



The Fly-By

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Southwest Region
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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:

awoodgate735@gmail.com

Message size limit: 20 MB. If too big, please use multiple emails.



SWR Commander's Corner

*Greetings for the First
Few Days of Fall.*

I just returned from the Southwest Region Safety Symposium in Denton, Texas. More than 50 CAP members from all over the Region were in attendance. Many topics were covered, ranging from: Involving Cadets in Safety, to Stand Eval in Safety, and Command in

Safety. All important contributors to an accident-free, safe, and enjoyable mission and working environment.

For those who were there, thank you for taking time from your busy lives to attend this event on such an important subject. It was great to see so many people from all over the region. I am grateful for Lt. Col. John Kruger and Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk for organizing the event. We also had the pleasure of Michael Nunemaker from National Headquarters who brought his expertise to the weekend.

Safety should be part of everyday life, to the point where you do not really think about it because you have incorporated it into your daily routine as part of your normal life. When it becomes second nature to you, you will be prepared.

Thinking of myself, I find it useful to consistently think about outcomes. How would I explain this action later? "Well, I thought the plane would fit through there..."

It is best to “waste” a few minutes being cautious rather than rushing into a potentially expensive or even life-threatening event.

We at Southwest Region have top-notch safety teams that have been recognized by National Headquarters many times for being the best. Therefore, please take advantage of all their talents.

I wish you an enjoyable fall. Personally, I am looking forward to the change of seasons.

Regards. 🇺🇸

Col. Martha C. Morris
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: [CAPSafety | Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/CAPSafety)

- Safety must be on every CAP member’s mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don’t miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at [Safety Beacon | Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/SafetyBeacon)
- [Safety Beacon | Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/SafetyBeacon)
- **Safety is our Number One Priority.**

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

▪ **Which Articles Are Best?**

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

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

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

▪ **Do I Submit Photos?**

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

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

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate735@gmail.com.

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



Top: Brig. Gen. Regena Aye presented Spatz certificates to Cadet Cols. Joseph Roehrick and Cynthia Liu before the change of command ceremony. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Mitch Smith)

Col. Linda Yaeger Assumes Command of Arizona Wing

by Maj. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On January 6, 2024, Col. Linda Yaeger assumed command of the Arizona Wing from Col. Robert Pinckard as he completed his four-year term.

The change of command ceremony began with the introduction of distinguished guests, including the Arizona Adjutant General, CAP's national vice commander, the former Southwest Region commander, five former wing commanders (one of whom is a current member of CAP's Board of Governors and another the current Southwest Region commander), four current commanders from other wings, and three representatives from CAP-USAF.

The first order of business was the presentation of Spatz Award certificates by Brig. Gen. Regena Aye to two Arizona Wing cadets. The prelude and interlude, welcoming the two cadets to the grade of cadet colonel, were presented by Arizona Wing Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Mark Schadt, Spatz recipient #810, who earned his award in August 1986.

Cadet Col. Joseph Roehrick joined CAP in January 2015. He is a member of London Bridge Composite Squadron 501 in Lake Havasu City. In 2023, he served as the Cadet Commander for Arizona Wing's summer encampment. Roehrick is Spatz Cadet #2454. The presentation was timely as Roehrick turned 21 just a few days later.

Cadet Col. Cynthia Liu was so anxious to become a CAP cadet that she started visiting the Willie Composite Squadron when she was 11 years old. She joined on her 12th birthday and quickly progressed through the 16 steps of the cadet program, earning her Spatz Award just

before her sixteenth birthday. She currently is a member of the Sky Harbor Composite Squadron where she serves as the cadet commander. Liu is Spatz Cadet #2493.

Right: Col. Robert Pinckard received a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of the wing's accomplishments during his term as commander. (Photo: 2nd Lt. Mitch Smith)

Both cadets spoke about their cadet experiences, the leadership skills they have gained, and the friendships formed. They noted their intent – Roehrick as an adult member and Liu as a cadet – to continue to mentor and lead cadets coming up in the program.

As he concluded his command, Pinckard recognized many members who contributed to the success of the wing with exceptional service awards, meritorious service awards, and commander's commendations. He also expressed thanks to Maj. Gen. Kerry Muehlenbeck, who leads the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in her role as Adjutant General. Pinckard presented her a framed photo taken during a Felix Hawk intercept mission in November 2023, with two Arizona National Guard F-16 fighter jets alongside a CAP airplane.

Pinckard noted that his four-year term was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down many Civil Air Patrol activities just three months into his command. He expressed his thanks to the many Arizona Wing members who continued to support COVID-related missions, including transporting medical supplies and people across the state, running a communications operation at a mass vaccination site, delivering food to quarantined homeless people recovering from COVID, and staffing Operation Pulse Lift blood donation centers.

Morris presented a distinguished service award to Pinckard, noting numerous achievements in all mission areas. Participation in the Aerospace Excellence Program increased by nearly 50 percent from 2020 to 2022 and helped earn the wing the Aerospace Mission Award in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

A high level of emphasis on the cadet program resulted in a 28 percent increase in cadet membership, a 100 percent increase in the number of units receiving the Quality Cadet Unit Award from 2020 to 2022, and the wing earned the Cadet Programs Mission Award in 2020 and 2022.





Above: Col. Martha Morris (left) passed the wing flag to Col. Linda Yaeger to signal the change of command in Arizona Wing.
(Photo: 2nd Lt. Mitch Smith)

The award citation also noted that the Arizona Wing performed exceptionally well on the United States Air Force operations evaluation and was highlighted for its innovative use of small unmanned aerial systems in emergency services missions. The wing achieved massive growth in participation and capability in unmanned systems from 2020 to 2023 and can now provide a remote, real-time, satellite-enabled video feed from unmanned and fixed wing aircraft-mounted cameras to any properly configured receiver, anywhere in the world.



Above: Col. Linda Yaeger held a commander's call following the change of command ceremony. (Photo: Maj. Margot Myers)

Morris presided over the change of command ceremony, which is deeply rooted in military tradition, affording troops the opportunity to see the flag pass from one commander to the next. Only eight words are spoken during the ceremony as the outgoing commander relinquishes and the incoming commander accepts command.

In remarks after assuming command, Yaeger spoke about her "commander's intent," a focus for her three-year term.

"Leadership is not about being in charge," she said. "It is about caring for those under your command. Volunteers need to believe they are making a difference."

Yaeger highlighted the work of several high-performing teams in Arizona Wing, asking members of those teams to stand, noting that they "have been extraordinarily successful in actively delivering improvements to the communities we serve."

The wing's ranks have fully recovered from losses during the COVID pandemic, with the total number of members topping 1,400 for the first time. "Now is the time to increase our community conversations about Civil Air Patrol successes, looking for those who share our aviation-related interests and core values," she said. "New members need to be immediately engaged. Help them identify their interests while learning about Civil Air Patrol and the diversity of opportunities. My leadership advice is: Do not step on their enthusiasm."

Yaeger said that the wing will see some significant changes during her term as commander. These include building on relationships with state and federal partners to expand services offered, undertaking infrastructure projects with funds provided by the state legislature, and continuing efforts by the wing's advanced technology team to develop new and better ways to take on challenges in search and rescue and disaster relief.

Looking to get involved in aviation, Yaeger joined Civil Air Patrol as a cadet in Columbus, Ohio. She achieved the grade of cadet captain before graduating from high school. After four years in the ROTC program at The Ohio State University, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in social sciences and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

During her Air Force career, she was assigned to Headquarters Air Force, Intelligence Plans and Programs during Operation Desert Storm. She also served with Headquarters United States Air Forces Europe, Tactical Air Command, and Pacific Command. Yaeger retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Air Force in 2001 after nearly 25 years of service.

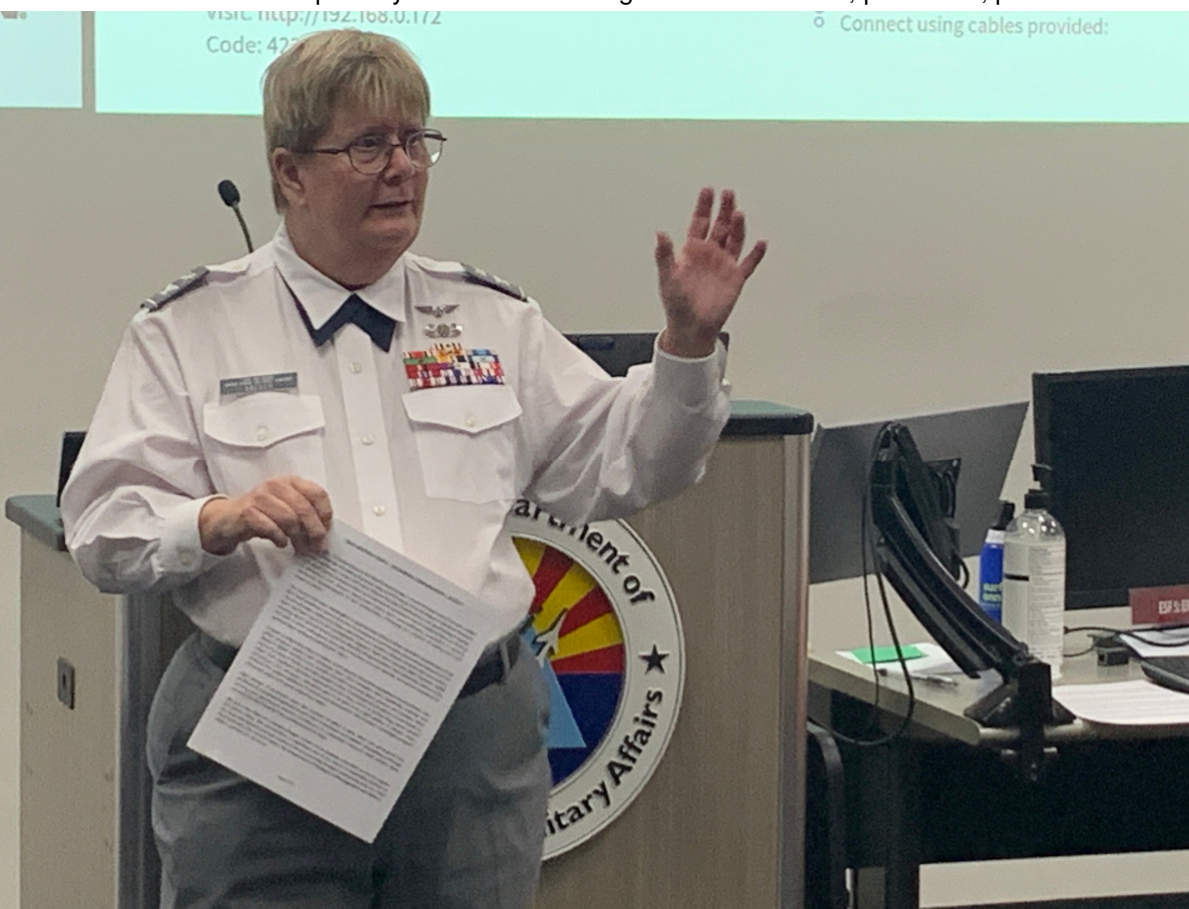
She completed a master's degree in human relations from University of Oklahoma and a master's degree in library science from University of Arizona. In addition to her Air Force and CAP careers, she spent six years as an adjunct instructor for instructional computing at Estrella Mountain Community College in Arizona.

