

HISTORY OF ARKANSAS WING

Civil Air Patrol
Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

1 January, 2021 through 31 December, 2021



Prepared By

1st Lt Karen McKinney, CAP
Wing Historian

Reviewed By

Col Robert Allison, CAP
Wing Commander

REGION COMMANDER APPROVAL

Col Martha Morris, CAP
Southwest Region Commander



HEADQUARTERS ARKANSAS WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
2201 Crisp Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202



12 April 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: ARKANSAS WING COMMANDER

SUBJECT: 2021 Arkansas Wing History Report

I have reviewed and approve of the Arkansas History Report for the 2021 calendar year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Allison III".

ROBERT M. ALLISON III, Col, CAP
Commander, Arkansas Wing

INTRODUCTION OF WING STAFF

Wing Commander

Vice Commander

Chief of Staff

Operations

Aerospace Education

Cadet Programs

Command NCO

Robert Allison

Larry Webster

Marchelle Jones

Charles Rine

Garrick St Pierre

Michael Probus

Gary Podgurski

Colonel

Lieutenant Colonel

Lieutenant Colonel

Lieutenant Colonel

Major

Captain

Master Sergeant

Chapter I OPERATIONS

Search and Rescue

There were two Search and Rescue Missions in 2021. This involved four finds with one of those including one life saved, credited with national team support. There were four Search and Rescue Exercise Training Missions, which provide readiness for success in Search and Rescue Missions.

Disaster Response

There were no Arkansas Wing CAP disaster response missions in 2021 and the Wing was not tasked by Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) in 2021. The Wing and ADEM did have several planning meetings but no actual missions. The Wing met recently at ADEM to discuss updating the air operations group plan. This is a group of all the agencies that would provide air assets during a disaster. It consisted of the CAP, Air National Guard, State Police and Forestry. This group is chaired by the director of aeronautics.

Homeland Security

There were no specific Homeland Security missions for the Arkansas Wing in 2021. The Homeland Security Officer logs into ADEM's emergency operation center computer during any tornado activity. The Earthquake Advisory Group that meets on a quarterly basis is attended by the Wing, but no tasking took place in 2021.

Counterdrug Operations

The Counterdrug Program in Arkansas has not been funded for the past two years, and therefore no operations took place.

Chapter II AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Internal Aerospace Education

Internal Aerospace for 2021 was locked down because of Covid, and the inability to prepare for large numbers. The workshops that were planned got cancelled and postponed multiple times. There were no activities for AE in 2021, other than recruiting efforts, and some TOP flights when restrictions allowed. The Deputy Director of AE kept AEOs and AEMs up to date on virtual activities around the nation via monthly email updates.

External Aerospace Education

Aerospace Education had a Commander's Goal of increasing AEMs in Arkansas by 25% in 2021. FY 2020 ended with 75 AEMs, and FY 2021 ended with 116 AEMs, producing an increase of 41 AEMS. This is a percentage increase of 55%, exceeding the Commander's Goal of 25%.

Covid Restrictions limited TOP flights, but AE was able to conduct six TOP flights in 2021.

External Aerospace for 2021 was locked down because of Covid, and the inability to prepare for large numbers. The workshops that were planned got cancelled and postponed multiple times. There were no activities for AE in 2021, other than recruiting efforts, and some TOP flights when restrictions allowed. The Deputy Director of AE kept AEOs and AEMs up to date on virtual activities around the nation via monthly email updates.

Chapter III CADET PROGRAMS

Cadet Programs

The 2021 Arkansas Wing Summer Encampment was scheduled for 30 July – 6 August 2021 at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock Arkansas.

On 15 July 2021 the Arkansas Wing was rolled back to COVID-19 Phase II because of the growing rate of new COVID-19 cases across the state of Arkansas. The Arkansas Wing Commander and Arkansas Wing Health Services Officer were in discussions with the NHQ COVID-19 Planning Team and South West Region Health Services. With all of the data and escalation of the virus it was decided to roll the Arkansas Wing back to Phase II immediately. The Wing continued to take the proper precautions and exercise risk management to keep our members safe and healthy as our number one priority. Unfortunately this move back to Phase II put a complete stop to our Arkansas Wing Summer Encampment (Operation Diamond Forge 2021). There was just not enough time to see a reduction in overall COVID-19 numbers to feel confident to hold this event.

