



Transmitter

The Official Newsletter of the Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps

Spring 2021

Updates on New Chaplain Corps Programs – pages 12-18



A MESSAGE

**From the Chief of the
CAP Chaplain Corps**

Chaplain (Colonel) John Murdoch

Greetings, Chaplain Corps,

Welcome to Spring! Some of us are still trying to figure out if it really is Spring yet. I know here at my home we had a Tuesday with the temperature around 75-80 and the next Tuesday we had 3-4 inches of snow. We had frost last night and it is 61 as I write. Attending Spring baseball feels more like Fall soccer! However, our grandchildren athletes don't seem to mind.

As we watch nature come to life after the winter season, let us use this example of growth to inspire us to continue growing in our knowledge of God and of our opportunities for service. In CAP, we are developing opportunities for you to continue growing in your positions as Chaplains and CDI's. In our monthly Chief's Roundtables, we have discussed the goal of starting specific training for our Corps. I am happy to let you know that this is more than talk. We are preparing to graduate our first class from the CAP Chaplain Corps College and already have students signed up for our next class. You can be one of them, too. I am extremely pleased with the work Chaplain Tillery and his team have done in the preparation and presentation of the Military Honors Course. We are preparing you to be professional volunteer chaplains and CDI's. When you have

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

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

completed all the training you will have the exact training the Air Force provides in their Chaplain Corps College. Here is a brief view of what the classes will consist of:

The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps College

1. **The Military Honors Course**
This class is the beginning class that trains chaplains to do Military Honors for funerals. We are graduating our first class and will start a second class soon. Be looking for the announcement of the opening of the next class.
2. **The Auxiliary Chaplains Course**
This course comprises the full 24 hours given at the US Air Force Basic Chaplains Course at Maxwell AFB to all the incoming Air Force Chaplains.
3. **The Wing Chaplains Course**
This course will deal with some basic skills needed to be a successful Wing Chaplain. Some of the topics covered will be mentoring, using WIMRS, religious accommodation, dealing with suicide in your wing. This course will be for current Wing and Region Chaplains. Once they have completed the course it will be open to anyone who may think they may want to be a Wing Chaplain one day.
4. **The Flight Chaplain Course**
This course will be for chaplains who are already a part of a flight crew and will train in the unique ministry to those who are a part of the flying missions of Civil Air Patrol. Once you are flight crew rated you can apply for this course.
5. **The Advanced Character Course**
This course is open to both Chaplains and Character Development Instructors. Some of the courses will be advanced character development, advanced ethical leadership, and mentoring. These courses will assist us in the ongoing mission of developing both senior and cadet leaders who are resilient and successful in their missions.

As you can see, much work is being done to help you become an even better prepared chaplain or character development instructor. I trust you will take advantage of these courses once they are available.

As we enjoy the newness of Spring, let us move forward with renewed excellence and expedience, and never forget we exhibit the Holy as we serve our sphere of influence in and out of Civil Air Patrol.

You are in my prayers! It is an honor to serve with you!

Your fellow Servant

Chaplain (Colonel) John B. Murdoch

Chief of Chaplains

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Special Assistant to the Chief for Character Development

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DEWIE PAINTER, Member at Large; CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) JOHN REUTEMANN, Catholic Faith; CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) AHARON COHN, Jewish Faith

REGION CHAPLAINS

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) MATTHEW WISELL - Northeast Region

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) WAYNE BYERLY - Mid-Atlantic Region

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

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) VAN DON WILLIAMS - Southeast Region

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) DON MIKITTA - North Central Region

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

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) DAVID KNIGHT - Rocky Mountain Region

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

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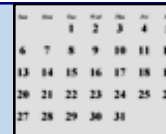
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Chief of Chaplains
Col. John Murdoch

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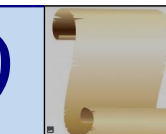
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photo by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul Ward (ret.)



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Major General Mark Smith

Chief Operating Officer
John Salvador

CAP-USAF Commander
Col. Mark Wootan

National Chief of CAP Chaplain Corps
Chaplain (Col.) John Murdoch

Chaplain Corps Administrator
Kenya Bogans

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



THE TRANSMITTER

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Commanders & The Corps: Col. James Ridley

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS -- Mark Your Calendars!



2021 CAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

August 12-14 A Virtual Event

2021 CHANGE OF COMMAND

**National Commander/CEO
Vice Commander**

August 26 Viewable Online

Details to be announced in PROPS

2021 ON-LINE TRAINING LEADERS OF CADETS (TLC)

Offered on July 17, 2021

Registration opens some weeks before: <http://caphclub.us>.

Please Contact Ch (Lt. Col.) Jeff Williams (jwilliams@hc.cap.gov)
if you need the course offered on Sunday due to religious practices

MILITARY CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION (MCA)

2021 Annual Meeting/

Emerson Lunch and Awards/Continuing Ed Presentations

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 8:30-15:00 Columbia, SC

Alternate DSA Awards Presentation

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:30-13:00

Army and Navy Club, Washington, DC

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

Look for Announcements for Training Opportunities from HC-NHQ

3 hour Chaplain Training Practicum

To qualify to perform Military Honors for VA funerals

Auxiliary Chaplain Course

To provide further support to military
Training conducted by CAP retired AF chaplains

See Fall 2020 Transmitter article on the Auxiliary Chaplain Course
https://capchaplain.com/downloads/Transmitter_Fall_2020.pdf, p.9

EMERGENCY SERVICE TRAINING

CHAPLAIN CORPS EMERGENCY SERVICE SCHOOL (ChESS)

For Mission Chaplain Chaplain/Support Specialist (CSS) ratings

Online/Virtual Basic ChESS (CAP Support)

Spring 2021 Course Completed Fall 2021 Course TBA

ChESS at NESA 2021

Basic Course July 25-31

Advanced Disaster Support Course August 1-7

Course Directors: mtaylor@hc.cap.gov; lpugsley@hc.cap.gov; vwilliams@hc.cap.gov

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)

See the article reviewing the 2020 Alpha CAP Support Class ChESS Course by
Maj. Jonathan Luysterborghs in the Summer 2020 issue of the Transmitter, p. 17.
https://capchaplain.com/downloads/Transmitter_Summer_2020.pdf

CHAPLAIN CORPS NEWS

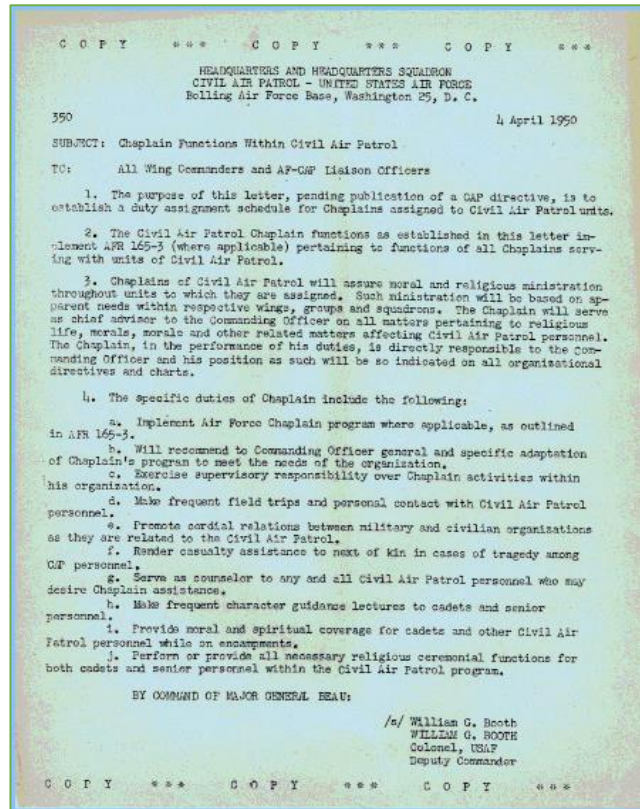
CHAPLAIN CORPS CELEBRATES 71ST BIRTHDAY

Newly Discovered Document Sets April 4, 1950 as Chaplain Corps Founding

We now know our birthday,” Chief of Chaplains (Col.) John B. Murdoch announced a change in the date to celebrate the Chaplain Corps founding. In a March 28, 2021 memorandum Chaplain Murdoch announced:

“In 1950, the Civil Air Patrol created the Chaplain Corps. With little documentation at our disposal, the corps has always used the birthday of the CAP, 1 December, to mark our own birthday. Recently, one of the pillars of the CAP History Program, Colonel Frank Blazich, found and provided to us, a copy of General Order 350, dated 4 April 1950, as the founding document of the corps.”

