

## **Cadet of the Year**

### **Cadet Colonel Jackson B. Baker**

*David Lee Hill Composite Squadron*

*Texas Wing*

Cadet Jackson Baker joined Civil Air Patrol in 2014. He quickly progressed through the Cadet Program earning the prestigious Carl A. Spaatz Award in April 2019. Throughout his membership, he has earned 13 emergency service qualifications, received an Air Force Association flight scholarship, attended four National Cadet Special Activities, served on the National Cadet Advisory Council, made a presentation to the Board of Governors, and attended three National Legislative Days as a Texas Wing representative to Congress.



He served as Cadet Commander and Senior Project Officer for the Cadet Drill Instruction Academy in San Antonio. As Senior Project Officer, he was responsible for billeting, the dining facility, bus transportation, coordinating for building reservations, scheduling tours, and planning with military personnel to provide Cadets with instruction from active-duty personnel.

Cadet Baker helped build relationships with multiple groups at Joint Base San Antonio, which exposed Cadets to the Airman Leadership School, military training instructors, emergency service working dogs, the Randolph physiology lab, the POW museum, and the firing range on Camp Bullis. His efforts also helped make the 2019 summer encampment a success.

In addition to working with military personnel at Joint Base San Antonio, Cadet Baker was the Commandant of the Cadet Training Education Program. He was able to assist CAP Cadets and Senior Members with training materials during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also has totaled more than 80 volunteer hours with FEMA as well as working as a storm spotter for the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

He graduated from high school with a 4.0 grade point average and will graduate from Thomas Edison State University in 2022 with a degree in Computer Science.

## Senior Member of the Year

### Colonel Brian W. Schmuck

#### *Kentucky Wing*

Col Brian W. Schmuck originally joined Civil Air Patrol as a cadet in 1995 in Indian Wing, earning the Amelia Earhart Award prior to converting to senior member status in 1999. He has held a variety of duty assignments at the squadron, group, wing, and region levels most recently culminating in his selection as the Kentucky Wing Commander. Col Schmuck holds the three master ratings, two senior ratings, a host of Emergency Services qualifications including Incident Commander 1, and has completed Level V of the Senior Member Education and Training program.



During the past year he is led Indiana Wing through the COVID-19 pandemic as the focal point for the planning task force. As incident commander, he served over 60 continuous days leading the response mission that ultimately provided more than 1.5 million meals to residents, requiring more than 3,000 miles driven, over 100 members participating, more than 7,000 volunteer hours, and saving the state nearly \$250 million. Indiana Wing was recognized for its efforts through articles in the *Air Force Magazine* and other national media outlets, including CAP.News and the *Civil Air Patrol Volunteer*.

Chairman of the COVID-19 remobilization team, Col Schmuck developed relationships with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, and Indiana Army National Guard resulting in CAP being considered a resource for response efforts and recognized by the Indiana National Guard by inclusion on a commemorative coin.

Through the Aerospace Connections in Education program, Col Schmuck built on the relationship with the local Air Force Association (AFA) chapter to develop a program in collaboration with the Thrive Afterschool Program, awarded the 2020 CAP National ACE Collaborative Program of Light Award. He also crafted CAP's Adopt-a-Classroom program and serves as its national ambassador.

Serving as the Chief of Staff for Missions of Indiana Wing, he oversaw the Cadet Programs directorate and served as Commandant of Cadets for over 20 cadets at the only U.S. encampment during the pandemic.

He revived the Indiana Wing Cadet Advisory Council by serving as its senior advisor; the Wing CAC resumed regular business as a result.

Col Schmuck connected aerospace and STEM professionals to CAP Cadets through YouTube interviews, and in September 2020, was a co-presenter at the CAP virtual National Conference.

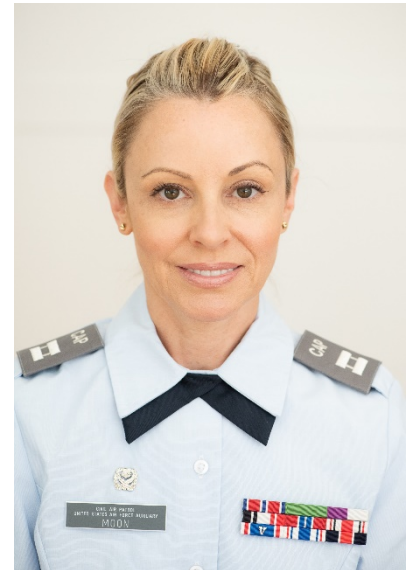
**Squadron of Distinction/F. Ward Reilly Leadership Award**  
**Captain Jennifer C. Moon, Squadron Commander**  
*Westchester Cadet Squadron 1*  
*New York Wing*



Westchester Cadet Squadron 1, based near New York City, exceeded expectations with key initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic. Collaborating with a nonprofit, the Squadron held a grant competition for aviation and aviation careers, space and space careers, and sUAS engineering and flying. Seven Cadets received Air Cadet grants, four received Space Cadet grants and two received UAS Cadet grants.

The Squadron conducted a two-day AEX program using the General Aviation Manufacturer's Association flight simulator aerodynamics training program. Cadets also participated in significant sUAS operations and training activities, and Space Program Cadets built a balloon that circumnavigated the globe almost twice at speeds up to 150 mph.

