



BIOGRAPHY

COLONEL DAVID A. PANZERA

Col Panzera has recently taken command of Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing, which is the largest wing in the organization with over 3500 volunteer members in nearly 80 units across the state.

Col Panzera previously served as Florida Wing's Group 8 commander which is comprised of five squadrons with over 300 adult and cadet members in Hillsborough and Polk counties. He led these units in fulfilling their CAP stated missions of Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education.

These three mission areas are the Civil Air Patrol's greatest contribution to every community, and state they reside in filling a critical role in Defense Support of Civil Authorities and it includes preserving life, relieving suffering, and providing training support when called upon. Without the selfless dedication of all these members.

Col Panzera is a resident of Hernando County, having Joined CAP in 2006 when he was in the United States Air Force attending Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. While there the eldest of his 5 children joined and thus started both careers.

Four of his five children had long Civil Air Patrol cadet careers and Col Panzera has been a Squadron Commander in the New York Wing along with having commanded four of New York Wing's Cadet Leadership Encampments, Deputy Commanded a fifth and was USAF Liaison for yet a sixth New York Wing Encampment.

He is a now 32 years served retired USAF Pilot with over 6000 hours in the LC-130H(3) aircraft a Ski-Equipped variant of the C-130 Hercules and now with over 2925 hours as an A-320(1) pilot for Jet Blue Airways. His assignments included 2.5 years in South Africa at the US Embassy, tours at NY Air National Guard Headquarters in the J5/7 office and a variety of positions at the 109th Airlift Wing including Chief Pilot for his Squadron and ending as Director of the 109AW Program Integration Office.

Col Panzera has a profound passion for Civil Air Patrol cadets taking every opportunity to help them advance their development as the leaders for tomorrow. He has seen many cadets in his charge go on to amazing civilian and military careers with most of them directly crediting their time in Civil Air Patrol as their primary reason for their continuing success.

He is fond of the Challenge and Response approach for all his tenured by asking cadets "Where are you going?" they respond with "All the way sir!" which is followed by "What are you going to do when you get there?" to which they reply "WIN THE DAY SIR!" Col Panzera fully credits the dedication and devotion and volunteer spirit of Civil Air Patrol's adult members in making all of this a reality.

Col Panzera and his wife, Wendy (also a CAP member) live with their two guardian children in Hernando County having their youngest of 5 children also in and out as she finishes post high school education efforts.

