



# The Fly-By

A Quarterly Newsletter of the  
**Southwest Region**  
January, 2009



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## ***An Eventful Quarter***

The last quarter of 2008 saw considerable organizational activity, with numerous events throughout the Region. Below is a listing of highlights representative of activity in the Region.

The Southwest Region Conference, a bi-annual event, took place at Midwest City, Okla. 5-6 September, hosted by Oklahoma Wing.

On 1 December, through the efforts of LAWG Public Affairs, the Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana, declared the first week in December Civil Air Patrol Week in the State of Louisiana, a significant honor and a great instrument of recognition.

On 5-7 December, Louisiana Wing earned a rating of EXCELLENT in its OPS EVAL (the new measure of mission proficiency that replaces the SAREVAL), that now includes the full range of operations CAP is directed to field, rather than just Search and Rescue as in the past. Notably, during this event, the Information Officer was tested on planning and execution of all PA tasks attendant to the job, including continuity of operations under any and all circumstances, handling of message and news traffic, and conduct of a media conference facing a mixed assembly of evaluators in their media roles – ranging from “friendly” to “difficult” and beyond. Although new to the job, Maj. Michael James, the IO, earned a congratulatory “SUCCESSFUL.”

On 13 December, Wreaths Across America, a nation-wide event, took place at 12 noon Eastern Standard Time. At the appointed time, Civil Air Patrol units led or took part in nearly 400 ceremonies across the United States, with the main event unfolding at Arlington National Cemetery.

Planning, training and accurate record-keeping remain as important as ever, especially in the area of Public Affairs. NHQ/PA stressed the need for writing a Public Affairs Plan and a Crisis Communications Plan, as required of all units by CAPR 190-1. These are essential documents that will be used to plan and conduct normal PA Activities. They will also serve to prepare for the Wing Compliance Inspection and Subordinate Unit Inspections, with the emphasis on “measurable evaluation” standards.

Also in December, Southwest Region lost a Wing PAO – not to attrition but to promotion. Maj. Jim Nova is now the Arizona Wing Vice Commander. (Well done, Jim.)

On Saturday, 13 December, SWR symbolically closed the year with a Staff Meeting and Holiday Luncheon.

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## ***SWR Conference***

MIDWEST CITY, Okla. – On 5-6 September, Southwest Region held its bi-annual conference at the Sheraton/Reed Conference Center, hosted by Oklahoma Wing. The informal Commander’s Reception was an occasion for meeting in a relaxed atmosphere and renewing acquaintances, as well as making new ones. The Public Affairs breakout session was well attended, and so were the other staff meetings being offered. Besides the formal presentations, Q&A sessions served to share expertise, spread success stories, and help participants do a better job.

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At the Commander's Reception, Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter and Brig. Gen. Reggie Chitwood.



Brig. Gen. Reggie Chitwood takes time to discuss public affairs with Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate.

The general assembly was packed, as the color guard from the 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron, Arkansas Wing, presented the colors. Color Guard members were C/CMSgt Emily Loewer, American Rifle, C/CMSgt Nathan J. Hassett, American Flag, C/CMSgt William T. Smith, SWR Flag, and C/CMSgt Julianne N. Lestina, SWR Rifle.



Immediately afterwards, the witty Master of Ceremonies, Lt. Col. Ronald P. Fory, SWR Finance Officer, opened the proceedings.



Col. Joseph Jensen, SWR Commander



Master of Ceremonies, Lt. Col. Ronald P. Fory



Patrol and its future, to a vigorous round of applause.

Col. Joseph Jensen, SWR Commander, welcomed all participants and congratulated the region on a job well done. He was followed by Lt. Col. Joseph E. Barron, SWR Asst IG, whose presentation was informative and well organized. Col. Lyle Letteer, National Safety Officer followed, reminding everyone that without a good safety program and updated training, a mission is not likely to succeed.

Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter closed the proceedings, with an overall presentation on the state of Civil Air

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Col. Joe R. Smith TXWG Commander, Col. Robert H. Castle OKWG Commander, Col. Rick Himebrook, NMWG Commander, Col. Robert B. Britton, ARWG Commander, and Col. John M. Eggen, AZWG Commander.



Col. Joseph Jensen, SWR Commander, Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, National Commander, Brig. Gen. Reggie Chitwood, National Vice Commander, Mr. Don Rowland, National Exec. Dir., Col. John J. Varljen, SWR Vice Commander (West) Col. Lyle Letteer, National Safety Officer, Col. James Rushing, SER Commander, and Lt. Col. Larry Mattiello, SWR CS

As always, the banquet was a celebration of volunteer effort and dedication, without forgetting the sacrifices made by our armed forces. As is customary, a lone POW/MIA table was prepared and placed to one side and in front of the head table. The food was delicious and well served, and it was good to renew acquaintances. The keynote speaker, Lt. Col. Dave Ruvolu, 102 RQS Sqn Commander (ret) was warmly received. His presentation was well organized, fascinating, and inspirational.

In thanking him, Col. Joseph Jensen presented him with a desk-top model of a CAP plane painted in its distinctive red, white and blue markings.



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The awards followed, presented by Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, assisted by Brig. Gen. Reggie Chitwood and Col. Joseph Jensen.

- Mitchell Award, C/2d Lt. Scott E. Gray, OK-155
- Amelia Earhart Award, C/Capt Jonathan Patience, Abilene C.S., TX-313
- Certificate of Recognition for Life Saving, Capt. Meredith Albrecht (Lt, USCG), OK-008
- Meritorious Service Award, Maj Jeffrey A. Smith, 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron, AR-115
- Gill Robb Wilson Award, Lt. Col. Ronald P. Fory, SWR-001
- Exceptional Service Award, Lt. Col. Sharon M. Lane, SWR-001
- Exceptional Service Award, Lt. Col. Amos A. Plante, LA-001



Col. Joseph Jensen and Lt. Col. Dave Ruvolu.



Behind the scenes, making it all work, Maj. Harriet Smith, her daughter 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Sandra Smith (in background), and Lt. Col. Ronald P. Fory.

- Frank G. Brewer Memorial AE Cadet Award, C/Lt. Col. Dustin T. Wittman, Eagle Cadet Squadron, NM-012
- Frank G. Brewer Memorial AE Senior Member Award, Maj. Joseph R. Perea, Eagle Cadet Squadron, NM-012
- SWR Cadet of the Year, C/Lt. Col. Thomas J. Wright, Sheldon Cadet Squadron, TX-802
- Cadet Programs, AZ Wing, accepted by Col. John M. Eggen, AZ-001
- Jack Sorenson Cdt Programs of the Year, Capt Raymond L. Hicks III, Sheldon Cadet Squadron, TX-802
- Norm Edwards Counterdrug Officer of the Year, Maj. Earl J. Harig, OK-001



Col. Joseph Jensen, Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, Maj. Jeffrey Smith (holding award), and Brig. Gen. Reggie Chitwood (right) with the members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron Color Guard, Arkansas Wing.

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- Communicator of the Year, Capt. Toby D. Buckalew, Mesquite Black Sheep CS, TX-214
- Logistician of the Year, 1<sup>st</sup> Kt, Dennis M. Shufin, Thunderbird CS, TX-179
- Character Development Officer of the Year, Captain Ronald I. Chastain, Colorado County CS, TX-448
- Paul W. Turner Safety Officer of the Year, Lt. Col. Aaron S. Wardlaw, OK-103
- Senior Member of the Year, Lt. Col. Don. R. Fisher, Baytown Senior Squadron, TX-268
- Lt. Col. Paul J. Ballmer Cadet Programs Wing of the Year, New Mexico Wing.



Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Air Sure, Ltd., accepted by Lt. Col. Larry Mattiello, as Brig. Gen. Reggie Chitwood looks on.

*(All photos in this article were taken by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. DeeAnna Adams-Gorman, Oklahoma Wing PAO)*

**Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate, SWR DPA**

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### **Louisiana Wing's OPS EVAL**

BATON ROUGE, La. – On the heels of Governor Bobby Jindal having declared the first week of December in Louisiana as Civil Air Patrol Week, the Louisiana Wing completed a grueling assessment graded by the U.S. Air Force, conducted during the weekend of 5-7 December.



Ground team in the field. All objectives were met.



Air Ops. kept busy throughout the rated period.





Governor  
**Bobby Jindal**

### Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was established on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1941 to assist the United States military with reconnaissance flights during World War II; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1948 CAP was designated as the U.S. Air Force's official auxiliary with three missions: Emergency Services, Cadet Programs, Aerospace Education; and

**WHEREAS,** in response to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the Louisiana Wing performed damage assessment photo missions for many government agencies; and

**WHEREAS,** CAP provides educational programs to both adults and cadets in the area of aerospace principals, aircraft maintenance, and rules of flight; and

**WHEREAS,** CAP sponsors a valuable cadet program which trains young men and women to be community leaders of tomorrow through experience in teamwork, emergency services and military history; and

**WHEREAS,** CAP provides valuable search and rescue assistance, public safety assistance, law enforcement assistance and disaster relief assistance; and

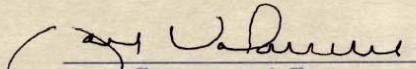
**WHEREAS,** Louisiana commends CAP for its "Missions for America."

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim December 1 -5, 2008 as

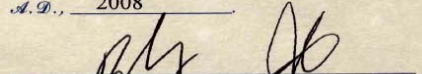
**CIVIL AIR PATROL WEEK**  
in the State of Louisiana.



*Attest By*  
*The Governor*

  
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this the* 1<sup>st</sup> *day of* December *A. D.,* 2008

  
Governor of Louisiana



At the Admin desk, Louisiana Wing Commander Col. Mike DuBois, Capt. Christine Richmond, and Lt. Col. David Berteau.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the U.S. Air Force evaluation team awarded the Louisiana Wing a rating of "EXCELLENT," denoting that observed performance and operations had exceed mission requirements.

Lt. Col. Mickey Marchand, incident commander for the event, said, "I am very pleased with the rating we received. Our members worked hard, and were tightly focused throughout the entire process."

Later, the Wing Commander congratulated all participants on a highly successful mission.

***Maj. Michael James, LAWG PAO***

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### ***Wreaths Across America, Arkansas Wing***



FAYETTEVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY, Ark. – On Saturday, 13 December, the 3rd Annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at Fayetteville National Cemetery was one of the largest in the nation. More than 200 people attended the 11:00 a.m. event, which had been organized by the 115th Composite Squadron and occurred simultaneously with 350 other events nationwide, including a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Walmart purchased and delivered more than 6,300 wreaths for the Fayetteville cemetery, making it the only one in the nation, including Arlington, to have

enough wreaths for every grave. Attendance rivaled this year's Memorial Day ceremony, and



local Wreaths Across America organizers hope that this event will gain a level of recognition comparable to that of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Capt. David Myers acted as the master of ceremonies for the 20-minute program, featuring the cadet honor guard of the 115th Composite Squadron and the Arkansas National Guard's 142nd Fires Brigade Honor Guard along with active-duty representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Each active-duty member teamed with a Civil Air Patrol cadet to lay a single wreath representing that serviceman's branch. Additional wreaths were laid recognizing the Merchant Marine as well as prisoners of war and servicemen missing in action. The Honorable George Westmoreland, Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the State of Arkansas, offered remarks before the 142nd's honor guard closed the ceremony with a rifle salute and the playing of "Taps." Attendees, including members of local veterans groups, then fanned out across the cemetery to lay the remaining wreaths.

