



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the
Southwest Region
July, 2019



Southwest Region Staff

Commander

Col. Joe R. Smith, CAP

Vice Commander East

Col. Nolan Teel, CAP

Vice Commander West

Col. Brian Ready, CAP

Chief of Staff

Lt. Col. Harriet Smith, CAP

CAP-USAF Liaison Region Commander

Maj. Aric Holly, USAF

Director of Public Affairs & Newsletter Editor

Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP

– oOo –

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.

– oOo –

Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

SWR Commander's Corner

Southwest Region is well into the busiest time of the year for CAP activities. We have successfully conducted powered and glider flight academies in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. This includes our first-ever Advanced Flight Training Academy, a fast-paced program to take a CAP cadet from solo to Private Pilot License in 30 days. This was very successful despite some weather challenges, and especially so for a first-time effort!

Other National Cadet Special Activities in SWR included the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training orientation and several Cyber courses in Texas and the Advanced Pararescue and Survival Orientation Course (PJOC) in Arizona, with another PJOC happening in New Mexico later this month.

We had sterling performances from the Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico Wings on their biennial Operations Evaluations, with Arizona receiving six Commendable areas and reaping **accolades** for the first use of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) in a CAP Ops Eval, New Mexico being cited for a **benchmark** for their innovative use of Skype for Business to deliver mass safety briefings, and Oklahoma receiving **zero** discrepancies.

The day after the New Mexico Ops Eval, we thanked Col. Mike Lee for his four years of command and passed the flag to Col. Annette Peters as the New Mexico Wing commander. Welcome to the Command Team, Col. Peters!

We had successful encampments in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, despite some significant last-minute scrambling due to weather. Southwest Region hosted the first-ever Safety Summit with safety officers from every SWR wing and representatives from Stan/Eval, Cadet Programs and Professional Development also contributing. We were joined by Mr. George Vogt from NHQ Safety and everyone agreed this was an excellent, value-added event – that we intend to do again next year!

I finally got to fly a sortie at Falcon Virgo in El Paso (flying at night in the mountains in close proximity to several other aircraft is more fun than you might think), and I was quite

impressed with the professionalism of the staff and aircrews. The US Army customer was very pleased with our contributions to their Culminating Training Event, and they are now ready to deploy for their exceptionally important mission of Air Defense of the U.S. Capitol.

Many of the events I mentioned are featured in this excellent issue of The Fly-By, as well as many others. There are lots of great things going on in Southwest Region! This is a great time to get engaged and make a difference in one or more of our many Missions for America. Thank you for what you do for CAP, and regardless of what that is, remember to do it safely! 🇺🇸

Col. Joe R. Smith, CAP
Southwest Region Commander

Safety is Priority One

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

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

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

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

▪ **Which Articles Are Best?**

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

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

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

▪ **Do I Submit Photos?**

Articles with no photos may not be selected for publication. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments.

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

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate@austin.rr.com. 🇺🇸



Top: Eleven of the 13 SWR AEOs who attended the 2019 National Aerospace Education School. (Back row, L-R) Lt. Col. Martin Kempa of Arkansas Wing; Lt. Col. A Levent Vural of Southwest Region; 2nd Lt. Daymond Faust of Louisiana Wing; Col Joe Cavett of Southwest Region; Capt. Michael Griffith of Arizona Wing; and S.M. Mahendra Munuswamy of Texas Wing. (Front Row, L-R) 2nd Lts. Jud Ergle and Jo Lynn Ergle of Louisiana Wing; Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford of Louisiana Wing; 2nd Lt. Carla Guichard of Louisiana Wing, and Lt. Col. Mike Winslow of Texas Wing. (Photo: Sue Mercer, CAP, School Staff)

Southwest Region Members Attend the 2019 National Aerospace Education Officer School

by Lt. Col. A. Levent Vural, CAP, Southwest Region

PENSACOLA, Fla. – During July 24-28, 2019, the 17th National Aerospace Education Officer School was conducted at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. The classrooms were located in the conference center building at 3249 BOQ Road. Billeting was in the same block as the conference center, provided by the Navy Gateway Inns & Suites.

The Civil Air Patrol Southwest Region (SWR) was represented by 15 members attending the school: 13 Aerospace Education Officers (AEO) and 2 Aerospace Education Members (AEM). The student body consisted of about 55 CAP adult members.

The quality of the presentation was at a university undergraduate level. Academic work was intense, highly educational, and delivered on a 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. class schedule. However, the experience and expertise of the National Aerospace Education Headquarters staff made the learning experience very pleasant and straightforward.

The Fly-By, Southwest Region, July, 2019

The first day was for the AEOs only, where CAP and CAP/AE business was discussed and taught. On the second day, the AEMs joined the class. This time was designed to teach and exchange information on best teaching practices and hands-on activities. What educational wealth CAP AE has to offer was also clearly defined for the benefit of all students. Besides learning how to do the job successfully, attendees had time to network and make friends with those of similar interests.

“Attending the 2019 National AEO School has been one of the best experiences of my career, said SWR Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Aerospace Education Col. Joe Cavett. “I highly encourage anyone who is working in the AE field to attend if possible. You will leave with more tools to build a successful AE program in your unit and make yourself a more valuable member.”

The school week was not all business. In the evenings, attendees could dine at selected restaurants in Pensacola. During the class period, students were served excellent meals and also snacks. Since Pensacola Naval Air Station is home to the famous “Blue Angels” naval aerobatic flight demonstration team, the class was invited to watch one of their practice sessions.

Lt. Col. Mike Winslow of Rio del Fierro Composite Squadron, Texas Wing, said, “I’ve been an AEO for just over a year and wanted to better understand what was available to squadrons from National Headquarters. What I did not anticipate was the amazing amount of sharing that would happen between the other AEOs and AEMs. Not only have I been able to develop a network of aviation enthusiasts and professionals but I made a number of friends too.”

A highlight of the event was a visit by the Civil Air Patrol’s National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith. After graduation, the final school event was an optional visit to the National Naval Aviation Museum on Friday afternoon.

Students profited in many ways, but the main message was that all CAP members should strive to bring the Aerospace Education standard practice to all echelons of the organization, so as to reflect what is being taught at this school.

“AEO School provided fun and interesting analogies used when teaching AE to our cadets,” said 2nd Lt. Jo Lynn Ertle of Alvin Callendar Composite Squadron, Louisiana Wing. “It also improved my overall knowledge and planted seeds for success.”

Planning and executing such a high-quality educational event on a volunteer basis is not easy. Equally difficult is for students to take a week off away from job and family responsibilities in order to attend it; doing so demonstrates a high level of dedication and some sacrifice. 🍷

Below: The class at the 2019 National AEO School. (Photo: Sue Mercer, CAP, School Staff)





Top: Glen Canyon Dam is located on the Colorado River in northern Arizona, near the town of Page. (Photo: Arizona OpsEval Mission Aircrew)

Below: (L-R) Incident Commander Maj. Paul Combellick reviews Operations Evaluation (OpsEval) plans with Ground Team Leader Lt. Col. David Girolami and Ground Branch Director Lt. Col. Rob Pinckard.



Air Force Team Finds that Arizona Wing is Ready to Conduct Disaster Relief/Search and Rescue Missions

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – A U.S. Air Force evaluation team found that the Civil Air Patrol's Arizona Wing is ready to respond during an actual emergency. Besides the top rating of "Ready," evaluators noted six commendable activities or processes, and no deficiencies. The OpsEval took place on May 15-18, 2019, and the final report was issued on May 24.



Left: Arizona Wing's use of a drone team during an Air Force-evaluated exercise was a first. This image, shot from a CAP drone, shows team leader 1st Lt. Don Fry role-playing a search target lost in the desert. The image was captured by the drone in "geomapping" mode, and downloaded once the drone team had returned to the squadron.

Below: Communications Unit Leader Maj. Ruben Kafenbaum manned the radio console in the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs mobile command center, backing up the radio room inside the Incident Command Post.

In particular, the Air Force evaluators cited:

- Arizona Wing's culture of excellence and its overall membership motivation. The evaluators said this resulted in the Wing's ability to fully staff a statewide, geographically divided, Area Command structure and, therefore, complete a greater number of tasks assigned.
- The first integration of a drone team with a ground search and rescue team, which required developing new procedures in real time while ensuring a safe and effective demonstration of drone capabilities for this purpose.
- Use of a wide variety of Arizona Wing-developed technology for tracking mission activities, aircraft, and people, which led to increased command and control efficiency and situational awareness during the evaluation.
- The scenario for the exercise called for CAP members to respond to a "U.S. Air Force request to support FEMA operations as a result of a California earthquake that has affected regions of Arizona." Ten CAP airplanes and more than 80 members across the state participated in the OpsEval. A Ground Search and Rescue Team, including a Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS, or drone) team, also was used to support the exercise. Two incident command posts were set up at Falcon Field in Mesa and Tucson International Airport, with additional resources based at Deer Valley, Prescott, Sierra Vista and Yuma squadrons.

CAP airplanes began flying airborne photography missions on Thursday, providing hundreds of high-resolution photographs of lakes, dams, and other infrastructure. Multiple airborne photography flights also flew out of airports across Arizona on Saturday morning. In an actual emergency, the photos are uploaded to a FEMA site which allows the federal disaster agency to assess damage and prioritize disaster relief resources.

The most intense part of the OpsEval occurred on Saturday, when new tasks were assigned by the Air Force evaluators and a variety of simulated emergencies



The Fly-By, Southwest Region, July, 2019

occurred, such as a fire in the Incident Command Post and a missing cadet at roll call. The goal is for CAP members to “roll with the punches,” adapt accordingly, and continue to carry out the mission.

CAP Maj. Paul Combellick was the incident commander for the exercise. “The Arizona Wing trained hard for this,” Combellick said. “Our volunteer professionals were ready to tackle whatever tasks the Air Force Evaluation Team sent our way.”

The involvement of the sUAS team, led by 1st Lt. Don Fry, was especially noticed, since this was the first time an sUAS team was integrated into ground team search and rescue efforts during an OpsEval. The Air Force evaluators noted that “Arizona Wing overcame a lack of operational guidance on sUAS flight and ground team release procedures, and safely executed an effective sUAS SAR demo sortie.”

Since the previous OpsEval in 2017, the CAP-USAF rating system has changed, and the rating structure is now Ready, Ready with Restrictions, or Not Ready. After three consecutive “outstanding” evaluations in previous years, Southwest Liaison Region (SWLR) Assistant Director of Operations Brad Oliver observed that “Arizona Wing members might think the ‘Ready’ evaluation is a comedown.” He noted that six commendable and zero deficiency findings added up to an evaluation that Arizona Wing members can be proud of. “Arizona Wing is as good as I’ve seen,” he said, adding that he has been involved in evaluated exercises throughout the CAP’s Rocky Mountain and Southwest Regions.

SWLR Commander USAF Maj. Aric Holly said, “I’ve come to expect nothing less from Arizona Wing. This is not a flash in the pan. You have built a culture that promotes excellence and that ensures the future of this organization is on the right path.”

Holly presented challenge coins to Cadet Master Sergeant Austin Lindgren for his work with the Safety team, the staff members of Tango Command at the Tucson airport, and Lt. Col. Vic LaSala, who served as planning section chief for the exercise. 🍷

Below: The Discovery Channel Telescope was built at a dark-sky site in the Coconino National Forest near Happy Jack, Arizona, approximately 40 miles south-southeast of Flagstaff. *(Photo: Arizona OpsEval Mission Aircrew)*



New Mexico Wing Practice Exercise Turns into Search and Rescue Mission

by Maj. C. John Graham, CAP, New Mexico Wing

SANTA FE, N.M. – On May 4, 2019, the watchword for one aircrew was “flexibility.” For several months, Civil Air Patrol’s New Mexico Wing had been planning a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) for that day in conjunction with the state search and rescue community, to be conducted around Cedro Peak, in the East Mountains area east of Albuquerque. Early that morning, however, a text message went out, announcing that the exercise had been cancelled, due to a real-world search north of Las Vegas, N.M.

The Santa Fe crew (Maj. John Graham, Capt. Dave Staples and Capt. Allan Wood), who had been scheduled to support the SAREX, decided to go ahead with their own practice mission in the local area. Cadet 2nd Lt. Forest Nelson and Capt. Alan Eckert provided support as mission radio operators. However, later that morning, the crew got a call from the CAP mission base in Albuquerque, asking whether the crew could support a real-world mission, or REDCAP, with an early afternoon sortie. No further details were available. The aircrew met at the Santa Fe radio room, and the aircraft had already been fueled and ready to go.

The sortie launched around 1:00 p.m., with instructions to proceed to the village of Ojo Feliz, where a search by ground teams from Taos and Santa Fe was underway. The Santa Fe aircrew relieved an aircrew from Los Alamos, that had been on scene for over two hours.

Approaching the search area, the Santa Fe aircrew received instructions to search an approximately four-mile by four-mile sloping area that was partly wooded and partly open. The subject of the search was an individual who had become lost while looking for antlers shed by deer and elk.

The 1,000-foot above ground level search was somewhat challenging, given the afternoon turbulence and the thin density altitude at 11,000 feet. Around 3:30 p.m., the aircrew heard a ground team transmission, notifying incident base that the subject had been found, whereupon the incident commander released the flight crew to return to Santa Fe.

The flight crew was happy to have been part of a search that ended with a save. As Richard Goldstein of Santa Fe Search and Rescue said, “The reward of seeing people reunited with their families is worth all the work.” 🍷

Below: Ojo Feliz, site of the May 4, 2019, REDCAP. (Map: Courtesy of Taos Search and Rescue)





Top: (L-R) Louisiana Wing sUAV Team 1st Lt. Michael Griffin, technician, and Maj. Mark Warriner, pilot. (All photos: Courtesy of Mrs. Trudy Warriner)

CAP's Louisiana Wing Is Adding Drones for Emergency Services

by Maj. Mark Warriner, CAP, and 1st Lt. Michael Griffin, CAP, Louisiana Wing

NEW ORLEANS – Louisiana Wing of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is introducing small unmanned aerial vehicles (sUAVs), or drones, as another tool for its Emergency Services capabilities. The Wing anticipates using sUAVs for a variety of missions, including search and rescue, disaster relief, homeland security, aerial photography and mapping.

Louisiana Wing officials say their ability to launch a small, camera-mounted sUAV immediately after a natural disaster and to rapidly produce detailed images of its effects will be a great asset to emergency service agencies and parish officials.

Louisiana Wing's Director of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Capt. Michael Giroir said, "When our sUAVs are integrated with the wing's existing fixed wing air and ground resources, our ability to support rescue and disaster relief efforts will be unmatched."

Each sUAV is flown by a team of at least two members. One is an FAA Part 107 certificated, remote pilot who serves as Mission Pilot and controls the vehicle in flight. The other team member assists the mission pilot in setup and flight operations, holds the title of Technician, and acts as a spotter, maintaining a visual line of sight with the sUAV at all times.



Left: Louisiana Wing Drone in Flight.

Below: Louisiana Wing Drone on landing pad.

Louisiana Wing's Maj. Mark Warriner and 1st Lt. Mike Griffin are the first registered sUAV Technicians in CAP's Southwest Region, and Maj. Warriner becomes the first fully qualified sUAV pilot in Southwest Region. Maj. Warriner said, "A small drone's ability to fly at low altitude and

slow speed makes it the ideal platform for close-up examination of vulnerable infrastructure targets, flooding effects, wind and storm damage, and people in distress."

Six DJI Phantom Pro 4 quadcopters, one of the most technologically advanced aircraft in the industry, have been assigned to Louisiana Wing. Many people regard this vehicle as the "drone of choice" for commercial operators. It is highly maneuverable and can produce high-resolution still and video images. The wing will be deploying its six sUAVs to strategic locations around the state.

