



# The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the  
**Southwest Region**  
January, 2019



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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(s),
- Photographer, and
- Anyone in the article or appearing in photos.

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

[awoodgate@austin.rr.com](mailto:awoodgate@austin.rr.com)

Message size limit: 20 MB

## **SWR Commander's Corner**

Welcome to 2019!

The past year has been very busy with a lot of positive changes for CAP and our volunteers!

We have seen significant advances in all of our major mission areas, and this trend will continue in 2019.

Progress in our new Professional Development program is accelerating.

We have new cadet pilot training opportunities, a new Character Development curriculum, and new Mission Chaplain SQTRs.

We have a rapidly expanding UAS program and should see the new safety and risk management program rolled out by this coming Spring.

There will be four Aerospace Education Conferences in Southwest Region alone in 2019.

And we will have our fourth multi-region exercise and third Southwest Region Rodeo.

CAP set a record with 155 lives saved during 2018, and Southwest Region was a big part of that by participating in 433 Search and Rescue missions.

This is an impressive list of programs, tools and events, but none of that makes a difference without you, our dedicated volunteers.

Thank you for what you are doing for our organization, our communities and nation, making a difference on a daily basis, growing future citizens and leaders, saving lives and inspiring the next generation through aerospace education and STEM. 🇺🇸

**Col. Joe R. 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/](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.**

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### **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](mailto:awoodgate@austin.rr.com). 🇺🇸



**Top:** Civil Air Patrol National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith, flanked by Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Forest Nelson and Cadet Col. Dakota Cisneros, lay a wreath at the grave of Cadet Tech Sgt. Jonathan Hoover, formerly of Santa Fe Composite Squadron. (Photo: Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff, CAP)

## **National Commander Honors Fallen New Mexico Wing Cadet**

*by Capt. C. John Graham, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

SANTA FE, N.M. – The winter cold did not deter Civil Air Patrol and other organizations from showing their respects to the thousands of veterans interred at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

On December 15, 2018, CAP members from the Santa Fe Composite Squadron laid 108 wreaths on specified veterans' graves. Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Squadron, Tony Hillerman Middle School Cadet Squadron, and the Los Alamos Composite Squadron also placed wreaths, as did Daughters of the American Revolution and the Blue Star Mothers, who have sons or daughters serving in the military. Overall, some 2,100 wreaths were placed, by CAP and other organizations.

Cadet Senior Airman Priya Hashem and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Forest Nelson, along with two ROTC cadets, provided the color guard. Hashem and Nelson, with Cadet Master Sgt. Cassie Gravel, escorted the Blue Star Mothers as they placed wreaths.

A highlight of the event was an opening address by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith. An Air Force veteran himself, he spoke of the history of veterans' service, mentioning the Buffalo Soldiers and Navajo Code Talkers buried at the cemetery. Later, he placed a wreath on the grave of Cadet Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Hoover, formerly of the Santa Fe Squadron.

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is an annual nationwide tribute that, this year, was also celebrated in Europe. According to the national WAA organization, with each of the nearly 1.8 million sponsored veterans' wreaths placed, an American hero's name was spoken aloud so the veteran would not be forgotten. Also, for the first time ever, some 9,387 Maine-made Balsam Fir veterans' wreaths were placed at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, in France. 🇺🇸





**Left** Cadet 2nd Lt. Tristan Obregon, CAP, (left) salutes a Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sergeant from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma during the ceremonial placement of wreaths honoring U.S. military service branches. (Photos: Cadet Tech. Sgt. Elena Paz, CAP)

**Below:** Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Joey Burkart, CAP, places a wreath on a veteran's grave at Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Yuma.

### **Arizona Wing Squadron Participates in Wreaths Across America**

*by Cadet Tech. Sgt. Elena Paz, CAP, Arizona Wing*

YUMA, Ariz. – On Dec. 15, 2018, members of the Yuma Composite Squadron joined Americans across the country to pay their respects to those who have served and lost their lives in military service. Wreaths Across America is celebrated nationwide at more than 1,400 locations in all 50 states, small towns and crowded cities alike. Yuma was one of the many cities that took part in this annual event, hosting two events that were held at Desert Lawn Memorial and Sunset Vista Cemeteries.

More than 300 volunteers took part at the Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery, helping to place 865 wreaths on veterans' graves. Yuma squadron members assisted in distributing wreaths and took part in a ceremony with representatives from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. The ceremony involved placing six ceremonial wreaths to represent the U.S. military service branches and POWs/MIAs.

This ceremony was repeated at Sunset Vista Cemetery, where CAP members worked with U.S. Marines to place another set of six wreaths. The CAP members and Marines were joined by representatives from the Boy Scouts, the Vietnam Veterans Association color guard, members of American Legion Posts 19 and 56, and more than 200 attendees who honored veterans by placing wreaths on their graves. All honorees' names were announced, including their rank and military branch, along with thanks for their service and sacrifice. 🇺🇸





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**Left:** CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith reports on the state of the organization. (All photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

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## ***New Mexico Wing Conference Explores a Variety of Topics***

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Over the weekend of Nov. 2-4, 2018, at the Wyndham Hotel and Suites in Albuquerque, Civil Air Patrol's New Mexico Wing held its annual conference. This was an opportunity for cadets and senior members from all over the state to meet, mingle and catch up on the latest CAP developments.

Festivities began on the evening of Nov. 2, with a no-host reception for senior members, and a Cadet Ball for the cadets where, with minimal senior member supervision, they dined with their peers, making trips to the Grog Bowl for good-natured infractions of the Rules of the Mess.

Saturday's activities began early on Nov. 3 with the General Session. The Eagle Cadet Squadron color guard posted the colors, the

invocation was given by New Mexico Wing Chaplain (Maj.) Randolph Nolen, and Civil Air Patrol National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith kicked it off, reporting on how the organization was doing, and offering his vision for the future.

Smith said that CAP saved 155 lives during the last fiscal year, that ended on Sept. 30, 2018. Members flew over 850 search and rescue missions, and made innovative use of technology, to include radar and cell phone forensics to locate subjects. "The basics of search and rescue haven't changed, but our technology has allowed us to save more lives," he said.

Smith touched on a variety of program areas, and the steps National Headquarters is taking to improve them, such as increasing funding for cadet orientation flights thus providing funds to attend a flight academy for cadets who would not otherwise be able to do so, creating a separate Cyber program for senior members, and folding cyber operations into the Emergency Services program area.

**Right:** New Mexico Wing Counterdrug Officer Lt. Col. Alan Fisher is recognized by New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mike Lee for having run the outstanding counterdrug program in all of Civil Air Patrol.

**Below:** Cadet Master Sgt. Olivia Spafford receives the award for New Mexico Wing Cadet NCO of the Year.

Smith also focused on the importance of diversity and inclusion, and how it is tied to CAP's core value of Respect. He mentioned the increase in Aerospace Education members, and how CAP's Aerospace Connections program is now being implemented in 48 of CAP's 52 wings. Finally, he focused on the importance of growing CAP's NCO program, the need for professionalism, and his vision for CAP: *One Civil Air Patrol, excelling in service to our nation and our members.*

New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mike Lee recognized those individuals and units who had excelled during the previous year. He also presented to New Mexico Wing Assistant Director of Communications Griffyn G. Lane the Civil Air Patrol's Gill Robb Wilson Award, the highest professional development award that a senior member can achieve.

Lee recognized a record five squadrons for having earned the Civil Air Patrol's Quality Cadet Unit Award: Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron, Eagle Cadet Squadron, LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, Los Alamos Composite Squadron and Santa Fe Composite Squadron. He also gave special recognition to Spirit Squadron, since this was the eighth year in a row for them to have earned the award.

Lee also recognized New Mexico Wing Counterdrug Officer Lt. Col. Alan Fisher for making the wing's counterdrug program the best in the nation in 2018. In an aside, Lee called the conference "bittersweet," since the 2018 Wing Conference will be the last one over which he presides as wing commander, because his term of office expires in June, 2019.



Before adjourning to allow attendance to breakout sessions, Smith presented Cadet Col. Destiny Maurer with CAP's Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award, the highest award that a cadet can earn.

At the awards banquet that evening, individuals and units were recognized for outstanding duty performance during the previous year. Maj. Gen. Smith, as guest speaker, spoke of the need for a common vision, a common mission, and a level of excellence everyone in CAP can be proud of. "If we can each be trained individually, then squadrons, then wings, then Civil Air Patrol, imagine how effective we would be," he said. 🇺🇸







**Top:** (L-R) Lt. Col. Victor Santana, Lt. Col. Todd Scioneaux, Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, Maj. Al Spain, and Lt. Col. Clyde Woolfolk (Photo: CAP NHQ Staff)

### ***Five Louisiana Wing Members Receive Awards at CAP National Conference***

*by Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

NEW ORLEANS – Louisiana Wing Civil Air Patrol (CAP) won 5 National-level awards that were announced at the National Conference in Anaheim, Ca., on August 25, 2018. Louisiana Wing Director of External Aerospace Education Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford won the Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award, Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Victor Santana won the Jack Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year Award, Louisiana Wing Inspector General Lt. Col. Todd Scioneaux won the Inspector General of the Year Award, Maj. Alfred Spain won the Lt. Col. T. Keith Riddle Aircrew Member of the Year Award, and Lt. Col. Clyde Woolfolk, Jr., won the Col. Edwin W. Lewis Jr. Incident Staff Member of the Year Award. 🇺🇸



**Top:** In observance of Veterans Day, Cadet Sponsor and Cadet Members of Falcon Composite Squadron 305 placed flags along the memorial avenues at Mountain View Cemetery. (Photo: Lt. Col. Robert Ditch, CAP)

## ***Arizona Wing Squadrons Support Veterans Day Events***

*by Lt. Col. Robert L. Ditch and Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing*

MESA / PHOENIX, Ariz. – Civil Air Patrol squadrons were invited to participate in numerous activities held in conjunction with Veterans Day on November 11, 2018. Arizona Wing's two largest squadrons, Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302, in northwest Phoenix, and Falcon Composite Squadron 305 in Mesa, on the east side of the Phoenix metropolitan area, both represented CAP at events from one side of town to the other.