In CAP, Yaeger served previously as Arizona Wing's chief of staff, inspector general, mission support group commander, director of education and training, and commander of the 388th Composite Squadron. She holds operational qualifications as mission scanner, mission safety officer, aircraft operations branch director, planning section chief, operations section chief, and incident commander.

A three-year member of the national Leadership Development Working Group, Yaeger developed squadron-level staff and leadership lessons. Along with related courses, they replaced CAP's legacy professional development program with a more flexible education and training program. She remains active as a Volunteer University instructor, primarily teaching Level IV and V courses.

Yaeger served as a National Emergency Services Academy Mobile Training Team instructor for Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Command System courses. She holds CAP specialty track master ratings in administration, personnel, professional development, and

command with a senior rating in inspector general, and technician ratings in five additional specialties. 🇺🇸



Col. Linda Yaeger briefed leaders in the Mission Support Group in a breakout session during the commander's call. (Photo: Maj. Margot Myers)



Top: Brig. Gen Regena Aye presented a framed Spaatz certificate, with a Spaatz ribbon and three-diamond cadet colonel insignia, to Cadet Col. Joseph Roehrick. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Mitch Smith, unless otherwise noted)

Two Arizona Wing Cadets Receive Spaatz Certificates

by Maj. Margot Myers and Tech. Sgt. John Horne, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On January 6, 2024, CAP National Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Regena Aye presented Spaatz Award certificates to two Arizona Wing cadets: Cadet Cols. Joseph Roehrick and Cynthia Liu. The presentation was made during the wing change of command ceremony.

Cadet Col. Roehrick joined CAP in January 2015. He is a member of London Bridge Composite Squadron 501 in Lake Havasu City. In 2023, he served as the cadet commander for Arizona Wing's summer encampment.

Though Roehrick earned his Spaatz award in April 2023, the presentation of his framed certificate came just under the wire since he turned 21 just a few days after the ceremony.

In his remarks after receiving the Spaatz certificate from Aye, Roehrick recounted many of the things he learned as a CAP cadet.

"I've learned that the way through any and every obstacle is blind optimism," Roehrick said. "I've learned that a leader is not his accolades; he is the sum of his followers."



Above: Cadet Col. Cynthia Liu received her Spatz certificate from Brig. Gen. Regena Aye during the Arizona Wing change of command ceremony.

Roehrick thanked many of the adult members who have led him through the cadet program, including his former squadron commander, members of the wing Cadet Programs staff, and his grandfather, Capt. Fredrick Roehrick.

“I hope they are all even half as proud to have me in their list of followers as I am to have studied under them,” he said, “more so if my legacy in the program lives on through those I’ve taught and those I’ve led. I’ve made lifelong friends out of airmen who couldn’t tie their own boots and I had the privilege of working with the outstanding young cadet colonel (Liu) being promoted beside me.”

Roehrick said that taking on impossible tasks and working through them made it easier to keep taking on new challenges.

“Civil Air Patrol taught me that if you look at where you want to go with no idea of where you’ve been, you’ll always feel like you haven’t started your journey,” he said. “When you learn to take pride in what you have done, you will have the strength to do anything.”

Cadet Col. Cynthia Liu heard about CAP from a school friend and liked what she saw when she attended a meeting of the Willie Composite Squadron in Mesa, Arizona, when she was 11 years old. She was so anxious to become a CAP cadet that she joined on her 12th birthday and quickly progressed through the 16 steps of the cadet program, earning her Spatz award at 15. She currently is a member of the Sky Harbor Composite Squadron where she serves as the cadet commander.



Above: Cadet Col. Joseph Roehrick (center) served as the cadet commander for the 2023 Arizona Wing summer encampment.

“I think part of my drive and motivation came from seeing just how far I could go in this program and just how much I could change for the better. I tried working on myself in all aspects of the program, one of which was promoting,” Liu said.

In her remarks, Liu recalled her first meeting as a cadet in January 2020.

“During my first meeting, I clearly remember seeing the cadet commander, a few years older than me, walk up during opening formation and speak clearly and confidently,” Liu said. “Watching him, I thought ‘I want to be just like him someday.’ That was the goal I had set for myself.”

In her third year as a cadet, Liu was selected to be part of the Arizona Wing summer encampment cadet cadre.

“Meeting cadets from all over the wing was eye-opening,” she said. “Suddenly, the leaders in front of me weren’t just the examples from the leadership textbooks, but the cadets around me. One of them was Cadet Col. Roehrick, the amazing cadet standing next to me. I had the opportunity to learn from him and observe him. I tried to pick out what made him special.

“Watching him made me realize that I wasn’t chasing a position, but (trying to become) the person fit to be in that position. So, I started experimenting with different leadership styles and working on my leadership skills.”

In her fourth year, Liu was selected to serve as the cadet commander in her squadron. “I continued to work on my leadership skills and style. I also started training for the final promotion.”

Right: In November 2023, then-Wing Commander Col. Rob Pinckard congratulated Cadet Col. Cynthia Liu on earning the Spaatz Award. Looking on are Sky Harbor Composite Squadron Commander Capt. RoseAnne Marquez (left) and 2nd Lt. Lisa Ceballos (center). (Photo: Tech. Sgt. John Horne)

Liu earned her promotion to cadet colonel in November 2023. During a squadron meeting, then-Arizona Wing Commander Col. Rob Pinckard was present for Liu's promotion ceremony. She was also recognized by Viree Byrne, the regent of the Four Peaks Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, with a special certificate of achievement to mark the occasion.

"I knew that nothing worth having comes easy, but it was still pretty hard when I actually ran into struggles and challenges along the way," Liu said. "The biggest one was working and training to pass the different aspects of the Spaatz test; I would constantly try to find ways to make a 'miracle' happen, but ultimately, you have to put in the work, and there are no easy shortcuts to success."

She thought earning the Spaatz Award would mean she was "done."

"But now I realize that this award is anything but an end; it is the start of a new journey, one that I am sure will still be full of rollercoasters, trials, and errors, but one that I'm also so happy to start," Liu said.

"A huge part of this new journey is to give back and help other cadets. I want to share this quote that summarizes the positive mindset we should all have toward life: 'If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L. means First Attempt In Learning. End is not the end; E.N.D. means 'Effort Never Dies.' If you receive 'no' as an answer, remember N.O. means 'Next Opportunity.'"

When asked what is next for her, Liu said, "I want to work on giving back to the program and the community that has helped me so much. For example, the CyberPatriot program has introduced me to the cyber world, which has since become the career field I hope to enter someday. Regardless of what happens, anything and everything that I've learned from this program will help me so much in all aspects of my life, so I will do my very best to pay it forward."

Liu expressed her thanks to those who helped her on the journey to becoming a Spaatz Award winner. She thanked her mother, who sat smiling in the second row, her fellow cadets at Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301, the many adult members at her squadron who gave her the necessary resources and support on her journey to earning the Spaatz Award, the cadets from the squadron who attended the ceremony, and Cadet Col. Roehrick, "for mentoring and guiding me through this journey."

Considering what advice she would give to a new cadet, Liu said, "A good first step of your journey in this program is to find what you want to do. This program provides so many opportunities, so find your *what*, and then find your *why*. Why do you want to pursue this goal? Once you have that, half the battle is won. The rest is to work toward your *what* and always remember your *why*." 🇺🇸





Top: (L-R), Capt. Art Davies, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Edward Braithwaite, Cadet 2nd Lt. Cameron Laws, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Grace Noguerras, Cadet 1st Lt. Aimee Calvert, Capt. John Richard, and USAF Airman 1st Class Sebastian Miskimmin prepare the color guard for the Wreaths Across American ceremony at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery. *(Photo: 1st Lt. Anne Calvert)*

Right: Cadet 1st Lt. Charles Fountain salutes after laying a wreath at the Louisiana National Cemetery as his father holds an umbrella in the pouring rain. *(Photo: Erin Fountain)*

Louisiana Wing Honors Veterans at Wreaths Across America

by 1st Lt. Anne Calvert, Louisiana Wing

SLIDELL, La. – On December 16, 2023, five Civil Air Patrol Louisiana Wing squadrons gathered across the state for the Wreaths Across America memorial in remembrance and honor of the sacrifices of our veterans.





Above: Tammany Composite Squadron Cadet Commander Cadet 1st Lt. Aimee Calvert stands at attention at the Southeast Louisiana Memorial Veterans' Cemetery. (Photo: 1st Lt. Anne Calvert)

Below: Cadet 2nd Lt. Johnathan Fontenot places a wreath on a veterans' gravesite at Louisiana National Cemetery in Zachary, Louisiana. (Photo: Erin Fountain)

The Louisiana Wing joined thousands of Wreaths Across America volunteers throughout the nation who placed more than a million wreaths on the headstones of service members. Civil Air Patrol is one of more than 5,000 sponsorship groups that collected donations to place thousands of wreaths in our veterans' cemeteries in Louisiana.



