August 2026
Issue 4

THE COMMAND REVIEW

The latest news, announcements, and events from the Wing

The Commander's Desk
A Message from the Office of the Wing Commander

The NCO Corp Briefing
A Message from the Office of the Wing Command Chief

The Deputy Commander's Corner
A Message from the Office of the Deputy Commanders

The State of the Staff
A Message from the Office of the Chief of Staff



MAR-South Regional SAREX - Samarkand Training Facility

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **09/05/2026 - TLC Intermediate - NCWG Headquarters**
- **09/18 - 09/20/2026 - Drill & Ceremonies School - NCWG Headquarters**
- **09/26/2026 - Wing Staff Quarterly Meeting - NCWG Headquarters**
- **10/10/2026- Commander's Retreat - NCWG Headquarters**
- **10/09-11/2026 - Black Spade - Prospect Hill, NC**

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The Commander's Desk

Col Brendan Kearns, Commander, NCWG

Closing FY26 Strong, Preparing for FY27

Fellow North Carolina Wing Members,

As we wind down from a very active summer and prepare to close out FY26, I want to thank each of you for your dedication and service. North Carolina Wing remains one of the most operationally active wings in Civil Air Patrol because of the professionalism, commitment, and teamwork demonstrated across our organization.

Safety First

Safety remains our highest priority and must be actively led by every commander. Every activity, mission, and training event should incorporate sound risk management practices. Given our operational tempo, the wing has done an outstanding job maintaining a strong safety culture while accomplishing the mission. Let us continue to make safety a deliberate part of every decision. This was the result of all the members putting safety first in all we do.

Compliance and Readiness

With the fiscal year end upon us, commanders should ensure unit records, qualifications, inventories, inspections, and administrative requirements are current and accurate. Do not wait until 1 October to begin their annual inventory. Readiness is achieved through consistent attention throughout the year.

Financial Stewardship

All units must review and submit budgets to Wing no later than 15 September so they can be reviewed. CAPF 172s must also be updated before the close of the fiscal year. Please ensure expenditures, property accountability, and financial documentation are complete and accurate as we close FY26.

Membership and Cadet Development

Membership growth remains a strategic priority. The wing will place significant emphasis on recruiting through the acquisition of recruiting kits assigned to the groups. Retention, professional development, leadership growth, and cadet development will also be major focus areas as we strengthen our organization for the future.

Uniform Standards and Professional Conduct

Everyone should have received the message from Maj Gen Aye. Commanders are directed to ensure strict compliance with Air Force uniform policies and CAPR 39-1. Members are prohibited from purchasing IHWCU items in order to preserve availability for active-duty personnel. Commanders must enforce grooming and weight standards and ensure authorized OCP items are obtained from approved sources. Our professional appearance directly influences the trust and confidence our Air Force partners place in Civil Air Patrol.

Commanders Retreat and Leadership Development

After reviewing the proposed Commanders Retreat at Samarcand, the decision has been made to conduct a focused one-day retreat at Wing Headquarters in Burlington. This format and location will maximize collaboration while reducing costs and administrative requirements.

Additionally, I am proposing a revised two-part Commanders Course. The first phase, planned for Q4 2026 or Q1 2027 at Wing Headquarters, will focus on command fundamentals, administration, finance, personnel management, risk management, and leadership responsibilities. The second phase will be conducted as a pre-conference training event at GTCC in conjunction with the Wing Conference and will emphasize practical leadership, operational decision-making, case studies, networking, and best practices. This program provides an outstanding opportunity for current commanders, deputy commanders, and members interested in future command opportunities. Developing the next generation of leaders remains one of our highest priorities.

North Carolina Wing Conference 2027

Please begin planning now for the North Carolina Wing Conference being held in Greensboro at the Embassy Suites 16-18 April 2027. Registration will be opening shortly. The conference will provide valuable professional development, networking, recognition, and collaboration opportunities for members across the wing.

Of the Year Awards

There will be added emphasis on ensuring that NCWG promotes the best candidates for the Of the Year awards which will begin in October. I am challenging the entire wing to properly submit OTY award packages for members of NCWG that have contributed greatly to the success of the wing and have not been recognized. This is your opportunity to make this happen. More to follow in the coming months but please begin to consider those members who qualify for recognition.

