



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the
Southwest Region
April, 2017



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The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter. Deadline for submissions are:

- 1Q – 20 December
- 2Q – 20 March
- 3Q – 20 June
- 4Q – 20 September

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a .txt or Word .doc/docx, or, if written in another word processor, saved as an .RTF).

Images in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 x 900 pixels, sent as attachments, never embedded in the document.

Credits: In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

- The article's author,
- Photographer, and
- Anyone in the article or appearing in photos.

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

SWR Commander's Corner

Region's newsletter, The Fly-By. You might recall that our vision statement for the region is "Southwest Region – Leading the way to mission success!" What is behind this vision statement is that I want people around CAP to turn to you, members of Southwest Region, when they are looking for examples of excellence in how to do things. Having just completed our annual awards cycle, I would like to share with you examples of excellence for our region. These award winners will now compete at the national level for "best in CAP" honors.

MAJ GEN JEANNE M. HOLM AEROSPACE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: Lt. Col. Kathy E. Beauford, SWR-LA-093.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Maj. Craig Stapleton, SWR-NM-006.

AFA AEROSPACE EDUCATION CADET OF THE YEAR: Cadet Tech Sgt. Savannah Bradley, SWR-NM-811.

FRANK G BREWER MEMORIAL AEROSPACE AWARD (CADET): Cadet 1st Lt. Emily Smith, SWR-TX-098.

FRANK G BREWER MEMORIAL AEROSPACE AWARD (SENIOR MEMBER): Maj. Robert Parks, SWR-TX-007.

FRANK G BREWER MEMORIAL AEROSPACE AWARD (INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION; NON-CAP): Arkansas Space Grant Consortium.

CADET OF THE YEAR: Cadet Col. Zane Phillip, SWR-AR-115.

CADET NCO OF THE YEAR: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Alexander Torres, SWR-NM-084.

JOHN V. JACK SORENSON CADET PROGRAMS OFFICER OF THE YEAR: 2nd Lt. Amber O'Donnell, SWR-AZ-013.

NORM EDWARDS COUNTER DRUG OFFICER OF THE YEAR: Lt. Col. Edward Angala, SWR-OK-159.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR: Maj. Patricia Schmidt, SWR-AR-083.

SQUADRON CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR: Chaplain (Capt.) Anthony Barros, SWR-OK-116.

SENIOR CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR: Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Alexander Alvarez, SWR-TX-187.

COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR: 1st Lt. Keith Doughty, SWR-LA-005.

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Capt. Jean-Marie Nixon, SWR-AZ-107.
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OF THE YEAR AWARD: Lt. Col. Reba Wingfield, SWR-AR-001.
COLONEL DION E. DECAMP GROUND TEAM OF THE YEAR: Texas Group VI Ground Team.
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE YEAR: Lt. Col. Donald Ross, SWR-OK-115.
COL EDWIN W. LEWIS, JR. INCIDENT STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Maj. Jared Cryer, SWR-TX-413.
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR: Lt. Col. David McCollum, SWR-OK-074.
COL ROBERT (BUD) V. PAYTON PAO OF THE YEAR: Capt. Bradley Kidder, SWR-AR-083.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Lt. Col. Michael Turoff, TX-001.
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Lt. Col. Richard Fitzgerald, SWR-OK-001.
SAFETY OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Capt. Charles Graham, SWR-NM-018.
SENIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Lt. Col. Marchelle Jones, SWR-AR-102.

Congratulations to our Southwest Region “of the year” award winners. They well represent our vision of “Southwest Region – leading the way to mission success!”

Col. Mark Smith, CAP
Southwest Region Commander 🇺🇸

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Safety is Priority One

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/

- Safety must be on every CAP member’s mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don’t miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at <http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety-newsletters-2248/>
- **Safety is our Number One Priority.**

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

▪ **Which Articles Are Best?**

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or better yet 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.

▪ **Do I Submit Photos?**

Articles with no photos may not be selected for publication. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, 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 need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate@austin.rr.com. 🇺🇸



Top: Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson (seated) signs Act 529 into law as bill sponsors Representative Jim Gazaway (red tie) and Senator Blake Johnson (brown tie) look on. Arkansas Wing members: (L-R) Capt. Danny Marsh, Maj. Blake Sasse, 1st Lt. Nancy Carver, Lt. Col. Larry Webster, 1st Lts. Jessica and Chad Durham, 2nd Lt. Donna Nevin, Capt. Michael McDonald, Lt. Col. Marchelle Jones and Maj. Doug Wood. (Photos: Lt. Col. Chuck Bishop)

Arkansas Approves Leave Policy for Auxiliary Forces

by Capt. Bradley Kidder, CAP, Arkansas Wing

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – On March 30, 2017, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson signed into law Act 529 of the 91st Arkansas General Assembly, granting members of the state’s Air Force, and Coast Guard Auxiliary forces the same government employee leave policy afforded to members of the National Guard and Reserve. Sponsored by State Representative Jim Gazaway of Paragould and Senator Blake Johnson of Corning, the act amends existing Arkansas law to provide Arkansas Wing Civil Air Patrol members fifteen days of employer leave to accommodate military training.

Maj. Doug Wood of Little Rock, the Arkansas Wing Commander’s government relations advisor, conferred with state lawmakers to change Arkansas statutes affecting attendance and leave policies for employees of state, county and municipal organizations in Arkansas who abide by the state’s leave policies. Wood requested that references to “guard and reserve” be amended to include “and auxiliary” in two key laws governing annual training leave allowances and carry-

over of accrued training days. Simplicity proved effective as only five weeks passed from filing to approval in the Arkansas Congress, yielding an unopposed “do pass” recommendation as it was sent to the Governor’s office.

“Civil Air Patrol is a very important organization in the state, and we appreciate everything you do,” Governor Hutchinson told the eleven Arkansas Wing members present at the signing ceremony. “This bill gives CAP the same privileges as other reserve forces for annual military training, and it is long overdue.”

Wood, himself a former state representative with twenty years’ public service in the Capitol, enjoyed the nostalgic experience of working with Congress on this significant change. “I was pleasantly surprised to see that some of my old friends are still working at the Capitol. I really enjoyed working with the Governor’s Office and the many Senate and House members, especially being able to answer their questions about the role of Civil Air Patrol in the defense of our homeland. The committees were truly interested in the work CAP does during annual Falcon Virgo missions, and how our aircraft serve as targets for Army missile battalions training to guard our nation’s capital from airborne threats. I was privileged to provide the Governor and the bill’s sponsors a CAP Challenge Coin after the signing ceremony.”

Beyond participation in scheduled training exercises, state CAP members frequently respond to short notice USAF, FEMA and Arkansas Department of Emergency Management requests for search and rescue, disaster relief, and homeland security missions. In order to provide highly-trained airmen in aircrew, ground team and administrative roles, competency is maintained through recurring hands-on and online preparation which require the commitment of not only the CAP volunteers, but also their family and employer. Arkansas Wing CAP airmen now enjoy the protection of state law when arranging with their workplace duty days for CAP proficiency training and mission support. 🇺🇸



Right: (L-R) Lead sponsor of Act 529 Arkansas Representative Jim Gazaway and co-sponsor Senator Blake Johnson receive CAP Certificates of Appreciation from Arkansas Wing for bringing the state’s employee leave policy for auxiliary members on an equal basis with the Guard and Reserve.



Top: The Commemorative Air Force's B-17 *Sentimental Journey* is a crowd pleaser. (All photos: Lt. Col. A. Peter Feltz, CAP)

Below: Senior Member Nancy Parra-Quinlan at the CAP recruiting booth.

Arizona Wing Participates in Airport Open House

by Lt. Col. A. Peter Feltz, CAP, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On March 25, 2017, the Falcon Field Airport held a well-attended open house. Arizona Wing's Squadron 305 had set up a recruiting booth that the Arizona Wing Aerospace team augmented, enjoying good traffic during the day.

Also present was a CAP Cessna 206 from Scottsdale and the squadron's simulator, both of which drew many visitors. This is an



interesting airport, since the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) and the Falcon Warbirds both make their home there. They had a lot of their airplanes on exhibit, including the CAF's B-17.

Right: The Falcon Warbirds were on display at their hangar.

Below: The B-29 Combat Crew Manual at the CAP booth.

Bottom: The CAP Cessna 206 on display.



In conjunction with the aviation-themed open house, there was a classic car show with some estimated 200 cars on view. The Model Railroaders also had an exhibit.

Many other booths of various exhibitors were spread on the grounds, as well as a number of food booths. Among the historical exhibitors were the CAF Museum and the Southwest Military Transport group.

The same as in years past, the Falcon Field open house was free to the public, and no parking fees were charged, which resulted in a very large crowd of several thousand visitors. Falcon Field holds this open house every year, but this time it seemed especially good.

A big crowd-pleaser was the B-29 Combat Crew Manual that CAP includes with the Aerospace Museum setup. The Arizona Wing Aerospace Team will be displaying it at the Goodyear airport on April 6-9, 2017, when the CAF will bring in their only flying B-29, "FIFI." At that show, there will also be a Ford Tri-motor and a C-47 on display.

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Top: New Mexico Wing's new hot-air balloon *Integrity* prepares for takeoff (Photo: Maj. John English, CAP)

New Mexico Wing's "Integrity" Makes Its Maiden Flight

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On Jan. 8, 2017, New Mexico Wing's hot-air balloon program entered a new era when its new balloon envelope, *Integrity*, made its maiden flight from the Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque.



Above: *Integrity's* envelope begins to take shape. (Photo: Maj. John English, CAP)

Below: *Integrity's* maiden flight, in the skies above Albuquerque. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

Integrity is the second balloon acquired by New Mexico Wing since launching its new balloon program in July 2014. *Integrity's* predecessor, *Phoenix*, which had been donated to New Mexico Wing by a fellow balloonist, was retired in June 2016, having failed its annual inspection.

The launch began at 7:15 a.m., with a weather and safety briefing by the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (AAAA). Balloon pilot Capt. Jessica Makin, of LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, directed *Integrity's* inflation, which took about half an hour.

The balloon crew laid out tarps on the field in order to protect the envelope from grass,



debris and bird droppings. Using a gasoline-powered fan, Makin began the inflation, and like a newborn coming into the world, *Integrity* slowly took shape.

As soon as the envelope was fully inflated, Makin gave the signal that she was “going hot” – that is, she would use the propane burner to heat and lift the envelope above the ground – and then, like its predecessor, *Integrity* rose like a phoenix to begin a new phase of the Wing’s hot-air balloon program.

New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mike Lee was the balloon’s inaugural passenger, accompanied by Makin (who served as check pilot on this voyage), and balloon pilot Lt. Col. William Fitzpatrick, commander of the LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron.

“The prime purpose of *Integrity* and the balloon program is the development of aviators and air-minded individuals and the continued growth of general aviation in our communities,” said Fitzpatrick.

Makin added that the balloon program has produced five private pilots since being started two and a half years ago.

The balloon lifted off and remained aloft for approximately one hour, landing at the old Coronado Airport, approximately two miles east of its launching point. After the chase crew had repacked the envelope, the passengers, pilots and crew headed back to the Balloon Fiesta Park.

“Flying in *Integrity* was a milestone for me,” said Lee. “After all the hard work that so many good people accomplished, everything came to fruition.”