Louisiana Wing has been involved with CAP's sUAS program during its inception, and through the design and testing phases. Now CAP is in the process of equipping all wings with this new technology. Nationally, the Civil Air Patrol's sUAS Program will include larger, remotely piloted aircraft types that can carry heavier payloads, stay aloft longer, and cover a larger area. 🇺🇸





Top: Aerial photograph of Ponca, Okla. water treatment plant taken during the Oklahoma Wing Operations Evaluation, March 30, 2019. (Photo: Oklahoma Wing aircrew)

Below: Ground Team Leader 1st Lt. Paul E. Stansberry III, Edmond Composite Squadron, checks his map during the Oklahoma Wing Operations Evaluation March 30, 2019. (Photo: Capt. Brian P. Heck, Oklahoma Wing)

Oklahoma Wing Is Mission Ready to Perform Air Force-Assigned Missions

by Lt. Col. Johanna Augustine, CAP, Texas Wing

NORMAN, Okla. – Neither rain, nor cold, nor dark of day could stop Oklahoma Wing members from performing their duties assigned by the Civil Air Patrol–United States Air Force (CAP-USAF) evaluation team during March 28-30, 2019. After four days of evaluating the Wing's resources and responsiveness to tasking, the CAP-USAF evaluation team deemed the Oklahoma Wing mission ready to perform all Air Force-assigned missions.

Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk, Southwest Region director of operations, took the helm as incident commander (IC) for the biennial evaluation. Woolfolk and deputy IC, Col. David L. Roberts Jr., Oklahoma Wing commander, led the 93 participating volunteers through various scenarios that can or have happened in the state of Oklahoma.

As a simulated storm headed for Oklahoma, Civil Air Patrol members began coordinating with state officials to photograph key infrastructure that could be stressed by flooding. Aircrews were dispatched to photograph bridges, dams, train trestles, power stations and water treatment plants in and around Ardmore, Prague, Ponca City and Shawnee.





Above: An Oklahoma Wing aircrew was tasked to take photos of the North Canadian River near Shawnee during the Oklahoma Wing Operations Evaluation March 30, 2019. *(Photo: Oklahoma Wing aircrew)*

Below: Cadet Colonel Jarel W. Murphey, Edmond Composite Squadron, speaks to mission base during the Oklahoma Wing Operations Evaluation March 30, 2019. *(Photo: Capt. Brian P. Heck, Oklahoma Wing)*

After the simulated torrential rains swept through northern Oklahoma, the central and eastern areas of the state experienced catastrophic flooding. On the morning of March 30, 2019, aircrews were once again tasked to take aerial photographs of key infrastructure.

This time, the weather intervened for real. The day turned cold and blustery and the sky was dark and gray over Norman, raising concerns that aircrews wouldn't be able to fly. But after a few hours the clouds lifted enough for CAP aircraft to take to the air and complete their assigned missions.

As the evaluation continued, a ground team was dispatched to find a simulated missing aircraft, while another was sent to find a simulated missing person. Two additional ground teams assisted on both of these missions. Both missions ended successfully.



The Fly-By, Southwest Region, July, 2019

Additionally, a ground crew was tasked to deliver needed blood to Ardmore, Okla. CAP members were evaluated on how quickly they were able to depart the area and whether they successfully transported the blood and passenger to Ardmore.

Incident Commander Lt. Col. Woolfolk was pleased with the evaluation's results. The CAP-USAF team determined that the Oklahoma Wing was mission ready in all aspects, and they found no deficiencies. This was a direct result of the quality and timing of the effort that all members made to ensure a successful evaluation.

"It has been my experience that usually there are a couple of recommendations for additional training or effort needed on different parts of the effort", said Woolfolk. "I see these zero deficiencies as being a really big deal for the Oklahoma Wing."

Oklahoma Wing Director of Emergency Services Lt. Col. David McCallum, who also served as the Planning Section Chief for the evaluation, said that during the CAP-USAF team debriefing, they continually stressed how impressed they were with the wing member's sense of urgency while staying aware of the challenges that the day's weather posed. "Training with a sense of urgency really does prevent performance with a sense of panic," he said.

Five wing members were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the evaluation. Lt. Col. Aric Holly, Southwest Region CAP-USAF Liaison commander, presented a challenge coin to McCollum and:

- Lt. Col. Aaron E. Oliver, Oklahoma City Composite Squadron commander;
- 1st Lt. Gregory R. Sturge, Starbase Composite Squadron deputy commander for seniors and wing director of communications;
- Cadet Senior Airman Devin J. Phillips, Cleveland County Composite Squadron; and
- Cadet Airman 1st Class Margaret M. Painter, Cleveland County Composite Squadron.

Oklahoma Wing Commander Col. Roberts said, "I am extremely pleased with the results. The wing has always excelled in operations and I knew our team would bear that out." He added, "Lt. Col. Woolfolk did an outstanding job in allowing the volunteers to show what they could do."

Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Augustine was the public information officer for the Oklahoma Wing Operations Evaluation.

Below: A CAP cadet logs in information during the Oklahoma Wing Operations Evaluation, March 30, 2019. (Photo: Cadet Airman First Class Lillian Clark, Oklahoma Wing)





region, July, 2019

Left: During the opening general session, CAP-USAF Commander Col. Mark Wootan speaks about the important relationship between CAP and the Air Force.

Below right: Cadet 1st Lt. Nadine Saliba addresses the Board of Governors about how CAP membership has benefited her.

Bottom: Arizona Wing Commander Col. Martha Morris makes her annual State of the Wing presentation at the opening general session. (All photos: Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, unless otherwise noted.)

The 2019 Arizona Wing Conference Featured Activities, Awards, and an Astronaut

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – The 2019 Arizona Wing Conference was held on April 26-28, 2019, at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel, just south of Phoenix. This year's conference was a unique event because the CAP Board of Governors, National Command Team, and Southwest Region Command Team were also onsite for meetings.

The eleven distinguished members of the Civil Air Patrol's Board of Governors chose to hold their spring meeting in Phoenix concurrently with the wing conference. CAP National Commander and CEO Maj. Gen. Mark Smith, COO John Salvador, and CAP-USAF Commander Col. Mark Wootan serve as advisors to the Board of Governors and also attended, along with members of the national headquarters staff and the Southwest Region, including SWR Commander Col. Joe Smith.

During the Governors' meeting, members of the Arizona Wing were invited to tell how CAP membership impacted their lives. Cadet 1st Lt. Nadine Saliba, Cadet



Commander of the Deer Valley Composite Squadron, spoke about the confidence and leadership skills she has gained as a cadet. These skills, she believes, helped her being selected for a program through which she will spend her senior high school year studying in Germany.

Lt. Col. Dave Mickle told the governors about a difficult childhood as the child of an alcoholic, and called the day he joined CAP as a 14-year-old cadet in 1962 a "turning point" in his life. Mickle's passion for flying, the CAP cadet program, ROTC, and an Air Force commission upon graduation led him to a 37-year career of military and airline flying. "In CAP, I found structure, stability and security," Mickle told the Governors. "In CAP, I found a direction for my life."



Right: Deer Valley Composite Squadron color guard members presented a break-out session. (Photo: 1st Lt. Amber O'Donnell, CAP)

Below left: Col. Mike Mullane, retired NASA Astronaut, gives an inspiring speech at the awards banquet.

Bottom: Maj. Gen. Mark Smith fields a broad range of questions during a Q&A session with senior members.

The wing conference began with an informal reception on Friday evening. On Saturday morning, approximately 225 people attended the opening general session. Board of Governors Chairman Col. Brad Lynn, Maj. Gen. Smith, and Col. Wootan spoke briefly. Wing Commander Col. Martha Morris presented the "state of the wing" address, summarizing the many accomplishments of Arizona Wing and its members during the previous year:

- Wing membership numbers are up – with a total of 1,270 – the highest number in 15 years. The greatest increase is in the cadet numbers, with a year-over-year increase of more than 17%.



- Last year was the first time that the wing flew more than 3,000 hours in a year with flights supporting counterdrug, air defense, Barry Goldwater Air Force Range support, search and rescue, Smoke Detector, and cadet orientation flights.

- Technological innovation is a strength of the wing, and Morris discussed a variety of accomplishments including the work of the Arizona Wing-based National Cell Phone Forensics Team, and a number of projects undertaken by what she called the "Arizona Wing Skunk Works."
- The fledgling sUAS program is off to a strong start in Arizona Wing, as crews are training and acquiring the necessary skills and certifications to accomplish aerospace education, search and rescue, and disaster relief missions.

Following the general session, multiple workshops were presented. For the first time in several years, there were options designed specifically for cadets, such as color guard skills, cadet participation in Emergency Services, CyberPatriot, encampment, and a cadet skill and knowledge challenge, presented by the wing's Cadet Advisory Council.



The

Right: The Cadet Advisory Council meets during the conference.

Below: Southwest Region sUAS Officer (DOU) 1st Lt. Don Fry (left) oversees the first-ever sUAS flying competition, held outdoors during the wing conference. (Photo: 1st Lt. Amber O'Donnell, CAP)



There were Operations Group sessions on sUAS flying in CAP, airborne photography and DAART, updates on the Cell Phone Forensics Team and ground team activities, and a town hall with wing staff. The Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs Group offered workshops on AEX and STEM programs and an update on the AE program.

Also, there were opportunities to hear from National Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert Dandridge about recruiting and using NCOs; discuss websites, branding, and other public affairs issues with Chief of Marketing and Strategic Communications Catherine Sivills; get ideas for fundraising with Chief of Philanthropy Kristina Jones; and participate in a Q&A with the national commander.

The first-ever sUAS Flying Competition was held outside on a nearby vacant lot. Southwest Region sUAS Officer 1st Lt. Don Fry set up a course with three games to challenge competitors.



The day ended with an awards banquet, featuring the 18-piece Forever Young Orchestra (that included Arizona Wing member Capt. Brian Tucek on trumpet) and a presentation by Col. Mike Mullane, a retired astronaut. Mullane, who flew three space missions as a specialist aboard the shuttles Discovery and Atlantis, encouraged the audience to always do their best. "You don't have to be extraordinary to achieve extraordinary things in life," he said. "We have reserves that are deeper than we think, and we find them by challenging ourselves."

After Mullane's inspiring speech, awards were presented to Arizona Wing members, including "Of the Year," Exceptional Service, and Meritorious Service Awards.

The Deer Valley Composite Squadron, under the leadership of Maj. Mark Schadt, helped plan and implement the conference. Schadt, a former Spaatz cadet, was the driving force behind the broad range of activities for cadets. Willie Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Jeff Alloway put together an audiovisual and IT support team, and supervised the shuttling of VIP guests to and from the airport. 🍷



Top: Tinker AFB Commander Col. Kenyon Bell presents Cadet Col. Bethany Wilson her Gen. Carl Spaatz Award. (Photo: 1st Lt Brandon Lunsford, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Cadet Earns the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award

by 1st Lt. Brandon Lunsford, Sr, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

TULSA, Okla.– Cadet Col. Bethany Wilson, 16, of the Broken Arrow Composite Squadron, earned the prestigious Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award, which was presented at Tinker Air Force Base during the Star-Spangled Salute Air and Space Show, June 1-2, 2019. She is the first member of Civil Air Patrol's Oklahoma Wing to be honored with this achievement in 2019.

On June 2, 2019, Tinker's 72nd Air Base Wing Commander Col. Kenyon Bell presented Wilson the Spaatz Award, the highest cadet achievement in the CAP program.

"We have a little bit of history from two years ago," he said to a crowd of over 100 Oklahoma Wing personnel at the conclusion of the air show as he looked at Wilson. "So, two years ago we had the opportunity to do a selfie at an air show. Today Bethany is getting..." Bell paused as the roar from U.S. Navy Blue Angels' F/A 18 Hornets filled the air around them.

Right: Cadet Bethany Wilson takes a selfie with USAF Col. Kenyon Bell after the 2017 Star Spangled Salute Air and Space Show. (Photo: 1st Lt Brandon Lunsford, CAP)

Below: Cadet Bethany Wilson and her team test the robot they built at the Engineering Technology Academy National Cadet Special Activity at Middle Tennessee State University. (Photo: Anonymous activity photographer)



“Hopefully we’ll get to pause like that a few more times, because I don’t want this to end,” he continued. “General Carl Spaatz was our first Chief of Staff for the Air Force. So, any time you have an award named after you it’s a big deal. Your receiving an award named after our first Chief of Staff of the Air Force is an even bigger deal.”

“This particular award I found to be most rewarding because it’s not given to many cadets,” Bell said. “Currently a little over 2000 cadets have received this award. This is a coveted award. It normally takes about five years to progress through a 16-part course culminating with a four-part exam, and I guarantee you I would not qualify for the Spaatz Award right now. Leadership, character, aerospace education and physical fitness, those are the areas you had to take an exam on. That’s pretty phenomenal.”

“I’m looking at mom and dad right now,” said Bell. “I can tell by the looks on your faces you are beaming with pride, and justifiably so. To be able to earn that award is significant. Everything that I have heard about Cadet Wilson exemplifies what this award is about, and the fact that she is going to get it today.”

“It is not done there,” Bell concluded, looking back to Wilson. “I issue you this charge. With this award, it means you are going to turn around and give back to other people. Now you are charged with mentoring junior cadets and continuing to go out into the community and do that which the CAP program stands for.”



“Everything that the Spaatz Award represents,” Wilson said to the crowd of Oklahoma Wing members upon receiving her award. “Is everything that you have poured into me. It’s a reflection of all the dedication that you have put into the program. There is no way that I could have done any of it without the support and encouragement from every single one of you. I really am grateful that I have had the chance to serve with you and I am really hoping that I get to continue to be a part of CAP and do the same that you did for me.”

“Actually,” Wilson recalled. “My sister joined when she was 12 and I was 10 and a half. So I had to patiently wait one and half years before I could join on my twelfth birthday.”

Wilson, who joined at the age of 12, has been active in Civil Air Patrol’s cadet program since October 2014. She could spend another four years as a cadet, before she would have to switch over to senior member status, with the grade of a CAP captain. What has meant the most to her are the personal growth and leadership opportunities.

She has participated in ground team search and rescue, served as a squadron cadet commander, and spent five years at the Joint Oklahoma-Arkansas Encampment, including serving as cadet commander at the 2019 encampment at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. She has attended the Engineering and Technologies Academy in Tennessee and the National Flight Academy in Wisconsin, spending about nine days in air and ground school, and earning her Pre-Solo Wings.

“There are a few that I will never forget,” she said. “When our squadron went to Washington D.C., we toured the Drug Enforcement Administration Foreign-Deployed Advisory and Support Team’s headquarters and I arm wrestled a guy whose bicep was bigger than my head; that was fun. I had my Spaatz presented by the Air Base Wing Commander of Tinker Air Force Base, Col. Bell, and I had taken a selfie with him. During the Star-Spangled Salute Air and Space show, I, my sister, and another friend were given an up-close tour of the Blue Angel’s F/A-18 Hornets. We talked with a couple of the crew members and even got to touch Angel #1.”

“To me,” Wilson mused, “my greatest accomplishment in CAP is the development of effective communication skills. The mentorship that I have had throughout CAP has significantly affected how I treat people. I believe one of the most important lessons I learned through my mentors, and then personally experienced, is the value of genuinely caring for the people whom you are leading and for the people who are encouraging you to continue performing.”

“In anything you want to do or achieve,” she said, “make a decision. Then, once you have decided, don’t look back. Believe in your decision and pursue its completion with every ounce of willpower and strength that you have.”