Operation Diamond Forge was moved to become a Winter Encampment for 2021, taking place 26 December to 31 December 2021. There were 208 total attendees including both cadets and senior members. Fourteen wings from across the nation participated in ODF 2021. It is to date the largest Winter Encampment in the nation.

The Arkansas Wing did not participate in the 2021 Cadet Competition because of COVID in both 2020 and 2021.

Two cadet teams from the 42nd Composite Squadron teams competed in Cyberpatriot, including a senior team and a middle school team. The middle school team won their category. The senior team did not advance out of the state rounds.

Fun at the Fort, a weekend cadet event traditionally held by the Arkansas Wing at Fort Chaffee at the end of the summer, did not take place in 2021. Originally Summer Encampment 2021 was set to take place during the time Fun at the Fort is usually held, so it

Drug Demand Reduction

No Drug Demand Reduction actions taken in 2021, as the DDR program is not an active program due to there no longer being a specialty track and the lack of supplies from military installation. The new cadet regulation CAPR 60-1 mentions a drug free environment to challenge cadets to promote a drug free ethic.

Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA): Wing wide event hosted by the 42nd Composite Squadron 4 December 2021.

Region Cadet Leadership School (RCLS): Arkansas cadets attended and taught at the Southwest Region Cadet Leadership School, which was held virtually in June 2021.

Cadet Milestones earned in 2021 are: nineteen Wright Brothers awards, three Billy Mitchell awards, four Amelia Earhart awards, and two Ira Eaker awards.

Cadet Activities

There wasn't many Cadet Activities planned during 2021 because of COVID, and most were done virtually. These included: Arkansas Wing Virtual Legislative Days in February to March, Information Session on Cadet Wings Program 13 April, Virtual Arkansas Wing Conference 16-17 April, Encampment Prep Day at Ft Smith 19 June, Wings over Bryant Airshow 19 June, Encampment Prep Day at Little Rock 26 June, Operation Diamond Forge 2021 Arkansas Wing Encampment (moved from summer to winter due to COVID).

APPENDIX I: Core Mission Data and Statistics *(Data in support of the Narrative)*

Operations

Total number of missions: 33
SAR: 2 (4 finds with 1 rescue)
SAREX: 4
TOP Flights: 6
O Flights: 107
Other Air Force Support Missions: 5
Training Missions: 20
Other State Support Missions: 2
Mission in Support of Partner Agencies: 1

Aerospace Education

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Cadet Programs

166 cadets in 2021

The 2021 Arkansas Wing Summer Encampment was scheduled for July 30th – August 6th 2021 at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock Arkansas, but was cancelled due to Covid Restrictions.

Operation Diamond Forge was moved to become a Winter Encampment for 2021, taking place 26 December to 31 December 2021. 208 total attended including cadets and senior members. 14 wings from across the nation participated in ODF 2021: 91 TX, 69 AR, 22 OK, 5 NM, 4 IL, 4 KY, 3 AL, 3 MO, 2 TN, 1 FL, 1 MN, 1 OH

Cadet Competitions cancelled due to Covid

Fun at the Fort not scheduled due to Encampment.

2 teams participated in CyberPatriot.