Lee concluded, “With this beautiful new envelope, we will be able to carry the CAP name and logo far and wide for many to see.” 🇺🇸

Below: (L-R): Balloon pilot Lt. Col. William Fitzpatrick guides *Integrity* to a safe landing, along with its inaugural passenger, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mike Lee, assisted by chase crew member Cadet Maj. Destiny Maurer of LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, (Photo: Maj. John English, CAP)





Top: Aerial view from the UH-60 Oklahoma Army National Guard (ANG) helicopter during the mission. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Brandon Lunsford Sr., CAP)

Below: (L-R) Cadet Senior Airman Lydia Groves and Cadet Aidan Magill during their UH-60 Black Hawk flight. (Photo: Cadet Ela Felando, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Cadets Experience Army National Guard Training Exercise

by 2nd Lt. Brandon Lunsford Sr., CAP, Oklahoma Wing

TULSA, Okla. – On March 21, 2017, a joint training mission consisting of 35 Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Starbase and Grove Composite Squadrons cadets took place on UH-60 Black Hawk flights. These flights, hosted by the 244th and 245th Aviation Battalions of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, aimed at educating cadets on the real-life application of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter training. Cadet leadership was tasked with creating mock mission objectives, complete with PowerPoint presentations, to brief the squadron's cadets.





Above: Army National Guard Sgt. Smith, (center), conducts the UH-60 Black Hawk safety briefing. Army Reserve Capt. Daniel Thompson is third from right. (Photos this page: 2nd Lt. Brandon Lunsford Sr., CAP)

Below: Oklahoma ANG Sgt. Smith leads CAP cadets at the end of the training Exercise.

“Our goal was to give these cadets a taste of what to expect in an actual military briefing and setting,” said Capt. Daniel Thompson, U.S. Army Reserve. “With guidance, cadet staff delivered their own briefing consisting of mission intent, concept of operation, and emergency contingency planning.”

Thompson, who serves in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Civil Air Patrol as a captain, joined CAP as a cadet in 2001 and eventually transitioned into the senior – or adult – officer ranks. He currently serves in the U.S. Army Reserve as a company commander for the 549th Military Intelligence Battalion. He is responsible for the command, control, training, administration, operations, logistics and combat readiness of his company.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center reports on its website that the primary mission of the UH-60 helicopter is that of tactical transport of troops, medical evacuation, cargo and reconnaissance within the helicopter’s capabilities.

The Civil Air Patrol’s Aerospace Education mission provides aviation-related education and educational activities for members and school classrooms, including formal, graded courses about all aspects of aviation, consisting of flight physics, dynamics, history and application. Courses covering the space program, new technologies, and advances in aviation and space exploration are also available. There are several programs for CAP pilots to improve their flying skills and earn Federal Aviation Administration ratings.

“This will definitely be one of my favorite memories in the Civil Air Patrol,” said 16-year-old cadet Alana Hall. “Walking out to the Black Hawks and feeling the wind from the blades was exhilarating.”

“It made me consider becoming a helicopter pilot,” said 14-year-old cadet Aidan Magill. “Overall, it was a great experience that I will always remember.” 🇺🇸





Top: Lt. Col. Denver Radford directs aircraft to the flight line. (Photos: Maj. Audrey Morrow, CAP, unless otherwise noted.)

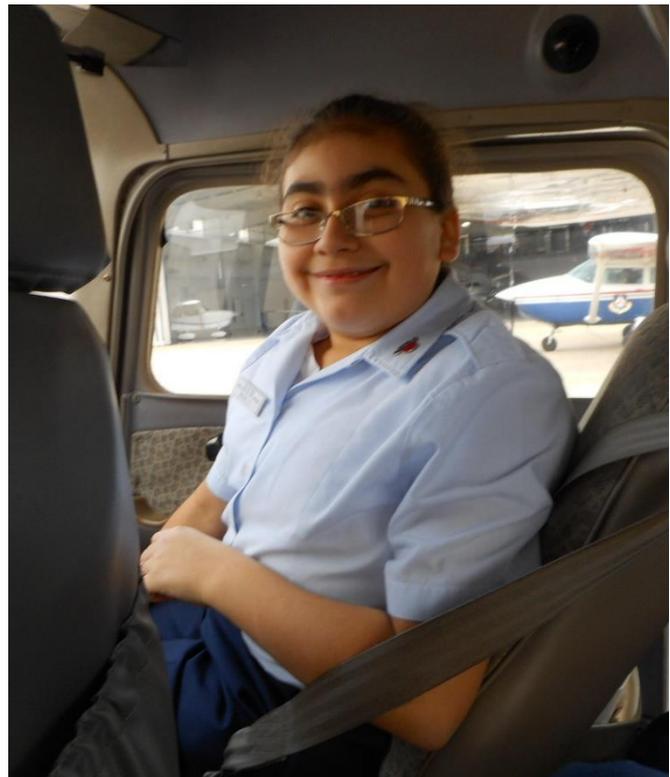
Below: Cadet Ruby Morales is excited after her first flight with 1st Lt. Christy Graham.

Texas Wing Cadets Experience the Wonder of Flight

*by Maj. Audrey Morrow, CAP, Texas Wing, and
Lt. Col. David Wersler, CAP, Texas Wing*

SUGAR LAND, Texas – On Jan. 28, 2017, sunny skies prevailed for the thirty-six cadets of the East Houston Cadet Squadron awaiting orientation flights at Sugar Land Regional Airport. Many had never experienced flight, and now five CAP aircraft were on hand to carry them to new heights. Two cadets were assigned to each flight. Some were given a chance to operate the controls for a few minutes. Excitement was high.

The event was the team effort of Group IV squadrons, directed by Group IV Commander Lt. Col. David Ogden. First Lt. Pat Kennedy organized and coordinated the program that had taken weeks of planning and preparation.





Fourteen senior members participated, including nine pilots: Maj. Steve Barati, Capt. Mike Brunstein, 1st Lt. Arif Saleem, 1st Lt. Christy Graham, 1st Lt. Don Callan, 1st Lt. Kerrick Castle, 2nd Lt. Daniel Manusis, 2nd Lt. Fernando Sierra and 2nd Lt. Greg Stenberg.

Left: Mission Pilot 1st Lt. Donald Callan shows Cadets Rodriguez and Hansen pre-flight procedures.

Below: Mission Pilot 1st Lt Christy Graham checks oil prior to flight.

Other senior members participating included Lt.

Col. Mike Turoff, who acted as flight release officer, and Lt. Col. Denver Radford was tasked as flight-line marshall. Also supporting the event were Lt. Col. Joyce Kassai, 1st Lt. Pat Kennedy, 2nd Lt. Kevin Graham, 2nd Lt. Tim Sherbeck, Maj. Fred Emmons and Capt. Jordan Aasgaard.





Left: Group IV Commander Lt. Col. David Ogden and Lt. Col. James Peace discuss the O-Flight program.

Below: Cadet Andis Santos tries the controls in flight. (Photo: 1st Lt. Christy Graham)

Lt. Col. James Peace, a teacher and former cadet, commands the East Houston Cadet Squadron located in Sheldon Middle School. This unique squadron's meetings are conducted in the classroom, and

Aerospace Education and Emergency Services are stressed. "It is important that the cadets have a real-life, hands-on experience in aviation." He said. "No amount of instruction or simulator time can compare to the feeling of actual flight. I wish that more schools would incorporate this program."

Cadet Airmen Carlos Rodriguez and Julien Hansen flew with Mission Pilot 1st Lt. Donald Callan on one of the first flights of the day that took the cadets to RWJ Airpark in Baytown. All pilots took the cadets through the pre-flight check, fully explaining the functions of the aircraft's control surfaces.

Rodriguez was allowed to take the controls for a few minutes. "It was a little scary, but an awesome experience," he said. On landing at Baytown, the cadets switched seats. Julien Hansen, who declined to take the controls, explained, "It was scary and bumpy and I was cold." For each cadet, the flight was a unique and personal experience.

The event's organizers hope that the orientation flights planted a seed of wonder in these cadets, motivating them to keep experiencing flight and, hopefully, eventually decide to become our pilots of the future. 🇺🇸





Top: Aircrew member CAP 1st Lt. Jim Doull prepares for a flight during the Oklahoma Wing operations evaluation as his aircraft is refueled at Norman's Max Westheimer Airport. (All photos: Capt. Bradley Kidder, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing's Operations Rated "Highly Successful" by USAF

*by Capt. Bradley Kidder, CAP, Arkansas Wing and
Lt. Col. David McCollum, CAP, Oklahoma Wing*

NORMAN, Okla. – On March 25, 2017, the Oklahoma Wing of Civil Air Patrol was evaluated by the U.S. Air Force (USAF), testing its abilities and responsiveness to simulated events for which CAP, serving as the USAF Auxiliary, might be called into action. When the performance of wing personnel had been observed and the scores tabulated by the evaluation team, the wing received an overall "highly successful" rating, the second-highest rating possible. This means that Oklahoma Wing is certified to perform any and all USAF-assigned missions during the next two-year period, until the next USAF evaluation takes place.

Air and ground missions were put into play to locate simulated lost aircraft and displaced persons in a fast-paced environment intended to measure the limits of command, control and capability. A simulated natural disaster stretched CAP resources even further, as assessment of important infrastructure assets were photographed for would-be emergency managers.



Above: At the Incident Command Post in Norman, Incident Commander CAP Lt. Col. Aaron Oliver (L) assesses the overall mission with Assistant Incident Commander CAP Lt Col. Russell Davis (seated) as CAP Southwest Region Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Harriett Smith looks on.

Below: Ground (right, nearest to camera) and air (farthest from camera) operations staff members prepare to deploy assets in response to scenarios presented during the USAF evaluation of CAP's Oklahoma Wing at the Norman Incident Command Post on March 25, 2017.

“We have a great team of highly motivated unpaid professionals,” said Oklahoma Wing’s Incident Commander Lt. Col. Aaron Oliver. “These volunteers give up countless hours of their time to train and prepare for the next opportunity to serve their communities, the state of Oklahoma, and the nation.”





Above: Mission Radio Operator CAP Capt. John Ford passes message traffic to air and ground units from the Norman Incident Command Post during the Oklahoma Wing operations evaluation.

Operations Evaluations are designed to exercise and evaluate CAP's ability to operate under the FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS), a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together seamlessly as they manage incidents involving all threats and hazards – regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity – in order to reduce loss of life, property damage and harm to the environment. Scenarios developed by the Air Force focus on CAP's core missions of search and rescue, disaster relief, homeland security and CAP's advanced digital imaging technologies.

"We come into these evaluations with the intention of stressing the capabilities of a wing to the breaking point," said USAF Maj. Aric Holly, evaluation team lead. "The purpose is to see exactly how much can be handled and to ensure the ability of the wing to respond to anything we ask of them in a professional, proficient and safe manner. We observed a team in action yesterday that is a textbook example of doing things in just that way and we have no worries that Oklahoma Wing can handle whatever missions they might be tasked to perform."