Previously set as December 1st, the Chaplain Corps will henceforth celebrate its birthday on April 4th. (April 5th in 2021, the day following Easter Sunday). See here a copy of the newly discovered General Order 350.



2021 CHAPLAIN CORPS COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by North Central Region Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald Mikitta

The Chaplain Corps Staff College of Professional Development 2021 of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was held on 19-22 April 2021, online because of CoVID 19 pandemic restrictions. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dan Hudson directed the college. Chaplain Jeffrey Williams served as the Internet Technology director, with Region Chaplains (Lt. Col.) Don Mikitta, (Maj.) David Knight, and (Lt. Col.) Gary Eno hosting. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eugene Abrams served as Staff Chaplain and Chaplain (Col.) David Van Horn joined in to support the event. Presentations by Col. John O'Neill, Col. Jeffrey Johnson, Col. Regena Aye and Lt. Col. Brenda Read provided instruction to the attendees to help them better serve CAP. Additionally, students from Middle Atlantic, Southeast and Southwest Regions attended.

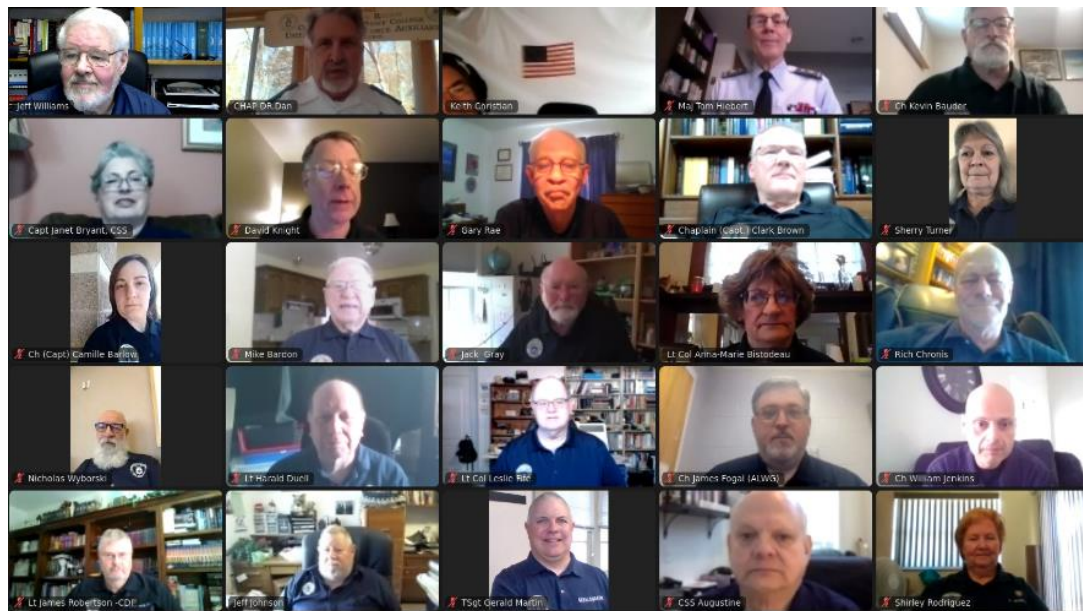
Our key training event was to update regulations and the new Education and Training program. The college completed the foundational classes that prepare chaplains and character development instructors to serve CAP members. CMSgt (ret.) Bob Dandridge presented the history of military coins. The daily devotions focused the students on their ministry of presence.

39 graduates received certificates of attendance (*See on page 8*). The 2022 event is scheduled for 24-28 April at the Columban Fathers Retreat Center in Nebraska.

Joint Chaplain Corps College Attendees (Continued from page 7)



Row 1, / to r, Chaplain (Capt.) Camille Barlow (UT); Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Bardon (UT); CDI, Maj. Jack Gray (MO); CDI, Lt. Col. Anna-Marie Bistodeau (NCR); Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Chronis. **Row 2, / to r,** Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Nicholas Wyborski (FL); CDI, 2nd Lt. Harald Duell (ID); Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Leslie Fife (UT); Chaplain (Maj.) James Fogal (AL); Chaplain (Capt.) William Jenkins (KY). **Row 3, / to r,** Chaplain (2nd Lt.) James Robertson (CO); Col. Jeff Johnson (RMR); CDI, TSgt. Gerald Martin (ID); CDI, 2nd Lt. Chuck Augustine (AL); CDI, Lt. Col. Shirley Rodriguez (NHQ). **Row 4, / to r,** CDI, 1st Lt. Donald Durbin (IL), Chaplain (Capt.) Mark Bradshaw (MO), Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don Mikitta (NCR); Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jill Holm (MN Wing); CMSgt. (ret.) Bob Dandridge (IL). **Row 5, / to r,** Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Leonard Hale (MO); CDI, Lt. Col. Kayla Powers (UT); CDI, Maj. Naomi Hendricks (UT); Chaplain (Maj.) Larry Vollink (MI); Chaplain (Capt.) Roger Gillming (NE).



Row 1, / to r, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeffrey Williams (NHQ); Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dan Hudson (NCR) (Director); CDI, Maj. Keith Christian (CO); CDI, Maj. Tom Hiebert (MN); Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Bauder (MN). **Row 2, / to r,** CDI, Capt, Janet Bryant (KY); Chaplain (Maj.) David Knight (RMR); Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Rae (SD); Chaplain (Capt.) Clark Brown (MI); CDI, 2nd Lt. Sherry Turner (CO). **Row 3, / to r,** Chaplain (Capt.) Camille Barlow (UT); Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Bardon (UT); CDI, Maj. Jack Gray (MO); CDI, Lt. Col. Anna-Marie Bistodeau (NCR); Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Chronis. **Row 4, / to r,** Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Nicholas Wyborski (FL); CDI, 2nd Lt Harald Duell (ID), CDI, Lt. Col. Leslie Fife (UT); Chaplain (Maj.) James Fogal (AL); Chaplain (Capt.) William Jenkins (KY). **Row 5, / to r,** Chaplain (Capt.), James Robertson (CO); Col. Jeff Johnson (RMR); TSgt. Gerald Martin (ID); CDI, 2nd Lt. Chuck Augustine (AL); CDI, Lt. Col. Shirley Rodriguez (NHQ).