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Below: Cadet Staff Sgt. Ryan Stanley prepares to place a wreath on a tombstone in Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Slidell, Louisiana. (Photo: 1st Lt. Anne Calvert)





Left: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Amos Pyles escorts a local woman as they lay wreaths in the Louisiana National Cemetery in Zachary, Louisiana. (Photo: Erin Fountain)

Below: Cadet 2nd Lt. Cameron Laws places a wreath on a veteran's tombstone at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Slidell Louisiana. (Photo: 1st Lt. Anne Calvert)

The St. Tammany Composite Squadron presented the colors at a Wreaths Across America ceremony held at the Southeast Louisiana Veteran's Cemetery in Slidell, Louisiana. The stories of four veterans interred in the cemetery were read and the Louisiana Patriot Guard Riders brought wreaths that were presented for each of the branches of the military,

Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Space Force. Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Slidell, Krew of Titans, American Legion Post 374, VFW Homer Williams Post 8720 and many others turned out to place wreaths on gravesites alongside families and loved ones.

The Alvin Callender Composite Squadron and the New Orleans Senior Squadron participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony hosted by Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve at Chalmette National Cemetery in Chalmette, Louisiana. Cadets and adult members honored veterans interred there as they placed wreaths on tombstones throughout the historical, old cemetery.

The rain did not stop the Ascension Composite Squadron as they honored veterans at the Port Hudson and Louisiana National Cemeteries, both in Zachary, Louisiana. Cadets participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony, honoring our service members and veterans. Afterward, cadets were protected by umbrellas as they carefully placed wreaths on gravesites, assisting family members while the rain came down. After placing each wreath, cadets finished the ritual by saluting in honor of the veterans buried in the cemetery.

The Tangipahoa Cadet Squadron color guard presented the national colors for the Blessing of the Wreaths Ceremony organized by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1052, and sponsored by Walmart Supercenter in Amite, Louisiana. On the following day, volunteers placed wreaths on the gravesites of veterans interred in local cemeteries.

"Wreaths Across America is a day for remembering those who have served our nation," said Louisiana Wing Commander Col. James Viney. "The wreaths are a symbol of our honor, remembrance, and respect."

"Many brave men and women risked their lives so we can be free" noted Cadet 1st Lt. Aimee Calvert as she looked across the field at the hundreds of wreaths on the tombstones. "They deserve to be remembered for the sacrifices they made for us."

This annual wreath-laying event began over 30 years ago and is held on the second or third Saturday of December. Wreaths Across America continues so that Americans will remember those who have fallen, honor those who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, and as a way to teach our youth about the sacrifices of our veterans and the value of freedom. 🇺🇸





Top: Cadets attended a briefing on the hangar deck of the USS Midway. (All photos: 2nd Lt. Mitch Smith)

Below: Cadet Senior Airman Xavier Hernandez takes his turn checking out a radar console.

A Night Aboard the USS Midway: Arizona Wing Members Experience a Unique Tour

by 2nd Lt. Mitch Smith, Arizona Wing

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — On October 28, 44 cadets and 16 senior members of the Arizona Wing embarked on an overnight journey aboard the storied USS Midway, an immersive experience that resonated with both cadets and senior members. The evening was a blend of exploration, education, and awe as participants delved into the rich tapestry of naval aviation history.





Above: Eating in the Mess Hall was part of the USS Midway experience.

As the sun dipped below the San Diego skyline, CAP cadets and senior members gathered on the hangar deck of the USS Midway, a floating testament to American military prowess. The air buzzed with anticipation as the group prepared to spend a night on one of the most iconic aircraft carriers in history.

The night's festivities kicked off with a warm welcome from the Midway staff. Cadets and senior members were treated to a guided tour through normally restricted areas of the ship, such as the Ship's Island and the Damage Control Center – insights not typically offered on public tours. This unique access provided a firsthand look into the day-to-day activities and work life of those serving on the Midway.

A highlight of the evening was the cadets' exploration of the expansive flight deck, where they could envision the challenges faced by the brave men and women who once operated aircraft under demanding conditions. The Arizona Wing members gained access to historic aircraft, including fighters and helicopters, offering a tactile experience that breathed life into the Midway's storied past.



Above: Cadet Senior Airman Caitlin Vechil felt right at home in the captain's seat.

Engaging discussions with USS Midway staff, who shared their experiences serving on various naval ships, provided a deeper understanding of life for sailors on this historic vessel. As the night progressed, cadets and senior members retired to the berthing areas used during the Midway's active duty, a poignant experience that illuminated the sacrifices inherent in military service.

With the dawn breaking over the Pacific, the Arizona Wing members convened for breakfast on the hangar deck, fostering camaraderie among cadets and senior members. Tours of other parts of the ship extended into the early morning, creating lasting memories. However, it was soon time to bid farewell to the USS Midway, leaving participants with indelible impressions that will undoubtedly shape their futures in aviation and beyond.

The overnight tour wasn't merely a field trip; it was a transformative experience, a reminder of the values of courage, discipline, and service at the core of both the military and Civil Air Patrol. Participants departed the USS Midway more inspired, more connected, and poised to reach new heights in their pursuit of excellence in aviation and service to their communities. This experience was not just a perspective on naval history; it was a narrative that will leave an enduring impact on the leadership and aviation aspirations of these future trailblazers. 🇺🇸



Top: DAR members who participated in presenting the Outstanding Cadet Medal to Cadet 2nd Lt. Dillon Pathio included (left-right) retired U.S. Army Col. Sandra Raynor, Rose Esterly, Darlena Trapp, and Diane Thomason. (All photos: Jens Brown)

Outstanding Cadet Recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution

by Jens Brown, Arizona Wing

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – On December 11, representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented the DAR Outstanding Cadet Medal to Cadet 2nd Lt. Dillon Pathio. The recognition ceremony, held at the Scottsdale Composite Squadron, celebrated Pathio's extraordinary leadership, commitment, and character. These DAR medals are awarded to student cadets who distinguish themselves through outstanding leadership, honor, courage, service, and patriotism.



Above: Cadet 2nd Lt. Dillon Pathio received the Outstanding Cadet Medal from the Piestewa Peak Chapter of the DAR.

“During the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent recovery, Cadet Pathio demonstrated outstanding leadership, particularly in his efforts to maintain program integrity, enhance the squadron’s activities, and seamlessly integrate new cadets,” said Capt. John Huls, Scottsdale Composite Squadron commander. “His strong communication skills and influential leadership have significantly contributed to the squadron’s success. Cadet Pathio has effectively influenced and guided the squadron through various initiatives and activities.”

Huls also noted that Pathio’s mentorship abilities have played a crucial role in developing emerging leaders, and fostering an environment of growth and learning. “His actions and leadership style deeply reflect the core values of both the Civil Air Patrol and the DAR, emphasizing humility, service, and commitment,” Huls said.

The award was presented by retired U.S. Army Col. Sandra Raynor, National Defense Chair, DAR; Rose Esterly, Regent, Piestewa Peak Chapter, DAR; Diane Thomason, National Defense, Chapter Chair, DAR; and Darlena Trapp, Project Patriot Chapter Chair, DAR. From the Scottsdale Composite Squadron, Huls was joined by Jens Brown, deputy commander for cadets, and Lt. Col. Scott Curtis, aerospace education officer, for the presentation.

In addition to his service to Civil Air Patrol, Pathio is currently attending Arizona State University, where he is pursuing his interest in business, logistics, and supply chain management. 🇺🇸



Top: More than 100 cadets and adult members of Arizona Wing gathered on the ramp at Davis Monthan Air Force Base during a day-long Aerospace Education activity. (Photo: Tech. Sgt. Jacob McDonald)

Earthlight Experiments and Orientation Flights Highlight AE/STEM Day in Tucson

by Maj. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing

TUCSON, Arizona – On December 17, 2023, Arizona Wing conducted an Aerospace Education event at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. The genesis of the event was the need to gather video footage for a documentary featuring Maj. (Dr.) Sian Proctor, a member of Arizona Wing's Aerospace Education team and a SpaceX astronaut.

The video will be used in a documentary, funded by NASA, and coordinated by the Association of Space Explorers. Ten astronauts have been paired with youth organizations across the country to produce the videos, all of which will focus on celebrating diversity from space. Proctor was paired with Civil Air Patrol and proposed the theme of "Earthlight."

Proctor is a geoscientist, an explorer, an analog astronaut, and a community college professor. She was the mission pilot on the SpaceX Inspiration4 mission, which orbited Earth for three days in 2021.

Earlier in 2023, speaking at the Arizona Wing conference, Proctor described her reaction to seeing sunlight reflected into space from the surface of Earth.



Above: Maj. (Dr.) Sian Proctor worked with cadets on a project to arrange a set of aerial photos, trying to piece them together like a puzzle to be able to see the features of the landscape. (Photo: Maj. Margot Myers)

“But there was nothing better than experiencing ‘Earthlight,’” Proctor said. “It’s like moonlight, but better. Think about what it’s like when you go outside and there’s a full moon rising. When you go to space, you are bathed in Earthlight. That’s truly transformative.”

Proctor spoke to the cadets at the start of the day to introduce the concept of Earthlight and again after lunch, when she related her journey from CAP cadet to SpaceX astronaut. Both speeches were recorded for use in the NASA video project. Maj. Michael Griffith, the southern Arizona group commander, is leading the video production team.

“Sian was able to participate throughout the day and all of the cadets enjoyed the chance to work with a real live astronaut,” said Lt. Col. Ron Marks, the Arizona Wing director of aerospace education.

Cadets received mission patch stickers provided by Dan Barstow, the Association of Space Explorers mission specialist for education. Barstow has been consulting with the Arizona Wing team that is producing the video with Proctor.

Capt. Shannon Babb, Rocky Mountain Region’s external aerospace education officer, flew in for the event and designed some scientific experiments surrounding the “Earthlight” concept. There were three different ground stations plus the cadets who were flying in the rear seat during orientation flights were given an experimental assignment. In the afternoon, there was a collaborative competition among the cadets as they used a wide variety of materials – foam sheets, Mylar, cotton balls, and more – to design and build a lunar habitat. The goal was to protect their “astronaut” (a Hershey’s Kiss) from melting in the heat of the sun.



Left: Members of Arizona Wing's Aerospace Education team who participated in the Earthlight activity included Maj. Klara Olcott, Lt. Col. Ron Marks, Maj. Sian Proctor, and Capt. Brett Russon. *(Photo: Tech. Sgt. Jacob McDonald)*

Below: Each cadet participating in the Aerospace Education activity received a decal with the mission logo for the Celebrating Diversity From Space project.

“We can't begin to say how much we appreciate Shannon joining this project,” Marks said. “She really created a great day for us.”