Right: Cadet Bethany Wilson being observed by her instructor pilot during the Great Lakes Region’s National Flight Academy in Wisconsin. (Photo: Anonymous activity photographer)





Top: (L-R) Capt. Taylor and Cadet Ivy prior to Ivy's solo flight. (Photos: Lt. Col. Marchelle Jones, CAP)

Below: After returning from his solo flight, Capt. Taylor cuts the tail off Cadet Ivy's shirt, an aviator tradition.

Arkansas Wing Squadron Gets Another Solo Cadet

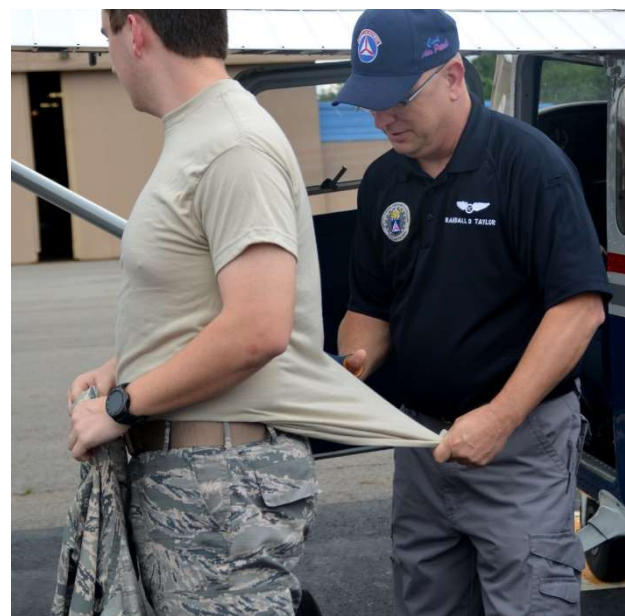
by Capt. Heather Taylor, CAP, Arkansas Wing

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. – Civil Air Patrol has provided the opportunity for many cadets, including Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. William Ivy and Cadet Airman 1st Class Paul Weatherford, to earn their wings by exclusively training and soloing in aircraft operated by CAP. Cadet Weatherford soloed in December 2018, and was featured in the April 2019 issue of *The Fly-by*. Cadet Ivy accomplished the same goal on May 4, 2019. In the air, he shouted his excitement at his achievement over the radio, "I JUST FLEW AN AIRPLANE!"

Capt. Randall Taylor, a member of the 102nd Composite Squadron in Russellville, who provided instruction to both cadets, said, "As an airline pilot, I see the need to invest in aviation training programs such as Civil Air Patrol. These student pilots will be graduating high school in a couple of weeks, with discipline and knowledge of aerospace and defense programs – something that is in great demand and low supply in today's workforce."

This summer, Cadet Ivy will continue working toward his Private Pilot's License at the Russellville Airport, with aspirations of a career as an airline pilot. He plans to attend Henderson State University in the Fall of 2019.

As a benefit of Civil Air Patrol membership, Cadets Ivy and Weatherford have received flight instruction, been provided access to a flight simulator, and got ground school materials free of charge. Additionally, Civil Air Patrol has implemented a new Youth Aviation Initiative program, *Cadet Wings*, which is designed to remove the financial barriers that youths face in their dreams of earning a Private Pilot Certificate. 🇺🇸





Top: (L-R) Cadet Master Sgt. Dietrich Jurgens (PFA), Cadet Capt. Marcello Gonzalez (AFTA), Instructor Pilot Maj. Jeremy Browner, Cadet Lt. Col. Logan O'Brien (PFA), and Cadet Capt. Carey Calloway (AFTA) (Photos: 2nd Lt. Wilda Callan, CAP, unless otherwise shown)

Below: (L-R) Maj. Michael Steward, USAFR, CAP-USAF; Capt. Ben (Scott) Moberley, CAP, PFA/AFTA Instructor; Cadet 2nd Lt. Sarah Moberley; CAP Lt. Col. Robert (Bob) McDonnell, PFA chief pilot and PFA/AFTA instructor.

National Flight Academy –Texas Wing Shirley Martin Powered Flight Academy 2019

by 1st Lt. Kim Fuller, CAP, Texas Wing

NACOGDOCHES, Texas – During June 1-8, 2019, the 2019 Shirley Martin National Powered Flight Academy (PFA) was held at the Texas Wing Headquarters in Nacogdoches, Texas. This year's activity director was Capt. Donald W. Callan, Texas Wing's deputy director of operations and commander of the Hobby Senior Squadron in Houston.



The Texas Wing headquarters building, located at the A.L. Mangham, Jr. Regional Airport, is a repurposed National Guard Armory that Texas Wing purchased when it was offered as a military surplus property. Today, it serves as both the wing's headquarters and a training and billeting facility. The 18 students attending the PFA slept on cots in open barracks, and used classrooms as assigned.



Left: Lt. Col. Brian Childs, National Chief Instructor CAP.

“This year’s Powered Flight Academy is unique in that it is the first time that the PFA co-existed with another flight activity; in this case, the new Advanced Flight Training Academy (AFTA), both being conducted as parallel

activities,” said PFA Director Capt. Donald Callan, who commands the Hobby Senior Squadron, in Houston. “The common perception of the PFA is that we are here to solo the cadets, but it is really all about teaching them how to be safe while flying an airplane, as well as teaching them an adult life experience that they can take with them wherever they go. Most of the cadets who come out of this activity, whether they solo or not, enjoy personal growth, and are better citizens because of this experience.”

Capt. Callan added, “PFA is one of the best cadet activities out there and its intent has always been to increase cadets’ respect for and understanding of aviation. With the current pilot shortage, the PFA and other aviation related activities are under a microscope, looked at as a proving ground for increasing interest in young people for the field of aviation.”

The AFTA is where cadets are working on their private pilot’s license and will continue on for another three weeks. The activity was staffed by experienced instructors, many of whom are prior military and prior airline pilots, some still active in both roles, and all of them possessing knowledge and skills that they want to give back to the cadet students.

Cadets got up at 6:00 a.m., with breakfast at 7:00 a.m. Then studying until instructors came to get their student for that morning’s flights. After lunch at 12:30, students attended a few hours of ground school and then more flying. Dinner was usually around 6:30 p.m. From 7:00-10:00 p.m. students had study/free time. The student/instructor ratio was 2 to 1.

Normally, the activity is able to solo over 50% of participants, but this year the time available for hands-on flight instruction was severely diminished by adverse weather during three days: high winds and low visibility made it impossible to conduct safe and meaningful instruction. To compensate for this unexpected course abbreviation, Capt. Callan left the course open past graduation time, in order to allow those who had not been able to solo to seek additional instruction and potentially fulfill the solo flight requirement.

“I was an Air Force pilot for 25 years and retired a full colonel,” said PFA Instructor Pilot Lt. Col. Dan Crum, Delta Composite Squadron, Spring, Texas. “I wanted to use that time in my service life to promote aviation in a school environment, so I got involved with the AF JROTC. While in this position in Oklahoma, I was introduced to Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and I was hooked. Having spent 20 years with high school students in the classroom, it was easy for me to involve myself in some of the cadet programs in CAP. The fun of flying with the cadets is hard to describe, because it is almost like watching a baby walk for the first time. There are ups and down, but it is a thrill to be able to say, *Ok, you are ready to solo!*”

Right: 2019 Powered Flight Academy students and Instructors.





Above: 2019 Powered Flight Academy (blue shirts) and Advanced Flight Training Academy Students (gray shirts).

Flight academies offer cadets more than just learning to fly airplanes, because many of them have never attended any camp like these. They learn much about character development, teamwork, and responsibility on a different level than they have at home or in a traditional school setting.

One of the two cadets to solo, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Izaak Medina, of the Tigershark Composite Squadron in Amarillo, Texas, said, "I've always wanted to be a pilot of some sort, but had never really decided on what kind, so this was the jump-start for me to get headed in the right direction. This course has been a mind-blowing experience. Getting up to that altitude without anybody telling me what to do and how to do it, it was not only amazing but also stressful, because I had to make sure I would be alive when I landed by doing all the procedures and checks that I had been trained to do this entire time." He added, "I would recommend this academy to all who wants to start flying. Whether it is fighter jets, twin engines or something of that sort, this is where one can start, get one's hours going, solo, then you go back home and work on it even more."

The other student to solo, Cadet Maj. Nick Sullivan, a member of Apollo Composite Squadron in Georgetown, Texas, commented, "My Dad was in CAP when he was a kid, eventually working his way up to a pilot's license, and that same passion carried over to me, so I have always wanted to fly, and being here has been a dream come true. My solo experience was thrilling, to say the least. When I taxied up to the runway, I was so nervous that my foot started to shake, but when I pushed the power in and felt that engine pull me forward, it was just incredible!"

PFA Student Cadet Col. Andrew Fuller, of Midway Composite Squadron in Midlothian, Texas, said, "This has been one of the best experiences I have had so far in my CAP career. In a relaxed

atmosphere, we had an intensive study environment. The instructors focused on making us better pilots, rather than just graduating us. Also, having a ratio of 2 students per instructor made learning a great deal easier.

Cadets attending the PFA were from **Texas Wing**: Cadet Col. Andrew Fuller, Midway Composite Squadron; Cadet Sr. Amn. Peyton Goodwin, Nacogdoches Composite Squadron; Cadet 1st Lt. Noah Irey, Apollo Composite Squadron; Cadet 2nd Lt. Jack Jones, Ellington Composite Squadron; Cadet Capt. Colin McNalley, Thunderbolt Composite Squadron; Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Izaak Medina, Tigershark Composite Squadron; Cadet 1st Lt. Lake Mills, Pegasus Composite Squadron; Cadet Lt. Col. Logan O'Brien, Sheldon Cadet Squadron; Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Joelle Sherbeck, Midland Composite Squadron; Cadet Maj. Nicholas Sullivan, Apollo Composite Squadron; Cadet Master Sgt. Ruth Watts, Nighthawk Composite Squadron; Cadet Master Sgt. Darlene Woelfel, Delta Composite Squadron; Cadet 2nd Lt. Colby Jordan, Ellington Composite Squadron; Cadet Tech. Sgt. Dietrich Jurgens, George H. W. Bush Composite Squadron, College Station, Texas; and Cadet 2nd Lt. Noa Woods, Nighthawk Composite Squadron. **Arizona Wing**: Cadet Maj. Jacob Kottraba, Willie Composite Squadron. **Michigan Wing**: Cadet Maj. Madeline Taylor, GLR-MI-073. **Virginia Wing**: Cadet Capt. Michael Lawlor, MER-VA-007.

The PFA flight instructors and staff were from **Texas Wing**: Lt. Col. Garard Bulhon, Delta Composite Squadron; Capt. Donald Callan, Hobby Senior Squadron; 2nd Lt. Wilda Callan, Hobby Senior Squadron; Lt. Col. Brian Childs, Sheldon Cadet Squadron; Capt. Edward Chmiel, Nighthawk Composite Squadron; Lt. Col. Daniel Crum, Delta Composite Squadron; Lt. Col. Michael Duc, David Lee (Tex) Hill Composite Squadron; Cadet 2nd Lt. Emma Harrington, Sulphur Springs Composite Squadron; Lt. Col. Sue Kristoffersen, Apollo Composite Squadron; Capt. Lucinda McFarlin, Nacogdoches Composite Squadron; Capt. Ben Moberly, Bexar County Senior Squadron; Maj. Alan O'Martin, Texas Wing; Maj. Benjamin Ratliff, Delta Composite Squadron; Lt. Col. Leroy Saage, Apollo Composite Squadron; Maj. Curtis Sampson, Thunderbolt Composite Squadron; Lt. Col. Choya Shanahan, Sulphur Springs Composite Squadron; Maj. John Watts, Nighthawk Composite Squadron; Maj. Diane Wieman, Bexar County Senior Squadron; Lt. Col. James Zoeller, 441st Composite Squadron; and Capt. Richard Stone, Marauder Composite Squadron. **Louisiana Wing**: Lt. Col. Robert McDonnell, Green Flag East Flight. **North Carolina Wing**: Maj. Jeremy Browner, MER-NC-048; and Capt. Gary Shelley, MER-NC-057. 🇺🇸



Right: Cadet Maj. Nicholas Sullivan, Apollo Composite Squadron on solo flight. (Photo: Lt. Col. Sue Kristoffersen, CAP)



Top: The newly-appointed New Mexico Wing commander outlines her vision for the Wing. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

Peters Becomes the First Female Commander of New Mexico Wing

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On June 23, 2019, Col. Annette Peters made history when she became the first female commander of Civil Air Patrol's New Mexico Wing.

The Change of Command ceremony, held at Kirtland Air Force Base's Mountain View Club, included such dignitaries as New Mexico National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Kenneth Nava, and Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe R. Smith, who presided over the ceremony.

Smith, who had been present at the New Mexico Wing's OpsEval (operations evaluation) exercise the day before, was pleased to report that New Mexico Wing received a rating of Ready – the highest rating a wing can receive – from the CAP-USAF Southwest Liaison Region, who evaluated the exercise.

"It's the New Mexico Wing, Civil Air Patrol family, that impressed me the most," said Smith.

2019



Left: Col. Annette Peters accepts command of New Mexico Wing from Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith.

Below: Outgoing Wing commander Col. Mike Lee receives Civil Air Patrol's Distinguished Service Medal from Col. Smith.

Outgoing wing commander Col. Mike Lee recognized those members of his staff for their contributions, presenting them with Commander's Commendations Awards, Meritorious Service Awards and Exceptional Service Awards.

Especially poignant for Lee was the Commander's Commendation Award meant for wing legal officer Maj. Alvin

C. Jones, who on May 28, 2019 was killed in a bicycling accident in Roswell.

"It's hard to lose anyone," Lee said, his voice breaking, "but Alvin was a friend of mine. He recruited me into CAP. He is the reason that I am here." Arrangements were made to send the award certificate to Jones' family.

Lee himself received CAP's Distinguished Service Medal from Col. Smith, for his outstanding service as New Mexico Wing commander.

Smith then presided over Peters' promotion to colonel, and the official change of command. The new wing commander acknowledged the contributions of her two predecessors – Lee and National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith, who had served as wing commander from 2011 to 2015 – and noted that she intends to build on that foundation.

"Our goal, moving forward, is to build on our successes and to raise ourselves to an even higher level," Peters said.

To that end, Peters appointed Lt. Col. Dean M. Klassy as her vice commander, and will initiate the creation of three groups within the Wing: North, Central and South. Group 800, which oversees the Wing's School Enrichment Program squadrons, will continue in that area, making a total of four groups within the Wing, and eliminating the need for two vice commanders. The group commanders will report to Klassy, who in turn will report to Peters.

Peters thanked the attendees for their understanding and support, and concluded with her new vision statement for the Wing: "Working together as a team, accomplishing our missions for our community, state and nation." 📱





Top: (L-R) Congressman Cedric Richmond, 2nd Lt. Valerie Titus, Cadet 2nd Lt. Luke Titus and Squadron Commander Lt. Col. William Hunton. (Photo: Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, CAP)

Louisiana Wing Cadet Earns the General Billy Mitchell Award

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

NEW ORLEANS – On April 16, 2019, Congressman Cedric Richmond presented Civil Air Patrol's Gen. Billy Mitchell Award to Cadet 2nd Lt. Luke Titus at a special ceremony held at the headquarters of Pontchartrain Cadet Squadron in Harahan, Louisiana. Cadet Titus earned this award which qualified him for promotion to Cadet 2d Lt. on February 27, 2019.

Congressman Richmond also presented Cadet Titus with a set of Congressional cufflinks while praising him for prestigious achievement in only 24 months. Lt. Col. William Hunton, Pontchartrain Composite Squadron commander, said, "Cadet Titus is an exemplary cadet. He has achieved this milestone considerably faster than most cadets."

