

HISTORY OF

Indiana Wing, GLR-IN-001

Civil Air Patrol
Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

1 January 2021 through 31 December 2021



Prepared By

Major John Wright, CAP
Indiana Wing Historian

Reviewed By

Major William Vendramin, CAP
Indiana Wing Public Affairs

REGION COMMANDER APPROVAL



**HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL INDIANA WING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY**
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To: Maj John Wright
From: Col Robert W. Freese
Date: 10 April 2022
Re: 2021 INWG History Report

Maj Wright:

I have reviewed the draft report submitted. The report is approved. You may include this letter and forward to GLR.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Freese".

Robert W. Freese, Col CAP
Indiana Wing Commander

ANNUAL HISTORY ENTRY POINTS

INTRODUCTORY DOCUMENTS

TITLE PAGE
COMMANDER'S APPROVAL LETTER

INTRODUCTION OF UNIT STAFF

Unit Commander
Vice Commander
Chief of Staff

Robert Freese
Jamie Griffith
Justin McElvaney

Colonel
Lieutenant Colonel
Lieutenant Colonel

SUMMARY NARRATIVE OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Chapter I OPERATIONS

Search and Rescue

One search and rescue mission was performed by Indiana Wing in 2021.

Disaster Response

Operation Warp Speed mission to deliver vaccines and doctors.
Indiana Wing assisted Kentucky Wing with storm damage assessment following a tornado.
A blood drive was held as part of part of Operation Pulse Lift.

Homeland Security

Indiana Wing supported low level safety of navigation flights again for the 181st Air National Guard.

Counterdrug Operations

Indiana Wing has not participated with counter drug activities since 2018.

Chapter II AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Internal Aerospace Education

Indiana Wing Cadets participated in a high-altitude balloon launch in Anderson, Indiana as well as orientation rides.

External Aerospace Education

Indiana Wing supported AFROTC cadet orientation rides and the highly successful adapt a classroom program in southern Indiana.

Chapter III CADET PROGRAMS

Cadet Programs

As the Covid-19 restrictions eased, many of the units returned to in person meetings and activities, depending upon the limits set for gatherings in each unit's location. With the return of in person meetings, and cadet membership has grown.

Cadet Activities

Indiana Wing hosted a summer encampment and orientation flights as Covid 19 restrictions eased.

Drug Demand Reduction

There were no DDR programs held in 2021.

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

Operations

4 Jan, A mission was conducted as part of Operation Warp Speed delivering Covid 19 vaccines. Transporting vaccines from Indian Health Services (IHS) headquarters in Bemidji, Minnesota to tribal locations in Michigan proved logistically difficult via surface transportation and airlines. Civil Air Patrol flying into smaller airports and direct routes allowed the mission to be accomplished successfully. Indiana Wing provided the Wing's GA8, N606CP, while Michigan Wing (Lt Col Robert Bowden) and Illinois Wing (Maj Rod Rakic) provided pilots. Indiana Wing also provided staff to the Great Lakes Region who coordinated the effort. Col Philip E Argenti was assigned Incident Command while Maj William Vendramin was assigned as Public Information Officer. As INWG/DO Capt Michael E McGregory assisted with details related to getting CAP1206 into the mission and coordinating pickup of the aircraft by the pilots.

10 Jan, AFRCC notified Incident Commander Maj Jerry Inks of a beacon going off somewhere in southwest Indiana. Two aircraft, one from KTYQ crewed by 1st Lt Justin Clevenger, and one from KUMP crewed by Maj Bernie Hirsch were dispatched to locate the ELT. The beacon was not located and AFRCC closed the mission out after the beacon ceased to transmit for 5 hours.

February Indiana Wing participated in a weeklong joint Great Lakes Region ES training exercise. Quote provided by Col Robert Freese, Indiana Wing Commander concerning the exercise:

"We handled 11 different emergency scenarios and activated air, ground, and incident command resources for everything from surveying roadways for stranded vehicles to searching for missing aircraft and missing people. We flew 20 hours, deployed ground teams seven times, and operated a multi-point VHF/HF net, which spanned the state."

8 April, Operation Pulse Lift blood drive was held in Kokomo, IN to help increase stores at the local blood banks. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it created a blood shortage across the US.

Indiana Wing has begun to perform more operations with drones and worked to train qualified pilots and technicians. Currently Indiana Wing has 3 fully qualified sUAS pilots, 6 fully qualified technicians and operates 3 drones. Heading up the sUAS program for Indiana Wing: 1st Lt Vince Cannon, 1st LT John Keiper and Maj Rick Mearse.

