



# BIOGRAPHY

## COLONEL REGGIE L. CHITWOOD

Col. Reggie Chitwood is the Civil Air Patrol's national chief of staff. He is responsible for directing and overseeing the organization's national staff and advisers.

Col. Chitwood has served as commander of CAP's Southwest Region and Arkansas Wing. As wing commander, he was instrumental in getting legislation passed to allow CAP members up to 15 days off from their employment to assist in training or actual missions. In addition, he has served as a mission pilot, mission observer, incident commander and Federal Aviation Administration aviation safety counselor.

A member since 1991, Col. Chitwood's background also includes service on the CAP National Finance, Constitution and By-Laws and Posse Comitatus committees. He currently serves on the CAP Board of Governors.



An Arkansas native, Col. Chitwood graduated from Westark Community College — now the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith — with an associate degree in criminal justice. He has completed U.S. Air Force Squadron Officer's School, CAP's Region Staff and National Staff colleges, and all levels of the CAP Professional Development Program. His honors and achievements include the Gill Robb Wilson Award; Distinguished Service Award, both as wing and region commander; Grover Loening Award; Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award; and several Meritorious Service awards and Commander's commendations

Col. Chitwood retired after 28 years as a sergeant with the Arkansas Highway Police, where he was responsible for supervising four officers patrolling six counties on the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. He has attended numerous middle and upper-level management courses administered by the Arkansas Highway Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Justice Institute of the University of Arkansas. He is a certified law enforcement instructor and field training officer.

His civic and community service includes positions as director on the Fort Smith River Festival Board and the Fort Smith Trolley Museum Board.

Col. Chitwood is married and currently resides in Van Buren, Ark., with his wife, Rose, who works with special needs children in the Alma School District.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 56,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 103 lives in fiscal year 2007. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the nearly 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 65 years.