

HISTORY OF
CONNECTICUT WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
Auxiliary of the United States Air Force



01 JANUARY 2018 - 31 DECEMBER 2018

HISTORY
of
CONNECTICUT WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL

AUXILIARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Prepared By

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Connecticut Wing Asst Historian

Reviewed By

Col. James A. Ridley, CAP
Connecticut Wing Commander

COMMANDER'S APPROVAL LETTER



HEADQUARTERS
CONNECTICUT WING CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
BEERS HALL, P.O. BOX 1233
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT 06457-1233



01 April 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: CONNECTICUT WING/CC

SUBJECT: Connecticut Wing Annual History Approval

1. The Connecticut Wing Annual History for 01 Jan 2018 to 31 Dec 2018 prepared by Capt Matthew Chirik and submitted on 01 April 2019 is hereby approved for submission to the Northeast Region and National Headquarters Historian staff.
2. Direct any questions regarding the Connecticut Wing 2018 Annual History to Capt Matthew Chirik at email mchirik@cap.gov.

//signed//

JAMES A. RIDLEY, Colonel, CAP
Commander, Connecticut Wing

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INTRODUCTION OF UNIT STAFF & BRIEF UNIT NARRATIVE

CONNECTICUT WING HEADQUARTERS

Wing Commander

Col James A. Ridley

Vice Commander

Lt Col Robert F. Roy

Chief of Staff

Lt Col Matthew J. Valteau

Deputy Chief of Staff

Lt Col Jeff Travers

Deputy Chief of Staff

Lt Col Bob Hoar

Command NCO

MSgt Joseph Benete

SUMMARY NARRATIVE OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Chapter I: OPERATIONS

Search and Rescue

SEE STAFF REPORT BELOW

Disaster Relief

SEE STAFF REPORT BELOW

Homeland Security

NO DATA PROVIDED

Counterdrug

SEE STAFF REPORT BELOW

Chapter II: AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Internal Aerospace Education

SEE STAFF REPORT BELOW

External Aerospace Education

SEE STAFF REPORT BELOW

Chapter III: CADET PROGRAMS

Cadet Programs

SEE STAFF REPORT BELOW

Cadet Activities

SEE STAFF REPORT BELOW

APPENDIX I: Chapters I-III - Data and Statistics

OPERATIONS

Director of Operations

Asst. Director of Operations

Asst. Director of Operations

Asst. Director of Operations

Standardization/Evaluation Officer

Counterdrug Officer

Director of Emergency Services

Emergency Services Officer

Disaster Relief Officer

Search and Rescue Officer

Emergency Services Training Officer

Homeland Security Officer

Capt Jim Whitesell

Capt William Cass

Capt Richard Kornutik

1st Lt Brian Proulx

Capt Ray Laramie

Maj Charles Kruzshak

Lt Col Meghan Brownell

Lt Col Jack Shapiro

Capt Joseph Kurcaba

Capt James Steer

Capt James Steer

Lt Col Jack Shapiro

COMPLETED STAFF ACTIONS CY 2018

OPERATIONS

Director of Operations

1. The operations and emergency services departments distinguished themselves this past year in both activity and mission success. The year began with the addition of two aircraft to our fleet raising the number of mission capable aircraft from 7 to 9. Even with the increase in aircraft the wing finished the year 3rd in the nation in aircraft utilization averages. An emphasis was placed on cadet orientation flights and two pilots were selected to run a cadet orientation flight program the purpose of which was to proactively seek out cadets rather than waiting on their commanders or squadron staff officers to schedule orientation flights. Simply put we brought the flights to them. The outcome of the plan was an increase in the number of orientation flight sorties enabling the wing to exceed its annual training plan goal of flights for the fiscal year measured at 132.55% of goal achievement. CT wing flew over 200 sorties in 2018 at the ready to assist should a boater end up in distress. CT Wing was also called to assist USCG in searching for 2 missing teenagers in the early spring of 2018. While the search conducted by the CT wing did not result in finding the individuals, CAP did locate the vessel that the teens used the night they went missing. Thanks to the efforts of the CT wing, the USCG was able to retrieve that vessel to conduct additional search efforts. During the 2018 Ice Patrol, CT wing flew over 160 sorties monitoring the numerous ice dams that formed in both the CT River and the Housitonic River. These ice dams led to flooding and property damage in multiple locations. CAP CT wing was called upon again by the USCG to provide real-time monitoring of the USCG cutters during the ice breaking efforts in the CT River.

