

# Chain of Command

## 1. How is Civil Air Patrol Organized?

### Echelons

- You: You are the start of the organization without you there would be no CAP.
- Flight: When you join you will become part of a flight. A flight is a group of dedicated individuals who make a commitment to act as one.
- Squadron: A Squadron is a single flight or group of flights stationed in a single area. Each squadron has a three digit number designation.
- Group: A group is the next step up from Squadron. It does some activities together including SAREX's and GSAR's.
- Wing: The next level is the wing. A wing is made up of groups. Each wing is a state and has a two-letter designator.
- Region: There are 8 regions in the United States:

Northeast region	North Central Region
Middle East region	Southwest Region
Great Lakes Region	Rocky Mountain Region
Southeast Region	Pacific Region

Each region has a three letter designation.
- The region you are in is the Great Lakes Region and there are 6 wings in this region: Indiana Kentucky Illinois Wisconsin Michigan Ohio
- National Headquarters: National Headquarters is located in Montgomery, Alabama at Maxwell, AFB.

**Note:** A charter number denotes the squadron which you joined. This unit's charter number is GLR-OH-003 (GLR= Great Lakes Region, OH= Ohio, and 003= Squadron #).

## 2. What is the Chain of Command?

- This chain of command is the series of leadership positions in the squadron relating directly to the cadet program. The cadets in these positions are getting a chance to gain leadership experience through hands on, real life situations. The senior members are there to help supervise and guide the cadet program to reach its goals set down by national headquarters. The goals for the cadet program are: leadership training, aerospace education and training, emergency services, and physical training. A new cadet should try to use his chain of command starting at the lowest level (flight sergeant) and proceeding only as high as necessary in dealing with questions and problems.

## 3. Who is in my Chain of Command?

- National Commander (Maj Gen) \_\_\_\_\_  
Commands all CAP units
- Great Lakes Region Commander (Col) \_\_\_\_\_  
Commands all the Wings in a geographic area
- Wing Commander (Col) \_\_\_\_\_  
Commands all the groups or squadrons in a state
- Group IV Commander (Maj – Lt Col) \_\_\_\_\_  
Commands a group of squadrons
- Squadron Commander (1st Lt – Lt Col) \_\_\_\_\_  
Commands the squadron
- Deputy Commander of Cadets (Sr. Member ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Oversees the Cadet Program

- Cadet Commander (C/Capt – C/Col) \_\_\_\_\_  
Motivate cadets; supervise the flight commanders and first sergeant and develop their leadership skills; set long-term goals for the squadron; instruct cadets; ensure the squadron achieves its goals
- First Sergeant (C/MSgt – C/CMSgt) \_\_\_\_\_  
Motivate cadets; supervise the flight sergeants and all junior cadets in the squadron; assist the commander with inspections; lead drill and ceremonies; assist the commander with morale and discipline
- Flight Commander (C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt – C/Capt) \_\_\_\_\_  
Motivate cadets; supervise the flight sergeant and element leaders and develop their leadership skills; instruct cadets; set goals and create plans for the flight
- Cadet Flight Sergeant (C/SSgt – C/CMSgt) \_\_\_\_\_  
Motivate cadets; lead cadets in drill; instruct cadets in basic subjects; help the flight commander lead the flight.
- Element Leader (C/A1C – C/TSgt) \_\_\_\_\_  
Motivate cadets; serve as a coach; help cadets prepare for inspection; help cadets learn drill