THE VOLUNTEER'S PAYCHECK

By Colonel James Ridley, Sr.

with special contributions by Brigadier General Edward Phelka



Col James A. Ridley, Sr. is the former Commander of the Connecticut Wing, who has also served as the Wing Chief of Staff. He has served at the squadron, group, wing, and region levels in such capacities as cadet programs officer, public affairs officer, deputy commander, commander, region plans and programs officer. Col Ridley has directed two Region Staff Colleges and a Region Cadet Leadership School for the Northeast Region. He has lectured at five Northeast Region Chaplain Colleges, the last two held at Camp Nett in Niantic, CT.

Col. Ridley's previous articles in *The Transmitter*, "The Value of Chaplains and CDIs at Cadet Encampment," appeared in the Winter 2017 issue, "Commanders Preach the Core Values – Good Commanders Live by Them," in the Winter 2018 issue, "Mentorship" in the Spring 2019 issue, "Servant Leadership" in the Winter 2020 issue, and "Wing Commanders Relationship With The Chaplains" appeared in the Winter 2021 issue.

"We all have that impact on others, sometimes unintentionally, unknowingly, just by being who we are. When we set a clear intention to be on the lookout for ways that we can contribute, we do discover them. We discover those people who are open to our influence and welcome it. To be received by another feels so good." - *Psychology Today*, Nov 7, 2016

Author and life coach Anyaele Sam Chiyson once said, "Could anything be better than this: Waking up every day knowing that lots of people are smiling because you chose to impact lives, making the world a better place." I think about this often. I speak of this topic during many of the leadership classes I teach, and every so often, I hear from someone who reminds me how true that statement is.

A few days before Christmas 2020, Carissa, one of my former cadets I mentored and led many years ago, called me on the telephone. A cadet no longer, she is a medical student preparing to graduate and interviewing for a pediatrics residency at several hospitals across the nation. She did not call me for the holidays. She called to let me know how well her first interview went with a hospital in upstate New York. She started telling me of the interview, and then she described the long conversation she and the doctor in charge of the department had regarding her CAP experience. "He was so curious and impressed with CAP!" she said. "He asked me about the encampment leadership positions I held, my cadet squadron command, Spaatz achievement, and of course I told him about my amazing mentor who was a big part of my growth and success." Jokingly I responded, "Wow, who's that?" We both laughed, and she said she felt that her CAP experience set her apart from the other candidates. I sat back, smiled proudly, and wondered, how many others like her are out there whose story I have never heard?



Carissa, Former Cadet

How fondly I remember the days she and others in our unit worked together on cadet activities, at squadron meetings, fundraisers, and such. I served on several encampment staffs with her and was her mentor when she served as the encampment cadet executive officer. I was with her and her mother the day she passed her Spaatz exam at NY Wing Headquarters. She later joined my old Army R.O.T.C. battalion which I still served as an alumni advisor, and I was a guest

of hers at her college graduation. I have known this remarkable young woman for over 15 years. Once I called her cadet, now I call her friend.

As I sit here writing these words, I can't help but reflect on this and other experiences. I wonder, how many people have I impacted in some way? Between the friends I grew up with in my youth and later those I mentored as an R.O.T.C. adviser, youth football coach, and CAP leader, how many did I get through to? How many did I help? I will never truly know, but my experiences after the fact with some reassure me that the number must be high.



Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

We touch the lives of everyone we meet, my father used to say. Stories like Carissa's happen from time to time, and I have two excellent examples from my youth football coaching days I would like to share. The first one has two lessons learned from the same young man, although three years apart. What makes this story unique is that one lesson taught to me was at the end of our last game of the season and the other three years later when Bruce never uttered a word. Bruce was one of my best football players; big, strong, and the silent type. Bruce was with me for three years, always played hard but spoke little. In 2003, one year removed from our championship season, we lost our playoff game. After the handshakes and well wishes, there was Bruce sitting down crying his eyes out. I sat next to him and told him that it was alright; we can learn just as much from a loss as a victory. Bruce looked at me and said, "that's not why I am upset". I asked him why he was so broken up. His answer took me by surprise, "it's the last time we will all be together." In that moment, Bruce demonstrated to me what was important. He was thirteen years old.

Three years later, I was sitting at my desk around 6 pm when I received a phone call from my 2002-2003 team mother, Melodie, who informed me that Bruce had tragically passed away at the tender age of 16 of an accidental overdose. Melodie told me that it was the last evening of the wake, which started at 6:30 pm. Since the funeral home wasn't far away, I put on a shirt and tie and raced over there. Melodie got everything right except the start time. It was 7 pm, not 6:30. I stood in the funeral parlor, alone with Bruce. As I walked up to the coffin, I saw memorabilia of our 2001-2003 seasons. Bruce's championship jacket, a picture of him and me at the head of the casket, a team photo, and in the coffin the MVP trophy I presented him. Just then, I encountered his mother entering the room being held up by his father and older brother. She came up to me exclaiming, "Coach, I can't believe you came!" Emotional, I asked her what all of this (the memorabilia) was. What she said to me has had a lasting impact ever since. She said,



"We had to. It was the happiest time of his life being with you and the Broncos." I drove home sobbing. This young man who was no longer with us taught me something extraordinary, and I have never forgotten the lesson. We impact lives every day, especially the most impressionable ones, our youth. I did something the next season I never did previously or since I retired his number 58. As long as I coached the Broncos, no one would ever wear that number again. No one could ever fill his cleats.

Titus 1:9 *“He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”*

My second football story involves a young man named David who played for me a couple of years after Bruce. I had David on the Broncos for two years. Unlike Bruce, David came from a broken home. He was rough around the edges, didn't do well in school and was unliked by some of his fellow players and coaches. Despite David's attitude, he was one of my favorites, he needed someone positive in his life, and I always felt I could make a difference. He was the first player at practice and sometimes was left at the field waiting for his ride home. Many times I would wait with him as I would never leave a player alone at the field after practice or a game. We had time to talk and for me to offer advice. At the end of his final season with the team, he gave me a handmade card addressed to “Coach Big Dog” thanking me for everything. I was done helping him.

The year after Dave left our team, we made it to the championship game once again. I had a tradition. If we made the championship, I always dressed in a jacket and tie as the old-time coaches had done, and I invited our player alumni to attend the game and root those who came after them. What happened next shocked me. David showed up, a fresh haircut, dressed in slacks, shirt, and wearing a tie! After exchanging hellos, he presented me with his freshman high school report card – one A, mostly B's, one C, and NO D's or F's! I got through to him! A few conversations, being a good sportsman, and coaching by example left a positive impression, one in which David took to heart and changed his life for the better.

As volunteers, we do not receive money for our efforts, but seeing the difference we make in other's lives, the smiles on their faces, and hearing of their accomplishments is the payback, the volunteer's paycheck, we receive. ‘Investing time and energy, not in what is, but what can be’ is one of the nine behaviors of people who positively impact the world, according to an article found in Forbes Magazine published in June 2014. By the time this article is published, I will have concluded my four-year term as commander of the Connecticut Wing. It was a great experience, one that I will miss. While I don't know what challenge awaits me next, I do know that whatever it is, I will have an impact on others, many of whom I will never realize. Carissa, Bruce, and David taught me that. God, I am looking forward to the adventure!