In December Indiana Wing sent aircraft and air crews to Kentucky Wing to assist with storm damage assessment following a severe storm that produced a tornado, leveling the town of Mayfield.

1,594 hours were flown in support of o-rides, missions and training.

54 ground sorties were performed in support of Indiana Wing.

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

Aerospace Education

Internal Aerospace Education

208 CAP cadet powered o-rides, in addition to AFROTC and JROTC orientation rides

6 CAP cadet glider o-rides

20 Senior Members earned the Yeager Award.

2 Senior Members earned the Master Aerospace Education Rating and Scott Crossfield Award.

3 Senior Members earned the Senior Aerospace Education Rating

2 Senior Members earned the Technician Aerospace Education Rating.

21 August, CAP cadets and seniors participated in the 1st high-altitude balloon launch and payload recovery at Anderson Preparatory Academy as part of a 187-squadron challenge across the nation. The cadets put together a balloon with a 40-gram payload and an identical payload to remain on the ground as a control. The balloon launch was part of STEM competition graded by a panel of judges, including Col Joe Kittinger, a retired U.S. Air Force officer and pilot who set a world record high-altitude parachute jump from over 102,000 feet. The winning unit had the opportunity to earn the Kittinger cup and \$5,000, provided by Col Joe Kittinger. To assist with the recovery of the balloon two aircraft, sUAS and ground teams worked with telemetry from StratoStar to film, locate, and retrieve the balloons.

External Aerospace Education

Indiana Wing continued with it's award winning adopt a classroom after school program headed up by C/Maj Rylee Schmuck, who was awarded the Air Force Association AE Cadet of the Year for her efforts.

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

Cadet Programs

Indiana Wing had

56 cadets earn the Wright Brothers Award

17 earn the Mitchell Award

14 earned the Earhart Award

4 earned their Eaker Award

C/Col Tom Long Huynh earned the Spaatz Award becoming the 2,354th recipient of the Spaatz Award, since its inception on 30 Jun.

Several cadets in the wing have earned their Part 107 Commercial Drone Pilot's License.

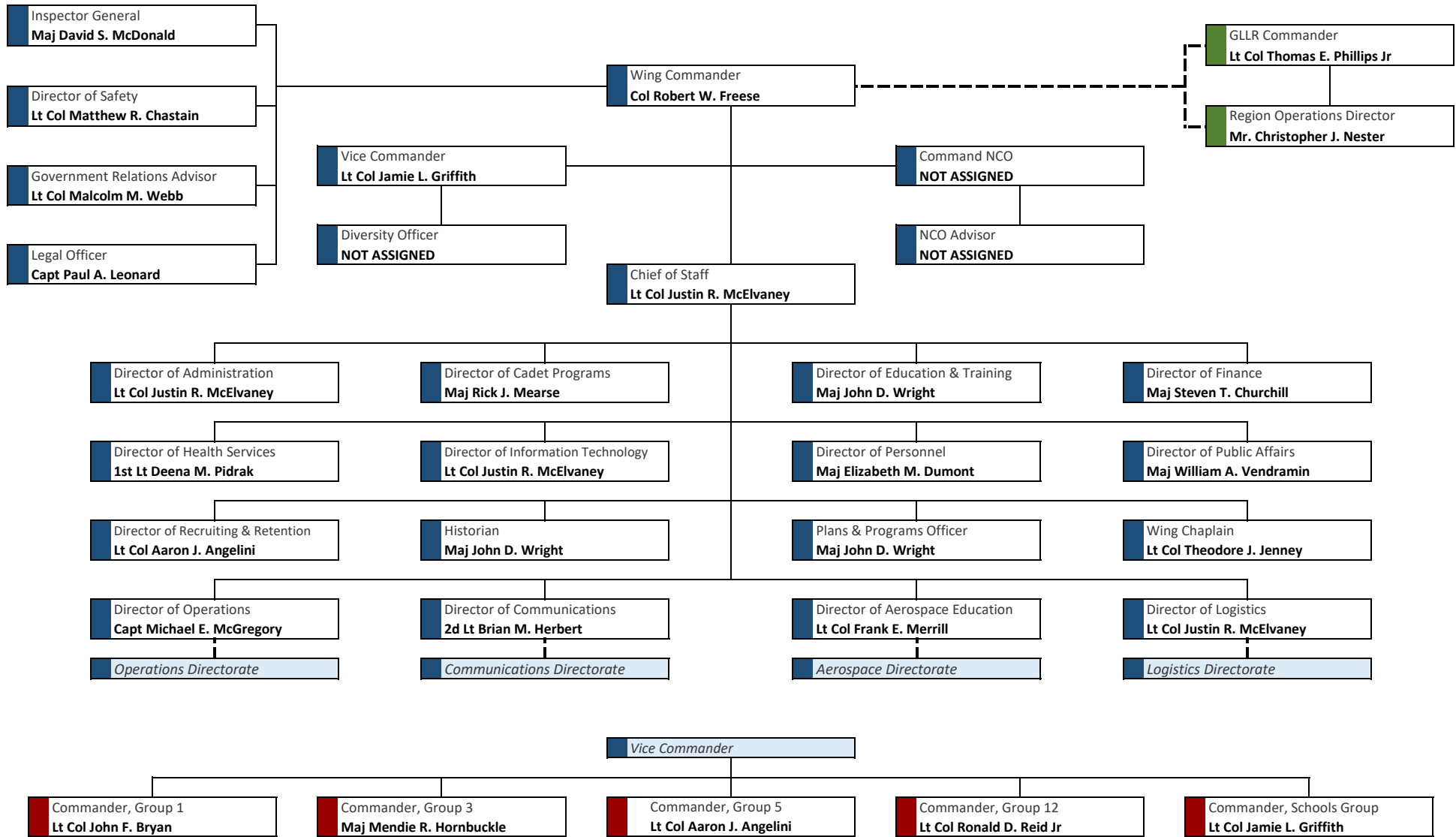
13 Cadets attended Legislative day.

