

HISTORICAL NOTES NO. 16

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"Boy, do we have your number!"

The where and why of Unit & Charter Numbers

In the Beginning:

When CAP was first started back in December 1941, it was determined to closely align our organizational structure to the Army Corps which was defined geographically by population numbers, and not alphabetically *i.e.* 1st. Army Corps area, first state, that is why Maine is 1-1 and so on. This numbering system mostly applied to one's serial numbers, for Seniors it was the Army Corps designator 1-1-XXXX, whereas for cadets it was the without the dash *i.e.* 11-XXX

Civil Air Patrol 1941--1955

First Army Corps Area

Maine	1-1
New Hampshire	1-2
Vermont	1-3
Massachusetts	1-4
Connecticut	1-5
Rhode Island	1-6

Second Army Corps Area

New York	2-1
New Jersey	2-2
Delaware	2-3

Third Army Corps Area

Pennsylvania	3-1
Virginia	3-2
Maryland	3-3
National Capital	3-4
Puerto Rico	3-5

Fourth Army Corps Area

Florida	4-1
Georgia	4-2
South Carolina	4-3
North Carolina	4-4
Tennessee	4-5
Alabama	4-6
Mississippi	4-7
Louisiana	4-8

Fifth Army Corps Area

Ohio	5-1
Indiana	5-2
Kentucky	5-3
West Virginia	5-4

Sixth Army Corps Area

Illinois	6-1
Wisconsin	6-2
Michigan	6-3

Seventh Army Corps Area

Minnesota	7-1
Iowa	7-2
Missouri	7-3
Arkansas	7-4
Kansas	7-5
Nebraska	7-6
South Dakota	7-7
North Dakota	7-8
Wyoming	7-9

Eighth Army Corps Area

Texas	8-1
Oklahoma	8-2
Colorado	8-3
New Mexico	8-4
Arizona	8-5

Ninth Army Corps Area

California	9-1
Oregon	9-2
Washington	9-3
Idaho	9-4
Montana	9-5
Nevada	9-6
Utah	9-7
Alaska	9-8
Hawaii	49-1

Note: In July 1942, the United States Army re-designated the numerical 1-9, **Army Corps Area's**, to be now known as the 1-9, **Army Service Command's**, with the addition of a separate *Northwest Service Command* which covered Western Canada, Alaska and the Yukon territories

Again, when CAP was first planned, it was thought advisable to place a Regional Commander in each of the nine Army Corps Areas-Army Service Commands, to act as coordinators for Wing activities. During the early organization stages, this plan helped a good deal in getting things started. However, only five of the nine posts were filled, three by Army Officers and two by civilians. It was found necessary in many instances to place these officers on field work outside their regions and in general direct contact between the Wings and National Headquarters for fast timing. Thus the Regional Commands were abolished.

CAP Historical: The use of these **Army Corps Area's - Army Service Command** numbers usually wound up in official designation of Civil Air Patrol's wing's, group's, squadron's and unit's as a organization number like i.e. *Kenny Squadron 511-3* (Ohio), *Squadron 918-3* (California) or *Group 616* (Illinois) and occasionally in official correspondence during wartime and after. . And of course did find away to become a part of CAP (Wing) State Shoulder patches, many still contain **Army Service Command** numbers i.e. *Rhode Island--16, New Jersey--22, Pennsylvania--31, Ohio--51, Indiana--52, Illinois--61, Wisconsin--62, and Michigan--63*

CAP & USAF 1948 on.

9 Jun. 51 NEB Minutes. Regional Director's were established..

General Orders Number 9 - 24 April 1952

I. DESIGNATION OF CIVIL AIR PATROL REGIONS. Announcement is made of the designation of Civil Air Patrol Regions as follows:

Northeast	1	North Central	5
Middle East	2	Southwest	6
Great Lakes	3	Rocky Mountain	7
Southeast	4	Western	8*

***Note: 27 May 1955, NB Minutes** - Ratified National Executive Board (NEB) resolution to change name from **Western** to **Pacific** Region, and changed **Regional Directors** to **Regional Commanders**. It was also about this time that National Headquarters numbered the regions for ease of management, and cartography.

CHARTER NUMBERS:

With Civil Air Patrol becoming more computer orientated in the 50's it was decided by National Headquarters to assign wings and regions a five place number. The first two digits designated the wing or region, the others three digits were to represent internal units or various headquarters shed outs. *CAPR 20-3 Organization Charters*, 30 May 1955 established requirements and procedures. *Minutes, National Board Conference, 22-24 May 1956*, The National Commander, Maj Gen Agee, announced out of 2300 units in CAP, only 685 units have been chartered as of 30 April 1956.

Later with the presentation of official charter certificates, designed in 1953 and signed by the National Commander, it was now designated as a unit charter number. But let me assure you that the number issued has no significance as to when membership in CAP originated, was approved or conferred. It's totally alphabetical as only a computer can designate and sort. Unquestionably because Hawaii, Alaska had not obtained official statehood at the time (1955), but were still considered Territories and of course Puerto Rico a Commonwealth. They didn't fall in state alphabetical sequence, they were numbered 50, 51, and 52 respectively...

Wing Charters

Alabama	01000	Nevada	27000
Arizona	02000	New Hampshire	28000
Arkansas	03000	New Jersey	29000
California	04000	New Mexico	30000
Colorado	05000	New York	31000
Connecticut	06000	North Carolina	32000
Delaware	07000	North Dakota	33000
Florida	08000	Ohio	34000
Georgia	09000	Oklahoma	35000
Idaho	10000	Oregon	36000
Illinois	11000	Pennsylvania	37000
Indiana	12000	Rhode Island	38000
Iowa	13000	South Carolina	39000
Kansas	14000	South Dakota	40000
Kentucky	15000	Tennessee	41000
Louisiana	16000	Texas	42000
Maine	17000	Utah	43000
Maryland	18000	Vermont	44000
Massachusetts	19000	Virginia	45000
Michigan	20000	Washington	46000
Minnesota	21000	West Virginia	47000
Mississippi	22000	Wisconsin	48000
Missouri	23000	Wyoming	49000
Montana	24000	Alaska	50000
National Capital	25000	Hawaii	51000
Nebraska	26000	Puerto Rico	52000

Region Charters

Northeast	91000	Southwest	96000
Middle East	92000	Rocky Mountain	97000
Great Lakes	93000	Pacific	98000
Southeast	94000		
North Central	95000	National Headquarters	99000

Side-bar:

It's curious, that the *National Capital (DC)* was placed in overall state (wing) sequence i.e. #25000. One wonder's, could have been because CAP's National Headquarters resided at Bolling AFB, located in the DC area at the time of charter number issuance?

That is most if not all the information that I have in my files, National Executive Board, National Executive Committee and National Board agenda's and minutes, books, and recollections of things that happened in the past. But, I ask the membership if there is any additional historical information about charter numbers and numberings of CAP units that may have been overlooked... please pass it on... for posterity.