



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the
Southwest Region
January, 2020



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The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter.

Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

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

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

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

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

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

SWR Commander's Corner

Welcome to 2020; I am confident that it will be an exciting year for Civil Air Patrol. There are an amazing amount of initiatives and programmatic changes that will roll out this year, enabling our volunteers to better accomplish our many and diverse Missions for America. However, the effects and impacts of those initiatives and missions may not happen as well as intended without the right kind of leadership.

The one critical element that will be a factor in the success of each and every one of those missions is leadership. That should surprise no one. Over the past several months, I have thought a lot about leadership, in part because we have gone through several very rigorous processes in selecting new wing commanders in four of our six Southwest Region wings. I have also been focused on leadership as I participated in developing CAP Pamphlet 80-3, Character and Leadership, Core Values for Senior members.

<https://www.cap.news/new-guidelines-stress-senior-member-character-leadership/>

Our national commander, Maj. Gen. Mark Smith, spends much of his time on leadership. I highly recommend his series of videos on leadership, in particular, those on Servant Leadership.

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/national-commanders-videos>

Consistent with his message in the third video – about helping members be successful – he shares information and lessons on leadership with his command team and advisory groups. Recently, one of those messages had to do with leadership in the United States Army, which originated from an email from Mr. Paul Gloyd, Deputy Chief Operating Officer at NHQ. I found this particularly illuminating, since I sometimes find resistance to the idea that leadership styles similar to servant leadership are the most appropriate, and most effective, for our volunteer organization. This is not consistent with my experiences during 20 years as an officer in the United States Air Force, my civilian career as a manager in a major aerospace company, or during my 22 years in Civil Air Patrol. In that email, Mr. Gloyd said, “I

thought this one was worth sharing. The Army has added to their list of core values. Spoiler alert: it's humility, and I'm impressed."

<https://www.inc.com/chris-matyszczyk/the-us-army-is-promoting-a-contentious-new-leadership-value-heres-why-every-business-leader-should-embrace-it.html>

Here is the link to their leadership manual:

https://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/DR_pubs/DR_a/pdf/web/ARN20039_AD2006-22%20C1%20FINAL%20WEB.pdf

At a recent meeting, Maj, Gen, Smith shared another leadership lesson with the members of the Commander's Senior Advisory Group. He showed a graphic and challenged the commanders to do a self-assessment as to which side of the chart each one would most likely be on.

From "Unbreaking the Squadron"
by Maj Jonathan Hoefing

Broken Culture vs **Unbroken Culture**

Broken Culture

- External Motivation: Compliance, Self-preservation, Shame, Fear
- Task Oriented
- Lack of Clear Priorities
- Mistakes & Malpractice are treated the same
- 'Knee Jerk' Reactions to Problems
- Generalized & Subjective Feedback
- Enforce the Status Quo
- Risk Averse

Accomplish the mission using Airmen

Unbroken Culture

- Intrinsic Motivation: Improvement, Purpose, Success of All
- Mission Oriented
- Clear Priorities, Goals & Objectives
- Mistakes are Treated as Learning Opportunities
- Find Root Causes, Develop Corrective Action Plans
- Objective & Constructive Feedback
- Encourage Ideas & Innovation
- Risk Tolerant

Develop Airmen who can accomplish the mission

ONE CIVIL AIR PATROL, EXCELLING IN SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND OUR MEMBERS!

I shared this graphic with our SWR wing commanders, but I think there are lessons here for every leader in Civil Air Patrol. And that includes you, whether you are a cadet or a senior member, because we are all leaders at some level, and at some time, regardless of whether we have that duty title or not. When I conduct a change of command ceremony, I always mention that, "Leadership matters. It makes a difference." I encourage you to make a difference with your leadership, but you will make a bigger difference if you are the right kind of leader. 🇺🇸

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/. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Richard Madrigal, Cadet Airman Jordan Jenkins, Cadet Staff Sgt. I. V. Evans, Cadet Staff Sgt. Camille Humble, 1st Lt. Johnnie Rhodes, Cadet Airman 1st Class Zach Lemoine, Airman 1st Class Hunter Madrigal, and Maj. Doug Plummer.
(Photo: S.M. Rebecca Evans, CAP)

Louisiana Wing Squadron Launches a Space Balloon to the Edge of Space

by Maj. Doug Plummer and 1st Lt. Johnnie Rhodes, CAP, Louisiana Wing

ALEXANDRIA, La. – As of October 27, 2019, five cadets from the Louisiana Wing can now say they controlled a camera at an altitude of almost 20 miles above the Earth. After almost a year of planning and waiting, members of the CENLA Composite Squadron and Leesville Composite Squadron launched a weather balloon carrying a payload cradle with cameras for live video, a flight computer, SPOT tracker and a HAM radio transmitter to an altitude of over 104,000 feet, reaching the “near space” environment.

First Lt. Johnnie Rhodes drew from his experience acquired during a launch he conducted with his son for a senior year of high school as a science project, and a subsequent flight by a local middle school with which he had been asked to assist. Both launches happened on the fall of 2016 and 2017. This 2019 launch was scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in Western Louisiana, near the Sabine River, using various websites to estimate how a balloon will behave in flight. The Sabine River is the boundary between Louisiana and Texas. The projection was for the balloon to land near the town of Jonesville, La., about 190 highway miles away.



Left: The payload cradle being assembled for the balloon launch.

Below: A screen shot of the live data being streamed from the balloon's instruments, after having reached its maximum altitude. (Photos: 1st Lt. Johnnie Rhodes, CAP)

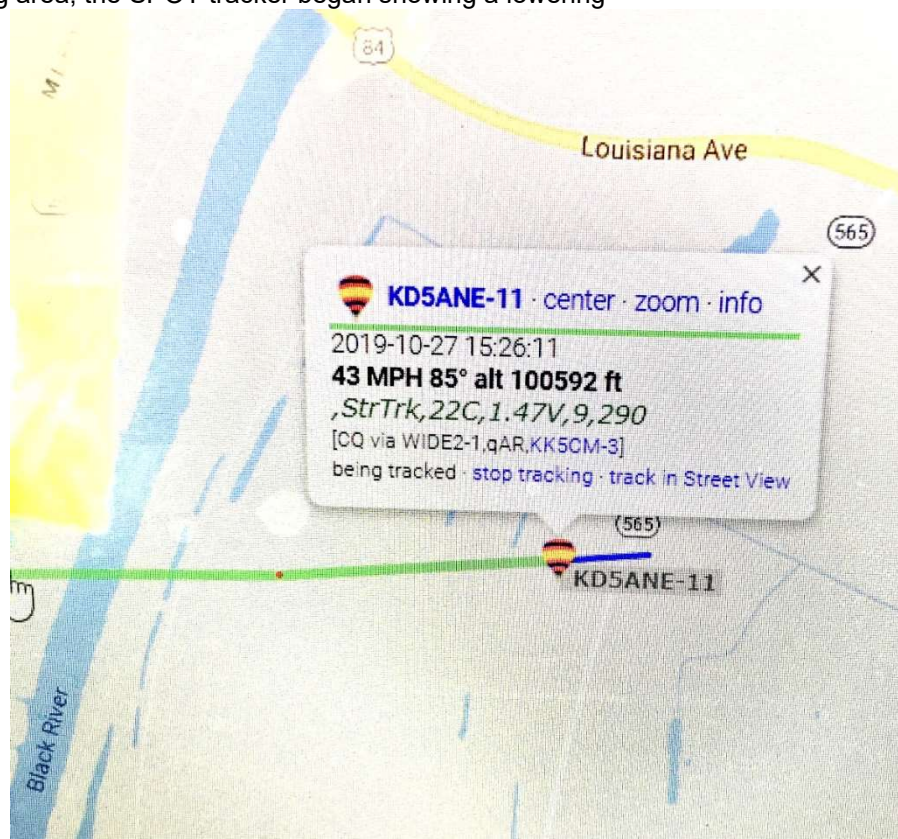
The payload was carried by a triangular-shaped wooden cradle with attachment points and lightweight foam to absorb impact. Attached was a small flight computer, specifically designed for balloon launches, that logs data such as altitude, speed, temperature and barometric pressure every six seconds

during the flight. A SPOT tracker similar to those used in CAP aircraft served as a method of tracking the balloon. The payload cradle carried a GoPro camera to provide a recorded video of the flight and a HAM Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) radio transmitter that served as a secondary tracking device that would be received by ground stations as the SPOT tracker stops transmitting once it is above about 65,000 feet.

Launched from privately owned land into a clear blue sky at 11:30 a.m., while the property owners and neighbors watched the proceedings, the balloon took its projected eastern heading of about 80 degrees. Team members followed the track in three vehicles. According to information from the SPOT tracker, everything seemed to be on course. The winds picked up as the day wore on, and the sky was becoming overcast.

After arriving at the anticipated landing area, the SPOT tracker began showing a lowering altitude, so everyone thought the balloon had popped prematurely and it was descending. It turned out that the SPOT was losing contact with the communication satellites and the balloon was actually ascending. The APRS website that was supposed to receive the HAM signal was temporarily unavailable.

As preparations were being made to recover the balloon and payload, the antenna signal locked on, and once again the receivers got a reading. The grainy picture showed a sliver of green patchwork with a line of blue atmosphere below the blackness of space. This confirmed that the mission objectives had been accomplished, and



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live video was being broadcast from the edge of space, at an altitude exceeding 100,000 feet. For about 10 minutes, the cadets used a controller similar to an RC controller to rotate the live-feed camera and raise and lower its lens, giving them the ability to control from the ground a craft that hovered at the edge of space.

Right: Live image transmitted from the balloon upon reaching its final altitude of over 100,000 ft., showing the black of space above, and the bluish atmosphere below. *Photo: 1st Lt. Johnnie Rhodes, CAP*

During flight, a live video feed from on board the craft was made possible by a second camera with pan and tilt capability. With the balloon at the very edge of space, cadets could control camera direction and tilt during the flight in real time using a 910 MHz video transmitter paired with a 433 MHz Remote Control link with which cadets on the ground could change camera direction using a handheld controller. Both the 433 and 910 MHz bands are long-range frequencies that require an FCC Amateur Radio (HAM) technician-class license to operate. First Lt. Rhodes and Cadet Staff Sgt. Camille Humble of CENLA Composite Squadron are licensed to operate on these frequencies.

Using the direction shown by the antenna, the vehicles were driven while the video feed was being monitored. Shortly afterwards, the video tilted and the blue green of the earth was moving in a circular motion, showing that the balloon had burst and the reentry phase had begun. The craft was now plummeting through the void of near-space on its way back towards Earth. Shortly afterwards, with the craft in thicker atmosphere, the parachute fully deployed, slowing the craft's reentry to a safe descent rate. A few minutes later, after the communications blackout period had ended, pings from the SPOT tracker were once again received, showing that the craft was about 40 miles eastwards, but on the same heading.

It soon became evident that the craft was descending over the Mississippi River. At about 5 p.m., the SPOT tracker signal stopped transmitting near the east bank of the river. The craft had traveled some 200 miles, but against all odds had made a splashdown in the mile-wide body of water. After previously having completed two successful missions to the edge of space, it could not be retrieved at the end of this third flight.

Even though the craft could not be recovered, this mission was still a success in other ways. The objectives had been to teach the Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members about the high-altitude environment, high-altitude ballooning, and all the components aboard the craft, have them assist in launching the craft, tracking the craft while maintaining a live video transmission from onboard the craft, attempt to stream live video from the craft at the edge of space, and also control the flight onboard camera's pan and tilt direction, all the way to the edge of space, all while livestreaming the entire event, including in-flight video, to a web page so that anyone could watch. All those objectives had been accomplished.





Above: (L-R) Cadet Sr. Airman Jimmie Evans IV, Cadet Airman 1st Class Nicholas Lemone, Cadet Staff Sgt. Camile Humble and Cadet Airman Jordan Jenkins. (Photo: S.M. Rebecca Evans, CAP)

In the weeks prior to the launch, cadets and senior members had learned about the hardware involved with the launch, how the Jet Stream behaves over the Continental United States, and other dynamics encountered in the near-space environment.

In early spring of 2019, 1st Lt. Johnnie Rhodes of the CENLA Composite Squadron began teaching the cadets and senior members about a balloon launch. Then, upon attempting an early spring launch, everyone learned that the Jet Stream behaves differently in each season of the year. Jet Stream winds tend to dip southward and become stronger during winter months, greatly adding to the overall distance the balloon will travel in the upper atmosphere. A summer or fall launch could lead to a recovery of the craft only 30 or 40 miles from the launch site, but a winter launch could have required a balloon chase of a few hundred miles, creating a major logistical challenge. Thus, the decision was made to wait until October to launch the craft.

