



Transmitter

The Official Newsletter of the Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps

Spring 2020



A MESSAGE

From the Chief of the CAP Chaplain Corps

Chaplain (Colonel) John Murdoch

Greetings, Chaplain Corps Teammates,

I trust this issue of the Transmitter finds you well and rejoicing in God's faithfulness. We are watching Spring in a whole new way this year. The flowers and trees are blooming, and the grass needs to be cut as usual; however, it feels as if we as human beings are also being set free and allowed to bloom as we move into the re-entry phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each state is "opening", per their Governor's direction, and it feels as if a great weight has been lifted. Still, there are restrictions, and the need for social distancing remains in effect.

What hasn't changed is God's faithfulness. This has not taken Him by surprise, and He is the same "yesterday, today and forever"; so, we have much for which to be thankful. I would like to remind you that our simply being present allows us to impact those around us. Many are fearful; many are in sorrow; many are sick. We have the privilege to bring the Holy into their fears, sorrow, and sickness. I encourage you to be proactive and make a difference in the lives of those you touch. I am reminded as I read my Bible that its truths help us as we walk through difficult days. I trust these truths will minister to you, and then you can use them with others.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee. Be not dismayed; for I am thy God. I will

(A Message from the Chief of Chaplains is continued on page 2)

(A Message from the Chief of Chaplains, continued from page 1)

strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalm 91:2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.

Isaiah 41:6 They helped every one his neighbor and every one said to his brother, be of good courage.

From our Faith traditions let us take these words from God to those around us and help them "...be of good courage."

Update on Applications

During this pandemic, Maxwell AFB, like all military installations, has been closed except for essential personnel. Therefore, the NHQ building has been closed and our personnel are working remotely. The team is doing a remarkably good job; however, there is an impact to our application process. CDI applications are progressing normally as Kenya has access to eServices.

The challenge comes with Chaplain applications. Since transcripts and endorsements are sent to NHQ by Seminaries and Endorsing Bodies, and these documents are confidential and not in eServices, they are also not available to be processed. Thus, the COVID-19 impact on application expediency. Once the base is opened, and Kenya can be back at the office, the applications that are there will be processed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Thank you for your understanding. Please keep recruiting!!

Your Fellow servant.

Chaplain (Col.) John B. Murdoch, CAP
Chief of Chaplains



*The Voice of Chaplaincy
Chartered by Congress
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Visit the MCA website

www.mca-usa.org

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CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) GARY ENO – Great Lakes Region

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) ERIC COOTER – Southeast Region

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CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) NANCY SMALLEY – Southwest Region

CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) DAVID KNIGHT – Rocky Mountain Region

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) RICHARD NELSON – Pacific Coast Region

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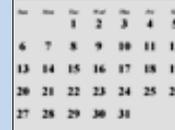
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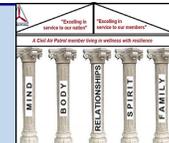
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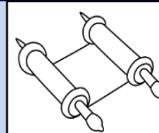
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photo by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Ward (ret.)



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The Transmitter is the official presentation of the CAP Chaplain Corps office, NHQ. Published quarterly, it provides a forum for Chaplain Corps leadership to share matters of current interest. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the USAF or the Civil Air Patrol Corporation.

CIVIL AIR PATROL CHAPLAIN CORPS

OUR IDENTITY....

- We are representatives of America's religious community.
- We are CAP senior members.
- We are committed to the well-being of people within the missions of CAP.

OUR VISION....

The CAP Chaplain Corps will become the model of excellence and effectiveness for the rest of Civil Air Patrol.

OUR MISSION....

The CAP Chaplain Corps will promote the role of CAP core values in all CAP activities through education, presence, and advice.

OUR CORE VALUES....

- Integrity
- Volunteer Service
- Excellence
- Respect



UPCOMING EVENTS -- Mark Your Calendars!

NEWS OF THESE EVENTS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
LOOK FOR UPDATES

2020 CHAPLAIN CORPS STAFF COLLEGES

PACIFIC COAST REGION ~~April 27-30, 2020~~
Postponed until further notice

NORTH CENTRAL REGION **Postponed** to July 6-10, 2020
Columban Fathers Retreat Center, Bellevue, NE

SOUTHWEST REGION **Canceled** See National CCSC

SOUTHEAST REGION **Canceled** See National CCSC

MID ATLANTIC REGION **May 26-29, 2020**
Will be Virtual and available to all Chaplain Corps members!
Details to follow. Registration at <http://caphclub.us>: click Event Registration

AN ONLINE NATIONAL CCSC COURSE IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY
See article on p 7 Content will differ from the MAR CCSC (You may take both!)

GREAT LAKES REGION **June 15-18, 2020** **Now Virtual!**
Monday Through Thursday evenings

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION ~~June 22-25, 2020~~ **Canceled**

CAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY August 13-15, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

The meeting of the National Institute of the Military Chaplains Association

August 3-5, 2020, Crystal City, Virginia **has been canceled.**

A scaled down version will be held in the fall to meet constitutional requirements.
Awards will be announced and awarded as feasible.

-MCA Weekly Newsgram, April 29th, 2020

2020 ON-LINE TRAINING LEADERS OF CADETS (TLC)

July 18, and October 17, 2020

Training Leaders of Cadets (Basic) is a requirement for becoming a CDI.

Course is offered quarterly. Limited to 35 registrants

Register at <http://caphclib.us>.

Click on the Event Registration link in the main menu near the top of the page.

EMERGENCY SERVICE TRAINING

NESA 2020 IS CANCELED

Instead...