Attending the ceremony were Cadet Titus' mother, Lt. Valerie Titus, as well as other squadron members and guests.

The Gen. Billy Mitchell Award marks the transition between cadet enlisted and cadet officer grades. In his two years in CAP, Cadet Titus has promoted in record time and currently serves as squadron cadet commander, cadet leadership officer, and cadet emergency services officer. He has served as the squadron flight sergeant and committee chairperson for the Louisiana Wing Cadet Olympiad.

Last summer, Cadet Titus attended Louisiana Wing's annual Encampment at Barksdale Air Force Base. He was chosen Honor Cadet from a field of 100 cadets from Louisiana Wing. He plans to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. 🇺🇸



Top: The Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team performs for the guests. *(Photo: Capt. Steven Lindquist, CAP)*

Recruiting and Thunderbirds Highlight New Mexico Air Show

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On May 18, 2019, Civil Air Patrol’s New Mexico Wing participated in the Air and Space Fiesta, held at Kirtland Air Force Base, by providing CAP recruiting booths and talking to prospective members about CAP.

The Wing set up a recruiting table in Hangar 333, which normally houses the corporate aircraft used by the Wing to fly search and rescue sorties.

A total of eight CAP squadrons participated in the event, including Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron, Albuquerque Senior Squadron II, Eagle Cadet Squadron, Los Alamos Cadet Squadron, Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron, Route 66 Composite Squadron, Socorro Composite Squadron and West Mesa Composite Squadron.



Left: S.M. Tyler J. Tourtel of Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron talks to a prospective member at the Wing's recruiting table. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, unless otherwise noted)

Below: Wing Commander-select Lt. Col. Annette Peters takes a break by the Wing's Cessna 206.

"We've had about six or seven potential cadets, and about two potential senior members," said Capt. Dan McGregor of Eagle Cadet Squadron, who was in charge of the recruiting table.



The Fly-By, Southwest Region, July, 2019

McGregor said it was an excellent opportunity for cadets to practice their leadership skills and to interact with prospective members. Also, it gave the cadets a chance to practice their “elevator speech” – a short description of what CAP is about – to anyone interested in learning more about Civil Air Patrol.

“We’ve set up at the Wing’s primary hangar, but if an actual search and rescue mission were called while this hangar is in use, the Wing has aircraft at Double Eagle Airport and also at Moriarty. We could launch a sortie at a moment’s notice,” said McGregor.

Visitors were able to sit at the controls of the Wing’s Cessna 206 and Gippsland GA-8 search and rescue aircraft, standing on static display on the flight line.

Although it was a busy day for everyone, CAP members could take an occasional break. Wing Commander-select Lt. Col. Annette Peters took time out to talk about the importance of the Wing’s participation in the air show.

“The air show has been going very well,” said Peters. “We have a lot of people who are fascinated by our aircraft.”

Peters stressed the importance of CAP getting its message out to the general public. “When people hear about our three missions – emergency services, aerospace education and the Cadet Program – they are blown away by what we do,” she said.

She noted that the general public is genuinely thankful for the work that CAP does. “As I talk to people about what we do, they are so grateful that we are out there, searching for aircraft and shaping young people through the Cadet Program,” she said.

The star of the show was the Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team, a spectator-pleaser that performed near the end of the show. In the words of the air show narrator, “The purpose of the air show is to honor the past and inspire the future.”

Below: The New Mexico Wing’s Cessna 206 stands on static display on the flight line.





Top: Coast Guard and Civil Air Patrol members attend one of the many lectures hosted at the USCG Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia. (Photos: Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP)

NESA Mobile Training Team Instructors Prepare to Teach

by Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP, Arizona Wing, NESA-MTT Training Coordinator

YORKTOWN, Va. – The National Emergency Services Academy was founded in 1996 as a means for increasing the knowledge and professionalism of Civil Air Patrol members in incident management and emergency/disaster response. During the first two years, all classes were held in Virginia. By 1998, the program had moved to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and it has resided there ever since, providing emergency services professional development in multiple incident management, public information, communications, aircrew, chaplain, and other disciplines.

Since its fledging days, the curriculums at Camp Atterbury have grown from two two-week classes to now nearly 30 separate courses delivered during the main summer school, as well as several courses as needed during the year such as small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) training.

The NESA-Mobile Training Team (NESA-MTT) program was started in 2018 to provide off-campus extension course deliveries across all CAP regions, making available many of the same courses offered at the annual NESA in Indiana. In 2019, NESA-MTT classes are scheduled for a joint Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region delivery in New Jersey; at the CAP National Conference in Maryland; and for the Southwest/Pacific Regions in Arizona. Future classes will be scheduled, as requested by other wings and regions.

The Fly-By, Southwest Region, July, 2019

In March 2019, two Civil Air Patrol members attended the U.S. Coast Guard's Instructor Development Course at the USCG Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia. Lt. Cols. Linda Yaeger from Arizona Wing and Brenda Reed from Maryland Wing participated as members of the NESA-MTT Instructor Development Program. Yaeger will be teaching Incident Command and Management MTT courses, while Reed will be conducting Public Information Officer MTT courses.

Sponsored by CAP National Headquarters, select members attend instructor development courses presented by FEMA or the Coast Guard. According to Yorktown Center Division Training Chief Commander Scott Casad, "This five-day course is designed to provide the highest standards of academic leadership and instructional skills for future training instructors. We are delighted to host Civil Air Patrol, supporting the development of its instructor cadre."

"The curriculum provides the skills to conduct performance-based instruction to individuals, groups or teams," said Yaeger. More specifically, the students gain experience in adult learning theories, effective communication/presentation skills, feedback, managing the learning environment, effectively using a variety of media/instructional methods, establishing/maintaining instructor credibility, lesson planning, reading/writing performance-based objectives, preparing the instructional site, demonstrating effective questioning/answering skills, providing positive reinforcement and motivational incentives, evaluating learner performance/delivery of instruction, and reporting evaluation information.

In May 2019, Captains Gordon Helm and Margot Myers from the Arizona Wing completed the FEMA Instructional Presentation and Evaluation Skills course at the University of California at Riverside. Sponsored by the California Office of Emergency Services and taught by FEMA instructors, the class offered a curriculum similar to the Instructor Development Course. Helm and Myers also will be teaching Public Information Officer courses as members of NESA-MTT. If interested in becoming a NESA-MTT instructor, contact NESA-MTT Coordinator Lt. Col. Bob Ditch at rditch@cap.gov.

Below: Lt. Col. Linda Yaeger provides a lecture on knot tying to Coast Guard students as part of her final course evaluation.



Arkansas Wing NCO is SWR Cadet Programs Officer of the Year

by 1st Lt. Jonathan McIntyre, CAP, Arkansas Wing

FORT SMITH, Ark. – For the John V. “Jack” Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year Award, Southwest Region (SWR) takes into consideration all cadet programs officers from every wing in the region. The winner then is submitted for the National Award. Appropriately, SWR selected a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) to receive such an award, since NCOs embody Servant Leadership, which is the philosophy that Tech. Sgt. Gary Podgurski routinely stresses to the cadets of the 42nd Composite Squadron, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

“Sgt. Ski,” as he is called in his squadron, is also a sixteen-year military veteran. He served on active duty in the Air Force from 1985 to 1993, that included a deployment to Cuba. He also served in the Army National Guard for eight years, from 2007 to 2015, seeing combat action in 2011 during Operation New Dawn in Iraq. He retired from the National Guard with a medical disability. Of the many awards he earned during his military career, he is proudest of the Humanitarian Service Medal, awarded during his deployment to Cuba. His unit was tasked to assist with Haitian refugees that were sent to the American base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Podgurski’s service in Civil Air Patrol (CAP) began in the 1970’s as a cadet. He was then reacquainted with the organization many years later, when his son (now Cadet 2nd Lt.) Steven Rogers had an interest in flying. First they joined a local boy scout troop until Rogers was old enough to join. In February of 2016, both joined the 42nd Composite Squadron in Arkansas.

As a senior member, Podgurski has highlighted CAP’s Cadet program not just in Ft. Smith, but throughout Arkansas and Oklahoma. In 2016, the 83rd Composite Squadron had only 10 active cadets; today, that number is closer to 40. He has staffed every Oklahoma/Arkansas Joint Encampment since 2016. He was instrumental in securing training facilities for the wing and squadron, such as extensive use of Ft. Chaffee, just outside of Ft. Smith, where *Fun at the Fort*, a mini encampment that highlights military STEM activities, has been held for the past two years.

Podgurski developed a curriculum for the Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) for the 2018 Oklahoma/Arkansas Joint Encampment, he also assisted in adapting the Regional Cadet Leadership School (RCLS), both of which were well received by the SWR and National Cadet Programs Directors. Whenever around cadets, he tries to spot-teach Servant Leadership, which is the philosophy and set of practices that builds the individual for a better organization, according to the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership.

Podgurski has also been instrumental in developing an effective Aerospace Education (AE) program, has assisted in growing the squadron’s AE membership, and hosted STEM and AE workshops. The 83rd also hosted the SWR’s 2019 AE Workshop during the Arkansas Wing’s Conference. CAP Maj. Pat Schimdt attributes Ft. Smith’s success to Podgurski’s “outstanding performance and tireless dedication to the Cadet Programs mission.”

“The best part of mentoring CAP cadets is seeing that *Aha!* moment, when cadets understand the purpose of the training or realize their potential,” Podgurski said. “I accomplish this through practice, and instilling servant leadership into the cadets.”

Right: Tech. Sgt. Podgurski at Altus AFB during the 2019 Oklahoma/Arkansas Joint Encampment. (Photo Oklahoma/Arkansas Joint Encampment PA team).





Top: (L-R) Cadet 2nd Lt. Shelby Webb receives Civil Air Patrol's Gen. Billy Mitchell Award Certificate from CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Cadet Gets Mitchell Award on 75th Anniversary of D-Day

by 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On June 6, 2019 – the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Allied invasion that marked the turning point of World War II – Cadet 2nd Lt. Shelby Webb received Civil Air Patrol's Gen. Billy Mitchell Award Certificate from CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith.

On hand to support Webb were members of her family: her mother and father Alicia and Jason Webb; her brother Killian; and her aunt and uncle Rachel and Jason Singer. Newly-assigned Deputy Commander for Cadets Maj. John H. Brennan presided as master of ceremonies and introduced Smith, who presented the award to Webb.

Her parents had the honor of removing her cadet chief master sergeant's stripes and placing her new shoulder boards on her, signifying her transition from cadet NCO to cadet officer.



Above: Maj. Gen. Smith and Cadet Webb cut the cake in Cadet Webb's honor.

The Mitchell Award marks completion of Phase II of CAP's four-phase Cadet Program. To earn the award, cadets must complete comprehensive tests in both leadership and aerospace; pass the cadet physical fitness and drill tests; and attend a CAP summer or winter encampment.

The award signals automatic promotion to cadet second lieutenant, advanced placement in the grade of E-3 (airman first class) upon graduation from Air Force Basic Training, and eligibility for CAP academic and flight scholarships. College ROTC programs and the service academies look favorably upon cadets who earn the Mitchell Award. Approximately ten percent of all cadets at the Air Force Academy have had prior CAP experience.

In addition to receiving her award certificate from Maj. Gen. Smith, Webb also had her name engraved on a plaque listing the names of all cadets in the squadron who have earned the Mitchell Award since the squadron's founding. Cadet 1st Lt. Mark Chappell, who received his Mitchell Award in January 2019, presented the plaque, which will remain on permanent display at the squadron.

Following the presentation of the award certificate, members of the squadron and their friends and families celebrated with a cake in Webb's honor.

Members of the squadron noted that Webb's earning the Mitchell Award on the anniversary of D-Day is emblematic of the patriotism shown by all members of CAP.

Webb has been a member of CAP and the squadron since March 2014. She is the second-highest ranking cadet in the squadron. 🇺🇸



Top: U.S. Navy Blue Angels fly in tight formation. (Photo: 1st Lt. Brandon Lunsford, CAP).

Below: U.S. Navy Blue Angel F/A 18 Hornet pilots walk to greet visitors after performing at the Star-Spangled Salute Air Show as flight crew stand at attention. (Photo: Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Cadets Share their Passion for Flight at Air Show

by 1st Lt. Brandon Lunsford, Sr, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. – The June 1-2, 2019, air show saw aviation enthusiasts from all over Oklahoma and surrounding states come out to witness the Star-Spangled Salute Air Show, hosted by Tinker Air Force Base and supported by the Oklahoma Wing of the Civil Air Patrol with more than 100 volunteers from across the state.





Above: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Logan Kuerbitz hands out U.S. Navy Blue Angel pamphlets. (Photo: Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford, CAP)

Below: Randy Ball flies the MiG-17F. (Photo: 1st Lt. Brandon Lunsford, CAP)

“The relationship with Tinker AFB leadership that we are able to cultivate during events like this are invaluable,” said Lt. Col. David McCollum, CAP. “We touch nearly every unit on the base during the air show. Whether it be through our membership on the air show committee which provides access to the air show director (who also commands the 72nd Operational Support Squadron), the airmen at the 507th Air Refueling Wing who housed us in one of their hangars, the Air Base Wing safety staff, Security Forces, Airfield Operations, and the Air Base Wing Commander himself, doors are opened to CAP as a result of our support efforts and professionalism.”



The weather caused delays Saturday, with high winds and massive downpours that made CAP cadets and officers act quickly. First Lt. Kim Sutherland was on hand to assist with the rush to protect the public and the aircraft at the show.

“We had to act fast,” Sutherland said. “We quickly cleared hangars for aircraft and the general public to get into and protect them from the storm. It was quite a scene, but our response was immediate.”



Left: Cadets Col. Bethany Wilson (left) and Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford (center) are interviewed by Tinker AFB Public Affairs Officer USAF Maj. Jon Quinlan. (Photo: 1st Lt Brandon Lunsford, CAP)

Once the weather cleared, the show continued with no additional weather delays for the weekend. Of course, the highlight of the event were the planes. Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford, CAP, was excited about the aircraft. "All of the cadets loved walking through different

aircraft and talking to the pilots and crew members," said Lunsford. "My personal favorite was getting up close to the F/A 18 Hornet the Blue Angels fly."

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels put on a well-received performance. Their tight formation flying amazed the crowd, as they were pulled off with precision and ease, sometimes seemingly just inches apart.

CAP Cadet Col. Bethany Wilson added, "We are really grateful to be out here, to have the opportunity to guard the flight line, and be close to the airplanes."

This year's air show was not just about planes though. "The planning committee wanted to be able to show off areas of vital need for the U.S. Air Force," 72nd Air Base Wing Commander Col. Kenyon Bell explained.

"STEM City is a new addition to our air show; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics," Bell said. "People of all ages will be able to play with robotics and drones. We are trying to get them excited about things that are in the realm of STEM. Not everyone in the military flies airplanes or does those things you see on the broad spectrum. We need engineers and we need scientists. This is an opportunity to get people excited and see what kind of other opportunities might be available to them in the military, if they choose to join."

In the end, it was long hours, hot temperatures, and hard work for all involved. The experience of aircraft rushing by at high speeds, exploring new technologies, and seeing the amazement of the public was worth every bit of the work. CAP Lt. Col. McCollum complimented the team work and effort the CAP members put into this year's show.

