you see these commentaries, three or four other people read them first and make me look much smarter than I really am (thanks - Lt Col Winter and Majors Reed and Knowles). You don't always have that luxury so my suggestion to you is to review everything you put out for others before you hit send and to follow that core value of respect.

The recruiting contest has heated up this month with two new members tied for the lead at nine members each: Maj Jacob Gerstein, DC-051, and 2nd Lt Alice Stange NC-145. Cadet Caleb Mize, NC-150, still holds the lead in the cadet category at 6. There is one member at seven and three members at six. The contest runs from 1 July 2015 to 1 April 2016 so there is still plenty of time for you to get into the race. Let me close by saying thank you for 2015. We had an amazing year and 2016 looks to be even busier. Our safety program continues to be the top priority for our leadership. Sending everyone home safe after a meeting or activity is the most important thing we can do. In 2015 we made some tweaks to our program to stop punishing members by preventing them from participating in any activity if they did not get the safety box checked. This was a good thing but it seems to have led to a bad habit. I know you are having safety briefings at your meetings and that you are participating in the overall safety education program but some of you are failing to document it. The regulations still call for monthly safety training. The only way to document this for your SUI is through the safety management system. Please make sure you are keeping this up to date. It makes CAP a safer place for all of us.

Happy New Year!

JOHN M. KNOWLES, Colonel, CAP
Commander
Middle East Region, Civil Air Patrol

APPENDIX 1
GLOSSARY

AF	United States Air Force
BoG	Board of Governors
CAC	Cadet Advisory Council
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
CLS	Cadet Leadership School
CPPT	Cadet Protection Training
CSAG	Civil Air Patrol Senior Advisory Group
CUB Slide	Commander's Update Briefing PowerPoint Slide
DEWG	Delaware Wing
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
Gill Rob Wilson	The Gill Robb Wilson Award is Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) highest award for Senior member professional development.
Garber	The Paul E. Garber Award is given to Civil Air Patrol members who complete Level IV of the Senior Member Professional Development Program.
Leoning	The Grover Loening Award is given to Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members who complete Level III of the Senior Member Professional Development Program
HF	High Frequency
NatCap	National Capitol Wing
NCWG	North Carolina Wing
MDWG	Maryland Wing
MER	Middle East Region Civil Air Patrol
Mitchell	4th Highest cadet award named for General Billy Mitchell
NUC	National Uniform Committee
Repeater	A radio repeater is an electronic device that receives a weak or low-level _radio signal and retransmits it at a higher level or higher power
RSC	Region Staff College
SAR	Search And Rescue
SCWG	South Carolina Wing
Spaatz	Highest Cadet Award named for General Carl A. Spaatz. General Spaatz was the first Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and first Chairman of the CAP National Board
VAWG	Virginia Wing
VHF/FM	Very High Frequency/Frequency Modulation
WVAWG	West Virginia Wing

APPENDIX 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Civil Air Patrol National Website/ Volunteer/ Cadet Awards
2. 2015 Legislative Day Newsletters Middle East Region Wings
3. Middle East Region Staff Meeting CUB Slides
4. Middle East Region Commander's Commentary e mails for 2015
5. 2014 Annual Middle East Region History Report
6. Middle East Region webpage
7. Middle East Region Facebook page

Appendix 3

Middle East Region Staff

Duty	Section
Commander	MER/CC Col John Knowles
Vice Commander – East	MER/CV-E Col Jerry Weiss
Vice Commander - West Chief of Staff	MER/CV-W Col Dennis Barron
	MER/CS Col Eugene Egry
Administration and Personnel	MER/A1 Maj James Brogan
Operations	MER/A3 Lt Col Jay Langley
Logistics	MER/A4 Lt Col David Oldham
Plans and Programs	MER/A5/8 Lt Col Eric Haertel
Communications	MER/A6 Lt Col Maurice Thomas
Information Technology	MER/A6I Maj James Holcomb
Missions	MER/A7 Col Lawrence Trick
Aerospace Education	MER/A7E Lt Col Thomas McLellan
Cadet Programs	MER/A7O Lt Col William Ryan
Professional Development	MER/A7P Lt Col Elizabeth Dunn
Finance	MER/A9 Lt Col Phyllis Griffin
Chaplain	MER/HC Ch (Lt Col) Greg Hill
Historian	MER/HO Maj Joseph Myers
Inspector General	MER/IG Lt Col Cheryl Fielitz-Scarborough
Legal Affairs	MER/JA Lt Col Tim Corrigan
Public Affairs	MER/PA Maj Brenda Reed
Safety	MER/SE Maj Guy Butts