



# Biography

## Civil Air Patrol

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### Major Arthur E. Woodgate

Arthur Woodgate earned his pilot's license at the age of 26, at Houston's Hobby International Airport. This led to a life-long interest in aviation, its impact on our society, and its world-wide importance.

As editor of three technical magazines in Houston, he distinguished himself as a professional writer and linguist at an early age. These interests led to a renewed career in the U.S. Army as a military intelligence specialist, concentrating on psychological operations, intelligence collection, strategic debriefing, foreign area studies and intelligence analysis. A well-regarded military teacher and mentor, his students acquitted themselves well in the two Gulf Wars. In a joint services environment, he worked at all levels, from direct field support to strategic assignment at the theater level. His highest military awards are the Army Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Joint Service Commendation Medal, a DOD award. He earned the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer Two, a commissioned rank.

Arthur pursued his interest in computing by starting Seven Oaks Software, Inc., a New York corporation headquartered in Rhinebeck, N.Y. Afterwards, when he and his wife Audrey relocated to Dripping Springs, near Austin, Texas, he created a successor Texas corporation, W7Oaks, Inc., that specializes on ISO 9000 consulting, e-commerce, and computer networking.



Arthur joined the Civil Air Patrol in June of 2004, serving as Public Affairs Officer and a flight leader of the Tex Hill Composite Squadron, in San Marcos, Texas Wing. After a year of active writing, publishing, and redesigning the squadron's website, he joined the Texas Wing staff as Deputy Public Affairs Officer. In 2006, when all groups in Texas Wing were disbanded and replaced by five much larger groups, organized as scaled-down, mirror images of the Texas Wing staff, he accepted the position of Group III PAO. He joined the SWR staff in May of 2008. In his CAP professional development, he has completed Level IV and, among others, has earned two Meritorious Service Awards, two Commander's Commendation Awards, the Yeager Award, and a Disaster Relief Award with V device.

During his tenure at Group III, Texas Wing, Arthur Woodgate broke new ground in the CAP PA world by creating a website designed to serve both as an external communications instrument and an internal reference and

support tool. An online monthly newsletter, gathering staff messages to the squadrons as well as squadron articles describing the wide range of members' involvement and activity, has been very well received. Credited with increasing morale and esprit-de-corps, the newsletter has been published monthly since June of 2006. His interest in mentoring and guiding cadets into the world of public affairs has led to many young persons embracing photography, videography, and writing as an avocation, enriching their education and enhancing their ability to achieve higher scholastic goals.

From the start in his CAP career, Arthur quickly qualified as a Ground Team Member 3, Public Affairs technician, Aerospace Education technician, and Mission Information Officer. He is currently rated master in PA, and has participated in numerous missions in Texas Wing, including the 2007 SAREVAL during which Texas Wing earned an overall rating of Excellent. He was also the Information Officer at the SWR C4 in April of 2008. He has been published extensively in the Texas press, Wings Over Texas, the Group III Online Newsletter, CAP National News Online, CAP's Volunteer magazine, and many national aviation and professional magazines, including the official magazine of the National Association of Search and Rescue.

At the 2007 PAO Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, Arthur won two Balsem Awards (out of the three earned in all of Southwest Region). At that time, he addressed the general assembly on Texas Wing's handling of hurricanes Katrina and Rita from the PA perspective. He also chaired a round table on the same subject. For the 2008 PAO Academy in Florida, he chaired a round table on "Working with Cadet PAOs" – an area in which he has achieved considerable success.

Arthur taught the first ever PAO Boot Camp at the 2007 Texas Wing Summer Encampment, creating a new standard of excellence for reporting the event. Later, he was asked to mentor five cadet PAOs at the 2007 Texas Winter Encampment. The articles they wrote and photos they took on both occasions were published across Texas and at National News Online, under their authors' byline. During the winter encampment, the cadets produced an article a day, which many Texas newspapers published as a series. On 21-28 June 2008, he was Commandant of the PAO/IO School at the Lone Star Emergency Services Academy, which resulted in 5 new Mission Staff Assistants and 5 new Information Officers, one of the latter the Oklahoma Wing PAO.

When the Air Force Space Command Familiarization Course, at Patrick AFB, Florida expressed an interest in having cadets report this CAP National Cadet Special Activity, he mentored and placed two Texas Wing cadets, whom he guided and edited as they reported the activity. Three months earlier, he had created an aerospace-oriented website that proved to be a magnet for applicants seeking to share in this exciting program. This was the first time that a NCSA was reported by cadets, setting an important precedent.

Over the first half of 2009, Arthur has been a member of the NHQ committee charged with rewriting the how-to counterpart of CAPR 190-1, the document that governs Public Affairs. The new manual will be used in PAO training across CAP, and become the basic document on which the online training and tests for the three levels of achievement of the PA career track will be based.

In addition to Southwest Region Director of Public Affairs, in June, 2009 Arthur accepted the position of Southwest Region Director of Organizational Excellence. As the latter, he'll have the opportunity of helping create a brand-new career program of far-reaching importance and influence. He remains as editor of the Group III, Texas Wing Newsletter; webmaster and IT officer of the Group III, TXWG website; PAO, webmaster and IT officer of the Texas Wing Legislative Squadron, and PAO, webmaster, IT officer, and editor of the Air Force Space Command Familiarization Course (Florida). In June, 2009, he redesigned the Texas Wing website, adding an innovative "mobile friendly" version.

Arthur is a graduate of the State University of New York at New Paltz, with majors in Psychology and Spanish and minor in Philosophy, Valedictory, 1983.