"Without the hard work of our cadets," McCollum said, "we would not be able to provide the support that the air show needs. It is a great opportunity for the cadets to gain experience leading their peers in a very dynamic environment. While there is always a plan, that plan goes out the window as soon as we roll onto the flight line. The key is to be flexible while successfully and safely executing the tasks everyone has been given. We look to the more senior cadets to set an example and lead the other cadets. They also have the opportunity to rub shoulders with active duty military, air show performers (including elite teams like the Blue Angels), and have the satisfaction of performing difficult tasks as part of a team. The smiles I see - tired though they might be - tell me that they think the hard work is worth it." 🍷



Top: The members of Prescott Composite Squadron 206 who visited the Juvenile Justice Center included: (Back row L-R) Cadet 1st Lt. Nicole Elizabeth Babbitt and Cadet Staff Sgt. Lucas A Hardesty; (front row L-R) 2nd Lt. Nathaniel J. Trujillo, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Minh H. Nguyen, and Capt. Alvin R. Yount.

Arizona Wing Cadets Present Drug Demand Reduction Topics to Juvenile Offenders

by Capt. Alvin R. Yount, CAP, Arizona Wing

PRESCOTT, Ariz. – On June 5, 2019, cadets from Prescott Squadron 206 traveled to the Yavapai County Juvenile Correctional Center where they delivered a one-hour Drug Demand Reduction presentation to juvenile offenders who were participating in Yavapai County’s Life Skills Enrichment Academic Program (LEAP).

According to the Yavapai County Government website, “This program is a collaborative effort involving Juvenile Probation and multiple community partners. LEAP provides resources and skills that will enhance the participants’ life by providing a variety of academic, personal enrichment, and other life skill activities to further help them in becoming well-rounded individuals. The juveniles who participate in LEAP show a lower likelihood of reoffending than juveniles who do not participate in LEAP.”

Squadron 206 cadets delivered the following presentations:

- Cadet Tech. Sgt. Minh H. Nguyen: Introduction to CAP– Cadet Programs – Why CAP is involved in DDR.
- Cadet Staff Sgt. Lucas A. Hardesty – Tobacco and the consequences of smoking.
- Cadet 1st Lt. Nicole Elizabeth Babbitt – Problems with vaping and vaping’s connection to drugs.

The senior member escorts were Deputy Commander for Cadets Capt. Alvin R. Yount and Assistant Deputy Commander for Cadets 2nd Lt. Nathaniel J. Trujillo. Squadron 206 cadets are likely to return to the Juvenile Justice Center in September 2019. 🇺🇸



Top: Ground Branch Director Lt. Col. Mike Eckert (top of stairs) briefs the members of his ground team. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP).

Below: Incident Commander Lt. Col. John Grassham checks the status of the mission on his computer.

New Mexico Wing Receives Highest Rating of Ready at Air Force OpsEval

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – After three months of preparation, New Mexico Wing Staff was pleased to learn that it had received the highest rating of Ready at the Air Force Operations Evaluation (OpsEval) held at Wing Headquarters on June 22, 2019.

The mission, dubbed “Operation Isotope,” was an Air-Force-evaluated search and rescue, disaster relief, and counterdrug exercise, supervised by the CAP-USAF Liaison Region, Southwest Region’s official liaison with the United States Air Force.

The OpsEval is held yearly by the Air Force to evaluate the Wing’s operational readiness to respond to emergency services incidents, as well as how well the mission staff deals with the unexpected.

Three months’ worth of training and preparation went into this exercise, which included SAREXes (search and rescue exercises) on March 17, April 27 and June 15, 2019.





Left: Mission Public Information Officer Lt. Col. David Finley (left) explains his duties to USAF Maj. Erika Yu, of the CAP-USAF Southwest Liaison Region.

Below: Albuquerque Senior Squadron II commander Lt. Col. Doug Weitzel (right) briefs Maj. Yu on the sorties scheduled to depart from the squadron's hangar, as Mission Safety Officer Maj. Dennis Hunter looks on.

Air Force personnel shadowed CAP mission staff to ensure their adherence to rules and regulations, and their ability to think “outside the box.”

Personnel from Civil Air Patrol's Southwest Region – which includes the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas – were also on hand to evaluate the effectiveness of the Wing.

At the 10 a.m. mission briefing, Incident Commander Lt. Col. John Grassham reported a missing aircraft, where radio contact was lost between Albuquerque and Los Alamos. Spotty reception made cell phone forensics difficult.

To support the aircrews, ground teams were ready to deploy at a moment's notice. “Give us the word to deploy,” said Ground Branch Director Lt. Col. Mike Eckert. “We're ready to go,” he added, referring to his ground teams.

When Grassham gave Eckert the order to deploy, two ground teams were dispatched: one to locate the missing aircraft that had disappeared on the way to Los Alamos, and a second one to respond to a missing person request, on the west side of the Sandia Mountains, in the open space in the foothills of Albuquerque.

As part of the exercise, another emergency scenario was the simulated transport of a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, who was reported overdue at the Truth or Consequences Airport.

According to Grassham, the aircraft had failed to check in. New Mexico State Police were alerted, as well as the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. The decision to notify CAP's Critical Incident Stress Management Team, as well as the Wing Chaplain, was deferred, pending further information regarding the missing persons. Wing Director of Safety Lt. Col. Doug Weitzel was notified of the incident.

Mission Base launched aircraft from Las Cruces to help locate the overdue aircraft, while ramp searches were conducted at Socorro, Belen and Truth or Consequences.

The mission began to demobilize at 2:45 p.m., when Santa Fe and Taos Composite Squadrons were ordered to stand down because of inclement weather. Aircraft in the south were demobilized, with one flight from Albuquerque to Farmington still in briefing.

The rating of Ready was especially meaningful to outgoing New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mike Lee, who served as administration and finance section chief for the OpsEval. This was his last activity before handing over command to Col.-select Annette Peters on the following day.

“I was proud of the way everybody worked together, especially the cadets,” said Lee. “Everything worked pretty much according to plan.” 🍷





Texas Wing Runs a Squadron Leadership School

by Lt. Col. Mike Turoff, CAP, Texas Wing

HOUSTON – During the weekend of April 13-14, Texas Wing’s Hobby Senior Squadron, Group IV, hosted a Squadron Leadership School at the Hobby Airport’s Million Air facility. The course was organized by Lt. Col. Michael Turoff and included instructors from other squadrons, among them 1st Lt. Dell Bell, Lt. Col. Don Fisher, Maj. Fred Emmons, and Lt. Cols. David and Sherra Ogden.

Students were: 2nd Lt. Joseph Riordan, Massachusetts Wing; Capt. Ramon Echevarria, Thunderbird Composite Squadron; 1st Lt. Stephen Wright, Waco Composite Squadron; 2nd Lt. Calvin Castillo, George H. W. Bush Composite Squadron; 2nd Lt. Erik Jacobsen, Addison Eagles Composite Squadron; 2nd Lt. Michelle Naff, Thunderbird Composite Squadron; S. M. Arturo Castruita, Thunderbird Composite Squadron; S.M. James Meaux, Ellington Composite Squadron; and S. M. Matthew Sulzemeier, 7-6 Air Cavalry Composite Squadron.

2nd Lt. Joseph Riordan flew in from Massachusetts Wing to attend this course, since he could not find a good fit locally available to him.

Group IV’s professional development officer has been offering the Squadron Leadership School and Corporate Learning Course twice yearly. Since some members cannot devote a full weekend to these courses, there are now online options to take the courses over a period of several weeks, with just a partial day in-person meeting with staff and other participants. These courses are run as-needed, based on enrollment demands. However, the disadvantage of taking an on-line course is that much of the interaction between staff and students will be missing, therefore it is important to attend these courses in person to allow full personal interaction.

Since not enough members have signed up for a Unit Commander’s Course, the next opportunity for a UCC may be at the Texas Wing Conference, being held in October 2019. 📅

Right: 2nd Lt. Bill Hood (second from left) describes the workings of an aircraft engine to NJROTC cadets. (Photos: Maj. C. John Graham, CAP)

Below: New Mexico Wing's Cessna 182 stands on static display, next to privately-owned aircraft used to give cadets orientation flights.

New Mexico Wing Members Help Make NJROTC Camp a Success

by Maj. C. John Graham, CAP,
New Mexico Wing

SANTA FE, N.M. – On June 6, 2019, members of the Santa Fe Composite Squadron and Taos Composite Squadron, along with local pilots, helped Santa Fe High School's Navy Junior ROTC with its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) camp. Capt. Allan Wood of Santa Fe, Maj. Craig Stapleton of Taos, and Maj. Blair Bouchier, also of Taos, gave the NJROTC cadets rides in privately-owned aircraft, as did other pilots.

Taos Composite Squadron member 2nd Lt. William Hood, and New Mexico Wing Command NCO Senior Master Sgt. Charles Grosvenor provided tours through the Skyland Aircraft maintenance shop and the control tower at Santa Fe Municipal Airport, respectively.

The cadets also saw MiG-15, L-39, T-33 and Fouga jets at the Jet Warbird Center. Maj. John Graham of Santa Fe Composite Squadron made available a CAP Cessna 182 for static display on the ramp, and explained the benefits of CAP to young people.

Approximately 30 NJROTC cadets, a few of whom were also CAP cadets, participated in the STEM camp, which was organized by Maj. Stapleton, who is also commander of Santa Fe High School's NJROTC program. 🇺🇸





Left: Senior Meteorologist Jaret Rogers of the National Weather Service in Phoenix leads a SKYWARN class at Falcon Squadron 305 in Mesa, Arizona. (Photo: Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP)

SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotters Train at Arizona Wing Squadron

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

MESA, Ariz. – On April 23, 2019, 67 students from communities on the east side of

Phoenix, along with members of Falcon Composite Squadron 305 and Scottsdale Senior Squadron 314, attended the National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotter certification course at Falcon Field Airport in Mesa. Falcon Composite Squadron 305 hosted the course, which was taught by Senior Meteorologist Jaret Rogers in the NWS Phoenix Office. An annual education and marketing event for both CAP and NWS, this was the fourth time the Weather Service has trained and certified individuals to become NWS SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotters at Falcon Squadron.

Every year, thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, flash floods, and winter events cause hundreds of injuries and deaths, along with billions of dollars in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established SKYWARN with partner organizations. SKYWARN is a nationwide volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the NWS.

In 2010, Arizona Wing Emergency Services began an initiative to support this nationwide program. Since then, CAP has hosted a half-dozen classes across the state. Although SKYWARN spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms, bringing fidelity to radar, satellite, and other technological reports. According to NWS, in an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite imagery, and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. SKYWARN storm spotters are citizens who form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather. In many cases SKYWARN spotters are able to not only bring real-time observations to what the radar and satellite images are projecting, but they also spot weather anomalies not seen with high-tech systems. 📺

Right: Cadet 2nd Lt. Forest Nelson is escorted to his promotion by the Four Winds. (Photo: Cadet Airman Kit Kline, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Cadet Earns Gen. Billy Mitchell Award

by Maj. C. John Graham, CAP, New Mexico Wing

SANTA FE, N.M. – On April 30, 2019, Forest Nelson of Santa Fe Composite Squadron received his promotion to cadet second lieutenant and Civil Air Patrol's Gen. Billy Mitchell Award Certificate during a Four Winds ceremony, which is based on CAP's Core Values of Integrity, Excellence, Respect and Volunteer Service, and reserved for significant cadet officer promotions and awards.

The ceremony began with the posting of the colors by Cadet Airman 1st Class Jonas Bryan, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Cassie Gravel, Cadet Airman 1st Class Ryan Kennemore and Cadet Staff Sgt. Gabriel Apodaca. Santa Fe Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Lt. Col. John Gravel gave the opening remarks, commenting on Nelson's leadership qualities and service to the squadron.

Parents Anita and Miles Nelson of Santa Fe placed on their son his new grade shoulder boards, and Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff read the citation that accompanies the Mitchell Award.

The Mitchell Award denotes completion of Phase II of Civil Air Patrol's four-phase Cadet Program. The award carries with it promotion to cadet second lieutenant, and (should they join the USAF) cadets who earn the award receive advanced placement in the grade of E-3 (airman 1st class) upon graduation from Air Force Basic Training. ROTC and the service academies also look favorably upon Mitchell recipients. Approximately ten percent of all cadets entering the Air Force Academy have had prior CAP experience.

Nelson, age 18, joined Civil Air Patrol in 2015. Since then, he has served in several cadet staff positions including safety NCO, and most recently, cadet first sergeant. He has attended two New Mexico Wing summer encampments (one as a staff member), as well as the United States Air Force Pararescue Orientation Course (PJOC), one of the most challenging cadet activities available. He serves as vice-chair of the New Mexico Wing Cadet Advisory Council. This summer, he plans to participate in National Blue Beret at the AirVenture Air Show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and attend the Air Force Specialized Pilot Training Course at Columbus Air Force Base.

Nelson is a FEMA-qualified mission radio operator and recently earned a "find" ribbon as the result of an actual search and rescue mission. He now assumes cadet command of a body of 17 Santa Fe CAP cadets.

Nelson said, "It has been a true honor to be a part of the Santa Fe Composite Squadron for the past three and a half years. I hope to continue the great work we have done so far, and I look forward to my future in the CAP."

At ceremony's end, Nelson and Cadet Col. Dakota Cisneros appointed Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Cassie Gravel as the squadron's new cadet first sergeant. Cadet Gravel joined CAP in 2015. She has attended two summer encampments, and helps train the squadron's cadets in drill and ceremonies. An accomplished athlete, she is active in her school's basketball program. 🏀





Texas Wing Teaches a Corporate Learning Course

by Lt. Col. Mike Turoff, CAP, Texas Wing

HOUSTON – During the weekend of May 25-26, 2019, Texas Wing's Hobby Senior Squadron, Group IV, hosted a Corporate Learning Course at the Hobby Airport's Million Air facility. The course was organized by Lt. Col. Michael Turoff and included instructors from other squadrons, among them Lt. Col. Eli Aaron, Capt. Don Callan, Lt. Col. Don Fisher, and 2nd Lt. Missy Callan.

Students were: Maj. Ric Walters, Texas Wing; Capt. Ramon Echevarria, Thunderbird Composite Squadron; 1st Lt. Stephen Wright, Waco Composite Squadron; 2nd Lt. Calvin Castillo, George H. W. Bush Composite Squadron; 2nd Lt. Erik Jacobsen, Addison Eagles Composite Squadron; 2nd Lt. Michelle Naff, Thunderbird Composite Squadron; S. M. Arturo Castruita, Thunderbird Composite Squadron; S.M. James Meaux, Ellington Composite Squadron; and S. M. Matthew Sultemeier, 7-6 Air Cavalry Composite Squadron.

Group IV's professional development officer has been offering the Squadron Leadership School and Corporate Learning Course twice yearly. Course enrollment is open to all. 🇺🇸



Left: The Wing Staff works diligently to foresee all possible scenarios. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

Below: Lt. Col. Annette Peters works with Capt. Mary Fox on photo imaging.

New Mexico Wing SAREX Provides Run-Up to Air Force OpsEval

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Knowing that preparation meets opportunity, Civil Air Patrol’s New Mexico Wing prepared to

ensure the success of its Air Force-evaluated Operations Evaluation (OpsEval) by scheduling three different search and rescue exercises (SAREXes) in the months of March, April and June 2019. The third and final SAREX, on June 15, 2019, gave the Wing one last chance to ready itself for the OpsEval on June 22, 2019, and whatever crises the Air Force chose to throw in their path.

The Incident Command Post (ICP) stood up for normal operations at 7:30 a.m. local time, with status updates every hour, on the hour. By 10:00 a.m. local time, aircraft had already been launched from Farmington, Las Cruces and Albuquerque to support photo reconnaissance and air search and rescue sorties. Shortly after the 10:00 a.m. briefing, the Farmington aircraft was re-tasked to support photo reconnaissance.