For senior and cadet members of the Falcon Squadron, activities to recognize America's veterans began as the sun was rising on Saturday morning, Nov. 10, 2018. On that day, squadron members assembled at the Mountain View Cemetery in Mesa, Ariz., to place American flags along the cemetery's main avenue and branching streets. The squadron does this every year, on both Veterans Day and Memorial Day, when small flags also are placed at each



veteran's grave site. In addition to these two memorial events, the squadron also participates each December in the *Wreaths Across America* program.

The second part of the weekend's recognition activities came on Monday, Nov. 12, 2018, when the Falcon Squadron cadets marched in the City of Mesa's annual Veterans Day parade. Nearly two dozen members participated in this event competing for the Military Award, which was presented to the squadron after the parade.

On the other side of town, cadets from Deer Valley Squadron also had a full schedule of Veterans Day activities. On Nov. 11, 2018, the squadron's long-standing relationship with the Sun City West Senior Living Community continued with the presentation of the colors and conversations between the cadets and residents. Each year, in observance of Memorial Day, Deer Valley cadets raise the colors at the facility and serve ice cream cones to the residents.

The squadron also was invited to conduct a flag-raising ceremony at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix early on Nov. 12, 2018. Later that day, about 20 cadets and several senior members from Deer Valley squadron marched in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. 🇺🇸

**Below:** Cadets and senior members from Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 marched in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Amber O'Donnell, CAP)







**Top:** Cadets pose for a group photo with CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith.

**Below:** Cadets participate in the model-building activity. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)



### ***Airplane Model-Building Leads to Photo-Op with National Commander***

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - A class on airplane model-building turned into a photo opportunity with Civil Air Patrol's National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith.

The class, led by Cadet Maj. Jerrick Kendall, addressed how to make paper



airplanes using a paper template, cardboard and a hot-glue gun. After cadets were briefed on the safety aspects of the activity, they worked on their models. Once they had finished, they had the chance to be photographed with the National Commander.

While a total of 15 cadets (plus one parent) had individual photos taken, the entire group gathered for one class photo at session's end. 🇺🇸

**Below:** Cadet Maj. Kendall briefs cadets on the model-building process.





**Top:** Stinson Voyager in 1940's CAP paint scheme restored by Spirit of Tulsa Commemorative Air Force. (Photos: 1st Lt. Kathy Sexton, CAP, unless otherwise noted)

**Below:** In front of restored Stinson Voyager, faux-vintage photo of 1st Lt. Kathy Sexton in reproduction WWII CAP uniform and Cadet Col. Kurt LeVan in WWII USAAF uniform. (Photo: Lloyd Easton, CAF)

## ***Civil Air Patrol History Flies Over Tulsa***

*by 1st Lt. Kathy Sexton, CAP, Oklahoma Wing*

TULSA, Okla. – A Stinson Voyager has called Tulsa home for two years. Air worthy since 1946, the 1947 aircraft has been restored by Tulsa's Commemorative Air Force (CAF). The plane is painted in historic red from World War II era, complete with Civil Air Patrol insignia. Spirit of Tulsa Squadron with CAF received the Stinson from the Houston area. The Tulsa squadron has logged almost 300 hours restoring the plane's interior.





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**Left:** Spirit of Tulsa CAF member Lloyd Easton stands by his Stinson project.

**Below:** Stinson Voyager cockpit restored by Spirit of Tulsa Commemorative Air Force.



“This plane is an important post-war aircraft,” said Lloyd Easton of Tulsa CAF. “CAP was extremely important during the Second World War, and has been instrumental in aviation history for decades”

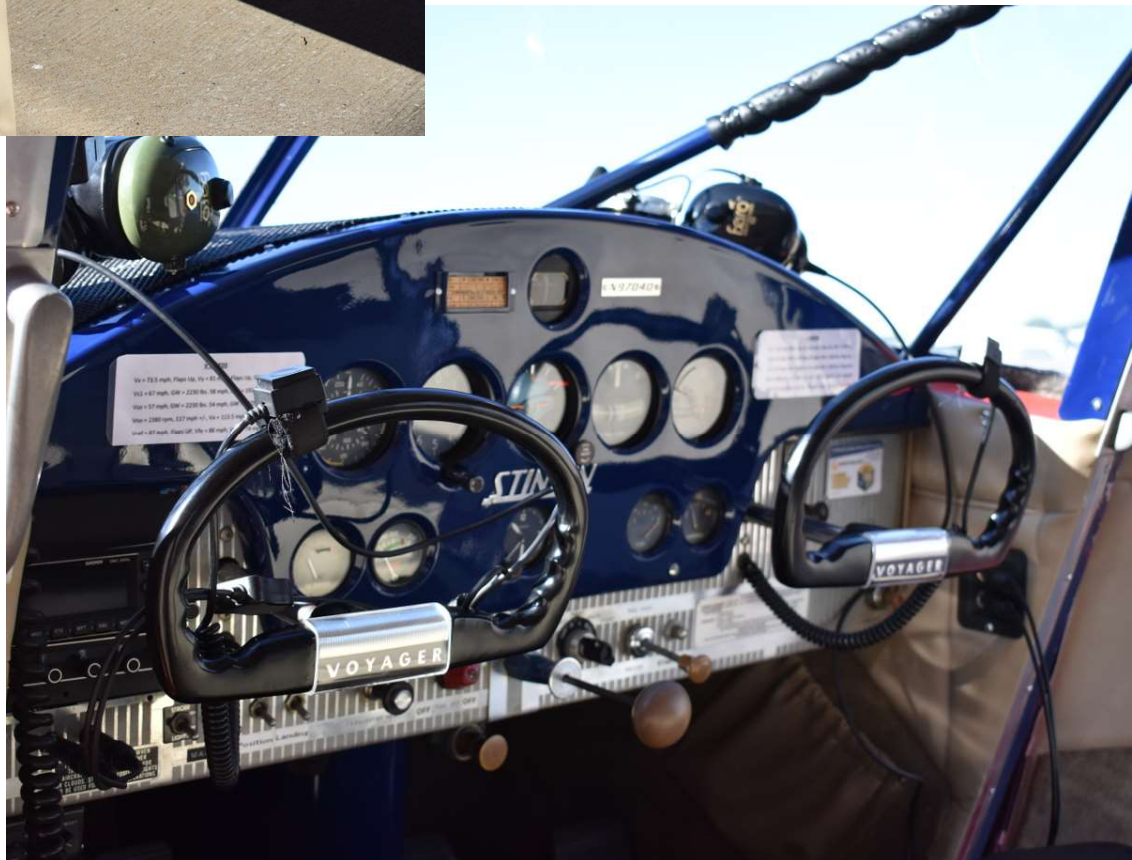
The Houston squadron received the plane in 1970, but the squadron was not able to maintain the plane correctly. When the Spirit of Tulsa Squadron obtained the plane two years ago, it had its original engine with 1,173 hours since new. The interior is the area where the Tulsa squadron has had to put all their volunteer hours.

“We are extremely pleased at the end result of our hours to complete the cockpit,” Easton said. “She is a beautiful machine.”

CAF and CAP have had a working relationship for several years. Civil Air Patrol composite squadrons in the Tulsa area help Spirit of Tulsa each year with their annual Hangar Dance; one of the largest in the nation. Civil Air Patrol cadets perform the opening

color guard and presentation of colors before the hangar dance. Cadets also stand guard at static displays of CAF's PT 19, their Stinson and other historic aircraft.

To fund their missions, Spirit of Tulsa sells rides on their restored historic aircraft. 🇺🇸





**Top:** 2nd Lt. Wesley Goldenetz, CAP, talks with a young visitor in the cockpit of a CAP airplane. (Photo: 1st Lt. Aaron Feller, CAP)

### ***Scottsdale Airport Events Involve Two Arizona Wing Squadrons***

*by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing*

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – On Nov. 3, 2018, members of the Paradise Valley Cadet Squadron and the Scottsdale Senior Squadron participated in two events at the Scottsdale, Ariz., Airport.





**Above:** (L-R) 2nd Lt. Wesley Goldenetz and 1st Lt. Aaron Feller demonstrate how the flight controls (rudder, ailerons, and elevators) work during a "ground school" for children participating in the Sky Kids event. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Karl Leach, CAP)

Most of the day was devoted to celebrating the opening of the airport's new Aviation Business Center. The two CAP squadrons have meeting space in the new building, alongside the U.S. Customs Service and the Scottsdale Airport administrative offices.