In central Arkansas, the 42nd and 40th Composite Squadrons and over 40 others gathered at the Little Rock National Cemetery for the placement of seven wreaths representing the Armed Forces, the Merchant Marine, and POW/MIAs. Capt. Ron Wingfield, commander of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, spoke at the ceremony while cadets from the 40th and 42nd placed the wreaths with the assistance of U.S. Coast Guard Captain Chuck Polk. Mr. Robert Augustyn, of the Buglers Across America organization, played taps.

Wreaths Across America began in 2006 as an expansion of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine, started that annual tradition in 1992 by donating wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery every Christmas season. Wreaths Across America uses private and corporate donations to purchase wreaths from Worcester Wreath. Its mission is to "Remember, Honor, and Teach." Civil Air Patrol has partnered with Wreaths Across America to organize approximately half of each year's events.

***Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven and Maj. Blake Sasse***

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### ***Wreaths Across America, Texas Wing***

KILLEEN, Texas – At the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Saturday 13 December dawned a chilly and windy day, though not as cold as in other parts of the country. On this day, at 12 noon Eastern Standard Time, active duty members of the armed forces would lay wreaths on central monuments located at National and Veterans cemeteries across the United States. A ceremony that first took place 15 years ago at Arlington National Cemetery, this is now a national event, performed simultaneously with the participation of military representatives, the Civil Air Patrol, and other organizations.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Honor Guard posts the colors.

Since this cemetery is close to Fort Hood, the U.S. Army was well represented. Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the III Corps and Fort Hood, addressed the gathering briefly but eloquently. He spoke of how inadequate these modest wreaths were in rendering honors and expressing thanks to those laid to rest at this place, and about the veterans' enormous sacrifices throughout the years and the years yet to come, a reminder of the heavy price of freedom.

"We stand here on hallowed ground – almost 1,500 veterans who have sacrificed their lives in

service to our nation. We have to take the time to remember the fallen. Freedom isn't free, it never has been free, and they indeed sacrificed themselves for the greater good."



Lt. Col. Rayford K. Brown, USAF (ret) is a member of the Apollo Composite Squadron, Group III, Texas Wing, Civil Air Patrol. Because of his tireless efforts in working to alleviate the suffering of veterans, he had been asked to lay the wreath for the Air Force. Now forced to walk on half-crutches because of a service-connected injury, he saw that an Air Force Senior Airman had arrived as part of the Wreath Detail. "Let him do it," he said, and stepped aside, allowing the new generation to honor the generations past.



The III Corps and Fort Hood Commander, Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, spent some time with the veterans.



Lt. Col Rayford K. Brown, USAF (ret), the Senior Airman, and Lt. Col. Williams, USAF (ret).

The Wreath Detail, six active duty members of six different military services, formed in line. Then, one by one, each laid a wreath in front of the appropriate military service seal, in order of precedence. There was a seventh wreath, entrusted to J. E. Carlisle, who took it lovingly though with uncertain hands, as an honor escort helped him deliver it to the POW/MIA spot. Facing the cemetery's fields, Carlisle stood at attention and rendered a military salute as the wreath was laid on the monument, in honor and memory of all prisoners of war

and their plight and those missing in action.

On 13 September 1942, Carlisle himself had been captured in Italy as WW II raged all around him. "I'll never forget that day," he said. American forces had landed near Naples, as the British Eighth Army advanced in the South, chaos was the norm, and resistance had been fierce.

During the ceremony, the First Cavalry Division (1CAV) Band had played against the whistling wind. Now the serene but mournful sound of *Taps* rose from a lone bugle. As the last note sounded, the 1CAV Firing Party of seven young troopers fired three ceremonial volleys. This old European custom started when both sides would agree on a momentary truce to remove the dead and wounded from the field. Once they were done, they would each fire three volleys to signal that they were ready to renew the fight.