ONLINE, ZOOM GENERATED CAP SUPPORT ChESS COURSES
are being planned for CAP Chaplains and Chaplain Support Specialists

Due to the large volume of response to this ChESS course, there will be some changes
to the dates in order to accommodate all who have registered.

Thank you for registering! All registrants will be notified of these changes.

Classes will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings

Course Prerequisites:

- Complete GES - General Emergency Services training
- ICUT - Introductory Communications User Training
- Completion of the Current CAP Chaplains Course (221-A) (CHAPLAINS ONLY)
- CAPT 117 Parts 1,2,3

Familiarization and Preparatory Training

- IS100 - Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
- IS200 - ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS700 - Introduction to National Incident Management System (NIMS)

CAP Chaplain Corps Participates in USAF Call to Prayer in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic



(l.) Chief of Chaplains (Colonel) John Murdoch delivered the opening prayer in the 30 April 2020 USAF Call to Prayer

The combined USAF Chaplain Corps, drawn from the combined corps of the USAF, the USAF Reserves, Air National Guard, and Civil Air Patrol, has held weekly Interfaith Call to Prayer sessions. The sessions, live-streamed on Facebook, feature prayers, and devotional activity by chaplains and support staff drawn from the total force.

Chaplain Murdoch delivered the opening prayer representing the Chaplain Corps during the third session of the series on 30 April (*below, in part*):

I am reminded of the words the prophet Isaiah said to us:

Fear not, for I am with thee.
Be not dismayed, for I am thy God.
I will strengthen thee. I will help thee.
Yea I will uphold thee
with the right hand of my righteousness,

Almighty God, Creator, and Sustainer of the Universe, we come to you today a needy people. We lift up our voices in praise that you have promised to strengthen, help, and uphold us. . .

We ask that you give wisdom to our president, vice president, governors, and mayors, and all who give them counsel. . .

Father, there are those who are fearful, those who are sick, and those who sorrow who need your touch and presence . . .

Thank you for those in the medical field and all who are first responders who use their God-given talents to minister to us today. Please keep them safe. And be with our Air Force family and loved ones throughout the world. Keep us safe, give us success in our missions, and bring them home safely from deployment. Thank you for meeting our needs and giving us victory.

In your holy name we pray. Amen

To view this Facebook video:

<https://www.facebook.com/CAPchaplains>

"National" Chaplain Corps Regional Staff College in July

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Miner

With the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Spring of 2020, four of the annual Chaplain Corps Regional Staff Colleges had to cancel their plans for an in-person meeting for the year. Like many CAP units whose weekly meetings were also canceled for social distancing guidelines, a virtual meeting was the next best thing. The 2020 "National" Chaplain Corps Regional Staff College will take place in the month of July, with over two 2.5 hour sessions a week.

This first national college is co-hosted by the regional chaplaincies of the Northeast Region, Southeast Region, and the Southwest Region. The goal of the program is to offer over 15 hours of 'common core' curriculum, which will feature all the national leaders of the many different missions and programs that give the CAP Chaplain Corps one of the most unique and exciting ministries in the world. The rest of the 20 hours of instruction will come from region-unique classes that allow the chaplains and Character Development Instructors of each local area to gather, learn, and connect.

Here are some of the common-core classes which may be included in the free online program:

National Commander

Chief of Chaplains

CAPR 80-1, CAPP 80-3, CAPP 80-4, CAPP 40-80

Values for Living 2.0 CD program

Aerospace education (drone)

ChESS overview

Corps administration [hc.cap.gov](https://www.cap.gov) email

WMIRS for chaplains

Commander's Perspective on the need for a chaplain

CAPCCARS (Form 34)

Cadet Programs Officer/Cadet Advisory Council rep

What is a "Ministry of Presence"?

Diversity and pluralism in CAP

Uniforms for Chaplain Corps, Customs and Courtesies

Leadership in CAP

Suicide prevention (ACE; other responses to crisis)

There will be a national email sent to all members of the chaplain corps when the program is ready for registration. There will not be a less expensive option to complete this training, which is required for advanced professional development levels.

Information Technology News

Chaplain Corps Library System and IT updates Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeff Williams

In August 2015, the current Chaplain Corps library system was revealed at the National Conference. This system is the repository for all the old Character Development materials, going back to 1972. In addition, there are many papers and resources for Emergency Services, electronic books, and various articles.

We have always envisioned the library as a place to share the materials used for teaching Character Development at encampments, where we do not use the regular sessions. Also, we want to collect the training materials used by each wing for their semi-annual training sessions which are mandated in CAPR 265-1 and the forthcoming CAPR 80-1.

However, the old library system, which works well, does not have other features that we desire. Over the past few months, the Chaplain Corps IT team, Major Keith Christian, Captain Jessica Parsons, and I, have begun to develop an auxiliary website that will enhance the offerings of the official Chaplain Corps website. The current <https://capchaplain.com> is being folded back into the National website at the request of National. We will still oversee the content. But the National website does not allow for some of the features we want to add, hence the auxiliary website.

The new website is <http://caphclib.us>. On it you will find:

- The CAP Chaplain Library (due to be active by June 1. Until then, use <http://caphclib.org>).
- CAP Chaplain Registration system – active for ChESS, the online CCRSC, and the July TLC.
- The CAP Chaplain Corps dedicated Learning Management System for our online classes. This is reached via <http://caphclib.us/moodle>. We have replaced the old Manhattan Virtual Classroom with the more modern Moodle platform, one of the more popular LMS offerings currently in use. We used this LMS for the April TLC, and it worked beautifully.
- Character Development Wiki – active by May 15 so we can share best practices, etc.
- After Action Reports – active by June 1 – we are supposed to file a number of these reports for Emergency Services and other activities, but no one sees them to analyze them. Now we can view the reports and share the lessons learned.
- The Chaplain Corps blog may move to this system if we can get the blog working off of the National site.