In recent discussions I had with CAP's National Vice Commander (Brig. Gen.) Edward Phelka, he expressed to me similar experiences which he has had. **In his own words, General Phelka said, “As I visit with members of Civil Air Patrol, I am continuously inspired by all our volunteers... the newest cadet, squadron commanders, wing commanders, all the way up to National Commander. All are volunteers. Sometimes we're called, ‘Unpaid Professionals.’ I dispute the ‘unpaid’ part. While we don't receive money that we can take to a bank, we each receive what I like to call ‘volunteer paychecks’ ‘for the work that we do. I have received several, and they have served to reinforce certain principles of leadership that have served me well both in Civil Air Patrol, as well as the Airline and Software industries.”**

As volunteers we do not receive a salary for our efforts, but seeing the difference we make in other's lives, the smiles on their faces and hearing of their accomplishments is the payback, the volunteer's paycheck, as General Phelka has termed, we receive. As I sit here writing these words, I can't help but reflect on this and other experiences I have had. I wonder, how many people have I impacted positively in some way? Between the friends I grew up with in my youth and later those I mentored as a National Society of Pershing Rifles (R.O.T.C.) advisor, youth football coach and CAP leader, how many did I get through too? How many did I help? I will never truly know but my experiences after the fact with some, reassure me that the number must be high.

CAP PASTORAL SUPPORT GROUP

Submitted By Major Antony Davies, CDI, MAR-VA002*



Originally from the UK, Major Davies and his family moved to the USA in 2005 after a short time in Canada, both moves being work-related. He has been married to Alison for 35 years and has three children. Their eldest son is a SSgt in the United States Marine Corps, and their daughter served six years in the United States Coast Guard.

Maj. Davies has a long association with air force organizations. An Air Training Corps Cadet for nearly 5 years, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force as a technician maintaining flight simulators. He was later commissioned into the Engineering Branch following completion of an in-service Bachelor's degree. Maj Davies holds a Bachelor of Engineering from Cranfield University in the UK, a Master of Science in Management from the University of Management & Technology in VA., and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP ®).

Maj. Davies joined CAP in 2011 and became his squadron's first CDI and the PDO, Finance Officer, and Deputy Commander. Having been a licensed lay preacher for many years, the role of CDI was a natural fit and one of the most rewarding experiences of his life. After ten years of membership, Maj Davies

is leaving CAP to focus on ordained ministry, having spent much of the "COVID Year" studying to complete the required academic training.

This all started with a telephone call from Chaplain Tim Miner on a cold winter day in December 2018. He'd been considering whether CAP could start a prayer group and thought I might be interested in running it. It took me all of around five seconds to think it over and accept, and we started the planning!

There was a necessary pause while Ch Miner secured a suitable domain name and email address. We needed to demonstrate a clear separation between the official domains and the domain used by the prayer group; we also settled on the term Pastoral Support Group. In the interim, I started working on the structure. It turned out to be easier than we thought, although it would be the third week of February 2019 before we were fully ready.

I started thinking about a weekly cycle for praying for CAP; there are 52 weeks each year, and we have 52 wings. There's also the Overseas Squadrons, which I added to the week for National Headquarters (NATCAP) Wing. That looked balanced. It runs in alphabetical order, starting in the third week of February each year. Ch Murdoch added a thought, which was that we should include our USAF partners; a little more research and I developed a list of the Major Commands, including Space Command (now Space Force), the USAF & Air National Guard (ANG) (as one group), and CAP itself. That list is twelve organizations, which suggested a monthly cycle across the year, and I deliberately made December the month of prayer for CAP.

I wanted to make sure we included the formation commanders and the wing or the formation chaplains; the best source of information for both CAP and USAF is the official websites. The USAF is somewhat shy about listing the chaplains, whereas most CAP wings have good organization pages showing both command and supporting staff.

By early 2019, the structure was in place, but we still needed praying people! Ch Miner was able to send an All Hands to the Chaplains and CDIs, seeking volunteers. Within 48 hours, I was overwhelmed by positive responses. It took me a few days to sort through everything and get it into order. The list has settled at 107 members, Chaplains and CDIs mainly, spread across a variety of

traditions. Some are active, some retired, and some started as active CAP members but had to leave CAP for various reasons and felt the need to support the team.

From the start, we adopted a simple code of conduct – We treat everything “**In Confidence.**” We don’t share prayer requests with other groups. Periodically, I send out little reminders to keep that in front of us. I made a point of not asking group members about their religious affiliation; all I asked was for them to tell me whether they were Chaplain, CDI, or neither, their wing, and their rank. That done, we launched as of 16 February 2019. Each week starts on a Saturday. All requests are listed for four weeks initially; I email the originator in the days immediately before the expiry date to get a progress check.

All requests to *chapel@capchaplain.org* land in my Chaplain Corps email box, and I edit only to the extent that is needed to remove the requestor’s email address and to change the tense if needed. For the most part, all requests go into the next list as I undertook to not burden people’s email with a drip feed of emails. That said, an urgent request will go out within a few hours of receipt. Like most people in CAP, I have a day job and can only access my CAP emails from home.

We accept the requests at face value; the only exception is where the request is clearly around a bereavement I double-check the details wherever possible; I vividly recall from my days as a flight commander and staff officer in the RAF, hearing about the terrible situation following a mid-air collision where one pilot died, and the other survived. Somehow, the spousal notifications were reversed, and the whole matter went very badly. It’s also not the role of the group to break the news to a wider audience. We take it for prayer and leave the notifications to those charged with that duty.

Two years on, where are we? We’ve been part of the highs and lows of CAP life. We’ve shared in births, a couple of weddings, a lot of sickness, and, inevitably, some deaths. We’ve been thankful, sorrowful, and sometimes both at the same time. People have requested prayer for their congregations, people close to them at work, colleagues struggling with life choices. It’s a series of highs and lows – some weeks the list is full, and other weeks there’s nothing.

Some common questions center on what wing chaplains need to do to prepare for their week and when is their week. This year, I emailed the list of dates to the prayer group, and I plan to email all of the wing chaplains with the calendar. There’s nothing to do to prepare, but having the chapel email on the chaplain page on the wing website would be helpful, along with ensuring that wing chaplain contact details are on the site. The wing websites are my “Go-To” source for the latest information concerning commanders and chaplains.

We are here to pray. I want to take a moment to emphasize that and emphasize the work of the team. We are 107 people from different religious traditions who have all determined to take time each week to pray for the needs of the Civil Air Patrol and, most importantly, for the needs of its members. There’s no rating for this and no badge, and it isn’t exciting. But to be trusted with the needs of our members is an intimate and very personal privilege, and we are glad to be of service to our CAP family. I wouldn’t formally point out any one member of the team above the rest, but one does exemplify the spirit of this amazing group of people. His name is Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Al W. Al is long retired from CAP and from ministry; we celebrated his 90th birthday along the way. Al isn’t in good health, and he now has difficulty using his computer. He often sends me an email to tell me that he can still pray, so keep the list coming. Truly, he inspires me with his faith, and he exemplifies the spirit of the team.

My job is easy – I’m the paper pusher! The real work is done with 107 people praying each week in their various traditions for the needs made known to them.

My time in CAP ends on 31 May. A new name will appear on the emails, but the praying continues. I plan to stay on the team, and you may be assured of my prayers. The team is here to pray, so pass the word around, make the chapel email visible in the proper places – and send us a note!

*Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Miner facilitated preparation of this article.

CAP CHAPLAIN CORPS COLLEGE*

Submitted by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John F. Tillery USAF (Ret)
Director, CAP Chaplain Corps College



Over the past 49 years, Ch. John Tillery has been a part of two of our nation's military branches and one Auxiliary: Army, Air Force, and Civil Air Patrol. His military training began on January 11th, 1972, when he enlisted in the Army. After serving four and a half years as a forward observer in the Artillery, he was honorably discharged and married his sweetheart, Barbara. The next twenty years were filled with family, school, and pastoring three churches.

John joined the Civil Air Patrol in June 1988 and served for four years at the Composite Squadron in Fairbanks, AK. In addition to his work as a chaplain in the FBK Squadron, he was also a form 5 rated pilot, Mission Observer, and Mission Scanner.

