

Middle East Region Civil Air Patrol

Commanders Update Briefing 9 April 2016



Col John Knowles
MER/CC



MER Staff Briefing



- HC – Chaplain
- HO – Historian
- IG – Inspector General
- JA – Legal
- PA – Public Affairs
- SE – Safety
- CMC – Region Command Chief
- A1 – Personnel/Admin
- A3 – Operations
- A4 – Logistics
- A5/8 – Plans and Programs
- A6 – Communications
- A7 – Mission Support
- A7E – Aerospace Education
- A7O – Cadet Programs
- A7P – Professional Development
- A9 – Finance



MER/HC

Lt Col Greg Hill





MER/HO

Maj Joseph Myers



<i>Top Accomplishments this Period</i>	<i>Top 3 Goals 2016</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completed NCWG Annual History for 2015, waiting on Wing CC's approval before submission to NHQ.2. MER Annual History nearing completion for submission to the Region CC for approval.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promote Professional Development for Historians across the region. Promote the flow of feedback and ideas across the Region.2. Support the development of new Historians in the Region3. Complete Annual Region History & submit to NNQ Prior to deadline.
<i>Risks / Problems</i>	<i>Assistance Needed</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of understanding of the Historian's function• Lack of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting of Region Staff Activities for 2015 to be included in the Annual History• Encouragement of Wing Historians to produce and forward Annual Wing History Reports.



MER/IG

Lt Col Cheryl Fielitz-Scarborough



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Complaint resolution –
- On the National IG report – we had no RED for SUI 27 month time frame and no RED for DTS 6 month time frame.
- RCLS-South
- Webinar for flying plan

Top Goals next Period

- Keep DTS and SUI Status out of the **RED**
- Next IG Conf call – 26 April, 2000hrs
- Organization of IG Summit 2016.

Goals:

1. Well trained and highly qualified IG Corps
2. No MER units in **RED** for SUI timeline or DTS
3. Complaint Resolution conducted and closed in timely fashion.

Risks / Problems

Assistance Needed

- IG Summit 2016.



MER/JA

Lt Col Tim Corrigan



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Continued refining draft presentation materials for JA presentation at the MER Conference, and continued coordinating with MER IG
- Confirmed 3 of 5 MER JA team attorneys will attend MER Conference – one more is still working his schedule and may register later
- Prepared Lt Col Phil Walker (MDWG JA) to attend MER Staff Conference as my alternate
- Introduced MER CC to the CEO of First Command Educational Foundation to see if a financial education program would support CAP goals and in light of the dramatic changes to the military retirement program that take effect in 2018 (military retirement becomes a partial contributory program)

Top Goals next Period

- Continue to refine the draft presentation for the MER Conference
- Continue providing timely, accurate and relevant legal advice to the MER CC and staff officers as required



MER/PA

Maj Brenda Reed



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Assisted wing PAOs with social media issues, reducing PR problems down the road
- Advised several wing PAOs on specific wing PA issues
- Continued daily presence on social media for MER
- **MER Conference:**
 - Registration open! 100+ signed up
 - Planning is progressing and on schedule
 - Coordinating with Honor Guard for assistance

Top Goals next Period

- Continue to review wing PA and Crisis Communications Plans for CY 2016 – still missing 3 wings' plans
- Help with search for replacement MER PAO
- **MER Conference:**
 - Continue marketing and registration
 - Continue working with command on scripts and other details
 - assist CAC with cadet conference development
 - Finalize arrangements with volunteers and presenters

Risks / Problems

None

Assistance Needed

None

4/16



MER/SE, Apr 2016

Maj. Guy Butts



Top Accomplishments this Period

- There are currently 16 Open MER Mishaps in the Mishap Reporting Process with 14 Open mishaps last month
- 98% - 140/143 MER Units have completed FY 2015 Unit Annual Safety Surveys: DC-7/7, DE-9/9, MD-31/31, NC-36/36, SC-13/16, VA-28/28. WV-15/15
- MER FY 2016 Safety Blitz ConOps ended on 26 March 2016

Top Goals next Period

- Continue to assist each Wing SE's with the MER FY 2016 Safety Blitz compilation.
- Continue to talk with MER Wing SE's on a frequent basis/daily/weekly via email text and cell phone
- Work on my MER Wing Conference 2016 presentation
- Communicate weekly with CAP NHQ Safety Staff
- Participate with the MERSAR College at Ft. Pickett VA

Risks / Problems

- ❖ MER 7 April Monthly Safety Education participation is 24% 10/41, Mar 21%
- ❖ Wing 4/7/16 Monthly Safety Currency: DC-13%, DE-29%, MD-16%, NC-12%, SC-20%, VA-10%, WV-31%.