During the grand opening event, CAP displayed two static aircraft – a Cessna 182 assigned to the 388th Composite Squadron in Glendale, Ariz., and the Cessna 206 assigned to the Scottsdale Senior Squadron. The CAP display also included a video loop showcasing a variety of CAP activities and programs as well as displays of aerospace education materials and membership information.

"This event helped connect us with several potential new CAP members, along with informing the general public about the very important services we provide to our communities," said CAP 1st Lt. Aaron Feller, commander of the Scottsdale Senior Squadron.

The day also featured a flying event with Sky Kids Arizona, a charity that provides opportunities for special needs children to fly in general aviation aircraft along with a parent or friend. Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members also helped with the Sky Kids event, including support for the "ground school."

"The ground school aerospace and safety presentations, given throughout the day, made use of a CAP aircraft and provided great information to all those flying during the day's Sky Kids activities," Feller said. 🇺🇸



**Right:** The American flag flies at half-staff in honor of former President George H. W. Bush. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

**Below right:** Southwest Region Command NCO Senior Master Sgt. Charles Grosvenor, a retired Navy chief petty officer, presides over the ceremonies.

**Bottom:** CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith addresses the audience.



**Wreaths Across America Honors Veterans, Former New Mexico Wing Commanders**

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

SANTA FE, N.M. – On Dec. 15, 2018 – just a little over two weeks since the passing of former President George H. W. Bush on Nov. 30 – members of Civil Air Patrol’s New Mexico Wing, along with other organizations, honored the nation’s fallen at the Wreaths Across America (WAA) wreath-laying ceremony at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

While the American flag flew at half-staff in honor of the former President – himself a veteran of



World War II – spectators gathered to hear the message of Wreaths Across America: Remember, Honor and Teach: Remember Our Fallen U.S. Veterans; Honor Those Who Serve; Teach Your Children the Value of Freedom.

The ceremony began promptly at 10:00 a.m., to coincide with the noon starting time at Arlington National Cemetery, where Wreaths Across America was first launched. A combined color guard, consisting of cadets from Santa Fe Composite Squadron and Naval JROTC cadets from Santa Fe High School, posted the colors. Southwest Region Command NCO Senior Master Sgt. Charles Grosvenor, himself a retired Navy chief petty officer, presided as master of ceremonies







**Above:** Cadet Airman 1st Class Jessamine Wignall of Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron lays a wreath at the grave of U.S. Army Maj. John D. Shelby, a veteran of WWII and Korea.

“We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free, and on this day, we shall not forget you,” Grosvenor said.

Addressing those veterans who came to pay their respects, he added, “We thank those of you serving us today, and we thank you for your service.”

Members of the Blue Star Mothers, who have sons or daughters serving in the armed forces, and Gold Star Mothers, whose sons or daughters have been killed in action, laid wreaths in honor of the six uniformed services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine – as well as a wreath in honor of those veterans reported as prisoners of war or missing in action.

“These individuals have never returned to their families or homes” said Grosvenor, his voice breaking. “We shall never forget them.”





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**Left:** Bagpiper Keith Henry of the New Mexico Pipe and Drum Corps plays “Amazing Grace.”

**Below:** CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith, himself a former New Mexico Wing Commander, salutes the grave of former New Mexico Wing commander Col. Robert B. Haulenbeek, who passed away on Dec. 9, 2018.

Grosvenor then introduced National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith, who paid tribute to the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. He praised the Navajo Code Talkers, 12 of whom are buried at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, as well as the Buffalo Soldiers, the Tuskegee Airmen, and veterans of all races, saying that sacrifice knows no color.

The formal portion of the ceremony concluded with a bugler playing *Taps*, and a bagpiper playing *Amazing Grace*. Then volunteers laid some 2,500 wreaths throughout the cemetery. While the cemetery designates certain sections each year for wreaths to be laid, some people

have grave-specific requests, which the cemetery does its best to honor.

Lt. Col. Beverly Vito, of Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron, laid a wreath at the grave of Col. Earl Livingston, CAP, who served as New Mexico Wing commander from 1975 to 1979, and was a personal friend of Vito’s from the time she joined as a cadet in 1964.

Smith, himself a former New Mexico Wing commander, laid a wreath at the grave of Col. Robert Haulenbeek, CAP, who served as New Mexico Wing commander from 1988 to 1991, and who had passed away last Dec. 9, 2018.

After laying the wreath at the veteran’s grave, the person rendering the honor speaks that veteran’s name aloud, because, in the words of WAA’s Executive Director, Karen Worcester, “In truth, a person dies twice. Once when he stops breathing, and a second time when someone mentions his or her name for the last time.” For a select few, their names were mentioned once again, so as their memory will not be forgotten. 🇺🇸







**Top:** First Lt. Louis Edward Perez, U.S. Army Air Corps. (Photos: Capt Larry Beane, CAP, unless otherwise shown)

## ***WWII Veteran Army Pilot visits Louisiana Wing Squadron***

*by 2d Lt. Grace Beane, CAP, Louisiana Wing*

COVINGTON, La – On Oct. 1, 2018, the cadets and senior members of St. Tammany Composite Squadron were honored by the visit of a World War II Hump Pilot, U.S. Army Air Corps 1st Lt. Louis Edward Perez, who turns 98 years old this year. He was accompanied by his son Louis E. Perez, Jr. and 1st Lt. Daniel Stoute, CAP.

Perez shared stories from his personal journal, outlining his experiences as a Hump Pilot. He served under the command of Lt. Gen. Claire Chennault, flying over the Himalaya Mountains to resupply China during the war.

Between 1941 and 1945, a force of mostly American airmen undertook one of history's most complex, and deadliest, logistical operations – flying thousands of tons of supplies from India over the Himalayas into China. Perez described what it was like to fly these routes from India to China through the Himalayas which included mountain peaks with straddling heights of 23,000 feet. This was known as *The Hump*. During his service, Perez earned the U.S. Army Distinguished Flying Cross Medal and the Air Medal.



**Above:** First Lt. Daniel Stoute, CAP, U.S. Army Air Corps 1st Lt. Louis Edward Perez, and Louis E. Perez, Jr. at far right.

Severe weather conditions made the crossing treacherous, aggravated by the risk of aircraft sabotage by enemy Communist Chinese forces.

Perez told of a wintery night in January of 1945, "We had just taken off and my plane was at an altitude of approximately 1,000 feet. The winds suddenly came out of the South and Southwest reported at speeds of 100 miles per hour. Under those conditions, all we could do was hang on. A hundred airplanes crashed into the mountains that night."

Over 1,500 Hump Pilots died and of the 700 planes that went down trying to cross the Hump, 500 still have not been found. Perez personally made about 120 trips over the Hump, for some 1,200 flight hours.

Born and raised in Louisiana, he was working at his first job as a young man in Detroit when he heard about the Japanese attack on the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor on that Sunday of Dec. 7, 1941. He immediately came home to New Orleans to enlist in the war effort. By the time he got home, his father, who was a veteran of World War I, had already joined under an age-deferment program because he had valuable expertise in refrigeration. Upon enlisting and taking an aptitude test, the younger Perez was assigned to the Army Air Corps.

He recalled one particularly harrowing flight during the Winter of 1945. Beginning to get tired, he asked his co-pilot to fly the plane, but noticed that instead of replying, he was slumped over the flight controls. Perez called for his radio operator and navigator and noticed that they, too, were slumped over. Perez looked at the oxygen gauge for the co-pilot and crew, which was separate, and noticed it was completely empty. In an attempt to share his oxygen supply, Perez



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tried to fly the plane with his left hand and remove the oxygen mask of his copilot with his right. The sweat from Perez's face froze, freezing his oxygen mask to his face making attempts to revive his co-pilot unsuccessful.

Perez had no choice but to make a blind rapid descent to restore oxygen to the airplane, and visually locate a landing field north of their position, setting the plane down successfully. Repair crews discovered a small perforation in the oxygen supply for the crew. This type of damage had to be caused by human intervention. This is how Perez

realized that his plane had been sabotaged, in a way calculated to evade discovery.

After his presentation, Perez fielded questions from both cadets and senior members, and afterwards agreed to pose for pictures with the squadron's cadets. 📷

**Above:** World War II medals of U.S. Army Air Corps 1st Lt. Louis Edward Perez,

**Below:** First Lt. Louis Edward Perez and the cadets of the Louisiana Wing St. Tammany Composite Squadron. (Photo: Courtesy of Louis E. Perez, Jr.)







Top: Spirit Squadron cadets show their Paper Plate Awards. (Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Irina Lagutina)

## ***New Mexico Wing Squadron Hosts Annual Awards Banquet***

*by Capt. Mary A. Fox, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On Dec. 20, 2018, the Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron (Spirit Squadron) held its annual Winter Awards Banquet at their squadron headquarters in Albuquerque. More than 60 members and guests attended the event, counting Wing Cadet Program Director Lt. Col. Andrew Selph among the honored guests.