The Squadron also sponsored Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) Basic and Intermediate courses for the New York Wing's Southeastern Group. A few officers participated in a Northeast Region TLC weekend, and several officers were students or instructors in the first virtually led TLC in the New York Wing, made available to wings nationwide.



The Squadron held Zoom meetings and video presentations; put Cadet Program activities online, made and donated cloth masks and filters and assisted at COVID-19 vaccine distribution centers. Field trips were structured differently; Squadron alumni visited Cadets; and many members attended the Virtual National Conference.

In early 2020 the squadron totally reorganized the squadron flight structure to ensure every cadet was receiving the proper training and experiences. All Airmen were grouped in a single flight to provide Airman Training School curriculum, NCOs were in a flight to provide NCO leadership School curriculum, and all Phase III officers were assigned training duties with the Airman and NCO schools. The Phase IV cadets managed the concurrent operation of the Airman Training and NCO leadership schools. This cohort model resulted in highly motivated cadets who excelled in their studies and had everyone operating on the same 56-day promotion schedule.

As the Commander of the Squadron of Distinction selected for recognition at the National Conference, Captain Jennifer C. Moon receives the F. Ward Reilly Leadership Award. Captain Moon began serving as commander in February 2019. She holds specialty track ratings in Personnel, Cadet Programs and Administration and has completed Level III of the Senior Member Education and Training program.

## **Air Force Sergeants Association**

### **Cadet NCO of the Year**

**Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Hunter C. Mamawal**

*Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron*

*New Mexico Wing*

Cadet Chief Master Sgt Hunter Mamawal went above and beyond to distinguish himself as a model cadet during 2020. He served as the Squadron Flight Commander, overseeing 22 Cadets. Not only did he participate in all aspects of CAP activities, but he also willingly took on extra responsibility and leadership roles and conducted professional communication with Senior Members, all with a can-do attitude to help and inspire fellow Cadets.



When Cadet Mamawal took on the role of the Airmen Leadership Instructor and Cadet Assistant to the Commander, he advocated for Cadet advancement through education and training. He worked diligently to earn promotions and personally recruited three Cadets into the Squadron. Outside the Squadron, he exemplified the core value of Service before Self by volunteering his time for numerous community service events, like voter registration. He also excels in the core value of Excellence in All We Do by achieving a 3.86 GPA in high school while dual enrolled completing some 35 college credit hours and competing as a competitive gymnast. He is currently beginning his freshman year at the United States Military Academy.

## **Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year**

### **Patrick D. Carter**

*Indiana Wing*

Mr Patrick Carter has distinguished himself by the exceptional use of aerospace education to enrich the teaching of traditional science at New Tech Institute in Evansville, Indiana. He has taught physics, advanced physics, honors physics, and principals of engineering at New Tech Institute since August 2011.



Carter led students in the development of a wind tube for simulating flight, in collaboration with the Evansville Museum of Art, History and Science. The project became a permanent exhibit that will enable museum guests to learn about the effects of wind on objects in flight. He also led a project to build a 1/3 scale model of a P-47 Thunderbolt, donated to the Evansville Wartime Memorial. During World War II, Republic Aviation in Evansville built the P-47 Thunderbolt. The students learned about aircraft control surfaces and even molded sheet metal into proper form in the school lab. To further enrich his lessons, he brought in a former P-47 pilot to talk to students.

Carter, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education, also has extensive involvement in with the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center at the University of Southern Indiana. He champions student participation in science fairs and his students have won the Tri -State and Hoosier State Science Fairs, and one student placed fourth in the world of Engineering at the International Science Fair.

Mr Carter is the recipient of the 2020 Indiana Air Force Association Teacher of the Year Award, 2020 P-47 Memorial Chapter (141) Teacher of the Year, and 2019 Alcoa Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award. He originally became a Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education member in 2016.

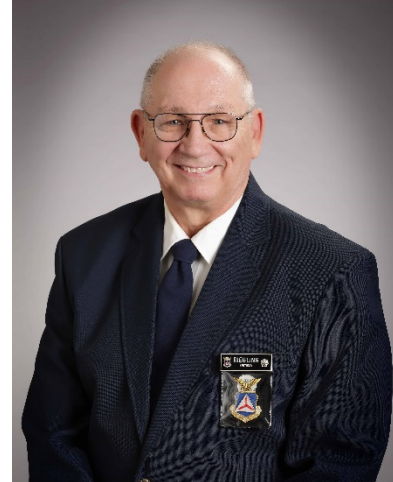


**Director of Finance of the Year**

**Lieutenant Colonel Anthony E. Riegling**

*Kentucky Wing*

Lt Col Anthony Riegling assumed the position of Director of Finance in 2016 after having served in the Finance position at the unit level. Persistently taking on numerous challenges without formal training or guidance, he worked hard to make the program successful. To start, he created a budget-tracking process to enable Wing staff and subordinate units to view their actual spending versus budget activities. This allowed for movement of funding as the fiscal year progresses from areas of surplus to funding needs.



