

HISTORY OF
HEADQUARTERS RHODE ISLAND WING
Civil Air Patrol
Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

1 January, 2021 through 31 December, 2021



Prepared By
Richard Hill, Colonel, CAP
Wing Historian

Reviewed By
Wing Commander
Philip G. Hirons Jr., Colonel, CAP

REGION COMMANDER APPROVAL
Everett Hume, Colonel CAP
Northeast Region Commander



**HEADQUARTERS RHODE ISLAND WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
19 Foster Road
Cranston, RI**



April 15, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR CAP/HO

FROM: RIWG/CC

SUBJECT: Rhode Island Wing History Report – 2021

Having reviewed the attached Rhode Island Wing Historical Report for Calendar Year 2021 that was drafted and submitted by Rhode Island Wing's Historian Officer, I approve with my endorsement for submission to CAP's National Historical Archives.

//signed//
PHILIP G. HIRONS Jr., Colonel, CAP
Commander

The Rhode Island Wing is comprised of a Headquarters unit and 4 Squadrons located strategically throughout the State. The Rhode Island Wing Headquarters is located at the 19 Foster Road, Cranston, and is under the command of Col Philip G. Hiron, Jr.

In addition to carrying out Civil Air Patrol's all-important programs of aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency response, the Rhode Island Wing is continually exploring new and innovative ways to service its communities, state, and nation.

During the summer the wing, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Rhode Island, began research and calibration efforts of critical and specialized equipment used to track endangered wildlife at and around the nation's wind farms.

This project will go a long way in aiding efforts in minimizing and mitigating possible long-lasting and far-reaching wind turbine effects on wildlife. The research and the data collected will also assist agencies at both the state and federal levels and should prove to be crucial in helping to formulate rules, regulations, policies, and procedures protecting wildlife while pursuing and developing renewable energy across the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the Rhode Island Wing during the 2021 calendar year halting in person training, meetings, and events beginning in mid-March. Rhode Island Squadrons and Wing Headquarters was able to quickly adapt to online - virtual - meetings and continued pressing forward with training. Of significance was the monthly Wing Commander's Briefs open to all members, which served to build camaraderie and foster open discussions keeping all participating members and squadrons well informed.

Rhode Island Wing displayed great resiliency throughout the year adapting to challenges the pandemic presented with innovative solutions. Many unsung heroes pushed the wing forward.

INTRODUCTION OF WING STAFF

Wing Commander	Philip G. Hiron, Jr.	Colonel
Vice Wing Commander	Donna Finch	Major
Chief of Staff	Donovan Smith	Major
Director of Safety	Mark Garland	SM
Inspector General	Susan Schindler	Lt Colonel

Chapter I OPERATIONS

Operations

Director of Operations	Robert Lisi	Lt Colonel
Director of Emergency Services	Richard Courtney	Lt Colonel

During the summer the wing, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Rhode Island, began research and calibration efforts of critical and specialized equipment used to track endangered wildlife at and around the nation's wind farms. The program is expected to continue well into this summer and fall.

The Rhode Island Wing played a vital role in these calibration surveys by conducting extensive systematic transects with a transmitter attached to the wing of their aircraft. This collaboration between biologists at the University of Rhode Island, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and CAP represents a unique approach to solving a complex problem. Analysis of the data collected during those surveys is ongoing, but initial results suggest this mission was highly successful and will lead to strong insights into using these cutting-edge transmitters to track birds near offshore turbines.

The research and the data collected will also assist agencies at both the state and federal levels and should prove to be crucial in helping to formulate rules, regulations, policies, and procedures protecting wildlife while pursuing and developing renewable energy across the country.

Additional RIWG accomplishments for the calendar year 2021 are as follows.

- 1 search and rescue mission
- 1 find* * Includes find credited with national team support
- 2 CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Air Force JROTC cadet orientation flight missions
- 2 other Air Force support missions
- 11 training missions
- 1 other mission in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

Emergency Services

Director of Emergency Services:	Richard Courtney	Lt. Colonel
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Rhode Island Wing members are always training, like the time they were hard at work in Quonset and Westerly honing their skills in mission-critical communications capabilities. The exercise included aircrew flying out a communications team and equipment to a remote location to set up emergency communications apparatus, evaluating the Wing's ability to provide disaster response. Further demonstrating RI Wing's commitment to standing ready to support their communities, states, and nation.

