

First month complete, but it sure went by fast. Let me share a little about what I've been doing around the region. As I am writing this, I am sitting in the national commander's office at Maxwell AFB. I came down a couple days early for the CAP Senior Advisory Group CSAG meeting to sit in to on the Wing and Region Commanders' Course, affectionately called "charm school." The MER has four very charming wing commanders here learning everything you need to know about being a wing commander (but were afraid to ask). Col Bruce Heinlein of NATCAP is the senior wing commander in the bunch. He is joined by the most junior wing commander, Col Paul McCroskey of West Virginia Wing, who took command this past weekend (more on that later). Rounding out the team from the MER is Col Bill Parris of Maryland and Col Mike Moyer of Delaware Wing. They have all shared that it has been an extremely busy but highly educational week.

Part of the experience of charm school is the development of a network of other wing commanders that you can bounce ideas off of and learn from. You also spend time with a sponsor of the class. In this class it is Brig Gen Myrick, CAP/CV, who is helping to guide and mentor the class. Our best practices in CAP tell us we should be using mentors to help new members and I am seeing it done at the highest levels of the organization.

Continuing in reverse chronological order, I spent the past weekend at the West Virginia Wing conference and change of command. It was held in Morgantown, WV, with over 250 members participating in the weekend-long activity. There were a number of excellent seminars for cadets and for seniors, topped off with the banquet, which included the change of command. Col Dennis Barron stepped down after serving five years as the commander and turned the reigns over to Col Paul McCrosky. Col Barron was recognized for his outstanding leadership and awarded the Distinguished Service Award. Even more impressive were the accolades and leadership awards given to him by the members of the West Virginia Wing. One very touching moment occurred when the cadets presented him with a trophy for his leadership and every cadet in the room gave him a hand written note of thanks. The CAP National Commander and Chief of Staff were on hand to assist in the change of command and conference.

I selected Col Jerry Weiss, former Maryland Wing commander, and Col Dennis Barron former West Virginia Wing commander, to serve as the new region vice commanders. Col Gene Egry was selected to serve as the region executive officer/chief of staff. All three served successful terms as wing commanders and bring many years of experience to the job. In addition, our region IG, Lt Col Jon Royer, was selected to serve on the national IG staff. Maj Cheryl Fielitz-Scarborough the West Virginia IG, has agreed to serve as his replacement.

Starting in two days I will be attending my first CSAG meeting. I will have more to share in next month's commentary about the meeting. Prior to it, I met with the wing commanders of the region to get their thoughts on the agenda for the meeting.

I would like to congratulate the following members for their outstanding achievement:

CADETS-

Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award

- Robert N. Abruzzino, NC

Amelia Earhart Award

- Hunter R. Harlow, DC
- Michael McLaughlin, DE
- Jonathan D. Kelly, VA
- Matthew R. Lindsey, VA

Gen. Billy Mitchell Award

- Niall G. Fowler, MD
- Victor T. Kyle, MD
- Jacob M. Leubecker, MD
- Ryan A. Rawlings, MD
- Jarrett A. Moss, NC
- Rob G. Reeves, NC
- Sarah E. Brewster, VA
- Ethan E. Keyser, VA
- Christopher M. Rambali, VA
- Matthew W. Woodson, VA

Gill Robb Wilson Award

- Maj. Edward P. Angelovich, NC
- Maj. Robert W. Cook, WV

Paul E. Garber Award

- Lt. Col. Robert A. Mooney, DE
- Lt. Col. Raymond J. Stone, DE
- Lt. Col. Keith A. Mottas, MER
- Maj. Dennis R. Bissell, NC
- Lt. Col. Shelley J. Gonzales, NC
- Lt. Col. Stephen T. Schick, NC
- Maj. Edwin L. Childers, WV

Grover C. Loening Award

- Capt. Elizabeth A. Childers, WV

Finally, let's close with a safety thought. Every activity we hold is a mission. Whether it is a meeting, a counter drug flight or a ground search and rescue mission, we owe it to our members and their families to keep safety in our uppermost thoughts. As a member, it is your job to ensure you are ready to take on the mission. That means staying healthy, eating the right foods and staying hydrated. If we are to perform these missions you must be ready. As a leader you need to ensure that your people are mission ready. Make sure they have the right foods and are up to the task at hand. If we have to stop a mission to care for a member who did not care for themselves then we are not part of the solution. People are the most important asset we have in CAP, we need everyone to go home safely.