Lt Col Riegling also amended existing Wing Banker forms and authored more than 10 new financial forms. The deposit and check forms were modified to be more specific, and the new forms created formalized processes and could track and document requests. The forms could also track credit card requests, purchase reports, fundraising requests, reimbursement requests, and travel requests and expenses. Lt Col Riegling also developed a forward-thinking process for pilots to pay for self-funded proficiency flying after completion of sorties.

**Paul W. Turner Safety Officer of the Year**  
**Lieutenant Colonel Christian J. Felton**  
*Great Lakes Region*

As the Great Lakes Region Director of Safety, Lt Col Christian Felton fosters a primary emphasis on safety through leadership in his roles as a Mission Safety Officer, Mission Check Pilot Examiner, Operations Section Chief and as an Incident Commander. He also instills Cadet program safety in our newest CAP Cadets, when he engages them in an enthusiastic safety briefing before they accompany him aloft on their very first glider orientation flights!



Lt Col Felton has given Safety Promotion and Education critical emphasis. He has mentored numerous candidates for the Safety Specialty Track, trained two new Wing Directors of Safety, and one Wing Assistant Director of Safety. While attending the 2020 National Safety Officer College (NSOC) Lt Col Felton was a seminar advisor for 26 students from GLR. Lt Col Felton was also a member of the GLR NSOC project team which gained recognition from both the NHQ Safety team and a note from the National Commander.

Lt Col Felton's most recent safety accomplishment was the creation and publishing of two new 2020 Safety Supplements for the Great Lakes Region. The unique characteristic of the supplement included the implementation of USAF style Quick Reaction Checklists (QRC) for aircraft and vehicle mishap response. This QRC saves time, ensures increased safety of our personnel, and prevents the potential loss of important data.

In 2017 he designed and implemented a safety mishap matrix for the final review and submission of mishaps and corrective actions to NHQ. In September 2020 the CAP Chief of Safety requested this matrix be shared with the NHQ safety team for evaluation as a possible benchmark practice.

This pattern of highly effective program leadership and willingness to create solutions has been evident in Lt Col Felton's safety engagement for many years.

**Frank G. Brewer, Sr. CAP Memorial Aerospace Award  
Organizational Category**

**Allan C. Timmerman**

**CEO of Jet Air Group FBO**

*Green Bay, Wisconsin*



Mr Allan C. Timmerman's service promoting Aerospace Education in the community includes his involvement and support of multiple aviation-based organizations. He has been the Vice President of the local EAA Chapter, served as Young Eagles Coordinator, and provides FBO hangar space for annual first responder programs.

His direct and indirect support to CAP has been very generous. He provides his FBO conference room to the Brown County Composite Squadron meetings each month, and he has paid for food and paper product supplies for various CAP events. He covers the cost of heating a 34,100-square-foot hangar for public CAP presentations, and he provided FBO employees to assist in setting up for CAP activities, moving aircraft, and tearing down following events.

He has saved the local CAP Squadron an estimated \$15,000 over the last eight years in fuel and rental costs alone because he provides a 20-cent fuel discount to CAP aircraft at the FBO. While the CAP hangar was undergoing months-long significant repairs, Timmerman provided heated hangar space for CAP aircraft during the cold weather months at no charge.

He also set up space in his FBO for cadets to operate a Wreaths Across America fundraising display. For the past several years, he has let CAP use his FBO as an Incident Command Post during search and rescue activities.



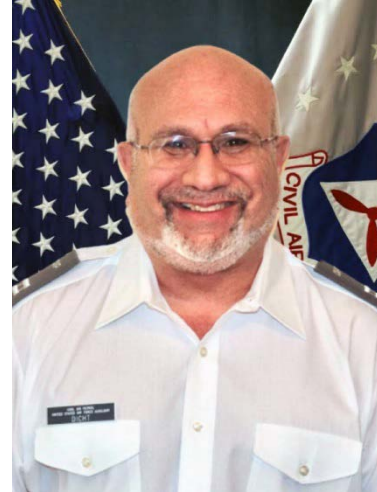
**Frank G. Brewer, Sr. CAP Memorial Aerospace Award  
Senior Member Category**

**Captain Burton Dicht**

*Phoenix Composite Squadron  
New York Wing*

Capt Burton Dicht serves as the Aerospace Education Officer for the Phoenix Composite Squadron, as AEO for the New York City Group, as well as External AEO for the New York Wing. Since joining CAP in 2013 he has combined his background as an aerospace engineer and historian to create awareness and educate the public about various aerospace topics, like designing advanced fighter aircraft and the Top 20 Engineering Achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Capt Dicht has discussed aerospace education as a featured speaker through virtual platforms at more than 50 schools. He has coordinated more than 50 hours of workshops and three virtual field trips, which helped the Squadron receive nine model rocketry badges, 26 AEX certificates, and 16 STEM Kit certificates, as well as three basic Cadet STEM badges and one intermediate Cadet Cyber Badge.

For 12 years, Capt Dicht facilitated an annual AEX program at an inner-city middle school, choosing projects like model rocketry and workshops using STEM kits to get students interested in aerospace. He rejuvenated the Wing newsletter in May 2020 with a new layout design and filling 8-10 pages with information on workshops, how-to articles, sUAS and RPV flying, quizzes, rocket launches, and Squadron accolades.



