



BIOGRAPHY

Retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Bernie Skoch

Retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Bernie Skoch serves as a member of the Civil Air Patrol Board of Governors.

As CAP's top governing body, the 11-member board consists of four U.S. Air Force appointees, three members appointed jointly by the secretary of the Air Force and CAP's national commander/CEO, and four members-at-large selected by CAP's Senior Advisory Group. The board moves CAP forward through collective decision-making to generate strategic policies, plans, and programs designed to guide it both today and tomorrow. It is assisted by CAP's national commander/CEO, the organization's chief operating officer and the CAP-U.S. Air Force (CAP-USAF) commander, who act as advisers.



Since his retirement from the Air Force in 2004, Skoch has been a consultant in the cyber security and other technology areas. He has been the aerospace education adviser to the Air and Space Forces Association since June 2021 after serving as the first national commissioner of CyberPatriot, the association's national youth cyber security competition, from July 2010-May 2021.

As aerospace education adviser, Skoch assists in the planning and implementation of the AFA's flagship STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education programs, CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers, and AFA's national high school space challenge. He provides leadership and support for program development. In this role, Skoch helps further student interest in STEM-related studies as well as increase awareness of cybersecurity threats.

Skoch graduated from the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and was then commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force. His 29-year Air Force career took him throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and the Middle East on permanent and temporary duty, and multiple Pentagon assignments, including three on the Air Staff and an extended Joint Staff tour.

He has more than 20 years of experience in leadership positions developing, managing and implementing communications and information systems for the Air Force as well as the Defense Information Systems Agency. At DISA he served as the principal director for customer advocacy, as commander of the Joint Interoperability Organization, and as the principal director for network services.

Within the Air Force, he served as director of mission systems, director of communications operations, and director of chief information officer support, where he was responsible for aligning information technology systems with business process improvements. He has developed policies for global telephone, video, radio, voice, data, and satellite systems.

He and his wife of 49 years, Debbie, met in the ninth grade as CAP cadets. They have six children and 21 grandchildren, all residing in Northwest Arkansas.