CAP launched aircraft from Norman, Tulsa and Sand Springs in conjunction with ground crews dispatched from Norman and Sand Springs. As aircraft located emergency locator transmitters simulating downed aircraft, ground teams were guided to evaluate the simulated crash site. A USAF evaluator posing as a lost hiker at Arcadia Lake tested ground team capabilities to locate and rescue lost people. Aircraft with on-board cameras were used to take low-level photos of bridges and power plants for evaluation by the inspection team, while other aircraft circled overhead to provide radio repeater services, providing a state-wide communications capability to mission air and ground crews.

"I am so proud of the more than 750 members of our wing," added Oklahoma Wing Commander Col. Dale Newell. "Their dedication to what they do and the professionalism in how they accomplish it is an example of volunteerism at its best. I am honored to serve as their commander."

(Editor's note: Capt. Kidder was the Public Information Officer for this mission.)



Top: The winners of the Second Annual Texas Wing Aircrew Completion, held in San Marcos, Texas on Feb. 25, 2017: Group III members Capt. Brian Relin, Capt. Mark Holub and Maj. Scott Knightly. (Photos: Maj. Matthew Congrove, CAP)

Texas Wing Holds Second Annual Aircrew Competition

by Maj. Matthew Congrove, CAP, Texas Wing

SAN MARCOS, Texas – On Feb. 25, 2017, the skies over the San Marcos Regional Airport had much activity provided by Civil Air Patrol aircraft, as five teams from around the state competed in the second annual Texas Wing Aircrew Competition. The three-person crew from Group III, that includes Dallas, Irving and Waco, took home the trophy after having achieved the highest score in flying, inspections and tests.



Above: Civil Air Patrol aircraft wait on the tarmac in San Marcos, Texas before the start of the Second Annual Texas Wing Aircrew Competition.

Below: Capt. Becky Postma-Kegley, a member of the Group VI team, completes post-mission paperwork after flying in one of the events at the Texas Wing Aircrew Competition.

The winning team, composed of Maj. Scott Knightly, Capt. Brian Relin and Capt. Mark Holub, all from Group III, edged out the competition in three of the seven events. The aircrew was praised for their exemplary skills in the disaster response portion of the contest.

Group III will represent Texas against 5 other states in the upcoming Southwest Region competition, to be held also in San Marcos in May.

Texas Wing Group VI, from the Fort Worth area, finished in second place. Group IV, from the Houston/Beaumont area, placed closely behind in third place.

The event provided a location for friendly competition and the chance to earn bragging rights, although its main purpose was to prepare aircrews and operations staff for large-scale missions.

“During last year’s event, we quickly realized the training opportunities being presented,” said Lt. Col. Shane Lipson, Texas Wing’s standardization and evaluation officer and the coordinator for the competition. “You have multiple aircraft in the air, people running radio communications, and the logistics of keeping everything functioning smoothly,” he said. “It’s a perfect analogy to the sort of operations we run during a disaster response.”

The competition included several events: inspections, quizzes and simulated missions. Each event was designed to sharpen the professionalism with which the aircrews regularly operate, while also promoting the idea that the business of saving lives requires urgency, safety and accuracy.

This is the second year that San Marcos has hosted this wing-level event.





Top: Capt. Makin inflates *Integrity's* envelope during the balloon's inaugural flight in January. (Photo: Maj. John English, CAP)

Flying Without Wings – A History of New Mexico Wing's Hot-Air Balloon Program

by Lt. Col. William R. Fitzpatrick, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Many New Mexicans think that a hot-air balloon – that is, the idea of flying without wings – puts one at the whim of the winds aloft. Every October, hundreds of balloons descend upon the Land of Enchantment for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta – the largest balloon gathering that has been going on since 1972. What does Civil Air Patrol have to do with ballooning? As an aviation organization, CAP is interested in *everything* that concerns air-minded individuals.

New Mexico Wing's hot-air balloon program got its start in 2014, with the donation of *Phoenix*, the hot-air balloon envelope that became the Wing's first lighter-than-air aircraft. But an aircraft is only a piece of equipment that, without skilled individuals who know how to operate it, it is useless. This is where New Mexico Wing's balloon program begins, with a cadre of individuals dedicated to the dream of flight.

Capt. Jessica Makin came to Civil Air Patrol with no real understanding of what the CAP program was about, or its purpose. All she was told was that the Wing's fledgling balloon program needed help. Since she was a Commercial Lighter-than-air with Airborne Heater (Hot-Air Balloon) Pilot, and an instructor at a flight school run by another CAP member, she was asked to become a CAP member and help set up the program.

When Makin first joined CAP, she thought that she would only fly balloons, but she was immediately thrust into a new culture, with a lot of reading, and a vast amount of information. As the Aerospace Education Officer for the LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, she began to understand the bigger picture: that Civil Air Patrol is, first and foremost, an aviation organization. She attained her Master Rating in Aerospace Education – the highest level of proficiency – in record time, and earned the A. Scott Crossfield Aerospace Award. In 2016, she was named New Mexico Wing's Aerospace Education Officer of the Year.

Armed with the understanding that there were others who shared her passion for aviation, her vision was to produce a cadre of new airmen to continue the sport she holds so dear. Her first student was then-Maj. Ben Noyce, who was commander of Group 800 and, as such, oversaw all squadrons enrolled in CAP's School Enrichment Program in New Mexico Wing. Shortly thereafter, Lt. Col. William Fitzpatrick, commander of LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, and Capt. Austin De Lorme formed the nucleus of the Wing's hot-air balloon program. After Noyce became the wing's first new hot-air balloon pilot, Makin immediately recruited cadets to start their initial flight training.

The balloon program soon became much larger than many had thought possible, and produced more hot-air balloon private pilots than any other flight activity in New Mexico Wing. At this point, New Mexico Wing's Standardization and Evaluation (Stan/Eval) Officer, Maj. Terry Bass, saw the need for a lighter-than-air (LTA) expert on the Wing's Stan/Eval team. After discussing the position with Capt. Makin and observing her ability to articulate the details of flying this new type of aircraft, she was appointed New Mexico Wing's Stan/Eval Officer for LTA aircraft. Although the new responsibility was a lot to handle for someone who had been a member for less than three years, Makin simply did "the right thing" as she worked diligently with a team to develop balloon operations since she started in CAP.

By the time the Wing's original balloon *Phoenix* was retired in June 2016, Makin, along with fellow check pilot Capt. Albert Lowenstein, had produced 5 private pilots in just 22 months, with almost 100 flight hours accumulated in one year. With the acquisition of New Mexico Wing's new

balloon, *Integrity*, Makin plans to lead a cadre of new Commercial LTA pilots to do what she has found to be the most important aspect of Civil Air Patrol: promoting aviation in the community. 🇺🇸



Left: (L-R): New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mike Lee presents Capt. Jessica Makin the award for New Mexico Wing's Aerospace Education Officer of the Year at the 2016 New Mexico Wing Conference. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)



Top: A ferry approaches its dock at Point Bolivar in Galveston County, Texas. (Photos: Maj. Audrey Morrow, CAP)

Below: 1st Lt. Don Callan checks his aircraft prior to flight.

Texas Wing Hones Emergency Services Skills

by Maj Audrey Morrow, CAP, Texas Wing

PEARLAND, Texas – Blue skies prevailed for members of Texas Wing’s Group IV as they assembled for a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) at Pearland Regional Airport on March 18, 2017. These exercises are important for sharpening the performance of flight crews, mission staff and improve working as a team. These events also train new members in preparation for the approaching flood season that Houston and the surrounding areas experience during the spring months.





Left: View of Dickinson, Texas.

Below: The Texas City Dike.

Lt. Col. Mike Turoff served as staging area manager, assisted by Lt. Col. Ray Hocht, Capt. Steve Mathiason and Senior Member Albert Ball. As a team, they checked qualifications of air crew members, assigned sorties, and selected areas to fly. Personnel from five squadrons were represented in this exercise.

Maj. Steve

Mathiason and Capt. Tommy Cruze performed as flight-line marshalls. Airborne photographers captured photos of specified areas of interest.

The exercise used three aircraft, a Cessna 172, a Cessna 182 and a Gipsland GA-8 Air Van, that flew a total of seven sorties. Aircrews used this opportunity to fine-tune skills such as flying precision grids, photographing exact points of interest from different angles, and looking for problem areas. The GA-8 flight, piloted by Maj. Dan Fleming, took the crew over the Dickinson Dog Track, the Texas City Dike and the Bolivar Ferry port.

Continual exercises such as these are critical for Civil Air Patrol members to be ready to serve the community, state and nation at any time disaster strikes. 🇺🇸





Top: (L-R) Cadet Col. Zane Phillips, Congressman French Hill, 2nd District of Arkansas, and Cadet 1st Lt. Hannah Cheatham during CAP Legislative Day congressional visits at the US Capitol. (Photo: Courtesy Congressman Hill's Staff)

Arkansas Wing Members in Washington for Legislative Day, Cadet Events

*by Capt. Bradley Kidder, CAP, Arkansas Wing,
Cadet Col. Zane Phillips, CAP, Southwest Region CAC Chair, and
Cadet 1st Lt. Hannah Cheatham, Arkansas Wing CAC Chair*

WASHINGTON – On March 2, 2017, Arkansas Wing senior members and cadets met at the Nation's Capital for CAP's annual Legislative Day visit to Capitol Hill. Arkansas delegation members Wing Commander Col. Arthur Formanek, Cadet Col. Zane Phillips and Cadet 1st Lt. Hannah Cheatham thanked members of Congress for their support of Civil Air Patrol and shared with them details of the Air Force Auxiliary's missions in emergency services, aerospace education and cadet programs.

Col. Formanek serves on CAP's Command Council, comprised of the national commander, vice commander and chief of staff, eight region commanders and 52 wing commanders. The council's winter meeting agenda included discussions of finance, safety, aircraft, operations, media relations, government relations, and strategic planning. CAP's 2016 nationwide

performance report included such notable figures as 1,265 search and rescue missions with 92 lives saved, and \$167 million of volunteer services to 1,437 communities.

Southwest Region Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) Chair Cadet Col. Zane Phillips, a member of the 115th Composite Squadron, Rogers, Ark., had been in Washington for the winter meeting of the National CAC. "When I was invited by Arkansas Wing to attend the CAP Legislative Day, I was very excited, as I would be able to meet with Arkansas senators and congressmen," he said. NCAC presented their semi-annual report to the CAP Senior Advisory Group (CSAG) on March 4, 2017. Phillips conducted his portion of the report on continuation of video projects. "After many hours of practice, rewrites, and a few sleep-deprived days, the NCAC presented our report to CSAG. The report went very well, CSAG was pleased to see the progress we've made, and now we are looking forward to the rest of the year."

Phillips had been promoted to Cadet Col. last January and, while in Washington, he attended the March 4, 2017 Spaatz Association dinner and awards gala. "It was a unique honor, serving as an aide-de-camp. I had the privilege of sitting at the head table with Maj. Gen. Vasquez and other honored guests. I felt honored to represent Arkansas Wing and the Southwest Region."

Cadet 1st Lt. Hannah Cheatham of the 42nd Composite Squadron, Little Rock, Ark., joined with a select group of 24 cadets for the 12th annual Civic Leadership Academy (CLA) in Washington. A week of interactive and academically-intensive study of U.S. government, CLA included special-access visits to the executive, legislative and judicial branches and visits to significant sites throughout the city. National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vasquez describes CLA as "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded to our very best cadets, who receive a well-rounded understanding of government leadership, public service, and the principles that guide us."