In February 1997, John began his twenty years of service as an Air Force chaplain. Highlights of this part of his life included: Four years at the Air Force Chaplain Corps College where he taught, wrote curriculum, and served as the registrar; taking part in five named Operations, serving as the lead chaplain for the Deployment Transition Sites, which led to the creation of the Deployment

Transition Center at Ramstein Air Base; and being the Wing Chaplain at Aviano AB, Italy, Goodfellow AFB, TX, and Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait. During his Air Force career, he was active in the Civil Air Patrol and held chaplain positions for squadrons in Little Rock, AR and Yokota, Japan.

In 2016, Ch Tillery retired from the Air Force. John is currently the pastor of First Colony Bible Chapel in Sugar Land, TX, still married to his sweetheart, Barbara, has 10 grandchildren, and serves as the Director of the CAP Chaplain Corps College and the TX 360 Composite Squadron chaplain.

Historical background of the CAP Chaplain Corps College:

The Air Force Chaplain Corps College (AFCCC) was established at Lackland AFB, Texas, in 1960 and moved to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, in 1966. In 2010, in response to Congress combining all the military chaplain schools geographically together, the AFCCC was relocated to Ft Jackson, South Carolina. As an active duty chaplain in the Air Force for 20 years, I had the privilege of serving at the College from June 2007 until June 2011 as Registrar and Course Director for the Basic Chaplain Course, the Trauma Course, and Curriculum Development. I helped in the transition to Ft Jackson, South Carolina. However, in 2017, AFCCC returned to Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

The Vision:

Why this brief history of the AFCCC? Just this: in 2020, the Air Force Chief of Chaplains, Steven A. Schaick, enthusiastically embraced the CAP Chief of Chaplains, John Murdoch's, vision to offer the CAP Chaplain Corps the highest level of professional development through the creation of a new CAP entity, the Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps College (CAPCCC)! In cooperation with AFCCC's expertise and experience, it will now be possible to educate CAP Chaplains to Active Duty standards. This training will allow them to operate seamlessly within the Total Force in selected mission areas.

One of the remarkable outcomes of this extraordinary vision is that the CAPCCC is not simply connected with the AFCCC, but also with Air University, "the intellectual and leadership-development center of the Air Force." Without question, these are the best possible associations for the CAP Chaplain Corps on its trajectory towards professionalism and in our full role as Total Force partners.

While the potential of the CAPCCC is not yet known, some of its goals have already been realized.

- The College's inaugural course, the Military Honors Course, was conducted from 5 April to 5 May.
- In the near term the College is slated to offer four additional courses: the Auxiliary Chaplain Course, the Wing Chaplain Course, and the Flight Chaplain Course.
- Further courses are on the visible horizon. These professional continuing education online courses will be offered numerous times a year and projected to range from one to six weeks.

The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps College (CAPCCC) envisions itself as the premier center for providing education, training, and resourcing for all CAP Chaplains. This concept will promote chaplain professionalism, thereby enhancing religious support to all CAP members, the USAF, Total Force, the VA, and other stakeholders. The College will accomplish this vision by providing students with certified, trained, equipped, competent, and creative instructors who hold the values of integrity, volunteer service, excellence, and respect.

The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps College (CAPCCC's) Mission Statement:

to provide education, training, and resources that promote professional excellence and enhance the free exercise of religion for our members by operating seamlessly with our Active Duty counterparts in selected missions.

The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps College (CAPCCC)'s Goals

are to achieve vocational excellence, professional integrity, and service to others by:

- Providing relevant knowledge, skills, and resources for students to better perform their duties
- Attracting, mentoring, and recognizing quality chaplains and CDIs
- Ensuring that faculty and course directors apply proper instructional system development principles
- Securing resources to support mission requirements
- Monitoring the quality of support services and seeking necessary improvements.

The Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps College (CAPCCC) Graduates will be:

- Able to function to the demanded requirements trained to specific requisites in selected tasks
- Acquainted with and understand how to conduct ministry in a diverse environment, as well as know the customs, courtesies, and protocol of both the CAP and AF
- Able to function in interreligious and interdenominational environments with conviction, grace, and humility
- Able to engage in appropriate AF communications

It is truly an honor to be a part of this pioneering and dynamic environment. All CAP chaplains are encouraged to be involved in the CAPCCC as either a student, teacher, curriculum developer, subject matter expert, technical expert, or any other number of additional opportunities. Future CAP initiatives will further our professional abilities to support the Total Force in peacetime and contingency operations.

These entities will continue to allow worldwide CAP Chaplain Corps education efforts in any area the Chief of Chaplains directs.

*Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Miner facilitated preparation of this article.

PROFESSIONALISM: BUILDING AN “ETHOS” FOR THE CHAPLAIN CORPS



PART I OF A SERIES: ON PROFESSIONALISM
FOR THE CHAPLAIN CORPS

AN OATH OF OFFICE FOR ALL APPOINTED TO THE CAP CHAPLAIN CORPS

Submitted by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Miner

Chaplain Miner is the Virginia Wing Chaplain who has served as the Chief of Chaplains' Advisor for Social Media and Publicity from the beginning of the position in 2014. He serves on the National Task Force for Wellness and Resilience as the lead for the Chief's Spiritual Resilience Team. Since May 2020, he has been pioneering the duties of a new office at NHQ, the Executive Officer to the Chief of Chaplains.

Part II of the series, covering email signatures and other professional symbols, will appear in the Summer 2021 issue of the Transmitter.

Note: References to historic figures in this article are not intended to reflect current political events

*“Ethos’ is an ethical appeal means to **convince an audience of the author’s credibility or character**. An author would use ethos to show to his audience that he is a credible source and is worth listening to. Ethos is the Greek word for “character.” The word ‘ethic’ is derived from ethos.”*

During the first Joint Chaplain Corps Region Staff College held online in July 2020, one of the speakers was Chaplain (Colonel) Michael S. Newton, USAF. He serves as the commandant for the USAF Chaplain Corps College. His presentation was a call for professionalism as a critical element for the service of all CAP members. He remarked that the Corps' professionalism will ultimately determine its credibility as leaders and advisors in all CAP activities. That presentation is available for review on the CAP Chaplain Corps' YouTube channel.*

Later that evening, in an online ceremony, the Chief of Chaplains for CAP, Chaplain (Colonel) John B. Murdoch, led over 50 members of the Corps in reciting the "Oath of Office" for someone appointed to the CAP Chaplain Corps. He has subsequently administered the oath to other members during several of his roundtable sessions.

But why administer an oath to CAP members? What is the background of the oath for professionalism?

History of the Oath

The Oath of Office is as old as the country. Prescribed in the Constitution of the United States in Article VI, clause 3, the Oath was seriously debated during the writing of that instrument of government. Many of the founding fathers, still chaffing from their past declarations as loyal subjects to the King, are on record as stating it was unnecessary in a free society. While the Oath was mandated, the words have changed over history.

Originally seen as a pledge to support the Constitution, the importance of the Oath was greatly magnified during the Civil War by President Lincoln when the text was expanded to be a loyalty test to the Union. It would take an entire generation before the Oath again assumed its more natural role in society.

The current wording of the federal Oath of Office for our Total Force partners is:

I, (full name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

Many members of the National Guard will take an additional oath to support the constitutions of their individual states.

Additional Pledges of Conduct

While the Oath of Office is the oldest pledge of service, history has required additional statements that mandate behavior from the most trusted in our society.