Another experiment had the cadets working with a series of aerial photos and trying to piece them together like a puzzle to be able to see the features of the landscape. This is an element of the orthomosaic process used by CAP's Geospatial Team. The team uses remote sensing to detect and monitor the physical characteristics of an area by measuring its reflected and emitted radiation at a distance. For CAP, this may include photos taken from a CAP aircraft or cameras mounted on small unmanned aerial systems (drones).

Cameras take images of large areas on the Earth's surface, allowing much more to be seen than when one is standing on the ground. This is particularly useful in the aftermath of tornados, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. CAP is frequently tasked with providing geospatial maps to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other disaster relief organizations to assess damage and make decisions about where resources are most needed in the wake of a disaster.

1st Lt. Jonathan Gholson from Cochise Composite Squadron in Sierra Vista is a member of the Arizona Wing's sUAS team. He worked with the cadets on the orthomosaic project and provided an opportunity for cadets to fly small drones in the hallway outside the classroom.

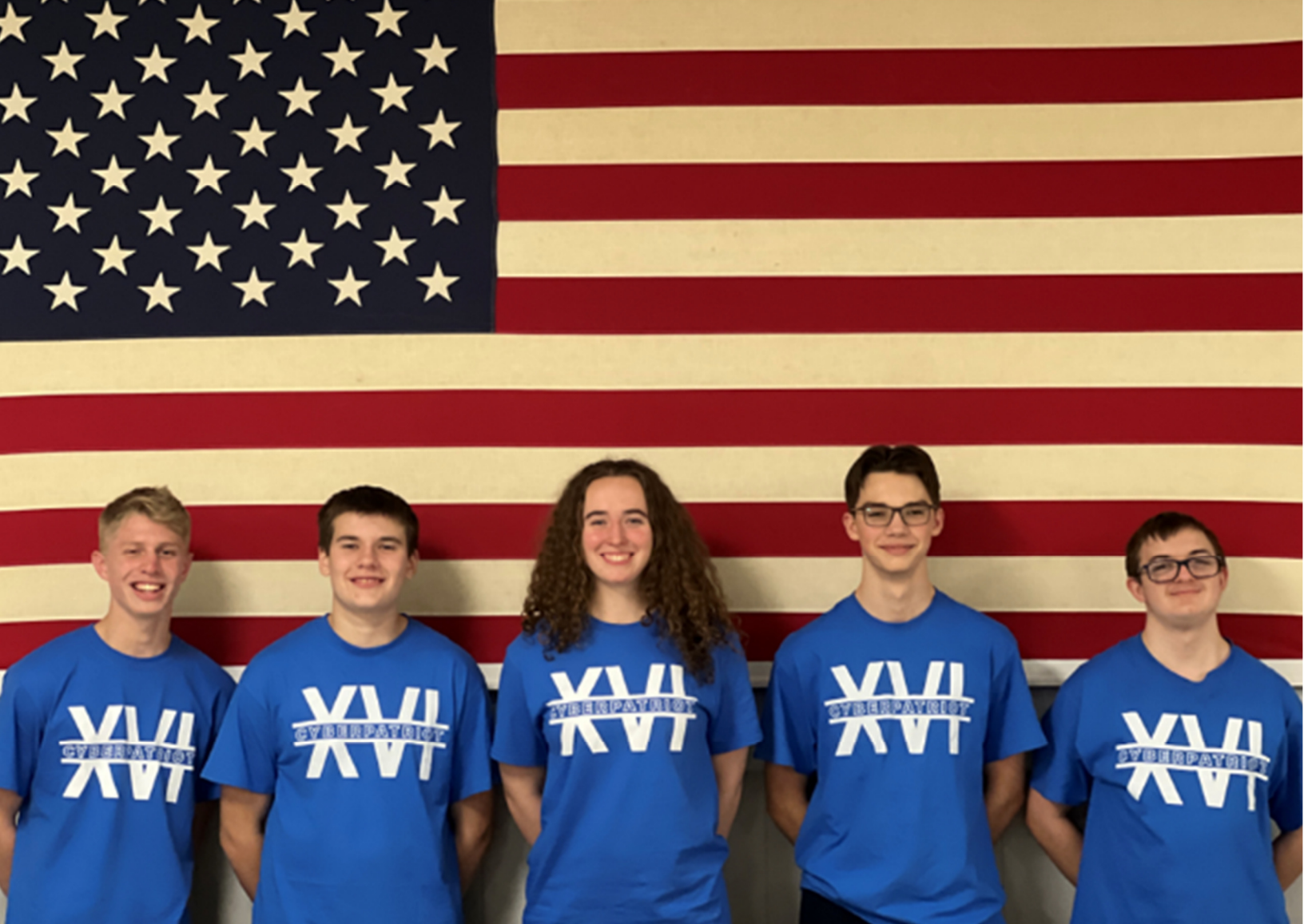
“Since we came together to celebrate diversity from space, it was great to see such a diverse group of cadets and senior members from all over Arizona,” Marks said. “Over half the cadet participants were female, which is amazing considering that female membership in Arizona Wing is just over 20%.”

Aircraft came in from the Scottsdale, Cochise, Davis Monthan, Willie, and Glendale composite squadrons to provide support for 26 cadet orientation flights.

Davis Monthan Composite Squadron 334 and its commander, Lt. Col. Mark Malan, hosted the day-long aerospace education activity. Participants were able to gather on the ramp, alongside seven CAP airplanes, for a group picture in the afternoon. Malan also arranged for an unexpected tour of a Black Hawk helicopter.

“The event was a super STEM activity day along with cadet orientation flights,” said Marks. “Seventy-eight cadets and 28 adult members from all over the state of Arizona participated in this exciting event.” 🇺🇸





Top: (L-R) Cadet Airman 1st Class Peyton Shaddinger, Cadet Staff Sgt. Remington Hoffpauir, Cadet 1st Lt. Aimee Calvert, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Edward Braithwaite, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Joseph St. Amant. The St. Tammany Composite Squadron High School team takes a break for a photo during the Air and Space Forces CyberPatriot Competition. (Photos: 1st Lt. Anne Calvert)

Louisiana Wing Squadron Participates in National CyberPatriot Competition

by 1st Lt. Anne Calvert, Louisiana Wing

BATON ROUGE, La – On December 11, 2023, the St. Tammany Composite Squadron CyberPatriot high school team participated in the State Round of the national CyberPatriot competition.

The St. Tammany Composite Squadron formed their CyberPatriot team a year ago to give cadets the opportunity to explore the growing field of cybersecurity. The competition allows cadets to experience the role of a cybersecurity professional with the task of securing online data and information from hackers and other security threats.

CyberPatriot is an initiative for the National Youth Cyber Education Program, developed to bring a new generation of patriotic cyber defenders of our nation's security and infrastructure. Civil Air Patrol cadets compete against other CAP cadets and JROTC cadets across the nation in the All-Service Division in the CyberPatriot program.

“I had a great time, my teammates were a lot of fun, and I know so much more about online security than I did before”, said Cadet Capt. Aimee Calvert about the experience.

The Fly-By, Southwest Region, January 2024

The St. Tammany Composite Squadron has a high school and a middle school team. Both teams started training during the summer and are gearing up to train for next year's competition.

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Edward Braithwaite, Cadet Capt. Aimee Calvert, Cadet Staff Sgt. Remington Hoffpaur, Cadet Airman 1st Class Peyton Shaddinger, and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Joseph St. Amant made up this year's senior high school team.

Cadet Airman Ethan Braithwaite, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Landon Mondello, and Cadet Senior Airman Larry Crawford competed on the middle school team. 🇺🇸

Below: (L-R) Cadet Tech. Sgt. Joseph St. Amant, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Edward Braithwaite, Cadet Airman Ethan Braithwaite, Cadet 1st. Lt. Aimee Calvert. St. Tammany Composite Squadron compete in the CyberPatriot State round.





Top: Nearly 4,000 Arizona National Guard Members assembled to participate in the 2023 Muster. (Photos: Tech. Sgt. John Horne)

Below: The sign at Sloan Park announced the 2023 Arizona National Guard Muster.

Sky Harbor Squadron Supports the 2023 Arizona National Guard Muster

by Tech. Sgt. John Horne, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On December 16, 2023, approximately 3,800 members of Arizona Army and Air National Guard units from across the state assembled in military formation at Sloan Park in Mesa, Arizona, along with their families to participate in a time-honored ceremony, the muster. The

Arizona National Guard holds this formal gathering every five years to celebrate its service to the community, state, and nation.

The troops were reviewed by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Arizona's Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Kerry L. Muehlenbeck, and ambassadors of Arizona Guard partner countries, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Sultanate of Oman.





Left: Second Lt. Paula Tucker served as Mrs. Claus for the Santa Claus Meet and Greet room.

Below: Cadet Airman Asher Puckett helped set up the area for toy distribution to families of Arizona National Guard members.

Cadets and senior members of Sky Harbor Composite Squadron in Phoenix were invited to support this event by operating a toy

distribution to the assembled Arizona Guard families and staffing a Santa Claus Meet and Greet room. The squadron members set up in advance, operated the two activities, and then disassembled both areas at the conclusion of the event.

For many years, the squadron has provided support to the 161st Air Refueling Wing at the Goldwater Air National Guard Base at Sky Harbor Airport for its annual Family Days event, which is designed to show appreciation for the support of families to the base personnel. This year, the squadron was honored to provide support for the larger Arizona National Guard community at the 2023 Muster.

The adult members who assisted with the event included: Squadron Commander Capt. RoseAnne Marquez, 1st Lt. Mitra Pratt, 2nd Lt. Lisa Ceballos, 2nd Lt. Paula Tucker, Master Sgt. Paul Tucker, Tech. Sgt. John Horne, and senior members Lia Grover and Manuel Gutierrez. Cadets who participated included: Cadet 1st Lt. Prithka Chauhan, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Javier Ceballos, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aaric Hrabe, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Keenan Tucker, Cadet Staff Sgt. Elias Carlblom, Cadet Senior Airman Tony Henry, Cadet Senior Airman Kinley Tucker, Cadet Airman 1st Class Kaleb Melville, Cadet Airman Asher Puckett, and Cadet Airman Harper Perrault.