ARWG CAC Chair: C/Lt Col Madeline Thompson

SWR CAC Rep: C/Lt Col Katherine McKinney

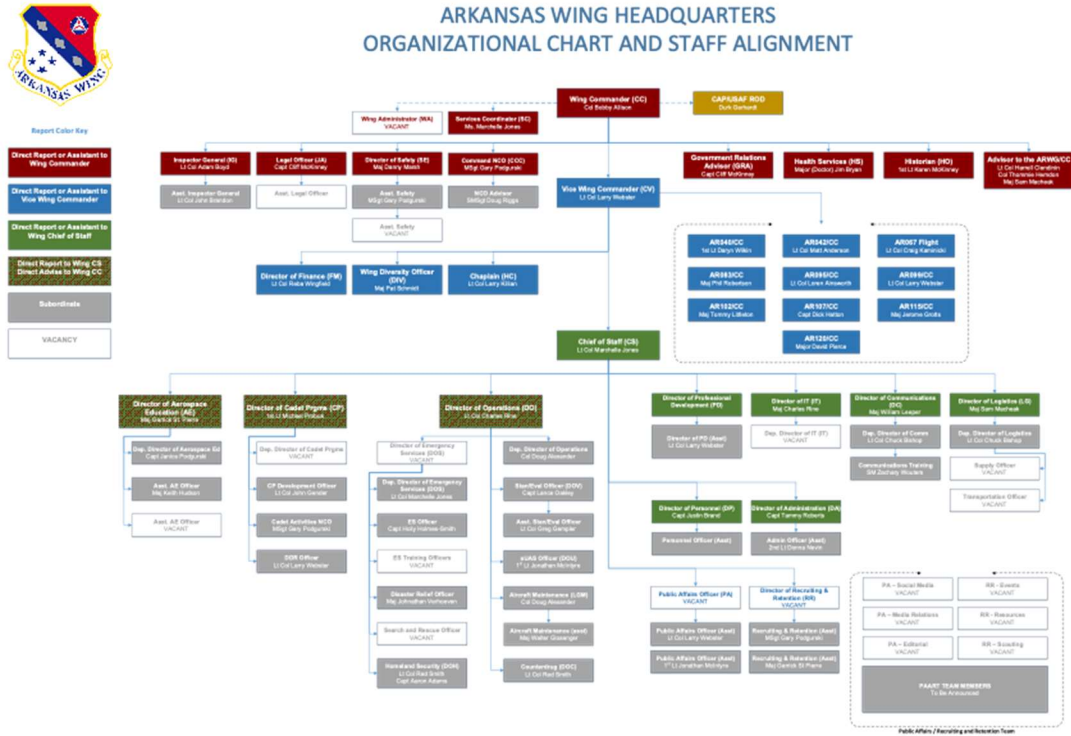
NCOA: Wing event hosted by 42nd 4 December 2021

RCLS: ARWG cadets attended and taught at SWRCLS: June 2021

Milestone Awards: 19 Wright Brothers, 3 Billy Mitchells, 4 Amelia Earharts, 2 Ira Eakers

