The CAP Chaplain College is Three Years Old

By
Ch (Lt. Col.) Timothy Miner, CAP
Commandant

In the summer of 2021, the Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Corps College offered its first online course with a vision to create a common core of education and training for the Chaplain and Character Development Instructor specialty tracks. This was the first "Wing Chaplain Course." The Chaplain Support Team (CST) was already on the minds of the corps' leadership. Having both special tracks train together for billets at the wing level made sense. This was especially important since within a year, the new version of the corps' governing regulation, CAP Regulation 80-1, codified the position of Wing Administrator for all wings without a chaplain. The newly named CAP Pamphlet 40-80 which articulated the requirements for specialty track training called for the Wing Chaplain Course and an Advanced Character Development Course to be mandatory for everyone. What was first only a vision in 2020 was now tasked with moving forward with its mandate to prepare everyone who wanted to excel in their positions as a CAP chaplain and CDI.

From these humble beginnings, the college has expanded its offerings to include courses to support the specialty tracks from the newest member to the most senior member of the corps. The college program currently offers five courses to do that. These include the following courses:

1. First is a newly created "Squadron Chaplain/CDI Course" for Technician ratings. The first offering of the course just concluded in September 2024. This course is not yet codified in the training plan, but it will be thoroughly evaluated as a future requirement soon.
2. The "Wing Chaplain Course" is now required for Senior ratings and is currently supporting its seventh cohort during the month of November.
3. A new "Region Chaplain Course" was first offered this past summer and will also be evaluated as a possible future requirement.
4. The "Advanced Character Development Course" which is required for Master ratings has just concluded its sixth offering since the first in the Spring of 2022.
5. A future "Flight Chaplain Course" is preparing to launch in the Spring of 2025.

While the professional education program was the first to start at the college, within a few months, a team of former military officers initiated and taught the first of four component classes of the Auxiliary Chaplain Course (AUX). This program prepares CAP chaplains with and without prior military service to support the Department of Defense components and the Department of Veterans Affairs in auxiliary backfill and augmentation roles. The program brings CAP chaplains in direct contact with USAF active-duty chaplains and students in the Air Force Chaplain Corps College at Maxwell AFB. CAP chaplains spend a week at Maxwell and train with students at the AFCCC's Basic Chaplain Course.

Every member of the chaplain corps who wants to take one of these offerings should refer to the schedule on the corps' Education and Training page at the CAP website.

Seven students recently graduated from the Advanced Character Development Course (ACD), section 24B in September. These members are:

Capt. Jared Brown
Capt. Richard Hart
Chaplain (Capt.) Wesley Hulvey
Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Massey
Chaplain (Capt.) John Moser
Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen Racite
Maj. Agatha M Vogelgesang

Chaplains "TJ" Jenney and Sung Kwon taught and facilitated this four-week online program.

Fifty-three students graduated from the inaugural Squadron Chaplain/CDI Course, section 24A in September. These members are:

Augustine, Chuck (Capt.)
Bardon, Michael (Chaplain, Maj.)
Bennett, Ginger (Chaplain, 1st Lt.)
Brinley, Robert (Lt. Col.)
Britt, Wendy (Capt.)
Brooks Sr., Glenn (Chaplain, Capt.)
Browning, Jack (Maj.)
Burch, Steven (Chaplain, Capt.)
Casler, Bonnie (Lt. Col.)
Curran, Virginia (2d Lt.)
Cyr, Renee (Capt.)
Darner, Harold (Capt.)
Ditch, Robert (Lt. Col.)
Eno, Gary (Chaplain, Lt. Col.)
Evangelista, Anthony (Chaplain, Maj.)
Fuentes, Sharon (1st Lt.)
Heath, E.C. (Chaplain, Capt.)
Herrington, Jason (2d Lt.)
Howard, Glenn (Chaplain, Capt.)
Joslin, John (Chaplain, Lt. Col.)
Junk, Richard (Lt. Col.)
Kirschke, Cristy (Capt.)
Kivela, Wanda (1st Lt.)
Kushnereit, Miles (2nd Lt.)
Lance, Kendra (Major)
Law, Renn (Senior Member)
Ma, Jenny (1st Lt.)

Maedche, Kayla (Chaplain, Capt.)
McDonald, P Scott (Chaplain, Capt.)
O'Looney, Francis (2d Lt.)
Parris, Kenneth (Chaplain, Colonel)
Paz, Sarah (1st Lt.)
Prekop, Maria (Lt. Col.)
Provost, Leslie (2d Lt.)
Ricca, Brad (Chaplain, Capt.)
Rice, Jessica (Capt.)
Richards, Mary (1st Lt.)
Ross, Christopher (1st Lt.)
Shaikh, Aizaz (Capt.)
Shull, Kerry (1st Lt.)
Sima, Joseph (2nd Lt.)
Simons, Christopher (2nd Lt.)
Smith, Michael (Senior Member)
Stanley, Londa (Capt.)
Stelzer, John (1st Lt.)
Stephanoff, Steven (Chaplain, Capt.)
Sullivan, Ed (2nd Lt.)
Tattersall, Elizabeth (Chaplain, Lt. Col.)
Teel, Julie (Capt.)
Thornton, Mary (Lt. Col.)
Warnock, Carla (Lt. Col.)
Wild, Matthew (Senior Member)
Wood, Micaela (Chaplain, Capt.)

Chaplains Camille Barlow and David Poland developed and taught this inaugural offering to a large cohort. Chaplain Chon Gann and MSgt. Gerald Martin were also instrumental in creating the course material used during this first offering.

Now entering its fourth year of service, the CAP Chaplain Corps College owes a great debt to the pioneers who were the hands that made this vision a reality from its first year to 2024. These superstars are:

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Tillery
Chaplain (Lt. Col) "TJ" Jenney
Chaplain (Major) Rochelle Coles
Chaplain (Colonel) John Reutemann, III
Chaplain (Capt.) Chon Gann
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Mathews
Master Sgt. Gerald Martin
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jeffery Williams
Chaplain (Major) Camille Barlow

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Poland
Chaplain (Major) Sung Kwon

As the past two Chief of Chaplains, Chaplains (Colonel) John Murdoch and Linda Pugsley supported the growth of the college from its vision to the present. As the Deputy Chief of Chaplains in 2021, Chaplain Pugsley also co-taught the inaugural Wing Chaplain Course with Chaplain Miner.