The cadets, their parents, and senior members not only learned about high-altitude balloon launches, and actually conducted one, but they might be the only people in America to have watched a live view from near-space of a craft they launched while controlling the camera on board the craft with a handheld controller in real time when it was in space above them. This will be a memorable experience, and one day these cadets might tell their own children about the time they launched and controlled something in space. Although recovering the craft for yet another launch would have been preferable, giving the cadets this experience had been priceless. To that end, the squadron has already begun collecting the materials needed to build another craft, looking forward to the next launch

Present from the CENLA Composite Squadron were 1st Lt. Johnnie Rhodes, Cadet Staff Sgt. Camile Humble, Cadet Airman 1st Class Chris Madrigal, Cadet Airman 1st Class Hunter Madrigal, Cadet Airman 1st Class Nicholas Lemoine, 2nd Lt. Richard Madrigal, and 2nd Lt. Amanda Madrigal. From the Leesville Composite Squadron were Maj. Douglas Plummer, Cadet Airman Jordan Jenkins, Cadet Sr. Airman Jimmie Evans IV, S.M. Jimmie Evans Jr. and S.M. Rebecca A. Evans. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Capt. Will Brassfield, 2nd Lt. Raymond Cope, Maj. Rick Gorman, and 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Blasi observe S.M. Frank Hooper as he describes his experience flying the sUAS with 2nd Lt. Cindy Clark, Cadet Sr. Airman Angeleena Sowell and Cadet Airman 1st Class Justin Quinton. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Eric Holtzclaw, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Squadron Looks to Expand Services

by 2nd Lt. Eric Holtzclaw, CAP, Oklahoma Wing

ENID, Okla. – On the evening of October 21, 2019, the Oklahoma Wing's Enid Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) hosted an informational seminar on small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) capabilities, also known as drones. The seminar was attended by senior members, cadets and members of the community. CAP National Headquarters hopes to bring these systems to field units in the near future. Oklahoma Wing Aerospace Education Officer Maj. Jason Unwin briefed the squadron on the capabilities and use of drones, as well as the possibility of having some assigned to the unit.

Right: (L-R) The sUAS view of exercise. Members observing several sUAS sorties in action are: S.M. Frank Hooper, Maj. Rick Gorman, Cadet Airman 1st Class Justin Quinton, Cadet Sr. Airman Angeleena Sowell, 2nd Lt. Eric Holtzclaw, Capt. Will Brassfield, 2nd Lt. Cindy Clark, 2nd Lt. Raymond Cope, Capt. James Nichols, Maj. Jason Unwin and 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Blasi.

Below: (L-R) Maj. Jason Unwin explains the capabilities of small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) to Senior Member Frank Hooper, 1st Lt. Jeffrey Grant, and Maj. Richard Fox.



“Bringing the sUAS capabilities to the Enid Squadron and northwestern Oklahoma would be awesome,” said Enid Composite Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Jeffrey Grant. “The need is here for this kind of capability, as well as the ability to support the emergency managers and agencies across northwestern Oklahoma, which would be a plus for everyone.”

Unwin explained that Oklahoma has several squadrons in the training and development phase of using sUAS. The need for trained sUAS pilots and a commitment by volunteer senior members is critical. He also mentioned that there are prerequisites that must be met before CAP will allow the use of drones, but the applications are widespread and vital.

Drones can be used for search and recovery, mapping and damage assessment after storms, photography, and reconstruction analysis. A sUAS has many advantages over larger manned fixed-wing aircraft, although there are some limitations because sUAS may not be viable in every situation.

Drones can be used for search and recovery, mapping and damage assessment after storms, photography, and reconstruction analysis. A sUAS has many advantages over larger manned fixed-wing aircraft, although there are some limitations because sUAS may not be viable in every situation.

In conjunction with initiatives such as the sUAS, CAP is always looking for qualified and motivated volunteers who want to help their community. 🇺🇸





Top: Members from eight CAP units participated in the FEMA Instructional Presentation & Evaluation Skills Course. (L-R): Lt. Col. Peter Bolger, Lt. Col. David Rudawitz, Capt. Scott Higgins, Maj. Kristin Freeman, Lt. Col. Mark Jones, Lt. Col. William Wetzel, Col. Gilbert Day, and Maj. Michael Collett. (Photo: FEMA/EMI Instructional Staff).

Southwest Region Members Graduate from Federal Instructor Courses

by Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, CAP, NESAs-MTT Coordinator

EMMITSBURG, Md. – At the invitation of FEMA, eight Civil Air Patrol members participated in the three-day U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s *Instructional Presentation & Evaluation Skills* course, graduating as FEMA-credentialed instructors for CAP’s National Emergency Services Academy Mobile Training Team (NESAs-MTT) Cadre. The course was conducted in-residence at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, during October 28-30, 2019.

Members from national headquarters, two region headquarters staff, and five wings participated. One first-time attendee at EMI, Southwest Region (SWR) Director of Communications Col. Gil Day, summed up the experience, “This course has enabled CAP and FEMA to build a solid working relationship; I am excited about future course offerings, and have already begun promoting the mindset of our region’s members to attend,” Day said. This was the second time this year that SWR members attended the course. Captains Margot Myers and

Gordon Helm, both NESAs-MTT instructors from the Arizona Wing, completed the course when it was offered in California in August 2019.

While these eight members were in Maryland, two other NESAs-MTT instructors were attending the week-long *Instructor Development Course* hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard at its training center in Yorktown, Virginia. According to SWR Director of Operations Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk, "This course was amazing, both introducing new instructors to the dynamics of presenting to adults, while polishing the skills of the sage instructor." Two other members attended this course this year, including Arizona Wing Inspector General Lt. Col. Linda Yaeger.

According to CAP National Headquarters Director of Operations John Desmarais, "Having personnel from across the country complete this instructor training is one of the next key steps in CAP refining our NESAs-MTT outreach education programs, while nurturing its relationships with training partners. We only send out the best – in subject matter expertise and teaching abilities. Teaching with our NESAs-MTT Cadre guarantees that instructional excellence." He added, "Over the next several years, we expect CAP, along with our federal, state and local counterparts, to continue to move within this standard of instructional quality."

Any questions regarding these courses or any other NESAs-MTT courses should be addressed to Program Coordinator Lt. Col. (Dr.) Bob Ditch at rditch@cap.gov.

Below: Lt. Col. Rick Fawcett, second from right, assists in the evaluation of a U.S. Coast Guard Non-Commissioned Officer Instructor during seminar presentation breakouts on the last day of class. (Photo: Lt. Col. (Dr.) Bob Ditch, CAP)





Top: A combined color guard from Santa Fe High School Naval JROTC and Santa Fe Composite Squadron present the colors at the Wreaths Across America ceremony. (Photos: Maj. C. John Graham, CAP)

Code Talkers Honored at Wreaths Across America Ceremony

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

SANTA FE, N.M. – On Dec. 14, 2019, Civil Air Patrol members and other volunteers paid their respects to veterans interred at the Santa Fe National Cemetery by laying wreaths on their graves. Some 2,600 wreaths were placed. Among those honored were four Navajo Code Talkers, who served their country in World War II by relaying radio messages in their native language, which the Japanese did not understand nor were they ever able to decode.

The Code Talkers traveled far across the ocean to fulfill their duty. Sister Martha Torbik, of the Order of St. Francis in Syracuse, N.Y., came to New Mexico to recognize their service. While teaching on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, she developed an appreciation for Native American culture and became interested in the Code Talkers, who went unrecognized for nearly 40 years after World War II had ended. Having participated in Wreaths Across America in New York, she decided to come to the Santa Fe ceremony to honor some of the fourteen Code Talkers buried at the cemetery.

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Right: Sister Martha lays a wreath at the grave of Navajo Code Talker U.S. Marine Corps Private 1st Class Ralph Morgan.

Below: (Clockwise from center) Sister Martha Torbik of the Order of St. Francis, Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff of Santa Fe Composite Squadron, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters, and New Mexico National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Kenneth Nava (in vintage World War II uniform), confer before the wreath-laying.



There were poignant moments as Sister Martha laid wreaths and spoke the names of U.S. Marine Corps Privates 1st Class Ralph and Sam Morgan, killed in action in 1943 and 1945, respectively. It is not known whether they were related to each other.

Sister Martha's father served in the Army in World War II, and is interred along with her mother at Arlington National Cemetery, where the Wreaths Across America event originated. "I knew that someone would be placing wreaths at the base of my parents' niche. So, this is an opportunity to do the same for someone else's family," she said.

Sister Martha also took time to educate CAP cadets on Code Talker history, explaining how they assigned Navajo words to military terminology, and that they had to change location immediately after transmitting a message in order to prevent discovery by Japanese troops.

Previously, Sister Martha had been selected at random by the Wreaths Across America organization to receive 100 wreaths for a location of her choosing. "I discovered there were many Navajo Code Talkers buried in the Santa Fe National Cemetery," she said. That's where my veterans' wreaths will be sent to honor these brave souls credited with helping to win the war in the Pacific."

Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff of the Santa Fe Composite Squadron coordinated CAP's role in the ceremony, as well as Sister Martha's visit to Santa Fe, taking her to the Loretto Chapel and other historical locations. Maj. Mary Fox of Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron escorted her to the grave sites. Cadets from the Santa Fe, Spirit, Route 66 and Thunderbird Composite Squadrons placed the wreaths.

The color guard at the event was provided by Cadet Airman 1st Class Carley Gravel and

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Ben Rollins, along with Cadet Chief Petty Officer Isaiah Segura and Cadet Lt. (j.g.) Santiago Pacheco of the Santa Fe High School Navy Junior ROTC detachment. Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Cassie Gravel and Cadet 2nd Lt. Forest Nelson, also of the Santa Fe squadron, along with NJROTC cadets, provided escort for special wreath-laying to honor fallen members of each military branch. 🇺🇸





Top: Col. Robert Allison accepts command of the Arkansas Wing from Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith, as Col. Arthur Formanek looks on. (Photos: 1st Lt. Jonathan McIntyre, CAP)

Arkansas Wing Welcomes New Wing Commander

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

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – On October 19, 2019, the Arkansas Wing installed a new commander with a Change of Command Ceremony held at wing headquarters. The event was presided by Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith, who in September of 2019 had recommended selection of Lt. Col. Robert “Bobby” Allison as the new wing commander.

The day began with committee meetings including that of the wing Cadet Advisory Council. Outgoing Wing Commander Col. Arthur Fomanek held his final Commander’s Call, to which all wing members had been invited to attend. During the Commander’s Call, Col. Formanek presented awards to key wing members who had been vital to the wing’s success during his tenure. Col. Formanek made a short speech on the state of the wing, and thanked wing members for their contributions. At the end of his speech, he described the incoming commander as, “an outstanding candidate,” and, “he will make an outstanding wing commander.”

Little Rock native Lt. Col. Robert “Bobby” Allison began his career in Civil Air Patrol as a cadet in the 42nd Composite Squadron, Little Rock, which he had commanded prior to being selected to head the Arkansas Wing. He has supported the Arkansas Wing in various ways, especially

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Cadet Programs and Emergency Services, in both of which he holds a Master rating. He had previously held the positions of director of emergency services, director of cadet programs, and director of aerospace education. Through his leadership as a squadron commander, the 42nd Composite Squadron earned the Squadron of Merit distinction in 2017.

Southwest Region Commander Col. Joe Smith commented on the success of the Arkansas Wing. He described the Aerospace Education program in the Arkansas Wing as, "doing it right." He congratulated the wing members present for the achievements that the wing has made during Col. Formanek's command of the wing. Later, Col. Formanek referred to the region commander's remarks concerning the Arkansas Wing's accomplishments in the past four years, by saying, "It's not me. It's you," meaning the Arkansas Wing's members.

Col. Formanek was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, and the citation mentioned several of the Wing's achievements during his tenure. He flew sorties in support of wing missions to also include Falcon Virgo, an annual national defense exercise, in 2016 and 2018. The Wing's aircraft usage increased dramatically, bringing the wing to a top 10 position in the nation. Aerospace Education members went from 7 in 2015 to 188 in 2019. Under Col. Formanek's guidance, the Arkansas Wing was the 2019 recipient of the Southwest Region's Paul Turner Safety Award.

Directly after the Change of Command, Col. Allison made a short speech thanking Col. Smith, Col. Formanek, the wing members present and distinguished guests, that included Assistant Adjutant General of the Arkansas Air National Guard Gen. Crimmins. The theme of Col. Allison's speech was family support. He credited his success in CAP to his parents and grandparents as a cadet, and his wife, Leslie, while he was a senior member and now wing commander.

Col. Allison selected Master Sgt. Gary Podgurski as the Wing NCO. Podgurski and former Wing NCO Master Sgt. Troy Riggs held a Change of Responsibility ceremony to give substance to the passing of NCO leadership from Riggs to Podgurski.

Colonel Allison was Southwest Region Cadet Programs officer of the year (2006), and the Southwest Region Senior Member of the Year (2017). He was also the Arkansas Wing Squadron Commander of the year (2017), and Ground Team Member of the year (2002, 2004, and 2005). Additionally, he is the recipient of the James C. Steven Support Officer of the year award (2014), and the Robert L. Penton Aircrew Excellence Award (2005). Shortly after taking command of the Arkansas Wing, Col. Allison attended the Wing Commanders Course held at Maxwell Air Force Base. 🇺🇸

Below: (L-R) Lt. Col. Marchelle Jones presents a commemorative assemblage to Col. Arthur Formanek.





Top: Trick-or-treaters get candy from Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Charity Wampler standing in the gondola of a tethered balloon, as 2nd Lt. Dave Matteson observes. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Vanessa Little, CAP)

Arizona Wing Cadets Support Balloon Spooktacular Festival

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – On October 25 and 26, cadets from Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix supported the Balloon Spooktacular Festival at Salt River Fields in Scottsdale. This has become an annual event for the squadron’s cadets, who help participating hot air balloon pilots with crowd control, inflation, deflation, and packing up the balloons at the end of the event. They also hand out candy to trick-or-treaters attending the festival.



Above: Cadets posed inside the inflated envelope of a balloon during training by Firebird Balloons on how to inflate, deflate, pack, and tether a hot air balloon.

