

**HISTORY OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE WING**
Civil Air Patrol
Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021



Prepared By
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Reviewed By

Col. Darin Ninness, CAP
Wing Commander



**HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL NEW HAMPSHIRE WING**
United States Air Force Auxiliary
51 Airport Road Concord, NH 03301-5322



15 April 2022

MEMORADUM FOR: CAP NHQ/HO – Annual Histories Manager (Maj Jacobs)

FROM: NHWG/CC (Col Ninness)

SUBJECT: Approval of 2021 New Hampshire Wing History

1. I approve the publication and forwarding of the 2021 New Hampshire Wing History to NHQ.
2. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Wing History staff, 1st Lt Gary Wheaton, 1st Lt Tyler Lewandowski, Maj Janet Bloom, and Lt Col Paul Kelly, for compiling this year's wing history. Your hard work and coordination on this effort will serve New Hampshire Wing and Civil Air Patrol for future generations of members, commanders and historians.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ninness".

DARIN NINNESS, Col, CAP
Wing Commander

INTRODUCTION OF WING STAFF

Unit Commander	Darin L Ninness	Colonel
Vice Commander	Dominic (Nic) R Goupil	Lieutenant Colonel
Chief of Staff	Sandra J Riis	Lieutenant Colonel

Chapter I OPERATIONS

Search and Rescue:

In a letter authorizing the **CAP Crisis Service Ribbon**, CAP National Commander Major General Edward D Phelka stated, "Beginning in March 2020, the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) resulted in CAP's most noteworthy national service since [World War II](#). Regular operations continued while new missions were explored, millions of meals delivered to the needy, thousands of blood donations were made, and distribution of masks and vaccines were completed across the country. At a time when simply holding regular squadron meetings was challenging due to isolation restrictions, CAP members served the Nation and ensured CAP's continued operation. In recognition of this effort, I have approved the award of the CAP Crisis Service Ribbon to all active members who served at least one day after 1 March 2020 to a future point to be determined by CAP."

New Hampshire Wing (NHWG) again achieved near top of the nation status for flying hours per aircraft at over 200 hrs. per wing-assigned airplane, actually it was 204.2 hours per aircraft to be more precise; making NH #14 in the nation, northeast and mountain weather differences aside. This is our 11th consecutive year achieving these goals while we continue to place safety and operational capabilities first, as always. Our commitment will remain to exceed CAP's preferred goals of 200 quality hours per aircraft, per year. This achievement during Covid is again proof of the spirit and professionalism of our aircrew members and senior support staff.

NHWG had approximately 500 members at the start of the year, and is now down to about 490, not a significant drop off, but regardless of the membership numbers, the COVID19 pandemic has certainly had a dramatic impact on our members and their families for these last two years. During this period, the NH Wing has still held regular state wide search and rescue, emergency services and training events. Our wing has also continued to operate closely with CAP's Northeast Region leadership as part of a "Region Coordination Center", where CAP emergency operations for the nine-state region were coordinated from our headquarters in Concord New Hampshire. The wing also continues to provide the state with continuous airborne fire patrols and "Health of the Forests" flights during spring and summer. Wing pilots also participated in missions throughout the country. New Hampshire is also in the process of standing up a first class Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) operation with leading capabilities and team performance. This program is off to a strong start with several Part 107 qualified drone pilots and several more in the pipeline. Capt. Jay Ennis of NH-075 has agreed to serve as our sUAS Point of Contact. We look forward to developing a robust and excellent mission capable sUAS program going forward.

On November 28, 2021, members of the Wing, including Lt. Col Brian Riis and Lt. Col Sandy Riis were instrumental in a Wing-wide effort to assist the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) in locating an aircraft emergency locator transmitter (ELT). The mission kicked off with a call from Tyndall AFB, showing a search area that was essentially all of Southern New Hampshire, Southern Vermont and Southern Maine. Following some initial investigations with the manned airport towers in Southern NH, Lt Col Brian Riis, located the aircraft on the ramp at Concord Airport. The aircraft owner was contacted and 30 minutes later the ELT was turned off. AFRCC closed out the mission with a "Find".