## **Communicator of the Year**

### **Lieutenant Colonel James P. Weiland**

*Illinois Wing*

A CAP member since 1956, Lt Col James P. Weiland has dedicated himself to the organization's Communications program. During 2020 he hosted the Illinois Wing Red Fox VHF radio net more than 156 times. As a result of his attentiveness to the VHF radio net, hundreds of stations have been able to test their radio systems. He has also issued more than 1,000 CAP radio licenses, and hundreds of Illinois Wing members have been issued radios and are now connected to the CAP comms system.

At the 2020 National Conference, Lt Col Weiland was recognized as the most active HF radio net operator in 2019 because he checked into 647 out of 750 HF radio nets using call sign Red Fox 17. Lt Col Weiland's dedication to the radio net has meant radio check-ins have increased from 165 in 2013 to more than 715 in 2020.



## **Senior Chaplain of the Year**

### **Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Timothy H. Miner**

#### *Virginia Wing*

Chaplain Timothy H. Miner started his squadron ministry in the Virginia Wing in October 2014. In May 2016 he was appointed Wing Chaplain and has recruited Chaplains and Character Development Instructors, streamlining the application process/approval time.

He became the first Mission Chaplain in several years for the Wing. He had to coordinate his training with an evaluator outside the Wing and then carried it to the next level by becoming an evaluator to train additional Mission Chaplains.

Chaplain Miner started an encampment program of religious observances that include various faiths. He coordinated with different religious bodies to identify their faith's obligations during the encampment period and pursued waivers or accommodations for participants as needed.

He created a Character Essay Award that supports Character Development and Cadet Programs. He also established the Chaplain Robert P. Taylor Prize to recognize members of the Virginia Wing who demonstrated compassionate selfless service to another CAP member. Chaplain Miner conducted virtual character development lessons for cadets at college and provided virtual instruction to cadets across the Wing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chaplain Miner augments the chaplain program at Quantico Marine Corps Base under a CAP Memorandum of Understanding, and he is the only CAP Chaplain augmenting the U.S. Space Force Chaplain Corps. He also supports the CAP Chief of Chaplains as social media coordinator and in developing Character Development lessons.



**Frank G. Brewer, Sr. CAP Memorial Aerospace Award  
Cadet Category**

**Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Ryan J. Porter**

*Alaska Wing*

Cadet Lt Col Ryan Porter served as the Anchorage Polaris Composite Squadron's Cadet Aerospace Education officer. In this capacity he designed/implemented an annual unit AE training plan, coordinating senior member instructors, resources and venues to enhance the AE mission while providing the cadets as many hands-on experiences as possible.

As a STEM initiative, he designed a home-built wind tunnel; used Remote-Control aircraft equipment on-hand and web-based research; demonstrated/led interactive airfoil design project at multi-unit CAP events, supervised airfoil construction and provided results via wind tunnel test. He also transported the CAP self-designed wind-tunnel activity as AFROTC community outreach to share information on both Aerospace Education and Civil Air Patrol with AFJOTC cadets in the classroom, enhancing 30 cadets' understanding of CAP and key aerospace principles.

To improve retention, he has worked hard to increase Aerospace Education participation and Emergency Service qualifications while also planning orientation flight weekends to drive a 20% increase in sorties flown. He has routinely coordinated Senior Member Instructor Pilot and Cadet schedules to provide cadets with ground-school academics and flight simulator training. This helped many cadets prepare for the Alaska Wing Spring Flight Academy.

Cadet Porter also attained Ground Search and Rescue Team Commander and Staff Instructor qualifications at Hawk Mountain Ranger School. While there, he instructed 20 Cadets through the mountain survival course. He earned his FAA private pilot glider certification and an aircraft single-engine land rating. He also requalified as a remote-control flight instructor and completed training as a small Unmanned Aerial System technician.



**Character Development Officer of the Year**  
**Technical Sergeant Gerald L. Martin**  
*Coeur d'Alene Composite Squadron*  
*Idaho Wing*

Technical Sergeant Gerald Martin is a senior-rated Character Development Instructor as well as a mission Chaplain Support Specialist in Emergency Services. While changing his approach from in-person to virtual because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sgt Martin was still able to present six of eight Character Development lessons for his Squadron and create a motivating program for more than 60 Cadets. His real-world experiences in the U.S. Army Reserve, Washington Air National Guard, USAF Reserve with CAP-USAF and USAF Inactive Ready Reserve have provided him with a unique perspective that has helped cadets better learn to be model citizens.



He also participated in missing person search and rescue exercises, supported a local county K9 transport training exercise, and completed five Mountain Rescue Association courses. He also completed three online FEMA courses and 33 online Hawk Mountain Ranger School Distance Learning courses and participated virtually in an 11-day CAP Chaplain Corps Emergency Services School. Sgt Martin recently assisted the Squadron Public Information Officer with a community outreach program, resulting in new members and donations for a flight simulator.



## **George Texido Legislative Officer of the Year** **Colonel Gary H. Tobey**

*Black Sheep Senior Squadron  
Colorado Wing*

A CAP member since 1985, Col Gary Tobey has provided significant service in Government Relations to benefit both Colorado and the nation.