The United States Military Academy at West Point is a standard bearer for the "Honor Code." While the concept is as old as the school, which dates to 1802, it didn't become codified until the 1940s. Originally a code was based on the societal norm of "a gentleman's word is his bond." The "Father of West Point," Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, specifically outlawed cheating. In 1922, General Douglas MacArthur was the superintendent. He created the first Honor Committee of cadets to teach and administer the honor of the students. It would not be until 1945 that superintendent General Maxwell Taylor would establish the code as "We will not lie, cheat, or steal." The last change came in 1970 when the additional words of "nor tolerate among us anyone who does" were added. The first class of the US Air Force Academy adopted this USMA honor code as its own.

The conduct of military personnel while under the stress of combat and other extreme situations has long been important. During the Korean War, the conduct of American prisoners-of-war was widely scrutinized for inappropriate and dishonorable behaviors. So much so, that in 1955, then President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed Executive Order 10631 which was the "Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States." From that day forward, every member of the military has come to know the words:

Code of Conduct For Members Of The United States Armed Forces

I

I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.

III

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am bound to give only name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

To this day, the "gold standard" of the "how and why" of this code is the example of the late senator John McCain, who was captured and held as a POW in the Vietnam War in October 1967 as a naval aviator. As the son of the theater commander, he was a propaganda coup for the North Vietnamese military. However, despite brutal torturing, he refused to be used and repeatedly denied himself the chance to be released early to ease his own suffering. He would finally be released with other prisoners in 1973. McCain often spoke of the importance of the Fighting Man's Code as his standard of behavior under the worst of conditions.

An Oath for the Civil Air Patrol

The senior members of the Civil Air Patrol have their own "oath," which they sign with their initial membership application. Reading the words of that oath shows it to be the conditions of membership. During ceremonies, when members of the Total Force normally recite their own Oath, other words are more appropriate for the occasion.

The Chaplain Corps has taken those ceremonial words to create its own Oath-of-Appointment to the CAP Chaplain Corps. That oath is:

I, (full name), having been appointed as a member of The United States Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and comply with the Constitution, Bylaws and regulations of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge all duties and responsibilities as well as obey the orders of the officers appointed over me according to regulations, so help me God.

Every member of the Total Force is required to recite from memory their oath of enlistment or commissioning during their basic training. The Corps will do well to use this oath of appointment in a public ceremony in the unit upon acceptance by the Chief of Chaplains. Every member of the Corps should memorize these words and truly make them their own.

The Oath is the first step of creating an "ethos" for the Chaplain Corps. In the next issue, we will discuss other activities that will point the Corps to be more "professional" as it serves the country, the communities, and all members of the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

*Chaplain Newton's 2020 presentation is located at: <https://youtu.be/aJjiCo5m6Mk>

WELCOME ABOARD!!!!
CHAPLAIN AND CDI APPOINTMENTS
October 2020 – April 2021

CDI APPOINTMENTS

Capt. Suleyman Bahceci (MAR/VAWG)
2nd Lt. Joseph Calandra (NCR/MNWG)
Capt. Ruth Carley (NCR/SDWG)
Capt. Denise Clement (NCR/SDWG)
Lt. Col. William Draper (GLR/MIWG)
Maj. Valerie Espinili (GLR/ILWG)
Maj. Angela Fein (PCR/ORWG)
Lt. Col. Rojelio Herrera (PCR/HIWG)
Lt. Col. Paul Lambertson SER/ALWG)
1st Lt. Michelle Lynott (SWR/AZWG)
2nd Lt. Jodi McGregor (SER/TNWG)
2nd Lt. Thomas Miller (MAR/VAWG)
2nd Lt. Andrea Mittleider (PCR/ORWG)
1st Lt. Rebecca Nyberg (NCR/NDWG)
Lt. Col. David Oestreicher (NER/CTWG)
2nd Lt. Stephen Perschke (SER/GAWG)
SM Jarod Pilgreen (NER/NYWG)
2nd Lt. Rachel Pridgen (SER/ALWG)
1st Lt. Kimate Richards (PCR/CAWG)
Col. James Ridley (NER/CTWG)
2nd Lt. Gina Sartirana (NER/CTWG)
1st Lt. Jeffrey Stath (SER/TNWG)
Capt. Kenneth Swisher (SWR/TXWG)
Lt. Col. Linda Yeager (SWR/AZWG)
2nd Lt. Thomas Wise (NER-PAWG)

CHAPLAIN APPOINTMENTS

Capt. Clark Brown (GLR/MIWG)
Maj. Paul Carmean (MAR/WVWG)
Capt. Paul Castillo (NCR/KSWG)
Capt. David Doellinger (NCR/MNWG)
Maj. James Hsiau (NHQ)
SM Marshall Murphy (GLR/INWG)
Capt. Richard Olsen (PCR/WAWG)
Capt. Frank Perez (SER/PRWG)
SM Christopher Thompson (SER/FLWG)



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“There is an ethical framework within Civil Air Patrol that we hold all of our members to. By understanding and embracing these core values, it helps us to work at a level of excellence and professionalism that we can be proud of, and our partners can be proud of as well.”

***CAP National Commander
Major General Mark Smith***

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

October 2020-March 2021



Level 5 – Gill Robb Wilson

Maj. Tammy Hallihan – NCWG
Col. Chantal Lonergan – HIWG
Maj. Donald Peacock – KSWG



Level 3 – Grover Loening

Capt. Aaron Attermann – PAWG
Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Atkins – NHWG
Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas Briggs – NYWG
2nd Lt. Joshua Bowers – INWG
1st Lt. John Cann – NJWG
1st Lt. James Chan – DCWG
Capt. Denise Clement – SDWG
Chaplain (Maj.) Rochelle Coles – NJWG
1st Lt. Amber Cranford – DEWG
1st Lt. Harald Duell – IDWG
Chaplain (Maj.) Doug Ervin – OHWG
1st Lt. Abby Feinstein – NCWG
Chaplain (Capt.) David Grossman – ILWG
Capt. Laivi Grossman – ILWG
Maj. Brian Kilian – TXWG
Capt. Ronalee Klase – FLWG
1st Lt. Allen Jones – MNWG
Chaplain (Maj.) Sung Kwan – MDWG
Chaplain (Maj.) Chanoch Lebovic – NYWG
Lt. Col. Roger Lenard – NMWG
TSgt Gerald Martin – IDWG
1st Lt. Kathryn Moore – ALWG
Chaplain (Capt.) Frank Perez – PRWG
1st Lt. Michael Petrin – TXWG
1st Lt. Kari Pewett – VAWG
Capt. Michael Szish – PAWG
Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas Tostenson – AZWG
Capt. Dustin Tudor – PAWG
Capt. Alfven Uv – FLWG
1st Lt. Vivison Kerr – FLWG
Capt. Glenn Whitt – MIWG



Level 4 – Paul Garber

Lt. Col. Dennis Bash – AZWG
Capt. Michael Burrus – OKWG
Capt. Mary Bryant – KYWG
Maj. Valerie Espinili – ILWG
Maj. Jonathan Crosier – WAWG
Maj. Laura Furniss – MTWG
1st Lt. Elizabeth Hausner – NCWG
Chaplain (Maj.) Wayne Keast – NCWG
Maj. Lori Kirk – VAWG
Chaplain (Maj.) James Law – CTWG
1st Lt. Brian Lombardo – PAWG
Captain Karen Padgett – AKWG
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald Roy – LAWG
Capt. Davis Spence – VAWG
Capt. Carol Stoltz – DEWG
Chaplain (Maj.) John Tober – NMWG
1st Lt. Tammy Vessels – KYWG
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Williams – TXWG
1st Lt. Billy Wilson – SCWG
Chaplain, Lt. Col. Nicholas Wyborski – FLWG