Major Christian and I are quickly working on getting the new National site operational so that Ch Col Charlie Sattgast can have the <https://capchaplain.com> site for recruiting. Captain Parsons is the webmaster for <http://caphclib.org>, dealing with web design and content issues.

Your IT team has been busy, as you can see. We hope to make this site, in addition to the official National site, your home away from home for all your Chaplain Corps needs.

CAPP 80-4 on the 5 Pillars is Official

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Miner Member, National Task Force on Wellness and Resilience



Diagram 1 (above) Civil Air Patrol's Five Pillars of Wellness and Resilience show ways for all members to remain strong in times of stress. Concentrating on the habits during Wellness prevents an erosion of skills and capabilities.

On 3 April 2020, a new pamphlet was published by the national headquarters as part of the Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps' toolkit. The work is CAP Pamphlet 80-4, WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE: Handbook of the Five Pillars of Wellness and Resilience. The publication¹ completes two years of work to craft the language that will be used by all members of CAP that describe the focus areas for living a life of excellence that support wellness, well-being and resilience from the stresses created by being part of a volunteer service organization.

The material of CAPP 80-4 was first used in the national response to multiple member crises in 2018. During the September cadet lesson on resilience during that year, chaplains and CDIs were joined by commanders, CISM officers, and health service officers to get cadets to reflect on the state of their own personal well-being. The Five Pillars model first framed the discussion.

According to Major General Mark E. Smith, national commander, "The five pillars are Mind, Body,

Relationships, Spirit, and Family. They represent the focus areas that contribute to our personal level of 'wellness.' This personal wellness enables us to operate at our best, sustaining us during times of stress and making us resilient to the difficulties of life. This helps us to be successful as CAP Volunteer Airmen."

In his 2 April letter² encouraging all CAP members to stay strong during the pandemic responses of 2020, Smith referred the Five Pillars and exhorted everyone to refer to the pillars as they assessed individual coping skills in the face of unprecedented national change and crisis.

- MIND – emotionally aware, learning, adaptability, and decision-making.
- BODY – physical fitness, rest, nutrition, recreation.
- RELATIONSHIPS – communications, connections, social support, and teamwork.
- SPIRIT – values, perseverance, perspective, and purpose.
- FAMILY – identity, affection, legacy, and priorities

Each of the five pillars has four "habits" that support the work of the pillar. The habits listed are:

The Civil Air Patrol's core values can also be shown in the model on the right, which is included in the pamphlet. One of the unique aspects of the CAP model is the three-dimensional view, unused in any other resilience rendering. This view is used to show the core value of respect. Each member is held up by their own unique set of pillars. To weaken or 'threaten' another person's pillars is to violate the core value.

Every CAP member should be aware of the Five Pillars model and diagram. There are plans to add it to the Wingman Course and Level I training in the future. All facilitators of the character development lessons should encourage cadets to refer to the pamphlet often to promote well-being. The goal is for a stronger group of volunteers able to meet the demands of life and all the missions of the organization.



Diagram 2: The unique 3-dimensional view of the CAP Five Pillars reflects the core value of respect.

¹ https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP_804_58A6566D3AF9D.pdf

² <https://presspage-production-content.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/1913/commander039sletter0402e1.pdf?10000>

Stay Safe; Stay Well

by Colonel Bryan Cooper
Chaplain Corps, Northeast Region



Colonel Bryan Cooper joined the East Providence Squadron of the RI Wing in September of 1975. He progressed through the cadet program to the grade of C/LtCol while holding numerous staff positions at squadron, wing, and national activities. He also qualified as a Ground Team Leader, and in 1998 was appointed to the Chaplain Corps as a Moral Leadership Officer and continues to serve as a Character Development Instructor.

In 1981 Cooper became a senior member and served in numerous squadron and wing staff positions, including three separate tours as Wing Commander. At the region level, Cooper has served in four separate departments and on Region Staff College staff, including as Director. At the national level, he has held three different staff positions, including 11 years as National Professional Development Officer while also serving on staff for two National Staff Activities: National Cadet Competition and Cadet Officer's School. He recently returned to the NER Staff, where his primary duty assignment is Deputy Chief of Staff for Aerospace Education.

Colonel Cooper has been decorated numerous times in his 44 years of service. He is the proud husband of Lt. Col. Karen Cooper, who he claims is the real brains of the outfit.

While I sit here at my desk 10 to 12 hours a day (I work from home these days), I recalled what C S Lewis said at the start of WWII in a sermon called *Learning in War-time*.¹ Reflecting on it relieved some of my stress, so I thought I would share.

First, our parents and grandparents were called to go to war; we are called to stay on the couch. A much better deal. So why are we nervous? We are bombarded by bad news. Even commercials work in bad news about coronavirus. It makes it seem like it is happening over and over again. What's worse is that the good news stories are still about the virus. The ratio of good news stories to bad news stories is decidedly one-sided. And there is little hope.

What to do? Stop watching the news! Stop watching TV altogether. Make better, uplifting use of the time. Pass your Yeager test, renew your TLC qualification, become ES qualified. There are lots of good choices.

What to do next? I have been following Neil Diamond's advice from the song *Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show*.² It says,

"Now you got yourself two good hands,
and when your brother is troubled,
you gotta reach out your one hand for him,
'cause that's what it's there for.

