

# Middle East Region Civil Air Patrol

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## Commanders Update Briefing

08 June 2016



**Col John Knowles**  
**MER/CC**

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# MER Staff Briefing



- HC – Chaplain
- HO – Historian
- IG – Inspector General
- JA – Legal
- PA – Public Affairs
- SE – Safety
- 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 Command Staff Briefing



- Chief Of Staff
- Region Commander

## *Time Permitting:*

- A70 – Cadet Programs - DDR



# MER/HC

## Lt Col Greg Hill





# MER/HO

## Maj Joseph Myers



<b><i>Top Accomplishments this Period</i></b>	<b><i>Top 3 Goals 2016</i></b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Completed NCWG and MER Annual History reports for 2015 sent to NHQ.</li><li>2. Collections Management course is now live and awaiting feedback from the field.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Promote Professional Development for Historians across the region. Promote the flow of feedback and ideas across the Region.</li><li>2. Support the development of new Historians in the Region</li></ol>
<b><i>Risks / Problems</i></b>	<b><i>Assistance Needed</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of understanding of the Historian's function</li><li>• Lack of information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encouragement of Wing Historians to produce and forward Annual Wing History Reports.</li></ul>



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
- IG Summit

## *Top Goals next Period*

- Keep DTS and SUI Status out of the **RED**
- Next IG Conf call – 24 June, 2000hrs
- Continue work on RCLS-South
- VA-001

### 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*

- Billeting issues for RCLS – South

## *Assistance Needed*

- None at this time



# MER/JA

## Lt Col Tim Corrigan



Top Accomplishments this Period	Top Goals next Period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Four of five assigned JAs attended the MER Annual Conference</li><li>• Presented materials to MER Conference attendees</li><li>• Assisted VAWG JA with regulatory interpretation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue providing timely, accurate, and relevant legal advice to the MER CC, Staff Officers and subordinate WING JAs</li></ul>
Risks / Problems	Assistance Needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>



# MER/PA Maj Julie Holley



## *Top Accomplishments this Period*

- Assisted a local squadron in Maryland with their outreach at an annual community event.
  - Created fact sheets which I will be posting on the MER site

## *Top Goals next Period*

- Create a space on the MER site where samples of outreach materials from each wing can be accessed.
  - The goal will be for wings to encourage squadrons to share materials and others to use and localize as needed.
- Get feedback from wing PAOs on various topics in which the MER PAO plays a role.
- Organize and host a virtual meeting with wing PAOs within the next quarter.
- Increase social media posts

## *Risks / Problems*

## *Assistance Needed*

N/A





# MER/SE Maj Guy Butts



## ***Top Accomplishments this Period***

- There are currently 13 Open MER Mishaps in the Mishap Reporting Process with 13 Open mishaps last month
- MER Staff 2016 Safety Blitz Participation 29%, 12 members out of 41 confirmed to me completion
- MER Wing 2016 Safety Blitz results: DC-100%, DE-100%, MD-100%, VA-100%, WV-100%. NC & SC No report as Col. Crawford & Col. Smith are aware.
- Provided a 1 hour MER Safety Presentation at the MER Conference

## ***Top Goals next Period***

- Continue to work with MER Wing SE's on a daily/weekly basis
- Prepare to visit MER VA Wing Cadet Encampment and NHQ Flight Academy this summer
- Communicate weekly with CAP NHQ Safety George Vogt and Bob Castle
- Coordinate/communicate with all Region SE's.

## ***Risks / Problems***

- ❖ New CAP NHQ SIRS Program Data-
- ❖ MER Staff May Safety Briefing 21/40, 52%
- ❖ Wing May Monthly Safety Currency: DC-57%, DE-61%, MD-46%, NC-58%, SC-43%, VA-34%, WV-54%.

## ***Assistance Needed***

- Ensure Squadron Cadet Programs do not perform the Shuttle Run
- Improvement in the MER Monthly Safety Currency Education compliance %



# MER/A1

## Lt Col Ted Lybrand



### *Top Accomplishments this Period*

- 9 Promotions Processed
- 17 Decorations Processed
- Announced Vacancy(s) for A1
- Completed Org Chart Update for June & sent to IT for posting on the website
- Registered for Phone Conference
- Recurring Reports Calendar posted on Website

### *Top Goals next Period*

- Schedule phone conference w/counterparts
- Establish MER Vacancies Posting on Website (Recruiting Dir)
- Conduct interview with candidates for A1 positions
- Complete Review of 21 Wing Supplements

### *Risks / Problems*

### *Assistance Needed*



**MER/A3**

**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.

- Recruiting A3 Successor.
- MERSAR financial Wrap up with FM.
- Planning of Pilot Clinics
- Evaluation and discussion of Tail Strike Trends
- Assisted wing DO Counterparts daily as needed.