“The members of Sky Harbor Composite Squadron were pleased to represent the Arizona Wing of Civil Air Patrol at this outstanding event celebrating the service and sacrifice of all the Arizona National Guard and their families,” Marquez said. 🇺🇸





Top: An FBO employee helped with unloading items from planes and storing them in a warehouse until they could be collected for distribution. (Photo by Maj. David Roden)

Pilots of Arizona and New Mexico Wings Support 39th Navajo Christmas Airlift

by Maj. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – Five Arizona Wing pilots participated in the 39th Navajo Christmas Airlift on November 10, 2023, bringing donated toys, clothes, household items, and food for distribution to Navajo Nation families during the holidays. These airlifts began in 1985 (logo courtesy of the Airlift website).

On the morning of their flight, Fox10 Phoenix interviewed Maj. David Roden, flying the airlift for the fifth time, and Capt. John Giddings, on his third airlift flight.

Lt. Col. Wayne Lorgus also flew a CAP plane in this year's airlift. Capt. Phil Jossi, Maj. Kerry MacPherson, and Capt. Gary Stark participated with non-CAP planes. New Mexico Wing also scheduled seven planes to fly in support of the airlift.

Planes flew from 24 airports in Arizona, California, Colorado, and New Mexico, delivering donated items to the Southwest Indian Foundation, landing either in Gallup, New Mexico, or Winslow, Arizona, depending on the weather conditions.

“We’ve been helping with the airlift for three years now, and it is rewarding to know we can bring our unique resources in terms of people and vehicles to the effort,” said CAP New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Andrew Selph. “If ever there was something we’d want to be part of, it would be an aircraft operation to assist those across our communities, state and nation.”





Above: Lt. Col. Wayne Lorgus flew a load of donations from Deer Valley Airport in Phoenix. (Photo provided by Lt. Col. Lorgus; photographer unknown)

In a follow-up message to airlift coordinator Greg McColley, Jonessa Ramos of the Southwest Indian Foundation wrote, “Year after year the donations you provide are of such high quality, including so much new product (which) is vital to be distributed across the reservation communities at this time of year.”

McColley assumed responsibility for running the airlift, which his parents began 39 years ago. According to the airlift [website](#), “Dick McColley, in his role as president of the Honeywell Flying Club, researched and considered various community service opportunities that would allow general aviation aircraft pilots to assist the underprivileged at Christmas.” He and his wife Betty eventually settled on the idea of pilots transporting donated goods to benefit members of the Navajo Nation.

In 1985, its first year, eight planes participated. The number of planes and pilots – and the volume of donations – has grown steadily over the years, with about 80 pilots and 90 missions scheduled to fly or transport items by ground over the three days of the 2023 airlift. High winds in Gallup caused some flights to be canceled and others, like Roden’s, to divert to Winslow, Arizona.

“I cannot commit precisely for the volume of donations,” McColley said. “I have received feedback that continues to affirm that 275 pounds per plane remains conservative, and with the scheduled missions and ground transport we are in the range of 27,000-30,000 pounds of donations.”



Above: Maj. David Roden (left) was interviewed by FOX10 Phoenix before his Navajo Christmas Airlift flight. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Roxanne Schorbach)

Each pilot who participates in the airlift is responsible for collecting donations, often with local community organizations, schools, businesses, and churches chipping in to provide the requested items. Roden coordinated with Falcon Field Airport in Mesa for the use of a temporary hangar space to store the donated items before the airlift.

“I had 10 pilots pick up donations from the storage unit at Falcon Field, which the airport graciously donated for temporary safekeeping of the donated items,” Roden said. “There was still a large number of bags with donated items left over and I could have used 8-10 more planes.”

Instead, McColley arranged for a 10-foot utility van to pick up the remaining donations at both Falcon Field and Deer Valley airports in Phoenix to be driven to Winslow on Saturday.

“I was overwhelmed by the amount of donations delivered to me but was glad we were able to get them delivered by any means necessary,” Roden said. “This is an annual event and I’ll be reaching out again next year for volunteers.”

NOTE: Capt. Ryan Stark, New Mexico Wing, contributed to this article.



Top: Cadet Master Sgt. Johndavid Gauntlett was the usher for Mesa Mayor John Giles as he posted a floral tribute to fallen Royal Air Force cadets. (Photo by Lt. Col. Ron Marks)

Honoring Royal Air Force Airmen Who Trained in Arizona

by Lt. Col. Ron Marks and Maj. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On November 12, 2023, members of Falcon Composite Squadron in Mesa, Arizona, participated in the annual Royal Air Force memorial event at Mesa Cemetery. Each year, members of the Mesa aviation community gather to remember and honor 24 Royal Air Force cadet airmen who perished during flight training in the 1940s. The cadets were sent to Arizona to learn to fly before returning to Europe, as World War II was escalating.

The story about how Falcon Field came to be is detailed in an article for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association in April 1984, in which author David A. Walker explained the airfield's origin.

“It was just a square mile of desert, and what it was called depended on who was doing the calling. To the officials who had to struggle with the intricacies of Lend-Lease, it was Number Four British Flying Training School, USA. ... To the people of Mesa, Arizona, it was a source of income, of diversion, and of culture shock. And to the civilians who had to make it work, it was a job. But to the more than 2,000 Royal Air Force pilots who sweated through more than 300,000 hours between 1941 and 1945 in learning to fly from its parallel runways, it was simply Falcon.”



Above: 2nd Lt. Patrick Sullins assisted with the placement of a wreath during the memorial ceremony. *(Photo by Dennis Strom, CAF Airbase Arizona)*

Walker noted that it was Gen. Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, chief of the Army Air Corps, who summoned a group of flight school owners to meet with him in Washington, D.C., to discuss establishing civilian contract military training schools.

“According to Arnold's plan, the operators of the schools would supply the instructors, mechanics, office staff, avgas, barracks, and food,” Walker wrote. “The Air Corps would supply the aircraft, the cadets and would pay the operators on a contractual basis – if Congress was agreeable.”

Arnold's goal was to have the facilities needed to train 2,400 pilots a year, far more than the capacity of the Army Air Corps' only existing flight training facility at Randolph Field in San Antonio, Texas.

Eventually, Congress approved the necessary funding. “The program quickly grew,” Walker wrote, “and the 2,400 pilots a year increased to 12,000 then 30,000 pilots. In 1945, 110,000 airmen were trained by contract schools.”



Above: There are 16 photo murals on various buildings and hangars at Falcon Field honoring the airport's history and those who trained there, including this stories-tall image on the control tower and a photo of a class of RAF cadets on the side of a hangar. (Photo by Maj. Margot Myers)

Starting in March 1941, thousands of pilots were trained at Thunderbird I, located on the west side of Phoenix. The owners of the flight school planned to call each subsequent school by the same name and did open Thunderbird II, but when it came time to train British pilots on the east side of Phoenix, there was an objection to using the very American name for their training base. They insisted on calling it Falcon Field, after the bird of prey that played an important role in British military tradition.

On September 27, 1941, the first British trainee took off from Falcon Field. Flying Stearmans and AT-6 Texans, the trainees had 29 weeks of primary flight training before going off to secondary training in fighters and bombers, then returning to Europe.

A total of eight instructors and 24 cadets died during flight training at Falcon Field, and it is those cadets who are commemorated each year in a ceremony in Mesa, Arizona.

Mesa Mayor John Giles took some time to speak with the CAP cadets at the event. The team from Falcon Squadron served as ushers to assist in placing the wreaths at the memorial to these fallen airmen. 🇺🇸

Louisiana Wing Cadet Earns the Prestigious Eaker Award

by Capt. Ken Best, Louisiana Wing

BATON ROUGE, La. (Jan. 8) – On January 8, 2024, Cadet Lt. Col. Cullen Chaney was selected as the 2023 Capitol City Squadron Cadet of the Year for his many achievements in the Civil Air Patrol.

Chaney's most recent achievement is the Ira C. Eaker Award. The General Ira C. Eaker Award, the second most prestigious award in the CAP Cadet Program, honors one of the forefathers of an independent U.S. Air Force and a pioneer in the development of advanced aircraft capabilities. General Eaker, who rose to the grade of lieutenant general during WWII, commanded the Eighth Air Force, known as The Mighty Eighth force of strategic bombers. He flew daytime bombing missions over occupied Europe.

The Eaker Award marks the completion of Phase IV of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace education, physical fitness, and character development. To qualify for this honor, Cadets must have graduated from an academically intensive leadership academy.

"CAP cadets are volunteers. We serve our community while becoming educated about aerospace, leadership, and emergency services," Chaney remarked about his time in CAP. "Through CAP programs, I have had the opportunity to travel and meet incredible cadets from across the nation, all while growing as a servant leader. Because of this, I hope to one day serve in the United States Armed Forces," he added.

Chaney joined CAP in October 2020 because he wanted to get involved in his local community, learn about aerospace, and consider a future in the military. This past summer he was selected to attend the United States Space Force (USSF) Space Operations Academy at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. During the week-long educational event, he toured various Space Force and Air Force facilities and learned about the careers available to those interested in space and cyber defense.

Chaney currently serves as the squadron cadet commander, with the responsibility of leading and developing the cadets in his squadron. CAP cadets acquire leadership skills by learning and implementing the Cadet Program themselves, becoming leaders and instructors of other cadets. The Cadet Program teaches problem-solving, interpersonal relations, and practical skills for leadership. This includes learning all that an executive-level leader needs, the principles that ensure the unit's success, and the delegation of responsibilities to a team of officers.

Chaney is not letting up. He is currently working on another major CAP achievement, the Carl A. Spaatz Award which is earned by less than one-half of one percent of all CAP cadets worldwide.