The event was organized by Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Shelby Webb and Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Olivia Spafford, with senior member guidance provided by Capt. Karen Barela. Thirteen squadron awards were presented at the event, including achievement awards, certificates of appreciations, and congratulations for the six Wing-level recipients from the November New Mexico Wing Conference. "This was a great event," said Lt. Col. Selph. "Spirit Squadron events are always fun to attend."

As he opened the evening's event, Master of Ceremonies Cadet Sponsor Member Michael Mamawal said, "Why did my family seek out CAP? Because our 81-year-old great-grandmother absolutely loved being a cadet 68 years ago, and she has never stopped talking about it. Now, more than 60 years later, she and our family are members of this squadron."





**Above:** Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron Commander Capt. Mary A. Fox presents Cadet Senior Airman Morgan Raney with CAP’s Achievement Award for outstanding duty performance. *(Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Jonathan Fox)*

The highlight of the evening, besides presenting the squadron awards, was the introduction of the cadet-to-cadet “Paper Plate” awards, where cadets created a tasteful, inspirational, and fun award for each cadet in the squadron.

“This was an excellent way for cadets to recognize each other,” said Lt. Col. Michael Eckert, “I am very proud of how the award categories turned out, and I hope we are able to keep this part of the ceremony for years to come.”

Wing award recognition was presented to Lt. Col. Beverly Vito (Drug Demand Reduction Officer of the Year), Lt. Col. Michael Eckert (Abbott Memorial Decade of Service), Capt. Karen Barela (Safety Officer of the Year), Capt. Rene Larricq (Aerospace Officer of the Year), 2nd Lt. Michael Saul (Public Affairs Officer of the Year), and Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Olivia Spafford (Cadet NCO of the Year).

Squadron Achievement Awards were presented to Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Shelby Webb (Leadership), Cadet Staff Sgt. Samuel Anderson (Mentor and Leader), Cadet Senior Airman Morgan Raney (Mentor and Leader), and Cadet Airman 1st Class Sarah Roth (Communications).

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Cadet Sponsor Member David Woodward (absent), Cadet Sponsor Member Kurt “Randy” Roth and Senior Member Daniel Godfrey. A special Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Lt. Col. Beverly Vito, who accepted it on behalf of the Heights First Church of the Nazarene, in appreciation of the church family’s generosity in allowing the squadron to use their church facility for their meetings and events. 🇺🇸



**Top:** U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Tanner Matheny, a former CAP cadet, spoke to Sky Harbor Composite Squadron cadets in Phoenix about how his CAP experience has contributed to his success in the Navy. (Photo: Staff Sgt. John Horne, CAP)

## ***Naval Aviator Addresses Cadets of Arizona Wing Squadron***

*by Staff Sgt. John Horne, CAP, Arizona Wing*

PHOENIX, – On Dec. 22, 2018, U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Tanner Matheny talked to the cadets of Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301. Lt Matheny is an electronic warfare officer with Squadron VAQ 134, based at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Washington. He currently serves in an EA-18G Growler, which is a modified F/A-18 F Super Hornet and is tasked with electronic jamming responsibilities in a theater of combat.

Matheny was formerly a CAP cadet with Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 in Phoenix. He had achieved the CAP grade of Cadet 1st Lieutenant before leaving in 2007 to attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y. The Merchant Marine Academy is one of the four service academies, and its graduates are eligible for direct commission into any branch of the U.S. military.

Matheny talked to Sky Harbor Squadron cadets about the capabilities of the EA-18G Growler aircraft and its role in a theater of operation. The U.S. Navy has approximately 150 Growler aircraft in its inventory.

He also discussed his time as a cadet in CAP and mentioned that, for him, “CAP was a building block for leadership,” which is an essential component for success in any field of endeavor. Leadership, in his view, consists of integrity, excellence, positive attitude and respect (especially toward subordinates).

Matheny encouraged cadets to use CAP as a stepping stone to gaining leadership skills, and to use those skills in all aspects of life. 🍷





**Left:** Cadet Col. Dakota Cisneros (center) at Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Officers School, flanked by CAP Col. Bryan Cooper and Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jack Koby, both instructors at the school. (Photo: Cadet Maj. Roman Browning, CAP)

## ***New Mexico Wing Cadet to Receive Spaatz Award***

*by Capt. C. John Graham, CAP, New Mexico Wing*

SANTA FE, N.M. – On Nov. 27, 2018, Cadet Col. Dakota J. Cisneros of the Santa Fe Composite Squadron became the latest New Mexico Wing recipient of Civil Air Patrol's Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award, named after the first chairman of CAP's National Board.

The Spaatz Award, the highest cadet achievement, is the most difficult to earn. To merit the Spaatz, a cadet must have "demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace education," according to the Spaatz Association website. The exam includes questions on leadership and aerospace, a physical fitness test (to USAF Academy standards), and an essay and oral argument on an issue of "perennial moral debate."

In the words of Santa Fe Composite Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff, Cisneros "shows mental discipline, is welcoming of change, and has a habit of continual self-improvement. He uses empathy, is articulate and persuasive, and is proficient in explaining complex issues."

As well as serving as the squadron's cadet executive officer, cadet deputy commander and cadet recruiting and retention officer, he is a qualified mission radio operator, has participated in squadron exercises, and in an actual search and rescue mission for a missing aircraft. At his church, he has contributed almost 200 hours with the church's safety team.

Only one-half of one percent of CAP cadets earn the Spaatz award. Cadet Cisneros' award number is 2216, counting from the award's inception in 1964. While Cisneros' promotion to cadet colonel is effective immediately, the formal award presentation will be made on Jan. 15 at the squadron's weekly meeting.

Cisneros said that CAP's Cadet Program has given him "a better sense of responsibility [that] comes with maturity and learning." He added, "You understand basic discipline and the self-discipline you carry forward – you're accountable."

When asked what made him try to earn the Spaatz Award, Cisneros replied, "You bring in squadron pride with it, and show that *if I can do it, you can do it.*" He added that the senior members also get their investment back, and earning the award helps build esprit-de-corps within the squadron.

At the age of twenty, Cisneros decided to remain a cadet because, from his point of view, he wasn't done yet. He said, "If you stay in as a cadet, especially an officer, you get a double reward from so many different areas of knowledge – balancing budgets, managing yourself, putting together resumes – all of that comes back and gives you a double investment for going out to the working world." He concluded, "My parting advice for anyone going for the Spaatz Award would be: don't overburden yourself. As a leader, don't try to do everything – distribute the load as best you can." Cisneros will be moving on to a career in law enforcement.

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Forest Nelson remarked, "We could not have asked for a better cadet commander." He called Cisneros a great mentor and a good friend to all cadets in the squadron. Many of us will be sad to see him leave, but are very proud of what he has achieved," Nelson concluded. 🍷



**Top:** Arizona Air National Guard members and their families lined up to get a look inside the cockpit of a CAP airplane on static display during an open house at the Tucson Air National Guard base. (Photo: Maj. Steven Hulland, CAP)

### ***Arizona Wing Promotes its Capabilities at Two Military Open Houses***

*by Maj. David Girolami and Maj. Steven R. Hulland, CAP, Arizona Wing*

TUCSON, Ariz. – The Arizona Wing was invited to participate in events during November 2018 with two Tucson-based Arizona military units: the 162nd Fighter Wing and the 943rd Rescue Group. The 162nd Fighter Wing is a unit of the Arizona Air National Guard, stationed at Tucson Air National Guard Base, in southern Arizona. The 943rd Rescue Group, a reserve component of the U.S. Air Force, is assigned to the Tenth Air Force under the Air Force Reserve Command, and is based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

For the 162nd Flight Wing Family Day on Nov. 3, 2018, CAP had one Cessna 182T on static display, with an auxiliary power unit keeping the G-1000 integrated flight instrument system powered up. First Lt. Levi Locking and Cadet Maj. William Moody, both members of Tucson Composite Squadron 105, assisted members of the William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron 104 during this event. Approximately 200 people stopped by to take a look at the CAP airplane and learn more about CAP.

Recruiting materials were distributed and a contact list of potential CAP members was generated. The goal was to introduce members of the Arizona Air National Guard and their



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families to the Civil Air Patrol, and help cement the relationship that already exists between Tucson CAP squadrons and the 162nd Fighter Wing.

The 943rd Rescue Group invited CAP to join in its invitation-only event, which was held on Nov. 4, 2018. Originally conceived as a family appreciation day, the unit decided to add a community outreach component where civilian agencies with similar charters were invited to join in, for example, search and rescue and first responders, as well as organizations that might be of interest to the children of members of the 943rd.

As was the case with the Air Guard Family Day, Arizona Wing's goal was to take advantage of the opportunity to showcase some of CAP's capabilities and to recruit both senior members and cadets from among the attendees. An aircraft was flown in for static display, and members from two of the Tucson squadrons set up a table with brochures and handouts for adults and children.

"The aircraft was a big hit with the younger children, as was our K-9 Max," said CAP Arizona Wing North Sector Vice Commander Lt. Col. Victor LaSala. "We spoke with many prospective senior and cadet members, who were provided with recruiting materials and orientation on CAP's missions and core values."

Several members of the Arizona Wing Ground Team, including K-9 Max and his handler CAP Senior Member Mendy Miller, were on hand to demonstrate the broad capabilities CAP offers in both air and ground search and rescue. The event also allowed Arizona Wing to network with other agencies in the Tucson area that share similar missions.