Looking Ahead

As we enter FY27, I intend to amend the Wing Commander's Intent to better align with the evolving challenges and opportunities facing our organization. While adjustments will be made, our priorities remain clear: maintaining a strong safety culture, ensuring compliance and readiness, practicing sound financial stewardship, strengthening membership, developing future leaders, and building trusted partnerships across North Carolina.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to excellence. Together, we will continue building a stronger and more capable North Carolina Wing.

Semper Vigilans.



The NCO Corp Briefing

CMSgt Christopher Cozzi, Command NCO, NCWG

Looking Forward, Raising the Standard, and Strengthening Our Team

As we approach the close of Fiscal Year 2026 and prepare to enter FY27, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished together and discuss where we need to focus our efforts moving forward. The Wing Commander recently outlined several priorities critical to our continued success: safety, compliance, readiness, financial stewardship, membership growth, and leadership development. These priorities belong to all of us. Regardless of position, specialty track, grade, or years of service, every member plays a role in strengthening the North Carolina Wing.

As I travel across the wing, I continue to be impressed by the dedication, professionalism, and commitment demonstrated by our members. Whether supporting emergency services missions, mentoring cadets, managing administrative programs, maintaining aircraft, conducting aerospace education activities, or serving in leadership positions, our members consistently demonstrate what makes North Carolina Wing one of the premier wings in Civil Air Patrol.

However, success should never result in complacency.

As we enter FY27, I challenge every member to seek opportunities for continuous improvement. Pursue a new qualification. Work toward the next specialty track rating. Attend a training event outside your comfort zone. Volunteer for a project that improves your unit, group, or wing. Growth occurs when we challenge ourselves to learn, adapt, and develop new skills.

This is also where the North Carolina Wing NCO Corps can make a significant impact. One of the core responsibilities of an NCO is developing people. Whether assisting commanders, mentoring new senior members, coaching cadets, or sharing technical expertise, our NCOs are uniquely positioned to help members achieve their goals and navigate opportunities for growth. I encourage commanders and members alike to leverage the experience and leadership that our NCO Corps brings to the organization.

I also challenge every member to strive for peak professionalism. Professionalism extends far beyond appearance and uniform wear. It is reflected in our attitude, preparation, follow-through, respect for others,

and commitment to excellence. It is demonstrated through attention to detail, adherence to standards, and a willingness to do the right thing even when no one is watching.

The NCO Corps has always served as the standard-bearers of professionalism. Through leadership by example, mentorship, and adherence to standards, NCOs help establish and maintain the culture that allows organizations to

thrive. Across the North Carolina Wing, our NCOs continue to serve as trusted advisors, mentors, and leaders who help ensure that professionalism remains at the forefront of everything we do.

The coming year will provide numerous opportunities for training, education, leadership development, and operational growth. I encourage members to take full advantage of these opportunities. Training not only enhances individual capability but also strengthens the readiness and effectiveness of our entire wing.

The NCWG NCO Corps stands ready to support these efforts. Whether through instruction, mentorship, coaching, or sharing operational experience, our NCOs can help members identify training opportunities, develop professionally, and apply newly acquired knowledge to better serve their units and communities. One of our greatest responsibilities is helping others succeed, and I challenge every NCO in the wing to actively seek opportunities to share their experience and expertise.

Finally, I ask every member to look beyond their own responsibilities and identify ways to help fellow members succeed. Some of the most meaningful contributions within the Civil Air Patrol happen quietly through mentorship, encouragement, and service to others. Taking the time to assist a new member, support a struggling unit, provide guidance, or share expertise can have a lasting impact on both individuals and the organization.

This mindset is at the heart of what it means to be an NCO. We are servants, mentors, and leaders whose success is measured not by our own accomplishments, but by the success of those we help develop. While the NCO Corps has a special responsibility in this area, I challenge every member to embrace this philosophy and actively contribute to the growth and success of their fellow wingmen.

As we prepare for FY27, let us continue building a culture centered on safety, professionalism, teamwork, mentorship, and service. Let us raise the standard, develop future leaders, capitalize on training opportunities, and ensure that every member has the opportunity to contribute, grow, and succeed.

