



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the
Southwest Region
April 2024



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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 Spring

Happy Spring, good members of Southwest Region. It was good to see so many people at Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. Everyone looked so spiffy in their uniform or corporate attire. The cadets are always impressive and, personally, seeing them gives me hope for the future.

We are at the start of conference and encampment season, when it is always so enjoyable to get together. In the

next 30 days, two Wings will change Commanders. If you see Col. Oliver (Oklahoma Wing) or Col. Schroder (Texas Wing) please give them a hearty well done for their stint as Wing Commander.

Oklahoma and Louisiana Wings have scheduled their conference in April, followed in the first week in May by the Texas Wing Conference.

Then, in August, the peerless Southwest Region and Texas Wing will host Civil Air Patrol's National Conference in San Antonio. I hope to see you there (because you will certainly find me there). 🇺🇸

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/safety-beacon)
- [Safety Beacon | Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety-beacon)
- **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: Cadet 2nd Lt. Raechel Ferguson, Cadet 2nd Lt. Ellen Langille, and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Zane Saliba represented Arizona Wing during meetings on Capitol Hill. *(Photo: Capt. Kara Saliba)*

Cadets Play Major Role in Arizona Wing Team Visits to Capitol Hill

by Maj. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing

WASHINGTON – On February 28 and 29, 2024, eight Arizona Wing members visited Capitol Hill to meet with legislators as part of the Civil Air Patrol National Legislative Day initiative. Led by Arizona Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Mark Schadt and Lt. Col. Gordon Helm, the wing's government relations advisor, the team visited the offices of nine members of Congress and two U.S. senators.



Left: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Zane Saliba with U.S. Senator Mark Kelly during a visit by the Arizona Wing's team on National Legislative Day. (Photo: Capt. Kara Saliba)

Five team members were first timers for this annual event, during which CAP members meet with their representatives to inform them about what CAP does and to ask for their support for the annual budget allocation that comes to the corporation through the U.S. Air Force budget. A highlight for each meeting was the opportunity for the cadet members of the team to talk about why they joined CAP, their favorite experiences, and their plans for the future.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Raechel Ferguson is a member of Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix. "The chance to join the Arizona Wing delegation for National Legislative Days allowed me to contribute to the organization that played a pivotal role in shaping my journey," Ferguson said. "As a current college junior, I reflect on the support I received from the Civil Air Patrol Arizona Wing and Squadron 302. They provided opportunities, including

participation in CyberPatriot, sparking my passion for cyber and influencing my career decisions."

During visits with congressional offices, Ferguson described how participating in CyberPatriot competitions led her to pursuing a degree in cyber intelligence and security as a student at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. Though she no longer competes as a member of a CyberPatriot team, Ferguson is helping to coach Deer Valley Composite Squadron's team.

As she prepares to transition from cadet to adult member, Ferguson said, "These years in CAP not only allowed me to experience its diverse offerings but also fueled my passion for my future."

Ferguson talked with members of Congress and their staff about CAP's transformative effect on young people and highlighted the unique transition from cadet to senior member, an aspect not often discussed by fellow cadets.

"As I approach the end of my cadet experience, I am glad to have had one last opportunity to convey the incredible impact of CAP and the Arizona Wing," Ferguson said.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Ellen Langille belongs to the Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron in Tucson and is a student at the University of Arizona. She is interested in environmental issues and

sustainability. Like Ferguson, she is approaching the end of her time as a CAP cadet and plans to transition to adult membership.

In her application to be part of the Arizona Wing delegation, Langille wrote, "My interest for this event derives from a passion for both advocacy and Civil Air Patrol missions. Arizona Wing has been my home the entire four-plus year duration of my cadet life coming from Yuma 508 and transitioning to Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron.

"Advocacy has always been something I'm interested in with the community that I was raised around. I believe that Arizona Wing has a lot of opportunities, and it would be an honor to present such ideas and concepts to the wide array of legislators we will have the pleasure of meeting," Langille said.

She also noted her high comfort level with public speaking, honed through participating in debate club and serving in leadership roles in various school clubs and CAP.

"Debate club, alongside my own research, has helped me gain a strong understanding of how our democracy works. I know I will effectively get across Civil Air Patrol's mission and vision, what we stand for, and positively reflect what we are capable of with the support of our government," Langille said.

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Zane Saliba is also a member of Deer Valley Composite Squadron. Still in high school, Saliba is evaluating a variety of career options, with interests as diverse as engineering and law.