The son of Paul and Haley Chaney, he is home-schooled in Zachary, Louisiana. Upon graduation in the spring of 2024, he hopes to be accepted into the United States Naval Academy, where he plans to study cybersecurity. 🇺🇸

Left: (L-R) Capitol City Composite Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Barry Huggins and Cadet Lt. Col. Cullen Chaney. (Photo: Capt. Ken Best)



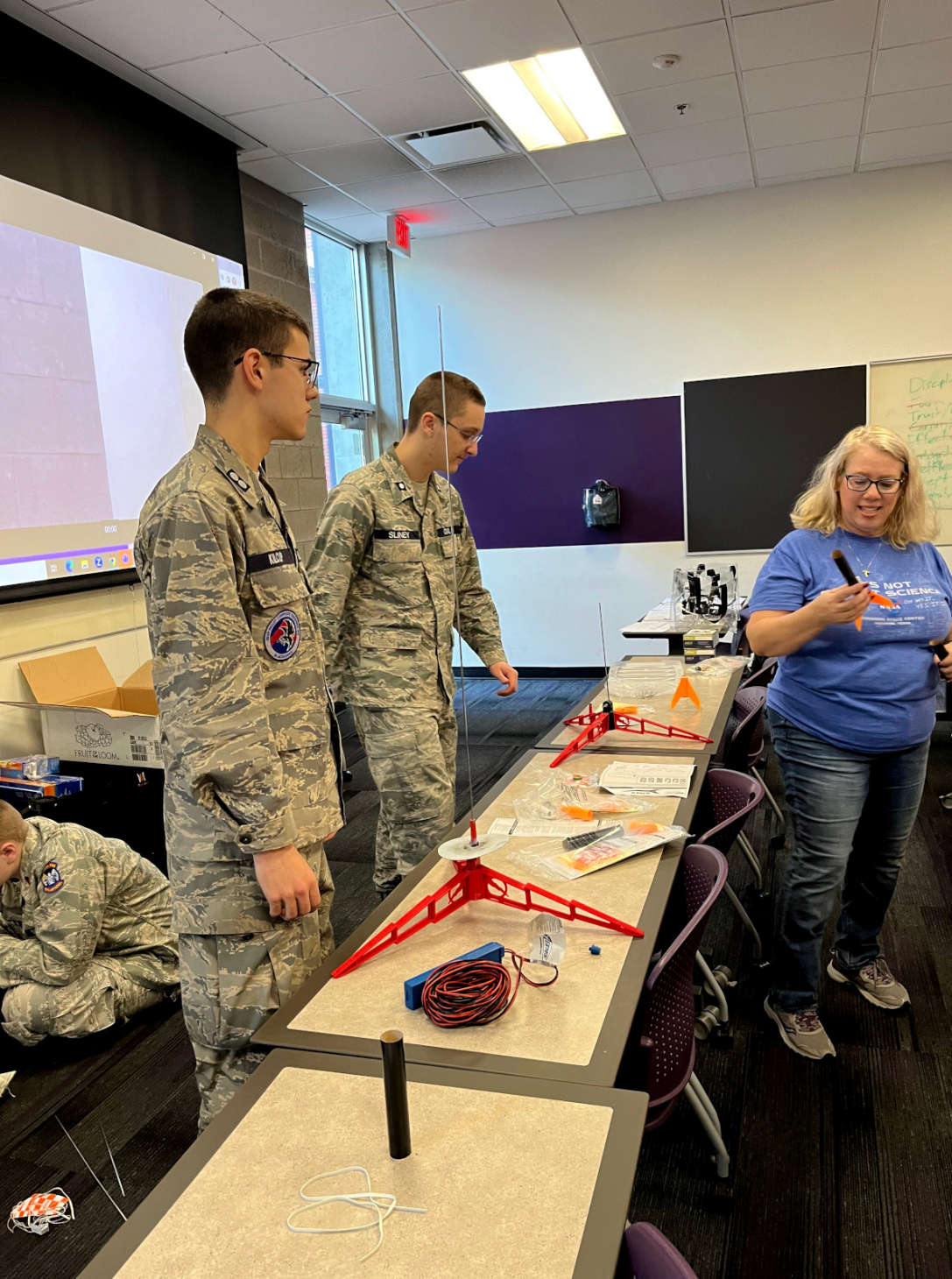
Top: Cadet 1st Lt. Hudson Kilcup works with teachers who are building model rockets as part of a STEM activity at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. (Photo by Marni Landry)

Arizona Wing Cadet Supports STEM Activity Enjoyed by Arizona Teachers

by Lt. Col. Ron Marks, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On December 2, Arizona Wing’s Aerospace Education team supported a model rocketry workshop for a group of K12 STEM teachers at Grand Canyon University. Hosted by the university’s K12 Educational Development department, the workshop was the result of an ongoing relationship between the department and Civil Air Patrol to bring aeronautics experiences and curriculum to Arizona teachers.

“The spirit of GCU’s service and commitment to STEM education shined thanks in part to freshman Hudson Kilcup,” said Marni Landry, the K12 STEM Outreach Director. “A mechanical engineering technology major, Kilcup’s journey from a Civil Air Patrol cadet deputy commander to a promising engineering student exemplifies the powerful synergy between K12 outreach, GCU’s engineering program, and personal aspiration.”



Left: Cadet 1st Lt. Hudson Kilcup (left) and Cadet 2nd Lt. Paul Sliney supported Maj. Nancy Parra-Quinlan, Arizona Wing's external aerospace education officer, during the model-building activity. (Photo by Marni Landry)

Cadet 1st Lt. Kilcup is a member of the Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix. He joined Civil Air Patrol in September 2018, motivated by a friend's referral and a budding interest in aviation. He has been an active cadet, attending Arizona Wing summer encampment three times and the E-Tech national cadet special activity at Middle Tennessee State University. He completed all his orientation flights, trained to support the annual Balloon Spooktacular hot air balloon festival, attended the basic sUAS flight training activity, marched in the Phoenix Veterans Day parade, and completed the NRA rifle training and qualification course.

Well-respected by his fellow cadets and adult members of the squadron, in May 2023 Kilcup was selected as the first recipient of the Lt. Bill Gale Tenacity Award. Gale, a long-time member of Deer Valley Composite Squadron, died in early 2023. He was a consistent presence in the squadron's cadet programs.

While initially attracted to the prospects of being a pilot or aircraft mechanic, Kilcup found his true calling in mentoring and community service, core aspects of the CAP experience. After earning his Billy Mitchell award, he took on the responsibility of leading new cadets, growing his leadership skills, and strengthening his commitment to guiding the next generation.

Following in his brother's footsteps, Kilcup chose Grand Canyon University for its courses and faculty in engineering. This decision marked the beginning of a significant chapter in his life, one where his passion for engineering and his dedication to the core values he learned in Civil Air Patrol would intertwine.



Above: In May 2023, then-2nd Lt. Hudson Kilcup (center) was named the first recipient of Deer Valley Composite Squadron's Lt. Bill Gale Tenacity Award. Also pictured (left to right) are 2nd Lt. Cheryl Sliney, then-2nd Lt. Liam Arnold, and 1st Lt. Patrick Sliney. (Photo by Maj. Margot Myers)

Kilcup's experience at GCU has not only enhanced his technical knowledge in mechanical engineering but also bolstered his leadership abilities. His participation in K12 Educational Development's model rocketry workshop exemplifies how university-led initiatives can ignite a passion for STEM among students.

"These workshops serve as the first step into STEM for many teachers, providing hands-on experiences that are instrumental in shaping their students' educational paths," said Landri.

Kilcup's involvement in CAP's diverse programs, from emergency services to aerospace education, has shaped his perspective on engineering. His time spent at Maxwell Air Force Base for Cadet Officer School prepared him for high-stress environments, a skill that complements his academic pursuits at GCU. The transition from homeschooling to university life was made smoother by the time management and learning strategies he honed as a CAP cadet.

"Looking ahead, Hudson envisions a future where his university education, CAP experiences, and passion for K12 mentorship converge," Landri said. "He sees immense potential for synergy among these entities, aiming to leverage his knowledge and experiences to mentor and inspire future generations in STEM."

Kilcup advises high school students to seek hands-on experience before committing to a specific career path. For homeschooled students like himself, he recommends seeking diverse experiences to broaden their horizons.

"His journey is a testament to how involvement in organizations like CAP can open doors to various fields and people, enriching one's educational and personal growth," Landri said. 🇺🇸



Top: Before the ceremony celebrating Operation Pulse Lift milestones, Maj. Gen. Edward Phelka donated blood at Falcon Composite Squadron in Mesa. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Roxanne Schorbach.)

Operation Pulse Lift Celebrates Multiple Milestones at 2023 Year-End

by Maj. Margot Myers, Operation Pulse Lift PIO

MESA, Ariz. – On December 22, 2023, Operation Pulse Lift, Civil Air Patrol’s emergency blood donation mission, celebrated reaching three milestones – 100 blood drives at Falcon Composite Squadron in Mesa, 500 total blood drives for the mission, and 30,000 units of blood donated. Operation Pulse Lift is the longest-running humanitarian mission in CAP’s history, ramping up at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Maj. Gen. Edward Phelka, CAP national commander/CEO, was in Mesa on December 22 to help celebrate the mission’s achievements. Before a ceremony held at the Falcon Field Airport terminal at 10 a.m., Phelka visited the squadron building to donate blood and chat with cadets and other donors.

Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, the incident commander for Operation Pulse Lift, hosted the celebration ceremony. Along with Phelka, featured guests included Falcon Field Airport Manager Corinne Nystrom, Mesa City Councilmember Alicia Goforth (whose district includes the airport), Arizona Wing Commander Col. Robert Pinckard, and Jason Benedict, the regional donor services executive for the American Red Cross.



Above: (L-R) Mesa City Councilmember Alicia Goforth, Maj. Gen. Edward Phelka, and Falcon Field Airport Manager Corinne Nystrom received Operation Pulse Lift blood drop awards recognizing their support of the mission.

A letter from retired Admiral (Dr.) Jerome Adams commending Operation Pulse Lift was shared with the audience. It was a statement by Adams, the 20th U.S. Surgeon General, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, that motivated Ditch to pursue opening CAP facilities for blood drives, when schools, businesses, churches, and other common blood drives sites were shut down. “Your dedication and selflessness have tremendously impacted communities nationwide, saving countless lives and reaffirming CAP’s position as a leader in emergency management,” Adams wrote.

Phelka commended Ditch for “seeing a need and creatively figuring out a way to meet that need.

“So much good has come from Operation Pulse Lift,” Phelka said, “including more than 90,000 lives potentially impacted in a positive way. Specifically, what has happened here in Arizona blows the doors off of everything we talk about when it comes to service to community, state, and nation.

“Of the 502 blood drives held so far, 101 of them have happened right here at Falcon Field. This squadron has participated in 20% of the blood drives associated with Operation Pulse Lift and that’s incredible.”

Phelka singled out the squadron commander, Maj. John Bryant, for his ongoing support of the mission and gave him a commander’s challenge coin. He also presented a coin to Ditch, calling him “the godfather of Operation Pulse Lift.”

The Fly-By, Southwest Region, January 2024

Phelka recalled that leading up to the CAP national conference in August, the goal for the end of the year was set at 25,000 units of blood donated. “By the time we got to the conference in August, that goal had already been exceeded. So, we moved the goalpost again, hoping to get to 30,000 units by the end of the year,” Phelka said. He then opened an envelope revealing the count as of that morning – 30,273.

