



# AIRWAVES

## Preparation for Promotion

*by Capt P.D. Sargent.*

*Over the course of the year, several programs, seminars, colleges, and conferences have been offered to promote leadership, foster greater understanding of the concepts of management, raise the knowledge base about Civil Air Patrol, and raise awareness of the needs of members in the squadron, wing, region, and national headquarters. Every member is a volunteer.*

## Regional Staff College Heads Leadership

Leaders throughout the state and a few from out of state attended the Rocky Mountain Region Staff College, which was held July 18-26 at the Forrest Vossler NCO Academy at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. Summer is a great time to stretch both physically and mentally, and this leadership preparatory school accomplishes both.

Living and learning from others looking for professional development affords stretching the mind 24/7. Conversation over lunch or dinner helps to reinforce the hefty curriculum

and the daily regimen that hones time management skills.

### DYNAMIC CURRICULUM

- Group Dynamics
- Risk Management
- Stress Management
- Listening Skills
- Leadership
- Problem Solving
- Human Relations
- Team Building
- Motivation
- Principles of Organization
- Communications Oral and Written



Photo by Capt P.D. Sargent

Lt Col Biersdorfer, COWG Vice Commander and Rocky Mountain Region Staff College 2009 Director.

**“Make a difference.  
Don’t give up!”**

Colonel Greg Cortum.

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## Watch for Next Year's RMR Staff College

*Have you always wanted to have a grown up slumber party with other CAP senior members working until the wee hours on homework? Is a military chow hall your idea of haute cuisine? Do you think sleep is overrated?*

If you answered yes to the questions above, then the Rocky Mountain Region Staff College may be your own personal slice of Heaven! Every couple years, gifted people from all over the country gather for ten days at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs to serve as trainers to provide wisdom, guidance and instruction to Civil Air Patrol members. Staff College is a requirement for senior members with their sites set on Level IV. The focus is on raising individual awareness to the role of middle manager in Civil Air Patrol.

Perhaps more importantly, the college also raises individuals' awareness of themselves. Much time is spent in discussion both in and out of the classroom and camaraderie is evident everywhere you look. As Lt Col Biersdorfer said in his opening remarks to this year's class, "Future wing commanders are sitting in this room. I think everyone will agree," he continued "any time devoted training our future leaders is time very well spent."

Why don't *you* join the next class and invest in yourself? Watch for the next session, TBA.



Practicing effective communication skills, trust in the messenger, and team building, Bravo Team constructs a "what's it" like no other.



**Small Class Size**

**Competitive Spirit**

**Cooperative Learning**

**Outstanding Speakers**

**Problem-Solving**

**Decision-Making**



Officers in the "Ready Room"

## The Face of CAP

Every member of Civil Air Patrol is a Public Affairs Officer. Maj Stephen Blucher made it clear that no matter where members are, when they identify themselves as Civil Air Patrol members they will be called upon to explain the role of the all-volunteer organization whose missions are Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services. "Delivering the message is key to the growth and prestige of the organization," said Maj Blucher.

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# It's the Mission

Photo Gregg Cortum

*by Capt P.D. Sargent.*

*Regional Staff College's speaker, whose expertise and initiative, provided thoughtful reflection on what it takes to be a Civil Air Patrol leader. Region Commander, Colonel Gregg Cortum, shared painful wisdom.*

Most people who volunteer have a strong desire to do something worthwhile, to give back to society, or simply to lead a meaningful life. Col Gregg Cortum spoke about the two hats leaders must wear: the dual roles leadership plays in volunteer work. Following is a short list of simple messages, guidelines for effective leaders to follow:

- Learn from others' mistakes. There is no need to reinvent the wheel.
- If you want to kill something, send it to a committee."
- Bloodletting in public is toxic.
- You will be attacked by someone sometime. Deal with it in private.
- Admit when you're wrong and make amends.

Battling to be "right" is unproductive. When the Blue Angels make an error, the group reviews the infraction and the pilot who made the error says simply, "I'll fix it. Glad to be here." In one Blue Angel video, the leader said, "Flying our planes is not dangerous, but mistakes are unforgiving."