Eagle Composite Sq, GLR-IN-206, was awarded the Squadron of Merit Award 15 Mar.

C/2nd LT Jordan Dyché was the 144th cadet to earn his pilot's certificate through the Cadet Wings Program on 30 Nov.

Indiana Wing held Summer Encampment at Camp Atterbury for the first time since 2019, following the cancellation of the 2020 encampment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 96 first time cadets were in attendance along with 13 advanced encampment participants under the supervision of 45 cadet and 27 senior staff members.

Indiana Wing Headquarters Organizational Chart

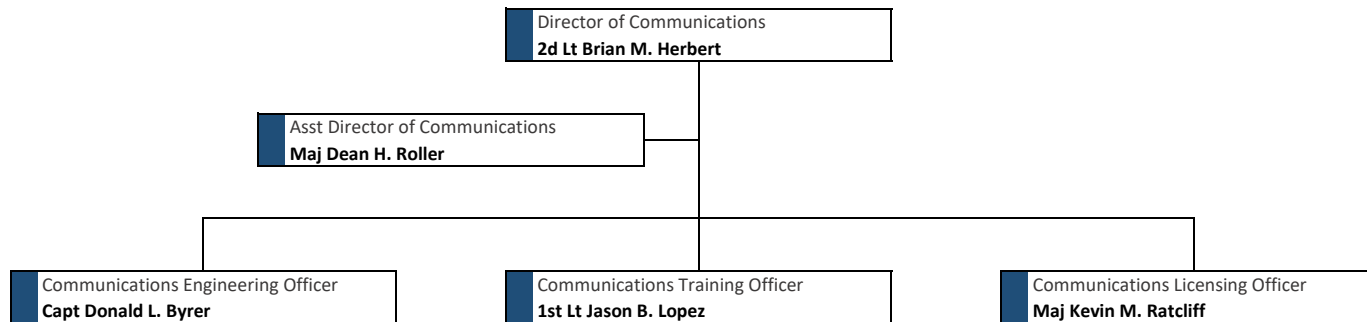


This chart is prepared in accordance with CAPR 30-1, *Organization of Civil Air Patrol*, 13 January 2020, Figure 5 - Wing Headquarters Organizational Chart

Communications Organizational Chart



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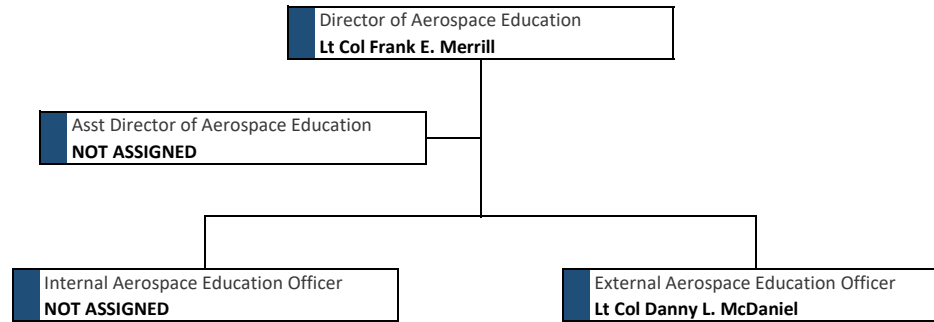


