CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

Level V
The National Commander's Perspective

Sep 2026

CAP's National Commander and CEO



Maj. Gen. Regena M. Aye
26th National Commander
Civil Air Patrol

My Background

- Civilian Profession: Doctorate, Educational Leadership
  - Current: Baker University, Department Chair
  - Previous: Allen Community College, Dean
- Civil Air Patrol Highlights:
  - Joined (1989) C/Col (1992) SM (1993) Maj Gen and Nat'l CC/CEO (2024)
  - National Vice Commander – Strategic Planning, Talent Development, Compliance
  - National Chief, Education and Training – Led development of Volunteer University
  - North Central Region Commander; National Blue Beret Activity Director; Kansas Wing Commander; 77th Composite Squadron Commander
  - Master Ratings in 8 Specialties / Background in all three missions

Desired Learning Objectives

- Reflect on the role of the National Commander/CEO in CAP, including how she works with the Board of Governors, the Air Force, and strategic partners.
- Explain the selection process utilized for the National Commander and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position.
- Relate the importance of strategic partnerships and why building outside relationships is vital to CAP's success.
- Recognize how the leadership philosophy of the National Commander/CEO provides the foundation for her leadership of the organization.

Desired Learning Objectives (Cont.)

- Connect the goals outlined in CAP's Strategic Plan to your work in the organization.
- Describe CAP's direction in the next few years, its challenges, and some current initiatives it is pursuing.
- Understand how you support current CAP initiatives through your role in the organization.

My Why



Why I Pay to Volunteer

Leadership Philosophy and Framework



Maj. Gen. Aye's Leadership Philosophy document is with the class materials

- **Core Values: Integrity, Service, Respect, Excellence**
- **Vision**
- **People**
- **Missions**
- **Actions**
- **Balance**

Expectations

- Take care of people
- Learn from “shots on goal” and be vulnerable about failures
- Don’t accept things that are wrong
- Prioritize – we can’t do everything at the same time
- Responsible management and stewardship of resources
- Teamwork, good planning, hard work, dedication, communication
- Cultivate talent and succession planning
- Empowering / trusting others fosters innovation and ownership
- Unity across leadership strengthens Civil Air Patrol
- Listening is important

My Intent

Build and sustain a Civil Air Patrol worthy of the **trust** placed in us through disciplined execution, exceptional stewardship, and an unwavering commitment to our stakeholders.

Some Key Focus Areas

- **Excellence in airworthiness and maintenance of our fleet with new training, a maintenance information system, and improved governance**
- **Perfection in youth protection to provide our cadets with a positive, safe and meaningful experience**
- **Excellence in flying safety by reducing instances of aircraft damage with improved training and enhanced professionalism**

Some Key Focus Areas (cont.)

- Excellence in our stakeholders' experience by continuing work on our publications process, change management, digital transformation, and growing our talent development efforts
- Emphasis on innovation and improving our data and analytics capabilities
- Transform several critical areas, including the NCO, Chaplain, Legal Officer, and Inspector General Corps

Discussion

- What are some things that surprised you about the role and selection of the CEO/National Commander?

- Would you consider applying for CEO/National Commander? Why or why not?

- If you want to be the National Commander/CEO one day, how do you need to begin preparing?

Discussion (cont.)

- How does the leadership philosophy of the National Commander/CEO provide the foundation of her leadership?
- What in her leadership philosophy resonated with you?
- Who does the National Commander/CEO partner with to develop the strategic plan?

Discussion (cont.)

- What are some of the key goals and objectives from the CAP Strategic Plan?
- How does your specific role within CAP fit into the Strategic Plan and upcoming initiatives?
- Which goals or objectives do you impact most directly with your work?

Discussion (cont.)

- Who are some of our key strategic partners?
- Why is it important that we maintain a positive working relationship with our strategic partners?
- What are some challenges facing CAP? How are we addressing them?
- How would you prioritize the challenges we are facing as an organization?

Lesson Summary and Closure

- Through your readings and the brief discussion we just had on the National Commander's Perspective, you can see how she partners with the BoG to develop a collective vision for the organization, build and maintain partnerships, and execute the organization's mission and vision through the strategic plan.

- Every member in CAP supports the strategic plan through their work.

- As leaders who understand the strategic perspective of the CEO/National Commander, you can help your fellow members see the "big picture" and the role they play.

- With the entire organization working toward a strategic set of goals, CAP will achieve even greater success in accomplishing its missions for the community, state, and nation.

We are the architects of a world-class experience.

We succeed TOGETHER.

We have limited time and resources.

We must make it count!

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