



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - 2011

NEW JERSEY WING

CIVIL AIR PATROL

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

LEGISLATIVE DAY ON THE HILL



On Thursday, 3 March, eight of our members represented New Jersey Wing Civil Air Patrol in meetings with New Jersey's congressional delegation in each of their offices on Capitol Hill. The state of New Jersey has thirteen representatives in the House at this time, in addition to its two Senators.

This year, New Jersey Wing saw its most productive Legislative Day to date; and the efforts put forth leading up to and on that day have already yielded tangible results, especially with cosponsorships of the bill for the third objective listed below. Our legislative agenda included four primary objectives:

1. The restoration of CAP's FY12 Operations and Maintenance Budget after a \$4.5 million cut.
2. The addition of \$6.8 million in FY12 funding for aircraft procurement.
3. The recognition of CAP's WWII volunteers with the Congressional Gold Medal.
4. The induction of Congressmen to CAP membership in the Congressional Squadron.

MAINTAINING SUPPORT

The Wing Commander has stated that our approach in gaining and maintaining legislative support, "should not be as if it is a battle, but as if it is a campaign." Our goal is to serve as a supplemental force-multiplier for state emergency services, and we want to ensure that our assets and resources are known to our representatives in congress. We certainly want to make known that our greatest resource is our corps of professional citizen volunteers, both cadets and senior members, who are, and historically have always been, ready and willing to serve their communities.

This month, squadron commanders will see a survey sent forth from Wing Headquarters, polling member interest in our legislative support efforts. From there, instructions about writing to our congressmen will be distributed to those members who express an interest.



BRINGING IT HOME

One of the most important steps that we can take in this ongoing campaign is to schedule follow up meetings with our Congressman, here, in their home districts. In planning their schedules, members of Congress give meeting-time priority to constituents of their respective districts. In the months to come, the Wing Staff will be working in conjunction with the squadrons within each district to arrange meetings and events that will give cadets and senior members an opportunity to meet and speak with their representatives, while strengthening relationships with those representatives at both the squadron and wing levels. The key with this process is moving forward with a professional, tactful, and standardized message and approach in order to achieve a result that is beneficial for the wing as a whole.



Our own Lt Col Wayne Fox serves as New Jersey Wing's Legislative Squadron Commander. Like the Congressional Squadron, our Legislative Squadron is designed to encompass the members of the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly, as well as their staff members. Building our own Legislative Squadron will be another ongoing project within the wing and another area where your support will be necessary in the months to come.



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