"When I received the email that I had been accepted into the Civic Leadership Academy, I couldn't contain my excitement. I did not understand the magnitude of Washington until I went to the Vietnam War Memorial," reflected Cheatham. "I'd read an inspirational book about Capt. Lance P. Sijan called 'Into the Mouth of the Cat' and he quickly became one of my role models. The most incredible experience for me was being able to see his name on the Memorial and to understand the sacrifice he made for my freedom. Everything I'd read became real, and an indescribable feeling washed over me. I would not trade such an opportunity for the world." Capt. Lance P. Sijan was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and is the first Air Force Academy graduate to earn the award.

Regarding the high-visibility congressional event, Col. Formanek said, "Arkansas Wing was well-represented by Cadets Cheatham and Phillips. Our elected national representatives expressed their appreciation in having such young, outstanding citizens take the time and interest to visit them."

Agendas for NCAC and CLA listed visits to the US Capitol and Supreme Court, State Department, Pentagon, National Archives, Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Security Agency, Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum. 🇺🇸

Right: At the Vietnam Memorial Wall, Cadet 1st Lt. Hannah Cheatham (2nd from right) locates the name of Medal of Honor recipient USAF Capt, Lance P. Sijan. (Photo: Lt. Col. Brenda Reed, Maryland Wing)





Top: Royal Canadian Air Force Lt. Col. Dave Smith (R) explains the controls of a CT-156 Harvard II trainer to (L-R) Cadet Staff Sgt. Daniel Baker, Cadet Airman Paul Baca and Cadet Airman Jeffery Lockwood from the London Bridge Composite Squadron 501. (Photos: Maj. Rey DeLeon, CAP).

Royal Canadian Air Force Pilots Visit Arizona Wing Squadron

by 2nd Lt. William Dornan, CAP, Arizona Wing

LAKE HAVASU CITY, Ariz. – On March 4, 2017, the commanding officer of Squadron 2 of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), Lt. Col. Dave Smith, and members of his unit visited the Arizona Wing's London Bridge Composite Squadron 501 to share the dream of aviation with Lake Havasu City Civil Air Patrol cadets.

The young CAP members had the opportunity to tour RCAF planes from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, during which RCAF pilot trainees spent four hours answering the many questions posed to them by the CAP cadets.

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The RCAF also brought to the Lake Havasu Airport a C-130 that is stationed out of Trenton, Ontario. This large, four-engine, turboprop airplane that is used for military transport and cargo flew in and taxied to the Lake Havasu terminal, where the cadets were gathered for the event. The aircraft lowered its ramp and the junior Canadian pilots exited the aircraft. These RCAF pilots, who are in phase three of their training, are destined to fly Super Hornets, a two-engine, carrier-capable fighter jet, out of Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake in Alberta, Canada.

The pilot trainees come from various NATO countries, including the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, and a host of other countries committed to NATO forces.

Smith told stories of his experiences flying with an American F-16 pilot back when he was participating in an exchange-of-training program. A Lake Havasu cadet asked Smith about the G Forces involved in flight. Smith answered honestly, saying that the G forces made him see the world go grey. The cadets attended a presentation about the diverse training the officer cadets go through in order to earn their final assignment as pilots of helicopters, transport planes, or the Hornets.

Smith's openness and candor made him very popular with the cadets. He made a special reference to General Chuck Yeager, noting that he cherished the memory that, when Smith had been a cadet, the man who broke the sound barrier presented him his wings.

The CAP cadets were not aware of the integration between the RCAF and the American military. All the RCAF senior pilots had seen action in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and other war-torn areas of the world.

Finally, as parting gifts, the CAP cadets received posters, stickers, and ceremonial pins.

Maj. Rey De Leon, commander of the CAP squadron in Lake Havasu City, and Capt. Jeff Sayre arranged the meeting between the CAP and RCAF members. "It was a great collaboration between CAP, the all-volunteer USAF Auxiliary, and the Royal Canadian Air Force," said De Leon. "The cadets really appreciated the efforts of Smith and his staff.

"The next time you look skyward and think of these Canadian pilots above our skies," De Leon said, "try to remember that they are reinforcing good citizenship in the youth of Lake Havasu, Parker and Needles, Calif., and that this integration of forces protects us all." 🇺🇸

Below: The two-seater CT-156 Harvard II is the aircraft of choice for RCAF pilot training.





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Left: Cadet Lucas Wittig and big brother Cadet 1st Lt. Joseph Wittig study terrain maps during land navigation training at Fort Chaffee, Ark. (Photos: Maj. Pat Schmidt, CAP)

Below: Cadet Airman 1st Class Stephen Rogers (foreground) and Cadet Staff Sergeant Sam May prepare for Humvee roll-over training as 2nd Lt. Gary Podgurski buckles another cadet into the rear seat.

Arkansas Wing's Squadron Designs Cadet-Led, Senior Member-Mentored Activities for 2017

by Cadet Airman 1st Class Abigail Johnson, CAP, Arkansas Wing

FORT SMITH, Ark. – On March 10-11, 2017, 17 members of the Arkansas Wing's 83rd Composite Squadron deployed for a series of hands-on training activities at the Fort Chaffee Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center. Cadets and senior members experienced the Army's Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, and Engagement Skills Trainer.

The Humvee Egress Trainer taught CAP members what a real vehicle roll-over might feel like, and how to make a safe egress from a completely inverted position. The Engagement Skills Trainer, as used by the Army, provides realistic equipment calibration and marksmanship training for common small arms, weapons and anti-tank equipment in the Army inventory. Both activities were very popular with CAP trainees.



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Right: Maj. Pat Schmidt receives control panel training for Fort Chaffee's Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer. (Photo: Lt. Col. Troy Lanich, CAP)

Below: Cadet Airman Micah Alt chews his way into an MRE as he and fellow cadets experience the military's some-assembly-required dining fare. (Photo: Maj. Pat Schmidt, CAP)



Second Lt. Gary Podgurski (who retired from the US Army and is a former Fort Chaffee recruiter) organized the event with Army management and local merchants to schedule training equipment, billeting and dining facility support for a successful weekend experience.

After settling into barracks Friday afternoon, a donated meal was followed by the movie "The Martian." Squadron Aerospace Education Officer Maj. Pat Schmidt used key ideas from the film in developing her classroom training on Saturday; 2nd Lt. Podgurski taught a course on map-reading, use of compass, and land navigation; and the group completed 12 ground team GTM3 and GTM2 training tasks.

"The cadets gained a lot from the training that Fort Chaffee offered," said Deputy Commander for Cadets Maj. Maranda Leeper. "My favorite part was watching them help each other and work together. The training built camaraderie between cadets and forced them to step outside their comfort zones. I am very proud of these cadets. One of the biggest reasons we are able to participate in events like Fort Chaffee is because we never have to worry about how the cadets will act.."

"At the beginning of 2017, the cadets set some notable goals for themselves," Podgurski said during the after-action debrief. "They created a significant activity for each month of the year, taking cadet staff positions such as operations, logistics and public affairs to ensure that every base was covered. In March we did this Chaffee trip. In May, we'll overnight at Tinker AFB for the big airshow. These are completely cadet-run, senior-mentored events producing some very responsible and capable airmen."

Cadet 1st Sergeant Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Zachary Wouters said, "I was very glad to see the cadets' motivation and how they took charge of their cadet program. I'm also thankful for the senior members and the time and effort they committed to make this event so successful. This was a great opportunity to practice coordination and liaison between CAP and the military, for us to develop relationships with them, use the facilities and military equipment available, and glimpse at the training our soldiers undertake."

Cadet Commander Cadet 1st Lieutenant Joseph Wittig added, "These activities give cadet staff a chance to have first-hand, real-world leadership experience, taking the opportunity and running with it. The ground team training that was accomplished at Chaffee was excellent and will go a long way towards providing support to Wing operations."

"I feel the cadets excelled in their execution of assigned tasks," said 2nd Lt. Podgurski. "The benefits of the training surpass Civil Air Patrol's missions and can be used in everyday life." 🇺🇸





Top: New Mexico Wing's hot-air balloon *Integrity* was on display at the Carlos F. Vigil Middle School Open House. (All Photos: Lt. Col. Dean Klassy, CAP)

Below: Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members set up a recruiting booth, in preparation for the Open House.

New Mexico Wing's Group 800 Sponsors Espanola Open House

by Lt. Col. Dean M. Klassy, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ESPANOLA, N.M. – On April 1, 2017, at the Carlos F. Vigil Middle School in Espanola, New Mexico Wing's Group 800, that oversees all the Civil Air Patrol squadrons enrolled in CAP's



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School Enrichment Program, hosted an Open House for those interested in joining the Civil Air Patrol..

Three squadrons from around New Mexico came to Espanola to support the Open House, which ran from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Squadrons members from Socorro High School, LBJ Middle School, Tony Hillerman Middle School, as well as staff personnel from Group 800 and Wing Headquarters came to support the Carlos F. Vigil Middle School Squadron, in an effort to increase their membership.

Although participation from the community was light, it was a congenial gathering, as the activity brought the squadrons together and fostered camaraderie within the group.

Those who stopped by got a close-up look at the Wing's hot-air balloon *Integrity*, as well as one of CAP's gliders, an Emergency Services display and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) displays.

The Open House was an opportunity for the community to see CAP in its role as the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and to have a chance to see for themselves CAP's three main missions: Aerospace Education, Emergency Services and Cadet Program.

Organizers of the Open House called upon the community to help in any way they can, as they expected a large influx of members to the squadron, and needed everybody's help and support. 🇺🇸

Below: The New Mexico Wing aerospace team oversees the setup of one of their gliders.





Top: Dr. Steven Horwitz shows how to perform the Heimlich Maneuver with Maj. Peter Morford and Cadet Airman James Whitley as demonstrators. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Raymond Gathright, CAP)

Lakeshore Composite Squadron Receives CPR Training

by 2nd Lt. Raymond Gathright, CAP, Texas Wing

ROCKWALL, Texas – On Feb. 28, 2017, the Lakeshore Composite Squadron in Rockwall, Texas, held Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training. In his introductory comments, Squadron Commander Capt. Kevin Johnson said that the training would help the squadron meet its mission readiness capabilities.

Dr. Steven Horwitz, who taught the course, told participants that he first learned CPR as a lifeguard and has taught the skill for thirty years. Asked why he teaches it, he replied, “It’s a critical life skill you need to have. I love it.”

Horwitz started the training session with the Heimlich Maneuver, a skill that helps a person who is choking. First, he taught what signs to look for, to ask the person if he or she is okay, to have someone else get help and then get the choking person’s permission to help. Afterwards, Horwitz trained the class on how to perform the maneuver. Each student was required to demonstrate hands-on how to properly perform the Heimlich Maneuver.

Right: Dr. Steven Horwitz shows the proper hand placement for CPR to Cadet Airman Ariana Adkins-Mills.

Below: Dr. Steven Horwitz shows members of the Lakeshore Composite Squadron how to use the AED as part of CPR training.

For the next block of instruction, Horwitz began training on CPR, used to help stay alive a person who has stopped breathing and whose heart has stopped beating.

The first steps are to see what is going on, have someone call for help, and then begin looking for signs of life. Only after these steps, and deciding that CPR is necessary, is it safe to begin.