Disaster Response:

NHWG as part of the Northeast Region's response to the covid virus pandemic has continued to participate in Air Force Assigned Missions (AFAMs) and supporting the State of New Hampshire in the fight against COVID pandemic. To date, NHWG has over two years of continuous operations and support mission activity since the 26th of March 2020 outbreak.

We continue to operate under the national Ops Plan for COVID-19 and other guidance issued by NHQ as our "rules of engagement." Our ground PPE delivery mission has clocked over 900 transport sorties, with over 40,000 boxes of PPE delivered to points of distribution around the state. We've delivered over a million and a half masks to healthcare professionals through this mission. All of this was accomplished with approximately 50 of our members driving over 100,000 miles in just 9 vehicles and 2 CAP trailers. This effort is a testament to the participants of this mission who have embraced the core values of volunteer service to our nation and state.

NHWG accepted numerous tasking requests from several state agencies including the EOC, DHHS and even the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security (NHES) in a task we weren't precisely trained for, but certainly willing to accept. Over 20 of our members also reported on-site to the hasty NHES phone centers to help their fellow residents get help. While our participation in this tasking was limited to a month or so, it did provide time for Employment Security to continue to ramp up its phone banks and bring in activated members of the New Hampshire National Guard for long-term phone support.

Homeland Security:

In 2020 we began flying an aerial photography mission to provide the State leadership with data for decision support. This mission continues, and to date, we have flown over 200 hours with over 30 participants (many as pilots and aerial photographers) flying over 50 sorties. This mission has provided over 20,000 photos to the Governor and his team with important information that kept New Hampshire "open" in many areas.

Counterdrug Operations:

The wing was not tasked with any counter drug activities in CY2021

Chapter II AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Internal Aerospace Education:

Our wing's aerospace and STEM education programs have broadened their reach in New Hampshire again in 2021, with more than 30 educators joining the ranks of Aerospace Education Members statewide. Our units are involved with various STEM Kit activities that include robotics, flight simulators, unmanned aerial systems and astronomy. Currently, cadets continue to participate in Rocket Competitions, Cyber Patriot competitions, Color Guard Competition, Emergency Services Ground Team Training, Wing level SAREX and TRAINEX events, NH Encampment and National Cadet Special Activities. Cadet participation in both powered aircraft and glider O-flights remains very strong, as well. In addition, there were also many local parades and veterans' activities in which our cadets enthusiastically participated in. We were also able to hold our rocket competition last year on Oct 9th.

Our senior member programs are equally active and robust. Senior members made great progress this year in most CAP specialty areas including: Administration, Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, Chaplain, Communications, Drug Demand Reduction, Emergency Services, Finance, Flight Operations, Historian, Information Technology, Inspections, Logistics, Moral Leadership, Operations, Personnel, Professional Development, Public Affairs, Recruiting and Retention, Safety School, Enrichment Program, Standardization/Evaluation. Senior members may also participate in all aspects of Emergency Services, filling the roles of Pilot, Mission Observer, Mission Scanner, Aerial Photographer, Ground Team Member or Mission Staff.

Many new senior members earned the Brigadier General Charles E "Chuck" Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award, raising the NHWG's overall total to over 400 recipients. By 31 December 2021, several members of the wing achieved the master rating in the AE specialty track; including senior ratings; technician ratings; and over 20 senior members were enrolled working towards the technician rating. The NHWG has over 30 aerospace education members (AEM), all teachers using CAP aerospace materials in their classrooms. Wing-wide, squadrons and groups reported 70 active aerospace education officers, and five squadrons are enrolled in the Aerospace Excellence (AEX) Program using the same curriculum materials as the AEMs.

External Aerospace Education:

Colonel Bryan Cooper, Asst. Deputy Chief of Staff for Aerospace Education at [Northeast Region, Civil Air Patrol](#) and his wife, Lt Col Cooper, brought their "Aerospace Education Tech Rating in a Day" course to both the New Hampshire and Massachusetts Wing Civil Air Patrol members.