And when your heart is troubled,
you gotta reach out your other hand,
reach it out to the man up there,
'cause that's what he's there for."

Call a squadron member to check on them, call a member you have not seen in a long time just to say hi. There are lots of choices. Now I know the Chaplain Corps are the people that others are supposed to call when they are troubled. But we must remember, we can call on each other when the load gets heavy.

Third, look at history. It may seem we are living in strange times, but we are not. For the past 5000 years, there have been crises. More recently, there was the flu pandemic of 1918, WW II in the 40s, Asian Flu in the 50s, Cold War in the 60s and 70s, AIDS in the 80s, the H1N1 Flu in 09, and so on. There have always been risks. It does not make death more likely; it just makes it seem more real by giving it a name, and it is here now. It is its immediacy and our natural response to stress that makes it seem more abnormal than it is. We lived through them all. Each threat required a different answer. Stay home, wash your hands, and know we will get through this too.

Fourth, the unknown is scary. That is why scary movies are, well, scary. Today we are worried. What will the future look like? What will happen if I get sick, what will happen to the economy, what if, what if? Worrying does not solve anything. We can't see the future, and the news has given us a tendency to negative fantasies. We certainly can't control the future. It is in God's hands, so let him worry about it, he will be up all night anyway. You should stop worrying and get some rest.

Fifth, tell a COVID joke. I know that seems counter-intuitive. When asked why he, a Jewish man, would write a play about Hitler (*The Producers*), Mel Brooks responded that when you make fun of something, it is less scary, you take away some of its power. By the beginning of April, there were already pages and pages online of COVID jokes. Read some.

Lastly, pray on a timeline, be thankful for yesterday, and what we had. Pray for "our daily bread," just what we need today and that we might be of service to the Almighty by serving others. Pray that tomorrow, "Thy will be done" and that I have the grace and courage to accept it.

¹ <https://www.cslewis.com/learning-in-war-time/>

² <https://www.songfacts.com/lyrics/neil-diamond/brother-loves-traveling-salvation-show>



**An Opportunity to Register for the
Launch of the North American Hindu Chaplains Association
May 23 and May 24, 2020 (online)**

Non Hindu colleagues are especially invited to celebrate, learn, and connect with members of this professional Hindu Association

Registration fee of \$49.99

<https://convergenceoncampus.wufoo.com/forms/s1oeb7pz1h0j>

For further information, contact

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DISTANCE EDUCATION: SOME LESSONS LEARNED

Submitted by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeff Williams
Deputy Chief for Information Technology



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeff Williams

Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Williams, the Chaplain Corps Deputy Chief for Information Technology, has been a CAP member since 1977. He was appointed a CAP Chaplain following graduation from Concordia Theological Seminary (Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod), and has served as Unit Chaplain, ROTC Chaplain at Kansas State University (while he was completing his Ph.D. in Education), Colorado Wing Chaplain, Rocky Mountain Region Chaplain, and now Iowa Wing Chaplain. He and his wife Sally (a CDI) now live in Slayton, Minnesota. They have two daughters.

While at AT&T Bell Laboratories, Chaplain Williams wrote the operations documentation for the Bell Labs Network, the first layered architecture packet switched network. Design elements of BLN are now part of the architecture used in the Internet. Thus, he quips, "Al Gore may have invented the Internet, but I wrote the first book about it."

Civil Air Patrol has always used distance education for training their cadet and senior members. All the self-study courses, be it the details gleaned from *Learn to Lead* or preparing for the Yeager exam, share aspects with the correspondence courses we have used in the past. Correspondence courses, such as the early iterations of the Extension Course Institute, are a way of moving teaching resources out of the classroom to remote locations.

During the last quarter of the twentieth century, as telecommunications developed and computer costs plummeted, schools began to experiment with computer mediated instruction. One of the first systems was developed at the University of Illinois. Named PLATO, it was successful and pointed the way toward additional development.

Distance education is not accomplished simply by recording a class session and placing the video on YouTube. All the aspects of education must be part of moving the educational experience from a group of people gathered in one location to individuals joining together virtually.

There are two ways to approach distance education. The first is asynchronous, like the old ECI-13 *CAP Officer* correspondence course. We received the course materials via mail, read them at our leisure, and mailed the completed test answer sheet back to Gunter AFB, Alabama. A few weeks later, we received a postcard that said we passed the course.

The current *Officer Basic* course, which is available on eServices, omits the post office and records the outcome immediately. But the course is still done at the student's own pace and own time.

The other way of delivering a course is synchronous. Students and instructors gather around their computers using a real-time communication program like WebEX, Zoom.US, Skype, or GoToMeeting. There the instructor uses various presentation methods, typically some sort of slides, to provide talking points. These "death by PowerPoint" presentations are a step above the asynchronous but do not truly take into account how we learn.

Because the world is so vast, we develop a mental model that helps us cope with the incomprehensible amount of data to which we are exposed each day. We can also think of the

model as a filter, which helps us organize our experiences in much the same way a database helps us organize data. Education helps us to refine that model. As an aside, there is a short story by Walt and Leigh Richmond, published in 1964, which explores this idea of the mental model. For your enjoyment, pleasure, and learning, you might want to visit this site, <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/29789/29789-h/29789-h.htm>.