To the outsider, activity at mission headquarters looked like organized chaos, as department heads worked to foresee any possible circumstances that could arise from surprise situations that the Air Force might inject into the evaluation, such as, “What if the pilot is out of radio range?”

According to photo imaging specialist Capt. Mary Fox, one of the main missions of this SAREX, aerial photo imaging, is a relatively new development in search and rescue.

“We are in the process of checking these photos before they are sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),” said Fox; then added, “We are making sure that all photos meet FEMA guidelines before we send them.”





Above: 2nd Lts. Greg Durfee and Mark Johnson perform a pre-flight inspection on the Wing's Cessna 206.

Below: Mission Public Information Officer Lt. Col. David Finley checks a news release, before submitting it to the incident commander.

In addition to aerial photography, ICP members were tasked with a blood delivery and air search and rescue.

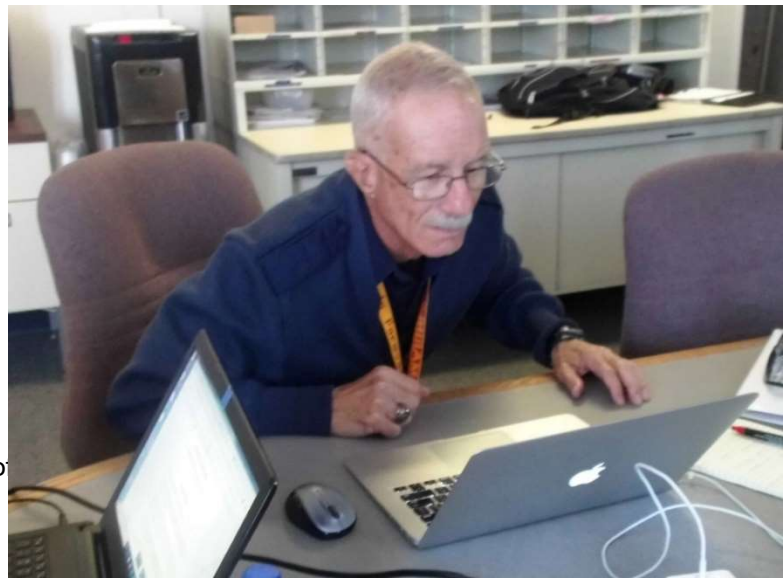
Advised by Project Officer Lt. Col. Jon Hitchcock to stay focused on carrying out the mission, section chiefs provided hourly updates to Incident Commander Lt. Col. John Grassham.

Inclement weather, reported by aircrews, caused many decisions to be made on the fly, such as redirecting aircraft back to mission base or to staging areas. Aircraft as far south as Albuquerque were ordered to return to base, because of storm cells that formed in the northern part of the state. Without air support, the ground teams that had deployed originally to support the aircrews were given the option to continue their ground team training on their own.

The mission staff had to deal with many simulated incidents, including a distraught wife showing up at Wing Headquarters, demanding to know the whereabouts of her husband, who was reported missing, and a simulated fire, which caused the evacuation of the mission base headquarters building.

Debriefing began at 2:30 p.m. For the most part, all processes were planned and under way, but many had to be aborted because of inclement weather, although an aircraft dispatched to locate an emergency locator transmitter near Double Eagle Airport found its objective in half an hour.

Hitchcock concluded, "I am confident the ICP team is prepared to meet the challenges that may be presented by the USAF evaluation team." A new operations plan was distributed on June 16, for the Air Force OpsEval on June 22, 2019. 🇺🇸





Top: (L-R) Cadet 1st Lt. Jackson Schadt and Cadet Master Sgt. Brenden Miller work on a model airplane on Squadron Activities Day. (All photos: 1st Lt. Don Fry, CAP)

Arizona Wing Squadron Builds Esprit de Corps

by Capt. Gordon Helm, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – At Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302, the first Saturday of each month is Squadron Activities Day. The squadron started hosting the event at the beginning of April, and the number of squadron members participating has been growing each month.

“We were looking for a way to bring our cadets and senior members together in a more social setting that also provides opportunities for training, maintenance and other squadron activities,” said Maj. CAP Mark Schadt, the Squadron 302 commander. “Several of our cadets were already in the building for Aerospace Education and CyberPatriot training. Motivating our senior members to join in with their own activities seemed the best move.”

For the first two months, senior member activities focused on the outside of the building and hangar. Members spent much of their time ridding the grounds of the weeds that sprang up in the desert landscape because of the winter’s above-average rainfall and cool temperatures. The squadron’s Communications Team members also began working to change the cabling leading from the communications room to the antennas on top of the hangar.

Midway through the day, everyone gathered in the hangar for a “burger burn.” First Lt. Mike Ricker grilled hamburgers and hotdogs on the squadron’s newly donated gas grill. Cadets and senior members ate before getting back to work. “Bringing out the grill at the squadron creates a natural gathering point for our members,” said Ricker, who recently became the squadron’s deputy commander for seniors. “We have a chance to learn more about each other – it builds camaraderie.”

The Fly-By, Southwest Regio

Right: (L-R) Capt. Gordon Helm and Lt. Col. Norm Spector replace the wheels on the squadron's podium.

Below: Cadets and senior members take a break from their various activities to enjoy lunch in the hangar.



The June 2019 activities day saw more participation and more activities. While the Communications Team continued its work, members replaced the casters on the meeting room podium, making it much easier to move from inside the building to the hangar for meetings.

The Small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) team leader, 1st Lt. Don Fry, completed two Form 5 checkout flights at a nearby park and introduced another member to the sUAS training program. On the cadet side, the color guard members worked on improving their skills while the model-building and CyberPatriot teams continued their training. The flight simulator got a big workout too.

In June, the lunch menu got even better. As Ricker cooked the usual burgers and dogs, 1st Lt. Nic Fuqua, the squadron's deputy commander for cadets, brought in pulled pork and macaroni and cheese. With chips, cookies, and sodas, there was plenty of food for everyone.

"It seems to me that the squadron's goal of building esprit de corps is succeeding," said Schadt. "And we're getting a lot of work done in the process." 🇺🇸





Top: On May 31, 2019, USAF Airman 1st Class Joseph Moon (second from right) leads his flight during Pass in Review at Lackland AFB, San Antonio. (Photo: 1st Lt. Stuart Moon, CAP)

Former Texas Wing Cadet Graduates USAF Basic Training

by 1st Lt. Kim Fuller, CAP, Texas Wing

MIDLOTHIAN, Texas – On May 31, 2019, former Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet 2nd Lt. Joseph Moon graduated from the United States Air Force (USAF) basic training as part of Flight 411 in the 332 Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

USAF Airman First Class Joseph Moon joined CAP in December 2016 at the age of 16, with the purpose of becoming a cadet officer and so move toward his ultimate goal of entering the United States Air Force at age 18. He achieved his purpose on August 30, 2018, by earning the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award, that made him a CAP Cadet 2nd Lieutenant.

During his CAP career, Moon attended the Texas Wing Winter Encampment in December 2017, and returned as Cadet Cadre (Staff) for the Winter Encampment in December 2018, at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio. He also attended the Air Force Space Command Familiarization Course (Fla.) in June 2018, which is held at Patrick Air Force Base, just South of Cape Canaveral, Fla. With his knowledge of space, rockets and his overall enthusiasm, he was selected as the Honor Cadet of this course.

Moon was a qualified CAP member in Introductory Communications User Training, General Emergency Services, and Aircraft Ground Handling. He served his squadron as Cadet Public Affairs NCO and Cadet First Sergeant.

While a cadet, as an active part of Aerospace Education, he shared his passion for aerospace subjects by leading classes for fellow cadets on rocketry and aerospace topics. He also attended outside aerospace events, such as going to Perryville, Missouri, to view the total solar eclipse in August 2017, and to Florida to witness the Space X Falcon Heavy Launch in February 2018, with his father, CAP 1st Lt. Stuart Moon, the Midway Composite Squadron's aerospace education officer, and bringing back photos, videos, and firsthand experiences to share with squadron members.

Right: Cadet 2nd Lt. Joseph Moon, CAP, recites the CAP Cadet Officer Oath at his Gen. Billy Mitchell Award Ceremony. (Photo: 1st Lt. Kim Fuller, CAP)

Below: CAP Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Joseph Moon teaches a rocketry class at a squadron meeting. (Photo: 1st Lt. Stuart Moon, CAP)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars' Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award was presented to Moon in April 2018.

In preparation for enlisting, Moon took the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) in October, 2018, received a score of 97 out of 99, and was sworn into the USAF on December 21, 2018.



Moon attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, in April-May 2019, and was chosen to lead his flight during the Pass in Review on May 31, 2019. Since he had earned his Billy Mitchell Award in CAP, he was awarded the grade of E3 (Airman First Class) upon completing basic training. He has been assigned to work in F-22 Avionics at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas.

“My two years in Civil Air Patrol has definitely made me a better Airman than I otherwise would have been,” said Airman First Class Moon. “CAP exposed me to military customs and courtesies, drill, dress and appearance, military discipline, and best of all, leadership experience. In the Air Force, the goal is to be the best Airman you can possibly be, and every Airman in the Air Force is a leader. Therefore, Civil Air Patrol gave me tremendous leaps forward in becoming the best Airman I can be.” 🇺🇸

Civil Air Patrol Provides Key Support in Saving Lost Hiker

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Civil Air Patrol volunteers were key contributors to a multi-agency effort to find a hiker lost in harsh weather and a rugged volcanic landscape. CAP personnel worked with the New Mexico State Police and the National Park Service in a three-day search that found the hiker, a 45-year-old woman, safe and uninjured.

The hiker called authorities about 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 17, 2019, saying she was lost in El Malpais National Monument, a forbidding landscape of basaltic lava flows. Personnel from the National Park Service began to look for her then. Late that night, CAP's New Mexico Wing was assigned a search and rescue mission by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center.

The CAP National Cell Phone Forensics Team provided an initial search area, based on analysis of data from the hiker's phone on Sunday. However, by 9:45 p.m., her phone went silent.

CAP aircrews began flying early Monday, March 18, 2019, and over the next two days would fly 15 sorties. CAP ground teams also searched the area. A CAP Mobile Operations Center was brought from Albuquerque to the search area, to expedite coordination of the CAP efforts and liaison with other agencies.

"What we know now is that she moved away from the area from which her first calls were made," said Lt. Col. Larry Zentner, incident commander for this mission. "She was trying to stay warm by moving, with temperatures getting down to 20 degrees Fahrenheit," he added.

The hiker used survival skills learned in previous military service during the ordeal, eventually running out of food and water. At times, she did see aircraft overhead, but was unable to signal the aircrews.

"Her phone was a pay-as-you-go cell phone, and the Sunday calls seeking help used up her available minutes. She then had no way of adding time to her phone, so she turned it off," Zentner said. That made it impossible to track her via her phone signal.

On Tuesday, March 19, the CAP Cell Phone Forensics Team discovered the nature of her phone service. A member of that team immediately used a personal credit card to restore her phone service.

"As soon as her phone came back to life, she called again, and began describing her position," Zentner said. She told authorities what landmarks she could see from where she stood. Using those descriptions, CAP volunteers identified the hiker's probable location, based on those clues.

A New Mexico National Guard helicopter was dispatched to that area, and "It was that specific spot where the hiker was found," said Zentner.

"One lesson to be learned is that any cell phone, even if it is out of minutes, always will work with 911 calls," Zentner said. "As long as the battery has a charge, it will make a 911 call. Everyone should remember that, in case of an emergency," he added. 🇺🇸

Right: Incident Commander Lt. Col. Larry Zentner, checks his status board in the Mobile Operations Center, similar to the one that was used on the March 17-19, 2019, REDCAP. (Photo: New Mexico Wing Public Affairs)





Top: Capt. Dave Silvester (right) guides an "intense" future airman, and his father, through the adventures of flight in the squadron's mobile flight simulator. (Photo: Capt. Kerry MacPherson, CAP)

Arizona Wing Squadron Plays Major Role in Airport Open House

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

MESA, Ariz. – On March 30, 2019, Falcon Field Airport and Falcon Composite Squadron 305 welcomed the public at the Falcon Field Airport Open House. An estimated 10,000 members of the public arrived by car and plane to participate in the annual open house festivities.

The same as in the past, the members of Falcon Squadron 305 were major contributors to the event, providing a color guard for the opening ceremony, consisting of Cadet Staff Sgt. Luke Beckstead, Cadet 2nd Lt. Kaleb Boehmer, Cadet 1st Lt. Deon Bryant, and Cadet Senior Airman Elizabeth Gonzalez. The squadron also supported static aircraft displays on the flight line, membership recruiting, an aerospace education booth, flight simulator rides, and two food venues.

It was an "all-hands-on-deck" effort, with more than 50 squadron members needed to staff and support all the activities, one of the largest turnouts in many years. Capt. Larry Westbrook and Senior Member Carson Greene grilled hamburgers and hotdogs throughout the open house, netting over \$3,000 in sales.

In April 2018, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) named Mesa's Falcon Field *Airport of the Year*, besting 83 airports of various size and functions across Arizona. Selection criteria included accomplishments in aviation advocacy and community relations, airport management, special events and recognition, as well as innovative activities and programs implemented at the airport. 🇺🇸



LA CAP MISSION# 19-C-5317 SORTIE# A002 Date: 25MAY19 TOT: 1605Z Lat=N29 49' 02.28" Lon=W091 10' 21.43"

Louisiana Wing Launches Pre-flood Assessment Sorties for State Emergency Managers

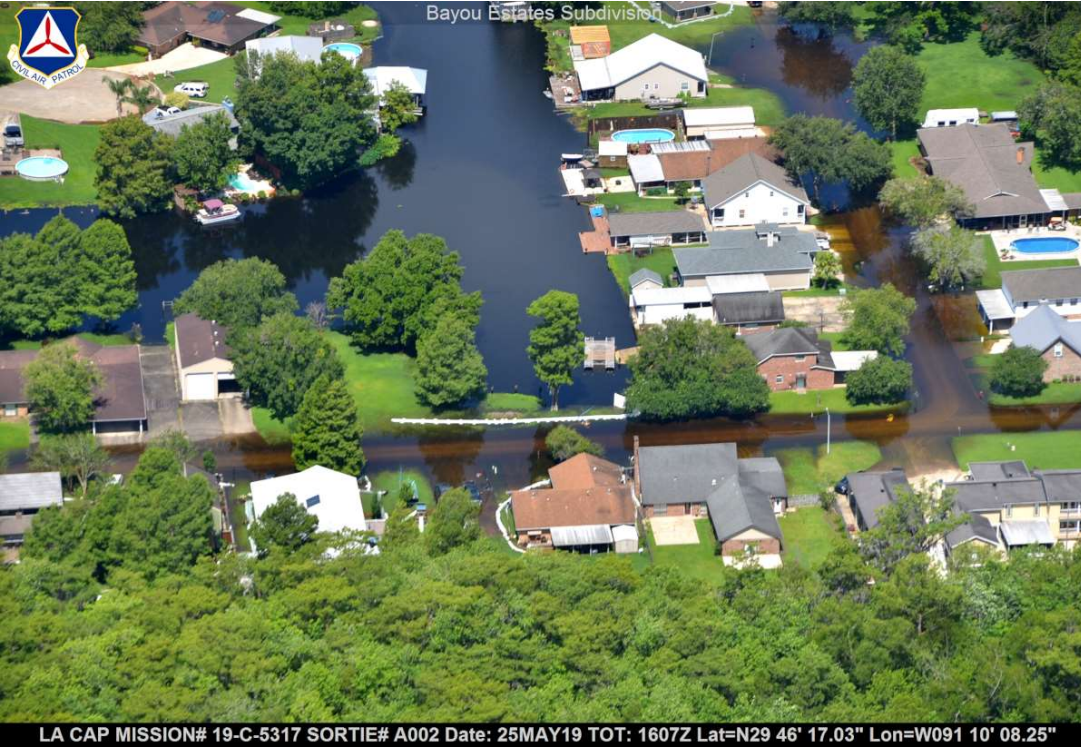
by Louisiana Wing Mission Public Information Staff

BATON ROUGE, La. – Beginning on May 25, 2019, the Louisiana Wing of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) launched several flights to survey and photograph specific areas of the Morganza Floodway in the Atchafalaya River basin. The purpose of these flights was to obtain aerial imagery of the floodway infrastructure prior to opening the Morganza flood control structure. The photos were requested by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and delivered immediately to that agency's damage assessment staff.