Holder of many awards, Col Tobey served as Colorado Wing Commander from 1992-1996 and Rocky Mountain Region Commander from 1996-2000. He has been the Wing's Government Relations Advisor since 2000.

From 1993 through 2020, he recruited nearly 100% of the Colorado Congressional Delegation into the Congressional Squadron and is working hard to induct Colorado's newest members of Congress.

In previous years, with his assistance, over 95% of the Colorado General Assembly joined the Colorado Legislative Squadron. At the time of this nomination, 31 of 35 State Senators and 42 of the 65 State Representatives were CAP members. Because of term limits, this informational program requires special emphasis every two years at a minimum. Col Tobey foresees this requirement and lead the Wing year-in and year-out to educate and encourage legislators in their support of CAP.

With solid support from Col Tobey, the Wing hosts an annual "CAP Day at the Capitol" during which CAP members tell the CAP story of its history and all three missions. CAP leaders are seated on the floor of both the Senate and House of Representatives to receive formal tributes by Legislative Squadron Commanders and the full membership of both chambers.

Col Tobey's advice and council has been critical to expanding the Wing's relationship with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, helping ensure a wellspring of funding and operational support



**Major General Jeanne M. Holm**  
**Aerospace Education Officer of the Year**  
**First Lieutenant Robert J. Roberts**

*Greenville Composite Squadron*  
*South Carolina Wing*

First Lt Robert Roberts became a nationally recognized contributor for Aerospace Education lessons during COVID-19 by reaching young cadets where they spent much of their time: YouTube. The owner of a popular YouTube channel centered around aerospace education; he began sharing videos just three days after his squadron announced the pause of in-person meetings. Lt Roberts created quality video instruction every week for 10 months during 2020.



On his channel, cadets can find recorded audio lessons of all six Aerospace Education modules, as well as interviews with guest speakers in different aerospace occupations. Lt Roberts has spent more than 400 hours writing, producing, and recording to create more than 74 unique, engaging, and informational videos.

Through the AE YouTube channel, multitudes of persons outside of Civil Air Patrol are introduced to our organization. His initiatives to introduce young people to various Aerospace and STEM careers through his video presentations have been vital as CAP works to increase interest in STEM and related professions. Lt Roberts has used recorded instruction to penetrate and share every CAP area to youth (and adults): cadet programs, aerospace education, public awareness, operations, and technology.

**John V. “Jack” Sorenson**  
**Cadet Programs Officer of the Year**  
**Lieutenant Colonel Jamie Griffith**  
*Great Lakes Region*

Lt Col Jamie Griffith’s CAP career has spanned more than 25 years. She earned the Carl A. Spaatz award in 1997, holds a Master rating in the Cadet Programs Specialty track, and has completed Level V of the Senior Member Education and Training Program.



As Commander of Indiana Group V she oversaw the Cadet Program mission execution for more than 250 Cadets who have earned 60 awards and completed more than 230 orientation flights in just two years. Colonel Griffith built a team of 10 orientation flight pilots who flew 120 flights over two years, effectively tripling prior activities over the same period. Similarly, a round of regular unit visits and a focus on member development resulted in nearly 90% of cadets completing the Curry within the 8-week target and 70% of seniors having completed Training Leaders of Cadets.

Lt Col Griffith implemented a three-year, \$30,000 grant from the Great Lakes Region to open a new school-based Squadron. She initiated weekly meetings as a school club, participated in open houses, and built relationships with faculty. After 18 months, the program led to formation of a chartered Squadron involving 12 Cadets and three Senior Members. The school was so impressed that officials changing it from an after-school activity to an in-class program starting in the fall of 2021.

Lt Col Griffith’s leadership efforts were evident when Cadets supported COVID 19 disaster relief missions. She led more than 100 Cadets to work at two activities with the National Guard in delivering more than 140,000 meals to 10,000 families in two days. While other Squadrons were experiencing retention problems, Lt Col Griffith’s team was increasing in numbers. In October 2020, the group flew 20 sorties, reopened a shuttered school Squadron, and conducted distanced training activities at various locations across the Indianapolis metropolitan area to engage Cadets and Senior Members.

Her efforts to develop and execute a Type B encampment in November 2020 were exceptionally noteworthy. Working within the boundaries of the Wing’s COVID-19 response plan, she successfully engaged leaders at wing, region and liaison region in a program that eventually involved 40 cadets and 10 senior members. Colonel Griffith spent countless hours developing this COVID-model encampment including curriculum, activity schedule and budget. She located a community partner to host the event, arranged for meals, coordinated with parents, and ensured program completion in a time of intense national distress.

## **Property Manager of the Year** **Major Theodore R. Warnock**

*Virginia Wing*

Maj Theodore R. Warnock is the Virginia Wing Property Manager and Logistics Officer. He holds a master rating in the Logistics Specialty Track, has completed Level IV of the Senior Member Education and Training Program, and is a rated Logistics Section Chief

Maj Warnock is responsible for Wing-level audits and inspections and has been the primary survey contact for Air Force-conducted audits.

He has a major role in preparing and executing wing and group-level annual revalidations and has served as Logistics Officer for the Wing Encampment for four years.

Maj Warnock retired over 70 line-items of unserviceable or marginal equipment and brought the inventory into manageable status. He has completed the past three Wing annual inventories well before suspense.