This chart is prepared in accordance with CAPR 30-1, *Organization of Civil Air Patrol*, 13 January 2020, Figure 6 - Wing Level [Communications]

Aerospace Education Organizational Chart



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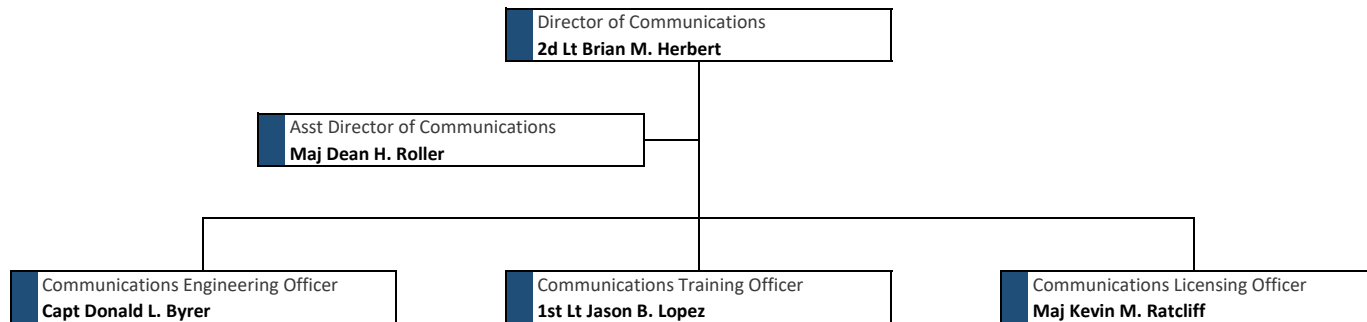


This chart is prepared in accordance with CAPR 30-1, *Organization of Civil Air Patrol*, 13 January 2020, Figure 6 - Wing Level [Aerospace Education]