Primary targets of CAP's aerial photographers included areas already affected by flooding as well as specific reference points by which GOHSEP'S emergency managers can gauge actual water level rise in critical areas;

GOHSEP's Assistant Deputy Director of Emergency Management Christopher Guilbeaux provided specific mission requirements and targets for CAP's photo flights. The targets are located throughout Rapides, St. Landry, Point Coupee, Avoyelles, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Assumption, Iberia, and Iberville Parishes.

CAP's incident commander for the aerial photography mission is Lt. Col. Paul Rappmundt, a native of Morgan City, Louisiana. On May 31, 2019, he said, "To date, we have provided GOHSEP with approximately 500 Aerial images of these areas, along with pre-installation and progress photos of the Bayou Chene location where a barge will be sunk to help control flood waters." The mission continues through June 2019, and may be extended as needed.



According to Rappmundt, CAP's mission schedule will vary depending on the needs of GOHSEP and Parish OEC Directors. He said, "In addition to our initial runs last Saturday, our current schedule calls for both mid-flood and end-flood re-surveys of these same areas."

GOHSEP has used CAP's airborne capabilities on several occasions in the past, including aerial

photography and damage assessment in the aftermath of hurricanes, flooding events, and during the birth and formation of a sink hole in Assumption Parish, According to Guilbeaux, "Civil Air Patrol has proven to be a cost-effective asset. The organization is made up of citizen volunteers who have other real-world jobs, and they donate their time to provide this service to us."

Civil Air Patrol units from Alexandria, Patterson and Baton Rouge provided the initial surveys and photos. 📷

LA CAP MISSION# 19-C-5317 SORTIE# A002 Date: 25MAY19 TOT: 1607Z Lat=N29 46' 17.03" Lon=W091 10' 08.25"



LA CAP MISSION# 19-C-5317 SORTIE# A006 Date: 31MAY19 TOT: 1807Z Lat=N29 37' 20.04" Lon=W091 05' 22.95"



Left: Lt. Col. Maria-Lisa M. Dilda. (Photo: Courtesy of Daniel Quat Photography)

Dilda to Command 5th New Mexico Wing Summer Encampment

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

SANTA FE, N.M. – On June 12, 2019, Lt. Col. Maria-Lisa M. Dilda of Santa Fe Composite Squadron took command of her fifth consecutive summer encampment, held this year at the Oñate National Guard Complex in Santa Fe, N.M., during June 12-21, 2019 ending two days before the appointment of Col.-select Anette Peters as New Mexico Wing's first female wing commander on June 23, 2019.

A longtime member of Civil Air Patrol, Dilda served on staff of several encampments commanded by the late Lt. Col. Paul J. Ballmer, onetime commander of Eagle Cadet Squadron and New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs.

"Paul asked me to be a Character Development Instructor, which was my duty

assignment at Santa Fe Composite Squadron," said Dilda. "Then I was asked to be a female overnight officer, and a 'glitch' officer a few times. I took care of the commander and any 'glitches' that came up."

Her main influence, aside from her husband Gary, was her friend and mentor, the late Maj. Kathy Courreges, who passed away in 2014, and who had commanded several encampments before Dilda took the helm.

"I did two before she died," said Dilda. "I wonder how she would feel if she knew I have done five now as commander and eight altogether." She credits Maj. Courreges' mentorship with making her the commander she is today. "She was a great coach," said Dilda. "She was phenomenal and different. She taught me to have faith in people and let them know it, and they will do amazing things."

Another one of her mentors is CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith. "Under his servant leadership style, we started the NCO Advanced Flight, and that's how we teach servant leadership," said Dilda. "Most encampment organizational charts show the commander at the top and the student at the bottom, but my encampment's chart shows the commander – me – at the very bottom, and the students at the top. While we still believe in military organization, we also believe that the member of the encampment with the most experience supports everybody else."

When asked about her most significant experience as encampment commander, Dilda said, "Two months ago, while driving home, my phone rang. It was a personnel manager from Los Alamos requesting information on a cadet he was interested in hiring. I see about 80 to 100 cadets a year, and they ask me to be a reference. I try to give them confidence in their abilities and potential. I teach them skills and ideas to help them grow."

Her advice to first-time attendees? "Give it a chance," she said. "The first three days are hectic and stressful, but by the fourth day, you are halfway done, and then the fun starts. You will have become part of a team, pushed yourself beyond your current limits, and become stronger than you thought." ■



Top: During a Scottsdale Squadron 314 meeting, Arizona Wing Commander Col. Martha Morris presents an award for 50 years of service in Civil Air Patrol to Lt. Col. Dan Myers. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Karl W. Leach, CAP)

Arizona Wing Member Surpasses 50 Year Mark

by 2nd Lt. Karl W. Leach, CAP, Arizona Wing

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – Civil Air Patrol service has been a major part of Lt. Col. Dan Myers' life for 50 years. On May 13, 2019, Myers, a member of Scottsdale Squadron 314, received the prestigious 50-year Membership Award from Arizona Wing Commander Col. Martha Morris.

Myers joined Civil Air Patrol in 1958, when he had just entered high school. During those four years, he completed aviation ground school, and then earned his private pilot certificate at age 17. Since that early beginning, he has accumulated more than 250 flying hours with Civil Air Patrol. Personal flying and his military career as an Air Force officer pushed his flying time to over 1,000 hours. He has flown a variety of aircraft from conventional-gear Piper J-3 Cubs and Cessna 140s to the tricycle gear Cessna 182 and Beechcraft T-34 Mentor.

Myers said that he was drawn to aviation by the Air Force's activities during the 1950s, and the exploits of Korean War aviation aces. "I read Steve Canyon every Sunday," he said, referring to an American adventure comic strip about a military aviator that ran from 1947 to 1988.

In CAP, Myers has served as an orientation pilot, mission pilot, squadron commander, safety officer, and public affairs officer, as well as wing safety director. During his 27-year Air Force career, he served on active and reserve duty in the operations and public affairs areas, and reserve assistance to Civil Air Patrol.

He devoted a half century of his life to Civil Air Patrol. Why? "I was very impressed with CAP's management," he said. "Everyone in leadership was a professional in every way. Being a member gave me an opportunity to develop my own leadership skills as well as allowing me to be of service to my community."

In presenting his 50-Year Membership Award, Col. Morris said that Myers is deserving of commendation, not just for the tenure of his membership, but also for his dedication to service.

"I believe in the mission, and in its service," Myers said. "Whether in the cadet program, emergency services, or aerospace education, CAP offered me the opportunity to be of service to the community and the nation. My fondest memory was mentoring a cadet and writing the recommendation letter that influenced the Air Force to extend an offer for him to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy." 🍷



Top: The cadets and staff of the 2019 New Mexico Wing Summer Encampment. (Photo: S.M. Randall Roth, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Encampment Prepares Cadets to Be CAP Leaders

by Capt. John Keel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

SANTA FE, N.M. – During June 13-21, 2019, New Mexico Wing held its annual summer encampment at the Oñate National Guard Complex in Santa Fe. Cadets from New Mexico, Texas and Colorado immersed themselves in the week-long activity, that taught them leadership, aerospace and CAP as a whole.

Some of this year's events included the obstacle course, physical training, drill and ceremonies, teamwork exercises, and land navigation training. Other events expanded their knowledge, such as the aerospace education classes taught by Lt. Col. Ted Spitzmiller, or the day trip to the Army National Guard Aviation Facility, where cadets could explore the Blackhawks and special mission aircraft that the New Mexico National Guard deploys all over the world.

This event was supported by the senior member staff: Capt. Mary Fox in finance, while 1st Lt. William Armijo managed medical affairs. Maj. James Preidis of Texas Wing provided support in safety as well as in the kitchen with S.M. Randall Roth, all of them having taken time out of their busy schedules to make the encampment a success.

This was the last one for Encampment Commander Lt. Col. Maria-Lisa Dilda, since Capt. Steven Lindquist will be taking the reins next year. Lindquist promised to maintain the positive legacy established by Lt. Col. Dilda.

By the end of the nine days, all cadets had grown as individuals through the challenges of the events and lessons learned. 🍷



Top: (L-R): Cadet Lt. Col. Nathan Smith, Cadet Lt. Col. Hudson Ford, Col. Joe Smith, and Capt. Opal McKinney. (Photo: Senior Member Rebecca McKinney, CAP)

Texas Wing Squadron Holds Awards Ceremony

by 1st Lt. Kim Fuller, CAP, Texas Wing

MESQUITE, Texas – On June 11, 2019, the Black Sheep Composite Squadron held an awards ceremony, at the Landmark Family Fellowship Church in Mesquite. During this ceremony two Wright Brothers, one Billy Mitchell, one Amelia Earhart, and two Ira C. Eaker Awards were presented.

In attendance as guests and presenters were Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith, Texas Wing Group III Commander Lt. Col. Phillip Crawford, Group III Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Kelly Johnson, Group III Cadet Programs Officer Lt. Col. Don Gulliksen, and 1st Lt. Joan Gulliksen of the Dallas Composite Squadron.

Cadet Staff Sgt. Jack Truly joined CAP in January 2018. Since becoming a cadet, he has earned his qualification in Urban Direction Finding, served his squadron as an element leader, and as cadet staff for the Texas Wing Group III Spring Backpacking Trip. Truly was presented his Wright Brothers award by Lt. Col. Phillip Crawford.

Cadet Staff Sgt. Jacob Overbey joined CAP in October 2018. He earned his first stripe five weeks later, and has continued to promote regularly. He has been very active in the squadron, has served as an element leader, and attended several group activities. Overbey was presented his Wright Brothers Award by Lt. Col. Phillip Crawford.

The Fly-By, Southwest Region, July, 2019

Cadet 2nd Lt. Amalie Quintanilla joined CAP in September 2017. She is a dedicated cadet and has promoted regularly. She has been active in Emergency Services and earned qualifications in Mission Radio Operator, Urban Direction Finding, and Ground Team Member 3. She has served her squadron as an element leader and flight sergeant. The Quintanilla family has been active in cadet and squadron activities. Cadet Quintanilla was presented her Billy Mitchell Award by Lt. Col. Phillip Crawford, CAP.

Cadet Capt. Josh Wilson joined CAP in May 2015, just after his twelfth birthday. He has participated in Emergency Services and earned his first find in January 2018. However, his real interest has been in the sciences, and two years ago he attended the E-Tech Robotics National Cadet Special Activity at Camp Pendleton, California, where he was able to actually build robots. Last year, Wilson attended another E-Tech Robotics National Cadet Special Activity at Middle Tennessee State University, where he learned to build and fly drones. In the near future, he will be returning to an E-Tech as a staff member, at the request of the Activity Director. Wilson was presented his Amelia Earhart Award by Col. Joe Smith.

Black Sheep Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Capt. Opal McKinney said, "Tonight we are promoting Cadet Melina Peters to the grade of Cadet Major. While this is not a milestone award, it is a big accomplishment. Only about 4 percent of cadets nationwide earn their diamond, so we wanted to acknowledge her achievement here." Peters was promoted by Black Sheep Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Raymond Hicks.

Cadet Lt. Col. Ford joined CAP in August 2015. His goal from the beginning has been to earn the Spaatz Award, and in pursuit of this goal, he has promoted regularly. Ford has also participated in group and wing activities, and has been a member and cadet commander of the Texas Wing Group III Honor Guard. Ford was presented his Ira C. Eaker Award by Col. Joe Smith.

Cadet Lt. Col. Nathan Smith joined CAP in August 2014. His focus has been on Emergency Services and he has earned his qualifications in Ground Team Member Levels 3, 2, and 1; Urban Direction Finding; Mission Radio Operator; Communications Unit Leader; and is also qualified to train others in these areas. Smith has attended three National Emergency Services Academies and will be returning this July as a trainer. He has been a member and is currently the cadet commander of the Texas Wing Group III Honor Guard. Smith was presented his Ira C. Eaker Award by Col. Joe Smith. 🇺🇸

Below: (L-R) Lt. Col. Raymond Hicks, Cadet Maj. Melina Peters, and Col. Joe Smith. *(Photo: Senior Member Rebecca McKinney, CAP)*





Top: (L-R) Capt. Steven Lindquist, Cadet 1st Lt. John Fox, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Moriah Marshall, Cadet Staff Sgt. Shannon M. Barba, Cadet Senior Airman Aiden Lindquist, Cadet Airman Basic Kenneth Rhodes, Cadet Airman Roman Weeks-Liston, Cadet Airman Judah Kabul, Cadet Staff Sgt. Alexis Adams, Cadet Airman Kyle Weldon, Cadet Airman Johnny Tran, Cadet Staff Sgt. Joel D. Inventor and Capt. John Keel of Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron pose for a group photo in front of Thunderbird 1. (Photo: S.M. Kacie Rhodes, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Cadets Get Up Close With USAF Thunderbirds

by Capt. John Keel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On May 18, 2019, eleven cadets and three senior members from Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron attended the Air and Space Fiesta at Kirtland Air Force Base. For the squadron, it was a fun activity for aerospace education and team-building.

Cadets enjoyed the static displays, such as the F-35 fighter aircraft, the B-52 bomber and many others. Additionally, the cadets were excited by the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Pavilion set up in New Mexico Wing's very own hangar.

The highlight of the day was when USAF Tech. Sgt. Peter Rivera, recruiting liaison for the Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team, allowed the Falcon Squadron cadets on the flight line to see the Thunderbird demonstration F-16s up close. Cadets got to see Aircraft Number 1, otherwise known as "The Boss," and speak with the aircraft's dedicated crew chief, Staff Sgt. Michael Meister. Falcon Squadron was also allowed to take a group photo with Aircraft Number 1.

As a gesture of thanks, members of the squadron presented squadron challenge coins to Tech. Sgt. Rivera and Staff Sgt. Meister. The cadets who participated in this activity pronounced it "memorable." 🍷



Top: Members of the Falcon Composite Squadron 305 color guard and support team honored retired USAF Chief Master Sergeant Daniel Condon. (L-R) Cadet Senior Airman Elizabeth Gonzalez, Cadet Airman Kasidi Mortensen, Cadet 1st Lt. Deon Bryant, Chief Condon, Cadet 2nd Lt. Kaleb Boehmer, Cadet Staff Sgt. Luke Beckstead, and Cadet Staff Sgt. Benjamin Beckstead. (Photo: Capt. Kerry MacPherson, CAP)

Arizona Wing Says Farewell to an Air Force Icon

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

MESA, Ariz. – On March 30, 2019, in a moving ceremony held at the *Wings of Flight* Hangar at Falcon Field in Mesa, members of the U.S. Air Force and Civil Air Patrol honored retiring Chief Master Sergeant Daniel Condon.