Training new leaders should be the goal of every leader. But leaders run into unexpected situations. "Leadership should not be intimidating," the Colonel said citing a painful example:

"It is important to have new leaders," he said citing a time when he decided to have lunch with a group of cadets. When one girl excused herself from the table, Col Cortum asked where she had gone. "She's gone to the bathroom to 'puke,' sir," was the response. "She was so intimidated by your presence at the table that she lost her lunch."

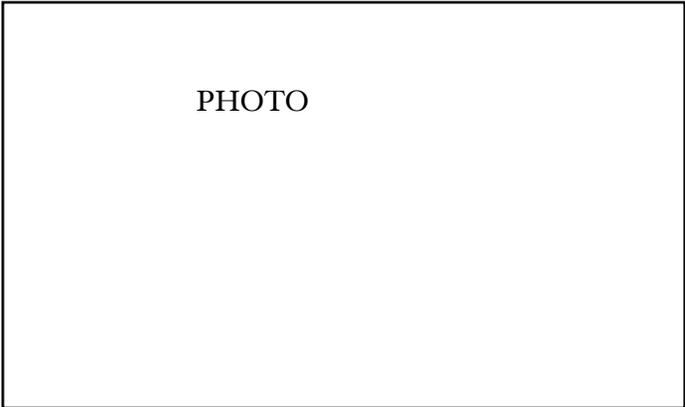
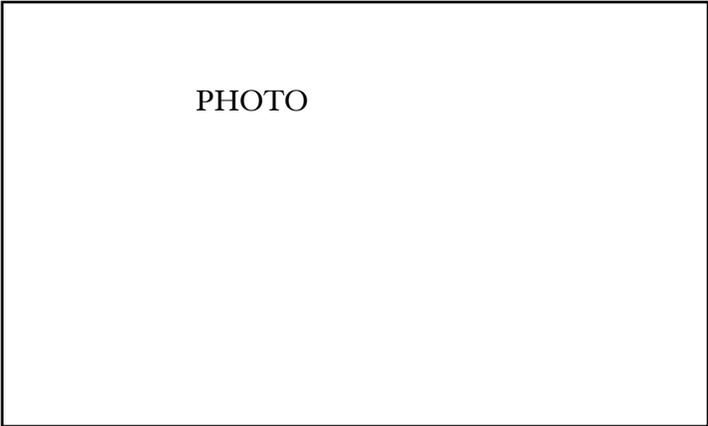
"It is important that we have new leaders," he said to the cadet thoughtfully. "I didn't mean to make her 'puke.'"

"Most people just need a pat on the back," he said. "Be polite, praise in public," he added. If you choose to be a volunteer, then you must strive to be the best possible. "Just because we are volunteers does not mean that a mediocre job is acceptable." Committed volunteers exceed the standards, "Abide by the regulations," he said. He noted examples of necessary actions leaders must make:

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- “Do Something About a Rogue.” His death should not be because you let him fly when the weather was bad.
- “Never be a ‘Deal Maker.’” Don’t trade favors with others, not even your friends.
- “Don’t be an ‘Influence Peddler.’” Maintain the integrity of your office.
- “Go out and do it,” he said emphatically. “Make a difference. Don’t give up!”

Cortum’s leadership style is steady, thoughtful, and capable. In a calm, quiet way he packs his message with authority.



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***UPCOMING DATES***

**Saturday/ Sunday, January 9-10 AOB**  
 Contact: 1Lt Leonard Ginther

**Saturday, February 6 TRACON Tour**

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# Weekend at the Cosmosphere

*1Lt Todd Bachmann*

*Have you ever wanted to explore outer space? Would you like to experience what an astronaut feels as he launches himself, his hopes and dreams, and his future into the unknown? 1Lt Todd Bachmann, Aerospace Education Officer, recently attended such high adventure at the Kansas Cosmosphere. Maybe you'd like that experience too. Ed.*

If you heard of someone going to a space-related camp, you probably think of young kids. But I recently got the opportunity to attend a weekend “Adult Astronaut Adventure” at the Kansas Cosmosphere, a space museum in Hutchinson, Kansas.