Standardization/Evaluation Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Homeland Security Officer

1. The Connecticut Wing works closely with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security conducting Long Island Sound Patrol sorties. The U.S. Coast Guard is one of the organizations the Connecticut Wing Partners with and while the wing operates under a state grant used for mission support the biggest customer who takes advantage of that support is the U.S.C.G. The mission we support for them is broken up into two seasons – summer and winter. During the summer the wing executes the Long Island Sound Patrol mission and in the winter an Ice Patrol mission for the Coast Guard. FY18 was one of the busiest in recent years regarding both of these missions with the winter being extremely brutal. The Coast Guard called upon the wing and the wing answered. The result was the Coast Guard honoring the Connecticut Wing with a Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Public Service which was presented at the October 2018 Joint NER-CTWG Conference. The Coast Guard credited the wing for “exemplary commitment to public service and outstanding performance”.

Counterdrug Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Director of Emergency Services

1. In emergency services in FY18 the wing command staff and Director of ES placed an emphasis on increasing the number of qualified emergency service personnel. The wing had more than enough pilots, what was needed was more qualified ground personnel and mission based staff. A program was established that provided ES training every other month and off-training months were used for wing wide training exercises or SAREXs, 6 in all. The result was more qualified incident commanders (IC3), Air Branch Directors, Ground Branch Directors, Ground Team Leaders and Mission Staff Assistants being added to the active roles. On average the wing saw approximately 85 personnel participate in these 6 exercises with a dramatic increase in the number of cadets participating. The increase in training opportunities paid off when actual missions were conducted. Over the summer months the wing was tasked several times and each ELT search resulted in FINDS being awarded. One of the final missions of the summer occurred near Camp Niantic where the wing was conducting our annual encampment. A ground team made up entirely of encampment personnel, including students, were deployed and within two hours of departure a FIND was made

Disaster Relief Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

ES Training Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Director of Aerospace Education

Internal Aerospace Education

External Aerospace Education

Lt Col Steve Rocketto

VACANT

Lt Col Carlton Stidsen

COMPLETED STAFF ACTIONS CY 2018

Director of Aerospace Education

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Internal Aerospace Education

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

External Aerospace Education

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

CADET PROGRAMS

Director of Cadet Programs
Cadet Activities Officer
Drug Demand Reduction Administrator

Lt Col Robert Hoar
1st Lt Rachel Silverberg
Lt Col Janice Daviault

COMPLETED STAFF ACTIONS CY 2018

Director of Cadet Programs

1. Cadet Programs was extremely busy in 2018 and saw significant success. For the second year in a row the wing hosted the Winter Region Cadet Leadership School. The school was a success and because of the lack of beds we were not able to accommodate all the students who wished to attend, this resulted in a change of venue for the 2018 Winter RCLS which is taking place at Camp Niantic where there are more than enough bunks to accommodate all. 67% of the squadrons in the wing earned the Quality Cadet Unit Award, NER-CT-022 earned the QCUA for the 8th consecutive year, NER-CT-058 earned the QCUA for the 6th consecutive year, NER-CT-004 earned the QCUA for the 5th consecutive year, NER-CT-071 earned the QCUA for the 5th consecutive year, and NER-CT-075 earned the QCUA for the 3rd consecutive year. The wing established a new school unit (Flight) CT-802 at New Fairfield Middle School. The wing held its first cadet aviation day event which saw over 60 cadets attend the weekend event which included aerospace activities and cadet orientation flights. Due to its success two more such days are being planned for FY19.