Lectures may give us information, but we lose the greater amount of what we have heard very quickly. Various studies suggest that students retain only about five percent of what they hear in a lecture. They retain twenty percent if the presentation uses audio-visual aids. The basic presentation format using real-time communications software is excellent for passive learning, but we need to be active to retain that to which we are exposed. <https://www.educationcorner.com/the-learning-pyramid.html>

What can we do to make learning more active when we are using real-time communications software? After all, if two people try to speak at once, given the nature of the media, neither one can be understood. As we have worked with the online Training Leaders of Cadets Basic course, we have found one of the easiest things we can do is encourage the use of the chat window, which is part of all the communications software we have tried. Just by engaging in a discussion, our retention rate goes up to fifty percent.

Normally we have an instructor teaching and another monitoring the chat window for questions and comments. We frequently ask people to respond to questions posed in the class by typing their answers. This is better than passive learning.

What can we do to make our online classes even more interactive? We are exploring the use of a Learning Management System, which will allow us to have breakout sessions for practicing that which we are learning. Our students are already used to using a Learning Management System to retrieve course handouts and ancillary materials, plus to post an introduction so they can learn something about their classmates.

Because of the social distancing and shutdowns as a response to the COVID-19 virus, the Chaplain Corps is moving quickly to distance education for both the Chaplain Emergency Service School (ChESS) and Region Chaplain Corps Staff College (CCRSC). Faculties are even now beginning to design the courses which will be presented early this summer. They will be applying the basic principles of adult learning (<https://elearningindustry.com/understanding-instructional-design-basics>) to the design of their classes.

Even after we can meet in our various classes again, the Chaplain Corps will be taking advantage of the lessons learned as we move to online classes. Although some of this training is online because of social distancing, the online classes overcome the very real problem of physical distance, that someone in California really can't get to a class in Florida, or someone in Butte, Montana, has difficulty traveling to Boise, Idaho, especially in winter.

We are continuing to learn from our current online classes so to improve our new courses. Most importantly, we are looking at the principles of adult education and the need to be interactive so to make the best use of our time and efforts.

During this time of transition, the most important thing we can do is give feedback to our educational teams, both about content and delivery. We also need to know which courses should be a priority to get online. Your help, your experiences, your ideas will make this transition to online education work for the Chaplain Corps. Please feel free to contact your wing chaplain, region chaplain, or National staff with your comments. You may also contact me, jwilliams.cap.gov. with your ideas.

Creative Rockland Cadets Design Virtual Meeting Software

by Cadet/TSgt Logan Speidel, Rockland Cadet Squadron NY 072



Rockland County Cadet Squadron: Pearl River NY, Memorial Day 2019²

Editor's note: Rockland Cadet Squadron (NY 072) began online meetings early in March 2020. COVID-19 struck early in Rockland County, a New York City suburb, and the Rockland Squadron found itself a pioneer in facilitating online meetings. Creative squadron cadets took it upon themselves to design a virtual interface using Discord,¹ a chat application for gamers familiar to the cadets. NY Wing Catskill Mountain Group CDI, Lt. Col. Joan Lee, led the online Character Development sessions on Volunteer Service in March and on Friendship in May in a separate breakout room using the Discord software.

The Coronavirus has been a major obstacle for all sides of human life, claiming 239,000 deaths worldwide. When our squadron first talked about shutting down, the immediate concern was: how do we keep our squadron moving forward? It was clear we needed a way to work together remotely. There are plenty of fish in the sea when it comes to online meeting platforms, but sometimes there is not one that is right for your particular need. A few cadets and I share the common hobby of technology, and we found the perfect open-source program that is highly customizable: Discord.

Discord is great to use to talk to your friends while playing online games, but it is also useful for creating places where people can virtually congregate, meet up to perform online meetings, or socialize. Discord is absolutely free, with no time limit on meetings, and can be perfectly molded and suited to your exact needs.

We have built a Discord Server for our squadron with multiple channels that act as special virtual rooms. There is a posting board for Squadron News, a chat room for cadet organization, and multiple channels for our weekly meetings. Our entire squadron can be on together, or we can split into multiple groups depending on the week's agenda. For example, our cadets can participate in a character development exercise while some of our senior members meet to review squadron activities.

Unlike some of the other popular meeting apps, Discord is very secure. Users must be invited into the group with a special key and can be managed effectively with customized roles. For our server, each cadet and senior member has a role corresponding to their CAP rank, which appears alongside their name on the screen.

We are finding many unexpected benefits to our Discord Server. Our attendance at meetings has been higher than usual, as those who are sick or far from our regular meeting location can now easily call into a meeting. Discord is likely a fixture that will stay with our squadron long after this pandemic subsides.

¹ <https://discordapp.com/why-discord>

² <https://www.facebook.com/rocklandcadetsquadron/photos/a.1736678383038905/2914210091952389/?type=3&theate>

Leading Online Character Development Sessions



Contributed by Lieutenant Colonel Joan L. Lee, PhD

New York Wing Diversity Officer
Catskill Mountain Group (NY 035) Assistant Deputy Commander
and Finance Officer
Rockland County Cadet Squadron (NY 072) CDI

Lt. Col. Joan L. Lee is a past Squadron Commander and Character Development Instructor for the New York Wing Rockland Cadet Squadron. In her professional career, she is Professor of Accounting at Fairfield University, where she has taught accounting and business ethics for over 20 years and serves as a Spiritual Director. In 2019, Dr. Lee was recognized as Outstanding Accounting Educator by the American Accounting Association. An Editor of the Journal of Jesuit Business Education, Dr. Lee has published extensively on ethics education.

Editor's Note: In responding to questions from Connecticut Wing Chaplains and Character Development Officers leading online sessions on Zoom, Lt. Col. Lee offered the following, "based on what I have learned, both from teaching my university classes on Zoom for the last month and leading a Character Development lesson in March online."