Chapter III CADET PROGRAMS

Cadet Programs:

NHWG entered 2021 in Phase One of the COVID protocols, so very few in-person meetings were held. During the months of January through March, Senior members met virtually at least once per month and most squadrons maintained weekly meetings. Cadets held weekly meetings virtually on Thursdays. For those who could attend the weekend ES training missions, those missions began on Feb 4, 2021, and continued monthly throughout 2021. Our first in-person squadron activity was on Saturday, March 20, 2021, where Seniors helped in-process new cadets who were recruited via the virtual open house on March 2, 2021.

While COVID19 brought a temporary end to in-person meetings, it did not stop the work of this wing. The State of New Hampshire continued to call upon CAP to help with the distribution of PPE. Every morning at 7:30 AM, four drivers from around the state met at Wing headquarters, inspected their vehicles, and left to pick up PPE from a central distribution point. Many other CAP members worked behind the scenes, creating missions, logging paperwork, acting as mission staff daily and maintaining the vehicles. Members from all squadrons have participated, sometimes in excess of 50 "missions". Wing C.O.S. Lt. Col. Sandy Riis ran this program and was responsible for this effort running smoothly, and successfully. As of March 1, 2021, the one-year anniversary of the COVID19 effort by the NH Wing, the numbers were impressive.

This work ended in April 21, 2021 with 56 weeks of outstanding work performed in our communities. After the pandemic response ended, regular meetings resumed, with cadets once again working on drill, character development, aerospace and emergency services activities. Seniors also began to execute monthly TRAINEX and SAREX missions at the Wing level. We had to move from Covid Phase II to Phase III and back again but still made significant progress in most Squadrons. We expect more and regular activities to become available with more realistic and flexible scheduling for 2022 based on our lessons from 2021.

In the fall, the squadron was in full swing. Regular meetings were being held, and monthly TRAINEX and SAREX exercises continued. October was a very busy month for our wing, with the Rocket Competition on October 9th, Fall open house events, and the Fire Academy Training on October 28th. The last event for 2021 was on December 18, where the wing participated in the Wreaths Across America Program. A significant number of cadets participated as wreaths were laid at Blossom Hill Cemetery.

Cadet Phoebe Ross from New Hampshire Wing became the 115th cadet to earn her Private Pilot Certificate via Cadet Wings through Tradewinds Flight Services (Liberty FTA)'s Commercial In-Residence Flight Program in North Carolina.



Annual Rocket Competition

Cadet Activities in 2021:

- February 18- Safety Down Day
- July 22-Encampment
- July 22-NCOLS
- Virtual National Conference (August 12-14)
- Wing conference (Sept 18)
- October 9-Rocket Competition
- October 14-Open House
- Oct 28- Fire Academy Training
- Nov 20- Concord Christmas Parade
- Dec 18- Wreaths Across America

We had a great turnout for NHWG cadet Encampment last summer and trained 48 seniors and cadets for the Wing Encampment Staff and the AE instituted several NHWG awards to give membership more recognition; modeled on the regional and national awards.

NHWG cadet Encampment in 2021 had the following stats:

87 Encampment Students

8 NCOLS Students

24 Cadet Staff

10 O Flight personnel

24 Senior Staff
Total = 153 Seniors and Cadets

Drug Demand Reduction:

This activity in the NHWG is usually focused at the Squadron level with one major program at the annual wing conference. We did not offer this program at the wing level in 2021 due to an abbreviated conference as a result of Covid.

APPENDIX I: Core Mission Data and Statistics

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Operations:

FLYING HOURS				
Description	Previous Year	Current Year	Difference %	
Training	392.5	464.4	18.30%	
Cadet Orientation	41.7	24.4	-41.50%	
Total AFAM Flying	531.8	568.7	6.90%	
Corporate Flying	47	9	-80.90%	
Grand Total Flying	645.2	600	-7.00%	

FLYING HOURS:

40 hours of fire patrol flying in addition to the aerial photography hours
Combined, New Hampshire Wing finished out the year with over 654 total hours of all mission types.

