



# BIOGRAPHY

## Major General Joseph R. Vazquez

Joseph R. "Joe" Vazquez is the National Commander of Civil Air Patrol. His primary duty is leading CAP's 56,000 volunteers in fulfillment of the nonprofit organization's three congressionally chartered missions of Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education, as well as its steadily increasing role in America's Homeland Security.

As CAP's National Commander, he serves as a Major General (two-star), the highest ranking CAP Officer. He also serves as CAP's Chief Executive Officer and as an Advisor to the CAP Board of Governors (BoG), the organization's governing body. In addition, he leads the CAP Command Council (CCC), whose members serve as his advisors, and the CAP Senior Advisory Group (CSAG).

Maj Gen Vazquez was appointed to a three-year term as National Commander/CEO on April 4, 2014. As part of CAP's new governance structure, his selection was made by the BoG – for the first time in the organization's 75-year history. He assumed command Aug. 15, 2014, at CAP's 2014 National Conference.



Before his selection as National Commander/CEO, Maj Gen Vazquez served as National Vice Commander, assuming command on Aug. 18, 2011. Previously, he commanded the more than 7,000 members of CAP's Middle East Region – a seven-state area on the East Coast from Delaware to South Carolina. He was appointed Middle East Region Commander in 2008. He served as CAP's National Operations Advisor prior to that appointment, during which time he restructured CAP's core flying regulation, CAPR 60-1.

Maj Gen Vazquez joined as a Georgia Wing cadet in 1975 and rose to the rank of Cadet Major before transitioning to the senior member program in 1978. He qualified as a CAP Ground Team Leader while still a cadet, and as a senior member became a Mission Pilot in 1986. He subsequently qualified as a Flight Instructor and Check Pilot, and in 1992 became an Incident Commander, the highest search and rescue rating in CAP. He is currently a qualified Check Pilot Examiner in airplanes and gliders, with 3,525 flying hours and 490 glider flights.

Starting in 1989, Maj Gen Vazquez served in increasing areas of responsibility with CAP. He was appointed as Commander of Group 2 within South Carolina Wing in 1989, and from 1990 to 1992 was Commander of the Wicomico Composite Squadron in Salisbury, Maryland. He was appointed Group 1 Commander with Maryland Wing in 1993 and Group 4 commander with Virginia Wing in 1994. He held multiple Wing staff assignments in Virginia and was appointed Virginia Wing Vice Commander in 1997 and Wing Commander in 2001. In 2003, he became Vice Commander of CAP's Middle East Region and later the National Operations Advisor in 2007.

A Savannah, Georgia, native and a graduate of Warner Robins High School, Maj Gen Vazquez attended the University of Georgia, earning a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in psychology and computer science. He began his career as a software engineer with E.I. Dupont at the Savannah River Plant in Aiken, South Carolina. He transferred to Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) in 1997 and retired in 2010 as an Operations Manager with CSC's North American Service Restoration Team. He is also a 32nd degree Mason and past master of Temple Lodge #9, Virginia Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.

A resident of Henrico, Virginia, Maj Gen Vazquez is married to another CAP member, Lt Col Leslie Vazquez, who most recently served as the organization's National Standardization/Evaluation Advisor.