Cadet Advisory Council Representatives:

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Encampment

1. For the past several years our annual summer cadet encampment has become well known and has drawn cadets from many different wings including outside the Northeast Region. This year we surpassed all other years in attendance and completed filled up the 200 beds we had allocated.

Region Cadet Leadership School (RCLS)

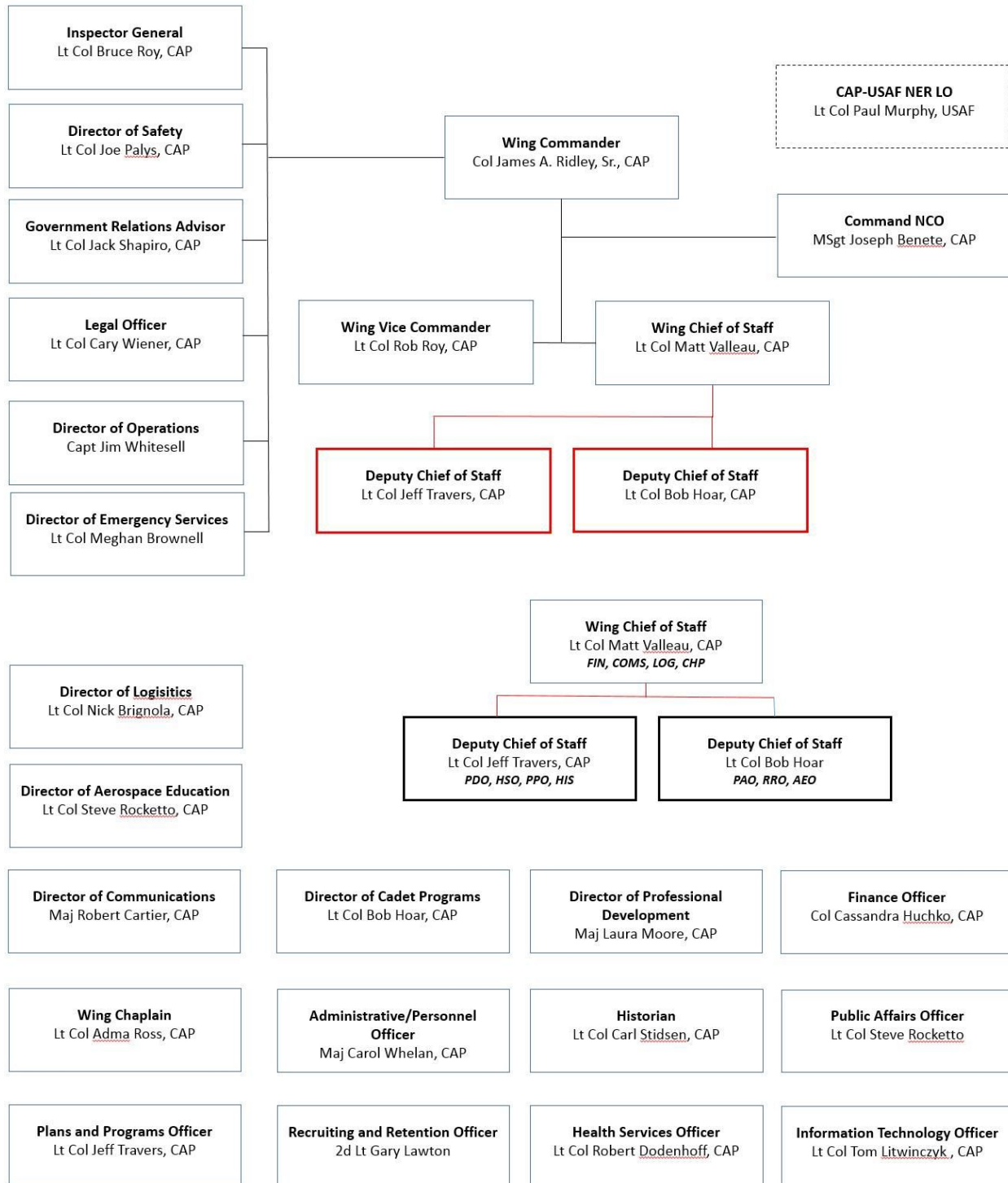
1. Again, the Connecticut Wing hosted the 2018 Northeast Region Cadet Leadership School at Camp Niantic, CT.