Disaster Response

There were no natural disasters that occurred during 2021. However, Rhode Island Wing did participate in the NER Area Command Exercise. In addition, Rhode Island Wing members continued to aid local communities in many ways as a response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.

Member's ability to help is rooted in the Emergency Services training our members receive. Civil Air Patrol Airmen used skills normally utilized for search and rescue or disaster relief to support our community during this challenging time. In doing so, our relationship within Rhode Island has strengthened and we are seen as a viable and important partner.

Homeland Security

No report during this calendar year.

Counterdrug Operations

No report during this calendar year.

Chapter II AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Internal Aerospace Education

Director of Aerospace Education:
No report during the calendar year.

Paul Ault

Lt. Colonel

External Aerospace Education

No report during this calendar year

Chapter III CADET PROGRAMS

Cadet Programs

Director of Cadet Programs: Karen Cooper Lt. Colonel

In 2021, the Rhode Island Wing congratulated C/Capt Nicolas Williams of West Bay Composite Squadron who earned a \$1,000 Civil Air Patrol flight scholarship. C/Capt Williams currently is attending Community College of Rhode Island and is currently training for his private pilot's license.

2021 Quality Cadet Unit Award

- NER-RI-034 – West Bay Composite Squadron
- The RI Wing Encampment was held in August 2021. 44 Cadets attended their first encampment.
- In 2021, Major David DeMello earned his Senior Rating in Cadet Programs and 2LT Michele Johnfroe earned her Technician Rating in Cadet Programs.
- In 2021, 22 cadets joined the RIWG.
- As of 31 December 2021, there were approximately 61 cadets in the wing.
- As of 31 December 2021, approximately 13 cadets had their first powered orientation ride. A total of 29 orientation flights were taken in 2021.

Cadet Activities

In August, Rhode Island Wing conducted the 2021 Summer Encampment. The cadets had the opportunity to visit with the Rhode Island National Guard at Camp Fogarty. While on-site the cadets were able to participate in the Firearms Training Simulator and the rollover simulator.

While visiting the 143d Airlift Wing, Cadets were able to tour the new fire department and related career fields!

Brig. Gen. Kimberly Baumann, Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Rhode Island National Guard, visited the encampment at Camp Varnum this week. Her visit included an informative presentation on the leadership concept.

Throughout the year Rhode Island Wing squadrons participated in numerous community events including annual Earth Day activities, Veterans and Memorial Day parades.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, whose mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach, cadets and seniors across Rhode Island Wing conducted wreath-laying ceremonies around the State.

Drug Demand Reduction

No report during this calendar year.

APPENDIX II: Unit Staff - Data and Statistics

Wing Organization Chart

Chief of Staff	Donovan Smith	Major
Chaplain	John Amaral	Ch. (Major)
Director of Cadet Programs	Karen Cooper	Lt Colonel
Director of Emergency Services	Richard Courtney	Lt Colonel
Director of Administration	Brian Cooper	Colonel
Director of Personnel	Brian Cooper	Colonel
Director of Finance	Donna Finch	Major
Director of Safety	Mark Garland	SM
Director of Communications	Charles Sutton	1 st Lieutenant
Director of Education & Training	Paula Cardillo	Ch. (Captain)
Director of Operations	Robert Lisi	Lt Colonel
Public Affairs Officer	Brian Smith	Lt Colonel
Director of Logistics	Donovan Smith	Major
Transportation Officer	David DeMello	Major
Maintenance Officer	Eileen Rapose	Lt Colonel
Director of Recruiting & Retention	Open	
Government Relations		
Inspector General	Susan Schindler	Lt Colonel
Diversity Officer	Open	
Director of Information Technology	Michael Miller	2 nd Lieutenant
Wing Webmaster	Michael Miller	2 nd Lieutenant
Legal Officer	Dennis R. Gannon	Lt Colonel
CISM Officer	Robert Gianopolous	Captain
Wing Historian	Richard Hill	Colonel

Unit Command and Staff Listing

Wing Map



APPENDIX III: Unit Staff - Data and Statistics

Logistics

Director of Logistics	Donovan Smith	Major
Transportation Officer	David DeMello	Major
Maintenance Officer	Eileen Rapose	Lt Colonel

In 2021, Rhode Island Wing successfully passed the NER/CAP-USAF LG Audit. RIWG also successfully completed the annual inventory with zero Report of Surveys by the required 2021 deadline provided by NER.

