



News Release

NEW YORK WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

CONTACT: Robert Stronach, 315-796-9468, editorrob@yahoo.com

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Central NY Man Named Commander of Civil Air Patrol's NY Wing

ROME -- Col. Steven Perta of Rome is the new commander of the Civil Air Patrol's New York Wing. He succeeds Col. Jack Ozer of Seldon, who commanded the wing for the past four years. Col. Daniel Leclair, commander of the Northeast Region, presided over the Change of Command ceremony at the New York Wing Conference, held recently at Lake George, NY.

A 40-plus-year member of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Perta has served in a number of leadership roles, including Utica Squadron commander, Rome Utica Group commander, wing vice commander, wing director of operations, wing director of communications, and director of National Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. A pilot with over 2000 flying hours, Perta serves as a mission pilot, incident commander, and special missions coordinator.

Colonel Perta is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal; numerous Exceptional Service, Meritorious Service and Commander's Commendation awards; the Air Search & Rescue and Disaster Relief Ribbons, and Chuck Yeager Aerospace Award.

Perta is involved with other aviation organizations, including the Oneida County Aviation Association, and is a lead representative of the FAA Safety Team, which presents seminars and activities related to aviation safety. Colonel Perta resides in Rome with his wife, Colleen, and works at SUNYIT in Marcy as an Associate for Instructional Resources.

The New York Wing encompasses New York State and is comprised of over 2,200 members, 14 aircraft, numerous vehicles, and specialized reconnaissance and communications equipment. During Superstorm Sandy, wing aircrews acquired thousands of aerial images that were used in disaster recovery efforts while ground teams worked with the Red Cross and other agencies to get supplies to hard-hit areas. CAP routinely flies disaster relief, homeland security, counterdrug, and search & rescue missions. CAP is the emergency services, aerospace education and cadet mentoring Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

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