Together, through the dedication of our members and the leadership and mentorship provided by the North Carolina Wing NCO Corps, we will continue building a stronger and more capable organization prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Aim High, Serve Well, and Stay Ready.





The Deputy Commander's Corner

Lt Col James Fitzpatrick, Deputy Commander - West, NCWG
Lt Col Craig Richardson, Deputy Commander - East, NCWG

The Importance of the North Carolina Wing Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Excellence (AEX) Award

The Aerospace Education Excellence (AEX) Award is important to Civil Air Patrol because it recognizes units that make aerospace and STEM education an active, hands-on part of their programs. The national AEX program requires participating squadrons to complete six aerospace or STEM activities, plus an additional two-hour experiential activity, such as a rocket launch, airport visit, or aerospace museum field trip.

For the wing, the value of AEX extends beyond receiving a certificate. We are responsible for helping develop the next generation of citizens, leaders, scientists, engineers, aviators, and aerospace professionals. The state recognizes CAP's role in aerospace education and its broader mission of "serving America's communities, saving lives, and shaping futures."

For a squadron, earning the AEX Award demonstrates that aerospace education is not simply an occasional lesson; it is an intentional part of developing well-rounded cadets. It shows parents, communities, schools, and prospective members that the squadron is providing meaningful educational experiences.

The greatest significance of the award is not the certificate itself. Rather, it represents a commitment to continuous aerospace and STEM education. CAP describes the program as recognizing the "engaging and consistent" use of aerospace and STEM activities.

Ultimately, the AEX Award helps fulfill one of Civil Air Patrol's most important responsibilities: shaping the future. By giving young people opportunities to explore aviation, space, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, AEX can spark curiosity today and help develop the aerospace and STEM leaders of tomorrow. The bottom line is that all your unit's hard work remains a best-kept secret unless you report it. So, if you haven't submitted your unit's AEX report yet, please do so today. For additional information about the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Excellence program, see CAPR 50-1 and the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Excellence (AEX) website.



Wing Staff News

- Finance - Unit Budgets are upcoming. Logistics - Inventories are upcoming
- The process for submission of Wing Level Awards and Wing Level and special promotions can be located here:
    - https://ncwg.cap.gov/directorates/personnel/awardsubmission
    - https://ncwg.cap.gov/directorates/personnel/promotions

The State of the Staff

Maj Brent Wooters, Chief of Staff, NCWG

Trained, Ready and Available

This time of year in the North Carolina Wing typically involves a lot of activity within the Emergency Services directorate. Many of our members are involved in one aspect or another in Emergency Services. This is also one of the three missions of the Civil Air Patrol and therefore many opportunities exist for the membership to take an active role.

The North Carolina Wing also has a very active relationship with North Carolina Emergency Management. What does this mean for our members? First, it means that there are many real-world opportunities to put the skills that we have developed to use. North Carolina is one of the most active wings in Civil Air Patrol in respect to the emergency services mission. This also creates an obligation…we must remain trained, available and willing to take the mission when it is presented. This is where the staff comes into play.

The Wing Emergency Services staff assists with many training activities throughout the year to include Ranger Training Weekend, Black Spade and multiple SAREX's (Search and Rescue Exercises). However, even with these opportunities available to the membership it is essential that training occurs at the group and squadron levels. This is one of the goals of the wing staff…to provide the necessary tools to the groups so that training is always occurring.

Emergency Services Director Maj Matt Chirik has made it his mission to train, maintain and utilize our members and resources to serve our community and fellow citizens. When asked about his

vision for the program he stated, "Our Wing Emergency Services team continues to build relationships and opportunities for new missions year-round, so maintaining a culture of constant training and readiness is critical. We are fortunate to be one of the busiest Wings with missions in the nation due to our strong and continuously growing relationships, and the professionalism and dedication of our members. It's easy to see that every time the phone rings for a mission, our team goes to work immediately to help serve the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. What many don't notice is the hundreds of hours every month spent behind the scenes and on the road to effectively run and manage the program. Please take advantage of every opportunity to train and respond to missions because there is typically months of coordination and hundreds of hours put into planning and preparation. Our ES program continues to set the standard for every CAP Wing to strive to meet, and every day we push that bar higher."

Please work with your squadron and group emergency services officers to maintain your qualifications, achieve new qualifications and stay trained and ready for the next mission that is always right around the corner.