Assistance Needed

- Ensure Squadron Cadet Programs do not perform the Shuttle Run
- Improvement in the MER Monthly Safety Currency Education compliance %
- Check Safety Education data on the last day of the month, missed it in March



MER/CMC Chief Rommel Inoa



Top Accomplishments this Period

Top Goals next Period

Command NCO appointments

- MER - Vacant
- DCWG - CMSgt Dennis Orcutt
- NCWG - ?
- SCWG - ?
- DEWG - ?
- MDWG - ?
- VAWG - ?
- WVWG - ?

- To select a MER/CMC successor
- For every MER Wing to select its own Wing Command NCO
- To coordinate a strong retention and recruiting initiative with the MER Wing Command NCOs ... as soon as their respective Wing Commanders designate them

Risks / Problems

Assistance Needed

- Not all MER Wings have active duty/retired NCOs

- Need each MER Wing to appoint a Wing Command NCO, if able
- Encourage prior active duty NCOs to entertain the idea of selecting CAP NCO path



MER/A1

Lt Col Ted Lybrand



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Welcome to Lt Col Lybrand, our incoming A1
- Submitted MER/CC annual award selections to NHQ
- Completed Org Chart and Plan to Placed on website
- 2 Promotions Processed
- 4 Decorations Processed
- 2 Policies reviewed
- Reviewed 6 supplements from wings

Top Goals next Period

- Need to schedule next PhoneCon with wings
- Post MER Org Chart on Website
- Establish MER Vacancies Posting on Website
- Consolidate lessons learned from Annual Awards

Risks / Problems

Assistance Needed

- Need to consider adding a mid-level assistant in A1



MER/DO A3 March 2016 Slide

Lt Col Langley / Maj Stuart



Top Accomplishments this Period

Remember MER staff has AF training budget for our use in maintaining our currency and readiness. Contact the A3e or A3 for sortie entry and approval.

MERSAR planning and execution is in full swing. We are working on staffing and logistical planning. We have 255 members from MER registered already. This will be another outstanding event

- Assisted wing DO Counterparts daily as needed.

Top Goals next Period

- MERSAR 2016 is April 22-24 2016 @ Ft Pickett
- Execute MERSAR Safely
- Preparation for MER Conference in May
- Recruiting and Attempting to Staff the open positions in the Operations A3 Team
- Review and assist wing DO Counterparts daily as needed.

Risks / Problems

- Constant monitoring of AIR and Ground ops for safety issues and trends

Assistance Needed

- Staff support needed at MERSAR 2016 later this month. All hands on deck needed.



MER/A4

Lt Col David Oldham



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Possible BDU Acquisition, storage sites are being established if needed.
- MER Retreat with Staff
- Staff - please request a laptop. There are five for distribution
 - One laptop was delivered this week

Top Goals next Period

- Distribute remaining laptops
- Vehicle for CAP Use – I have Van 99065 it is a cargo van without windows and only the two front seats (no bench seats in the rear). It is available to MER Staff members on a per use basis for CAP business. As usual, please return it with a full tank of fuel and clean. Hopefully without damage.

Risks / Problems

Assistance Needed



MER/A5/8 Plans and Programs

Lt Col Haertel



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Completed Coordinating Draft Manual: Training in CAP.
- Attending National Staff College (3-10 Apr)

Top Goals next Period

- Staff Training Weekend FY 17 ATP 6-10 April
- Attending Florida Wing Conference, Orlando 15-20 Apr
- FY 17 Training and OP Plans Portfolio
- FY 17 Annual Training Plan (ATP) and guidance to be provided to Wings
- MER Conference 20 May 2016
- CAP Manual- Training in CAP

Risks / Problems

- Wings have their annual training plan cycles synchronized in order to publish their own ATP's and yearly training calendar so their Groups and Squadrons.
- Groups and Squadrons lack the training and experience necessary to produce their own products.

