



HEADQUARTERS CIVIL AIR PATROL OREGON WING

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

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Fellow Members of Oregon Wing:

I was honored to recently sit with the officers and airmen of Kingsley Field listening to a briefing given by General Rand, Commander of Air Education and Training Command. For Civil Air Patrol AETC is our chain of command to our parent service, the United States Air Force.

His presentation was direct and moving. He emphasized key elements for a strong and enduring Air Force such as the Airmen's Creed and core values - enhanced by Air Force heritage. He talked about wingmen and their importance to the Air Force. This directly applies to the Civil Air Patrol.

The history was obscure to me, but he explained the heritage of wingmen. In the difficult days of World War II we were losing 40% of our bombers to enemy defenses. This could not be sustained, so they problem solved and affixed wing tanks to P-51s and P-47s. These aircraft flew cover and protected the bombers on their missions. Because of these "wingmen" the mission could be accomplished and American lives would be saved. Wingman is a powerful concept and I believe fully applicable to CAP. Life can be very lonely without wingmen when we are profoundly challenged by our mission and we feel isolated, "under fire" with no clear way to turn. Wingmen provide help and options.

He also talked about core values. He emphasized that to be the best in the world the USAF must have a higher standard. These standards are articulated through core values. To be understandable and effective, core values are empowered by heritage. History and heritage are often confused: General Rand explained history makes us smarter and heritage makes us prouder and provides the motivation to accomplish great things. In the Civil Air Patrol we have a proud history that translates to the specific foundations of our heritage. Ultimately, it is about what one well trained and adequately supplied CAP member can accomplish as part of a CAP team for any of our three missions.

We share values with the Air Force. Integrity and Excellence guide both organizations. Our Volunteer Service correlates to the USAF Service-above-Self. As we all know, CAP has another core value which is Respect.

This value is the operational result of integrity, excellence, and service. It also relates to being a wingman to our fellow members and supporting our customers. Experience proves we can be successful with our missions if we live our values. Our heritage whether in coastal patrol, Hurricanes

INTEGRITY

SERVICE

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

Katrina or Sandy, the Lakeview Search, training cadets and supporting teachers of aerospace education depends on operationalizing our values. We must walk our talk to maintain credibility.

Respecting is not easy all the time. Initially it should start with acting respectfully. This is not always the norm and “on the ground” the challenge is how to make a disagreeable encounter respectful in its result. Human nature is that people respond affirmatively to respect. Great canyons can be crossed if one member acts respectfully towards another. Rudeness never advances our mission. That is why we are expected to be “unpaid professionals” and always complete our business in a competent and respectful manner.

The volunteer professionals of Oregon Wing have been particularly productive during 2014. Below are just a few of the accomplishments that should become part of the tapestry that is the Wing’s heritage:

- Many members dedicated great effort and we were successful on the Compliance Inspection. As important, we closed our 19 discrepancies in record time. We made our Region Commander proud by accomplishing this.
- We have been able to have all of our Senators and Congressional Representatives co-sponsor the Congressional Gold Medal recognizing WWII CAP service.
- We conducted a successful Encampment and have recognized many squadron level cadet activities within the Wing including Model Rocketry, RC Aircraft, ground team training and much more.
- An ORWG Cadet C/LtCol Monasmith is chair of the National CAC.
- An ORWG Chaplain, Lt Col Ledden received the National Squadron Chaplain of the Year award
- In the past year, six (6) ORWG members received Level V, the Gil Robb Wilson Award. Four of these members attended the most recent National Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base.
- To advance our strategic theme of partnership, we have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Oregon Department of Aviation
- We have worked for a partnership with the 173rd FW and during this year we flew an intercept with them using special NHQ funding. We continue to perform multiple intercepts for the 142nd FW.
- We have submitted for the approval of a new flight in Florence, which would take Oregon units from 12 to 13.
- The director of the National Business Academy was Oregon’s Major Hilda Pereyo. This national activity was held in July at the Evergreen Space Museum and continues to be an important opportunity for CAP cadets nation-wide.
- Most recently in August Oregon Wing received a “Highly Successful” on its Operational Exercise. This is a key activity that verifies the U.S. Air Force has found us competent to complete mission which use Title 10, appropriated United States Air Force monies.

I am always apprehensive to relate our accomplishments, because so much more has been achieved by the members and units throughout Oregon. One of the most demanding efforts for the volunteer professional is to meet every week and assure that cadets accomplish their achievements and pilots,

observers, and scanners are trained and evaluated. Members assure that the bills are paid, vehicles and aircraft maintained and many activities are fully documented and compliant. We always must have the aerospace update and the safety briefing. This is the routine though difficult foundation work making our organization real and, over time, building respect among our members, our partners and our associates.

With the accomplishments come both "tails" and challenges. "Tails" are matters such as the agreement with the Department of Aviation that has been signed but not implemented and the partnership with the 173rd FW to establish funding to support the intercept program with CAP aircraft. Many of these "tails" are annual programs and must lean forward for success. We need to continue to organize and conduct the Encampment and our Annual Conference. All of these involve extensive commitment and heavy workloads and I am so profoundly grateful to the volunteer members that give their time and talent to make these activities happen.

In terms of challenges, we have many. I believe the two most pressing are recruitment/retention and aircraft utilization. In the first case, our membership has been eroding as a Wing over the past couple of years. We have lost around 30 members from the 560 we had in mid-2012. There are many reasons for this, but we must reverse the trend. We have appointed Recruitment and Retention Officer Major Don Cole to lead this effort. Wing command and staff members will be wingmen for this challenge. His initial assignment is commanding the new Florence unit and accomplishing their full qualification so they can develop a dynamic cadet program. We must focus on membership and in coordination with the unit commanders over the coming year we will define problems and seek solutions so that our membership base stabilizes. We probably will have to do this unit by unit.

Aircraft utilization is also a challenge. We will focus on solutions. We must not think that simply moving aircraft can resolve this issue. With this there are winners and losers and just moving the pieces will foster neither respect nor solution. Instead, we must broaden our effort with the same seven airplanes. We must engage as many units and as many potential CAP pilots as we can. This will be an issue we must focus on over the coming year.

In the coming year, through our major strategic theme of partnership, advancing the programs we have started, maintaining our normal initiatives, and addressing straight-ahead our challenges, we can advance Oregon Wing consistent with our values. In the coming year we must advance mutual respect and support our members. If we are wingmen to each other, we shall enjoy our experience and we shall excel.

Thank you for all you do for CAP and ORWG,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Longley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Col John Longley, CAP
ORWG/CC