Below: At the end of the festival, CAP cadets assist the owner with packing up the balloon envelope.

Preparation for this event started on October 14, 2019, when the cadets received training from Firebird Balloons, a local company owned by the family of Deer Valley Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Little, who also is a commercial hot air balloon pilot. Second Lt. Vanessa Little, also a member of Deer Valley Composite Squadron, is Cadet Little's mother.

"As a thank you for our help, the balloon organizers often make a donation to the squadron, based on the number of cadets who participate," said 2nd Lt. Amber O'Donnell, who oversaw the activity. Seventeen cadets participated on Friday, and 19 on Saturday.

More than 20 hot air balloons were on display at the festival, and cadets helped distribute 4,000 pounds of candy for trick-or-treaters. The festival also featured live music, refreshments, a free Kids Zone, a vendor market, tethered balloon rides, a haunted spooky trail, fireworks, and more. The Balloon Spooktacular was designed to be a safe, fun-filled, trick-or-treating Halloween event. 🍬



Right: The new Cessna 206 parked on the tarmac at Los Alamos. (Photos: Maj. Dan Gabel, CAP)

Below: (L-R) Los Alamos Composite Squadron Commander Maj. David McClard, Cadet Commander Cadet 1st Lt. Juan Romero, and Cadet Staff Sgt. Kyle Gentile in front of the new aircraft.

New Mexico Wing Receives New Aircraft

by Maj. Dan Gabel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – On October 17, 2019, Civil Air Patrol’s New Mexico Wing took delivery of a brand-new turbocharged Cessna 206, straight off Cessna’s assembly line in Wichita, Kansas, and Los Alamos Composite Squadron was the first to fly it.

This state-of-the-art aircraft features the newest advances in navigation and situational awareness, featuring the Garmin G-1000 NXI system, including: NEXRAD datalink weather, HSI mapping, Terminal Traffic Surveillance, terrain alerting with color shading, an integrated oxygen system, heated propeller, and much more. It is also equipped with several communication systems and an aircraft emergency locator Doppler tracking system.

Los Alamos Squadron Commander Maj. Dave McClard had high praise for the aircraft’s high-altitude operational capabilities. “Expected performance will greatly reduce our en route time to potential target areas, which will enhance our ability to support search and rescue, disaster relief, humanitarian services missions, member training and cadet orientation flights.”

In New Mexico, CAP has formal agreements to provide assistance to local and state municipalities including: New Mexico State Police, the American Red Cross, FEMA, the Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board and the United States Coast Guard.

Over the years, the Los Alamos Composite Squadron has received numerous citations and awards from Civil Air Patrol for lifesaving and humanitarian efforts. Many former Los Alamos CAP cadets have attended the United States Air Force Academy, enlisted in other armed services to pursue aviation-related careers, been employed by aerospace companies, or now fly for commercial and corporate airlines. 🇺🇸



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Left: Squadron Commander Capt. Wendy Iskiyan, of Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron 334, checks-in Civil Air Patrol cadets for the Cadet Orientation Flights (COF) Fly-In Day at the 47th Fighter Squadron Operations Center, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. (Photos: Maj. Robert Weber, CAP)

Below - (L to R) Prior to their flights, Willie Composite Squadron 1st Lt. Gary Stark, Payson Composite Squadron Lt. Col. Art Rogers, and Prescott Composite Squadron Maj. Charles Bretana receive a weather and flight operations brief from the incident command staff.

Arizona Wing Cadets Take Part in Fly-In Day at Davis-Monthan AFB

by Maj. Robert Weber, CAP, Arizona Wing

TUCSON, Ariz. – On September 22, 2019, 27 cadets from Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron and Neotoma Composite Squadron, supported by 15 senior members from William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron and Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron, joined forces to conduct the first ever Cadet Orientation Flights (COF) Fly-In Day at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

It was a busy day for the senior operations staff headed by Lt. Col. Tony McFarland, who served as the incident commander. He was assisted by Air Operations Branch Director Maj. Steve Hulland and Communications Unit Leader Capt. Greg Roberts, managing and coordinating 37 sorties and six CAP aircraft.

Squadron Commander Capt. Wendy Iskiyan, of the Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron, noted that U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Malan, 47th Fighter Squadron A-10 instructor pilot (and also an Arizona Wing CAP member), was the driving force behind the Fly-In Day. Iskiyan coordinated all cadet ground movement for the event, while Malan coordinated all base tours and the Davis-Monthan AFB supporting staff.





Above: Cadet 2nd Lt. Alana Petersen, cadet deputy squadron commander of Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron, gave an on-camera interview and spoke about her CAP cadet experiences with reporter Megan McNeil, KOLD TV, Tucson.

“Today we are focusing on two Civil Air Patrol missions – cadet programs and aerospace education,” said Malan. “We combined the orientation flights with tours to give cadets two different perspectives of flying, by seeing it from the inside and outside of the cockpit.”

Hulland said, “The 47th Fighter Squadron facilities made our job much easier. Exceptional radios, computers, and support from the many Air Force active duty and reserve members ensured that the cadets and our incident command team had an excellent experience.”

COF Fly-In Day started with six CAP aircraft arriving at Davis-Monthan AFB during a well-orchestrated and coordinated 30-minute landing window, beginning at 7 a.m. Participating aircraft flew in from William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron, Cochise Composite Squadron, Prescott Composite Squadron, Payson Composite Squadron, Willie Composite Squadron, and Yuma Composite Squadron.

According to CAP Lt. Col. Ken McKinley, the aircraft flight coordinator for the event, during the following 10 hours, cadets, CAP and Air Force support staff, and mission pilots executed 37 sorties and 37.4 flying hours to accomplish 26 cadet orientation flights and 44 tours.

After a thorough flight safety briefing held at the 47th Fighter Squadron, the cadets split into two flight elements. While the morning sorties were being flown, the remaining cadets participated in tours of the Davis-Monthan air traffic control tower, the Federal Aviation Administration’s Tucson terminal radar approach control facilities, the 924th Maintenance Squadron TF-34 engine shop, and the 47th Fighter Squadron’s A-10 flight line.

“The tours were super interesting. We learned a lot about the work that goes on behind the scenes to get airplanes in the air safely, and it showed cadets different jobs and opportunities in

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aerospace,” said Cadet 2nd Lt. Alana Petersen, cadet deputy squadron commander of Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron.

“Providing knowledge and encouragement to the cadets and allowing them to focus on future aviation and aerospace careers is what this is all about,” said Air Force Master Sgt. David Hart who volunteered to give up part of his weekend to participate in the COF Fly-In Day. The 16-year Air Force veteran explained to the cadets that his shop performed “everything from routine inspections to complete engine overhauls to these \$1.3 million engines.” Hart took pride in telling the cadets that, during 2019 alone, the men and women in his shop had repaired, inspected, and returned 79 engines back to the fleet.

“It’s so interesting to see how engines work, and now I have a better understanding of how not only jet engines work but props and piston engines too,” said Cadet Airman Cruz Ortiz, Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron.

Every cadet orientation flight sortie was schedule to make maximum use of the flight time allotted. On the outbound leg of each sortie, mission pilots flew to their assigned outlying airfield (Ryan, Benson, Nogales, San Miguel, Cochise County, and Sierra Vista). Once on the ground, each aircraft was refueled and cadets were given time to stretch-out and switch seats for the next orientation flight. According to McKinley, the process was repeated in the afternoon, and all sorties and tours were conducted without a single incident.

McKinley said, “Twenty-six cadets received O-flights on Sunday – not one cadet who wanted an O-flight and showed up to this event didn’t get one. We flew everybody.”

Malan thanked all of those who had participated and, during an on-camera interview with Tucson’s KOLD TV News, said, “In addition to grooming tomorrow’s leaders, this will inspire tomorrow’s airmen, sailors, soldiers and marines as well as civic leaders such as congressmen and senators.”

The full interview is posted at www.kold.com/video/2019/09/23/civil-air-patrol-cadets-take-flight-davis-monthan-air-force-base/

Below: U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. David Hart (right) conducted a tour of the 924th Maintenance Squadron engine shop, where the TF-34 engines for the A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft are inspected and maintained.





Top: Lt. Col. Ken McKinley, William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron, reads the inscription on a plaque to Lt. Col. Mark Malan, U.S. Air Force, 47th Fighter Squadron, who is also an Arizona Wing CAP member. The inscription reads, "47th Fighter Squadron – In grateful appreciation from the AZWG Civil Air Patrol for an outstanding effort above and beyond: 37.4 flight hours, 37 sorties, 26 cadet flights, 44 tours, zero incidents – 22 September 2019." On the right background is Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron Commander Capt. Wendy Iskiyan. (Photo: Maj. Robert Weber, CAP)

47th Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB Is Recognized for Supporting Fly-In

by Maj. Robert Weber, CAP, Arizona Wing

TUCSON, Ariz. – On October 14, 2019, cadets from Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron were in their seats during their regular weekly meeting when Squadron Commander Capt. Wendy Iskiyan called the group to attention. "Lt. Col. Mark Malan, front and center," Iskiyan said. As Malan was moving to the front of the room and reporting to Iskiyan, three senior members from William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron – Deputy Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Ken McKinley, Operations Officer Lt. Col. Tony McFarland, and Communications Officer Capt. Greg Roberts – entered the room and also presented themselves to the squadron commander.

McKinley then presented an appreciation plaque to Malan as a representative for the members of the 47th Fighter Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Malan, who is both an Air Force A-10 instructor pilot with the 47th Fighter Squadron and an Arizona Wing CAP member, was the driving force behind the Cadet Orientation Flights (COF) Fly-In Day held at the base in September 2019. The 47th Fighter Squadron was the host for the fly-in, and several members of the squadron volunteered to support the activity.

"The event was an excellent demonstration of Civil Air Patrol squadrons working together, with precision and attention to detail," said Iskiyan.

In accepting the award on behalf of the 47th Fighter Squadron, Malan said, "I could not have done this without this team. ... It was an honor and a privilege to do this event." 🇺🇸



Top: A General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon on static display at the Oklahoma Air National Guard 138th Fighter Wing Family Day. (All photos: Master Sgt. Faun Daves, CAP)

Below: (L-R) Cadet 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Groves, Cadet Airman Chloe Shannon, Cadet Airman Jubilee Kuerbitz and Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford serve lunch to Oklahoma Air National Guard airmen and their families.

Oklahoma Wing Cadets Serve, to Let Air Guard Members Enjoy their Family

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

TULSA, Okla. – On October 5, 2019, Civil Air Patrol’s Riverside Flight, based out of the R. L. Jones Airport, Tulsa Technology Center campus, rallied at 5:30 in the morning at the Air National Guard’s 138th Fighter Wing to serve during the Fighter Wing’s family day.

“The 138th Fighter Wing tries to have a Family day event every year,” said Connie Hurt, the Airman & Family Readiness program manager for the Wing. “With the workload that our service members have, we need to make sure we work in a down day so that we can show appreciation to the





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service members and their families. These events are great for getting military families to network with other military families, and to learn what resources are available for service members and their families.”

Left: Cadet Master Sgt. Matthew Huber helps Oklahoma Air National Guard airmen and their families at the 138th Fighter Wing Family Day.

She added, “This is also a good time for our service members to invite their civilian

employers out, to show them where they go and where they work when they come to drill. We also tell our service members that it is a great time for them to invite anyone that they think might be contemplating joining the Air National Guard.”

“It was early, but it was worth it,” Riverside Flight’s Cadet Commander Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford said. “We had 38 members from our unit. and several from other units assisted as well. Seeing the smiling faces of our heroes in the Guard just enjoying their families was all the thanks we needed.”

Oklahoma Wing members worked directing cars for parking, serving food, assisting with games, and dressing up in costumes to amuse younger and older guests alike.

“The Guard does a lot for us,” Riverside Flight Master Sgt. Faun Daves said. “It is hard work, and a lot of the times it is a thankless job.”

Having served in the Army and Army National Guard, Daves retired with 28 years of service. His last assignment was as a leadership instructor at the Regional Training Institute with the Oklahoma National Guard. He taught the Basic Noncommissioned Officers (NCO) Course for two years and the Advanced NCO Course for two years. He also served as a TAC Sergeant for the Officer Candidates Course for two years. Daves has been a CAP NCO member since April 2018, and serves as his Riverside Flight’s first sergeant.

“To see these cadets come out and support these airmen like they do,” Daves continued, “Well, it’s a blessing to see.”

At the event were Wing Vice Commander Col. Brent Wright and Command Chief Master Sgt. Phillip Kaase of the 138th Fighter Wing, who mingled with the Oklahoma Air National Guard Airmen and their families at the Wing Family Day.

The adventures of Riverside Flight may be followed at [Facebook.com/RiversideOK.CAP](https://www.facebook.com/RiversideOK.CAP) .

Right: Former CAP cadet and now Oklahoma Air National Guard Airman Rainee Million (left) visits with former squadron mates dressed in Muppet costume: Cadet Master Sgt. Ethan Daves (Ernie-center) and Cadet Airman Aidan Carter (Bert-right) at the 138th Fighter Wing Family Day.





Top: The New Mexico Wing's Cessna 206 stands on static display at the fly-in. (Photo: Cadet Tech. Sgt. Joel Inventor, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Supports EAA Land of Enchantment Fly-In

by Capt. John Keel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On September 21, 2019, cadets and senior members from New Mexico Wing supported the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) at its Land of Enchantment Fly-In at Albuquerque's Double Eagle Airport.