Level 2 – Benjamin O. Davis

1st Lt. Sandra Allen – VAWG
Capt. Miriam Ault – KYWG
1st Lt. Tricia Bagnall – INWG
1st Lt. John Becker – FLWG
1st Lt. Michelle Carey – WYWG
Lt. Col. Rojelio Herrera, Jr. – HIWG
1st Lt. Michelle Lynott – AZWG
1st Lt. Hope Morante – NJWG
Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Olsen – WAWG
SM Jarod Pilgreen – NYWG
Captain William Sabol – MNWG
2nd Lt. Tricia Troyer – ILWG
1st Lt. Nicholas Ward – FLWG
Capt. Jan Whitely – VAWG

REPORT ON THE RELIGION OF ISLAM

Captain John D. Minasian, CDI, CSS

Submitted toward requirements for the CDI Master Level Specialty Track



Captain John D. Minasian, Jr. is a Chaplain Support Specialist and the CDI and Commander of the 143rd Composite Squadron, Connecticut Wing. He has served in capacities as squadron cadet programs officer, deputy commander, ground team leader, mission scanner, and leader of the CT Wing Chaplain Corps IT Task Force. Minasian received the 2020 Northeast Region CDI of the Year Award

Captain Minasian served in the United States Army for ten years and retired as a Master Sergeant from the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTANG). In 2008, after serving eleven additional years, Minasian was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq from 2003–2004 with the 143rd Military Police Company (CTANG), where he served as an Operations NCO.

To strengthen our faith, it is good to reflect on other religions and their similarities and differences. I chose to compose this report on Islam because I was intrigued with this religion when I deployed to Baghdad, Iraq (2003 to 2004) with the 143rd Military Police Company, Connecticut National Guard. There I, as a Christian, was exposed to this religion and surrounded by its teachings daily, from hearing morning prayer to seeing Muslims roll out their prayer rug, point towards Mecca, and pray.

Islam is an Arabic term which means to submit one's will to the will of God, to live in a way that your life is total submission to God. Islam comes from the root Arabic letters s-l-m, the root letters of the word peace (salam). Islam does not mean peace, but it implies that one finds peace (salam) through submission (Islam). Islam is considered one of the Abrahamic religions that trace its roots back to the patriarch Abraham. The main religions that fall under this category are Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Bahá'í Faith. All accept the tradition of the God (known as Allah in Islam) revealed to Abraham. I find this interesting that so many religions trace themselves back to Abraham but are so different.

Islam is a monotheistic religion that teaches that there is only one divine being, one supreme Creator of the universe. Submitting to God's commands and will and not a person, Islam differs from Christianity and many otherworldly religions. Islam is not named after Muhammad because Islam existed before him. Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad was the last and final prophet of God. By submitting oneself and worshiping Allah (God), a Muslim attains peace through obedience to his commandments. People who practice Islam are called Muslims. As compared to Christianity, where Christians believe in the Holy Trinity (God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit), Muslims only believe in the divine being.

Muslims believe that Islam is the true religion of God revealed to humanity. It is a universal religion that anyone can practice at any time and in every place. For a person to become a Muslim and accept Islam as their faith, they must say and believe in the following phrase: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ, *La ilaha illa Allah. Muhammad rasool Allah.* This sentence literally means "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger." The sentence also means, "There is none worthy of worship except Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger." A person becomes a Muslim the moment they say this phrase and begin to act upon it. Notice the distinction here: in Islam, merely saying the phrase makes them a Muslim, rather than a Baptism with Holy water or going to church. This was a new concept to me and many of us who are not familiar with Islam.

Muslims believe in all Prophets and Messengers. A Muslim is required to believe in Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Joseph, Jesus, and Muhammad. They all came with the same message, to submit and worship one God (Allah). Hence, the message of Islam did not start with the Prophet Muhammad; it began with Adam and continued until today. Muslims believe that over time, God would send new Prophets and Messengers to remind mankind of His message, to worship Him alone; Muhammad was the last of these Prophets.

Muslims believe in angels. There are many angels. All obey God. Different angels have different tasks. For example, the angel Gabriel was responsible for communicating God's message to human Prophets and Messengers. The Angel Michael (Mikaaeel) was responsible for rain. Angels also help and assist believers in times of difficulty. In other Abrahamic religions, God created angels and sent them down to earth to bring his messages.

Muslims also believe in all previous scripture that God sent to His Prophets and Messengers. Moses was given the Torah, Abraham the scrolls, David the Psalms, and Jesus the Injeel (the Gospel of Jesus). Apart from the Qur'an (Islam religious text), no previous scripture is completely preserved in its original form. With time, many of these scriptures were lost or corrupted. The Qur'an was sent as the "final testament," and it functions as God's final message to mankind. The Holy Qur'an contains 114 chapters, and it was revealed over 1,400 years ago to Prophet Muhammad. Muslims believe that it is the word of Allah, verbatim. It has not been tampered with, edited, or changed in any way throughout those years. The Qur'an we have today is the same Qur'an originally revealed to Muhammad. This scripture covers the major themes of life such as piety, worship, belief, morals, good deeds, sins, death, the afterlife, and much more.

Muslims believe in the afterlife. There will be a day of judgment where Allah will judge hold people accountable for their actions in this world. Those who did good will enter paradise, and those who did evil will either be forgiven or punished in hell. Muslims believe in Allah's divine will and decree. Allah knows all things that will happen. Humans are given free will to make decisions. However, certain things that Allah decreed are outside of our control. These things include the time and place we were born, where and when we will die, and anything that happens outside our control. Muslims submit to these things as part of God's decree and will.

Muslims believe the chain of Islam prophethood began with Adam and ended with Muhammad, the final Prophet of Allah. Muhammad was born in Makkah in the year 570, about six centuries after Jesus. He grew up to be known as an honest and truthful person throughout the city. When he reached the age of 40, he was chosen to be a Prophet of Allah. Allah sent the archangel Gabriel to reveal the Qur'an to Muhammad to spread the correct, unadulterated teachings of Islam to the four corners of the globe. At this time, mankind had turned away from the original message of Islam of previous Prophets. Muslims believe the Gospel, Torah, and other scriptures were distorted by people after their Prophets had passed away.

The 5 Pillars of Islam

The religion of Islam stands on five pillars: **belief, prayer, Zakat, fasting, and Hajj.**

The first Belief is in One God and the Testimony of Faith (Tawheed), is an Arabic term which refers to the unique belief in the oneness of God. It refers to their belief that there is only one divine being that is worthy of worship – Allah. Tawheed is the first and the most important pillar of the five pillars of Islam. To become a Muslim and enter into the fold of Islam, a person must pronounce the testimony of faith, or shahada, in Arabic. It means to admit and to believe that none deserves to be worshipped except Allah, and Muhammad is Allah's Messenger. The entirety of the religion and its teachings are built upon the foundation of this belief in God.

The second belief is in testimony of faith (shahada) as the most important thing in the life of a Muslim. **The words "La ilaha illAllah" are announced during the call to prayer** and in sermons. It is the phrase by which the earth and heavens were raised. Every single creation was created for this phrase that distinguishes between a Muslim and a person of another faith.