1Lt Bachmann became a virtual astronaut at the Cosmosphere.

You might ask, “They have a Space Museum in Kansas?” I was surprised, too. Not only do they have a space museum, but it

rivals the nation’s best space museums. The Kansas Cosmosphere houses the Liberty Bell 7 capsule that was recently pulled off the bottom of the ocean, as well as the actual Apollo 13 capsule. The museum has the largest collection of Soviet space artifacts outside of the former Soviet Union. Almost their entire collection is either the real artifact or a space-ready backup. For instance, they had a Sputnik clone that was built and ready to be sent into space had the real Sputnik had a problem.

The trip was arranged by Wayne and Terry Munson of the Colorado Pilots association. Also in attendance was Jeffco Squadron’s own Bill and Pat Nettleblad. The trip was a full weekend packed with activities from the arrival on Friday until the conclusion Sunday night.

The weekend was like having a VIP pass to the museum. The eleven members of our group were treated to a guided tour of the museum, a private planetarium and IMAX show. We were treated to experiences not given to the typical museum attendees, both an interactive classroom explanation of how astronauts live in space as well as a tour of the museum’s considerable archives given by its curator. We also got to go behind the scenes and sit in a replica of both a Soviet and Apollo space capsule. The Apollo capsule we got into was the same as the one used in the movie Apollo 13. Then there were the two “rides.”

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In the first, a “stress simulator,” you strapped yourself into a machine that changed positions as you tried to press buttons and “prevent the crash.” Nobody prevented a crash. The second “ride” was the Cosmosphere’s 4G simulator, in which we “astronaut wannabees” were subject to four times the force of gravity—close to what the astronauts experience during lift-off.

While all the above events were certainly memorable, the culmination of the trip was the mock shuttle mission. Through a lucky coin toss, I got the coveted position of Commander for our team of three people. After practicing a couple of times on full-sized mock-ups of their Space Shuttle simulator, we got to enter the shuttle and do our real mission. Our mission was to launch into low-earth orbit, deploy a satellite, and return the Orbiter safely back to earth. We were taught a specific method in which a designated crew member would read checklist items to the crew member who was to perform the action, while yet another crew member verified the action was performed properly. Our team worked together like clockwork, allowing us to get to launch time without any hiccups.

The simulator and the crew at the Cosmosphere took pains to make the experience as realistic as possible. Hydraulics on the simulator rotated and shook the simulator at the appropriate times to maximize the experience. An intercom system and headsets let us communicate with the other crew members and the Cosmosphere employee acting as CAPCOM, the NASA employee who links the shuttle crew with ground control.

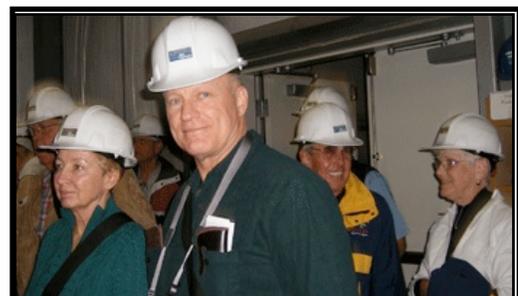
Through the magic of time acceleration for the tedious parts, we completed the entire mission in a little over an hour, landing the orbiter squarely on the runway in Cape Canaveral, and greeted by applause by the other two shuttle crews who were monitoring our landing from “mission control.”

The Cosmosphere is located in Hutchinson Kansas (KHUT). More information can be found at <http://www.cosmo.org>.

**Air Traffic Control Tour:  
Denver TRACON**

Lt Bachmann has arranged a tour for the Denver Terminal Radar Approach Control, TRACON, on Saturday, February 6 from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM. TRACON is responsible for most of the airspace over the greater Denver area. If you're interested in attending, please RSVP to [toddb@qualcomm.com](mailto:toddb@qualcomm.com).