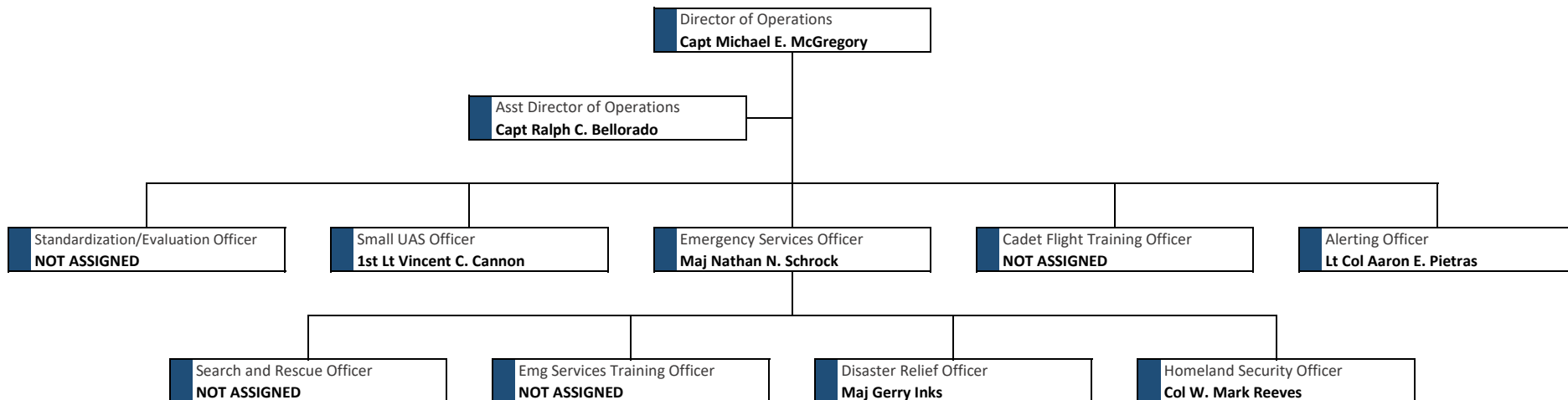
Communications Organizational Chart



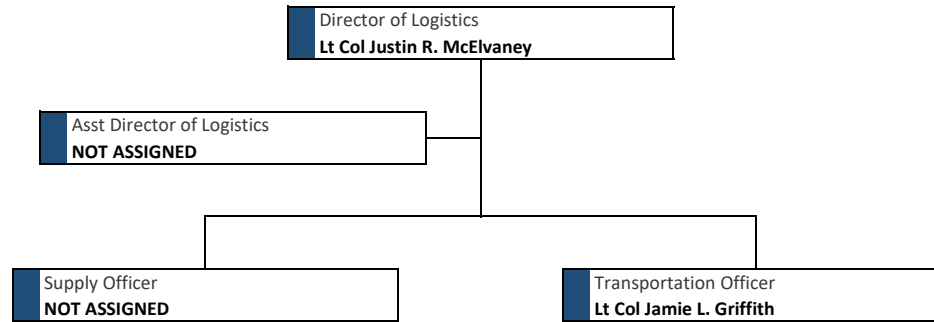
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This chart is prepared in accordance with CAPR 30-1, *Organization of Civil Air Patrol*, 13 January 2020, Figure 6 - Wing Level [Communications]



This chart is prepared in accordance with CAPR 30-1, *Organization of Civil Air Patrol*, 13 January 2020, Figure 6 - Wing Level [Operations]



This chart is prepared in accordance with CAPR 30-1, *Organization of Civil Air Patrol*, 13 January 2020, Figure 6 - Wing Level [Logistics]

Indiana Wing Map



APPENDIX III: Unit Staff - Data and Statistics

Logistics	Justin R. McElvaney	Lieutenant Colonel
Communications	Brian M. Herbert	2nd Lieutenant
Professional Development	John D. Wright	Major
Administration	Seth D. Hudson	Lieutenant Colonel
Personnel	Elizabeth M. Dumont	Major
Recruiting and Retention	Aaron J. Angelini	Lieutenant Colonel
Plans and Programs	John D. Wright	Major
Public Affairs	William A. Vendramin	Major
Information Technology	Justin R. McElvaney	Lieutenant Colonel
Finance	Steven T. Churchill	Major
Chaplain	Theodore J. Jenney	Lieutenant Colonel
Historian	John D. Wright	Major
Health Services	Deena M. Pidrak	1st Lieutenant
Inspector General	Divid S. McDonald	Major
Safety	Matthew R. Chastain	Lieutenant Colonel
Government Relations	Malcolm M. Webb	Lieutenant Colonel
Legal	Paul A. Leonard	Captain
Aerospace Education	Frank E. Merrill	Lieutenant Colonel
Cadet Programs	Rick J. Mearse	Major
Operations	Michael E. McGregory	Captain
Group 1 Commander	John F. Bryan	Lieutenant Colonel
Group 3 Commander	Mendie R. Hornbuckle	Major
Group 5 Commander	Aaron J. Angelini	Lieutenant Colonel
Group 12 Commander	Ronald D. Reid Jr	Lieutenant Colonel

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics

Logistics

Indiana Wing currently has 18 vehicles, 8 single engine aircraft, 3 drones and 1 balloon.

Communications

Indiana Wing has 15 VHF/FM repeaters, 117 VHF/FM stations, and 18 HF stations.

Quote provided by 2nd Lt Brian Herbert, Indiana Wing Director of Communications:

“2021 also saw the Wing order the first three ReadyOp devices for repeaters in the Indiana Wing. The new technology allows the repeaters to be connected to ReadyOp, a technology that allows users to communicate on the repeaters from anywhere in the world through a smartphone application or web-based interface. This technology will eventually come to all of the Wing's repeaters as host sites are secured. The Plymouth, West Lafayette, and Pendleton repeaters have host sites secured and the installation of the ReadyOp devices at those sites will be completed in early 2022. The Indiana Wing was represented in Grey Flag in 2022 with a team of communications competitors. The team placed second in the communications competition behind the Ohio Wing. Many lessons were learned which will help make the 2022 competition team even more effective.”

Professional Development

Due to Covid-19 restrictions many of the in-person events were cancelled or postponed. Indiana Wing has been steadily adding instructors to the rolls to assist with training needs as much of the professional development program has moved to on-line learning through Axis under the Education and Training Program.

