

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 28th-1941.

Honorable J. Melville Broughton
Governor of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina

My dear Governor:

The civil aviation resources of the nation must be immediately marshalled as a component of our total defense effort. We are now creating an organization to be known as the Civil Air Patrol. Both the Army and the Navy will assign officers to participate in its organization and command.

Membership will be voluntary, inclusive of both flight and ground personnel and of men and women. Service in the Civil Air Patrol does not form a basis for exemption or deferment from military duty, nor does the Civil Air Patrol conflict with any air units formed by States as a part of the State Guard.

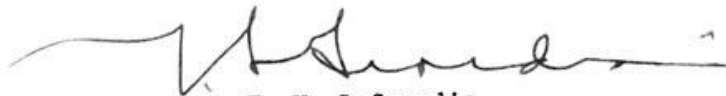
Enclosed is an organization chart. You will note how the set-up of each (State) Wing is based upon the cooperation of the State agencies and State defense authorities. Because of the semi-military character of the Civil Air Patrol, the chain of command must be in line of sequence.

Many of our State aviation bodies and Defense Councils have already laid an excellent foundation by enlistment and organization of persons willing to serve in the Civil Air Patrol. This preliminary work was extremely valuable as time is of the essence.

It is our desire to make full use of the broad experience of the State aviation officials, now functioning, and our hope that you will give your official encouragement and blessing to the Wing Commander of your State when he has been designated by the National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol.

No publicity regarding the Civil Air Patrol is desired until the formal announcement. However, I did wish to write you confidentially of the plan and ask if you would in the same vein direct the attention of your State aviation officials and Defense Council to anticipation of the announcement of this vital program.

Sincerely yours,



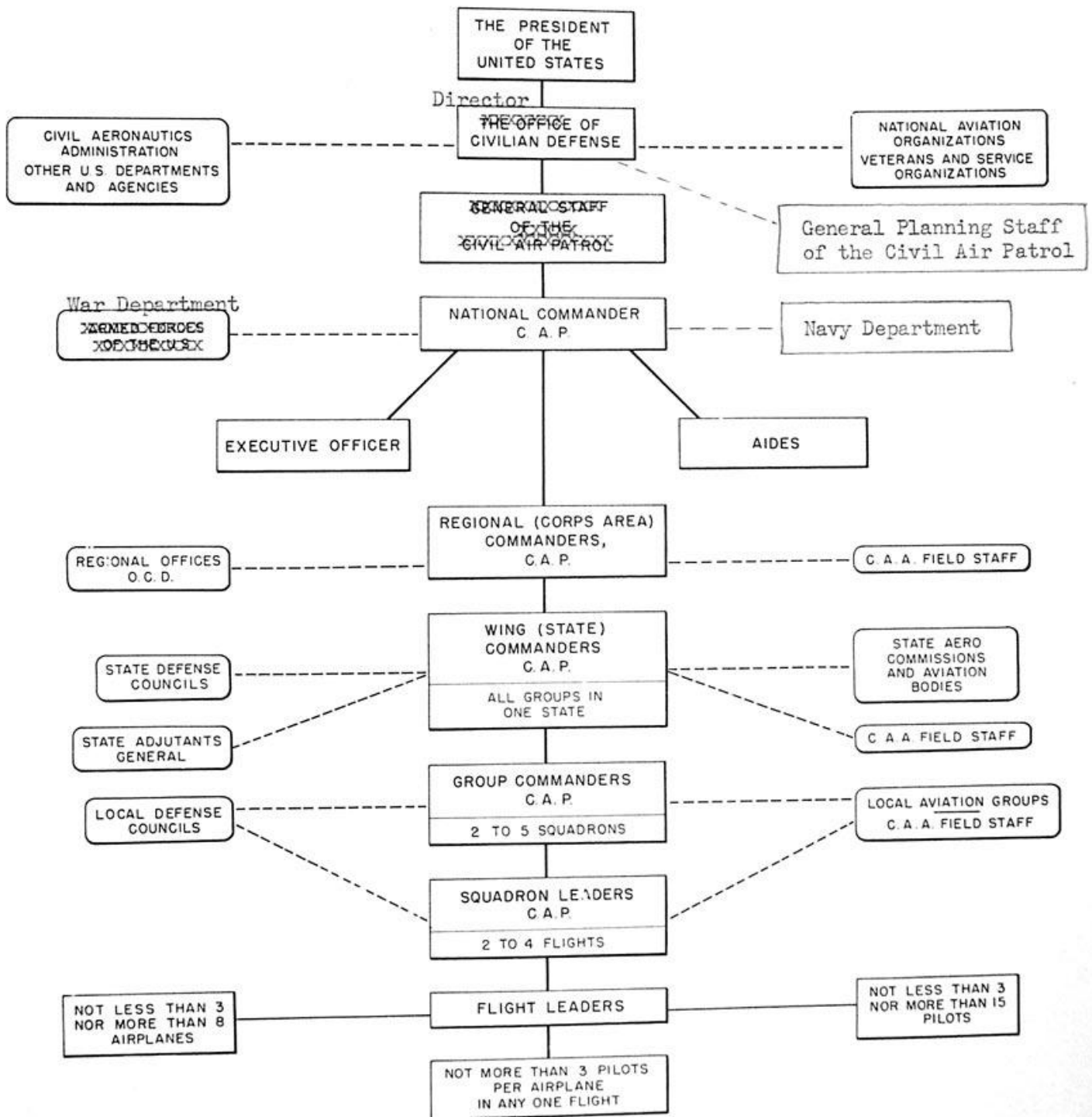
F. H. LaGuardia
U. S. Director of Civilian Defense

Enclosure

P. S. The Army Air Corps has just assigned Major General John F. Curry to act as National Commander.

ORGANIZATION CHART

CIVIL AIR PATROL



Solid lines indicate COMMAND; dotted lines indicate COOPERATION.

