



COLONEL JASON R. HESS

Col. Jason R. Hess serves as the Commander of the Rocky Mountain Region of the Civil Air Patrol, the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The Rocky Mountain Region is comprised of five Wings (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming) with approximately 4000 members. Through the Wing Commanders and Region staff, Col. Hess directs the organizing, training, and assignment of members in support of all three Congressionally assigned missions: Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services.

Col. Hess joined CAP in 1990 as a cadet in the Ohio Wing where he ultimately earned the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel. During his time with the Ohio Wing, Col. Hess participated in the annual encampment, International Air Cadet Exchange to Sweden, Hawk Mountain Ranger School, and the Wing Solo Encampment, where he successfully soloed a Cessna 152. He also served on Cadet Drill Competition teams, placing first and second place at the Wing & Region levels. Col. Hess transferred to the Utah Wing in 1994 upon his acceptance to the University of Utah.



After a break in service to pursue his education, career, and start a family, Col. Hess returned to CAP service in 2008. He served in various Wing positions including Director of IT, Director of Operations, Deputy Chief of Staff, Government Relations Officer, and Wing Vice Commander. Col. Hess is also a rated CAP Pilot, Incident Commander, and Master Ground Team member. Col. Hess currently holds Specialty Track Master ratings in Operations and Information Technology, a Senior rating in Command, and Technician ratings in Inspector General and Cadet Programs. Col Hess served as the Utah Wing Commander from March 2021 until his appointment to Region Commander in October of 2022.

Col. Hess is employed as the Vice President of Software Development for Merrick Bank Corporation. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from the University of Utah David Eccles School of Business. He has worked in the Financial Services industry and in various levels of executive leadership for over 24 years.

Col. Hess is an aviation and aerospace enthusiast who has owned his own private aircraft and is currently building his own Experimental aircraft. He also participates in High Powered Rocketry and sUAS aircraft operations.

Col. Hess and his wife, Margaret, have three children and one daughter-in-law.

EDUCATION

2007 Bachelor's Degree, David Eccles School of Business, University of Utah
2007 Private Pilot Certificate, Salt Lake City
2010 Archer Operators Course, Maxwell, AFB, Alabama
2013 Region Staff College, Nellis AFB, Nevada
2015 National Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2015 FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate, Salt Lake City
2017 Inland Search and Rescue Planning Course, Salt Lake City, Utah
2017 Unit Commanders Course, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2021 Region & Wing Commanders Course, Hartford, Connecticut

CIVIL AIR PATROL ASSIGNMENTS

1990 – 1995 Cadet, Ohio and Utah Wings
2008 – 2017 Director of IT, Utah Wing
2010 – 2017 Director of Operations, Utah Wing
2017 – 2021 Government Relations Officer, Utah Wing
2017 – 2021 Vice Commander, Utah Wing
2021 – 2022 Commander, Utah Wing
2022 – Present Commander, Rocky Mountain Region

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Ratings: CAP Pilot, CAP Observer
Flight Hours: More than 875
Aircraft Flown: Cessna 206, 182, 172, 152 and 6 other single and multi-engine piston types

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Distinguished Service Award with bronze clasp
Exceptional Service Award with 2 bronze clasps
Meritorious Service Award
Commanders Commendation with silver and bronze stars and 4 bronze clasps
Achievement Award
National Commander's Unit Citation Award
Gill Robb Wilson Award
Ira C. Eaker Award
Command Service Ribbon with gold star
Crisis Service Ribbon
Red Service Ribbon with 20-year device
Find Ribbon with aircrew device and 2 bronze clasps
Air Search and Rescue Ribbon with aircrew device and 2 bronze clasps
Disaster Relief Ribbon with V device
Homeland Security Ribbon with 2 silver clasps
Community Service Ribbon with silver clasp
International Air Cadet Exchange Ribbon
National Cadet Competition Ribbon
National Cadet Special Activity Ribbon
Encampment Ribbon

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Captain: 01 FEB 2010
Major: 01 FEB 2013
Lieutenant Colonel: 09 FEB 2017
Colonel: 31 MAR 2021

(Current as of January 2024)