After the ceremony, with his wife resting lightly and proudly on his arm, Carlisle spoke in hushed tones, remembering the young lives lost, the suffering, the struggle, the misery, the sacrifices. "We owe it to them. They need to be recognized."

*(The photos above were taken by Capt Thomas Adams, the Apollo Composite Squadron's Public Affairs Officer. He is also an Active Duty U.S. Army Sergeant serving in the 1CAV. Editor)*

**Capt. Thomas Adams, Apollo C.S. PAO**

### ***Recruiting and Retention are Top Priorities***

Given how busy most of us are, it is no wonder that volunteerism is suffering. CAP units have a real challenge in recruiting new cadets and senior members, and an even bigger challenge in retaining them. Being creative helps, and finding the right inducements reward only the most resourceful, but it can be done.



Too often we overlook the obvious, relying on aviation and space-related activities to excite our members. However, it is tough to excite people who have virtually every minute of every day accounted for. But yes, it can be done.

First, consider non-aviation related activities. Taking cadets and senior members to a City Council meeting and introducing them to the council during the public comment period is a possibility. Or talk to one of your state legislators and have him or her individually introduce the CAP members during a legislative session, while the members sit on the chamber

(House or Senate) floor. Don't forget to have pictures taken and sent to all media outlets in the community. You can also request a "photo op" with the Governor. These requests are usually granted, and everyone looks good in uniform with the Governor. You could also ask to be interviewed in the newspaper, on radio or TV. In Arizona, we've been successful doing this, but it takes a lot of work and persistence. During fundraising telethons, volunteer some members to work the fundraiser and be shown on TV. Remember that (almost) any exposure is good.

Second, tour a military installation, visit a control tower, or arrange for rides in refueling tankers; this is always enthusiastically received. We are fortunate in Arizona to have Luke AFB in the Phoenix metro area. Thanks to our State Director, Mr. Michael "ET" Holm, and his CAP-RAP staff, we are once again getting F-16 simulator flights for cadets (senior members too, when space is available). Not only does this generate unbelievable enthusiasm among the "fliers," but they take their excitement to school with them. Each "pilot" gets about 30 minutes of simulator time flying mock combat against another CAP member, as well as doing take-offs and landings. They learn quickly to fly a jet fighter, and love every minute of it even when they are "shot down" or "crash" while trying to land.



Third, why not try to get approval from the National Guard, local AFB or other local military installation to have the media accompany the CAP members on their visit? But remember – always go through the proper channels. Short-circuiting the system might short-circuit the event for all time.

Fourth, get to know local corporations and ask if you can tour their facilities with members so they can see what the corporation does. This is good PR for the corporation and of interest to the members.

Remember that there are no "dumb ideas," only some that might not fit our current needs. You'd be amazed at what you can get just by asking.

Share your ideas and successes, and we'll grow bigger and better.

***Maj. Jim Nova, Arizona Wing Vice Commander***



**SWR Staff Meeting and Holiday Luncheon, 13 December**

Held, as usual, at the Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth, using the conference room of the CAP-USAF Liaison Office, the SWR Staff gathered for a busy review of business items and directives on new business.

Following the pledge of allegiance, and then the invocation pronounced by Ch. (Lt. Col.) Nancy Smalley, Col. Joseph Jensen briefed the staff on current items and successes within the Region. Present were Lt. Col. Don Hensley, CAP-USAF SWLR Commander and Lt. Col. Tim Taylor, his Director of Operations. Present also, as a guest rather than participant, was Col. Joe R. Smith, the Texas Wing Commander.

As each staff member reported current status and planned activities, the Region's recent activities unfolded in detail. The overall picture was one of a vigorous and caring organization, facilitating the training, growth and success of member wings. A very recent "win" was the Louisiana Wing OPS EVAL, which merited an overall rating of EXCELLENT.