***Top Goals next Period***

- REVISED DATES FOR MERSAR 2017 are April 28 -30 2017 @ beautiful Ft Pickett
- Start planning for MERSAR 2017
- Preparation for MER Conference in April
- 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
- Specific focus this month on tail strikes.

***Assistance Needed***

- Help find members of the MER who are looking to assist in the MER OPS jobs.



# MER/A4

## Lt Col David Oldham



### *Top Accomplishments this Period*

- Possible ABU Acquisition, storage sites are being established if needed.
- Staff - Thank you for utilizing the laptops!
- Col Richardson is continuing to cover MER Vehicles.

### *Top Goals next Period*

- ABU's have been approved. We are waiting on further information.
- 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

## Lt Col Haertel



### ***Top Accomplishments this Period***

- FY 16 Mid Year Strategic Review  
Good start.
- FY 17 ATP Cycle Review for Wings in progress
- National Staff College-16 Command Track and Mentorship development project on track.

### ***Top Goals next Period***

- Continue developing the A-5/8 division
- Support National Flight Academy 30 Jun – 10 Jul 2016 Ft. Pickett. (Safety Officer)
- Monitoring Wing FY 17 Annual Training Plan developing process.

### ***Risks / Problems***

- Summer encampments, special activities, family vacations, SAR evaluation season, and summer household move season will impact individual participation in squadron and staff meetings at all levels until after Labor Day weekend.

### ***Assistance Needed***

- Reconcile decision support product due dates with the leadership.
- Set reasonable expectations.
- Come back refreshed after Labor Day
- 7 Jun 16



MER/A6

Lt Col Maurice Thomas



***Top Accomplishments this Period***

- **Outstanding NTN Participation all year!**
  - MER communicators, Number One!
- Excellent feedback from MERSAR students
- All MERSAR comm equipment returned
- 2016 Wing Communications Plan delivered
- Constant Watch 2016 had region-wide participation
  - SC & WV unable to participate
  - DE & VA flew airborne repeaters
  - Wings deployed field stations

***Top Goals next Period***

- Emphasis on Utilization & Reporting
- Assessment of communications equipment life cycles
  - Justification for future replacements
- Continued connectivity on NTN
  - 100% MER HF staff stations
  - Daily representation by all wings
- Be “value-added” asset to wings
- Recruitment of new technical talent
- Develop year-long training opportunities

***Risks / Problems***

- **Command focus on ROS of “live” and irreplaceable assets**
- UHF ISR radios irreplaceable
  - Repair parts limited
- VHF portables in short supply
  - Limited replacements in the future
- NTC - high demand for itinerant radio kits
- All echelons must regularly utilize/exercise assets on-hand

***Assistance Needed***

- **Minimize the loss of irreplaceable assets**
- Reporting of more frequent failures
- Awareness of maintenance cycles and costs
- **Planning assistance to the wings**
- AAR must stress comm utilization/ support
- Active feedback from DO and CC
  - focus on command concerns
- Need CUL-T training at state level



# MER/A7 Col Trick



<b><i>Top Accomplishments this Period</i></b>	<b><i>Top Goals next Period</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to work with Wing PD, CP, AE</li><li>• A7 - Attended MER Chaplains Staff College MER Conference AE, FM and CP Sessions MER AE School</li><li>• C/Col Rachel Sydow Spaatz #2045 (VAWG)</li><li>• Crossfield - Maj Harry Everest (MDWG)</li><li>• St. Mary's Squadron (MDWG) STEM4UAS "Quadzilla" team headed to National Competition in Muncy, Indiana</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AE - Encourage use of STEM kits - more/new kits/topics coming</li><li>• PD – Increase Level V completions</li><li>• Complete staffing of RCLS and RSC</li><li>• A7 - Attend Ardent Sentry at FEMA</li></ul>
<b><i>Risks / Problems</i></b>	<b><i>Assistance Needed</i></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff for RSC</li><li>• Senior Staff for RCLS – North</li><li>• Students for RCLS - South</li></ul>



<b><i>Top Accomplishments this Period</i></b>	<b><i>Top Goals next Period</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to work with Wing AE</li><li>• Completed MER Aero School 9 students attended Safety briefing on Lithium Batteries (Li Po) and safe flying of RC models in STEM kits Students enjoyed the hands on activity - particularly the hoover craft and flying model mini-quad copter.</li><li>• St. Mary's SQ (MDWG) been invited to compete in a Quad Copter National AMA Meet in Muncie, IN; Aug 20-21</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AE - Encourage use of STEM kits - more/new kits/topics coming soon</li><li>• Develop MER Aero ED Web Site</li><li>• Plan for Aero Ed School 2017</li></ul>
<b><i>Risks / Problems</i></b>	<b><i>Assistance Needed</i></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need help from MER Webmaster to add Aero Ed Web page on MER web site.</li></ul>