After the event, 943rd Rescue Group Chief of Public Affairs Andre Trinidad contacted CAP, "On behalf of Col. John Beatty [943rd Rescue Group Commander], I thank you for attending and supporting our 943rd Rescue Group Internal Open House. Our turnout was over 400 people and all the feedback I have gotten has been very positive." 🇺🇸

**Below:** (L-R) Senior Member Mendy Miller with K-9 Max on a leash, Capt. Klara Olcott, and Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Little staffed the Arizona Wing Ground Team display during an open house at the 943rd Rescue Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Ariz. (Photo: Lt. Col. Luis Camus, CAP)





**Top:** The graduating class of the October, 2018 Oklahoma Wing Squadron Leadership School. (Photos: 1st Lt. Kathy Sexton, CAP)

**Below:** The graduating class of the October, 2018 Oklahoma Wing Corporate Learning Course.

## **Oklahoma Wing Hosts SLS and CLC Courses**

*by 1st Lt. Kathy Sexton, CAP, Oklahoma Wing*

EDMOND, Okla. – On Oct. 20, 2018, Oklahoma Wing’s Group Two hosted a Squadron Leadership School and a Corporate Learning Course. Four senior members completed the Corporate Learning Course and twelve members completed the Squadron Leadership School.

To complete Level II, a senior member must complete Officer Basic Course, choose a CAP specialty track, and complete Squadron Leadership School. Upon completion of these objectives, the senior member earns the Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Award.

To complete Level III, a senior member must become senior rated in a CAP specialty track, attend at least two wing, region or national conferences, earn the Brig. Gen. Charles “Chuck” Yeager award, and complete the Corporate Learning Course. The senior member also needs to serve as staff or in command for one year. Upon completion of all objectives and time in grade, a senior member earns the Grover C Loening Award.

“We hope to be able to offer more senior member courses in 2019,” said Group II Commander Maj. Israel Perez. “A Unit Commander’s Course will be offered in January, 2019.”







**Above:** The Hualapai Mountain Park in Mohave County, Ariz., covers more than 2,300 acres, with elevations ranging from 4,984 to 8,417 feet. (Photo: Courtesy of Mohave County (Ariz.) Parks Department)

## ***Arizona Wing and National Cell Phone Forensics Team Support Search in Northwest Arizona***

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

KINGMAN, Ariz. – For the fourth time in five years, the Arizona Wing began Thanksgiving week engaged in conducting a missing person Search and Rescue (SAR) mission. This year, the



Wing supported a two-day search for three people lost in the wilderness mountain/desert region of Mohave County, in northwestern Arizona.

On Nov. 20, 2018, a Monday, both the CAP National Cell Phone Forensics Team and the Arizona Wing were alerted by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) of a missing person search operation being conducted by the Mohave County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). The Wing was asked to support the Sheriff's Office search for three people in their 60s, two men and a woman, who had been reported missing the day before.

The MCSO Incident Commander (IC), Sheriff's Deputy Amanda Kaufman, said that "it became readily apparent that this was going to be a big needle in a much larger haystack," and that they were going to need assistance. Following protocols, she reached out to the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, which contacted the AFRCC for assistance.

Support from the Arizona Wing eventually involved 28 individuals, including the National Cell Phone Forensics Team, four aircraft and aircrews, and incident command and ground team members from eight squadrons across the state. A "virtual" *Arizona Command* was supported by advanced cell phone forensics technology (which narrowed the search area) and the Arizona-hosted CAPLINK internet/VHF repeater coupled radio communications system.

Arizona Wing received the initial call from the AFRCC just after noon on Monday and assigned the first sortie, tasking an aircrew from the Payson Squadron in north central Arizona. The mission continued throughout the evening, deploying a FLIR-equipped Cessna 182 out of Deer Valley Squadron in north Phoenix.

This effort grew to four aircraft from three squadrons, adding six sorties on Tuesday to the two that had been flown on Monday. The coordination of this joint operation was supported by a two-person CAP "Lima-1" (liaison) team, located at the Mohave County Incident Command Post. This team drove more than four hours to reach the Incident Command Post (ICP) and support this tactical coordination and planning assignment.

The aircrew from the Prescott Squadron located the site of the missing persons, as MCSO's ground SAR team moved into the same area. Once the objective had been reached, the Prescott, and later Payson, aircraft remained on station for a couple of hours providing the necessary safety overwatch and radio relay capabilities above the helicopter/ground team recovery operations.

Phoenix TV station ABC15 reported that the compact SUV apparently went off a mountain road and landed hundreds of feet down in a canyon. None of the three individuals in the vehicle survived the incident.

The search area consisted of over 180 square miles of the eastern, northern and southern slopes of the Hualapai Mountains extending north to Interstate 40 and east to Highway 93. According to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office IC, the ground teams in the search drove over 8,000 miles, including many primitive roads. These included the deployment of both the Mojave and Yavapai County and Bureau of Land Management SAR teams, supported by CAP airplanes and Arizona Department of Public Safety helicopters from Kingman and Flagstaff.

The Hualapai Mountain Park and Ranger Station staff, along with the Mohave County Emergency Management Communications team, supported all ground-to-ground and ground-to-air communications. A total of eight federal, state, and local agencies, including CAP, supported the interagency operation.

Kaufman (IC) could not say enough about the exceptional response by the CAP National Cell Phone Forensics team, the CAP "Lima-1" liaison team, and all the air search crews from Deer Valley, Payson, and Prescott Squadrons. She expressed a "huge thanks to all of the assisting agencies involved in these search efforts." Kaufman said that she was most impressed with CAP's response and ability to rapidly adjust to the search area changes. 🍷





**Top:** Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Shelby Webb lays a wreath at a veteran's grave. (Photo: S.M. Randy Roth, CAP)

## ***New Mexico Wing Squadron Gives Back to Veterans***

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

SANTA FE, N.M. – On Dec. 15, 2018, cadets and senior members of the Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron participated in the 2018 Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony at The Santa Fe National Cemetery.

Squadron Commander Capt. Mary A. Fox and Advisor to the Commander Lt. Col. Beverly A. Vito organized this event and made it happen. Upon arrival in Santa Fe, the squadron’s cadets and senior members directed traffic for the visitors to park before the cemetery’s opening ceremony.

Civil Air Patrol’s National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith was one of many speakers who reminded all to Remember, Honor and Teach: *Remember* those who had either fallen while serving the United States of America, or had passed away in some other way; *Honor* their sacrifices; and *Teach* about what they have done to allow Americans to enjoy the freedoms that all enjoy today.

In honor of the fallen, a bugler played *Taps*. Once the ceremony had ended, Civil Air Patrol members went to designated areas of the cemetery to lay wreaths at the graves of veterans. As they arrived at a grave, members read the summary information of the veteran being honored, presented the wreath, and saluted the veteran’s resting place, who will not be able to be with his or her family for Christmas. 🇺🇸



**Top:** Five Arizona Wing cadets were recognized at the Arizona State Capitol in December for having achieved the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award. (L-R) Cadet 2nd Lt. Megan Brubaker, Cadet 2nd Lt. Kaleb Boehmer, Cadet 2nd Lt. Viet Zaengle, Dr. Joseph Cuffari, Cadet 2nd Lt. Brandon Sarrasin, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Carter Schmitt. (Photo: Capt. Margot Myers, CAP)

## **Arizona Governor Recognizes Gen. Billy Mitchell Award Achievers**

*by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing*

PHOENIX – Cadets in the Arizona Wing who earn the Billy Mitchell Award are eligible to be recognized at the Arizona Capitol by the Governor’s Office. On Dec. 12, 2018, five cadets and their families were welcomed to the Executive Tower by Dr. Joseph Cuffari, the governor’s policy advisor for military and veteran’s affairs.

The cadets who were recognized included: Cadet 2nd Lts. Kaleb J. Boehmer, Falcon Composite Squadron, Mesa, Ariz., promoted Sept. 30, 2018; Megan C. Brubaker, London Bridge Composite Squadron, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., promoted July 17, 2018; Brandon Sarrasin, Yuma Composite Squadron, Yuma, Ariz., promoted July 18, 2018; Carter J. Schmitt, Deer Valley Composite Squadron, Phoenix, promoted July 23, 2018; Viet Zaengle, Willie Composite Squadron, Chandler, Ariz., promoted Oct. 25, 2018. Although Cadet 2nd Lts. Nicole Babbitt, Prescott Composite Squadron, and Austin Largo, Deer Valley Composite Squadron, were eligible for recognition, they were unable to attend the ceremony.

Cuffari, who served more than 40 years in the U.S. Air Force, on active duty in the Reserves, and in the Arizona Air National Guard, congratulated each cadet and presented a commendation certificate signed by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey. Cuffari asked the cadets about their career ambitions. All five cadets expressed their interest in military service, with several saying they hoped to attend a service academy. Some want to fly, and two indicated military police work as a goal. Cadet Brubaker, who graduated from high school in May 2018, has already enlisted in the Air Force and will report in the spring to train as a Security Forces Specialist. Cuffari encouraged her saying “Keep up with your PT,” and Brubaker assured him that she was doing just that.