- It is important to create a cadet-only environment, so the cadets feel free to share as they do in live meetings. This can be done in breakout rooms in Zoom, but you will have to add the participants to the breakout rooms manually. I would suggest creating two breakout rooms and assigning all seniors to one and cadets to the other. This means you will have to work with ALL the cadets together and will have to adapt the small group discussions. Alternately, if the senior members are not present in the zoom room, you can break into smaller groups of cadets in multiple breakout rooms, as you would facilitate live small group discussions.
- I would start the session with a brief "check-in." The cadets may not be able to attend the session if they are worried about sick relatives, etc. The info gleaned in the check-in also allows you to guide the session to best support our cadets during this stressful time.
- In an ideal online environment, you can "see" the participants' faces so you can read their reactions. But remember that not all cadets have sufficient bandwidth to use video, others may be embarrassed about their home environments and not want to share video, some may be working from old computers without cameras. It might be a good idea to reach out to the cadets in advance of the meeting to find out who can - and cannot - share video. That way, you can pay special attention to those who cannot share video to make sure they feel included.
- I second the idea of calling on cadets rather than asking for volunteers. You might also encourage cadets to all react using the thumbs up/thumbs down reactions through chat. (To find these, have cadets click on participants when the participant screen pops up, they will see the options at the bottom of the participant screen.)
- Finally, with "zoom bombings" on the increase, make sure all participants know that they should immediately leave the room if you are zoom bombed. You can then restart the meeting and have everyone rejoin. (You can reduce the chance of this by "locking the door" once you start, but this will prevent someone whose connection is disrupted from rejoining. You can also implement the waiting room, use a password, etc. - there is much guidance available online as to how to secure your zoom rooms better.)

WHY I AM IN THE UNIFORM OF MY COUNTRY?



Submitted by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel Ressetar, PA 090¹

Written in the '70s while a reservist at Willow Grove, PA

Ch. (Lt. Col) Daniel Ressetar has served with the PA Wing's Allegheny County Squadron since 1971. On 11 January 2020, Ressetar was named Group 2 Squadron Chaplain of the Year.

Chaplain Ressetar served as an Air Force Reserve Chaplain from October 1962 to March 1987. Honored this past Veteran's Day, his photo appeared on PennLive's 100 Years of Heroes Photo Day.²

The Very Reverend Daniel Ressetar, now 92, was assigned to Christ the Savior in Harrisburg, PA in 1965, serving there as rector for 41 years. Retired from full-time ministry in Orthodox Church, in 2018, he received the privilege of wearing the priestly "miter" in honor of his six decades of service to the Orthodox Church in America.

The answer I always give to the question, "Why am I in the uniform of my country?" was given to me one day in 1962 by an airman recruit while I was on extended active duty in Texas. This quiet airman made me humbly realize why every able-bodied American should serve in our armed forces even for a short period of time. Below is the story of what happened.

"I like Lackland, chaplain," a new recruit said.

"You do?" asked the chaplain in surprise.

"Yes, I really do. This might sound silly, but I don't mind this basic training here at all. It's lots of fun. Sure, we work and study hard, and spend lots of time in training with our T.I.'s. I like the food they serve in the dining halls. At night, it is even relaxing to lie down in your bunk and doze off. Why, basic training at Lackland is one long picnic - it's a country club!"

"Are you serious?"

"Of course I am, chaplain."

The trainee explained that he was born under dire conditions of poverty in the Ukraine in Soviet Russia. During the Nazi invasion of his homeland, only about eight years old, he was taken forcibly to Germany with his parents who were to work there as slave laborers. They lived in concentration camps. Often, he used to eat grass and chew tree bark to satisfy his hunger pangs. After World War II, he and his parents migrated to Chile in South America before coming to the United States.

"Just think, chaplain, not one, not two, but three meals are guaranteed a day here. And they're good meals too. If someone calls out your name in the barracks after bed check, you don't have to shudder and worry about facing a possible firing squad outside. Honestly, I'm in the United States Air Force in a military uniform, just to help out, to defend if necessary, even in a little way, America, the country that adopted me."

That basic trainee possessed one rare gift which many of us do not have, and many more think they have. He had in his possession the gift of appreciation of living in the United States of America. And he was happily and honorably doing something about it by being in the uniform of our country.

¹ Reprinted from "Chaplain Chat," Winter 2020, Newsletter of the PA Wing Chaplain Corps, Wing Chaplain Mark Shulman, editor
² <https://www.pennlive.com/news/erry-2018/08/79a3ac2eae976/pennlive-100-years-of-heroes-v.html>

THE POWER OF FAITH

Submitted by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Atkins
New Hampshire Wing Chaplain



RABBI GARY ATKINS

Rabbi Gary Atkins was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1974 and has had a full and rewarding career of service as a chaplain, mohel (ritual circumcisor), and congregational rabbi.

Rabbi Atkins was born on December 19, 1945, in Cleveland, Ohio. After college, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. During his military service, Atkins became seriously interested in his Judaism and, after completing his service, studied and was ordained at the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He then returned to the Air Force as a chaplain and served as Area Jewish Chaplain for the Far East, stationed at Clark Air Base, Philippines. His responsibilities included traveling to bases in Thailand and Taiwan. In the chaplaincy, he developed and lived an outlook of interfaith cooperation, respect, and sharing, which has been part of his life ever since.

After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, he has served pulpits in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. In both Connecticut and Florida, Rabbi Atkins has worked as a chaplain for Hospice organizations.