Indiana Wing Members earned the following Professional Development Awards in 2021:

14 members earned the Benjamin Davis Award

3 members earned the Grover Loening Award

Paul Garber Award recipients:

Lt Col Thomas Myers

Maj Rick Mearse

Capt Michael Shultheis

Gill Robb Wilson Award recipients:

Lt Col Jamie Griffith

Lt Col Thomas Myers

Lt Col Theodore Jenney

Maj William Vendramin

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics (Continued)

Personnel

Several of our members were recognized for their efforts in 2020 and were presented awards:

Senior Member of the Year – Lt Col Brian Schmuck, Indiana Wing

AE Teacher of the Year Award – Mr. Patrick Carter, Indiana Wing

Air Force Association AE Cadet of the Year - C/2Lt Rylee Schmuck, Indiana Wing

Jack Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year – Lt Col Jamie Griffith, Indiana Wing

Air Force Sergeants Association Non-commissioned Cadet of the Year – C/CMSgt Aaron Wilfind, Indiana Wing

Col Robert "Bud" Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year – Maj William Vendramin, HQ Great Lakes Region

Indiana Wing members were saddened by the passing of Lt Col Samuel Conte on 28 May. He was a member since 1979 at Fort Wayne Composite Sq, GLR-IN-201.

Recruiting and Retention

Indiana Wing saw senior membership decreased -2.64% from 341 members to 332 members.

Cadet membership grew 23.45% from 449 members to 616 members.

Plans and Programs

Due to Covid 19 restrictions being re-imposed, many of the planned events were cancelled or postponed in 2021.

Public Affairs

The Indiana Wing Public Affairs has been instrumental in assisting with this year's history report, through their coverage of events around the wing this year. A big thank you to Maj William Vendramin and 1st Lt Vince Cannon.

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics (Continued)

Information Technology

Provided by 1st LT Jason Lopez, Indiana Wing Assistant IT:

“A successful first year of Zoho Support Desk to receive IT requests from members of the INWG. Since using a dedicated IT tracking system, we have processed and closed 215 tickets that range from user profile updates to larger issues related to website and Teams management.”

“Lt. Hartman has successfully completed INWG’s move from GSuite to the Office 365 distribution lists. His skill in automation has given the wing an increased ability to keep the distribution lists up-to-date based on logic checks against the user data and profiles.”

Chaplain

Provided by Chaplain Lt Col T.J. Jenny’s from his Chaplain report:

Thankful for a great group of Chaplains and CDI’s who continue to navigate the pandemic by adapting to new technologies and lead Character Development Lessons by Zoom and MS Teams, as well as in person. As expected, our cadets often adapted to the new technology and digital medium quicker than seniors.

Continue to support our Chaplains and CDI as they serve our cadet and senior airmen as well as grow in their own training and development. Our INWG chaplains have served over the past year in all ranges of missions including the Food Bank Missions and the nightly National SITREP’s for the CAP response to the pandemic as well as the Character Development lessons and moral and spiritual support of cadet and senior airmen.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to say that the Chaplain Corps is here to serve and support each and every cadet and airman. The pandemic continues to touch many of our senior and cadet airmen with illness as well as the loss of loved ones. Please know the members of the Chaplain Corps are here to listen, care and support as we face the challenges of life. For those who do not have a squadron or group chaplain, please feel free to call me any time. We appreciate your service, and we are here to serve those who serve.

Historian

This is the 2nd year now that Indiana Wing has submitted a history report, after many years of the position being vacant. Unfortunately, Indiana Wing currently does not have a facility that can be dedicated to collecting and storing artifacts. Many of the historical documents that have been located at Wing HQ have been scanned into Indiana Wing Share Point by Lt Col Justin McElvaney and Maj William Vendramin. A significant number of materials and artifacts are currently being held at the Indiana State Archives in Indianapolis.

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics (Continued)

Health Services

Indiana Wing continues to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We started out the year in Phase 1 of the Covid operation plan, and February Indiana Wing was given approval to move to Phase 2. Mid May, Indiana Wing moved to Phase 3 and members who were vaccinated were no longer required to wear masks. Indiana Wing continued to operate in Phase 3 until the end of 2021. However, due to a rise in Covid cases at the start of the 2021-2022 school year, many facilities began to limit group sizes for public gatherings depending on the local government's guidelines.

Inspector General

Indiana Wing Inspector General was able to work out a plan and implement it to more evenly space out unit inspections, helping to ease the burden on the IG staff. Prior to this plan, one year was very heavy with unit inspections while the other year was very sparse.

Government Relations

Indiana Wing was able to hold it's annual Legislative Day as planned.