Act now. For security reasons, the FAA requires that we submit a list at least three days prior to the tour. All attendees must be U.S. citizens.



Capt Bill Nettleblad and Capt Pat Nettleblad enjoy the Cosmosphere.

The couple are long-time CAP enthusiasts. Pat serves as Assistant Finance Officer for the wing. Bill served the squadron as Safety Officer in the past. Their daughters caught the enthusiasm to fly as cadets at Vance Brand squadron. Both are graduates of USAFA and now fly jets for the USAF.

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# The Road to CAP

*by SM Luc Moens, Public Affairs Officer*

*The Airwaves staff is pleased to introduce our newest member of the team, Luc Moens. Senior scientist and chemist at National Renewable Energy Laboratories, Dr Moens' enthusiasm is infectious. Since emigrating in 1981 from Belgium--the land of gourmet chocolates--he became a naturalized citizen in 2003. His experience as an adjunct professor at the University of Sherbrooke, in Quebec and his research throughout his employment at NREL since 1989, provide him with a rich background of teaching, mentoring, organizing workshops, reviewing grants, proposals, international scientific journals and leading research groups. He is a talented musician who, by the way, speaks four languages. Ed.*



*SM Luc Moens, newly appointed Public Affairs Officer, is eager to be involved in Civil Air Patrol.*

A famous Western philosopher by the name of Forrest Gump once said that “life is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you’re gonna get.” How true that is! Even if not every ‘chocolate’ I tasted in my life has been enjoyable, each proved to taste like the beginning of new experiences, bringing along new mentors and new learning. Why am I referring to chocolates so much? Well, what else would you expect from someone who was born in Belgium? Antwerp is the city where I was born and raised, and where the Flemish (Dutch) language prevails.

My dad was a sea captain who navigated the oceans on big oil ships and giant mineral carriers, while Mom took care of me and my two younger sisters. For that she certainly deserved a PhD in Domestic Engineering because, according to legend, I must have been quite a rambunctious kid. Maybe that characteristic of a little ‘troublemaker’ stemmed from the fact that I was born under the same October Sky of 1957 that witnessed the launching of the infamous Sputnik, and for a while Mom even called me by that name!

However, I do remember that I became very quiet and attentive whenever there was a broadcast on TV that showed the launching of American astronauts into orbit. Even though I was a “space cadet” at heart during my growing years, it was my interest in chemistry that ultimately made me cross the big pool to continue my graduate education at University of California at Santa Barbara. There I also met an astronaut/scientist who had done experiments in the early 1980s aboard the Challenger on materials for communication devices. Little did I know that many years later, I would meet two other Shuttle astronauts, this time as my bosses at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, where I currently work. Nor did I expect that one day I would be sharing a Thanksgiving dinner with one of the retired head engineers who supervised most of the launchings of the Mercury and Apollo rockets! It’s a small world after all.

Then, on August 22, 2009, another new door opened up. A friend invited me to the Air Show at the Rocky Mountain Metro Airport, and very little could have prepared me for the flood of emotions I felt as I watched the awesome display of an F-16 flying overhead while I was talking to a former Marine who survived the battle at Iwo Jima. What a true honor it was to spend a few moments with that gentleman and to listen to his amazing story.

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I then visited with CAP personnel who stood near their information booth. I had never heard of the Civil Air Patrol before, and thus it was my first contact with this organization. While watching the twilight session with the second F-16 putting up a show, I started to look at the brochures given to me by one of the CAP members. And the rest, as they say, is history.

An email to Capt. J. Kauffman, was promptly answered by an email that was very inviting, obviously composed with care, and quite unlike the often poorly written emails that I usually receive from friends and coworkers. After reading it, I simply had to know more about the organization. The 'door' opened wider when I got to spend some time with LtCol John Butler who had been introduced to me as my new mentor for aircrew training. I love history, and getting a historical perspective on the CAP from someone who has witnessed the evolution of the organization since its very inception in 1941 was a real treat.

I also want to let 2Lt Dennis Mercer know how much I appreciate the enthusiasm that he displayed in his position as Recruiting Officer from the first minute we met. His servant attitude during my first couple visits truly spoke volumes about the "heart" of a volunteer for the Jeffco Squadron.