Parents expressed their gratitude to Cuffari for hosting the event and taking the time to talk individually with their cadets. 🇺🇸



## **Socorro Composite Squadron Tours Very Large Array**

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

SOCORRO, N.M. – On Oct. 27, 2018, during an aerospace education field trip, members of the Socorro Composite Squadron visited the Very Large Array (VLA) radio telescope, where they received an in-depth guided tour of one of the world's premier astronomical research facilities.

"The VLA is only 50 miles from Socorro, so this was a great opportunity to learn first-hand about this facility, how it works, the scientific research it does, and the career opportunities it offers," said Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Dennis Hunter.

The VLA, dedicated in 1980, consists of 27 dish antennas, each weighing 230 tons, spread across the high desert of the Plains of San Agustin in west-central New Mexico. The naturally-emitted radio waves coming from celestial objects, such as stars, galaxies, supernova explosions, and many others, are collected by all the antennas, then combined electronically to make the entire system work as a single, giant telescope.

Astronomers from around the world use the VLA, a facility of the National Science Foundation, to study nearly every type of astronomical object known. VLA data contribute to hundreds of scientific research papers published yearly. The VLA, known for its appearances in movies, documentaries, TV shows, and news articles, draws some 25,000 tourists every year.

During the tour, squadron members and their family got a close-up look at one of the VLA's giant antennas, explanations of the electronics at the heart of the system, and a visit to the room where operators control the array. They learned how astronomers get to use the VLA and how they process the system's data to obtain highly detailed radio images of celestial objects.

"We felt it was particularly important for our cadets to learn more about this major research facility that's practically in our back yard. The staff and users of the VLA are making important scientific discoveries, and our cadets got to see that rewarding STEM careers can be found right here in New Mexico," said Hunter.

Tour members learned that the VLA employs not just scientists and engineers, but also technicians, mechanics, machinists, electricians, business and administrative specialists, educators, and numerous other personnel.

"This was a valuable experience for our cadets. They not only learned about astronomy and electronics, but found out that an advanced research facility like the VLA needs employees with a wide range of different skills. That means that there are numerous potential job opportunities for cadets with a variety of interests," Hunter said. 🇺🇸

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**Right:** Members of the Socorro Composite Squadron at the foot of one of the Very Large Array's dish antennas. (Photo: Lt. Col. David G. Finley, CAP)

**Editor's Note:** Guided tours of the VLA are offered regularly, and group tours can be arranged with advance notice. For details, see the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's website: <https://public.nrao.edu/visit/very-large-array/>

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**Left:** Cadet Capt. Joshua Williamson explains how to apply for National Cadet Special Activities.

**Below:** New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Andrew F. Selph discusses criteria for the Quality Cadet Unit Award. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

### ***Cadet Programs Were Discussed at New Mexico Wing Conference***

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

ALBUQUERQUE,  
N.M. — On Nov. 3, 2018,  
at the Cadet Programs  
breakout session during

the Civil Air Patrol's New Mexico Wing Conference, New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Andrew F. Selph discussed the requirements for squadrons to earn CAP's Quality Cadet Unit Award. For 2018, a record five New Mexico Wing squadrons earned the award, while one of them has earned the award for eight consecutive years.

All cadet and composite squadrons with at least 10 cadets are eligible for the award. The current criteria for this award will be based on the unit's performance from Aug. 31, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2019, rating the squadron in 10 different areas. A full set of rating criteria may be found at <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/cpo/quality-cadet-unit-award>.

Perhaps one of the most important requirements is for 45% of all cadets to attain the Wright Brothers Award, which marks completion of Phase I of CAP's four-phase Cadet Program. The award marks the cadet's transition from cadet airman to cadet non-commissioned officer, and from that point on, the cadet is expected to be a leader rather than a follower.

Selph asked attendees which was the best way to get cadets to progress to the Wright Brothers Award. One suggestion was for units to host a Cadet Day or Cadet Weekend, covering all aspects of the Cadet Program: leadership, aerospace education, and drill and ceremonies.

Other criteria for the award were discussed, such as having the unit retain 50% of its first-year cadets, and have 55% of the squadron's cadets attend an encampment.

Following Selph's presentation, Cadet Capt. Joshua Williamson, of Albuquerque's West Mesa Composite Squadron, spoke about National Cadet Special Activities (NCSAs) and how to apply for them. Williamson said that CAP now offers over 30 National Cadet Special Activities, and the best way to apply for them is to go to CAP's National website, [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com), and apply using the NCSA main menu. Cadets are graded on a point system, and if they are approved by their wing commander, they receive a 100-point bonus.

Williamson, himself a veteran of the National Blue Beret special activity in Oshkosh, Wis., cited the benefits of participating in special activities: leadership experience, once-in-a-lifetime experiences, and the chance to meet new challenges.

"I highly recommend that all cadets go on NCSAs," he said. 🇺🇸







**Top:** (L-R) Incoming Commander Maj. Jeff Alloway accepts the squadron flag from Maj. Keith Hakeman during the traditional change of command ceremony at the Willie Composite Squadron. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Roy Morales, CAP)

## ***Arizona Wing Squadron Observes Change of Command***

*by 2nd Lt. Roy Morales, CAP, Arizona Wing*

MESA, Ariz. – On Dec. 20, 2018, the Willie Composite Squadron had a change of command ceremony to usher in its new commander. Maj. Jeff Alloway, the squadron's former deputy commander for cadets, assumed command from Maj. Keith Hakeman, who has been a member of the squadron since 2011. Hakeman, having successfully completed his three-year tenure as squadron commander, was recognized by Arizona Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Robert Pinckard with a Commander's Commendation Award for his outstanding contributions as a commander.

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Alloway has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol and the Willie Composite Squadron since 2009. During this time, he has served the squadron in many roles: deputy commander for seniors, deputy commander for cadets, IT, finance, logistics and personnel officer. During his tenure as deputy commander for cadets, he succeeded in expanding the squadron's cadet membership.

Alloway also led the squadron's CyberPatriot team, including a trip to the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition held in Orlando, Fla., in 2010. CyberPatriot training and competition expose cadets to network security and management issues, as if they were serving as newly hired information technology professionals. The CyberPatriot program, sponsored by the Air Force Association, prepares young people for careers in an industry that currently has a shortage of qualified cybersecurity professionals. Alloway will continue to mentor cadets in the CyberPatriot competition.

Since September of 2017, under Hakeman's and Alloway's leadership, the squadron's cadet program has nearly doubled from 24 to 46. Four cadets have been promoted to cadet officers, three of whom achieved their Billy Mitchell Award and one the Amelia Earhart Award. By having earned these prestigious awards, these cadets, among 25,000 cadets nationwide, are in the top 15 and 3 percent respectively.

The Willie Composite Squadron takes its name from the former Williams Air Force Base, a primary flight training base that operated during the period 1941-1993. It is now the site of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. The squadron meets at a U.S. Army Reserve facility at the airport. 🇺🇸

**Below:** (L-R) Outgoing Willie Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Keith Hakeman receives a Commander's Commendation Award from Arizona Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Robert Pinckard.







**Top:** Lt. Col. Griffyn Lane (left) receives Civil Air Patrol's Gill Robb Wilson Award from New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mike Lee. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

## ***New Mexico Wing's Lane Earns Gill Robb Wilson Award***

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On Nov. 3, 2018, at Civil Air Patrol's annual New Mexico Wing Conference, Lt. Col. Griffyn G. Lane, at New Mexico Wing Headquarters, was presented CAP's Gill Robb Wilson Award Certificate from New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mike Lee.

The Gill Robb Wilson is the highest professional development award that can be achieved by Civil Air Patrol's adult senior members. It represents the completion of the fifth and final level of CAP's professional development program.

To qualify for the award, senior members must serve in a command or staff position for at least three years, serve as a staff member or director of a CAP-approved professional development course, mentor a junior officer or NCO to a Technician-level Specialty rating, and attend CAP's National Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

The award is named after Gill Robb Wilson, noted aviation writer and poet, who saw the need for a civilian air corps after returning in 1938 from a writing assignment in Nazi Germany, where he discovered that only military aircraft were allowed in the German airspace. He presented his plan to Gov. Charles Edison of New Jersey, who approved the idea. Wilson's New Jersey Civil Air Defense Services became the model for the national Civil Air Patrol. Upon CAP's founding on Dec. 1, 1941, Wilson became the organization's first executive officer.

Lane has been a member of CAP since June 1997. She currently serves as New Mexico Wing's Assistant Communications Training Officer and Assistant Director of Communications. 🇺🇸

## Guest Editorial

### ***On Veterans Day***

*by Lt. Col. Owen Younger, CAP, Texas Wing*

In June of 1775, the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution creating the military organization that would become the defender of the not-yet independent nation that America is today. The military body they created would be known as the Continental Army, and that army would eventually win the American Revolutionary War. For those of you following along at home, this means that the military that protects and defends us today came into existence before there was a United States of America. There is no irony in this at all, in my not very humble opinion, because, for anyone who has studied history, we know that achieving freedom has always required significant effort.