The fly-in is an annual event that brings together pilots and aircraft from all over New Mexico, as well as other states, to display their aircraft while participating in activities throughout the day. This year's fly-in was mutually successful for EAA and CAP, as it allowed cadets and senior members to support the fly-in by training in vital mission roles, while also providing an excellent environment for recruiting opportunities.

Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron took the lead for planning and operational oversight, with Capt. Steven Lindquist taking on the role of incident commander for the event. Three flight line marshalling teams, led by Lt. Col. Michael Eckert, Capt. Bryan Neal and Capt. Daniel McGregor, effectively marshaled 50 aircraft during the day. Additionally, CAP members in three teams were able to support the event by helping with crowd control around static aircraft displays, as well as manning the pilot sign-in booth and the Civil Air Patrol aircraft displays.



Above: Cadet Staff Sgt. Aiden Jones of Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron marshals an arriving aircraft. (Photo: Cadet Tech. Sgt. Joel Inventor, CAP)

Right: Capt. Daniel McGregor of Eagle Cadet Squadron marshals an experimental aircraft. (Photo: Cadet Tech. Sgt. Joel Inventor, CAP)

Below: The cadets and senior members who supported the fly-in, led by New Mexico Wing commander Col. Annette Peters (front row, center) and incident commander Capt. Steven Lindquist (front row, right). (Photo: Lt. Col. Mike Eckert, CAP)

In the show hangar, another team, led by Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Mary Fox and New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters, led the recruiting table at CAP's own booth. The recruiting table served as a platform to showcase the services offered by CAP to its community, state and nation. The EAA was impressed with the Wing's professionalism, and has already asked for its support for the 2020 fly-in. 🇺🇸



Right: Cadet Staff Sergeant Ethan James receives the Wright Brothers Certificate from Squadron Commander Maj. Phil Smith.

Below Left: Maj. Phil Smith presents the award to Cadet Staff Sergeant Ezra James.

Bottom: Maj. Phil Smith presents the award to Cadet Staff Sergeant Jesse Fox Garon. (Photos: Capt. Ken Best, CAP)

Louisiana Wing Cadet Awards and Promotions

by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing

BATON ROUGE, La. –
On September 30, 2019, the Ascension Parish Composite Squadron of the Civil Air



Patrol presented awards to three cadets and promoted one cadet.

The Ascension Parish Composite Squadron, that has both cadet and senior members, operates out of the Louisiana Regional Airport in Gonzales.

Three cadets were presented the Wright Brothers Award for successfully completing Phase 1 of the Civil Air Patrol cadet program. It marks the transition of a Cadet to the non-commissioned officer status in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet program and is accompanied by automatic

promotion to the grade of cadet staff sergeant. Squadron Commander Maj. Phil Smith presented the awards.

Receiving the Wright Brothers Award were Cadet Staff Sgts. Ethan James, Ezra James, and Jesse Fox Garon. Cadet Gabriel Carter (not pictured) was promoted to cadet airman 1st class. 🇺🇸





Top: The flag-raising ceremony is one aspect of the outdoor practical drill. (Photos: 1st Lt. Amber O'Donnell, CAP)

Arizona Wing Cadets Win Arizona Wing Color Guard Competition

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona wing

PHOENIX – On November 23, 2019, in the Arizona Wing Color Guard Competition, the color guard from Deer Valley Composite Squadron squared off against the 2018 champions from Sky Harbor Composite Squadron and were named the 2019 winners. In the spring, the Deer Valley team will represent Arizona Wing at the Southwest Region Color Guard Competition in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Over the course of four hours of competition at the Phoenix Police Academy, both color guard teams demonstrated their skills in six areas:

- Outdoor standard drill
- Outdoor practical drill
- Indoor practical drill
- Written test
- Uniform inspection
- Uniform preparation

The Deer Valley team was led by Cadet 2nd Lt. Henry Meyers and included Cadets Master Sgt. Dominic Agostini, Staff Sgt. Sean Fang, Staff Sgt. Colin Mason, Chief Master Sgt. Brenden Miller, and 1st Lt. Weiss O'Connor. Cadets Agostini, Mason, Miller, Meyers, and O'Connor have all promoted since the competition. The alternate for the team is Cadet Chief Master Sgt. William Nowlan. The team was coached by Cadet Lt. Col. Jacob Little; the senior member advisors are 1st Lt. Mike Matteson and 2nd Lt. Amber O'Donnell.

Little explained that the standard drill involves an established list of commands that the color guard must perform in a set order and in a certain amount of time. For the practical drills, “they give you a scenario that you have to determine what you’re going to do in which order, all within the regulations and appropriate to the situation,” Little said.

Right: Cadets Master Sgt. Dominic Agostini, 2nd Lt. Henry Meyers, Chief Master Sgt. Brenden Miller, and 1st Lt. Weiss O'Connor demonstrate posting the colors during the indoor practical drill.

Below: The cadets from Deer Valley Composite Squadron tackled the physical fitness challenges they will face in the next competition at the regional level.



He mentioned that the written test may cover anything in the cadet program, including aerospace education and leadership. For the uniform preparation section, the color guard team is given a description of a cadet and access to all possible items needed to outfit the cadet in a proper uniform. "The team puts together a complete uniform for the described cadet," Little said. "That includes ironing the clothes and polishing the shoes."

Though there wasn't a physical fitness aspect to the wing competition, the Deer Valley color guard members chose to go through the requirements they will face at the regional competition. This included activities such as sit-ups and push-ups in the gym, and running at the Phoenix Police Academy's outdoor track.

When asked how they prepared for the competition, Meyers said, "Months and months of practicing twice a week." He also noted that Little was instrumental in "teaching us all the stuff we don't know."

Little added, "Our team is super close, like a family. That helps them perform even better."

The team now begins the process of planning and fundraising to be able to attend the regional competition in Shreveport. 🇺🇸





Top: New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters (front row, right) was among 15 newly appointed wing commanders who attended CAP's Wing Commanders College at Maxwell AFB. The graduates posed for a class photo with course director Col. Rose Hunt (center left), CAP National Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Edward Phelka (center right), and CAP's Chief Operating Officer Mr. John Salvador (front row, left). (Photo: Ms. Susan Schneider, CAP National Headquarters)

Peters Attends Wing Commanders College at Maxwell AFB

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

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. – New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters was among 15 newly appointed wing commanders to attend Civil Air Patrol's Wing Commanders College, held at Maxwell Air Force Base during October 27-31, 2019.

The five-day, graduate-level course allowed the new wing commanders to hone their leadership skills by focusing on three main areas of study: leading the organization, wing commander responsibilities, and focus lessons. The curriculum included 17 sessions on such topics as leadership, accountability, expectations of commanders, legislative affairs, media relations and branding, safety, ethics, legal matters, finances and resources. By the course's end, participants had a better understanding of how to select and develop subordinate unit commanders, as well as how to manage CAP's emergency services, aerospace education, cadet, information technology, public affairs, membership development and logistics programs.

Col. Rose Hunt of CAP's Great Lakes Region served as course director. Highlights included a presentation by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith on "Ethics and the Commander," and a presentation by CAP National Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Edward Phelka on "Servant Leadership."

Peters said, "Of the course, the Wing Commanders College was incredible! It was above and beyond what I expected. The friendships we developed for those five days we were together have created a strong bond as we continue to support one another as fellow Wing Commanders." 🇺🇸



Louisiana Wing Members Sing in Military Opera

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

NEW ORLEANS – On November 6, 2019, at the Jefferson Performing Arts Center, four members of the Pontchartrain Cadet Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol sang in the military opera “The Falling and the Rising.” Squadron Commander Lt. Col. William Hunton, Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, Maj. Dennis Eschmann, and 2nd Lt. Ronald Smith sang in the chorus.

The opera follows an American soldier as she fights her way back from a traumatic brain injury sustained in an explosion that she suffered in an unnamed country in the Middle East.

The opera’s lead singer was soprano Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Alzadon, who performed the part of “Soldier”; mezzo-soprano Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Garcia performed the part of “Toledo”; tenor Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Hilgert performed as “Jumper”; bass-baritone Staff Sgt. Will Tvrdik performed as “Colonel”; and baritone Staff Sgt. Ian Bowling performed as “Homecoming Soldier.”

The opera was composed by Zach Redler, and the director and librettist was Jerre Dye. The orchestra, formed from members of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, was conducted by Maestro Robert Lyall. 🇺🇸



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Left: Maj. Mark Allen flies the sUAS during his Form 5 check ride as 1st Lt. Jon Mason (left), Senior Members Austin Godsey and Ernest Gonzales observe. (Photos: Capt. Don Fry, CAP)

Below: Newly certified Form 5U sUAS pilots include (L-R) 1st Lt. Jon Mason, Maj. Mark Allen, Senior Member Austin Godsey and Senior Member Ernest Gonzales.

Arizona Wing's sUAS Program Spins Up

by 1st Lt. John Moore, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On November 23, 2019, Verde Valley Squadron's Maj. Mark Allen, Senior Members Austin Godsey and Ernest Gonzales, along with Flagstaff Squadron's 1st Lt. Jon Mason, earned their Form 5U certifications, that authorizes a member to operate as pilot in

command for most CAP small unmanned aerial systems operations.

sUAS is the official name for this remotely operated equipment that are more commonly referred to as drones. Completing the Form 5U "check ride" is the first step on the way to the sUAS mission pilot rating.

In CAP, there is no requirement to be an aircraft pilot to participate in sUAS emergency services operations. A drone team also requires an sUAS mission technician, or a second mission pilot. Cadets can serve in either role, although a mission pilot must be age 16 or older.

The Form 5U certification event was held at Deer Valley Airport in Phoenix. It was hosted by Southwest Region Unmanned Aerial Systems Officer (DOU) Capt. Don Fry, Arizona Wing DOU 1st Lt. John Moore and Arizona Wing Assistant DOU 2nd Lt. Brett T. Seidell. Another 5U training and evaluation was planned for mid-December. Arizona Wing now has 13 Form 5U drone pilots.

Drones will be a long-term part of the CAP program. Already they have been used for cadet programs, aerospace education, disaster search and rescue missions, missing person searches, and military counter-UAS missions. The Eloy, Arizona squadron has an extensive cadet drone training program. Disaster and infrastructure photo missions are anticipated, and there may be other applications in the future. Helicopter drones are just the start; fixed wing drones are already planned.

Anyone interested in the sUAS program should contact the squadron's DOU. If no squadron DOU is assigned, Arizona Wing applicants may contact Moore at john.moore@azwg.org.

Material about the CAP drone program can be found at the recently established sUAS area on the www.gocivilairpatrol.com website at Programs → Emergency Services → sUAS Operations. Included are training materials, program updates, draft regulations (especially 70-1U), draft SQTRs, evaluation worksheets, a task guide for sUAS mission technicians and mission pilots, and other pertinent documents. 🇺🇸





Top: Attendees at the Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron's banquet. Centered in first standing row (L-R) Lt. Col. Beverly A. Vito, Maj. Mary A. Fox, and Maj. Gen. Mark Smith. (Photo: Lt. Col. Mike Eckert, CAP)

National Commander Visits New Mexico Wing Squadron's Banquet

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On December 9, 2019, the Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron hosted its annual end-of year Awards Banquet, which included, a visit from Civil Air Patrol National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith.

The event was organized by Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox, whose staff assisted in coordinating food and drinks, organizing a silent auction, and arranging the evening's agenda.

The evening began with the presentation of colors by the Spirit Squadron Color Guard, followed by an invocation by Adviser to the Commander Lt. Col. Beverly A. Vito. Several cadets were promoted, including Morgan Raney to the grade of cadet master sergeant. Cadet Airman Basic Christian Cumbow was sworn in as the squadron's newest cadet.

The squadron looked back on its 2019 accomplishments, which included Certificates of First Flight for cadets who completed their first orientation flight for the year. Cadet 1st Lt. Shelby Webb was recognized for earning the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award, and Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell for earning the Amelia Earhart Award in 2019.

The evening's guest of honor was CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith, who is a founding member of the squadron. Smith commented on the State of Civil Air Patrol from a National perspective, saying that National Staff is working hard to bring members' education and training in line with 21st Century Technology.

Fox commented on the state of the squadron, looking back on its accomplishments for 2019 – Quality Cadet Unit Award (for the ninth consecutive year), Squadron of Merit, and Unit Citation Award. She looks forward to duplicating those accomplishments in 2020.

After the banquet formally concluded, the winners of the silent auction collected the items they had bid on, and cadets and senior members assisted with cleanup and putting tables and chairs back into storage. The banquet was the squadron's last meeting of the decade, before it resumes its schedule in 2020. 🍷



Top: Banner bearers: (L-R) Cadet Airman Joseph Ace Taylor and Cadet Airman John Tyler Smith. Following them, the Color Guard: (L-R) Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ethan Taylor James, Cadet 2nd Lt. Justin Townsend, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Jesse Fox Garon and Cadet Airman First Class Christian James Gallo.

Louisiana Wing Cadets Participate in Jones Creek Parade

by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing

BATON ROUGE, La. – On December 8, 2019, cadets from the Ascension Parish Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol participated in the Jones Creek "Christmas on the Creek" Christmas Parade, hosted by Jones Creek Area Business Association and Woodlawn Baptist Church.

