

HEADQUARTERS
CALIFORNIA WING - CIVIL AIR PATROL
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(Newport Beach, California) -- On 18 October 2003, command of the California Wing passed from Col Larry Myrick to Col Virginia Nelson at the annual Wing Conference attended by 453 members.

The National Vice Commander, BG Dwight Wheless, presented Col Myrick with a Distinguished Service medal in recognition of his outstanding work leading the Wing for four years exemplified by the "Excellent" ratings the Wing earned from the U.S. Air Force on its evaluated exercise and Wing-wide inspection in recent months. Col. Myrick will join the Pacific Region staff as the vice commander.

Col Nelson is a long time member of CAP, having joined as a teenager in 1973. As a cadet in California Wing, she earned the rank of C/LtCol and participated in the 1977 IACE exchange to Great Britain. She has most recently served as the Vice Commander of California Wing. She earned her CAP observer wings as a cadet in 1976 and her solo wings in 2003.

She holds CAP emergency services ratings in scanner and finance/administration. Col Nelson obtained the Gill Robb Wilson Award in 1985 and has received 5 Meritorious Service and 2 Exceptional Service Awards.

The morning after she took command, she hosted a meeting for the seven Group Commanders and a meeting for the 70+ squadron commanders attending the annual convention with the latter open to the entire Wing. She spoke about how the Wing would work to improve upon the legacy of excellence left by Col Myrick and how she looked forward to traveling throughout the State and visiting many squadrons and activities.