



BIOGRAPHY

Retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Robert Dandridge

Retired U.S. Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Dandridge, former Civil Air Patrol national command chief, serves as a member at-large on CAP's 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.



In November 2023 Dandridge became the first noncommissioned officer to join the board. He previously served with the National Innovation Team and as CAP's fourth national command chief.

Dandridge joined Civil Air Patrol's Scott Composite Squadron in 2004 at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He next served as the Illinois Wing's first command NCO adviser and then as Missouri Wing command NCO. His service at National Flight Academies, Cadet Leadership Schools, encampments, and the National Emergency Services Academy led to recognition as both wings' Senior Member of the Year.

Dandridge became national command chief in 2018. He advised on mission effectiveness, development, training, and use of CAP's NCO Corps. He next helped the National Innovation Team stimulate and sustain a culture of innovative behavior and thinking.

He received professional innovator certification through the University of Michigan, holds an aerospace management certificate from the Community College of the Air Force, trained in continuous process improvements via the Air Force Institute of Technology, and teaches as a CAP Volunteer University instructor. He previously directed a dozen professional development legacy courses.

During his 30-year career Dandridge led at the squadron, group, wing, major command and combatant command headquarter levels, completing tours in America, Asia, Central America, Europe, and the Mideast. He served as an adviser, major command inspector, environmentalist, first sergeant, honor guard member, and Soviet escort. His honors include the first Air Mobility Command Headquarters Outstanding NCO, the 5th Air Force Senior NCO, and Air Mobility Command Headquarters' first Sergeant of the Year. He also received the U.S. Transportation Command and Air Force District of Washington Vanguard Heroism awards.