16698

December 8, 1941

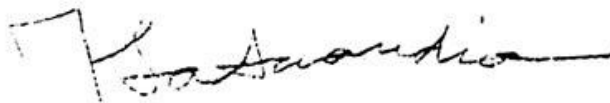
Administrative Order No. 9

Establishing Civil Air Patrol

By virtue of the authority vested in me through my appointment as United States Director of the Office of Civilian Defense, through the Executive Order of the President creating said Office, dated May 20, 1941, I have caused to be created and organized a branch of this Office of volunteers for the purpose of enlisting and training personnel to aid in the national defense of the United States, designated as the Civil Air Patrol.

In conformity with said organization, Major General John F. Curry, U.S.A. Air Corps, has been assigned to this office by the U. S. Army and designated by me as its National Commander. Said organization shall be in the form as outlined in the attached chart, which is made a part of this Order as if written herein in full. The Civil Air Patrol shall carry out such Orders and directives as are issued to it by the Director of Civilian Defense. It shall be the duty and the responsibility of the National Commander to see that the objects and purposes and orders issued in conformity with the policy of this Office are carried out and that all activities are reported regularly to the Director through the Aviation Aide.

All enlistments and appointments in the Civil Air Patrol may be disapproved by the Director of the Office of Civilian Defense.



F. H. LaGuardia
U. S. Director of Civilian Defense

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

For Tuesday A.M.'s
December 9, 1941

PM 1727

A CIVIL AIR Patrol to enlist for the duration of the war approximately 90,000 licensed pilots, 90,000 student pilots who will be licensed by spring and a ground personnel estimated at 100,000 was established today by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, director of the Office of Civilian Defense.

The Civil Air Patrol will include approximately 23,000 civil aircraft and 2,000 airports in the United States on which there are no military or scheduled airplane operations, as well as hangars, shops, etc.

Director LaGuardia declared it is the object of the Civil Air Patrol to enlist, train and discipline civil aviation personnel and materiel so that their potential value to defense may be made available immediately. The potential value would be enhanced by the voluntary completion of training courses provided by national headquarters of the Civil Air Patrol with the cooperation of the Army and Naval Air Services and the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

Major-General John F. Curry, U. S. Army Air Corps, has been assigned by the Army to the Office of Civilian Defense and designated by Director La Guardia as national commander of the Civil Air Patrol.

Director LaGuardia announced he has appointed Major Reed G. Landis, former pilot U. S. Army Air Service as Aviation Aide to the director of Civilian Defense. Director LaGuardia's administrative order establishing the Civil Air Patrol, was as follows;

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PM 1727

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F. H. LaGuardia
U.S. Director of Civilian Defense.

Director La Guardia said that in addition to the technical personnel potentially available, there are millions of persons interested in aviation and anxious to cooperate in some manner with Civil Air defense.

"It is known that there are certain specific services civil aviation can provide to the armed services that will relieve those services of some of the pressure due to the war, thus enabling them to use their men and equipment for other more important duties", director La Guardia said.

General Curry was promoted to the rank of Major General October 27, 1940 and assigned to command the Northwestern Air District with headquarters at Spokane, Washington. He previously had been assigned to command the Tenth Pursuit Wing at Hamilton Field.

General Curry's affiliation with Army aviation dates back to August, 1915, when, as a First Lieutenant of the 15th Infantry, he was attached to the Aviation Section, Signal Corps at San Diego, California. He was born in New York City April 22, 1886, and graduated from the U. S. Military Academy February 14, 1908. During the first World War, General Curry served overseas as Chief of Staff, Army Air Service, Second Army at Toul, France. He saw service both as pilot and as observer and was credited with the destruction of one enemy observation balloon.

Major Landis saw service in the Cavalry on the Mexican border in 1916. In 1917 as a member of the U. S. Army Air Service, he was sent to England for training and attached to the Royal Flying Corps. He saw service in France as a pilot in the 40th Squadron, Royal Air Force, and received the British Distinguished Flying Cross. In September, 1918, Major Landis was placed in command of the 25th Aero Squadrons, A.E.F. He was awarded the U. S. Distinguished Service Cross.

Major Landis has been a member of the Chicago Aero Commission since its inception; a member of the National Advisory Board of the National Aeronautics Association and was instrumental in organizing the National Airport Transport, Inc., and the Trans-Continental Air Transport, Inc.

Major Landis was instrumental in organizing the National Association of State Aviation Officials of which he was president and was the first chairman of the Illinois Aeronautics Commission. Major Landis has served as voluntary aide to director La Guardia for the past several months. He resigned his position as Regional Vice President of the American Air Lines, Inc., effective January 1, 1942. He is a native of Ottawa, Ill. He is married and the father of three children.