# MER/A70 Lt Col Ryan



<b><i>Top Accomplishments this Period</i></b>	<b><i>Top Goals next Period</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RCLS – North – at approximately 22 students.</li><li>• RCLS - South – at approximately 27 student with a full staff.</li><li>• Both sites have lodging, food, and classroom space nailed down.</li> <li>• Frame work established for the new middle school initiative program.</li> <li>• New MER DDR staff directory 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition is out as of 1 May.</li><li>• New training skills has started as DDR In-Service day session next In-Service Day will 11 Sep16.</li><li>• Welcome Maj Joel Lipsey as MER CP DDRO, assist.</li><li>• DDR primary team members: Capt Roger Sayers (SCWG), 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Christopher Herman (NCWG) and 2d Lt Melissa Chenowth (MDWG).</li><li>• DDR reporting units 64 - 56%, non-reporting 50 - 44% equaling 114 units.</li> <li>• Welcome DCP SCWG Maj Bill Hargrove.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize preparations for RCLS (N&amp;S)</li> <li>• Contact each Wing's CP to establish their current middle school program.</li> <li>• Establish contact with current middle school programs.</li> <li>• Beta testing on CAPP-40 Performance Feedback.</li> <li>• MER DDR Task Force Official Kick-off, 1 Aug – 1 Dec 16.</li></ul>
<b><i>Risks / Problems</i></b>	<b><i>Assistance Needed</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North needs additional senior staff.</li> <li>• Only NC &amp; SC wings completed DDR FY-16 Strategic plans and goals.</li><li>• Only SCWG turned in DDR supporting documentation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looking for Director of Cadet Warrior Challenge.</li> <li>• Changes within DDR duty assigned position towards full coverage potential with having primary and assistant 2 senior and 2 cadet members within all levels. Due date 31 Oct 16.</li></ul>



# MER/A7P Lt Col Dunn



## ***Top Accomplishments this Period***

- Continue to work with Wing PDs  
- give assistance with PD courses  
(TLC, CLC, SLS, UCC)
- Col Bernfeld, MER RSC Director;  
conducted a seminar on the RSC at the  
MER Conference and assist applicants with  
filling out their CAPF 17s.

## ***Top Goals next Period***

- Staffing for MER RSC 2016
- Get more Master Levels in specialty tracks
- Get more members to Level V
- Decrease time to process PD Awards

## ***Risks / Problems***

## ***Assistance Needed***

- MER RSC 9-16 Jul, Edgewood Arsenal, MD
- Staff Vacancies:
  - Admin/Finance/Protocol/PAO
  - Transportation/Logistics Officer
- C Apply to MER RSC Director, Col Bernfeld,  
• colonelzig@gmail.com



# MER/FM

## Lt Col Phyllis Griffin



### *Top Accomplishments this Period*

- Processed all requests for payment/deposits
- Processed monthly credit card bill
- Working with staff budget requests
- Held FM Committee meeting at Conference
- Reconciled all bank accounts
- Working on finalizing MERSAR Finance Report
- Working on HGA Admin

### *Top Goals next Period*

- Process all requests for payment/deposits
- Reconcile bank accounts
- Process credit card bill
- Finalize SAR College finance report
- Continue work on MER Honor Guard Academy
- Close current PayPal account and open new one
- Reword Travel Policy to finalize travel policy changes discussed at FM meeting

### *Risks / Problems*

None

### *Assistance Needed*

- None



# MER/CS Col Eugene Egry



## ***Top Accomplishments this Period***

- MER Conference
- New MER Cyber Officer – Lt Col William Sydow
  - Will assist units in preparing and presenting unit-level cyber training to cadets and adult members. They will work with the CAP Cyber Committee on the development, preparation, fielding, and execution of cyber training and development.

## ***Top Goals next Period***

- Find A4, assistant A1, A6I
- Who from MER Staff is planning to attend Summer National Conference / Command Council in Nashville, TN?
- Will be unavailable 23 JUN – 11 JUL on vacation in Alaska

## ***Risks / Problems***

- MER Staff Safety Currency 100%?
- All MER staff have and use MER email address?  
IE: mer\_a1@mer.cap.gov
- Establish remaining MER Staff to Wing Staff conference calls. Minimum Quarterly
- CUB slide should follow this naming convention: MERXX CUB

## ***Assistance Needed***

- Looking for New A4
- Developing depth in staff areas – assistants



# MER/CC

## Col John Knowles



- **Staff Plays a Vital Role In EVERYTHING we do in the MER**
- **Train your replacement – helps you and me**
- **Summer OPS Tempo**
  - **Keep juggling all the balls in the air**
  - **Reach out and help the wings that need some assistance**
- **MER Conference – Great Conference – THANKS!**
- **Welcome new staff – PAO and thanks/good luck to Maj Reed**
- **MER Website – Keep your functional area current and full of value added content**



# MER/A70 DDRC

## Major Sanchez-Carter

