



OKLAHOMA WING HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
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Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma 73145-9111



Unit Citation Award Recommendation for Oklahoma Wing

The Oklahoma Wing, CAP, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, distinguished itself by exceptionally outstanding contributions to the Civil Air Patrol missions from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2017. In December 2015, Oklahoma Wing received a “HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL” rating with only six open discrepancies on its compliance inspection; all closed out within 30 days. Several inspection team members noted that this was the lowest number of discrepancies seen to date across all of CAP. The amount of materials that was uploaded prior to the inspection team’s arrival became a model for other wings to attain. The Oklahoma Wing Commander lauded “incredible results, none seen in all my years on the National Staff Inspection Team”. Active government relations were vital to the wing correcting a 45-year oversight. The meticulous efforts of the command team and the legislative squadron were instrumental in enacting legislation creating permanent tax-exempt CAP vehicle registration and licensing status meeting state law requirements. Oklahoma wing led the way in aerial photography mission execution when in summer of 2015, the Governor of Oklahoma declared a state of emergency due to record flooding. Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) requested photo assessment of the flooding throughout the state. This resulted in a massive aerial photography mission cataloging every waterway in the state. All told, over 6,000 processed images were delivered to OEM. Oklahoma wing operations team continued to excel as the wing prosecuted nine emergency locator transmitter (ELT) missions and was credited with seven finds. Wing emergency services personnel responded to four missing person search missions. Crews supported real-world homeland defense missions Green Flag, Falcon Virgo and the Predator Escort Mission based in New York Wing. Counterdrug executed an unbelievable 183 air and 43 ground sorties supporting undisclosed customers! Members planned and executed three Southwest Region (SWR) powered flight academies. Talented wing volunteers recruited personnel from across the nation to host 48 students and produce 39 new solo pilots! Operations established a glider program from conception to fully functional glider program. Utilizing collaborative efforts from a local glider club for initial support, the operations team established qualified flight and ground personnel capable of managing glider flights anywhere in the state. NHQ and CAP-USAF recognized the wing’s glider program as being key to retention and further supporting the cadet program. Members also participated in key OEM and Oklahoma National Guard readiness exercises providing vital education to state decision makers as to the capabilities of the CAP and its expertly trained professional volunteers. As part of this effort, the CC and DO delivered a custom CAPabilities briefing to the Assistant Adjutant General and staff. Operations team led an effective training cycle qualifying many vital emergency services positions including numerous aircrew and ground teams, AOB, PSC/OSC and IC qualified individuals. The efforts of the team culminated in the biennial operations evaluation conducted at the primary mission base in Norman, Oklahoma in March of 2017. There, the director of operations serving as the incident commander established wing wide command and control of all assets and expertly prosecuted all tasks with aplomb! The CAP-USAF evaluation team graded the wing as HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL which was exceptional when compared to the previous evaluation being graded as “barely” marginally successful. The CAP-USAF team lead commented that this was “an OUTSTANDING performance, the likes of which has not been seen in Oklahoma in recent memory”. The SWR vice commander lauded praise for the team stating he, as a former OKWG Commander, “couldn’t be prouder”. The operations leadership, led by the director of operations, assembled a team that brought five mission critical areas up from marginally successful in 2015 to OUTSTANDING in 2017. Overall, the wing garnered five outstanding and seven highly successful ratings. Cadet programs brought their “A” game when in summer of 2016 the program director looked at the annual summer encampment and identified a way to benefit both Arkansas and Oklahoma wings. In 2017 he led the first Arkansas-Oklahoma Wing Encampment. Cadet programs harmonized efforts with Arkansas and SWR to form the plans for a joint encampment maximizing resources and expanding leadership opportunities for cadets to operate a large-scale event. The encampment was also the first to offer USAF orientation flights on C-17 and KC-135 military aircraft. In July of 2015, cadet programs hosted six IACE cadets and their escorts from Australia and Great Britain. In addition to touring the state, program managers arranged for the cadets to receive an orientation flight in CAP aircraft. This proved challenging as IACE cadets are not eligible for orientation flights under normal procedures. Cadet programs provided expert oversight to local squadrons; producing over 30% of the nearly 400 cadets achieving Mitchel or higher achievements. Cadets were selected to attend almost every national cadet special activity. Several senior members were decorated for going above and beyond in supporting NCSAs. In 2017, cadet programs and operations supported the Tinker Air Force Base airshow with crowd control, recruiting and aerial photography. Operations were responsible for conducting eight aerial assessment flights during the event with near real-time photo assessments delivered back to base decision makers. The results of the missions highlighted several key “choke points” with the base’s traffic management plans as well as other points to be addressed for 2019. The 72d Air Base Wing Commander was beside himself with praise for the professionalism he saw first-hand with the cadets and aircrew supporting this airshow. Senior member recruitment and retention were highlighted throughout the award period as meeting or exceeding goals set by the commander and was the only wing in the SWR to do so. The SWR commander continued to praise Oklahoma wing for its success in exceeding member recruiting and retention goals. The wing has committed to capitalize on utilizing brand new Cessna aircraft and vehicles to travel to fly-ins, airshows and pancake breakfasts throughout the state to showcase CAP. These events showcase the Aerospace education mission with briefings and public displays. Aerospace education aggressively utilized the fly-a-teacher program; introducing ten teachers to aviation. The professionalism and superior performance of the personnel of the Oklahoma Wing reflect great credit upon themselves, their organization and Civil Air Patrol.