Cadet Competition

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

APPENDIX II: Unit Staff - Data and Statistics

Unit Organization Chart



APPENDIX III: Director of Logistics – Data and Statistics

LOGISTICS

Director of Logistics

Supply Officer

Transportation Officer

Maintenance Officer

Lt Col Nick Brignola Jr.

Lt Col Nick Brignola Jr.

Lt Col Nick Brignola Jr.

Maj Paul Mangini

COMPLETED STAFF ACTIONS CY 2018

Director of Logistics

1. Once again under the leadership of Lt Col Nicholas Brignola the logistics and transportation department conducted themselves impeccably passing all audits with flying colors. Lt Col Brignola continued to ensure that all paperwork to NER and NHQ was on time and accurate and spends a good deal of time ensuring that obsolete equipment is retired and “off the shelves”.

Supply Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Transportation Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Maintenance Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

APPENDIX IV: Director of Communications – Data and Statistics

COMMUNICATIONS

Director of Communications

Communications Engineering Officer
Communications Training Officer

Maj Robert Cartier
Lt Col David Hull
Capt Kristina Golden

COMPLETED STAFF ACTIONS CY 2018

Director of Communications

1. The CTWG Communications department continued to be one of the finest in the region. The department continued to educate subordinate unit communications officers as well as members offering ICUT and other classes. The department also maintained one of the best presence on the various communication networks the wings participate in.

Communications Licensing Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Communications Training Officer

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

HF Coordination

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Communications Operations

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Communications Facilities and Equipment

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

APPENDIX V: Director of Professional Development - Data and Statistics

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Director of Professional Development

Maj Laura Moore

COMPLETED STAFF ACTIONS CY 2018

Director of Professional Development

1. In 2018 the wing professional development department conducted numerous courses for the benefit of the wing and region members. (2) Squadron Leadership Schools, (2) Corporate Learning Courses, (1) Training Leaders of Cadet Courses and (1) Unit Commanders Course. The wing also assisted and hosted a Northeast Region Chaplains College in April of 2018 at Camp Niantic National Guard Base which they will be conducting once again in April of 2019. One member of the wing staff assisted at the Northeast Region Staff College (RSC) in New Jersey as that school's Deputy Director and will resume that role again in September of 2019 when the RSC is conducted at Camp Niantic in September of 2019.

APPENDIX VI: Staff Officers - Data and Statistics

Director of Administration	Maj Carol Whelan
Director of Personnel	Maj Carol Whelan
Director of Recruiting and Retention	2d Lt Gary Lawton
Director of Plans and Programs	Lt Col Jeff Travers
Director of Public Affairs	Lt Col Steve Rocketto
Director of Information Technology	Lt Col Tom Litwinczyk
Director of Finance	Col Cassandra Huchko
Chaplain	Ch. Lt Col Adma Ross
Historian	1st Lt Brian Waldron
Health Services	Lt Col Robert Dodenhoff

COMPLETED STAFF ACTIONS CY 2018

Director of Administration

1. Maj Carol Whelan worked diligently to migrate many of the wing records to electronic format while updating files at wing headquarters. Maj Whelan also contributed to the wing as a member of two important committees, awards and promotions.

Director of Personnel

1. See Director of Administration report above.

Director of Recruiting and Retention

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Director of Plans & Programs

1. The 2018 year saw the joint CTWG-NER Conference. Lt Col Travers also worked with the Wing Chaplain and helped her organize the 2018 NER Chaplains College which was held at Camp Niantic in April of 2018.