The Ascension Parish Composite Squadron has both cadet and senior members. The squadron operates out of the Louisiana Regional Airport in Gonzales, Louisiana. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Katy Kramer from KTUL interviews Cadet Lt. Col Bailey Lunsford and Cadet Airman First Class Chloe Shannon live on the set of KTUL Channel 8's *Good Day Tulsa*. (Photos: S.M. Tamara Shannon, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Goes Live on Air to Honor Veterans

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

TULSA, Okla. – On December 13, 2019, two Oklahoma Wing Riverside Flight cadets went live on local newscast to invite the public to join their unit in laying wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day. The ceremony took place at Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa.

Good Day Tulsa, KTUL Channel 8's midmorning live telecast, anchored by Katy Kramer, hosted the cadets at approximately 8:30 a.m., with the broadcast beginning at 9:25 a.m.

Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford and Cadet Airman First Class Chloe Shannon tackled the world of live television in support of honoring veterans.

"Wreaths Across America is a beautiful ceremony that happens nationwide to honor our country's heroes," Kramer began. "This morning we are very happy to welcome two cadets to the studio. We've got Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford and Cadet Airman First Class Chloe Shannon. They are here this morning to tell us about the event, and both are members of the Jenks Riverside Flight, Oklahoma Wing, Civil Air Patrol. Ladies, welcome."

"Bailey, I want to talk about Civil Air Patrol," Kramer continued. "What is this, for people who don't know or who have never heard of this. Tell our viewers what you guys do."

"Civil Air Patrol is the civilian auxiliary of the Air Force," Lunsford answered. "It is a nationwide program and each state has its own Wing. So, we are part of Oklahoma Wing. Civil Air Patrol has three main missions; which are cadet programs, aerospace education, and emergency services."

With cadet programs we meet weekly. We teach cadets leadership skills, discipline and much more. We learn about how airplanes fly and things like that. With aerospace education we get to fly in airplanes, and even learn how to fly. It is fun."

Right: (L-R) Katy Kramer from KTUL interviews Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford and Cadet Airman First Class Chloe Shannon live on the set of KTUL Channel 8's *Good Day Tulsa*.

"You're probably looking at these ladies and thinking, oh, they're very young," Kramer said. "That's because they are: 17 and 14. I want to ask you, Chloe, at 14, what made you decide to join?"

"Well, I really want to join the military eventually," Shannon replied. "And I'm too young to do ROTC at the high school. This was pretty much one of the best options for me."

"You both get to take part in a really special ceremony that's happening for the first time [at Memorial Park Cemetery] here in Oklahoma, and that's Wreaths Across America," Kramer said. "So, tell us about the event that is taking place tomorrow."

"Yes ma'am," Lunsford said. "So, it is our first time at Memorial Park Cemetery off 51st and Memorial. It's going to be really fun. [U.S. Rep.] Kevin Hern is going to be our guest speaker. We are placing Christmas wreaths on the graves of veterans. We are going to have a special ceremony for Albert Schwab, Tulsa's only Medal of Honor recipient."

In the Pacific during World War II, PFC Albert Schwab quickly took action when his company was pinned down by enemy machine-gun fire from a high ridge to its front. Because of the terrain, he made a frontal assault skillfully deploying his flame thrower and wiped out the hostile gun position. When a second Japanese machine gun opened up, killing and wounding several Marines, he unhesitatingly continued his one-man assault and succeeded in destroying the second enemy gun position.

Though mortally wounded, he successfully destroyed two enemy gun positions. His dauntless single-handed efforts throughout enhanced the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Watch the video interview at <https://bit.ly/2QtSbml> and follow Riverside Flight at www.facebook.com/RiversideOK.CAP.





Top: Lt. Col. Bob Ditch welcomes students to the first presentation of the “Meet the Press” course at Falcon Composite Squadron in Mesa, Arizona, in December 2018. (Photo: Col. Gil Day, CAP)

Arizona Wing Member Recognized with two Balsem Awards

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – Lt. Col. Bob Ditch of Falcon Composite Squadron was recognized in the annual Maj. Howell Balsem Exceptional Achievement Awards program. The Balsem Awards recognize excellence in nine major categories of the CAP Public Affairs program, such as websites, magazines, presentations, and event promotion.

Ditch received the first-place Balsem Award in the slide/PowerPoint presentation category for the Incident Commander and Public Information Officer “Meet the Press” Crisis Management Seminar-Exercise. He also was recognized with a second-place Award of Excellence in the same category for the CAP Marketing and Recruitment Brief – Falcon Composite Squadron 305.

The Meet the Press course is a one-day seminar that brings together incident commanders, operations section chiefs, and public information officers as a Crisis Management Information Team to develop and facilitate press briefings and press conferences. It is broken down into three modules, with supporting activities. These are followed by multiple 20-minute press conference exercises, allowing participants to plan for and conduct both a press briefing (to peers) and an evaluated press conference (to actual members of the press).

The course premiered in Arizona Wing, and has since been taught to a group of Southwest Region incident commanders and public information officers, and also as a pre-conference course at the CAP National Conference. It is now part of the National Emergency Services Academy – Mobile Training Team curriculum offerings, and may be requested by wings or regions to be presented locally.

The second award was for a presentation developed to assist in reversing a negative trend in recruitment and retention experienced by Falcon Composite Squadron. The briefing was designed to be a universal approach to reaching out and communicating the missions, value, and opportunities afforded to individuals interested in joining the Civil Air Patrol.

This presentation served as the baseline for recruitment/retention and marketing of Falcon Composite Squadron, taking it from being the eighth largest squadron in the Arizona Wing and 32nd largest unit in the Southwest Region, to becoming the fourth largest squadron in the nation. While this brief was being used, the Falcon Composite Squadron grew from 54 members on January 1, 2016, to a record 155 members by October 2018. From January to October 2018, the unit grew by 48 members. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) The outgoing cadet commander, Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford, and incoming cadet commander, Cadet 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Groves are pictured at Riverside Flight's Cadet Change of Command Ceremony (Photo: 2nd Lt. Briana Lunsford, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Flight Conducts Cadet Change of Command Ceremony

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

TULSA, Okla. – On October 14, 2019, Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford handed over cadet command of Riverside Flight's cadet squadron to Cadet 2d Lt Jeremiah Groves.

"Over the last five years, I have watched Groves grow into an excellent leader," outgoing Cadet Commander Lunsford, said. "I have no doubt he will command the cadet squadron well."

The tradition of the change of command goes back to the time of the Roman Legions, when the passing of the commander's baton occurred in front of the troops, so that they would witness the leader who would take them into battle. In the late 18th century, the Continental Army resumed the tradition in the United States. This ceremony was practiced even before the Air Force became a separate branch of the United States military.

According to Air Force Pamphlet (AFP) 34-1202, "The primary purpose of a change of command ceremony is to allow subordinates to witness the formality of command change from one officer to another. The ceremony should be official, formal, brief and conducted with great dignity." The AFP also stresses the importance of the flag or guidon exchange as follows: "The flag/guidon is exchanged during the change of command as a symbolic gesture providing a tangible view of the command authority being transferred from one commander to the next."

"I am looking forward to this next chapter for not only myself but for my unit," said Cadet 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Groves, the incoming cadet commander. "There are a lot of passionate cadet noncommissioned officers in this unit and a lot of cadet airmen eager to continue learning." 🇺🇸



Top: CAP Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Charity Wampler assists U.S. Air Force Col. Matt Renbarger with the Marine Corps cake cutting ceremony. (Photos: Maj. Joanna Moseley, CAP)

Arizona Wing Cadets Supported Veterans Day Event

by Maj. Joanna Moseley, CAP, Arizona Wing

LITCHFIELD PARK, Ariz. – On November 6, 2019, cadets from Deer Valley Composite Squadron and Sky Harbor Composite Squadron had been invited to attend the 11th Annual Veterans Day Luncheon held at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, sponsored by the Rotary Club.

Guest speaker for the luncheon was U.S. Air Force Col. Trena Savageau, who commands the 944th Operations Group at Luke AFB. She separated from active duty in 2007 and joined the 944th Fighter Wing's Total Force Enterprise as a traditional reservist and instructor pilot in the 301st Fighter Squadron, and later the 69th Fighter Squadron. Savageau is a command pilot with more than 2,000 flying hours in the F-16, including 80 combat hours.

The cadets assisted Rotary Club members with various portions of the ceremonies honoring veterans. Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Charity Wampler participated in a Marine Corps Cake Cutting Ceremony, helping U.S. Air Force Col. Matt Renbarger, commander of the 56th Operations Group at Luke Air Force Base. Renbarger cut the cake with a ceremonial sword.

Cadets who attended the luncheon included Chief Master Sgt. Kennedy Duong, Sky Harbor Composite Squadron, and attending from Deer Valley Composite Squadron were Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Dominic Agostini, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Brenden Miller, Cadet 2nd Lt. Carter Schmitt, and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Charity Wampler. The two senior members attending were Maj. Joanna Moseley and Capt. Angelo Rossetti. 🇺🇸

Below: CAP Cadets had a chance to meet the guest speaker at the Veterans Day luncheon as well as other special guests. (L-R) Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Dominic Agostini and Cadet 2nd Lt. Carter Schmitt, U.S. Air Force Col. Trena Savageau, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Charity Wampler, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Brenden Miller, and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kennedy Duong.





Top: Front row (L-R) Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ezra James, Cadet Airman Joseph Taylor, Cadet Airman John Smith, Squadron Cadet Training Officer 2nd Lt Janelle Townsend, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ethan James, and Cadet Sr. Airman. Gabriel Carter. Back row (L-R) Cadet 2nd Lt. Justin Townsend and Ascension Parish Squadron Commander Maj. Phillip Smith. (Photo: Capt. Ken Best, CAP)

Louisiana Wing Squadron Promotes Four Cadets

by Capt. Ken Best, CAP, Louisiana Wing

BATON ROUGE, La. – On November 25, 2019, the Ascension Parish Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, that has both cadets and senior members, promoted the following four cadets to their current rank: Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ezra James, Cadet Airman Joseph Taylor, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ethan James, Cadet Senior Airman Gabriel Carter and Cadet 2nd Lt. Justin Townsend.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Justin Townsend progressed through all ten levels of rank at the enlisted level to be qualified for cadet officer status. Promotion to CAP cadet officer status entitles that cadet to special consideration for admission to the U. S. Air Force Academy. If, instead, that cadet chooses to enlist in the US Air Force, his status as a CAP cadet officer automatically qualifies him to be promoted to E-3 upon completion of basic training. The higher rank comes with greater pay and consideration when assigning personnel to a future military occupational specialty. Almost all enlisted persons are ranked as E-1 after completion of basic training.

The squadron operates out of the Louisiana Regional Airport in Gonzales. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Siblings Cadet Airman Asher White and Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Talyah White with EAA Young Eagles pilot Ron Hutain. (Photos: Capt. Brad Kidder, CAP, Arkansas Wing)

Arkansas Wing Cadet Promotes “Girls in Aviation”

by Capt. Brad Kidder, CAP, Arkansas Wing

OZARK, Ark. – On October 5, 2019, pilots from EAA Chapter 1156 in Etna, Arkansas, gathered at nearby Ozark Airport for their biannual Young Eagles event in conjunction with Women in Aviation International’s (WAI) annual Girls in Aviation Day. In addition to CAP’s relationship with EAA promoting aviation in the CAP cadet corps, “Women in Aviation” is a popular theme for squadrons like the 95th Composite in Texarkana, Arkansas, to bring WAI, the Girl Scouts, the FAA, corporate representatives and other stakeholders together for an action-packed cadet symposium.

“Our primary goal is to introduce girls ages 8 to 17 to all the career opportunities aviation and aerospace offer,” says WAI Outreach Director Molly Martin. “We go beyond piloting careers to include air traffic controllers, mechanics, engineers, technicians and designers.”

Capt. Heather Taylor, the deputy commander for cadets for the 102nd Composite Squadron at Russellville, Arkansas, is bringing awareness and diversity to the forefront of the CAP cadet experience. Capt. Taylor is actively engaged in forming the first Women in Aviation International chapter in Arkansas, aspiring to bring activities like those demonstrated in Texarkana, and more, to the central Arkansas area.



Left: Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Talyah White and, in the left seat, EAA Young Eagles pilot Ron Hutain.

Below: (L-R) Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Talyah White, Grace Taylor, and 102nd Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Capt. Heather Taylor, of Russellville, Arkansas.

Taylor said, "By representing Civil Air Patrol and participating in the EAA Young Eagles event on Girls in Aviation Day, I hope to foster a collaborative spirit between these

organizations. Together we will help women attain their aviation goals in Arkansas."

The influence of Taylor's work is evident in the volunteer activities chosen by the cadets in her charge. Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Talyah White, who has her sights set on aviation, is a prime example. From the age of five, when she first saw the USAF Thunderbirds perform, through the EAA Young Eagles fly-in, White feeds her inspiration with Civil Air Patrol, EAA Young Eagles and an academic appreciation for the women in history who made aviation an attainable career path.

At the 2011 Fort Smith Air Show, Thunderbird #8 pilot Capt. Kristin Hubbard visited with a very young White, who recalls, "She stood there next to her male teammates and repeatedly told me that I could fly, too, if I studied and worked hard enough. Being five years old, I could not fully grasp the obstacles that had been overcome, so that Capt. Kristin Hubbard could be talking to me at that air show."

Of days ahead, White shares, "I dream of 'slipping the surly bonds of earth.' The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) helped inspire this in me. Prior to their existence, women could only fantasize about flying military planes, but now we can dream... and those dreams have become realities. My dreams began with Capt. Kristin Hubbard's story, which ultimately begins with the dreams of the WASP."