Since 2017, he has reviewed the Table of Allowances; evaluated vehicle usage, mileage, age and condition; and prepared vehicle justification forms resulting in eight additional 12-passenger vans being assigned to the Wing and the purchase of a Communications trailer. Four high-mileage vehicles and an unserviceable trailer were retired, and another 12-passenger van acquired from the National Capital Wing.



**Col Robert (Bud) Payton Public Affairs Officer of Year**  
**Lieutenant Colonel David G. Finley**

*Socorro Composite Squadron*  
*New Mexico Wing*

Lt Col David G. Finley is the Public Affairs Officer for the New Mexico Wing's Socorro Composite Squadron as well as its Deputy Commander. He is also the New Mexico Wing historian.

He agreed to serve as Public Information Officer for the Wing's COVID-19 mission and participated in Incident Management Team video conferences. He prepared a briefing document for participants on interacting with news media and producing photographs for publicity and historical purposes and also generated a more extensive document for all wing members.

He contacted National Headquarters/Public Affairs personnel to confirm points of contact and clarify procedures and made proactive contacts with the New Mexico National Guard Public Affairs office.

He obtained publicity about flights carrying COVID-19 test samples from a meat packing plant, with news releases appearing in many media outlets, and also did a radio interview. He later publicized the Wing's mission of carrying COVID-19 vaccines to remote areas of New Mexico.

He has provided articles for Wing and Region newsletters and the COVID-19 article for the Wing's annual Legislative Update.





**Colonel David Kantor Operations Staff Officer of the Year Award**  
**Lieutenant Colonel Stephen D. Sammons, II**

*Alaska Wing*

Maj Stephen D. Sammons is the Alaska Wing Emergency Services Officer. He is an Incident Commander, Staff Officer, Aircrew Member and Ground Team Member and Leader, directly sustaining the Wing's mission readiness, advancing evolving capabilities and mentoring members. His contributions impact every significant operational effort.

He is a key player in integrating State of Alaska, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Health and Social Services Emergency Management processes and was lead action officer in drafting Memorandums of Understanding with State and Federal agencies during the COVID-19 response.

Maj Sammons provided innovative Close Air Support (CAS) mission training used by three Air Support Operations Squadron Joint Terminal Air Controllers. His training provided a low-cost option for Air Force CAS providers. In addition, he developed comprehensive Operations Plans that fully detailed the new training, which was approved by 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force for implementation.

He developed an annual training plan for the Wing, integrating CAP, State of Alaska, 11th Air Force, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Health and Social Services Emergency Management requirements and also built modular Incident Command Staff training for CAP, Air National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard members.

Maj Sammons also led an innovative Cadet Staff Officer integration initiative mentored four cadets' Intermediate Executive Skills training coordination/contingency planning and employed three cadets in real-world State of Alaska staging area planning.

He was Air Operations Branch Director for a CAP airlift in support of the Coast Guard's Arctic Shield.

## **Squadron Chaplain of the Year Award** **Chaplain Major Linda B. Berez**

*Milwaukee Composite Squadron 5*  
*Wisconsin Wing*

An active CAP member since 2013, Chaplain Linda Berez has served as Squadron Chaplain for Milwaukee Composite Squadron 5 since March 2014.

She completed Level IV of the Education and Training program, holds a Master rating in the Chaplain Specialty Track, and is a qualified Mission Chaplain (CAP Support). She completed the Chaplain Corps Region Staff College and used that knowledge to further Wisconsin Wing's Character Development program.



Chaplain Berez has supported CAP missions across the Wing as well as the Cadet Program in Aerospace Education and Information Technology. She offers professional IT expertise in guiding a CyberPatriot team, maintaining a website, and coordinating virtual meetings.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, she has ministered to Wing cadets through statewide Character Development and Wingman sessions.

Chaplain Berez has volunteered for five Wisconsin Wing Encampments as Chaplain and attended the National Emergency Services Academy in 2016.

She has continued to help those around her grow, including mentoring Squadron Chaplains, helping them learn the CAP Character Development lessons, and working in unison to provide professionally presented lessons.

**Norm Edwards Counterdrug Officer of the Year**

**Lieutenant Colonel Terry Howlett**

*Texas Wing*

Lt Col Howlett has been one of the leading Counterdrug pilots within the Texas Wing Counterdrug Program for the past several years. He has flown multi-counterdrug missions, including Counterdrug support missions in the Texas valley.

Lt Col Howlett has flown many CD missions supporting the Texas Wing and Drug Enforcement Agency in East Texas. He has also flown multi-CAP and State of Texas Aerial Photography sorties on flooding, hurricanes and tornados missions in the past several years.

Lt Col Howlett took the lead with Texas Wing's Groups II and III to help conduct a flight clinic for pilots needing to qualify to fly the C-182T aircraft in support of our South Texas CD missions. Due to his actions and leadership, Texas Wing was able to fly all South Texas mission for the US Customs and Border Patrol.

Currently, and for the past several years, Lt Col Howlett has served with distinction as the TXWG Group II Counterdrug Coordinator and Counterdrug Mission Director.

Lt Col Howlett is a true Professional and a valued member of the Texas Wing CD Program and the Emergency Services Program.