Addressing the cadets in attendance specifically, Phelka noted that the concept of community service stated in both the cadet oath and CAP’s mission statement “come together right here in Operation Pulse Lift.”

Red Cross representatives presented two awards, both crafted from recycled aircraft. Bryant’s award was fashioned from a rotor blade on a search and rescue helicopter, bearing the number 100 to recognize the number of blood donation events held at the Falcon Composite Squadron. Phelka received an award made from an airplane window, thanking CAP “on behalf of the tens of thousands of blood recipients that have benefited from Operation Pulse Lift blood drives.”

Benedict, the Red Cross regional executive, said that Operation Pulse Lift is the result of “two of the greatest humanitarian organizations in the world coming together to alleviate human suffering, to help people in need.”

Ditch said that he has already set a new goal, timed with the mission’s fourth anniversary on April 12, 2024. “Our new goal is 33,335. Why that number? Because every donation of a unit of blood has the potential to save three people. When we reach that number, we will have potentially saved 100,000 lives.” 🇺🇸

Below: Colin Williams, American Red Cross, made a unique presentation to Falcon Composite Squadron Commander Maj. John Bryant recognizing his outstanding support for blood drives at the squadron.





Top: (L-R) Cadet Senior Airman William Holder, Cadet Master Sgt. Tristan Clark, and Cadet 1st Lt. Emily Howard of the Leesville Composite Squadron participated in a nationwide data collection project, coordinating with CAP nationwide in conjunction with the NASA Global Observation Team. (All photos: 1st Lt. Angela Hawthorne)

Right: Cadet Senior Airman Carson Sanders observed cloud coverage and uploaded data into the GLOBE App in real time during the solar eclipse.

Louisiana Wing Cadets Participate in Nationwide Science Project

by Lt. Col. Ron Kariker, Louisiana Wing

ALEXANDRIA, La. – On October 14, 2023, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Solar Eclipse Citizen Science Mission became a scientific project for the CAP Leesville Composite Squadron. CAP organized the project across the nation, and partnered with the NASA Global Observation Team to accomplish four data collection goals:

1. Observe temperature variations.
2. Record wind speed variations.
3. Describe cloud cover.
4. Report CADP VHF radio channel interference.





Above: (L-R) Cadet Senior Airman Carson Sanders, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Durr III, and Cadet Airman 1st Class Benjamin Durr. Cadets from Cenla Composite Squadron and Leesville Composite Squadron collected and recorded scientific data throughout the annular solar eclipse using the Globe App (cloud coverage), a thermometer (air temperature), and an anemometer (wind speed). Cadets compared their readings with data from the nearby Alexandria International Airport on England Air Park.

To participate in this scientific study, the Leesville Composite Squadron sent two adult members and five cadets to England Airpark in Alexandria, Louisiana. The event began at 10:00 a.m. and lasted for several hours. Adult members Seth Lynn and Nolen Johnson Jr. were joined by Cadet 1st Lt. Emily Howard, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Clark Tristan, Cadet Senior Airman William Holder, and Cadet Senior Airman Jacob Hayes.

For most of the team, it was the first time that they had witnessed a solar eclipse. Cadets and adult members left with a full range of emotions, feeling that they had witnessed something truly remarkable.

The Leesville Composite Squadron worked together with the Cenla Composite Squadron cadets. They collected cloud, air temperature, and wind data at regular intervals before, during, and after the eclipse. More data will be collected by citizen scientists around the globe and CAP Teams for the upcoming total eclipse on April 8, 2024

Cadet 1st Lt. Emily Howard and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Tristan Clark monitored the CAP national VHF radio channel, observing that while there was some static there was no significant interference on the CAP VHF radio frequency. Howard remarked, "This mission helped me qualify as a CAP mission radio operator."

This kind of exercise makes it possible for CAP cadets and adult members to prepare for real-life missions for their community and nation.

This team of cadets will present a report of their experiences and achievements during an upcoming weekly meeting. The Leesville Composite Squadron meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the Leesville Airport. Visitors are welcome to explore the opportunities available through the Civil Air Patrol for cadets through the CAP Cadet Program. Adult members are also welcome, as they can receive training in aviation, communications, search and rescue, and other related technical fields. 🇺🇸



Top: Cadet Airman 1st Class Alexandria Elliot salutes after placing a wreath at the grave marker for veteran James Robert Boggs. (All photos: Capt. Tim Hollo)

Show Low Composite Squadron Cadets Honor Veterans Through Wreaths Across America

by Capt. Tim Hollo, Arizona Wing

SHOW LOW, Ariz. – On the morning of December 16, 2023, Cadet Airman 1st Class Alexandria Elliott and her fellow cadets of Show Low Composite Squadron 210 took a break from the holiday season to provide a simple memorial. Their job was to place a wreath on the marker of every veteran at the Show Low Cemetery, to be displayed through the rest of the year as a reminder of the sacrifices that veterans have willingly made for the United States and its allies. With wreaths in hand, however, they quickly realized that their simple selfless memorial was no simple task.

Right: Cadets from Show Low Composite Squadron arrive at Show Low Cemetery with wreaths to place on veterans' grave markers.

Below: A flag ceremony was held before the cadets placed wreaths throughout the cemetery.

In 2007, the Wreaths Across America organization set out to achieve the goal of placing a wreath on every veteran's grave marker in the United States. By 2014, the group achieved just that. A total of 226,525 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves across America. In 2018, the American Battle Monuments Commission hosted a delegation of participants to remember nearly 10,000 warriors interred at the Normandy American Cemetery in France. In 2022, the project passed 2.7 million wreaths placed through this program and the tradition continues.



Wreaths are shipped across the nation to every town and brought to the cemeteries and memorials by volunteer organizations. People and organizations of all types gathered on December 16, across America, to remember and give back. Thousands of police officers, accountants, teachers, public health services workers, youth groups, and private individuals, all gathered at the same moment, to collectively pay homage to those who gave all.

Elliott was not concerned about these statistics and the background information. Participating with other young adults allows her to find like-minded individuals to share her adventures. During the event, each cadet is asked to pay respects to veterans who are buried at the Show Low Cemetery.

She holds a freshly furnished wreath and gently places it on the memorial of James Robert Boggs, an operating room technician who served in Vietnam. He died in February 2018 with his family at his side, just five days after his 74th birthday. His marker is respectful and simple, just as most veterans wish to be remembered. It does not tell the tales of his childhood on a cotton farm or the intense heat of a far-off jungle.

Elliot does not yet fully understand the complications of both the Vietnam Conflict and the personal price that every veteran has paid for their service. Yet, she stands in respect, offering a sincere salute to a person who offered his service for his country and the safety of others.

Despite the joyous mood of the holiday season, not one laugh or expression of relief about getting time off from school was expressed that day by Elliott or her fellow members. There was none of the normal frivolity that would be expected from young people, especially during the holidays.

The cemetery fell silent that day as cadets honored the memory of veterans they never knew. 🇺🇸



Left: Each veteran's grave was marked with a wreath and a flag.



Top: Col. Robert Pinckard, Arizona Wing commander, and Capt. RoseAnne Marquez, Sky Harbor Squadron commander, presented a Certificate of Commendation for Humanitarian/Lifesaving Action to Senior Airman Tony Henry. (Photo: Tech. Sgt. John Horne)

Sky Harbor Squadron Cadet Receives Arizona Wing Commendation

Article and photo by Tech. Sgt. John Horne, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On November 27, Col. Robert Pinckard, Arizona Wing commander, presented a Certificate of Commendation for Humanitarian/Lifesaving Action to Senior Airman Tony Henry during a ceremony at Sky Harbor Composite Squadron.

On August 28, 2023, during a weekly squadron meeting, Henry actively participated in an exhaustive safety briefing. This session covered essential emergency response tools and guidelines integral to our core principles. Three days later, on August 31, at approximately 4 p.m., Henry was involved in an auto accident at a busy intersection. While making a left-hand turn, his vehicle was struck by a speeding motorcyclist on the passenger side. Despite being a relatively new driver, Henry demonstrated remarkable composure and presence of mind. He immediately turned his attention to the injured motorcycle rider.

Henry's response to the incident followed the lessons he learned days earlier in the safety briefing. His first step was to make a safety assessment. He followed his training and first raised the visor on the rider's helmet to assess the situation.

The second step was an injury assessment. Henry observed the injured man coughing up blood and noted blood coming from his nose.

The third step was to provide leadership and guidance. As other witnesses were stopping to provide aid, Henry advised them not to remove the injured man's helmet, preventing any potential further harm. His actions align with CAP's commitment to ensure safety and minimize emergency risks.

The fourth step was to take swift action. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, Henry promptly called 911 to request emergency assistance, prioritizing the injured man's well-being. His quick thinking and ability to respond effectively reflect CAP's commitment to timeliness and preparedness.

The incident and Henry's response to the emergency serve as a powerful example of how CAP core values and training translate into real-life actions:

1. **Integrity:** Henry's ethical and prudent decision not to remove the injured rider's helmet demonstrated a commitment to ethical behavior.
2. **Excellence:** His swift response and the application of emergency response tools underscore the importance of excellence in all we do.
3. **Volunteer Service:** His willingness to assist the injured rider and direct others in rendering aid reflects the essence of volunteer service.
4. **Respect:** The cadet respected the injured rider's well-being and took the lead in getting medical assistance.

The award nomination noted, "The incident involving Cadet Henry is a testament to the effectiveness of Civil Air Patrol safety briefings and core values. We are proud of his leadership, courage, and composure in responding to a challenging and traumatic situation. He acted swiftly and decisively and provided vital guidance to the adults on the scene while awaiting emergency first responders. His actions exemplify the highest standards of Civil Air Patrol."

Capt. RoseAnne Marquez, Sky Harbor Squadron commander said, "This incident reaffirms that our programs empower our cadets to apply their training to real-life situations and positively impact their communities. It serves as a reminder of our valuable work in preparing our youth for unexpected challenges.

"His fellow cadets and adult members of Sky Harbor Squadron expressed great pride in his receiving a well-deserved recognition for his actions. An ultimate goal for Civil Air Patrol senior members is to provide skills to cadets that will make a positive difference in their lives. When those skills also save the life of a stranger, it exceeds all expectations." 🇺🇸

NOTE: Cadet Henry's mother, Viola Henry, contributed to this article.