“A response time of seven to nine minutes for this area is considered really good,” said Dr. Horwitz. He taught his class that a good song to sing to keep proper rhythm until help arrives is “Row Your Boat.” After making sure that every person had understood the proper method, each had to perform CPR on a practice dummy for two minutes.

Lastly, Horwitz showed the class how to properly use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) that can automatically shock the heart back into proper rhythm.

Cadet Airman Landon Girdler asked, “How long can a person go without breathing?” Dr. Horwitz responded, “The answer is around six minutes. Unfortunately, too many people just walk away. So, I applaud what you are doing.” 🍷





Top: Cadet 2nd Lt. Connor Welch, Cadet 2nd Lt. Jordan Melendez, Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Justin Cabiltes, and Cadet Master Sgt. Kyle Koop from Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron present the colors at the Monster Truck Jams at Tingley Coliseum. (Photo: 1st Lt. Steven A. Lindquist, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Color Guards Represent CAP at Monster Truck Jams

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – One does not normally associate Civil Air Patrol – the United States Air Force Auxiliary – with Monster Truck Jams, but for the weekend of Feb. 17-19, 2017, four squadrons from New Mexico Wing presented the colors during the opening ceremonies of four different performances at Tingley Coliseum in Albuquerque.

The participating squadrons included the Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron, who presented the colors on Friday afternoon; Los Alamos Composite Squadron, who presented the colors on Saturday afternoon; and Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron and Socorro Composite Squadron, who presented the colors on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, respectively.

The cadets presented the colors during the opening ceremonies of each program, as part of Monster Jam’s tribute to the military. 🇺🇸



Top: Col. Martha Morris transfers command to Lt. Col. Robert Ditch. In the background, Lt. Col. J. Brandon Masangcay.

Arizona Wing's Falcon Composite Squadron has a New Commander

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On Jan. 17, 2017, Arizona Wing Commander Col. Martha Morris presided over the change of command ceremony at Falcon Composite Squadron 305. More than 50 senior members, cadets and guests gathered in the squadron's classroom for the ceremony. Squadron 305's Color Guard presented the colors to open the ceremony.

The change of command is a simple event steeped in tradition and rich in military history. It is a formal, symbolic passing of responsibility, authority and accountability of command from one leader to another.

Outgoing Squadron Commander Capt. Albert Barker shared some of his "rules" for success, starting with, "Be content, but don't be complacent."

He thanked the squadron members for keeping things running while he was focusing on his new job and his family. "The fact that the squadron is doing so well is a tribute to the staff here at the 305th," he said, and he further encouraged squadron members to always give their best. "Everything that you do, do it with all your might, whether it's cadet programs, operations, command, or something else."

The incoming squadron commander, Lt. Col. Robert Ditch, told the audience that on this same date, 45 years earlier, he had taken the oath of service and joined the Air Force. "I had three commands in the Air Force, but this one is probably going to be the most exciting," he commented, and thanked Capt. Barker for setting up a transition program that started in September 2016 in preparation for his assuming command in the following January.

Lt. Col. Ditch served in the Air Force and retired after more than 32 years of service. He joined CAP in November 2007 and served for more than four years as the Director of Emergency Services for the Arizona Wing. A strong proponent of education and training, he was instrumental in setting up the Above and Beyond Cadet College Orientation Program for Arizona Wing cadets. He also developed the Advanced Command & Control Emergency Services (AC2ES) program – an intensive four-day curriculum covered over two weekends, with some online course work. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) CAP Capt. Gary Sutherland, CAP Cadet 2nd Lt., Brandon Lunsford and CAP Cadet 1st Lt. Joshua Sutherland at Lunsford's promotion ceremony. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Brandon Lunsford Sr. CAP)

Below: Before his promotion, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Lunsford, (left), assists the cadet commander, Cadet 1st Lt. Joshua Sutherland, with the appointment of Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Christian Kuerbitz as the squadron's Cadet 1st Sergeant.

Oklahoma Wing Cadet Earns Promotion to CAP Cadet Officer Grade

by 2nd Lt. Brandon Lunsford Sr, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

TULSA, Okla. – On March 7 2017, Starbase Commander Captain Gary Sutherland presented Lunsford with the General Billy Mitchell Award, an achievement that he had earned by passing all qualifying requirements, and thus attaining the grade of CAP Cadet 2nd Lieutenant.

"This will be a completely different role for Cadet Lt Lunsford", Sutherland said. "This young man has proven himself to be an outstanding Cadet 1st Sergeant. One of my favorite things about him is that he sees a need and he gets it filled. He developed physical training programs that took my squadron's fitness levels to a whole different level, with 31 cadets achieving the highest nationally recognized levels of fitness for their age."

Cadet Lunsford had served in the cadet enlisted ranks for nearly two years, including the last eight months as the Starbase Composite Squadron's Cadet 1st Sgt. Upon achieving the grade of Cadet 2nd Lt., Lunsford could no longer be the Cadet 1st Sergeant, but he had the time-honored tradition of assisting the cadet commander, Cadet 1st Lt. Joshua Sutherland, in appointing the squadron's new Cadet 1st Sergeant: Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Christian Kuerbitz.

"It is a bitter-sweet feeling," Lunsford said, "but I am proud to pass on the position to a fellow cadet who is like a brother to me. I'll miss being the "First Shirt," but I am proud to embrace Phase III of the Cadet Program as a Cadet Officer."

Lunsford had the opportunity to train with Kuerbitz during the 2016 Youth on Guard reenactment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, dutifully carried out by the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard." CAP's reenactment takes place at Floral Haven Cemetery during the Memorial Day Weekend. 🇺🇸





Left: At a special meeting of the Socorro Composite Squadron, Capt. David Pepitone, left, receives the Federal Aviation Administration's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from Tamara Bell, Front Line Manager of the FAA's Albuquerque Flight Standards District Office. (Photo: Lt. Col. Dave Finley, CAP)

FAA Honors New Mexico Wing Pilot

*by Lt. Col. David G. Finley, CAP,
New Mexico Wing*

SOCORRO, N.M. – On March 2, 2017, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) presented CAP Capt. David Pepitone with the FAA's prestigious Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award at a special meeting of the Socorro Composite Squadron. This award recognizes "individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years while piloting aircraft as 'Master Pilots'."

Pepitone's career has included working as a development pilot and engineer for NASA, Boeing, and Honeywell. He holds a doctorate in psychology and FAA type ratings in aircraft ranging from a 1920s-vintage Ford Trimotor to a Boeing 777. A former airline pilot, Pepitone has flown more than 5,500 hours and qualified in more than 100 different aircraft. He holds 50 patents for avionics and aircraft safety inventions.

FAA's FAAS Team Program Manager Rich Hammer and Front Line Manager Tamara Bell, from the Albuquerque Flight Standards District Office, came to Socorro to present the award, which consisted of a certificate and a plaque. The ceremony included a video about the Wright Brothers and the history of the award, and a presentation by Pepitone about his career and aviation experience.

Pepitone soloed in 1966 in a Cessna 150, gained flying experience while serving in the U.S. Air Force, then earned his Private Pilot certificate in 1972. He subsequently earned Commercial Pilot and Airline Transport Pilot certificates, along with certification as a flight instructor.

He has received numerous honors and certifications, including election as a fellow to the International Royal Aeronautical Society, the highest honor conferred by the British Royal Academy.

Pepitone has flown a huge variety of aircraft, including single- and twin-engine piston aircraft, turboprops, jets, gliders, helicopters, seaplanes, and taildraggers. In addition to large aircraft such as the Boeing 777 and 747, he also has flown legendary warbirds such as the Messerschmidt 262, the world's first operational jet aircraft, and the Korean-war-era MiG-15.

Pepitone joined CAP in 2014 in Arizona, and transferred to the Socorro Composite Squadron early in 2016, where he serves as the squadron's character development instructor and assistant aerospace education officer. Since joining CAP, he has become an instructor pilot and check pilot on gliders, an orientation pilot, and a transport mission pilot. He is a common sight wherever CAP gliders and cadets are gathered, and enjoys teaching the basics of aeronautics and piloting to New Mexico Wing's cadets.

"We congratulate Capt. Pepitone on receiving this honor from the FAA," said Maj. Dennis Hunter, commander of the Socorro Composite Squadron. "We feel very fortunate to have him as a member of our squadron and our wing. He is extremely enthusiastic about using his experience and knowledge to inspire our cadets to become involved in aviation and, if they wish, to pursue aviation careers. He is a great resource for our aviation and aerospace-education programs." 🇺🇸

Texas Wing Squadron Member Receives Award

by Capt. Michael Bernier, CAP, Texas Wing

DENISON, Texas – On Jan. 30, 2017, 2nd Lt. Michael Schroeder, a member of the Texoma Composite Squadron in Denison, Texas, was presented a CAP award in recognition of his actions during 2016 in support of Civil Air Patrol's Emergency Services program at a ceremony held in the squadron's facilities at North Texas Regional Airport (NTRA).

Schroeder received a CAP Achievement Award, recognizing his outstanding service to his squadron, group, and wing by successfully establishing and building the squadron's aircrews and flight capabilities. By doing so, he expanded and enhanced CAP's ability to support communities in both the local Denison area as well as across North Texas during emergencies.

Beginning in March 2016, Schroeder re-established his personal aircrew qualifications as a Transport Mission Pilot, Mission Scanner and Mission Observer. Following this, he attended the annual LoneStar Emergency Services Academy (LESA) in Nacogdoches, where he successfully completed qualification as a Mission Pilot. He then organized a Flight Clinic at NTRA, during which additional senior members from both his and other CAP squadrons were able to complete or continue work toward their aircrew qualifications. Additional training activities later in the year continued to build on this work. By December of 2016, the squadron's aircrew capabilities had increased from none to one Mission Pilot, two additional Transport Mission Pilots, four Mission Observers, and five Mission Scanners, with additional members working toward aircrew qualifications including Airborne Photographer.

Schroeder's efforts resulted in establishing the Texoma Composite Squadron as a "flying" squadron with the capability of providing trained aircrews for missions. This in turn allowed the squadron to begin hosting an aircraft in December, 2016 at NTRA for the first time in many years.

In addition, he organized and conducted numerous orientation flights for cadets at both his and neighboring squadrons. Texas Wing Group II Commander Lt. Col. Bill Schroder said, "Lt. Schroeder is a driving force in the Group for Cadet Orientation flights and Emergency Services missions."

In recommending him for the award, Texoma Composite Squadron Commander Capt. Michael Bernier wrote, "Lt. Schroeder has kept a consistent focus and unwavering commitment to building and supporting the Air Operations mission of Civil Air Patrol. He maintains a positive rapport with all other squadrons, offering to help them whenever his schedule allows. I have received nothing but the highest praise from everyone he has worked with, and we are very glad to have him as a member of our squadron." 🇺🇸

Right: 2nd Lt. Michael Schroeder is presented a Civil Air Patrol Achievement Award by Texoma Composite Squadron Commander Capt. Michael Bernier (Photo: SM Brad McMillion, CAP)



Right: Prior to his promotion to Cadet Second Lieutenant, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Nicholas Sowerbutts is introduced by Arkansas Wing Director of Cadet Programs Maj. Richard James.