Assistance Needed

- Wings need to ask for help with their own products in sufficient time to meet their suspense.
- Wings need to execute their own plans within their organizations and hold commander's accountable for their units performance.
- Leadership's understanding of the requirements differ based on their unit's level of readiness and command culture. .



MER/A6

Lt Col Maurice Thomas



Top Accomplishments this Period

- **Continuous Outstanding Participation in NTN.** MER communicators, Number One!
- 2016 Region Communications Plan – completed
- Wing Communications Plans due 10 April. Four wings completed. All expected on-time
- Continued direct support to NHQ-NTC
- Ft. Pickett UHF Repeater install completed
- 2016 MER-SAR College planning & prep
- 2016 NESAS School attendance
- CW16 planning

Top Goals next Period

- National Traffic Net – Goal of 100% HF participation by all region assets
- National Traffic Net – Daily representation by all wings
- Be “value-added” asset to wings
- Recruitment of new technical talent
- CUL + RDO training modules

Risks / Problems

- **ROS of “live” and irreplaceable assets**
- Document justification for comm assets
- UHF ISR radios will not be replaced
- VHF handhels are in short supply with limited replacements
- NTC demand for itinerant radios shortfall
- Region staff and command to regularly utilize/exercise assets

Assistance Needed

- **Minimize the loss of irreplaceable assets**
- Reporting of frequent equipment failures
- Awareness of maintenance cycles and costs
- Planning assistance to the wings
- AAR must stress comm support
- Active feedback from DO and CC – focus on command concerns
- Increase CUL-T training opportunities



MER/A6I

Maj Jim Holcomb



Top Accomplishments this Period

- **Thank you for the warm welcome!**
- **Website:**
 - Created new module for FY16 ATP
 - Created new “Upcoming Events” menu. Currently 4 new items posted
 - MERSAR College 2016
 - MERCCSC (Chaplains College)
 - MER RCLS
 - MER Staff College
 - MER Org Chart posted
- Email lists cleaned up, new accounts added
- Installed and experimenting with ReachMail for limited mass email announcements

Top Goals next Period

- Received new directions from MER/CV East – to be discussed at upcoming Staff Retreat
- Continue to make MER Website interactive and relevant central location for MER activities and events.
- Reach out to MER PAO for updated image content for front page. Recent and relevant.
- Assist to determine IT needs for MERSAR and Staff Retreat.
- Assist DCoS Staff to update their sections of the MER Staff Sections webpages.
- Need to get together with former A6I to determine Wing counterparts and establish quarterly conference calls *at a minimum.*

UPCOMING PROJECTS & UPGRADES

- *Website has upgrade due ASAP*
- *OwnCloud has MAJOR upgrade due now*



MER/A6I

Maj Jim Holcomb



<i>Top Accomplishments this Period</i>	<i>Top Goals next Period</i>
<i>Risks / Problems</i>	<i>Assistance Needed</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too many MER Staff members resistant to making use of MER email addresses• Too many MER Staff members not using MER email address for official MER correspondence• Numerous "A" Sections with little or no information on their staff webpages• Not much "traffic" being posted on MER Facebook social media page.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MERSAR: Wifi / MiFi hotspots needed.• *Interviewing for Assistant Dir of IT (have 1 member in mind)• Ideas on how to incorporate 75th year Anniversary into the MER website. *Capabilities link? Total Force video?• Recent MER Events, such as SC flooding, VIRB, Comms HF international contact would make great front page articles for new content.



MER/A7 Col Trick



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Continue to work with Wing PD, CP, AE
- C/Col Marshall C. Wilkins Spaatz # 2036 (VAWG)
- Level V - Maj David R. Gilchrist (NCWG)
- Crossfield - Timothy M. Bagnell (NCWG)

Top Goals next Period

- AE - Encourage use of STEM kits
- more/new kits/topics coming
- PD – Increase Level V completions
- Complete staffing of RCLS and RSC