That said, I'll do my best to live up to your expectations as a new Public Affairs Officer for the Jeffco Squadron, a position that I don't take lightly. In that regard, I'm very grateful to Capt Patricia Sargent for accepting me as a new disciple under her mentorship. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have thoughts or ideas about how we can improve communication within the Squadron.

May you and your loved ones have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

## SUI Awards

In recognition of achieving "Highly Successful" marks from Colorado Wing's Inspector General were Command, Public Affairs, and Aerospace Education. Lt Col Bob Smith, Capt Patricia Sargent, and 1Lt Todd Bachmann earned Certificates of Achievement for their work throughout the year. Capt Kauffman, at left, beams.



left to right: Capt Jennifer Kauffman, Lt Col Bob Smith, Capt Patricia Sargent, 1Lt Todd Bachmann.

Everyone scrambles to put together a self-assessment document that would satisfy wing's requirements for the Subordinate Unit Inspection, SUI. All department heads on the staff must prepare a book describing the year's participation. The book's production focuses on improving safety knowledge and attitudes during the new fiscal year.

Going before the Wing's Inspector General is a little like going before an IRS agent. You wonder if you got all the paperwork together right. But we passed with flying colors!

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# Colorado Wing Locates Family of Founder

Posthumously Maj Gen Curry Receives WWII Service Medal

*by Capt Ed O'Brien*

*Founded in time of national crisis, The Civil Air Patrol mobilized civilian volunteers to defend the nation as in no other time since the American Revolution. Called the 'Flying Minutemen,' those brave citizens, who used their own airplanes and flight equipment, helped the war effort by close scrutiny of our coasts. Some dropped bombs on subs lurking near coastal cities. Some lost their lives. The first National Commander of Civil Air Patrol, Maj Gen John Francis Curry, was also a Maj General in the Army Air Corps. He was posthumously recognized December 5 at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Ed.*

This year's Maj Gen John F. Curry Salute and Awards Ceremony at Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Denver brought his family and the Civil Air Patrol back together.

Civil Air Patrol's first national commander is buried in Denver. General Curry's family is spread all over the world. However, the Colorado Wing got to meet one of his remaining Colorado relatives, Kim, Maj General's grand niece, and Rick Callahan.

Wing historians worked to unite the Curry family and Civil Air Patrol once again. His last remaining first generation relative, his daughter Sheila Curry-DeKalb of Laguna Hills, California, wanted to attend but is too infirm to travel. As project director, I must say we were fortunate to host Kim. She is all Curry.

This whole family is gregarious and most appealing. They love to laugh, appreciate the General as much as we do, and want to find out more about his service.

Both Wing Commander, Col Ed Phelka, and former National Commander, Gen Jay Bobick, offered gifts of appreciation.

Gen Bobick presented what may likely be the last Civil Air Patrol WWII Service Medal to the man who, "actually should've received the first of these ribbons," said Gen Bobick. "It is an oversight we are correcting today."

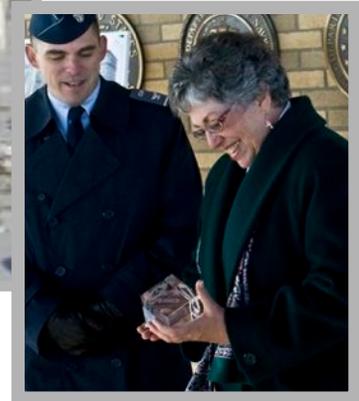
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Since any member who served in WWII has already proudly worn this award for years, this will likely be the last awarding of this most prestigious medal. Certainly the last for a former National Commander presented by a former National Commander. At this service, we made some history.

Current National Commander, Gen Amy Courter, sent an additional gift—a Presentation Crystal—which Col Phelka described as a “most handsome gift.” He added for Kim’s benefit, “I received my Curry Award in 1987. It was my first step in Civil Air Patrol. It is the ribbon I have worn the longest. Your family’s name means a great deal to me.”