Below: Nicholas Sowerbutts receives his Cadet 2nd Lt. shoulder boards from parents Lee and Becky Sowerbutts. (Photos: Capt. Brad Kidder, CAP)



Arkansas Wing Cadet Earns Promotion to Officer Grade

*by Cadet Airman Abigail Johnson, CAP,
Arkansas Wing*

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. – On Feb. 5, 2017, Cadet Nicholas Sowerbutts of Hot Spring, Ark. was promoted to Cadet 2nd Lt. and recognized as the 40th Composite Squadron’s first General Billy Mitchell Award recipient in over 8 years. Representatives from the 42nd Composite Squadron in Little Rock, 83rd Composite Squadron in Fort Smith, and 99th Composite Squadron in West Memphis gathered to honor the Sowerbutts family and celebrate the landmark event for the 40th Composite Squadron.

“CAP has offered me unique opportunities that I never would have experienced anywhere else,” reflects the newly-minted Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. “The leadership lessons I’ve been able to learn as well as the activities I’m able to participate in are things that I would have missed out on, had I not joined CAP. Civil Air Patrol has shaped me into a better leader, and a more knowledgeable cadet.”

In addition to the Mitchell Award, Cadet Sowerbutts received a Commander’s Commendation Award and a Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving from Arkansas Wing Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Larry Webster. Squadron Commander Capt. Danny Marsh said, “Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Nick Sowerbutts has been actively involved in the squadron. He has been the cadet safety officer as well as cadet flight sergeant, and is now the cadet commander. He has also been involved in the drug demand reduction program and is one of our squadron stars.”

Arkansas Wing Director of Cadet Programs Maj. Richard James said, “These milestones are not taken lightly. It’s a lot of effort on the cadet’s part. It’s a great opportunity to come and celebrate the program, and watch them grow into emerging leaders for our community, state and nation.”

Lee and Becky Sowerbutts retired their son’s chief master sergeant chevrons, replacing them with the shoulder boards of a cadet 2nd lieutenant. Each had something special to say about the Civil Air Patrol’s Cadet Program. “The program has been amazing,” said Mr. Sowerbutts. “It’s been cool to see how Nick has grown as a leader over the last two to three years. Today is just an awesome way to honor his accomplishments.” Mrs. Sowerbutts added, “I’m very appreciative

of the organization. We are so grateful to all the volunteers who give their time every Tuesday night to lead the cadets, teach them, and mold them. We stand behind all those people who give of their time and effort to help our son grow.”

Cadet Sowerbutts plans to use the emergency services and leadership experience he has gained in the Civil Air Patrol to obtain a commission in the United States Air Force and work in the field of personnel rescue and recovery. 🇺🇸





New Mexico Wing Celebrates the CAP Cadet Program's 75th Anniversary

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – New Mexico Wing is doing its part to help observe the 75th Anniversary of Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program. The celebration was officially launched on March 3, 2017, by CAP's National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez, at the organization's Command Council meeting in Arlington, Va.

The year-long celebration comes only a year after CAP commemorated the 75th anniversary of its founding on Dec. 1, 1941. The Cadet Program was established nearly a year later, on Oct. 1, 1942.

The memo authorizing the Cadet Program declared that any existing squadron could form a counterpart cadet unit for high school juniors and seniors, ages 15-18. Male members could sponsor one male cadet, and female members could sponsor one female cadet. The cadets had to have been citizens of the United States for at least 10 years, as well as their parents. And they had to be in sufficient physical condition for military service.

"It was initially established to prepare teenagers for military service," Vazquez said, and so the training focused on preflight skills, military law, drill and ceremonies, Morse code, and signals.

In spite of the strict membership requirements – which were deliberately kept that way until a solid membership base could be established – Civil Air Patrol recruited over 200,000 cadets in the first six months of the Cadet Program. The initial recruiting cost was \$200, which included printing and distributing brochures.

Over the years, the Cadet Program has undergone many changes. The program as it now exists was created in 1964 by Mr. Jack V. Sorenson, who is considered the father of the modern Cadet Program. Originally consisting of three milestone awards – Mitchell, Earhart and Spaatz – the program was revamped in 2003, with the elevation of the Wright Brothers Award (which had previously signified completion of Achievement 3 of the Cadet Program) to milestone award status; the creation of the Feik Achievement to signify completion of Achievement 3; the addition of the grades of cadet senior master sergeant and cadet chief master sergeant; and the addition of the Ira C. Eaker Award to signify completion of Phase IV of Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program.

While many are familiar with the national accomplishments of former CAP cadets, such as astronaut Eric Boe, New Mexico Wing wants to focus on the accomplishments of its local cadets.

"We want to show New Mexico Wing the contributions made by its former cadets," said New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs 1st Lt. Steven A. Lindquist. To date, New Mexico Wing has boasted 24 recipients of the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award – the highest award a cadet can earn – with many former Spaatz recipients holding key positions within the Wing. Among those Spaatz alumni are Group 800 Administrative Officer Maj. Gwen D. Sawyer, the first female cadet ever to earn the Spaatz Award, and Lt. Col. Beverly A. Vito of Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron.

"We also know of at least five cadets who have been appointed to service academies in the past five years," said Lindquist. "We hope that units within the Wing will provide us with additional information. We want to spotlight the contributions of cadets over the coming year." 🇺🇸



Left: Members of the Falcon Composite Squadron 305 present a Certificate of Appreciation to Mesa Mayor John Giles after receiving the Mayor's proclamation. (L-R) Capt. Mike Miller, 1st Lt. Kerry MacPherson, Mayor John Giles, Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, Maj. David Roden, and Lt. Col. Brandon Masangcay.

Arizona Wing's Falcon Composite Squadron Celebrates 50 Years of Service

by Lt. Col. Lori Raska, CAP, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On Feb. 27, 2017, during a meeting of the Mesa City Council, the members of Falcon Composite Squadron 305 received a proclamation from Mesa Mayor John Giles recognizing the Squadron's 50 years of service to the local community, Arizona, and the Nation. In his remarks, Mayor Giles said, "The members of the Falcon Squadron have truly been a foundation for volunteerism over the last half a century, contributing selflessly to our citizens."

This ceremony capped nearly a month of events recognizing the unit's 50 years of service as a chartered Civil Air Patrol squadron, established on Feb. 9, 1966. The events began in the early evening of Feb. 8, 2017, in front of the squadron building, with the retiring of the American flag in a solemn formal retreat ceremony.

Following the retreat ceremony, congratulatory letters from Civil Air Patrol National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez, and Southwest Region Commander Col. Mark Smith were read to past and present members of the squadron, who gathered to witness the occasion. In his letter, Gen. Vazquez wrote, "While many members have come and gone over the last five decades, you have all personified the spirit of volunteerism that makes this organization great. ... For the current members of the Falcon Composite Squadron, I challenge you to embrace your heritage, your Squadron's motto, *Semper Agilis* (Always Agile), and your Squadron's vision, "Everyone a Falcon." He was followed by Vice Mayor and City Council Member Dr. David Luna, who addressed the assembly.

Afterwards, the group enjoyed a 50th birthday celebration, during which Lt. Col. Annette Rood (CAP-Ret.), former squadron commander from 1974 to 1984, cut the cake. Lt. Col. Rood is the widow of the late Col. Henry "Hank" Rood, who was one of the founding squadron members in 1966, former Falcon Squadron commander from 1967 to 1974, and former Arizona Wing Commander.

Nearly 90 past and present squadron members were in attendance, along with several representatives from the Mesa City Council, the Falcon Airport executive staff, and CAP Arizona Wing leadership. Falcon Composite Squadron 305 Commander Lt. Col. (Dr.) Bob Ditch, echoed General Vazquez's sentiments when he said, "A unit's heritage is the foundation for knowing who you are and what you represent. It cannot be erased, taken lightly, or ignored; it forms the datum plane from which all future unit activities evolve. It was an honor to pay tribute to our past members, while rededicating our current membership for future missions."

On the following day, a smaller ceremony to raise a new American Flag marked the rededication of the squadron for its next 50 years of service, heralding a new era for Falcon Composite Squadron 305. 🇺🇸



Top: Los Alamos Composite Squadron Emergency Services Officer Maj. Mark Peters presents the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award to Cadet 2nd Lt. Jack W. Stafford. (All Photos: Maj. Dan Gabel, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Cadet Earns the General Billy Mitchell Award

by Maj. Dan Gabel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – On March 6, 2017, Civil Air Patrol cadet Jack W. Stafford, a member of the Los Alamos Composite Squadron, achieved a CAP milestone when he was presented the General Billy Mitchell award and afterwards promoted to cadet second lieutenant. His promotion signifies completion of Phase II of CAP's four-phase cadet program, which entitles him to advanced placement in Air Force basic training, makes him eligible for academic and flight scholarships and grants, and may even help him with officer training, should he decide to enroll in ROTC or apply to one of the service academies.



Left: The father of newly-promoted cadet master sergeant Bryce Gentile poses with his son and New Mexico Wing Vice Commander–North Lt. Col. Annette R. Peters.

Below: Cadet Chief Master Sgts. Zach Lang, Juan Romero and Gabe Fox were recognized for reaching the pinnacle of the NCO ranks, and for being one step away from earning the Mitchell Award.

Typically, only 15% of cadets reach this achievement. Stafford joined the Civil Air Patrol four years ago and wants to pursue a career as a bush pilot and Airframe and Power plant mechanic. According to Stafford, “It’s definitely taken a lot of work, and I’m very excited to have the honor of wearing this new rank insignia.”

His goal is to achieve the Amelia Earhart Award before he goes to college. (The Earhart Award signifies completion of Phase III of the Cadet Program, carries with it the grade of Cadet Captain, and entitles him to participate in the

International Air Cadet Exchange.)

Stafford was inspired by other cadets in the squadron who have achieved the Mitchell award. Since 2010, the Los Alamos Composite Squadron has had six cadet recipients of the Mitchell Award.

Promoted at that time was Bryce Gentile, who became a cadet master sergeant. Also recognized were Cadet Chief Master Sergeants Gabe Fox, Juan Romero and Zach Lang, who are well on their way to taking the Mitchell milestone exam. 🇺🇸



Right: Maj. Tom King gets ready to take a group of cadets for an orientation flight from the Kerrville/Kerr County Schreiner Field.

Below Left: Maj. Tom King teaches a group of cadets how to conduct a pre-flight before taking off from the Kerrville/Kerr County Schreiner Field.

Bottom: Maj. George Otto instructs Cadet Airman 1st Class Austin Lyman during an orientation ride weekend at the Kerrville/Kerr County Schreiner Field (Photos: 2nd Lt. Bill Wood, CAP)



Texas Wing Cadets go on Orientation Flights

by 2nd Lt. Bill Wood, CAP, Texas Wing

KERRVILLE, Texas – On Feb. 11, 2017, four Civil Air Patrol cadets experienced the thrill of flying through orientation flights provided by the Kerrville Composite Squadron. Each cadet flew two one-hour flights at the Kerrville/Kerr County Schreiner Field: one flight behind the controls on the right front seat, and the other one on the back seat.

Flying in the single-engine Cessna aircraft allowed the cadets to experience in practice the physical principles of flight that they have studied as part of their aerospace education instruction. The day began by observing how the pilots conducted the aircraft's pre-flight inspection. Then their pilot briefed them before the plane taxied from the tarmac to runway 12 for takeoff.