**Inspector General of the Year**  
**Captain Danny W. Green**  
*Mississippi Wing*

Being an Inspector General can be a thankless job, but Capt Danny Green took on the task with enthusiasm. He educated Squadron Commanders on policies and procedures, helped them through the Subordinate Unit Inspection process, and then developed adapted procedures to use during the pandemic without compromising inspection integrity.

Capt Green's hard work resulted in a series of very successful unit inspections. If a unit had discrepancies or failed to adequately respond to a discrepancy, Capt Green provide detailed justifications for appropriate wing responses to fix the problem and help the unit succeed Capt Green was an integral part of the Wing compliance team in December, and he provided accurate and thoughtful advice on how to best answer questions posed to each Wing directorate.



## **Professional Development Officer of the Year** **Colonel Mary F. Donley**

*South Dakota Wing*

Col Mary Donley, a CAP member for 53 years, has held every position from Cadet to first female commander of the South Dakota Wing.

The Wing's Professional Development Officer since before 2005, Col Donley has taken hundreds of members through their ranks and training levels. As an elementary school teacher for many years, she knows how to get members excited about learning through her encouraging manner, enthusiasm, and willingness to help. She holds a Master rating in Professional Development, has completed Level V, and attended almost every Wing encampment since 1967.

She has taught numerous classes, including Professional Development training, Training Leaders of Cadets, Squadron Leadership Schools, Corporate Learning Courses, and has served as an instructor for National Staff College and as a Testing Officer.

In helping develop the 2020 launch of the national Education and Training program, Col Donley spent hundreds of hours working with Education and Training team leaders. She was also instrumental in the development of a pamphlet and updated process for the new mentoring program.





**Colonel Dion E. DeCamp Ground Team of the Year**

Lieutenant Colonel Carlos M. Arroyo, Squadron Commander

*Group 2*

*Puerto Rico Wing*



As the Group 2 Commander, Lt Col Carlos Arroyo and the members of the Group 2 Ground Team worked tirelessly with the Emergency Services program in response to devastating earthquakes and the COVID-19 pandemic. When the earthquakes hit in December 2019, the Ground Team provided two-dimensional ground images of structures to help evaluate damage in affected areas. They also helped distribute food and essential items to shelters, individuals, and families who had lost their homes. The Ground Team worked seven days a week in eight-hour shifts, totaling more than 14,400 hours worked and 308 ground sorties.

When the pandemic hit, the Ground Team joined forces with the Puerto Rico Department of Health to provide support. Members completed 376 ground sorties while working more than 3,072 hours. During that time, they delivered 145 samples to laboratories, 637,000 face masks and shields, 450,000 gloves, 71,461 units of hand sanitizer, and more than 12,000 water packs. They also delivered more than 81,000 pounds of food to people in need.



**Colonel Edwin W. Lewis, Jr.**  
**Incident Staff Member of the Year Award**

**Colonel Leo Burke**

*Michigan Wing*

During Col Leo Burke's 40 years as a member of Civil Air Patrol he spent innumerable hours supporting CAP's primary mission of emergency services, disaster relief, and homeland security. His Incident Command Staff contributions range from serving as a Mission Staff Assistant as a cadet in the 1980's to serving as an Incident Commander for Presidentially declared national disasters in 2020.



Col Leo Burke led an Incident Management Team of CAP members to extraordinary levels in 2019/2020. His extensive knowledge of CAP and the Incident Command Structure was instrumental in helping shape the Michigan Wing's pandemic response. He helped manage a 1,000-bed field hospital in Detroit and another 400-bed hospital in Novi.

Col Burke's 20-member team worked more than 2,100 hours over 255 days. He personally dedicated 45 consecutive days and 570 hours to service at the two hospitals. The team delivered more than 2,400 COVID-19 tests and more than 100,000 pieces of personal protective equipment. As a result, his team was valued as a critical resource in the pandemic response.

Col Burke was called on again after a catastrophic 500-year flood caused a power dam to fail, severely damaged another dam, and forced more than 10,000 residents to evacuate. Working with state officials, he assisted with aerial photography to assess the damage. Teams used new Garmin VIRB nadir photography and sUAS technology, providing valuable feedback on these two tools' benefits and liabilities for future use in the Michigan Wing.

Col Burke has a long and storied career in CAP. He has contributed greatly to each of CAP's three primary missions. However, it is his wealth of experience and superb skill set as an Incident Staff member that make him the go-to-guy when CAP needs a leader to oversee a mission base or Incident Command Center.

**Maj Gen Dwight H. Wheless Legal Officer of the Year**  
**Major Evan B. Jones**

*Kentucky Wing*

Maj Evan B. Jones has served as the Kentucky Wing's Legal Officer since 2013, serves as the Wing Aircraft Maintenance Officer and holds a variety of positions in the Blue Grass Senior Squadron.

He is a Master-rated Legal Officer, graduate of the CAP National Legal Officer College, and he holds Specialty Track ratings in Professional Development, Finance and Communications.

Following environmental control failures at a CAP facility, he helped resolve ownership and responsibility. Working with the Bowling Green Warren Airport Authority, tracking down previous CAP members and tracing real property records, he concluded CAP owned the facility — allowing nearly \$10,000 in repairs and facility upgrades.