The enthusiasm of cadets like Talyah White, under the leadership of mentors such as Capt. Heather Taylor, underpinned with commitment to such causes by Civil Air Patrol, is the bedrock of collectively "supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space and cyber power." 🇺🇸





Top: At the New Mexico Wing's Operations Evaluation exercise in June 2019, Socorro Composite Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Dennis M. Hunter (left), in his capacity as mission safety officer, discusses safety concerns with Maj. Erika Yu of CAP-USAF's Southwest Liaison Region, and Albuquerque Senior Squadron II Commander Lt. Col. Doug Weitzel, (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Squadron Receives National Recognition for Outstanding Risk Assessment

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

SOCORRO, N.M. – During September 14-15, 2019, the Socorro Composite Squadron held an overnight camping event in the Cibola National Forest to conduct search and rescue training. As part of the planning, Lt. Col. Dennis Hunter and his team went through a Deliberate Risk Assessment (DRA) as required by CAPR 160-1, *Civil Air Patrol Safety Program*. Deliberate Risk Assessment, documented on CAP Form 160, is a feature of the new CAP safety program that became effective on September 30, 2019. It is a straightforward tool for listing tasks, hazards, risk levels, and controls to mitigate the risks of CAP's more complex activities.

During the event, one senior member and three cadets were stung by bees. Lt. Col. Hunter filed a mishap report, and the DRA was attached to the report. During review of the mishap, the DRA came to the attention of Southwest Region Director of Safety Lt. Col. John Kruger as well as the CAP National Headquarters Chief of Safety Mr. George Vogt

Lt. Col. Kruger praised Hunter's use of the DRA process as one of the first in the country. Mr. Vogt asked for an updated copy of the Form 160 to use as an example. As he stated in an email, "This is great stuff...I do want to feature the idea that you used it and found it easy to use, and your group approach, followed by using it as a briefing aid, is exactly what I intended." 🍷



Left: Cadet Airman Eliana Birnbaum operated the ball-toss booth that was popular with children. (Photos: Staff Sgt. John Horne, CAP)

Below: Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ben Jones and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Sean Geraghty worked hard to keep the event area clean.

Arizona Wing Squadron Assists 161st Air Refueling Wing with Family Day

by Staff Sgt. John Horne, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On October 6, 2019, the 161st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) of the Arizona Air National Guard (ANG) held its annual Family Day to show appreciation to families for their support of active members serving at the Goldwater ANG Base at Sky Harbor International Airport. Cadets and senior members of Sky Harbor Composite Squadron provided assistance with the set-up, clean-up and activities during the event. The squadron's cadets also operated a booth to entertain children in which they threw small balls into jars to win a prize. Regardless of their skill level, all children received a prize.

Members of the newly formed CAP cadet flight at West Point High School in Avondale, Arizona, also participated in the event by operating a costume photo booth. Currently, this flight is attached to Sky Harbor Composite Squadron for organizational purposes.

Cadets from Sky Harbor Composite Squadron who participated in the Family Day event were: Cadet Airman Eliana Birnbaum, Cadet Airman Evangelia Birnbaum, Cadet Master Sgt. Dylan Conrad, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kennedy Duong, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Sean Geraghty, Cadet Master Sgt. Lucas Heinze, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ben Jones, Cadet Senior Airman Gabriel Jones, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Kohl, Cadet 2nd Lt. Adam Marquez, and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Brooklyn Schwiesow.

Senior members at the event were Maj. Jeremy Cochran, Staff Sgt. John Horne, 1st Lt. Roseanne Marquez, and Maj. David Moseley.

The ball-toss booth operated by the cadets was very popular, and over 100 stuffed toys were won as prizes by children of serving members of the 161st ARW. 🍷





Top: Pictured after the congressman's address, U.S. Rep. Kevin Hern (center left) with Broken Arrow City Councilor Debra Wimpee (middle row, far left), Jenks City Councilor Cory Box (center right) and Riverside Flight cadets. (Photo: 1st Lt. Brandon Lunsford, Sr., CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Squadron Welcomes U.S. Representative Kevin Hern

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

TULSA, Okla. – On October 14, 2019, U.S. Representative Kevin Hern visited with Civil Air Patrol's Riverside Flight at their evening meeting. The congressman spoke to cadets about the importance of continual personal leadership development and modeling in their personal lives that CAP teaches them. He spoke briefly about his membership in the Oklahoma Wing Civil Air Patrol with his son Kelby from 2012 to 2013.

"You all can be doing a lot of things, other than being here tonight," Hern said. "What you are learning about service and service to your fellow man is really a special thing. You also get a true appreciation for leadership and responsibility, and I would say also followership. Rank knows no age; it knows no gender. It's about hard work and determination."

"Life is about serving others, it really is," Hern said. "You are learning this at the youngest of ages in a very structured program. It gives you an opportunity when you graduate high school, whether you go into the military or not, to use military ideas and military procedures to guide and organize the rest of your life."

"This was a special night for our unit," said Cadet 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Groves, Riverside Flight's new cadet commander. "To get to hear leadership wisdom from not only a successful businessman, but also a congressman, that's special. I am glad he came out to speak to our members."

Broken Arrow Squadron Aerospace Education Officer Tamara Shannon said, "I was impressed by his overall message, that you can be both professionally successful and serve others at the same time. He encouraged the cadets to try new things, to never give up, and to strive to be the best at whatever they do without losing sight of service to others."

"You will never forget this experience your entire life," Hern added. "It'll make you stay squared away, and make you appreciate organization." 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Maj. Dave Roden and Capt. Clarence Rebello flew a load of clothes, toys, and other gifts to the Gallup, New Mexico, airport as part of the 35th annual Navajo Nation Christmas Airlift. (Photo: Unidentified ground crew member)

Arizona Wing Members Participate in the 35th Navajo Christmas Airlift

by Maj. Dave Roden, CAP, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – In 1984, eight planes from Arizona, with community-oriented pilots, transported Christmas presents to the Navajo Nation along the New Mexico/Arizona border. On November 9, 2019, now in its 35th year, this transport of needed clothing, toys, stuffed animals, and books continued with 41 planes from across the state flying to Gallup, New Mexico.

For the fourth year in a row, members of the Arizona Wing’s Falcon Composite Squadron took part in this special Christmas airlift mission. This year, Falcon pilots Maj. David Roden and Capt. Clarence Rebello flew an Arizona Wing Cessna 182 from Chandler, Arizona, to the Gallup Christmas rendezvous. This was Roden’s third Christmas mission and Rebello’s first as part of the 17-aircraft “Eagle Flight” wing. The other planes were the Sparky and Wildcraft wings.

The Fly-By, Southwest Region, January, 2020

This was Rebello's first flight to Gallup, and he flew the inbound leg of the mission. There were so many planes talking with Albuquerque Center that the air traffic controllers asked what was so special about Gallup on this morning. While Rebello coordinated with Albuquerque Center, Roden kept in contact with other airlift traffic on a predesignated frequency. By prior arrangement, planes flying from Arizona were instructed to announce their positions at 60 and 30 nautical miles out from Gallup. They were then expected to fly to the Gallup VOR, KGUP, and line up for a visual approach to the airport. Based on weather conditions, planes entered the traffic pattern by flying south to north over midfield and entering left downwind for runway 6. Entering the taxiway, they were met by "elves" driving a golf cart that led them to the offloading area.

As soon as the planes were parked, they were unloaded, and the precious cargo was transported to a central location to be inventoried and sorted. Pilots were told to place their order for fuel in the building and not to interrupt the fuel truck from its assigned duties. Pilots then met outside on the ramp, where recognition was given to the Thoreau Navajo Outreach and South West Indian Foundation for coordinating the effort. Also recognized were Boy Scouts who, as part of their Eagle Scout Project, provided ground support, collecting much of the clothing and presents in Arizona. The ceremony concluded with a prayer of thanks in the Navajo language, delivered by a representative of the Navajo Nation.

Afterward, the many hungry pilots walked to a nearby local restaurant for a breakfast buffet. After the meal and conversation with fellow pilots, Roden flew the return trip to Chandler. The flight to and from Gallup gave Roden and Rebello a chance to sharpen their cross-country skills, while giving them the opportunity to support a worthy cause.

Wiseman Aviation at KGUP effectively marshalled the airlift teams. Over the course of the fueling, the Wiseman team averaged 10 gallons per minute for three hours, with an average of 3 minutes and 45 seconds per plane. The tally was approximately 1,500 gallons of fuel. In the Christmas spirit, Wiseman Aviation provided the fuel at an extremely low price. 🍷

Below: A volunteer at the airport helped to offload the items flown by two CAP pilots from Chandler, Arizona, to Gallup, New Mexico. (Photo: Maj. Dave Roden, CAP)





Top: Training Academy Col. Mike DuBois addresses Louisiana Wing attendees. (Photos: Maj. Walt Leuci, CAP)

Louisiana Wing Conducts the Best-Attended Training Academy

by Maj. Walter Leuci, CAP, Louisiana Wing

BATON ROUGE, La – During the long weekend of September 27-28, 2019, at the Southern Louisiana Community College in Lafayette, Louisiana, Wing Academy Director Col. Mike DuBois hosted the largest Training Academy to date. The event was attended by 103 cadets and 87 senior members as students, instructors and staff. The Louisiana Wing Civil Air Patrol (CAP) holds two Training Academies yearly, one in the spring and the other one in the fall.

DuBois began the Academy idea in 2005, and since then it has grown each year, with more member in attendance and an increasingly diversified curriculum being offered.

Course curriculum varied widely to provide the necessary training to attendees, whether cadets or senior members, for their respective training goals, skill advancement, and also to satisfy progression to their next higher rank. Some of the courses being offered included specialized training in Air and Ground Search and Rescue, Airborne Photography, Squadron Commanders Training, Public Affairs, and Squadron and Corporate Leadership.

The Academy began Friday afternoon with staff and instructor sign-in followed by dinner. Saturday morning began with the Wing Commander's meeting for all members in attendance, opening with presentation of the Colors followed by the Chaplain's invocation and the pledge of allegiance. Once the particulars for the day had been presented, the first day's intensive training got under way for all.



Above: Wing Commander Col. Patrick Yglesias teaches a block of instruction at the Unit Commander's Course.

On Saturday, classes started at 5 a.m. and adjourned at 5 p.m. Lunch and dinner were provided for everyone, as prepared by Lt. Col. Suellen Yglesias, wife of Wing Commander Col. Patrick Yglesias.

On Sunday, classes began at 7:30 a.m. and adjourned at 12 noon for graduation. Col. Yglesias presented Certificates of Completion to students, and Certificates of Participation to all instructors.

At the Academy's conclusion, students returned to their respective squadrons, where they will continue to train in monthly and weekly meetings, mentoring other squadron members in the specialty field in which the member is striving to achieve a higher rating. 🇺🇸

Right: (L-R) Col. Mike Dubois and Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford address the cadets.





Top: (L-R) Los Alamos Composite Squadron Public Affairs Officer Maj. Dan Gabel receives Civil Air Patrol's Southwest Region Commander's Commendation Award for outstanding duty performance from Squadron Commander Maj. David McClard. (Photo: Los Alamos Composite Squadron Public Affairs)

New Mexico Squadron PAO Receives Commander's Commendation Award

by Los Alamos Composite Squadron Public Affairs

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. – On Nov. 19, 2019, Los Alamos Composite Squadron Public Affairs Officer Maj. Dan Gabel received Civil Air Patrol's Commander's Commendation Award at the squadron's monthly meeting.

Squadron Commander Maj. David McClard presented Gabel the award on behalf of CAP's Southwest Region, which includes the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

During his more than 15 years in the Los Alamos Composite Squadron, Gabel has served as a mission pilot, deputy squadron commander, mission public information officer and aerospace education officer, in addition to his role as public affairs officer

Gabel was cited for outstanding duty performance as the squadron's public affairs officer, and for his many contributions to both New Mexico Wing and Southwest Region., "This award was totally unexpected, but greatly appreciated," Gabel said. 🍷



ion, January, 2020

Left: (foreground) Cadet Master Sgt. Dylan Conrad led the Pledge of Allegiance at the event. Featured Speaker Lt. Col. Larry Brown is in the background. (Photos: 1st Lt. Roseanne Marquez, CAP)

Below: (L-R) Cadets Schwiesow, Geraghty and Conrad serve 161st ARW Commander Col. Patrick Donaldson his meal.

Arizona Wing Squadron Cadets Assist 161st Air Refueling Wing with Special Dinner

by Staff Sgt. John Horne, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On October 17, 2019, the 161st Air Refueling Wing held an Arizona Air National Guard Fall Appreciation Dinner to honor approximately 40 retired members of that unit. The dinner was

organized by Brian Benbow, program manager of the Airmen and Family Readiness Group. Benbow requested that cadets from Sky Harbor Composite Squadron assist with the event. The squadron has been based at the Goldwater Air National Guard Base located at Sky Harbor International Airport for approximately 15 years and has supported numerous events at the request of the base commander.

Cadets helped with cooking and serving the dinner, waited tables and cleaned up after the dinner. Participating were: Cadet Airman 1st Class Eliana Birnbaum, Cadet Airman 1st Class Evangelia Birnbaum, Cadet Master Sgt. Dylan Conrad, Cadet Senior Airman Zachary Esh, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Sean Geraghty, Cadet Master Sgt. Lucas Heinze, Cadet Senior Airman Gabriel Jones, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Kohl, Cadet Airman 1st Class Brooke McComas, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Eric Micheau, and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Brooklyn Schwiesow.