Risks / Problems

Assistance Needed

- Staff for RSC



MER/A7E

Lt Col McLellan





A70

Bill Ryan, Lt Col, CAP

<i>Top Accomplishments this Period</i>	<i>Top Goals next Period</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RCLS-North Director Maj Stacey McManus.• 23-30 July Camp Fe• MADD Nation Day of Awareness on Alcohol 21 Apr 16• Maj Joel Lipsey, assistant DDRO• Capt Pattie Overman, primary Cadet Activities.• Quarterly meeting set up starting in 17 Apr from 20:15 - 21:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue rewriting RCLS curriculum• Continue CP planning for MER Conference.
<i>Risks / Problems</i>	<i>Assistance Needed</i>



MER/A7P Lt Col Dunn



<i>Top Accomplishments this Period</i>	<i>Top Goals next Period</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to work with Wing PDs - give assistance with PD courses (TLC, CLC, SLS, UCC)• MER Members completing Level V Maj David R. Gilchrist (NCWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete staffing of MER RSC 2016• Get more Master Levels in Specialty Tracks• Get more members to Level V• Decrease time to Process PD Awards
<i>Risks / Problems</i>	<i>Assistance Needed</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MER RSC Staffing



MER/FM

Lt Col Phyllis Griffin



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Processed all requests for payment/deposits
- Processed monthly credit card bill
- Discussions with Susan Easter to discuss finance issues (flight academy, NCSA finance, WEX and finance forms for activities)
- Working with various staff for MER activity budgets
- Working on Spaatz Association grant for MER HGA

Top Goals next Period

- Process all requests for payment/deposits
- Reconcile bank accounts
- Process credit card bill
- Work with Conference Project Officer to handle finances for conference
- Hold quarterly FM conference call

Risks / Problems

Computer infected; files encrypted and cannot open unless I pay hacker \$500. Computer is toast according to IT. Update old computer to speed up.

Assistance Needed



MER Command Staff Briefing



- Chief Of Staff
- Vice Commander East
- Region Commander



MER/CS Col Eugene Egrý



Top Accomplishments this Period

- New A1 has transitioned in – Lt Col Ted Lybrand. Please do not contact Lt Col Brogan (yes, he was promoted 😊!)
- Preparation for MER Staff Retreat – Thanks to Col Weiss for ALL his work!

Top Goals next Period

- Interviewing for Assistant A6I
- Work with the A6I to establish all MER staff have and use MER email address IE:
mer_a1@mer.cap.gov
- MER Conference – Order OTY Awards

Risks / Problems

- MER Staff Safety Blitz / Currency – Are we at 100%?
- CUB slide should follow this naming convention: MERXX CUB
- Establish remaining MER Staff to Wing Staff conference calls. Minimum Quarterly

Assistance Needed

- Developing depth in staff – assistants



9 APR 16

MER CV-E/Ops Col Jerry Weiss



Top Accomplishments this Period

- Handled Logistics for the Staff Retreat and developed the training for the retreat
- Completed OTY Awards on Time
- Conducted MDWG Selection Board and passed results to the Commander
- Attended VAWG Conference
- Assisted with RCLS-North find a home

Top Goals next Period

- Attend Retreat
- Attend MERSAR and conduct IC! Grad School
- FK Mission 26 & 28 April (AC & IC)
- Attend VAWG CI
- Develop FY 17 ATP
- Develop training for the Commanders Retreat
- Attend MER Conference
- Assist with firming up logistic and subsistence support for the MER Staff College
- Develop the plan and MSEL for Ops Evals for DC, DE and MD
- Gather Trusted Agents and Evaluators and be an Evaluator for the Ops Evals
- Visit VA and Tri Win Encampments
- Attend the FEMA All Hazards Course

Risks / Problems

Training Metrics at Mid-Year are lagging

Assistance Needed

- FY 17 ATP finalization



MER/CC

Col John Knowles



- **Staff Plays a Vital Role In EVERYTHING we do in the MER**
- **Train your replacement – helps you and me**
- **MER Staff Retreat – THANK YOU**
 - I know this is a lot for you to do
 - MER is hands down the best because if you -
- **We still need your help at the MER Conference – Brenda is here**
- **MER “Of The Year” - (read list)**
- **Change in Public Affairs**
- **MER Website – Current Events**
 - OPS – MERSAR
 - MER Conference
 - PD – MERSC
 - HC- MERCSC
 - CP – RCLS North and South