In a ceremony conducted by Maj. Gen. Dawn Ferrell, commander of the Texas Air National Guard, Chief Condon was retired after more than 33 years of service in the Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserves. Gen. Ferrell shared the honors with Brig. Gen. Donald D. Harvel, ANG Retired, both of them longtime friends and beneficiaries of Condon's wisdom and leadership. The Falcon Composite Squadron 305 color guard opened the ceremony, which was truly a Total Force event, with participating active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired Air Force, and Civil Air Patrol members.

Condon was known locally for his efforts supporting for seven years the Arizona Wing and Southwest Region of Civil Air Patrol. Guests at the event reflected on Condon's more than three decades of Air Force aerial port management and leadership contributions while deployed to multiple overseas locations during operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), disaster relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, at Headquarters U.S. Central Command, and his deployments to exotic locations including the U.S. Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago.

"A true friend of CAP, and national treasure, Chief Condon will be missed, and his 'always there, always engaged,' and 'always mentoring' leadership style will be fondly remembered," said Falcon Squadron Commander Capt. Kerry MacPherson. "Best of all, he leaves legions of Total Force members who will carry forward the lessons he taught them to future Air Force generations, a legacy never lost." 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith, Maj. Gregory Griffith of Albuquerque Senior Squadron II holds the Civil Air Patrol's Gill Robb Wilson Award Certificate, and outgoing New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mike Lee. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

New Mexico Wing's Griffith Earns Gill Robb Wilson Award

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On June 23, 2019, Maj. Gregory Griffith of Albuquerque Senior Squadron II was presented the Civil Air Patrol's Gill Robb Wilson Award Certificate – the highest professional development award that a senior member can earn in CAP.

To qualify, members must have held a command or staff position for three years, served as a staff member or director of a CAP-approved activity, attended National Staff College, and mentored a junior senior member officer, flight officer, or non-commissioned officer to the Technician level in a CAP Specialty Track.

Griffith has been a member of CAP since June 2013. He currently serves as communications officer in the Albuquerque Senior Squadron II, as well as the New Mexico Wing director of operations. ■

Guest Editorial

Don't Be Afraid to Go on a SAREX

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Off and on, I have been a Civil Air Patrol member since 1971, but it was not until 2010, when I participated in my first search and rescue exercise (SAREX), that I felt comfortable with what I was doing.

We get out of CAP what we want, and each one likes different parts of the program. I was no different as a cadet. Of CAP's three missions, I liked the Cadet Program best, I was indifferent to Aerospace Education, and Emergency Services was not even on my radar.

I always felt out of place in Emergency Services. To me, Emergency Services was some sort of arcane brotherhood, where you had to be asked in by someone in the know, and you had to learn the secret handshake. In 1992, I went on a SAREX as a squadron commander, but it never really took. In 1997, I let my membership lapse, but I rejoined CAP in 2005.

Fast forward to April 2010, when I transferred to Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron, so my son could join as a cadet. I met Capt. (later Maj.) Lloyd Voights, who at the time was deputy commander for cadets, and during a new member interview he asked me what I would like to do. I told him that I was a bit weak on the operational side of things, and as a result, he invited me to my first SAREX at Santa Fe Municipal Airport. Everybody there was friendly and personable, and willing to teach me what I never knew before. It was because of Capt. Voights that I went on other SAREXes, and eventually became qualified as a mission Public Information Officer (PIO).

Another mentor of mine is Southwest Region Director of Public Affairs Lt. Col. Arthur Woodgate, who mentored me to my Senior Rating in Public Affairs, which I could not have achieved without my PIO mission rating.

To be truthful, I still get lost in the acronyms and jargon. At a recent SAREX, Lt. Col. Larry Zentner, who was the operations section chief, briefed the mission staff about a simulated incident where the pilot had a heart attack. Fortunately, the plane made a successful landing, and the pilot made a miraculous recovery. (Remember, this was a simulation.)

"Both aircraft and pilot are FMC," said Zentner.

I looked at him as if he had just spoken another language. "What's 'FMC'?" I asked Lt. Col. Dave Finley, the PIO for the SAREX.

"'Full Mission Capable'," said Lt. Col. Jim Steele, the debriefer for the SAREX. "You also have 'PMC' which is 'Partial Mission Capable,' and 'NMC,' which is 'Not Mission Capable'."

So, there you have it. I now have seven SAREXes under my belt, and I'm learning something new every day. It never hurts to sometimes step out of your comfort zone.

Right: Cadets on a ground team prepare to deploy at the June 22, 2019 OpsEval.
(Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)



On Language

What Is in a Word?

AUSTIN, Texas – Does the origin of a word matter? Often, we take words for granted and use them without caring where they come from. However, to truly know the language, being aware of a word's origin does make a difference.

Take for instance the expression *male factor*, used to describe that quality of a person, activity or disposition that is contributed by or reflects a component of maleness or masculinity. The word *male* is rooted in the Classical Latin *masculus* meaning masculine or male. This Latin word entered English in the late 14th century from the Old French *masle* that became the Modern French *mâle*. *Factor* is also of Latin origin (*factor* – noun form of the past participle of *facere*, "do" or "make" – meaning *doer* or *maker*), a word that came into English in the early 15th century in the sense of *agent* or *deputy* and, by extension, *component* (*part*).

However, things change radically when we examine our sample words above joined into the single word *malefactor*, a union that took place in ancient Rome and has come down to us as derived from the Latin verb *malefacere*, "to do evil." The first noticeable difference is that the *male* portion of *male factor* is not pronounced the same as when it is used in *malefactor*. In the first case, *male* sounds with a long *a* and a silent *e*, while in the second it is pronounced with a short *a* and a short *e*. Why is that?

As mentioned above, the first *male* (in the sense of masculine) stems from the Latin *masculus* as modified through the French, whereas the *male* portion of *malefactor* comes to us directly from the Latin *male* (bad, badly) that still lives in modern Romance languages as *mal* (evil, bad, poorly), and as the English prefix *mal-*; and all vowels are pronounced because Latin has no silent vowels.

As a spoken language, English is burdened with exceptions and rules that apply according to the word's origin, though in some cases it simply bows to usage. Were that not enough, as a written language it suffers spelling idiosyncrasies that are, also, the result of origin and usage.

On previous pages on the subject of English usage, I have mentioned that Germanic origin words are often preferable to those of Latin origin. The reason is quite simple. Essentially, Old English is very close to Old German, and these words entered Britain as a full language that did not completely replace the earlier Celtic tongues originally spoken there. To complicate matters even more, though Romans occupied Britain for 400 years, very few Latin-origin words entered the Celtic languages directly at that time.

The Roman occupiers left *Britannia* (as they called it) in the early 5th century A.D., at a time when the Celtic inhabitants had no written language and practically no civilization as we know it. Shortly after the Romans' departure, Britain was invaded by the equally illiterate Angles and Saxons – who naturally imposed their "Anglo-Saxon" Germanic speech on the locals. This was an entirely new language that was also influenced by Friesian and Norse, and had acquired Latin grammar and syntax imposed on them by Rome's occupation and dominance (though these Germanic people had incorporated very few Latin words into their old language).

Since Rome's 400 years of occupation vanished without having left a linguistic mark on the locals' Celtic language, most Latin-origin words first entered English from Old French, with transformations and adaptations imposed upon them by French rules of pronunciation and spelling (or initial lack thereof). Later, many words also came into English from Italian, especially in connection with the arts; and, of course, Italian is a direct descendant of Latin (and linguistically it is considered its most conservative heir). Later yet, especially in the American Southwest, interaction with Spanish speakers injected into English their own modifications of Latin-origin words, plus some new words taken from the New World's native languages.

Often, from an original Latin word, other European languages created equivalent modern words of the same meaning. But although some words sound alike, they can come from different origins. For instance, the Classical Latin *butyrum* (pronounced "BUH-tir-uhm") – from which the German *Butter*, English *butter*, French *beurre*, and Italian *burro* are derived – might lead one to

believe that the Spanish *burro* also means "butter." But in this case, morphology would be no help and would lead one far astray. The Spanish *burro* comes from the Latin *burricus* (little horse) and means "donkey."

Most English-language speakers will have no trouble pronouncing the word "cavalcade," which is derived from the Latin *caballus* (horse) through the Vulgar Latin *caballicare* (to ride a horse), through the Italian *cavalcare* (to ride on horseback) and *cavalcata* (group of horse riders), and the Middle French *cavalcade* (coined in the 15th century). Since most people look for spelling similarities to find help in pronouncing a word that is unfamiliar to them, along comes "facade" and some may fall victim to the sound "fac-ade" when, in fact, it is pronounced "fas-ahd" because it comes from the Latin *facies*, through the Vulgar Latin *facia* through the Italian *faccia* (face) and *facciata* (front of a building) and finally entered English from the French *façade*. However, in their infinite wisdom, lexicographers have accepted "facade" without the *cedille* that, in the French spelling of *façade* gives a clear clue concerning its correct pronunciation.

Then, there are English words that are in common use for different shades of meaning depending on whether they are derived from a Germanic or a Latin origin. Take, for instance, "believable" and "credible."

- "Believable" is derived from "believe" that comes from the Proto Indo-European (PIE) root *leubh-* (to care, desire, love) through Old High German *gilouben*, Old Saxon *gilobian*, and Proto-Germanic *ga-laubjan* (to believe).
- "Credible" comes from the PIE root *kerd-* (heart), through the Sanskrit *srad-dha* (faith) and Latin *credere* (to believe).

Notice that at the very bottom, "believable" develops from the concept of "to care, desire, love" while "credible" blooms from the concept of "heart." With the passage of time, the verb "to believe" (that passed through various Germanic filters), prevented the acceptance of a similar verb taken from the Latin *credere*, perhaps because the latter is closely associated with religion. How, then, are we to use wisely the synonyms *believable* and *credible*?

- The descendants of "believe" are many: believability, believer, disbelieve, unbelievable, unbeliever.
- The descendants of "credible" are slightly fewer: credibility, credulous, incredible, incredulous.

So, whether you choose "believable" over "credible" is just a matter of choice, since after so many years in use they have become very close synonyms.

Bottom line, words that are not of Germanic origin are not always understood in the same sense by all English speakers, so clarity is best achieved by using the foundational words at the heart of the English language: those derived from Old German. In fact, many philologists consider German to be the mother tongue of English. As a result, linguistically, English is classified as a Germanic language, in spite of the readily recognizable Latin origin of a multitude of common words.

However, if we look closer, English has a strong tie to romance languages, since William the Conqueror imposed his *Langue d'oc* (derived from Vulgar Latin through the Gallic), giving birth to the Anglo-Norman that dominated England from 1066 to 1485. This period was followed by the Anglo-Saxon speaking Tudors, who after taking the throne discarded Anglo-Norman in favor of the modified Middle English spoken in East Anglia, itself an Anglo-Saxon heavily influenced by Anglo-Norman, today known as Early Modern English.

This is why there are so many words in English that can trace their origin directly to Latin, and yet others are clearly of Germanic origin. To support our analysis, let us examine two examples of the relative clarity of words associated with their origin. Someone might be confused by *largo* (Latin through the Italian), or *fenestration* (Latin through the French), but *hand* (from the Germanic *Hand*) or *house* (from the Germanic *Haus*) will ring true every time. 🍷

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



Above: Photo by [Ray Hennessy](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The Safety Page

Leave Fireworks to the Experts

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal, but they are not safe.

In 2017, [eight people died and over 12,000 were injured](#) badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices such as small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, [fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year](#), including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.

If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live, and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.

- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands.
- Never light them indoors.
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Light only one device at a time, and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Never ignite devices in a container.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off, or in case of fire.
- Never use illegal fireworks.

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

Sparklers Are Dangerous

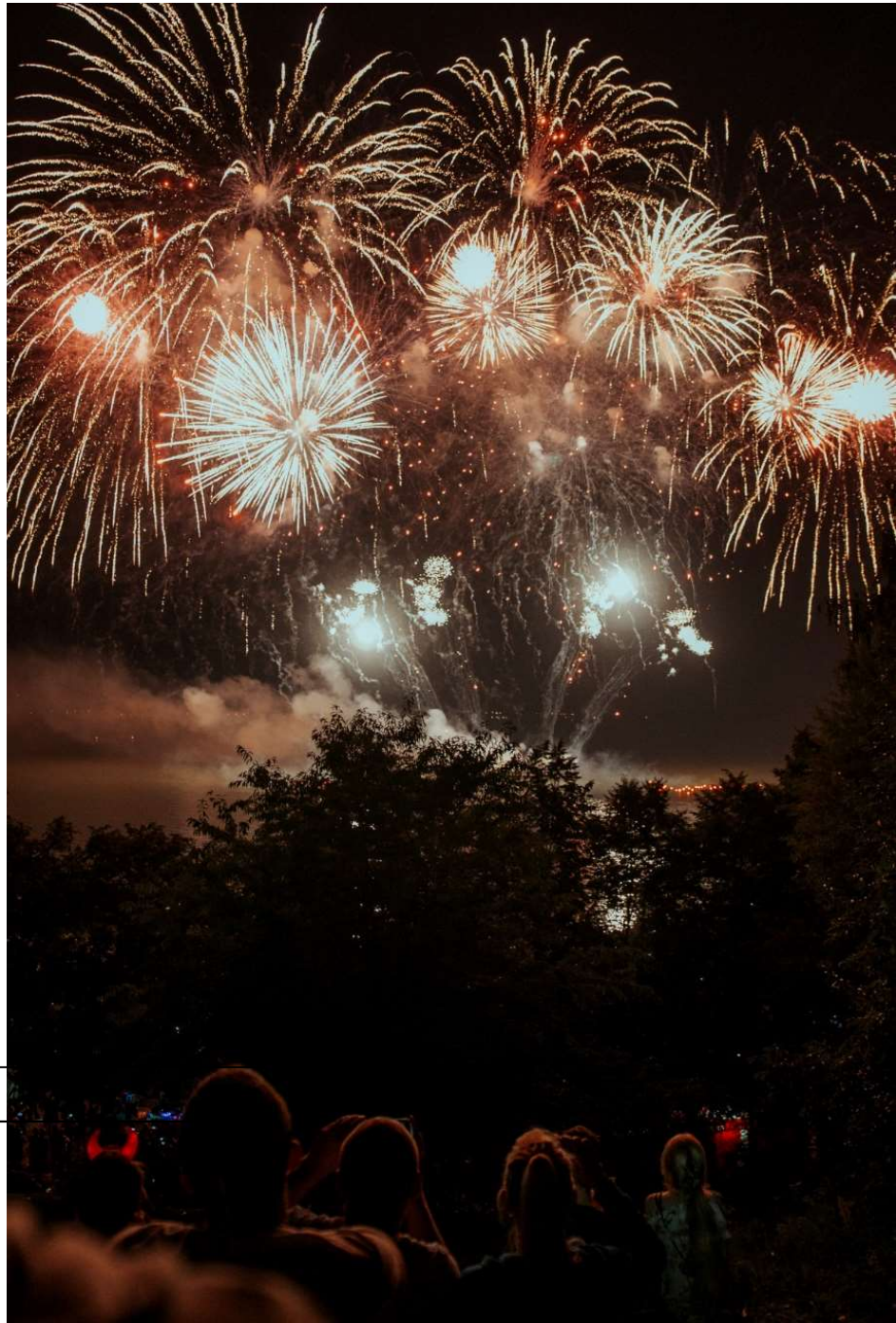
Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. *For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.*

Consider using *safer alternatives*, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers, or colored streamers.

Article source: National Safety Council.

Right: Photo by [Zuza Gałczyńska](#) on [Unsplash](#)



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). For a brief summary, please see "Associated Press Style in a Nutshell," overleaf.

"Article" is defined as a narrative that:

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

General advice on writing a good article

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

Associated Press Style in a Nutshell

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

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