Senior members attending the event were 1st Lt. Roseanne Marquez and Maj. David Moseley.

The theme of the dinner was the experience of flying the SR 71 Blackbird aircraft. The featured speaker was Lt. Col. Larry Brown, a former SR 71 Pilot. 🇺🇸





Top: After promotion ceremonies on September 30, 2019, Cadet Lt. Col. Bailey Lunsford (left on stage), leads 20 new cadet airmen in reciting the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Oath. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Briana Lunsford, CAP)

Below: Thirteen of the twenty new cadet airmen mark their promotion with a group picture. (Photo: 1st Lt. Brandon Lunsford, CAP)

Oklahoma Wing Unit Celebrates Record-breaking Numbers

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

TULSA, Okla. – Civil Air Patrol’s Oklahoma Wing has 18 units across the state. The newest, Riverside Flight, is located at the R. L. Jones Airport in the Tulsa Technology Center at 91st and Elm Streets, on the border with Jenks, Oklahoma. This flight functions as part of the Broken Arrow Composite Squadron, and is commanded by Maj, David Snell.

“We started looking into the possibility of a new flight at the Tulsa Technology Center when we noticed increased interest in the area,” said Flight Deputy Commander of Seniors 2d Lt. Yolanda Daves. “We began hosting open houses in June and July this year for five weeks, with a different theme each week.”



“The response was exciting,” added Flight Safety Officer Staff Sgt. Dan Golden. “We had over 100 people attend each week. It really got us thinking.”

R. L Jones Airport has grown to become a hub of business and economic activity for the Tulsa region. It now includes three runways, over two hundred commercial and private hangars, and over 500 aircraft are based there. This is the fifth-busiest general aviation airport in the country. Much of the airport’s activity comes directly from its seven flight schools.

“The open houses brought in 29 new cadets and six new adult members,” Daves continued. “This increased our flight size to 56 cadets and 17 adults.”

The flight held a training weekend, “Operation First Stripe” (OFS). The new cadets were invited to attend as students while 15 of the senior cadets instructed the 20 different classes, including drill and ceremonies, chain of command, and uniform wear. The weekend training led to 20 of the 29 cadet basics receiving their promotion to cadet airman at the end of September. In addition, 10 cadets received their promotions to senior ranks, including one cadet officer.

“My favorite thing about OFS was learning drill, I really love drill,” said Cadet Airman Chloe Shannon.

Shannon was one of the 29 cadet basics that attended the training weekend and completed her promotion requirements, earning the rank of Cadet Airman on September 30, 2019, with 19 of her flight peers.

“In such a short time, Riverside feels like home. I like everything about it,” continued Shannon referring to her overall Civil Air Patrol experience.

A photo album of these ceremonies is available at [facebook.com/RiversideOK.CAP](https://www.facebook.com/RiversideOK.CAP)

Right: (L-R) Cadet Airman Chloe Shannon and Cadet Airman Kallyson Carter after their September 2019 promotion ceremony.
(Photo: 1st Lt. Brandon Lunsford, CAP)





Left: Cadet Weiss O'Connor was presented the Amelia Earhart Award and was promoted to Cadet Captain. (Photos: Capt. Margot Myers, CAP)

Below: Cadet Brenden Miller earned the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award and was promoted to Cadet 2nd Lieutenant.

Twenty-five Arizona Wing Squadron Cadets Are Recognized During Promotions Ceremony

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On November 25, 2019, five new airmen took the cadet oath and became members of Deer Valley Composite

Squadron. Cadet Airmen Joshua Bolen, Chronicles Jones, Bradley McGlasson, Brayton Pelke, and Lucian Powell completed an eight-week orientation program at the squadron before being welcomed as new Civil Air Patrol cadets.

Twenty additional cadets were recognized for a variety of achievements as they progress through the cadet program. Parents, family, and friends joined squadron members for the promotion ceremony.

Four major milestone awards were presented, as Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Mike Ricker described the history and significance of each award. Ankit Dhara and Colin Mason earned the Wright Brothers Award and were promoted to Cadet Staff Sergeant. Brenden Miller received the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award and was promoted to Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. The Amelia Earhart Award was presented to Weiss O'Connor along with the grade of Cadet Captain.



Right: (L-R) Cadets Colin Mason and Ankit Dhara received the Wright Brothers Award and were promoted to Cadet Staff Sergeant.

Below: (L-R) Cadet Airmen Joshua Bolen, Bradley McGlasson, Chronicles Jones, Lucian Powell, and Brayton Pelke take the cadet oath and become members of Deer Valley Composite Squadron.



Additional promotions included:

Cadet Airman 1st Class Mason Fischer, Achievement 2

Cadet Airman 1st Class Logan Pelke, Achievement 2

Cadet Airman 1st Class Israel Soria, Achievement 2

Cadet Senior Airman Gabrielle Fones, Achievement 3

Cadet Senior Airman Kyle Hendrix, Achievement 3

Cadet Senior Airman Christabel Reinke, Achievement 3

Cadet Senior Airman Cameron Stiles, Achievement 3

Cadet Senior Airman James Trevolt, Achievement 3

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Sean Fang, Achievement 4

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Morgan Knight, Achievement 4

Cadet Master Sgt. Gavin Meelhuysen, Achievement 5

Cadet Master Sgt. Caden Wloch, Achievement 5

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Hudson Kilcup, Achievement 6

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Micah Nelson, Achievement 6

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Dominic Agostini, Achievement 7

Cadet 1st Lt. Henry Meyers, Achievement 11. 🇺🇸





Top: (L-R) Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox, New Mexico Wing commander Col. Annette Peters, Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell and Spirit Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Maj. John H. Brennan celebrate Chappell’s earning CAP’s Amelia Earhart Award, which was presented by Peters. Fox holds a squadron plaque of the squadron’s Earhart recipients with Chappell’s name engraved on it. Chappell is the third cadet in the squadron’s 14-year history to have earned the Earhart Award. (Photo: Lt. Col. Michael E. Eckert, CAP)

New Mexico Wing Cadet Earns the Earhart Award

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On October 3, 2019, Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell, of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron, earned the Civil Air Patrol’s Amelia Earhart Award exactly six years to the day he had received his first promotion to cadet airman on October 3, 2013.

New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presented the award to Chappell. Additionally, Chappell’s name was engraved upon a plaque of the squadron’s cadets who have earned the Earhart Award since the squadron’s founding in July 2005. Chappell is the third cadet in the squadron to earn the Earhart Award, which is named after aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart, the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic, and who disappeared during an around-the world flight on July 2, 1937.

To earn the Earhart Award, a cadet must be active in the squadron as a cadet staff officer, participate actively in squadron activities, complete a demanding Cadet Physical Fitness Test, pass a comprehensive written leadership examination with a score of at least 80% and pass a performance test in drill and ceremonies.

The Earhart Award represents completion of Phase III of CAP’s four-phase Cadet Program. The award carries with it promotion to cadet captain, eligibility to participate in the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE), promotion to first lieutenant at age 21 (should Chappell transition into CAP’s adult senior program), and a Technician’s rating in CAP’s Cadet Programs Specialty Track.

The International Air Cadet Exchange is a National Cadet Special Activity that allows cadets who are at least 17 years old and have earned the Earhart Award to spend three weeks in the home of a host family in another country, tour their important aerospace and cultural sites, and learn about that country’s history and culture.

Chappell has been a member of CAP and the squadron since September 2013. He is currently the squadron’s highest-ranking cadet. 🇺🇸

Right: Former CAP Cadet Evan Schomaker returned to Deer Valley Composite Squadron to discuss his experiences as a third-year student at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, as well as answer questions about applying to study at West Point. (Photo: Capt. Margot Myers, CAP)

Former CAP Cadet Returns to Share West Point Experiences

by Capt. Margot Myers, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On November 25, 2019, Cadet Evan Schomaker, a third-year student at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, returned to his Civil Air Patrol roots, Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix, to talk with cadets.

West Point, founded in 1802, is the oldest of the five U.S. military academies. The campus is about 50 miles north of New York City in the hills overlooking the Hudson River. Among its famous graduates are two presidents, numerous generals, CEOs of major corporations, Cabinet members, and multiple astronauts.

Schomaker was selected to make a hometown recruiting visit during the week leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday. “It would be an honor to come back to speak with the CAP cadets in my former squadron,” he wrote in an email requesting an opportunity to visit and speak.

He began his presentation with a description of the process and requirements for applying to West Point, including ACT or SAT score, medical exam, fitness assessment, and most important, a nomination from a member of Congress or a U.S. senator. “Each senator or congressman’s office handles the process and interviews a little differently,” he said. “In my congressman’s office there were three people for my interview, but in Senator McCain’s office, there were 12 people.” More than once, he told the cadets that if they are interested in applying, they should memorize the West Point Honor Code because it will surely be asked during an interview. The code states, “A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Schomaker described the rigorous academic and physical requirements to succeed as a West Point cadet. He is a double major in defense strategic studies and American politics. His days begin before dawn with formation at 6:15 a.m. Classes run from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a 15-minute break for lunch. Sports, dinner, and studying take up the rest of the day. “The days are long,” he said. “The average cadet sleeps about six hours a night.”

Every cadet must participate in some sort of sport, whether it’s intercollegiate, intramural, or club level. Schomaker shared some photos of himself boxing with another cadet.

When asked what carried over from his CAP cadet experience, Schomaker listed three things: drill, military bearing, and leadership skills. He complimented the Deer Valley cadets on the formation and drill skills he had observed at the beginning of the evening meeting.

Schomaker also talked about some of the additional opportunities he has had as a West Point cadet. Last summer, he went to Israel and trained with Israeli Defense Forces. Many cadets have summer internships with major companies.

Upon graduation in 2021, Schomaker will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. In return for his full academic scholarship, he is committed to serve at least five years on active duty in the Army. He said his dream job after graduation would be to put his defense strategic studies coursework to use in a position at the Pentagon, though realistically he expects that to come later in his Army career. 🇺🇸





Top: (L-R) Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Mark Ducote presents the Cadet of the Year Award to Cadet Senior Airman James Tanner. (Photo: S.M/ Ethan Bateman, CAP)

Louisiana Wing Squadron Presents Awards to Outstanding Members

by Senior Member Ethan Bateman, CAP, Louisiana Wing

BATON ROUGE, La. – On December 17, 2019, at its annual Christmas party and open house, the Capitol City Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol’s Louisiana Wing presented awards to members who have shown dedication to service throughout the year.

The squadron recognizes members with both the Senior Member and Cadet of the Year Awards, which are presented at the year’s last meeting. Squadron members choose the recipients that they believe have shown the greatest character and devotion to service over the course of the year.

The Senior Member of the Year Award was presented to 2nd Lt. John Kojeski, and the Cadet of the Year Award was presented to Cadet Senior Airman James Tanner.

A surprise award was presented by the Senior Members to Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Mark Ducote, commemorating the end of his term of service as squadron commander, that is coming up in 2020. 🍷

Arizona Wing Member Earns the FAA Wright Brothers 'Master Pilot' Award

by Maj. Robert Weber, CAP, Arizona Wing

TUCSON, Ariz. – On November 2, 2019, Maj. Barbara Harper, a member of the William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron, was honored with the prestigious Federal Aviation Administration Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award for 50 years of dedicated service in aviation safety. The presentation took place at the Pima Air & Space Museum, with Harper’s aviation friends and family members in attendance.

Ernest Copeland and Tina Buskirk, FAA Safety Team program managers in the Scottsdale, Arizona, Flight Standards District Office, presented the award to Harper. The inscription on the award reads, “In recognition of your contributions to building and maintaining the safest aviation system in the world, through practicing and promoting safe aircraft flight operations for 50 years.”

Harper completed her flight training in Petaluma, California, and became a certified pilot in 1969. As her enthusiasm for aviation grew, she became a flight instructor and joined the Civil Air Patrol in 1971. “Teaching is challenging and rewarding,” Harper said. “Each person is different, and you must adapt to their learning skills,” she said, recalling during an interview with the Arizona Daily Star that, over the decades, she instructed “hundreds of pilots who went on to work for airlines.”

Accumulating more than 13,000 flight hours in a variety of aircraft, Harper holds an Airline Transport Pilot rating in single- and multi-engine aircraft and a commercial rating, is a certified flight instructor and ground instructor, and is qualified as a remote pilot. When asked about how many airplanes she has flown during her 50-year career, Harper said, “I can’t remember the specific number and types of airplanes I have been certified in. There are just too many to recall them all.” However, the FAA representatives noted during the award presentation that the types of aircraft include general aviation Cessnas, the ATR-42, Lear jets, and the Boeing 727 and 747, in which Harper was a qualified flight engineer.

Harper has shared her skills with the Civil Air Patrol as a member of both the California and Arizona Wings in a variety of operational and leadership roles. She has qualified as a master pilot, having flown numerous missions in California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. She currently serves as an Arizona Wing standardization/evaluation pilot.

Harper also promotes and fights for flight safety while serving on several boards and associations locally and with the FAA. She has been a member of the Governor’s Advisory Council, Tucson Airport Authority Planning Committee, and provided her professional expertise to the Tucson International Airport Airfield Safety Enhancement Study. Currently, she is a FAASafetyTeam lead representative and an Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association network volunteer.