After he retired from the pulpit, Rabbi Atkins and his wife Iris moved to Lee, New Hampshire, to be both closer to family and the seacoast. Learning that there was a need for a chaplain in the New Hampshire Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, and musing in his mind that there was a "specialness" to "bookending" his rabbinate with a connection to the Air Force, Atkins joined CAP. He is happy to be chaplain for Seacoast Composite Squadron. In 2019 he also took on the responsibility of Wing Chaplain for the New Hampshire Wing of CAP.

All of us are moved by the self-sacrificing, heroic efforts of those medical personnel and first responders who "know the risks" as they help humanity at this time of pandemic. They do not know the individuals, but they feel, often based on their religious values, the need to help wherever and however they can. In many ways, all of America is thanking them and valuing their sacrifices. Allow me to share a quite different but equally meaningful story of a willingness to sacrifice, based on belief in a common humanity. It is longer than most of my sharings, but I think you will find it meaningful.

Earlier this week the Jewish world observed a memorial day for victims of the Holocaust, the inconceivable part of history wherein the Nazis and their allies killed, often in the most heinous ways, six million Jews and five million other people because they were considered "undesirables" by their twisted ideology.... incidentally including three hundred thousand of non-Jewish Germans considered mentally or physically defective.

Above all else, this represents the denial of the essential humanity of every human being, regardless of race, religion, gender, or national origin.

When the United States Army started fighting in Europe, Jewish soldiers knew that they could be treated differently if they were captured.

I share with you one documented, true story of how one American noncommissioned officer responded to this situation. His name is Roddie Edmonds, an unassuming, devout Christian, and this is his story'

Edmonds, along with other inexperienced troops, arrived in the combat zone in December 1944, with the 106th Infantry Division, arriving only five days before Germany launched a massive counteroffensive, the Battle of the Bulge. During the battle, on December 19, 1944, Edmonds was captured by Nazi forces and sent to a German prisoner-of-war camp. Shortly after that, he was transferred, with other enlisted personnel, to another POW camp. As the senior noncommissioned officer at the new camp, Master Sergeant Edmonds was responsible for the camp's 1,275 American POWs.

On their first day in the camp, January 27, 1945 — as Germany's defeat was clearly approaching—the camp commandant ordered Edmonds to tell only the Jewish-American soldiers to present themselves at the next morning's assembly so they could be separated from the other prisoners. Instead, Edmonds ordered all 1,275 POWs to assemble outside their barracks. The German commandant rushed up to Edmonds in a fury, placed his pistol against Edmonds' head, and demanded that Edmonds identify the Jewish soldiers under his command.

Instead, Edmonds responded, "**We are all Jews here,**" and told the commandant that if he wanted to shoot the Jews, he would have to shoot all the prisoners. Edmonds then warned the commandant that if he harmed any of Edmonds' men, the commandant would be investigated and prosecuted for war crimes after the conflict ended—and since the Geneva Conventions required prisoners to give only their name, rank, and serial number; religion was not required. The commandant backed down. Edmonds' actions are credited with saving up to 200 Jewish-American soldiers from possible death.

Edmonds survived 100 days of captivity, saving other men under his control as well. He returned home after the war but kept the event at the POW camp to himself. He never told his family of the event. He died in 1985, having never received any official recognition, citation, or medal for his defense of the Jewish POWs.

After he died in 1985, Edmonds' wife gave their son, Reverend Chris Edmonds, a couple of the diaries his father had kept while in the POW camp. Rev. Edmonds began researching his life story, including the mention of the event at the POW camp. The younger Edmonds located several of the Jewish soldiers his father saved, who provided witness statements to Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial museum for victims of the Holocaust. On February 10, 2015, Yad Vashem recognized Edmonds as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations," Israel's highest honor for non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The awards ceremony was held January 27, 2016, at the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C., where then-President Barack Obama praised Edmonds for action "above and beyond the call of duty," and echoed Edmonds' statement of solidarity with Jews.

There is much more to the story that you can research on your own. Anyone with a connection to military life, including we in the Civil Air Patrol, should resonate with Edmonds' story. **Its essence is the strength of faith as a moral compass in one's life.** And that is a lesson that we should all both learn and hold dear.

¹ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roddie_Edmonds

THE JEWISH HOLIDAY OF SHAVUOT

Submitted by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Atkins
New Hampshire Wing Chaplain

Shavuot, the **Feast of Weeks** (the literal translation of the name) or Pentecost in English, is a Jewish holiday that begins on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan. Like all Jewish holidays based on the lunar calendar, the date in the secular calendar can vary, meaning it may fall between May 15 and June 14. This year it begins the evening of May 28. All Jewish holidays (and every Sabbath) begin at sunset of the date before the one generally cited. This goes back to the first chapter of Genesis, where Scripture says, “there was evening and there was morning....”

Shavuot has a double significance. To an early agrarian society, it marked the all-important ripening of first fruits and the wheat harvest in the Land of Israel, and it also commemorates the anniversary of the day when God gave the Torah (Five Books of Moses) to the people of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai.

The holiday is one of the Three Pilgrimage Festivals of the Torah. Its date is linked directly to that of Passover. The Torah mandates that there be a seven-week Counting of the Omer (an offering of barley), beginning on the second day of Passover, culminating in Shavuot. This counting of days and weeks is understood to express anticipation and desire for the giving of the Torah. On Passover, the people of Israel were freed from their enslavement to Pharaoh; on Shavuot, they were given the Torah and became a nation committed to serving God.