**The Awards**



Col. André Davis, SWR CV, presents a Commander's Commendation Award to, Lt. Col. Steven Trupp as Col. Joseph Jensen, SWR Commander, looks on.



Ch. (Lt Col) Nancy Smalley received a Commander's Commendation Award.



Lt. Col. Ronald P. Fory received a Meritorious Service Award.



Maj. Harriet Smith received a Meritorious Service Award.



Lt. Col. Melvin Cassell received a Meritorious Service Award.



Lt. Col. Larry Mattiello received a Meritorious Service Award.

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(On a second presentation) a Certificate of Appreciation to Air Sure, Ltd., is accepted by Lt. Col. Larry Mattiello



Col. John Varljen received a Meritorious Service Award.



Lt. Col. Larry Mattiello, Lt. Col. Tim Taylor, CAP-USAF SWLR DO, Lt. Col. Don Hensley, CAP-USAF SWLR CC, Col. Joseph Jensen and Col. André Davis



Lt. Col. Melvin Cassell, Col. John Varljen, Col. André Davis holding his Gill Rob Wilson Award, Lt. Col. Larry Mattiello and Col. Joseph Jensen.

Following the presentation of awards, the CAP-USAF Southwest Liaison Region Commander Lt. Col. Don Hensley said, "My boss said to me that he measures a unit's effectiveness by the number of action items in his In-Box, and Southwest Region has the fewest. This makes you the best region in the nation."

In congratulating Louisiana Wing on its successful OPS EVAL, Col. Hensley added, "The evaluation will be out soon. I suggest you pay particular attention to that document, because things have changed, especially in the way in which how the Information Officer's success will be measured. That Louisiana Wing PAO came awfully close to an EXCELLENT, but we managed to trick him."

After these encouraging remarks, Col. Jensen thanked Colonels Hensley and Taylor for their support throughout the year, their timely advice, and their generosity in allowing SWR to use their facilities for the CAP meeting.

As a joyous end to the proceedings, Col. André Davis accepted his Gill Rob Wilson Award, for having satisfied the requirements of Level V, the highest level of training available to CAP



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members. In his usual cheerful, selfless and generous way, he proceeded to thank everyone for his own achievement, to great applause and mirth.

The Holiday Luncheon took place at the Macaroni Grill, an excellent Italian restaurant. Almost all staff members were there, the food was delicious, and we had a wonderful time. But the place was dark and not all photos came out as well as they should have.

**The Holiday Luncheon**



Col. and Mrs. Jensen and Lt. Col. Fory.



Ch. (Lt. Col.) Nancy Smalley and Maj. Mike Cobb.



Lt. Col. Henry Lile, Maj. Harriet Smith, and Col. Joe R. Smith.



Lt. Col. Tim Taylor, Lt. Col. Don Hensley, Col. John J. Varljen, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Melvin Casell.



Lt. Col. Ron Fory, Capt Arthur Woodgate, and Lt. Col. Tim Taylor.



Lt. Col. Tim Taylor, Lt. Col. Don Hensley, Col. John J. Varljen, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Melvin Casell.

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### **Safety is Priority One**

Please check the revised CAPR 62-1 and CAPP 217 that are now posted at [http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/forms\\_publications\\_regulations/](http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/forms_publications_regulations/)

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Monthly, members must read The Sentinel and follow its timely advice. <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>
- **Safety is our Number One Priority.**

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### **How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter**

The Southwest Region Newsletter is published four times yearly. Deadlines for article submission are as follows

- 20 December
- 20 March
- 20 June
- 20 September

#### **Which Articles Are Best?**

Articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

#### **How Do I Submit Photos?**

Whenever possible, include images with your article. Do not embed the image in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, full-size digital photos as attachments.

#### **If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions**

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you would like some guidance in writing it, or you have some comment to make concerning the material published, please feel free to contact the editor: [awoodgate@austin.rr.com](mailto:awoodgate@austin.rr.com)



**Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP, SWR Director of Public Affairs**