During an unblemished 50-year aviation career, Harper has been actively involved with people and organizations who share her love and enthusiasm for flying and doing it safely. She is dedicated to promoting a culture of safety with pilots, crew, passengers, and the community.

Despite holding the most prestigious award given by the FAA, Harper says her work is not over. She continues to work with the FAA and National Transportation Safety Board on safety issues, specifically related to new avionics systems, in order to prevent aircraft mishaps. Harper plans to fly as long as possible and share her wisdom and expertise with those willing to listen and learn. 📷

Right: CAP Maj. Barbara Harper, receives the FAA Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award for 50 years of dedicated service in aviation safety. Tina Buskirk (left) and Ernest Copeland, FAA Safety Team program managers from the Scottsdale, Arizona, Flight Standards District Office, presented the award.





, January, 2020

Left: President Trump signs the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, authorizing creation of the United States Space Force (Photo: Fortune.com)

Guest Editorial

The United States Space Force: The Next New Frontier

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On December 19, 2019, in Hangar 6 of Joint Base Andrews, President Donald J. Trump signed the 2020 National

Defense Authorization Act, thereby authorizing the creation of the United States Space Force, making it the sixth United States armed military service, whose members will serve alongside the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and its parent service, the Air Force.

Some believe that the Space Force is an idea whose time had come; others wonder whether the creation of a separate Space Force is necessary. (After all, the Space Force was originally the U.S. Air Force Space Command.) I was moved to think back to the previous century, when the Air Force faced similar challenges in its struggle to become a separate service.

The first antecedent of the United States Air Force was the Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, created on August 1, 1907. Its mission was to procure heavier-than-air flying machines for the Army, which included airplanes purchased from the Wright Brothers in 1908. From there, the Aeronautical Division went through several changes in command structure until May 24, 1918, when it became the Air Service of the American Expeditionary Forces, which was the immediate forerunner of the U.S. Army Air Corps. From 1920 to 1925, the Assistant Director of the Air Service was Brig. Gen. William L. "Billy" Mitchell.

Mitchell was one of the earliest advocates of an independent air service, although his methods of promoting airpower have been called into question, including his sinking of the German battleship *Ostfriesland* with 1,000 lb. bombs rather than the 500 lb. authorized, on July 20, 1921.

Although Mitchell did not adhere to the rules of engagement put forth by Gen. John J. Pershing (who oversaw the testing), the results of the bombing caused both the Army and the Navy to rethink the possibilities of airpower in warfare. His relationship with the Army grew increasingly fractious, and in 1925, when his term as Assistant Director of the Air Service expired, he reverted to his permanent rank of colonel. Later on, he was court-martialed for insubordination and retired to private life, where he continued to write about air power until his death in 1936. He was posthumously promoted to major general by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942.

On July 2, 1926, the Air Service was renamed the U.S. Army Air Corps, as the aerial warfare branch of the Army. The Air Corps was largely a compromise between those who wanted a separate air service and those who wanted the Air Corps to remain the air auxiliary of the Army, in support of its ground troops. On June 20, 1941, it was reauthorized as the United States Army Air Forces, giving it even greater autonomy. On September 18, 1947, with the passing of the National Security Act, the United States Air Force finally became its own separate service. On September 1, 1982, the United States Air Force Space Command was organized to be better prepared for the operational exploitation of space and from this command the Space Force was born.

Now that the Space Force has become its own service, what does its future hold? We are too close to this historical event to judge its effects. For all we know, we may now be on the verge of the next new frontier. 🇺🇸

Guest Editorial *On Veteran's Day*

DALLAS – Every year, for as long as I can remember, I have made it a practice to remember every veteran I know on this Veterans Day. This is that message.

I have shared with you in prior years' messages the thought that November has three very important, distinct, but related days.

The first important day we encounter in November is Election Day, which perhaps more than any other day of the year represents the values we all share. This idea that self-government is the best way of organizing ourselves is relatively new in historical terms, and when our founders first tried it, there was nothing at all self-evident about it. When we look at it through the lens of earlier history, it is at least a little bit surprising that it actually worked. But we would never have had an election day on our calendars, either in November or in any month, were it not for the second important day that we find in November: Veteran's Day.

The military establishment of our United States of America goes all the way back to June of 1775, more than a year before we identify our country as having been born, when the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution establishing a Continental Army, under the command of General George Washington. That our military was formed before our young nation existed is an indication of just how uncertain the future felt to the men of 1775 who began the social experiment that has become our modern United States of America. Without the Continental Army, and without the long line of veterans extending nearly two and a half centuries into our history, we would never have secured our right to an Election Day. Since then, millions of veterans have served, and over 2.8 million of them have fallen in armed conflicts, both on American soil and abroad.

The third day of significance we come to in November is Thanksgiving, which I find poetic. The first to celebrate this yearly ritual were the Pilgrims, who gathered the fruits of the field to have a meal of thanksgiving and rejoicing, born of the happiness to have found a new and fertile land where they could live as their conscience dictated.

We may not all agree in our politics, and we may not all agree in the methods and deployments of our military, but we all celebrate the fact that our all-volunteer service has always been and will always remain subject to the elected civil authorities, who in turn derive their just powers from the consent of those governed. Which is the very way of life that every veteran gave in service to the defense of our Nation.

The service of every veteran to us is a legacy of our very first soldiers, those who secured our Election Day for us. The willingness of every veteran to serve, both in peace and in war, has been the backstop ensuring that our Election Day remained intact. And in just a few weeks we can sit down for Thanksgiving and ponder this history.

In thanks to all veterans for their service, I honor Veterans Day. And I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

I will remember all veterans as long as I live. 🇺🇸

Lt. Col. Owen Younger, CAP, Texas Wing

On Language

Today's Syntactic, Prepositional, Adverbial and Grammatical Case Crisis

AUSTIN, Texas – Ever since language was first used, it has been common for people to speak carelessly, because if someone questioned what they said, they could go into greater detail and explain what they meant. Then came writing, and the rules changed. Once the written word is sent into the world, the writer will not be there to exercise that freedom enjoyed by the speaker, therefore the text must stand on its own, according to the reader's understanding.

Once the problem was identified, the solution became simple: languages were built with the safeguard of syntax. In the case of European languages, it can be said that Latin is the mother tongue of culture. It was Latin that introduced the concept of grammatical cases and declension.

In its simplest form, a given preposition requires a specific case. For example, the preposition *with* requires the accusative (Latin) or objective case (English) *him*. One does not say *with he*, but *with him*. However, in recent years, professional writers have ignored some of the basic syntax rules built into the English language. In the example below...

The list of suspects and accomplices is long and depends on who you ask.

...the problem surfaces after "long." To begin with, the sentence has two independent clauses, separated by "and." A dependent clause has no verb (because it is a phrase), but an independent clause always has a verb (sometimes tacit). Therefore, the first problem is the absence of a comma after "and," leading to the final error of "who you ask."

It is unfortunate that most people actually speak this way, and yet, they would never dream of saying "I ask he." That "who" of the above example refers to an unstated "he" or "she." Therefore, since one says "I ask him," that *who* ought to have been *whom* instead.

A similar case is ...

ISIS is a loosely connected group of terror cells that feeds off of propaganda in the region, they can never fully be defeated only crippled beyond repair.

... that suffers two flaws. The first one is in *that feeds off of propaganda*. Since *off*, in and of itself, means "from a place or position," or "out of," the construct *off of* translates as *out of of*, and it is at best redundant, besides being incorrect. Given the preceding, it is not surprising that the sentence goes on to say *they can never fully be defeated only crippled*, where the adverb *fully* precedes (and therefore modifies) the verbal construct *be defeated*. Oddly, the adverb *never* precedes *fully*, thereby modifying the adverb *fully* rather than the verb that follows it. Not content with this, the author pulls another adverb out of thin air to produce yet another verb, but worse yet *only crippled beyond repair* is an independent clause, that ought to be preceded by a comma. However, since doing this would result in too many commas, here is a partial fix,

ISIS is a loosely connected group of terror cells that feeds off propaganda in the region; they can never be fully defeated, only crippled beyond repair.

So much for the syntactical issues. Now, consider the sentence from a logical point of view. Is the author saying that the terror cells are motivated by propaganda, or was it intended to mean that the terror cells are themselves the authors of propaganda? Since ISIS claims to follow religious and ethical guidance drawn from their radical religious beliefs, it is unlikely that they would be swayed by someone else's propaganda, when their motivation is above propaganda, facts, or arguments posed by anyone outside their group, so the sentence is logically faulty.

Below is another example of questionable writing, concerning a TV series titled "The Politician."

"Anthony, meanwhile, couldn't defend the show's treatment of weighty subjects like suicide, but he was still delighted by the rapid-fire dialogue and "The Politician"'s apparent determination to entertain at all costs."

By now, it is probably apparent that the end of the sentence after *and* is an independent clause, and therefore ought to have been preceded by a comma. Also, the example is shown in normal text, not Italics, for a good reason.

The construct "*The Politician*"'s is visually cluttered and odd, although it seems that the apostrophe-s rule of the possessive case might apply here. However, consider the above as written, and also as edited below,

"Anthony, meanwhile, couldn't defend the show's treatment of weighty subjects like suicide, but he was still delighted by the rapid-fire dialogue, and *The Politician*'s apparent determination to entertain at all costs."

Or better yet, upgrading the sentence to less-than-colloquial,

Anthony, meanwhile, could not defend the show's treatment of weighty subjects like suicide, but he was still delighted by the rapid-fire dialogue, and the apparent determination of "The Politician" to entertain at all costs.

Parallel to this, there is a growing trend towards the elimination of the conjunction *that*. Watching online English language movies with close-captioned (CC) subtitles is revelatory. Even when the actors use *that*, the CC subtitles most often omit it. Consider the following sentence, that deals with the "evolution" of personal computing devices,

There is this idea the laptop is too big, too unwieldy and basically just too dull to be the device we ought to be using.

Although it is understandable as written, it is syntactically awkward, since "this idea the laptop is too big" is a definite *non-sequitur*. It is like saying "the thought the breed has been ruined." Consider also the difference between "the postman delivered this letter," and "the postman that delivered this letter." In the first instance, it is any postman, but in the second, it is the specific postman that took the letter to that address.

So, is the sentence about the laptop understandable? It is, though ambiguously. But is it written with correct syntax? It is not. However, had the questionable sentences quoted above been written in Latin, and the rules of Latin had been followed, they would have been coherent and understandable to all Latin-speakers.

As in most languages, the conjugation of the verb *to be* is quite irregular, with a present tense that transforms it into *am, are, is, are, are, are*. In this case, *are* is used both as a singular and as a plural, and it is applied to multiple persons. It is worse in the case of *to love*, that in the present tense is *love, love, loves, love, love, love*. This is an oversimplification of the Latin conjugation as adopted in the Germanic languages, that transferred to English with even greater simplification. But is simplification a good thing?

Take Spanish, for instance, that is a direct descendant of Vulgar Latin. To love (*amar*) in the present tense conjugates classically as *amo, amas, ama, amamos, amáis, aman*. Although in English one must say *I love*, because unless one uses the personal pronoun no one can tell who is doing the loving, in Spanish it is redundant to say *yo amo*, because *amo* carries with it the correct personal pronoun. But Spanish is not immune to simplification either, because in contemporary Spanish, the formal second person takes the verbal form of the third person, therefore both the singular and the plural require the pronoun to show whether it is you or he in the singular or you or they in the plural. This, too, is a simplification.

In current English, especially in the United States, it is now fashionable to say *aren't* and mean *am not* (in questions). Yes, the dictionary accepts this, without explaining the circuitous route that it took for *are not* to become *ain't*, and the latter being accepted as a contraction of both *am not* and *are not*, and in turn these being accepted by the dictionary because usage reigns supreme. And then finally accepting that *ain't I?* was correct and, therefore, *aren't I?* was also correct as a colloquial expression. Although usage calls the shots, this is truly sad. 🤔

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



The Safety Page

Winter Driving Tips

Driving in the winter can be harrowing, especially in snowstorms and icy conditions. By getting your car ready for winter and using some simple tips to drive safely, you can face almost any weather Mother Nature decides to send your way.

Prepare Your Car for Winter

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops.
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order.
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car.
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch.
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops.
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed.
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas-line freeze.
- Remember to keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked, too.

Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side view mirrors so you'll be able to see what is around you.

- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features, such as automatic emergency braking, to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it.
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up.
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave.

How to Avoid a Crash (AAA driving tips)

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions.
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly.
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds.
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill.
- If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

Know Your Car's Capabilities

- *My Car Does What?* is a national campaign to help educate drivers about the safety features built into vehicles. Search for your car and find out what safety features are already built in.
- Traction control is now standard on most new vehicles. This function helps your vehicle gain traction on snowy, icy or wet surfaces, particularly when accelerating from a stopped or slowed position, or when trying to make it up a slippery hill.
- Anti-lock braking system (ABS) helps you steer in emergencies by restoring traction to your tires and is standard on most new vehicles as well. ABS may vibrate or pulse when engaged. This is normal. Continue to press and hold pressure to the brake pedal.
- Remember, you are your car's best safety feature. Take precautions to ensure you arrive safely at your destination. If you become stranded in an unfamiliar area, do not leave your car. Light flares in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or objects.

Reference: National Safety Council (www.nsc.org)



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 in the dateline (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 high-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. Only the Navy and Coast Guard have the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks in the body of your article, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the 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. 📖