APPENDIX II: Unit Staff - Data and Statistics

Unit Organization Chart

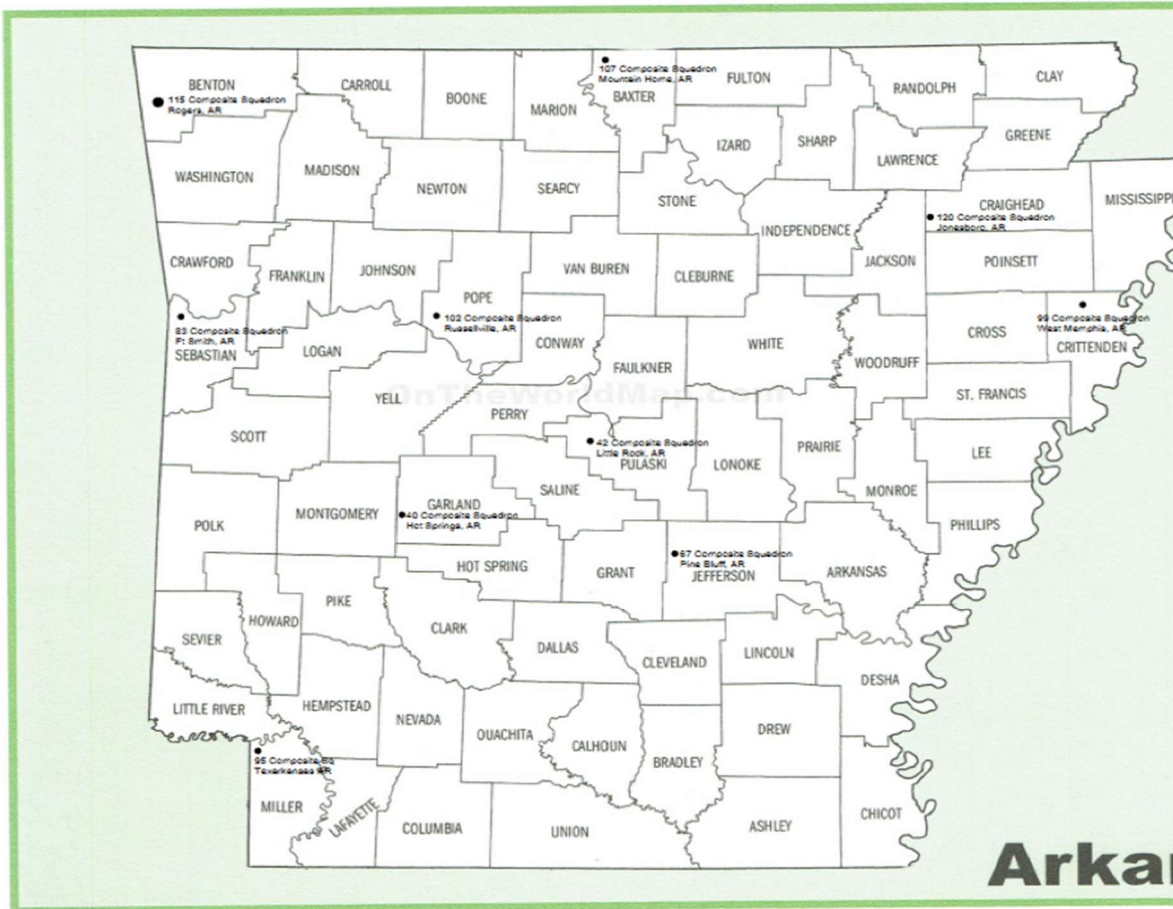


Unit Command and Staff Listing

Unit Commander	Robert Allison	Colonel
Vice Commander	Larry Webster	Lieutenant Colonel
Chief of Staff	Marchelle Jones	Lieutenant Colonel
Operations	Charles Rine	Lieutenant Colonel
Aerospace Education	Garrick St Pierre	Major
Cadet Programs	Michael Probus	Captain
Command NCO	Gary Podgurski	Master Sergeant

Unit Map

The 67th is a flight, now at Monticello in Drew County



APPENDIX III: Unit Staff - Data and Statistics

Logistics	Sam Macheak	Major
Communications	William Leeper	Major
Professional Development	Larry Webster	Lieutenant Colonel
Administration	Tammy Roberts	Captain
Personnel	Justin Brand	Captain
Recruiting and Retention	Gary Podgurski	Master Sergeant
Plans and Programs		Select Rank
Public Affairs		Select Rank
Information Technology	Charles Rine	Lieutenant Colonel
Financial Statement	Reba Wingfield	Lieutenant Colonel
Chaplain	Larry Killian	Lieutenant Colonel
Historian	Karen McKinney	1st Lieutenant
Health Services	James Bryan	Major
Inspector General	Adam Boyd	Lieutenant Colonel
Safety	Danny Marsh	Major
Government Relations	Cliff McKinney	Captain
Legal	Cliff McKinney	Captain
		Select Rank
		Select Rank
		Select Rank
		Select Rank

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics

Logistics

Arkansas Wing has eight single-engine aircraft and twelve vehicles.

Communications

Arkansas Wing has 9 VHF/FM repeaters, 102 VHF/FM stations, and 20 HF stations.

Professional Development

Arkansas Wing Education & Training:

1 instructor up to L3

1 Instructor up to L4

1 instructor up to L4 and Squadron Commander's Course

1 instructor up to L5 and Squadron Commander's Course

Senior Member Progression in Education & Training:

L1 11

L2 1

L4 2

L5 1

Technician Rating 10

Senior Rating 3

Master Rating 6

No in-residence or virtual courses were put on by the wing for 2021.

Administration

Nothing to report.

Personnel

In 2021 the Arkansas Wing had 239 senior members, 166 cadets, 67 aircraft crew, and 292 emergency responders.

This is a reduction from 264 senior members and 209 cadet members in 2020. The Wing is recovering from the effects of COVID restrictions on its membership.

Arkansas Wing Squadron 067 was a flight in 2021 located in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. On 26 July AR067 relocated to Monticello, AR with a new unit commander. The flight is working to becoming a full squadron again.

The Arkansas Wing does not currently have a PAO. Other staff assist in producing media such as the Arkansas Wing Statistics Sheet, handouts for Arkansas Wing Legislative Day, and other media as needed.