Top: (L-R) At the promotion ceremony for Maj. Jim Space, Capt. Andrew Varnes, Space, Maj. McKay Monson, and Capt. Brett Russo. (Photo: 1st Lt. Roy Morales)

Long-time Member of Willie Composite Squadron Promoted to Major

by 1st Lt. Roy Morales, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – The Willie Composite Squadron recently celebrated the promotion of long-time member James Space to the grade of major, marking a significant milestone in his service and commitment Civil Air Patrol.

Space's aviation journey began with a lifelong dream of flight, despite limited opportunities, while growing up in rural Montana and Idaho. His passion for flying sparked during his graduate school years when he started flying lessons and soloed in a Cessna 150. Upon returning to his job with the Forest Service in Idaho, he further pursued his passion by acquiring his own planes, starting with a Piper Cub and later advancing to a Super Cub. In 1964, he achieved his private pilot certificate after successfully passing his check ride, enabling him to fly for both pleasure and business.

Life's demands led Space to pause his aviation pursuits in 1971 due to family commitments and a job transfer to Atlanta. However, his retirement in 1997 brought a revitalization of his passion for flying upon relocating to Arizona. Joining the Phoenix Flyers Flying Club, he dedicated his time and skills to serving the community, volunteering for Flights for Life. His contributions were invaluable, flying missions to transport blood across the state. Space's involvement extended beyond flying, as he also served on Flights for Life's board of directors for several terms.

Recruited into the Willie Composite Squadron in 2011 by fellow Phoenix Flyers and Flights for Life members Lt. Col. Jason Brookham and Maj. Ken Conteen, Space's contributions to the Civil Air Patrol have been extensive. Over the years, he piloted various missions for CAP while concurrently continuing his service to Flights for Life until his retirement as a mission pilot in 2021, boasting an impressive 1,793 accident-free hours at the age of 81.

Space's commitment to aviation safety and operations within the Willie Composite Squadron is evident through his service as the squadron's safety officer from 2013 to 2019 and assistant operations officer from 2015 to the present. Moreover, his commitment extended to a higher level within the wing, serving as the assistant operations and emergency services officer from 2022 onward, overseeing training missions for the wing.

“Space's promotion to major within the Civil Air Patrol exemplifies his unwavering commitment, expertise, and invaluable contributions to the organization, setting a remarkable example for fellow members and aspiring aviators,” said Capt. Brett Russo, Willie Composite Squadron commander. 🇺🇸

The Safety Corner

Slips, Trips and Falls

Often cited on OSHA's top ten lists of workplace injury incidents, a Slip, Trip or Fall accident is, unfortunately, a common workplace, home, or activity occurrence – and it is also a common mishap reported in Civil Air Patrol activities. This article looks at some of the things that you can do to help keep everyone on their feet and upright.

A slip, a trip, or a fall?

- A slip occurs when there is too little traction between a person's shoe and the surface that they're walking on.
- A trip occurs when a person's foot unexpectedly encounters an object that is in their path and the person fails to avoid it.
- A fall occurs when a person's balance is off. Obviously, a slip or trip can cause a sudden loss of balance, but so can other behaviors such as leaning too far to one side when on a ladder.

Safety starts with good housekeeping

Keeping the workplace, meeting place, or your home clean and well organized should be a part of every person's daily routine:

- Adopt a "clean as you go" approach. Instead of waiting until the end of the day to pick up after yourself, put away tools, personal items, and whatever as you are finished with them; sweep and clean up as needed; and place items and trash in the appropriate containers or storage places instead of letting them accumulate around you and others.
- When you notice a slip or trip hazard in your area, take care of it before you or anyone else gets hurt: a file or cabinet drawer left open is just an accident waiting to happen – keep drawers and cabinet doors closed when not in use.
- Clean up spills immediately and, while the floor is drying, use a "Caution – Wet Floor" sign or barricade to warn other persons that a slip hazard exists.
- Keep hallways, floors, and stairways free from clutter. Do not store items on stairways, where one can easily trip over them.
- Keep power cords and hoses out of walkways – if a cord must cross a walkway temporarily, use an approved cord cover to make it less of a tripping hazard.

Two types of falls and what to do to prevent them

1. Same-level falls occur when a person falls onto the surface that they've been walking on.
 2. Elevated falls occur when a person falls to a lower level.
- When walking, move at a slower pace – give yourself time to get to your destination without running.
 - Eyes front: In a busy workplace or activity it is easy to get distracted, but staying focused will make it easier for you to spot any slip or trip hazards in your pathway.
 - Avoid using cellphones or other devices to talk, or to use chat messages, or reading emails or text messaging – Concentrate on walking!
 - Situations are constantly changing – do not assume that the walkway you used a few minutes ago is still free and clear. A quick look will keep your day safe.
 - Don't carry any object that is too large to block your vision – instead, find a safer way of moving the object, or seek help.

- When going up or down stairways, always use the handrail and take the steps one at a time. Two steps at a time may be faster but it is unsafe.
- Avoid walking through areas that are poorly lit. However, if you must enter an area with insufficient lighting, use a flashlight or other supplemental lighting to see better, and move about with extra caution.
- Be a team player: report unsafe conditions such as damaged or missing handrails and lighting to your supervisor.
- Whenever possible, avoid stepping onto icy sidewalks, newly mopped floors, or other slippery surfaces.
- If you must walk on a slippery surface, make sure to slow down. Also, shorten your stride to keep your center of gravity under you for better balance. For increased stability, point your feet slightly outward as you walk. When you set your foot down, instead of touching the ground with your heel first, be sure to place your entire foot flat on the ground; doing so will make it less likely that your foot might slide out from under you.
- If possible, avoid carrying anything when walking across a slippery surface. Also, keep your hands out of your pockets – when your hands and arms are free to move, they can help maintain your balance as you walk.

Author's Note

It has been my experience as a Safety Officer/Director of Safety in CAP for over 20 years that many of the Slips, Trips and Falls in CAP that I have reviewed happened for some of these reasons:

- Worn carpeting with holes.
- Bunched up carpeting not secured.
- Tripping over power cords or hoses.
- Catching foot on edge of chair legs or tables.
- Running on wet flooring/surfaces.
- Running during PT or sports activity on uneven ground.
- Running through ditches from one bank to another.
- Running on surface with loose gravel / dirt / materials.
- Tripping on aircraft tie-downs.
- Foot slipping while entering or exiting CAP van when not using the three-point method (both hands on each side of frame sides and one foot on sill).
- Tripped by another person while horsing.
- Many others too numerous to list.

Further reading and research

<https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/slips-trips-falls>

<https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/slips-trips-falls>

<https://nfsi.org/nfsi-research/quick-facts/> 

Lt. Col. Corey Stohlquist

SWR Assistant Director of Safety

On Language

Can a Language be Logical?

AUSTIN, Texas – It is a truism that logic is, well, logical. In other words, it makes sense. But when it comes to language, since most people pay little attention to logic, usage triumphs over logic, because a logical distortion tends to become permanent when all users of the language agree upon the (clear or odd) meaning, distorting words to everyone’s meaningful satisfaction.

Let’s take a simple sentence: “He ought to watch his mouth.” And now its plural: either “They ought to watch their mouths,” or “They ought to watch their mouth.”

Which one is grammatically correct? Both are. However, which is logically correct? Only the second one, because a person can have only one mouth.

This reasoning also works with heart, life, soul, nose, mouth, liver, head... anything that a normal person can have only one each.

Now here come the lexicographers, who bow to usage and not logic. Since most people say, “for most of their lives,” and only the few risk saying “for most of their life,” usage mandates that the wrong logic must prevail, because that is how people speak.

But how does it start? Simple. Most normal people have two lungs, two arms, two hands, two legs, two feet, and so on. Therefore, it is logical to say, “The man’s feet,” or, “The men’s feet.” Each one discriminates who has the physical feature, and whether it involves one or two.

Now, to the eternal rescue come sayings such as, “Two heads are better than one.” Everyone will agree that two heads require two people, because there is no certified record of a person having two heads. That is, if one accepts to ignore the extremely rare case of conjoined twins who share one heart but have two heads. Has this ever happened? It has. Is it common? Silly question.

Can you convince someone who says, “The best years of their lives” to switch to “The best years of their life?” Try it.

How does this happen in the first place? It is simple. Speech is the manifestation of one’s thinking issued forth for the purpose of informing one or more people of that person’s thought. But thoughts are the product of cognitive and individual existence which, by definition, ultimately reflect the individual’s essence, personality, and even self-worth – untouchable and jealously guarded manifestations of one’s personality.

Professional writers are aware that editing one’s own prose is the hardest part of good writing, therefore, they practice the skill of write-and-forget, which requires one to leave the writing as is and, later, return to one’s precious prose and read it critically, as if some stranger had written it, if that is possible. This subterfuge of “catching oneself in error” requires the generosity of spirit to forget that one authored the words and so read them as if they had been some unknown person’s work – in that order and sense. Believe me, it is hard to do and takes years of practice.

To make it harder, English has its own rules and logic when it comes to prepositions. Spanish, for one, makes it a lot easier because it has only nineteen prepositions, whereas English has hundreds. How they are used in writing clearly separates the native-born from those not born to it.

Take for instance, *in* and *on*. In Spanish, there is only one: *en*. What it refers to depends entirely on the reader’s acceptance that someone is *in* or *on* something. And that is the problem.

We say *in a boat* but *on a ship*. Why? At the very beginning, one stood on a dock and got down into (in) a boat, but one had to climb up onto (on) a ship. That was simple.

Now, what happens with a submarine? One does not climb down into a submarine, but must walk up to it, find the right entry point, and *then* go down into the submarine. To solve this dilemma, let’s look at the crew. A submarine has a captain and a “chief of the boat,” while the ship has a captain and a “Master Chief Petty Officer.” And there you have it, spelled out. You get *in* a submarine, and *on* a ship. Even if the submarine is bigger than a ship, because a submarine is a boat. 🇺🇸

Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate
SWR Editor-in-Chief

How the Southwest Region Public Affairs Awards Program Works

Starting with the January, 2013 issue of The Fly-By, Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank A. Buehe directed that the region will recognize contributions to The Fly-By (a directive approve by all succeeding commanders) 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 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;
 - Make sure everyone is in the correct uniform and you identify all.
 - **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. 📖