Most years I tend to write a philosophically minded short essay about duty and honor and country, and I usually take a moment to exhort anybody who winds up reading my words to try to be a responsible custodian of the commitment of the people who came before us and gave us this freedom. I will certainly do that here, but this year I want to go beyond that. At this moment it does not matter what your political views are, what does matter, and I care about right now, is that you appreciate that your right – even your *ability* – to practice those political views has been brought to you by the commitment of millions of men and women who have sworn an oath at some point in the last 243 years to give their lives if need be in exchange for your right. That is something that should make every American stop and take notice.

I may not agree with your political views, and that's fine, but even if I don't agree with you, I want to ask you to consider that your right to vote in the 2018 elections was won by people you most likely never got the chance to meet, and those people died on a battlefield somewhere while wearing our country's uniform. If you didn't vote, then you made those deaths meaningless, it is as simple as that. But there is more. Our elected leaders at every level are also custodians of the sacrifices our veterans have made to enable our political free-exercise, and we should demand accountability from those leaders. If we allow our leaders to be irresponsible, then we are failing in our own duties as good citizens.

The privilege of living in a free country with such amazing opportunities and the strongest economy in the world may not have cost us anything individually, but that privilege by no means came to us for free. It came to us because, for 243 years, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces have been willing to pay your personal share of that cost with their labor, their sweat, and their life.

Be a good citizen. Vote your conscience, always. Be reasonable in what you advocate. Demand that your elected representatives live up to their duty. Be worthy of the sacrifices that, over nearly two and a half centuries, veterans have made so that you are able to sleep in (or not) on a Sunday morning.

Veterans: I have not forgotten, and I will not forget. Thank you for your service. Veterans Day is my personal day of remembrance, gratitude and respect. 🇺🇸

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**Right:** Members of the Arkansas Wing 95th Composite Squadron Color Guard get ready to march in the 2014 Annual Texarkana Veterans Day Parade. (Photo: S.M. Reggie Johns, CAP)

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## **Guest Editorial**

### **From Cadet to Senior Member: A Rite of Passage**

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Former Civil Air Patrol cadets hold two milestones very dear. The first is when they join CAP; and the second, which is much rarer, is when they age out of the Cadet Program at age 21, and transition into senior membership. I made that transition myself in June 1978, and on Nov. 29, 2018, I witnessed my son Tyler make that same transition, more than 40 years after my own.

I raised Tyler as a single parent from the age of two, and his road to senior membership was not an easy one. Before his first birthday, he started having epileptic seizures. An MRI confirmed a diagnosis of tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), which includes the symptoms of epilepsy and autism. In 2009, when he was in middle school, his special education teacher confirmed a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome – a mild form of autism, and in 2012, the diagnosis was changed to autism.

His special education teachers said that he needed to associate with other children his age, and I had always wanted him to join CAP. So, in June 2010, he joined the Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron, being sworn in as a cadet.

A month after joining, his special education homeroom teacher asked me, "What have you done? He's more focused and more on task than he's ever been." Any member of Spirit Squadron will say that of all the cadets in the squadron, Tyler's progress has been the most amazing. He went from running around the building, turning on all the lights and attempting to stick his house key into a wall socket, to being the squadron's aerospace education NCO and guidon bearer. He was in training to be the squadron's cadet first sergeant, when his work schedule interrupted this training. For the past eight and a half years, he has been a model for all squadron cadets to follow.

Ironically, I am prouder of Tyler's failures than I am of his successes. As a young man with autism, he was subject to learning delays, and his biggest challenge was earning the Wright Brothers Award. He took the Wright Brothers exam 10 times before he finally passed it. When his stepmother Aurora and I pinned on his cadet staff sergeant's stripes, everyone praised him for his perseverance. Although he only progressed as far as cadet technical sergeant, I am prouder of that promotion than if he had earned the Spaatz Award.

My wife and I watched as Squadron Commander Capt. Mary A. Fox administered the Oath of Promotion, and I was honored to be asked to pin on his new epaulets, along with his friend, 2nd Lt. Michael Saul, who joined the squadron at the same time as Tyler.

Tyler has developed a lifelong friendship with Michael, whom I have jokingly referred to as my "CAP son," and who himself transitioned into the senior program in 2015. I can only hope, as Tyler's career progresses, that he flourishes in the senior program the same as he flourished as a cadet. Congratulations, my son. Today you are a man. 🇺🇸

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**Right:** Senior Member Tyler J. Tourtel receives his new epaulets from his father, Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, and his friend, 2nd Lt. Michael R. Saul. (Photo: Lt. Col. Michael E. Eckert, CAP)

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**Right:** Cadet Amn. Lillian Clark at the controls.  
(Photos: Lt. Col. David McCollum, CAP)

**Below:** Cadet Amn Lillian Clark and Lt. Col. David McCollum.



## Guest Editorial

### **What is it Like to be a CAP Cadet?**

by Cadet Airman Lillian Clark, CAP,  
Oklahoma Wing

As a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), I get the opportunity to participate in five flights in the right seat of a powered aircraft. Because I joined CAP late, and was about to turn 18 soon, my unit wanted to make sure I received all the Orientation Rides (O-rides) that I am entitled to.

O-rides are a capstone event in a CAP cadet's aerospace experience. Cadet aerospace education includes at least three major components. First, cadets learn about aviation basics by studying the Aerospace Dimensions modules and completing achievement tests to advance through the CAP Cadet Program. Second, local aerospace education officers enrich this learning through experiential activities where cadets use CAP STEM Kits and AEX activity guides. And, finally, orientation flights place cadets in the cockpit, where the aviation fundamentals that we learned about through textbooks and classroom activities come to life in an exciting way.

On Nov. 4, 2018, I flew four O-rides, each one lasting one hour. The morning began with a flight briefing, during which the pilot and I discussed everything I would be learning during the first flight, along with key safety tips.

Upon reaching the aircraft, you have what is called a pre-flight checklist. This is a list of things you must check on the aircraft before takeoff.

During the flights, I learned the basic functions of an aircraft. Things like the use of flight instruments, the importance of lift, drag, and thrust, in-flight procedures, the effects that weather can have on the flight, and flight maneuvers a pilot might use during a mission. My pilot demonstrated these things for me. *THEN*, I got the chance to handle the controls and duplicate those same maneuvers. Was that ever fun!

At a squadron meeting, soon after having flown, my pilot presented me with a "first flight" certificate. That helped me realize that a very big reason why some cadets join CAP is to get the chance to fly. The cadet program offers so many opportunities for cadets to immerse themselves into the world of aviation, including giving them the ability to apply for flight training scholarships through many different organizations.

Through CAP, I am getting the incredible opportunity to pursue my dream of one day becoming a pilot.

And, did I mention that it is a lot of fun, too? 🍷

And, did I mention that it is a lot of fun, too? 🍷





## **On Language**

### **Any Language Needs Gender Clarity**

AUSTIN, Texas – This writer's mentoring of senior members and cadets to help them improve their language skills has been revelatory in exposing America's educational methods – and their flaws. Since language rules are being poorly taught (and seldom graded), this has created an attitude of "out with the old" that, in turn, has led to a triumph of political correctness over tradition, grammar and syntax. Here are some examples.

From the very birth of Indo-European languages, and still today, most existing languages were created and adapted to speak in gender-specific terms. In Spanish, for instance, the personal pronouns *el*, *ella*, *el* translate into the English *he*, *she*, *it*. For their plural, that in English are lumped into just *they*, Spanish retains *ellos*, *ellas*, *ellos*. (As in many languages, Spanish non-gender specific subjects simply take the masculine article.) This distinction can be readily found also in German (that to this day retains a neuter article and personal pronoun), as well as Italian, French, and most other Indo-European languages.

Two mother tongues served as their foundation, that in turn has colored all modern Indo-European languages: Latin and Greek. Early on, the Romans realized that when someone referred to two males, the plural of the male personal pronoun worked well, but when referring to a brother and sister (for example), it got complicated, so by convention they hit upon using the plural male pronoun to denote a group of persons that includes at least one male. Then they expanded that convention by using the male singular as all-inclusive when in a non-gender specific context.

Curiously, in Spanish, the original male and female definite articles were *el* and *ela*; it wasn't until the Middle Ages that *ela* became plain *la*.

At first, English adopted the Latin convention of using a non-gender specific *he* and everything went well, until the politicized issue of gender equality raised its ugly head. So, for about half a century now, English speakers have been caught in the vise of political correctness (seemingly holding that to make gender differences is an unforgivable social injury), further aggravated by new usage. The quandary has led to various language solutions, none elegant.

The most immediate remediation was to replace *he* with either *he and she* or *he or she*. This, however, was (and is) clumsy. Seeking impartiality, some authors hit upon writing one paragraph in the masculine, and the next one in the feminine, alternating in this fashion until the text became thoroughly boring and often confusing. (This, by the way, was the accepted lower and middle school textbook writing style for some years.) The practice does not seem to have lasted. Then *he/she* replaced *he and she* or *he or she*. Might the next item on the agenda be editing Shakespeare's masterpieces to introduce this "brilliant improvement," thus updating them to agree with modern times? One should hope not.