Volunteer Members

Adult members – 340 in 2020, dropped to about 305 by 2021 year end

Cadets - 290 dropped to about 199 by year end

80+ aircrew personnel

360 ES qualified emergency responders

Squadrons

9 locations statewide

Aircraft

7 Total single engine A/C; +1 one that floats to NE Region for glider support

Vehicles, 14 (vans, trucks, cars)

Interoperable Communications – Close Estimate

Repeaters = 5 fixed, 2 portables

HF stations - 7 active sites (member and HQ)

VHF Stations - VHF Portables - 30, Base Stations/Vans - 30

Missions

1 disaster relief mission
6 other Air Force support missions
30 training missions
2 other state support missions
2 other missions in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2021

Wildland Fire Patrols
Covid Support

Total Hours Flown

645.2

Financial

\$62,000 in state funding
\$2,070,551 value of wing's volunteer hours

Senior Awards:

Lt. Col. Sandy Riis: Incident Commander of the Year
Lt. Col. Brian Riis: Communications Officer of the Year
Capt. Michael Rizzi- Air Crew Member of the Year
Captain Cooper- Safety Officer of the Year
Lt. Col. Anna Hullinger- Professional Development Officer of the Year

New Hampshire also has a new Wing emblem and patch. The new emblem (on page one of this report) is placed upon a heater-shaped shield, proper to wings and higher echelons in both Civil Air Patrol and the United States Air Force. The nine stars represent New Hampshire's place as the ninth state of the Union. The blue field stands for our parent service, the United States Air Force, and the blue skies above the Granite State. The outline of the Old Man of the Mountain is emblematic of New Hampshire's iconic White Mountain cliff face, appearing in many places, including state highway signs, license plates, the state emblem, and on our Statehood quarter. The chevron with trail represents Civil Air Patrol's aerospace, aviation leadership, heritage, and always "shooting for the stars."

There have been 5 wing-level promotions (Captain & Major) and 1 region-level promotion to Lt Col Nick Orgettas.

A sad event which must be mentioned here is that we lost a beloved member of Civil Air Patrol on May 28, 2021 when Col. Don Davidson passed away. Don was a former Wing Commander, serving from 2006-2010. He was instrumental in creating the annual SAREX weekend at Whitefield, NH, for ES exercises, and was always a motivated and welcoming presence to new members.

APPENDIX III: Unit Staff - Data and Statistics

Unit Command and Staff Listing:

Wing Commander	Darin L Ninness	Colonel
Vice Wing Commander	Dominic (Nic) R Goupil	Lieutenant Colonel
Chief of Staff	Sandra J Riis	Lieutenant Colonel
Logistics	Marc R Cray	Captain
Communications	Brian E Riis	Lieutenant Colonel
Professional Development	Darlene A Cray	Major
Director of Operations	Bruce J Determann	Lieutenant Colonel
Personnel	Dana E Hysten	Major
Recruiting and Retention	Benjamin C Rossi	Captain
Director of Aerospace Education	Julie S Panus	Captain
Public Affairs	Penny H Hardy	Major
Information Technology	Marshall E Giguere	Major
Director of Finance	Kevin E Staveley	Major
Chaplain	Gary L Atkins	Major
Historian	Gary W Wheaton	1st Lieutenant
Health Services	Tovy H Kamine	Major
Inspector General	Amrishi A Chicooree	Captain
Safety	Marc R Cray	Captain
Government Relations	Bruce J Determann	Colonel
Legal	Elliott L Korona	Lieutenant Colonel
Advisor to the Commander	William J Moran	Colonel
Diversity Officer	Anna M Hullinger	Lieutenant Colonel
Director of Emergency Services	William J Moran	Colonel
Standardization/Evaluation	Kenneth T Peperissa	Lieutenant Colonel

Unit Map