There are two parts of testimony: the first half of the testimony is that worshipping other divine beings is considered a grave sin in Islam. With this phrase, you affirm that Allah alone is the Creator, Ruler, and Sustainer of all things, and He alone is deserving of our worship. The second half of the testimony of faith means "Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah." To believe in this statement is to bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. It also means to follow what he says, obey him in what he orders us to do, stay away from what he forbids, and worship Allah only in legislated ways. You also believe that Allah sent his Messenger, revealed the Qur'an to him, and commanded him to call the people to Tawheed. Prayer also falls under this second belief. It is the first thing that a person will be held accountable for on the Day of Judgment. If the person's prayer is good, that person will be successful. But if the prayer is incorrect in some way, that person will have achieved failure. There are five obligatory prayers that every sane adult Muslim has to observe every day. The five daily prayers are Fajr (early morning, before dawn), Duhr (mid-day, just after noon), 'Asr (mid afternoon), Maghrib (just after sunset), Isha (at night, after dark has fallen). The prayer is the link between a person and Allah. It is an intimate relationship a person has with His Creator and should be performed to the best of one's ability.

The third belief is Zakat, that a specified portion of a Muslim's wealth is to be given to those in need, given once a year to support specific categories of people. The amount is about 2.5% of total wealth which includes the following asset classes: Gold and silver, precious metals, stocks and shares, real estate, cash, and agricultural livestock. It is considered a way for Muslims to purify their wealth and income. Similar to how the prayer (salah) purifies a person's soul, zakat purifies your assets and earns you the pleasure of Allah because your wealth is distributed to those in need. Zakat is only obligatory for Muslims who have reached puberty (i.e., adults), are mentally stable, and financially capable. Furthermore, the amount of wealth a person has must reach a certain threshold known as the nisaab, a minimum amount of wealth a person must have before zakat becomes due. The wealth should be in their possession for one year. This pillar of Islam is not required for those who do not meet the criteria above. For example, if you are a university student with plenty of debt, a father who lives paycheck to paycheck, or a person whose wealth has not reached the nisaab (minimum amount), you are not required to pay zakat.

The fourth belief is fasting in the month of Ramadan. It refers to the practice of abstaining from eating food, drinking liquids, and having intercourse from the break of dawn until sunset. Similar to the pillars mentioned already, fasting is obligatory upon every sane, adult Muslim, male and female alike. Allah has enjoined upon the Muslims to fast for one month of the year to strengthen faith, piety, and God consciousness. Observance involves avoiding what Allah has forbidden, practicing patience throughout the day, bringing our desires under control, competing in generosity through charity, and demonstrating co-operation and mutual compassion. A great month, during Ramadan Allah revealed the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The reward for good deeds, acts of charity, and acts of worship are multiplied in this month.

The fifth and final pillar of Islam is to perform the hajj, the pilgrimage to Makkah. Every year millions of Muslims make their way to the Kaba, the Sacred House of Allah in Makkah to perform the pilgrimage. It is one of the most significant forms of worship in Islam and it demonstrates unity among the Muslims. This action is required from every Muslim to perform at least once in their lifetime if they are physically and financially capable. As it is a deed that requires much time and energy from a person, it is required to be done only once in a lifetime.

Bibliography

Masjid Al-Mustafa (Al-Mustafa Mosque), Islamic American Society of Connecticut <https://www.iasconnect.org/>
Masjid Ar-Rahmah (Mosque of Mercy), <https://www.mymasjid.ca/beginners-guide-understanding-islam/>.
Information in the beginner's guide is used with the gracious permission of Islamic American Society of Connecticut.

Presently, Waterbury, Connecticut, is the location for the largest Mosque in Connecticut, Masjid Al-Mustafa (They opened their doors on May 19, 2017) and belongs to the Islamic American Society of Connecticut (IASC). IASC works to promote understanding and strong relations between Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

REFLECTIONS FOLLOWING THE SPRING HOLIDAYS



by Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Atkins New Hampshire Wing Chaplain

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 returned to the Air Force as a chaplain and served as Area Jewish Chaplain for the Far East, stationed at Clark Air Base, Philippines. 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, Rabbi Atkins served pulpits in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Upon retiring from the pulpit, he and his wife, Iris, moved to New Hampshire to be near family and friends and the seacoast. Learning that there was a need for a chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol, he was appointed the New Hampshire Wing Chaplain in 2019.

The shared holy days of Passover and Easter, basic spring holidays for Judaism and Christianity have past. The Passover story plays a central role in the New Testament narrative of the last days of Jesus of Nazareth. There has been endless discussion as to whether the “Last Supper” was actually a Passover Seder Meal, still done today in Jewish homes... and many churches now hold “model seders” to try to reenact and sense what this basic Jewish Passover ritual is.

The details of the seder meal can be found very easily on the internet. Know that it is one of the most widely observed Jewish home rituals... despite the frequent jokes about the unexciting taste of matzah, unleavened bread, that is the central symbol of both the meal and Passover in general.

Both holidays are grounded in belief in an event that happened in history, witnessed (according to text) by many people. They share the ideas of rebirth and renewed faith in God... a faith that is especially needed in this trying time of pandemic and the deaths caused by the virus. I recent taught a class at my Temple about the religious reasons for vaccination, both in terms of protecting one’s own life as well as those of others. I do hope (and pray) that all of you adults (and now cadets 16 and over) reading will become vaccinated when the opportunity is afforded you. My teaching even included a discussion of the appropriateness of saying a blessing, thanking God on the occasion of being vaccinated. I leave that decision to you, but I do hope the common greeting, “Be safe” will be carried out **by action** when you (or loved ones) have the opportunity to do so.

Be safe, and hope you had a Blessed holy day season!

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

May 2021 – August 2021

May 2021

- 1 **Ridvan ends** – Baha'i*
- 2 **Easter** – Eastern Orthodox Christian
- 6 **National Day of Prayer** – U.S Federal
- 9 **Lailat al Qadr** – Islam*
- 12 **Eid al Fidr – Ramadan ends** – Islam*
- 13 **Ascension of the Lord** – Christian
- 15 **Armed Forces Day** – U.S. Federal
- 17 **Shavuot (2 days)** – Jewish* ***
- 22 **Declaration of the Bab** – Baha'i
- 23 **Eid al Fidr – Ramadan ends** – Islam*
- 29 **Ascension of the Baha'u'llah** – Baha'i*
- 23 **Pentecost** – Christian
- 23 **Pentecost** – Orthodox Christian
- 28 **Ascension of the Baha'u'llah** – Baha'i*

June 2021

- 16 **Martyrdom of the Guru Arjan** – Sikh

July 2021

- 4 **Independence Day** – U.S Federal
- 9 **Martyrdom of the Bab** – Baha'i
- 18 **Tisha B'av** – Jewish* ***
- 19 **Waqf al Arafa – Hajj begins** – Islam*
- 20 **Eid al Adha** – Islam*
- 23 **Pioneer Day** – Mormon
- 24 **Tisha B'Av** – Jewish*

August 2021

- 6 **Transfiguration Sunday** – Christian
- 6 **Transfiguration of the Lord** – Orthodox Christian
- 15 **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin** – Roman Catholic
- Dormition of the Theotokos** – Orthodox Christian
- 21 **Khordad Sal** – Zoroastrian

* Begins the night before

*** Observance includes refraining from activities or travel

See article on Shavuot on page 19 of the Spring 2020 Transmitter by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Atkins
https://capchaplain.com/downloads/Transmitter_Spring_2020.pdf

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>

CAP Chaplain Corps Library <http://caphclib.us/wordpress/>
Chaplain Corps resources, event registration

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>

Values for Living 2.0 Lessons. <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/library/character>
or on the AXIS Learning Management System through E-Services; → Online Learning → Learning Management System → AXIS. Access to copyrighted videos is limited to chaplains, CDIs, and commanders.

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/>

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>