Director of Public Affairs

1. The CT Wing was one of the most active wings in the nation in working with the media, writing and submitting numerous articles to CAPNEWS and local media. Due to the wings Emergency Services efforts in FY18 several television news stations covered CAP with one airing a special program on CTWG-CAP (Fox 61). Examples of the wings contributions and press interest are found at the end of this document. Because of the wing's success with getting media attention CAP-NHQ Public Affairs asked the Wing Commander, Col James Ridley, to prepare a class at the 2019 Public Affairs Academy entitled "Effective Wing Media Relations – Building Trust" in Anaheim, CA in August 2018.

Director of Information Technology

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

Director of Finance

1. Col Cassandra Huchko, former Connecticut Wing Commander assumed the position of Director of Finance from Maj Bisnov. The wing continued to maintain high ratings following audits conducted over the year.

Chaplain

1. The 2018 NER Chaplains College was hosted at Camp Niantic in East Lyme, CT after years of its being held in NJ at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Historian

1. Historian operations were conducted as usual. Research was continued to identify recipients of the CAP Congressional Gold Medal. Capt Matt Chirik was ADYed from New Jersey Wing to serve as Assistant Historian. The annual history report was developed and submitted.

Health Services

1. Lt Col Robert Dodenhoff prepared and delivered several presentations to the wing pilot community during the planned pilot meetings on several medical topics and recent FAA directives. Doctor Dodenhoff acts as an advisor to not only the commander but to any pilot in need of his advice on medical issues regarding aviation.

APPENDIX VII: Special Staff Officers – Data and Statistics

Inspector General

Lt Col Bruce Roy

Director of Safety

Lt Col Joe Palys

Government Relations

Lt Col Jack Shapiro

Legal

Lt Col Cary Wiener

COMPLETED STAFF ACTIONS CY 2018

Inspector General

1. This office executes its action plan annually. It consists of two main parts, subordinate unit inspections to assure compliance to national standards, followed by timely correction of all discrepancies detected. Secondly, the IG analyzes any complaints directed to that office. They can be investigated, referred, transferred to appropriate command or staff, or dismissed, depending on analysis findings. Professional development of subordinates is accomplished by quarterly refresher training, as well as actual performance as inspection augmentees and team leaders.

Safety

1. Lt Col Joe Palys continued his stewardship of the wing safety program and spends some of his valuable time visiting with squadrons, speaking on the need for better safety awareness. Lt Col Palys also helped to spearhead a new program proposed by the wing commander, that of an aircraft safety mishap review board which has become a standard in the wing. Any aircraft involved in an incident will, besides having a mishap review officer assigned, convene a review board consisting of the wing DO, DOV and SE. This board will help the investigating officer with identifying the root cause of the incident, mitigating circumstances and recommending to the wing commander ways to mitigate this type of occurrence in the future.

Government Relations

1. For the sixth year in a row the CT Wing Commander, select seniors and cadets traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in Legislative Day meetings. Once again, the group met with both U.S. Senator's and all of the state's congressional leaders or a member of their staff.

Legal

1. NO DATA PROVIDED

THIS ANNUAL REPORT IS FAITHFULLY EXECUTED AND SUBMITTED BY THE BELOW SIGNED CIVIL AIR PATROL HISTORIAN REPRESENTING THE AFOREMENTIONED UNIT. ALL INFORMATION IS RECORDED AS SUBMITTED BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND ASSIGNED PERSONNEL "AS IS" AND REPRESENTS STATISTICAL DATA, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND UNIT ACTIVITIES FOR THE SPECIFIED PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING. THE UNIT HISTORIAN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VERACITY OR ACCURACY OF INFORMATION.

Submitted by

MATTHEW J. CHIRIK, CAPT, CAP

Connecticut Wing Department of the Historian

