

## **John V. “Jack” Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year**

*This award recognizes the Cadet Programs Officer who has contributed most to Civil Air Patrol Cadet Programs. It is named in honor of John V. “Jack” Sorenson, considered by most to be the architect of the revised Cadet Programs in practice in CAP since 1964.*

Described as the backbone of Maryland Wing Cadet Programs, **Lieutenant Colonel William F. Duke** has made it a priority to see that the Wing’s cadets succeed in teams and as individuals.

Active in Cadet Programs at the Wing level since 1989, including several years as Director, Lt Col Duke began his involvement with the program in 1978. In his early years with Civil Air Patrol, he was heavily involved with the Maryland Wing’s drill team and color guard. He spent countless hours developing innovative routines, even breaking them down to individual steps and counts for each person. Little wonder, then, that over a 10-year period, the drill team won the Middle East Region Competition seven times.

As his dedication to Cadet Programs evolved, Lt Col Duke became a valued member of the encampment staff. Beginning as a training, advising, and counseling officer, he worked directly with individual cadets as a mentor and guide, eventually working his way into other support positions, including Commandant of Cadets and Operations Officer.

Lt Col Duke also planned and organized the Maryland Wing’s Cadet Speak-Off competition for many years. Drawing on his relationship with Toastmasters International, he exposed CAP cadets to numerous professional speakers, from whom they picked up pointers and tactics for effective public speaking. A vital advisor to Maryland Wing’s Cadet Advisory Council for many years, Lt Col Duke serves as a conduit between Council members and the Wing Commander.

His influence is so strong that he was awarded the 2008 CAP-USAF Torch Award, given to the individual who had the strongest impact and influence on the Region Cadet of the Year — who went on to be named the National Cadet of the Year.