Shavuot is one of the less familiar Jewish holidays to Jews outside of Israel, having neither the length nor the ceremonial celebrations of Passover and Sukkot. The holiday is celebrated in Israel for one day and generally outside of Israel for two days. This difference in interpretation in length of observance also occurs regarding the other two Pilgrim festivals.

One of the special celebrations of Shavuot is the Ceremony of First Fruits or *Bikkurim*. It was the first day on which individuals could bring them to the Temple in Jerusalem. The *Bikkurim* were brought from the Seven Species for which the Land of Israel is praised: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

Today, synagogue sanctuaries are adorned in greenery and even displays of fruit in honor of Shavuot. The Biblical Book of Ruth, with its depiction of the wheat harvest in early Israel, is read on the holiday. There are many traditions regarding the observance of the holiday, and many Jewish teachings about the giving of the Torah, but the essence of the holiday is as described above.

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

May 2020 – August 2020

May 2020

- 2 **Ridvan ends** – Baha'i*
- 3 **National Day of Prayer** – U.S Federal
- 12 **Lag B'Omer** – Jewish*
- 16 **Armed Forces Day** – U.S Federal
- 21 **Ascension of the Lord** – Christian
- 23 **Declaration of the Bab** – Baha'i
- 23 **Eil al Fidr – Ramadan ends** – Islam*
- 29 **Ascension of the Baha'u'llah** – Baha'i*
- 29-30 **Shavuot** – Jewish* ***
- 31 **Pentecost** – Christian

June 2020

- 1 **Lailat al Qadr** – Islam*
- 7 **Pentecost** – Orthodox Christian
- 16 **Martyrdom of the Guru Arjan** – Sikh

July 2020

- 4 **Independence Day** – U.S Federal
- 9 **Martyrdom of the Bab** – Baha'i
- 24 **Pioneer Day** – Mormon
- 30 **Tisha B'Av** – Jewish*
- 31 **Eid al Adha** – Islam*

August 2020

- 6 **Transfiguration of the Lord** – Orthodox Christian
- 10 **Waqf al Arafa** – Hajj begins – Islam*
- 15 **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin** – Roman Catholic
- Dormition of the Theotokos** – Orthodox Christian

* Begins the night before

*** Observance includes refraining from activities or travel

See article on Shavuot on page 19 of this issue by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Atkins

Information here has been cross checked in various sources. For further details on key observances see the Multifaith Calendar of the Harvard Divinity School at <http://hds.harvard.edu/life-at-hds/religious-and-spiritual-life/multifaith-calendar>.

SOME USEFUL ITEMS FOR THE CHAPLAIN CORPS “TOOL BOX”

The Chaplain Corps National HQ Site <https://capchaplain.com/>
CD lessons, past Transmitter issues, and other resources

Chaplain Corps Blog <https://capchaplain.com/blog/>

The Chaplain Corps on Twitter <https://www.twitter.com/CAPChaplains>

Chaplain Corps Internal Facebook Page (Closed Group)
<https://www.facebook.com/CAPchaplains>

Chaplain Corps Prayer Team supporting every CAP member & their family
Email requests to chapel@capchaplain.org

The Transmitter Newsletter Issues
<https://capchaplain.com/transmitter-newsletter/>

CAP Mission Chaplain Training Program
<https://capchaplain.com/mission-chaplain-program/>

CAPP 80-3 The New Senior Member Character Development Curriculum 7 Nov 2019
https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP080_003_7_October_2019_Core_Va_0D2A2FF3A1D38.pdf
<https://www.capnhq.gov/CAP.LMS.Web/Default.aspx>

Link to new Values for Living 2.0 Lessons. Go to the link below for instructions to enter the Axis Learning Management system. Access to copyrighted videos is now limited to chaplains, CDIs, and commanders.
<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/library/character>

Values for Living 2.0 Facilitator Training Course <https://www.capnhq.gov/CAP.LMS.Web/Default.aspx>

CAPP 80-4 Wellness and Resilience: Handbook for the Five Pillars of Wellness and Resilience
https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP_804_58A6566D3AF9D.pdf

CAP Chaplain Corps Spiritual Resiliency <https://capchaplain.com/resiliency>

CAP CISM Wellness and Resilience Training <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/emergency-services/critical-incident-stress-management-cism--resiliency>

CAPP 221 Chaplain Specialty Track https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P221_F28D3A31A9924.pdf

CAPP 221A Technician Level https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P221A_5FC4131B0F475.pdf

CAPP 221B Senior Level https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P221B_C5812A0221682.pdf

CAPP 221C Master Level https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P221C_4F00E2E614797.pdf

CAPP 225 CDI Specialty Track February 2016
https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P225_3E1B2C993E723.pdf

CAPR 265-1 The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps 5 April 2015
https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/R265_001_538BD6B239386.pdf

CAP Picture Sharing (Flickr has been acquired by SmugMug)
<https://civilairpatrol.smugmug.com/>

Divinity School Multi-faith Calendar Listing and commentary on key multi-faith religious holidays
<https://hds.harvard.edu/life-at-hds/religious-and-spiritual-life/multifaith-calendar>

Major and Minor Jewish Holidays <https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/>

CAP Chaplain Corps and Air Force Chaplain Corps Book of Prayer
https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/BookOfPrayers_093F10A091CAE.pdf

Armed Forces Chaplain Board (AFCB) List of Ecclesiastical Endorsers
Ecclesiastical endorsers meeting requirements for chaplain appointment under CAPR 265-1 § B.6.b
<http://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/MPP/AFCB/Endorsements/>

U.S. Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs
A starting point in evaluating programs and credentials
<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>