After reaching cruising altitude above 1000 feet – under the pilot's supervision – Cadet Tech. Sgt. Nehemiah Treibs, who was sitting on the front right seat, was allowed

to handle the airplane controls. Afterwards, Treibs said, "I liked the front seat a lot better than the back seat. I was surprised at how easy it was to control the airplane."

"I was nervous at first, but then really enjoyed flying," said Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ester Treibs

"Conducting orientation flights for cadets is a truly rewarding experience both for the cadet and the pilot," said Maj. Tom King, one of the orientation pilots. "We pilots hope that we are flying with cadets who might be the future of aviation. This is a way for us to give back to aviation what has been given to us: a love for flying." 🇺🇸





Left: Cadet 1st Lt. Brookelin J.V. Collins, of the Prescott Composite Squadron 206. *(Photo: Courtesy of Tina Collins)*
Below: Cadet 2nd Lt. Reyna Armbrust of the Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302. *(Photo: Maj. Mark Schadt, CAP)*

Arizona Wing Names Cadet Scholarship Winners

by Lt. Col. Robert Ditch, CAP, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On March 7, 2017, Cadet 1st Lt. Brookelin J.V. Collins, from the Prescott Composite Squadron 206, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Reyna Armbrust, from the Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302, were cited as the first Arizona Wing cadets selected to receive college scholarships in the Above & Beyond Cadet (ABC) College Orientation Program.

The venture is a joint effort between the Civil Air Patrol's Arizona Wing and American Public University (APU). The first-ever, Arizona Wing-hosted, scholarship program was designed to provide deserving Arizona

Wing cadets with the opportunity to take one APU course. APU is a fully-accredited university that offers numerous graduate and undergraduate programs and degrees.

The objective of the ABC program is to orient deserving CAP cadets to college academic rigor, study requirements and assignments, promoting higher education, and follow-on attendance in college. It is intended to raise the bar of professionalism and academic excellence within CAP and for the scholarship winners. Each cadet applying to the program must meet high standards and be nominated by his or her squadron commander.

Collins and Armbrust, both of them high school juniors, will enter college this semester and attend APU, where they will take a tuition-free, three semester-hour course of their choice. Collins will begin her collegiate career by taking an Introduction to Intelligence Studies course. Armbrust will be taking a course on Personalities Theories. 🍀





Left: Former Grayson County Judge Drue Bynum presents the Gen. Billy Mitchell award to Cadet 2nd Lt. Zane Truly at the North Texas Regional Airport. (Photo: Capt. Michael Bernier, CAP)

Texas Wing Cadet Earns the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award

by: Capt. Michael Bernier, CAP, Texas Wing

DENISON, Texas – On Feb. 27, 2017, Cadet 2nd Lt. Zane Truly, son of Dr. and Mrs. Ted Truly of Sherman and a member of the Texoma Composite Squadron, received the General Billy Mitchell Award. He was presented the award in recognition of his achievements in the Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program at a ceremony held at the squadron's facilities at the North Texas Regional Airport.

The General Billy Mitchell Award is named in honor of the aviation pioneer and advocate for an independent air force for the United States following World War I. It is the second milestone in the CAP Cadet Program, and is awarded to cadets who have completed eight of the 16 achievements in the program.

This award marks a cadet's transition from a cadet non-commissioned officer to cadet officer ranks. Approximately 15 percent of all cadets nationwide receive this award.

Former Grayson County Judge Drue Bynum, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and former Army officer, presented the

award.

In his remarks, Mr. Bynum recognized Truly's achievement and placed it in perspective for the rest of the squadron's cadets. "Here is somebody you can look up to as a role model, because he's done it," Bynum said.

Speaking directly to Truly, he said, "Continue to achieve great things, and I know you will."

Also attending the ceremony was Lt. Col. William Schroder, the CAP Texas Wing Group II commander. He presented Cadet Truly with a Group challenge coin to mark the occasion. In his remarks, he congratulated Truly on his accomplishment and reminded him of the challenges that lay ahead.

"While this is a big award, remember that you're only halfway through the program," Schroder said. "There are still three major milestones to go."

Cadet Truly has been a member of the CAP Cadet Program since May 2014. Until his promotion to cadet second lieutenant, he served as the squadron's cadet first sergeant. He regularly participates in the squadron's emergency services program.

Through CAP he has attended both the Air Force Specialized Undergraduate Flight Training Familiarization Course at Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas, and the Texas Wing Glider Flight Academy in Decatur, Texas. A student at Sherman High School as well as an accomplished glider pilot, Truly's goal is to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. 🇺🇸



Top: Ms. Barbara Connelly of the Lew Wallace Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presents Cadet Tech. Sgt. Shelby Webb with the DAR's Outstanding Cadet Award. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Michael Saul, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Cadet Receives Daughters of the American Revolution Award

by 2nd Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On March 2, 2017, at the meeting of the Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Shelby L. Webb received the Outstanding Cadet Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Webb, who is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was able to trace her ancestry back to the American Revolutionary War. Her selection for the award was not only based on her membership in Civil Air Patrol, but also her training in the United States Air Force Junior ROTC. Webb has put a great deal of effort into her training, demonstrating loyalty and patriotism, as well as her record of military and scholastic achievement. She is rated at the upper 25% of her classes in ROTC and academic subjects.

These qualities of dependability and good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership ability, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of ROTC training, amply qualified her for the award. 🇺🇸

Guest Editorial: My First Balloon Flight

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, was not only the Feast of the Epiphany on the Catholic liturgical calendar, but a personal epiphany for me as well, as that was the day I made my first balloon flight, a passenger in *Sunset Rise* – the chase balloon for *Integrity* – from the Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque.

I had joined Civil Air Patrol in October 1971, and at the age of 14 I had my first orientation flight in a glider in February 1972. In 1973, I had my first powered-flight orientation, and now, after almost 45 years, I was finally going to complete that trifecta of glider, powered and hot-air balloon flight.

I had fully intended to cover *Integrity's* launch from the ground, but Capt. Al Lowenstein of LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, the pilot of *Sunset Rise*, made me an offer I could not refuse.

"You want a ride?" he asked. "Sure!" I replied.

I clambered into the basket as gracefully as my age and weight would allow, and sooner than I realized we were airborne. Capt. Lowenstein showed me how to brace myself for takeoff and landing: by standing in the corner of the basket, facing inward and grasping the sides, much like a boxer in a boxing ring. That way, any sudden turbulence would throw me *into* the basket instead of out of it. "A reasonable precaution," I thought. "No reason for this to be my first *and* last balloon flight."

"Is this your first flight?" he asked me. "Yes," I said. "Mine, too," he teased, but I didn't quite believe him. Later I learned that he owned his own balloon flying school, and had been flying hot-air balloons since 1991.

Right: *Sunset Rise's* chase crew repacks the envelope.
(Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

Integrity was about 300 yards ahead of us, and above us most of the time. I took as many photos as I could, trying to keep the balloon in-frame the whole time. Capt. Lowenstein was able to radio Lt. Col. William Fitzpatrick, *Integrity's* pilot, to rotate the balloon so that the Civil Air Patrol logo was always facing us. I felt like a fashion photographer telling a temperamental model to make the right moves.

After being airborne for only 35 minutes, we touched down in an empty field just northeast of the Balloon Fiesta Park. The chase crew met us there, where we deflated *Sunset Rise*, and then packed up the envelope and basket and put them back in the trailer. Capt. Lowenstein gave me a victory orange juice for the trip back to the park.

Word had spread that this was my first flight, and when *Integrity's* chase crew arrived, both crews toasted my achievement with sparkling cider, and recited for me *The Balloonist's Prayer*:

*The winds have welcomed you with softness.
The sun has blessed you with his warm hands.
You have flown so high and so well that God has joined you in your laughter.
And he has set you gently back again into the loving arms of Mother Earth.* 🍷

Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP,
New Mexico Wing PAO



On Language

Meditations on Knowledge

AUSTIN, Texas – How old is philosophy? The word *philosophy* takes its name from the Classical Greek *φιλοσοφία*, through the Latin *philosophia* that combines *philo* (love) + *sophia* (knowledge, wisdom), the latter stemming from *sophis*, a word of unknown origin. Ancient Greeks were very mindful of meanings and the origin of words, to the point that they invented *philology* and proceeded to write down everything they knew, yet no mention of the origin of *sophis* has survived. Today, scholars assume that the term predates Greek civilization, a traversal that started in the 8th century BC, almost three thousand years ago.

In Western civilization, the Greeks were the first to separate philosophy from religion, thus freeing philosophy from restrictions imposed upon it by any belief in the divine. If before this time much had been explained away by, "It is the will of the gods," philosophy now demanded discourse, proof, and logical resolution. This was a great step forward for the times, when early Greek thinkers gave birth to philosophy, now an essential part of our culture, especially its branch called *Ethics*. Chief among Classical Greek philosophers was [Socrates](#), who only spoke, rather than writing down anything in his lifetime. Instead, his thinking was recorded by his students, especially Plato (and to a lesser extent Xenophon, Aristotle and Aristophanes). It could be said that all we know about Socrates' thinking is second-hand knowledge.

From the start, one of philosophy's Big Questions has centered on knowledge, specifically the meaning of knowledge, the accessibility of knowledge, and even the possibility of knowledge. Later writings attribute to Socrates the saying, "I only know that I know nothing." On first reading, this could sound flip, silly, or even ironic. Most uneducated people feel it to be a truism, emulated daily by most everyone on the planet. For them, all it takes is studying nothing, not thinking much, and leading a worry-free existence. But what Socrates meant was truly deep.

The full quotation from Socrates is, "I only know that I know nothing and, knowing that I know nothing, I know something; because I know that I know nothing." Reading the fully reasoned statement, we come up to the weakness of abbreviated quotes, because in the full thought, Socrates is actually saying that he does know something. Yet, this "something" that he knows is restricted by what he knows, that is "nothing" as stated at the very beginning. Although at first reading this might appear to be circular reasoning, it is not.

Socrates observed that knowledge existed in layers, and no sooner had a layer been lifted to reveal something about the thing to be known that yet another layer was discovered, in turn creating additional unknowns. The more one delved into it, the more unknowns one lifted, and the less attainable the ultimate knowledge seemed to become. "Why is that?" asked himself Socrates. Seeking through self-questioning became his way of reaching out for the knowledge that he sought.

From this experience, and his single-minded pursuit of the mechanics of knowledge, the "Socratic method" was born. It is made up simply of a series of questions, posed to help students find out the true nature of the issue at hand, the extent of their knowledge about the subject, and the road to discovering the real meaning of the unknown. He is quoted as having said, "I know you won't believe me, but the highest form of Human Excellence is to question oneself and others."

Socrates, an Athenian born in the 5th century BC, lived to the age of 70 into the 4th century. In his day, he was considered to be an extremely old man.

Today we have no way of knowing how much of Plato's quoting of Socrates is really Socrates speaking, as opposed to Plato's additions to and interpretations of what his mentor actually said. However, since Socrates was his teacher, and the ethics that Socrates taught would have discouraged Plato from injecting untrue thoughts into his narrative of what Socrates had said, we take it on faith that the quotations are factual and authentic. If Socrates managed to awaken in Plato a thirst for knowledge, guided him into novel paths of thought, and Plato chose to credit Socrates with having taught this to him and others, then we ought to accept Plato's words at face

value. After all, from humanity's point of view, the real achievement lies in having arrived at the ideas, not who first expressed them.