Communications

Director of Communications	Charles Sutton	1 st Lt
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The mission of the Rhode Island Wing (CAP) Communications Program is to meet the validated communications requirements of internal and external customers.

The primary purpose of CAP communications is to provide internal communications capabilities; to provide commanders with the means to conduct the missions of CAP both during normal conditions and when commercial infrastructure is unavailable or unsuitable.

The CAP communications system provides a continuity of operations capability when commercial infrastructure fails, such as allowing commanders, at each echelon, the ability to communicate with superior and subordinate commanders. In addition, the CAP communications system may also provide third-party support to "customer" agencies where it does not conflict with the primary purpose.

Current MAWG communications consists of (3) VHF/FM repeaters, (50) VHF/FM radio stations and (13) High-Frequency (HF) radio stations.

Training and Education

The CAP Senior Member Education and Training Program prepares members to serve their units, their communities, and their nation. No further report during this calendar year.

Administration

Director of Administration:	Brian Cooper	Colonel
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Administrative duties have been the primary responsibilities of the local commanders.

Personnel

Director of Personnel:	Brian Cooper	Colonel
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No Report during this calendar time

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics (Continued)

Recruiting and Retention

Director of Recruitment & Retention: Vacant
No report available this calendar year.

Plans and Programs

Director of Plans & Programs Vacant
No report available this calendar year.

Public Affairs

Public Affairs Officer Brian Smith Lt Colonel

The Public Affairs office is the custodian of the good name and image of the Civil Air Patrol and is charged with presenting the Civil Air Patrol to the public under its most favorable light.

Public Affairs is the most important function within Civil Air Patrol: "No area of CAP activity is more vital to the success of the organization than the public affairs function." -- Old Guide to Civil Air Patrol Public Affairs, Volume I

Information Technology

Director of IT: Michael Miller 2nd Lt.
No report available this calendar year.

Financial Statement

Director of Finance: Donna Finch Major
For 2021, the Rhode Island Wing's volunteer hours equaled \$607,033.00 in value.

Chaplain

Wing Chaplain John Amaral Ch. (Major)
No report this calendar year.

Historian

Wing Historian Richard Hill Colonel
Rhode Island Wing continued to support the annual history program in 2021.

Health Services

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the Rhode Island Wing during the 2021 calendar year halting in person training, meetings, and events beginning in mid-March. RIWG Squadrons, along with Wing Headquarters were able to quickly adapt to online - virtual - meetings and continued pressing forward with training.

APPENDIX III: Unit Data & Statistics (Continued)

Inspector General

The Inspector General position for Rhode Island Wing serves as a key role growing concern about governance, compliance, and transparency. Solid organizations are built on trust. The RIWG/IG program is built on the trust of its members and the expectations of the US Air Force, as conveyed by CAP-USAF. To assure that trust is well placed, the IG program provides an avenue for complaint resolution and a process for inspections that assures compliance with the standards the organization sets for itself as defined in the CAP Constitution and Bylaws, regulations, the Cooperative Agreement (CA) and Statement of Objectives (SOO) with the Air Force.

The IG team visits squadrons on a regular basis and are subject matter experts, providing support and resources during Compliance Inspections (CI) and Subordinate Unit Inspection (SUI) or other validation surveys to the wing.

Safety

Director of Safety

Mark Garland

Senior Member

Rhode Island Wing Safety Officer conducted monthly safety briefings during the 2021 calendar year. The Wing met its annual safety training requirements.

Government Relations

Government Relations Officer

Robert M. Gubala II

Lt Colonel

The Rhode Island Legislative Squadron is comprised of current legislators from the Rhode Island General Assembly. Membership in the Legislative Squadron is open to all members of the legislature, their staffs, and Rhode Island General Officers.

Colonel Will Stanahan, Rhode Island Wing Commander, announced the appointment of RI State Representative Julie Casimiro to the position of Squadron Commander for the Wing's Legislative Squadron. Rep. Casimiro is also being promoted to the honorary grade of Lieutenant Colonel.

In September, Legislative Member, and Rhode Island State Representative, Michael Chippendale, visited with the RIWG Operations Department. Rep Chippendale had the opportunity to see, first-hand, the work of Civil Air Patrol!