



BIOGRAPHY

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Arizona Wing
Office of Public Affairs
7383 N. Litchfield Rd, Suite 1175
Luke AFB, AZ 85309-1175

COLONEL JOHN J. VARLJEN



Col. John J. Varljen is Commander, Arizona Wing, Civil Air Patrol, Luke AFB, Arizona. The Arizona Wing Mission is to provide Emergency Service support to local, state and national agencies, Aerospace Education to the citizens of Arizona and a Cadet Program to the youth of Arizona. The wing also provides flight support to the United States Air Force in addition to national and state counter drug programs. Arizona Wing has over 1500 senior and cadet members. The wing is equipped with 14 powered aircraft, 4 gliders, 10 ground vehicles and 2 command/communications trailers.

Col. Varljen was born in New York City, New York, joined Civil Air Patrol as a cadet in 1955 and entered the Air Force in 1957. After completing basic training, he performed duties as Ground Radio Operator, Air Operations Specialist and Heavy Ground Radar Maintenance Superintendent. Col Varljen's assignment include Loring AFB, ME, Johnson AB, Japan, Tyndall AFB, FL, Keesler AFB, MS, Palermo AFS, NJ, Wasserkuppe AFS, Germany, Key West NAS, FL, Baudette AFS, MN, King Salmon AFS, AK and Luke AFB, AZ. During his last active duty assignment at Luke AFB, Col. Varljen was assigned the additional duty as sponsor to the local Civil Air Patrol unit in Glendale, AZ. He joined Civil Air Patrol in 1977 and became Commander of the Glendale Composite Squadron in 1983. He moved to Pine Arizona in 1984 and became Commander of the Payson CAP Squadron in 1993. He was appointed Group II Commander in 1999, Wing Vice Commander in 2002 and finally Wing Commander 1 April 2003.

After retiring from Air Force active duty, Col Varljen was employed as a Flight Instructor, Aircraft Salesman, Account Executive with Johnson Controls and District Fire Marshal for the Pine-Strawberry Fire District.

His community service included serving as Chairman of the Pine-Strawberry Fire District Governing Board, Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, Payson Regional Medical center and a member of the Board of Directors, Mogollon Health Alliance.
He holds an Amateur Radio General Class License-KC7ELQ

EDUCATION:

- 1978 AAS degree in Ground Radar Systems, Community College of the Air Force
- 1986 Emergency Medical Technician, Mesa Community College, Mesa, AZ
- 1988 Bachelor of Arts degree in Management, University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
- 1993 CAP Unit Commanders Course, AZ
- 1995 CAP Squadron Leadership School, AZ
- 1996 CAP Corporate Learning Course, AZ
- 1997 Management of Fire Protection Programs Course, National Fire Academy, MD
- 2000 CAP Region Staff College, Kirtland AFB, NM
- 2001 Fire /Arson Investigation Course, National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD
- 2003 Wing Commanders Course, Maxwell AFB, AL

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Ratings: CAP Command Pilot
CAP Standardization/Evaluation Pilot
Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, Multi-engine Land
Commercial Pilot Privileges for Single-engine Land
Flight Instructor, Instrument
FAA Aviation Safety Counselor
Flight Hours: 2,500
Aircraft Flown: More then 40 types of aircraft

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Air Force Meritorious Service Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 2 oak leaf clusters
CAP Loening, Garber and Yeager Awards
CAP Counter Drug Mission Ribbon with one clasp
CAP Command Ribbon