Naturally, the possessive forms followed, as *his/her*, *his and her*, and *his or her*. Even those who liked the *his/her* solution realized that it was tiresome to say *his/her* (try it, it doesn't trip off the tongue too well), so (*brilliant idea*, they thought) "Let's use *their* instead." It didn't seem to bother anyone that *their* is a plural pronoun and the rules of grammar and syntax don't allow for a plural possessive to be applied to a singular personal pronoun (*Rules? Out with the old! Rules are useless!*) Recent articles and even books are full of instances in which *their* ought to have been written as *his*, *her*, or even (alas!) *his or her*.

More recently, in their zeal to find an easy replacement for the cumbersome *he and she* and *he or she*, some people have begun writing *s/he* to replace them. Although this might serve to simplify the offending pair, how should we pronounce it? *She*, or *s'he*?

Language poses another problem, in that using it is a form of self-expression. Let us consider the case of a pre-pubescent child who is given a textbook that adheres to the political correctness of *he or she* or, worse yet, *s/he*, and then has to read it aloud in class. Let us say, for the sake of argument, that the student has to read following passage:

“The student understood his or her lessons and was able to answer them correctly.”

Now, let us assume that the student is 9 or 10 years old. If the student is a boy, he knows that he is a male and, therefore, a “he.” However, the sentence refers to *his or her*, therefore it could be possible that he might not be a boy but a girl. Which would he prefer? Naturally, the opposite would be equally confusing for a girl.

If we consider the above impartially, is it fair to subject pre-pubescent children to the rigors of gender identity at such a tender and impressionable age?

One need not be a psychologist to realize that words mean something, and when someone uses them in relation to oneself, they reflect one’s idea of oneself. Healthy males refer to themselves in the masculine, and healthy females refer to themselves in the feminine. What Romans hit upon as a grammatical solution to the way in which one needs to refer to an impersonal entity is just a convention. However, the contemporary eagerness for “gender correctness” introduces the two genders for a solution that only serves to create another problem. Why insist on *he or she* when the convention of *he* used as the impersonal pronoun works in all the Romance languages? Why insist on *she* being imposed on males with the expression *he or she*, if it is understood that *he* is the conventional way to refer to an impersonal subject?

To this day, German uses the neuter article *das* for “young woman” as they call her *das Mädchen* without implying that she has lost her gender, and all Germans understand this. This is also the case with “child” that in German is referred to as *das Kind*.

Spanish improves on this by establishing the difference between *el niño* and *la niña*, yet the brother and sister are referred to as *los niños*. The same convention works for Italian, French, Portuguese and other Romance languages.

Probably because many educators have seen the psychological effect of using *he or she*, political correctness has now embraced “their” as their catch-all singular possessive pronoun. The issue is magnified on the television screen, where countless productions use “aren’t I?” instead of “am I not?” What is the purpose of this, rather than to save a syllable of air-time? Are we to believe that the verb to be is to be conjugated as “I are, you are, he are, we are, you are, they are”? It is true that, across centuries, languages move towards simplification. However, there is a point at which simplification becomes impoverishment and even disintegration.

It is truly amazing that some people choose to take offense when reading a time-honored grammatical convention that got started for the sole purpose of solving a flaw in the language, and has served its purpose well for a number of millennia (some prefer millenniums, coining an Anglicized plural of a Latin word). Yet, their solution (which naturally is more acceptable to them) has the unique effect of *deconstructing* the language, as it becomes increasingly less understandable, more imprecise, and eventually hopelessly ambiguous. This sort of thing, rather than building, destroys.

Something similar happened to music, when a few composers declined to accept traditional harmony and composition as these had evolved through the centuries, and went off on their own quest, creating first “atonal music” and then “electronic music” that, in most cases, are music only because the composer says it is, because it actually sounds unmusical to most ears. As the so-called “atonal music” (now, that is truly a contradiction in terms) and “electronic music” are less commonly played, and they have failed to gain a serious foothold in music teaching, one would hope that they dwindle away the same as other passing fads. Music shares with language an essential trait: to last, it needs to survive the test of time.

Going back to contemporary English, it is this writer’s hope that enough people will realize that saying, “The person likes their breakfast,” actually describes some genderless subject who is fond of the breakfast favored by a group of some genderless people (that doesn’t necessarily include the subject). Hopefully, when we return to grammatical and syntactical sanity, we’ll favor once again, “The person likes his breakfast,” and we’ll be done with it. 🍻

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



## **The Safety Page**

### ***Distracted Walking – A Major Pedestrian Safety Concern***

*Safety Quote of the Month: Don't be hasty when it comes to safety.*

Distracted driving is a well-established problem, so much so that many states currently have bans in place when it comes to using technology while driving. But the problem of distracted walking is a relatively new one. Each year, more and more people are injured because of texting, talking or listening to music while on their cell phones. And while we might laugh at the woman who falls into the fountain while texting, or the man who walks into a wall while texting, the problem of distracted walking is a very real and serious one.

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that nearly 5,000 pedestrians were killed, and an estimated 76,000 injured, in traffic collisions in the United States in 2012. That's one death every 2 hours and an injury every 7 minutes. While it's not clear how many of these are a direct result of distracted walking, the total rate of pedestrian fatalities compared to overall road deaths is getting worse yearly.

The issue has become such a problem that some towns, such as Fort Lee, New Jersey, have banned texting while walking. If caught texting while jaywalking in that town, violators face an \$85 fine. In London, England, some lamp posts have been padded in order to protect the large numbers of people using their mobile devices while walking. Even New York City has lowered the speed limit in some areas as a way to help cut down on the number of pedestrian injuries. Arkansas, Illinois, and New York have all tried unsuccessfully to ban using a mobile device while walking.

Common risks associated with distracted walking include:

- Injuring someone else
- Trips
- Sprains
- Strains
- Fractures
- Cuts
- Bruises
- Broken bones
- Concussions
- Brain injuries
- Spinal cord injuries
- Death

In 2008, more than 1,000 people were injured seriously enough to seek medical attention at the emergency room as a result of texting and walking – double the year previous (which was double the year previous as well).

A study published in 2012 by researchers from New York's Stony Brook University found that those who texted while walking were 60% more likely to veer off-line than non-texters.

Scientists call the phenomenon "inattentive blindness," saying that the human brain has evolved to only be able to adequately focus attention on one task at a time. Therefore, when you are texting or talking on the phone while trying to walk, you cannot give your full attention to both tasks.

"We were surprised to find that talking and texting on a cell phone were so disruptive to one's gait and memory recall of [a] target location," wrote Eric M. Lamberg, PT, EdD, co-author of the study and clinical associate professor, Department of Physical Therapy, School of Health Technology and Management, Stony Brook University.

“People really need to be aware that they are impacting their safety by texting or talking on the cellphone,” he added, “I think the risk is there.”

When Safe Sound Family analyzed the data in the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s (CPSC) National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) – which estimates the number of injuries nationwide based on reports by 100 participating hospitals – we found that in 2013 there were nearly 5,000 estimated cases of injuries caused by phones and phone accessories that occurred on roads or highways and in other public places (not at home) that were treated in hospital in the United States.

The number of actual injuries caused by distracted walking is bound to be much higher than this, as the data from the CPSC only looked at those injuries which resulted in medical treatment at a participating hospital, and minor injuries were likely treated at home or another medical treatment facility not included in the reporting data. There is also the stigma and shame associated with reporting an injury in which one is partially at fault, and so some people may not have been willing to report that they were using a mobile device when their injury occurred.

It’s not just texting while walking that’s a problem. Talking, checking email, using social networking apps and even playing games all contribute to the problem of distracted pedestrians.

According to data via the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the highest percentage of pedestrian deaths relative to all traffic fatalities occurs in New York City (51%), Los Angeles (42%) and Chicago (30%). After years of decline, pedestrian deaths have started to increase since 2009, and while there’s no reliable data directly related to cell phone use, experts speculate that the increase is due in part to distracted users on their cell phones while walking.

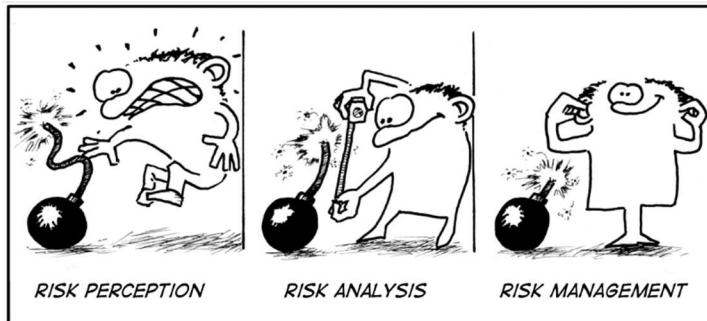
“We are where we were with cellphone use in cars 10 years or so ago. We knew it was a problem, but we didn’t have the data,” Jonathan Akins, deputy executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, told the Associated Press in 2012



**RISK MANAGEMENT**

**1st Quarter Mishaps (Oct-Dec)**

- 3 – Vehicle (Backing, Tire Failure, Vandalism)
- 7 – Bodily Injuries (Fainting, Tripping, Nausea, Situational Awareness)
- 5 – Aircraft (Ladder fell and damaged aileron, bird strike, mechanical, smoke in cockpit)



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



## ***How the Southwest Region Public Affairs Awards Program Works***

Starting with the October, 2017 issue of The Fly-By, Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe R. Smith 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](http://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](http://www.ap.org) – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