



Alexandria



1st Lt  
Rebecca  
Walsh

Anoka



Maj  
Patrick  
Wolfgang

Crow Wing



Capt  
Heike  
Dodge

Hutchinson



Capt  
Andrew  
Heisel

St Cloud



Lt Col  
Shawn  
Warneke

St Croix



Maj  
Mike  
Bordonaro

## Minnesota Wing Group 2

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*Try not. Do, or do not. There is no try.*

*Yoda*

## Articles

Keep the articles coming, let everyone know the outstanding things your squadron is doing.

### Protocol

Civil Air Patrol is a military based organization. We hear this all the time, but do we sometimes forget what that means? Protocol is defined as “a code prescribing strict adherence to correct etiquette and procedure (as in diplomatic exchange and in the military services).”

As a military based organization protocol is a large part of who we are and what we do. This means we should be taking every step we can to ensure we are following the proper protocols at all times. Being a volunteer organization I feel we can sometimes forget that we also have protocols to follow.

When we are conducting ceremonies let’s not forget to use proper protocols. Not only during the ceremony, but before when we are asking for dignitaries to attend.

If you’re ever in doubt what to do, don’t be afraid to ask others, or refer to CAPP 3

[https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/P003\\_FB179DB158264.pdf](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/P003_FB179DB158264.pdf)

### COVID Update

As of the 31st of January we have new COVID guidelines to follow. Changes have been made due to the ever evolving pandemic situation. With infection rates changing, and vaccinations rates continuing to climb, NHQ felt it was time for an update. Please take the time to review the changes to ensure we are following them.

<https://presspage-production-content.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/1913/cap-ccmemorecovidphasechanges31jan2022.pdf?1000>

#### Quick Tip:

Don’t forget to update you squadron’s ES Resource List on the MN Wing Intranet. This should be done twice a year, January and June. This is a simple task, and it count towards squadron of the year. If nothing has changed you still need to update confirm it so the date is changed on the report.

# Goals for the Group

1. As we start the new year it's a good time to review the goals for your units. In an effort to not only help with that process, but also for all of you to be able to know what I have as goals for the group as a whole, I am listing them here. As always goals are always evolving and being reviewed. If you have any questions about any of them, please feel free to ask.

2. **Partnerships.** I would like for the squadrons to build partnerships with their local communities, other organizations, and each other. I am sure many of you have already accomplished this in various ways but let's continue our efforts. We cannot be of service to our communities if they do not know we are here. This can be local government, emergency management, other volunteer organizations, or even local businesses. Let's build partnerships that will last for many years to come.

3. **Safety Culture.** We hear about safety a lot and there is a very good reason for that. Safety is an especially important part of everything we do, and not just within CAP. I want to see us promote a culture of understanding that things will happen, but when they do, we look to find out why and fix it. This should not be about punishment; the members should not be afraid to report a mishap.

4. **Aerospace.** Aerospace education is an important part of CAP, it's one of our three missions. Let's continue to expand the education we provide. I would like to see all squadrons using the STEM kits that NHQ can provide, and I would like to see more participation in the AEX program. We already do an outstanding job in the CyberPatriot program but let's expand farther into the StellarX program. MN Wing only has one squadron participating in the StellarX program, which is thankfully in group 2, but let's get some more squadrons apart of this program.

5. **Senior Member Training.** I am a firm believer in getting our members as much training as possible for them to succeed in their roles. The cadets have a program built for them and are one of the main focuses of CAP, the senior members are not as fortunate. With the new senior training program now is a perfect time to ensure our senior members are getting all the training they need. This should also include specialty tracks, and area I feel we don't do a good enough job in. I am currently in the process of creating a mentor program for Group 2 for specialty tracks. I'm hoping to have the program ready very soon.

# St. Croix Squadron Buys New Hangar!

The St. Croix Composite Squadron is purchasing a hangar at the Lake Elmo Airport. The squadron rented a hangar for over 20 years but they lost access to it when the owners decided to sell it in the Fall of 2017.

A fund raising effort started in 2019 led by 1Lt Eric Ekstrand has raised over \$30,000! Together with money the squadron already had, they were financially ready to purchase a hangar. One that suited their needs became available in September, 2021 and they immediately agreed to purchase it. The hangar is 40' deep by x 60' wide and is heated and fully insulated. It will allow for storage of a Cessna 172 or 182 and the squadron van. It is also large enough to contain classrooms and a small office.

The next step will be to outfit the hangar with tables, chairs, and A/V equipment. They haven't yet decided on a final configuration but have access to some movable partitions to test pilot a few layouts. The hangar is on Hawker Lane, at the end of the row and can be seen from the main taxiway. This will allow for prominent advertising of CAP's presence to the local pilot population.

The squadron hopes to close on the deal in January. Watch this space for an open house in the near future!

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## The Ray Foundation Funds St. Croix Cadet Flight Training

While raising funds to build a new hangar, Major Jackson Maddux discovered the Ray Foundation in Naples, Florida. He called them to inquire if they would support this endeavor. While they do not support building efforts, they agreed to fund Cadet flight training. The squadron was granted \$25,000 to fund primary flight training scholarships for Cadets! The squadron established a committee to develop an application process, write selection criteria and structure how the funds would be administered. The squadron also worked with Lake Elmo Aero, the FBO at the Lake Elmo Airport, to secure training at a discount.

In December of 2020 they granted scholarships to 4 Cadets. After the Cadets were selected, they wrote letters and sent pictures to the Ray Foundation in hopes they would consider grant us more funding. In November of 2021, the Ray Foundation called to say how impressed they were with the St. Croix Cadets and to offer the squadron another \$25,000! There are currently 6 Cadets in the program. 2 have soloed and the other 4 are close behind.

The St. Croix squadron's successful effort with the Ray foundation has opened the door for CAP NHQ to develop a relationship with them at the national level. The Ray Foundation has agreed to contribute a large sum to CAP's Cadet Wings program. All this from one phone call!