2021 Annual Wing Awards (will be announced at ARWG Conference in May 2022)

Senior of the Year – Maj James W. Bryan

Cadet of the Year – C/LtCol Robert L. Lutgen

Squadron Commander of the Year – Maj Jerome D. Grotts

Maj M. Douglas Wood Staff Member of the Year – Capt Justin U. Brand

Lt Col Robert L. Penton Aircrew Excellence Award – Maj Edward P. Goodman

James C. Stevens Mission Staff Award – Lt Col G. Marchelle Jones

Cadet Junior Officer of the Year – C/Capt Joel D. Barber

Cadet NCO of the Year – C/MSgt Reilly J. Steinbeck

AFSA Cadet NCO of the Year – C/2dLt Devon Z. Straw

CAP Family of the Year – The Davis Family

Col Bud V. Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year – 1st Lt Jonathan M. McIntyre

Historian of the Year – 1st Lt Karen E. McKinney

Col David Kantor Operations Staff Officer of the Year – Capt Thomas E. Minton

Jack Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year – Lt Col Charles A. Rine

Maj Jeanne M. Holm Aerospace Officer of the Year – Capt Janice R. Podgurski

Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award – Capt Janice R. Podgurski

Safety Officer of the Year – MSgt Gary D. Podgurski

Information Technology was instrumental in the Arkansas Wing holding a successful Virtual Wing Conference in April 2021. ARWG website and web-based forms are also supported by IT.

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics (Continued)

Financial Statement

For Fiscal Year 2021, Arkansas Wing received \$71,375 in state funding. The Wing received \$1,205,228 value from the Wing's volunteer hours.

Chaplain

Wing Chaplain Larry Killian attended the 2021 Falco Virgo/CTE in June 2021, flying in CAP aircraft from Hot Springs, AR to El Paso, TX.

Historian

2020 Wing History Report turned in Spring 2021.

In January 2021, Jim Ronka, a volunteer at the Aerospace Museum of California at the former McClellan AFB in Sacramento notified the Arkansas Wing that the museum has a Taylorcraft L-2M, S/N 43-26433 on display that's on loan from the National Museum of the Air Force, with records showing that it flew for the Civil Air Patrol in Little Rock, Arkansas from December 12, 1943 until it was removed from the Army Air Force inventory in July 1945. It was civilian-owned until flown to the museum in 1985. Arkansas Wing located a photo in historical files verifying the plane.

A presentation on the history of the Arkansas Wing took place at the 2021 Virtual Arkansas Wing Conference in April 2021.

Health Services

Entering 2021, before the availability of a vaccine for Covid-19, CAP activities were limited by the guidelines established in the CAP Covid-19 Remobilization Plan. Following recommendations from the CDC, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the website CovidActNow <https://www.covidactnow.org/>, in close coordination with the CAP Covid-19 Planning Team, the Wing navigated through each phase in the plan, reverting to more restrictive phases as the case numbers peaked and declined. The summer encampment was canceled due to emergence of the Delta variant of Covid-19, but we were able to complete a December encampment by planning for and following strict disease countermeasures that were recognized by Brig Gen Regena Rye, CAP Vice Commander, as a model for the organization. While the encampment did involve the report of two positive cases diagnosed the day following its conclusion, the cases were mild and no further spread was reported.

Throughout the year, the Health Services Officer briefed the Wing Staff at regular virtual meetings and Commanders Calls during the year. Additional coordination was done with the SWR Health Services Officer, the Wing Safety Officer, Director of Cadet Programs, and Director of Operations.

The year ended with the Wing in Phase I but favorable disease trends permitted progression to Phase II on 22 FEB 22 and to Phase III on 08 MAR 22.

The HSO program is of significant value to the organization and individual units should strive to have the squadron HSO position filled to assist the mission.

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics (Continued)

Administration

Nothing to report.

Inspector General

83CS (Ft Smith), 40th (Hot Springs) 120CS (Jonesboro), 102CS (Russellville) had a SUI in 2021.

Safety

Wing Director of Safety attended the 2021 Falco Virgo/CTE serving as the Mission Safety Officer for the mission in June 2021. Lt Col Charles Rine, Chaplain Larry Killian flew in CAP aircraft from Hot Springs, AR to El Paso, TX.

Wing Director of Safety attended the 2021 ARWG Conference and conducted a Safety Education session virtually during the conference.

Government Relations

The Wing had a successful 2021 Legislative Day. We met with representatives from nearly all of Arkansas's congressional delegation.