Let us now return to, "I only know that I know nothing." The Greeks, especially the Athenians, led an orderly life, traveled as much as they could, and learned from other cultures. The neighboring Egyptians were practical people who worked out real-world problems, such as re-staking all land markings erased from the fields by the Nile's yearly flooding. To do this, they created a simple triangulation method to quickly measure plots of land and restore ownership to the farmers so that they could plant the next crop. Having observed this in the field, the Greek mathematician Euclid used it to develop *geometry*, a word that literally means "earth measurement." To whom does the credit belong? To the Egyptians for having thought of the practical solution to a yearly land problem, or to the Greeks because Euclid organized it and took it to a higher plane, writing his [Elements](#) that became an obligatory textbook until today, when its basic principles have already been accepted as cornerstones of Western knowledge?

Ideas can far outlive those who formulated them. And, the longer they last, the greater their value.

Socrates observed that knowledge itself influences the acquisition of knowledge. Perhaps unwittingly, he laid the foundation for orderly study by suggesting that knowledge is built on a series of layers. The word *discover* reflects this thinking, as it is built from *dis* (negation) + *cover* (hide or guard). Everything is there, already invented, it only needs to be found. In other words, it must be *discovered*. "There is nothing new under the sun," says the Holy Bible, Ecclesiastes 1:9, written (perhaps coincidentally) about the 4th to 3rd century BC.

As Socrates reached the boundaries of his ability to discover and acquire knowledge, he came to the conclusion that he lacked the tools to remove the layers that hid these eternal truths from him. Thus, he was moved to declare that the lack of knowledge itself was a barrier to acquiring knowledge, and that our faulty acquisition of knowledge could only lead to *discovering* the extent of our ignorance.

The corollary of this inherently human inability is that the majority of those who suffer it decline to admit it to themselves, therefore closing themselves to the possibility that there might be more knowledge yet to be acquired. Who has not seen a medieval map (most often a modern reproduction) that shows one or more oceans extending beyond the continent's shoreline? We take it for granted that at the far edge of the map the cartographer usually placed a drawing of a sea serpent with the legend "Here be dragons."

As they sailed the oceans, ancient mariners must have heard the sound of whale calls through the hull of their ship, not knowing where they came from. Since most people demand causality, and the sound came from an invisible source, the sailors ended up assigning it to supernatural sea creatures, deities, or even "sea serpents" that existed mostly in their imagination. Is this knowledge? Given that the sailors had no other way of explaining it, it was a start.

For instance, at that time people thought that the Earth was flat, and since flat is flat, and a table is also flat, the Earth was thought to be a giant table. This being the accepted analogy of the day, what happens when something is placed beyond a table's edge, if not fall to the ground? Therefore, when mariners who had ventured sailing far from shore heard whale calls through the hull, they had no other explanation than to think them to be the sound of sea dragons.

The sad part is that knowledge, an unchanging truth that is already there, doesn't become knowledge until at least one person has understood it and taken ownership of it. This can be a life-long endeavor.

How, then, is any of this applicable to our contemporary world? In an interview for *Washington Technology's* November/December, 2010 issue, Kathy Carrier – President and CEO of Briljen, an 8(a) corporation – is quoted as having said, "A major roadblock for us is our own ignorance. We didn't know what we didn't know." 🐉

Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP
SWR Director of Public Affairs

The Safety Corner

Safety is an Attitude

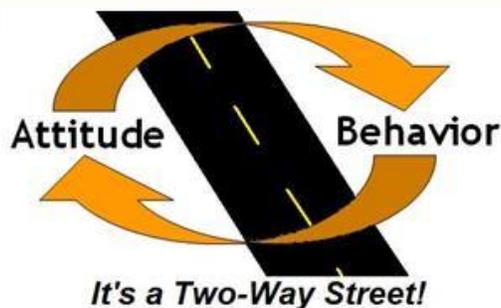
My article this month is about safety behavior, our attitude towards safety, and the way people process that concept in their own mind. We all know the definition of safety, or have some hint about it, but safety goes far beyond concepts and definitions, and has a lot more to do with attitudes we develop into unsafe or risky conditions. Many safety professionals define safety in this attitude- and behavior-oriented way:

"The state in which the risk to harm to persons or damage to property is reduced to, and maintained at or below, an acceptable level, through a continuing process of hazard identification and risk management."

Therefore, safety is not a static concept, it requires action. I like to highlight that this definition mentions "a continuing process," letting us know that we need to be aware, all the time, and that safety requires dedication and integration of our mental processes in the task we are about to do. That is known as situational awareness, and is exactly what we need to understand in order to maintain an acceptable level of safety within our organization.

It is also important to understand that hazards should be identified on a daily basis, because they are unique to every operation, and this is maybe the most important part of safety. We can't rely on hazards that have been already identified since conditions may have changed. We must learn that safety requires a continuing search for new hazards and threats that arise in our operation. The best sources to identify them, and be aware of, are Safety Reports, so it is very important for the organization to have an efficient and reliable reporting system in order to transmit what the operational personnel see and identify. In CAP, we currently use the Safety Management System.

And, finally, once new threats and hazards are identified, we need to move forward and modify or establish procedures to manage these risks. And managing each risk also requires a lot of action because it is a very dynamic process, and we need to maintain continuous vigilance in order to ensure proper establishment of this procedures. We also need to understand that procedures are dynamic and need to be continuously adjusted to work properly. Therefore, next time you think about safety, don't stop on just a definition, and think that you need to take action and go beyond your imagination in a creative and dynamic process, because maintaining safety requires us to foster a positive and proactive attitude that will lead us to engage in a safe behavior.



SWR has a total of 26 closed mishaps to date for FY17

Bodily Injury, 18: Recurring mishaps fainting during formations, nausea during PT, trips and falls

Vehicle, 2: Backing and animal strike

Aircraft, 6: Recurring mishaps, hangar rash and blown tires. 🚗

Lt. Col. John Kruger, CAP
SWR Director of Safety

How the Southwest Region Public Affairs Awards Program Works

Starting with the July, 2015 issue of The Fly-By, Southwest Region Commander Col. Mark Smith has decided to continue the January, 2013 directive of then Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank A. Buethe in that region will recognize contributions to The Fly-By as follows:

1. A SWR **CAP Achievement Award** for article publication on three different issues of The Fly-By. Multiple articles in the same issue will count as one.
2. A SWR **Commander's Commendation Award** for article publication on an additional six different issues. Multiple articles in the same issue will count as one.

Region will issue the certificate and send it to the winner's unit at the first available opportunity. The award certificate will be presented at the first available opportunity.

How to Make Submissions Suitable for Publication

Since The Fly-By is posted on the SWR website, it is an external communication. Therefore, as required by CAPR 190-1, Sec. 7.b.(7), articles must be written in Associated Press Style. If a submission that is not in AP Style is selected for publication, it will be edited to this standard. (NHQ/PA has been using AP Style for all external communications since 2005.)

AP Style is defined in the Associated Press Stylebook (available at www.ap.org). For a brief summary, please see "Associated Press Style in a Nutshell," overleaf.

"Article" is defined as a narrative that:

- Is written in AP Style;
- Answers the questions Who, What, When, Where, and Why, and preferably also How;
- Has one or more quotes from participants, with attribution;
- Has two or more digital photos attached (not embedded in the text), with appropriate cutlines (photo captions). An article submitted without digital photos that is selected for publication will count as a half-credit. For full credit, it must have accompanying photos.

General advice on writing a good article

- **Get all the facts right**, stick to the facts, and do not use hearsay or express opinion.
- **Take good digital photos.**
 - Do not use digital zoom, or else your photos will lack good focus and definition;
 - Take "action shots" of people doing something interesting that is material to the article; for each photo, identify the people on it by grade, name, and unit.
 - Make sure everyone is in the correct uniform and you identify all, as per above.
 - **Note:** Good photos are essential to add immediacy and flavor to the story.
- **Get good quotes.**
 - Ask participants for their opinion;
 - Get full grade, name, position title and unit of assignment for each quote.
 - Get the individual's consent to publish the quote as recorded (read it back).
 - **Note:** Getting quotes is how you get to express opinion, and get your readers to share the experience that you are writing about.
- **Write in good, idiomatic, unadorned English.**
 - Do not "pad" your sentences, such as saying "due to the fact that" when "because" will do;
 - Avoid trite expressions, such as "it goes without saying" – if it does, don't say it;
 - Avoid colloquial expressions;
 - Do not write in acronyms – always define the first instance, such as "Federal Aviation Administration" before you use FAA;
 - No nicknames – unless famous, such as "Ike" for Pres. Dwight E. Eisenhower. 🇺🇸

Associated Press Style in a Nutshell

Below are the most important rules to keep in mind when writing in AP Style

- Write the title in normal English-language capitalization. Never all in caps.
- Add your byline below the article title
- Do not format the text in the article (only exceptions are: bullet comments and numbered paragraphs in a section that details a process or sequence).
- Do not indent the first line of a paragraph.
- Use AP Style rules for punctuation.
- Single space the article. At the end of each paragraph, execute two end-of lines (Enter key).
- Do not introduce artificial paragraphing by hitting the Enter key at the end of each line in your article. Instead, let the text wrap naturally and tap two Enter keys at the end of the paragraph.
- Use only a single space after a period.
- Insert a dateline at the beginning of the article, following AP Style rules.
- Answer the 5Ws: Who, What, Where, When, Why + the honorary W: How. In writing a CAP article, you will always know the 5Ws.
- Write all dates in AP style.
- Do not use postal codes instead of state abbreviations (not OK but Okla., not NM but N.M.) but some states have no abbreviation, such as Texas.
- Write all military grades in AP Style.
- Write the article in the third person singular.
- Express no opinion.
- To express opinion, use one or more quotes of qualified sources – always get the quoted person's permission to include the quote, unless it is a matter of record (printed article or recorded audio-visual). Get the quoted person's grade, name, job title and organization.
- Never self-quote.
- Identify all persons by grade or title, name, job title if material, and organization.
- Never refer to a young person as "kid."
- When a young person is a CAP cadet, never use "kid," "boy," "girl" or "child" but identify each one by grade, full name (or last name only – never first name only), and unit of assignment.
- Never use "their" for the possessive of a singular subject, such as, "the cadet took their meal."
- Avoid the abbreviations i.e. and e.g. You may know what each one means, and the Latin words they represent, but most people confuse the two. Be clear. Write in English and leave Latin and non-English to scholars.
- Refer to CAP members by grade, name, duty position and unit of assignment. Never by first name.
- On second or subsequent references, use only the last name, except when there are two persons with the same last name, in which case the use of both first and last name is preferred (never just the first names).
- In the case of CAP or military commanders or higher ranking senior members, on second reference use the grade and last name.
- Do not use Lt. as a grade. Lt. is a mode of address. The correct grade may be 2nd Lt. or 1st Lt., but never Lt. The Navy is the only service that has the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the good rules of English grammar and syntax, and follow them.
- **For best results**, buy the latest copy of the Associated Press Stylebook, available at a modest cost at www.ap.org – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