Also attending were former Region and Wing Commander Col Gary Tobey, Former Colorado Wing Commander, Col Jack Buschmann, former Wyoming Wing Commander, Robert Coe, and various senior and cadet members of the Colorado Wing. In addition, C/Lt Sklyer Caldwell of Thompson Valley Composite Squadron played Taps, Lt Col Sid Altum provided the prayer, and Capt George Dengler served as assistant project officer.

It was the warmest of ceremonies on the coldest of December days.



Photos courtesy of Lt Beth Biscardi and Kim Long



Upper left: Honoring our founder, Maj Gen John F. Curry, Civil Air Patrol dignitaries salute his memory and the memory of the brave civilian souls who risked their lives to protect our coasts at the beginning of WWII.

Right: Maj Gen Curry’s grand niece, Kim Callahan, and Col Ed Phelka admire a presentation crystal from National Commander, Gen Amy Courter.

Bottom: Maj Gen Curry meets with Charles Lindbergh.



Jeffco pilots made a strong representation at the Mountain Flying Clinic this fall as over twenty-five percent of the membership attended. Left to right: 1Lt Mike Linn, Capt Tom Benson, Capt Paul Carter, Capt Scott Tippet, Lt Col Dick Sargent, Capt George Thomas, Lt Col John Butler, and Capt Jennifer Kauffman. Not present for the photo are 1Lt Todd Gamber, Capt Jason Rew, 2Lt Randy Settergren, and Col Hap Burnham.



Aircrew, Lt Col Dick Sargent, Capt Rob Bender, and 1Lt Mike Linn earned a "Find" Award as Ground Team Members for a non-distress ELT in Fort Collins.



Capt Jason Rew, Capt Jennifer Kauffman, and 1Lt Stephen Rew earned "Find" Award as Ground Team Members for a non-distress ELT. Capt Rew was not present for the photo.



2Lt Brian Riley, Safety Officer, was promoted to 1Lt.



SM Mark Pestal promoted to 2Lt

Photos by 1Lt Arif Gezalov

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## Contributors

### PHOTOGRAPHER

2LT ARIF GEZELOV



Arif has many photos in this issue. Experienced and focused, he brings us outstanding pictures of meetings, SAREXs, and Civil Patrol life in general.

### STAFF WRITERS

SM LUC MOENS



Luc has just joined the PAO team. His article on page 7 tells what it's like to be a newcomer to Civil Air Patrol.

Multi-talented, Luc is ready to take on the Public Affairs tasks. Please welcome him at the next squadron event.

CAPT TRICIA SARGENT



PAO team leader, she is responsible for the design and format of the newsletter.

Please contact her with corrections and/or suggestions. Call 303.216.1931 or email [capnewsletter@mac.com](mailto:capnewsletter@mac.com)

*Many thanks to guest writers 1Lt Todd Bachmann and Capt Ed O'Brien, for submitting articles. Thanks also to proofreaders: SM Luc Moens, Maj Bruce Hertelendy, and Lt Col Dick Sargent.*



Jerald Cunningham  
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Paul Jennings  
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Fred Mc Farland  
Lynn Newman  
John Nordman

John Boyer  
Randy Huiting  
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Mike Mitchell  
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Todd Sainer

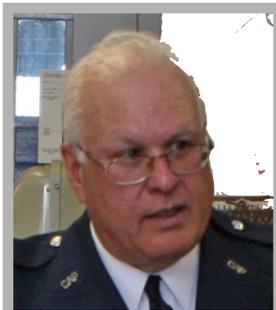
### GUEST WRITERS

1LT TODD BACHMANN



Our Aerospace Education Officer, 1Lt Todd Bachmann, has brought a little humor to his story about a special space program. Catch his cool new suit, which he wears for his article on page 5.

CAPT ED O'BRIEN



Capt Ed O'Brien is Heritage officer for the Colorado Wing. An experienced journalist, his ear is always attuned to a good story. See his article on Civil Air Patrol's founding father, Maj Gen John F. Curry on page 9.