He has reviewed contracts for work on Wing facilities, including a new roof and new HVAC system, and has another project under way.

Maj Jones has completed 26 fundraising proposal review, and unit fundraising has captured \$10,000.



## **Historian of the Year**

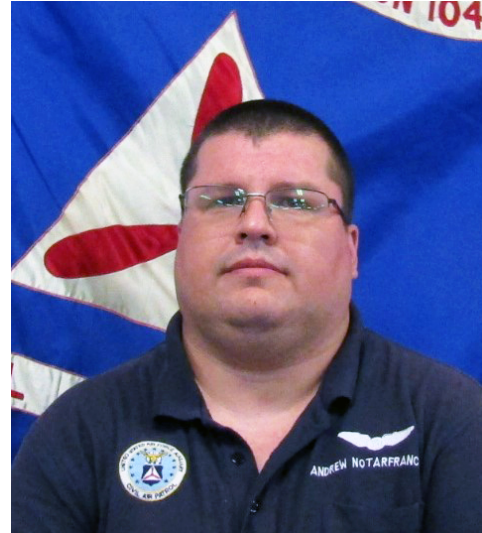
### **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Notarfrancesco**

*Northeast Philadelphia Composite Squadron 104*

*Pennsylvania Wing*

Lt Col Andrew Notarfrancesco, who has earned a Senior rating in the Historian specialty track, spent numerous hours tracking down and researching information about his Squadron. He identified a World War II Civil Air Patrol veteran, Henry Hermanns, living near the squadron and worked to purchase a CAP Congressional Gold Medal and presented it to Hermanns shortly before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Lt Col Notarfrancesco spent dozens of hours in major Philadelphia area newspapers' historical archives to research his Squadron's history. He discovered numerous articles about the Squadron's creation and various activities. He has catalogued artifacts that span almost 50 years of Squadron history, such as activity patches, uniforms, award certificates, plaques and more. He has also scanned hundreds of photographs highlighting activities from the 1950s to 2008, and he is working to identify the dates and people represented in the photos.



**Lt Col T. Keith Riddle Aircrew Member of the Year Award**

**Colonel Aaron E. Oliver**

*Oklahoma Wing*

Col Aaron E. Oliver has contributed significantly to CAP's emergency services and operational missions as an Aircrew Member.

During the COVID-19 stand-down, he maintained mission readiness status, prepared two members for earning additional FAA certificates, participated in Mission Pilot training events, and provided aircraft check rides. Once the Wing was authorized to begin limited flight operations, he devised and executed a robust plan to provide regular CAP aircraft utilization.

A CAP member for 23 years, Col Oliver has risen to Incident Commander Level 2 and served at all levels of Operations and in all mission types. He is a Mission Check Pilot Examiner, Check Pilot Examiner, Air Operations Branch Director, Senior Flight Release Officer, holds five Master ratings in various CAP specialties and has completed Level V of the Education and Training Program.

As Operations Section Chief, he led a grueling operations evaluation in 2019 and used FlightAware software.

He has participated in Homeland Defense missions, including Amalgam Arrow air defense intercept training with the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

He has surveyed low-level training routes for Altus Air Force Base, provided Incident Command duties at Tinker Air Force Base, flown photo assessment missions for Tinker's air show and participated in Oklahoma Emergency Management and Oklahoma National Guard readiness exercises, and he participates annually in AERO Oklahoma Day.



**Frank G. Brewer, Sr. CAP Memorial Aerospace Award  
Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Lieutenant Colonel Paul A. Willard**

*Fredericksburg Composite Squadron  
Virginia Wing*

Lt Col Paul Willard began his CAP career in 1969 as a cadet, earning the Spaatz Award in 1972. He became a senior member and continued to support the CAP program throughout his Air Force career and as an AFJROTC Instructor for some 16 years.

As a fifty-year member of Civil Air Patrol, he has served in several wings in numerous positions and became part of the Virginia Wing aerospace education team in 2008. Under his leadership, the Wing had one third of their squadrons awarded the Aerospace Education Achievement award in FY 20. During his tenure school AEX applications were up 160% and squadron AEX completions are up 36%. ACE registrations have skyrocketed under his guidance, from four schools totaling 200 students to ten schools totaling 2,752 students.

For several years, he has worked hard to educate hundreds of eighth graders in Aerospace Education. Lt Col Willard has provided STEM kit demonstrations and hands-on flight simulator sessions for the Virginia Department of Education's "Mission Tomorrow" program, reaching more than 13,000 students. He also works with Suffolk Public Schools and Newport News Public Schools to put STEM kits into the hands of more than 1,000 students. Newport News Public Schools estimates it will produce 170 Aerospace Education Members because of the STEM kits he sent them.

The COVID-19 pandemic did not slow him down. Lt Col Willard led in conducting multiple Air Force Association CyberPatriot summer camps that resulted in 16 teams being entered into the national 2020/2021 AFA CyberPatriot competition. He also directly supported the StellarXplorers team that works with the Small Unmanned Aerial Systems program.

Lt Col Willard serves on the Advisory Committee to the Virginia Department of Education for Career and Technical Education and is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