He joined CAP in February 2020, so his initial participation was limited by the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Saliba was one of four cadets chosen to speak to CAP's Board of Governors when it met in Phoenix in April 2022. He told the Governors that he was drawn to CAP by his older sister, formerly his squadron's cadet commander.

"In a way, I'm glad that I joined the program at this time," Saliba told the Governors, "because I got a true test of endurance in this program and chose to stay with it."

Cadet Saliba's mother, Capt. Kara Saliba, was also part of the Arizona Wing National Legislative Day delegation. She currently serves as the Mission Support Group commander in Arizona Wing.

Having had the experience of three children in the cadet program, Capt. Saliba could tell the story of something that is common in CAP – family participation. Many parents choose to get involved after their children become cadets, finding their place to serve in CAP instead of just chauffeuring their young family members to and from squadron meetings.

"Capt. Saliba provided a parental perspective not often heard," Helm said. "One key to CAP's success in Congress is to bring the human element into our conversations with lawmakers and their staff personnel. It's important for them to understand not only our professionalism, but also the humanity we bring to our service to others." 🇺🇸

Left: Jennifer Arnold, Legislative Counsel for Representative Greg Stanton, and Lt. Col. Gordon Helm listen as Cadet 2nd Lt. Ellen Langille describes her experiences as a CAP cadet. (Photo: Maj. Margot Myers)





Top: (L-R, from the front) – Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Allison Blackburn, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Olivia Johnson, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Sarah Strickland, Cadet Staff Sgt. Grady Salazar, Cadet 1st Lt. Hunter Hayes, Cadet Airman 1st Class Ethan Foster, Cadet Master Sgt. Trace Slade, Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Benjamin Joseph, Cadet Airman 1st Class Ella Zechenelly, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Roy Gaines, Cadet Sr. Airman Daisy Harper, Cadet Master Sgt. Dwayne Hidalgo. (Photos: 1st Lt. Anne Calvert, except as otherwise noted.)

Left: 1st Lt. Lucas Johnson demonstrates how to locate an emergency radio signal with an Emergency Signal Locator.



Louisiana Wing Holds Spring Training Academy in Lake Charles

by 1st. Lt. Anne Calvert

LAKE CHARLES, La. – During March 16-17, 2024, the Civil Air Patrol Louisiana Wing conducted its Spring Training Academy at the SOWELA Technical Community College in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Approximately two hundred cadets and adult members traveled from across the state to attend classes focused on subjects related to the Civil Air Patrol's three primary missions: Emergency Services, Aerospace Education, and Cadet Programs.



Above: Cadets learn basic drill maneuvers in Airman Leadership School.

Emergency Services

Over the weekend, CAP cadets and adult members took classes on how to correctly perform the duties of ground team members, pilots, aircrew, radio operators, and small unmanned aerial systems (sUAs) operators. Several emergency services classes were offered at the Louisiana Wing Spring Academy. Aircrew members had a flight clinic for mission pilots and a class for mission scanners (the back seat aircrew members responsible for air searches and aerial photography). Ground team classes learned the basics of how to find a missing aircraft or person in remote areas and to transport them to a place where local first responders can render needed assistance. In one class, pilots learned to use sUAS (drones) to assist in aerial searches which have been credited with saving many lives. Cadets and adult members get a taste of real-world emergency operations and will be prepared to assist when they are needed to help in any future real-life disaster.

Once Civil Air Patrol members get trained and certified, they may participate in Louisiana Wing search and rescue exercises which are conducted each year in preparation for hurricanes or other adverse events that might strike the area. After they have successfully participated in at least two exercises, they are considered qualified to take part in real-life emergency missions.

Right: (L-R) Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Nathan McDermott and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Isaac Olivette show the circuitry project that was completed in the classroom. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jerry Wall)

Below: Lt. Col. Rick Lauterbach teaches cadets ground team skills needed to assist in a search and rescue mission.

Aerospace Education

The weekend classes included two Aerospace Education (AE) classes, one for cadets and the other one for adult members. The Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Education Program prepares our youth to be ready for the increasing demands of future technologies. Programs engage youth in an applicable, inquiry-based learning framework that supplements traditional subjects and enhances traditional curricula. These academic standards-based products and programs are provided to educators at no cost, which greatly helps to offset the usual inadequacy of local, state, and federal funding for educational programs.

CAP's adult members receive training to teach the various curricula both in local CAP squadrons, local classrooms, youth organizations, and museums. Using CAP subject matter experts as mentors to youth,



new CAP educational products introduce basic robotics, flight simulation, cyber security, satellite tracking, and many other activities that will help inspire youth toward aerospace careers, thus maintaining national security for the future.

CAP cadets become proficient in teaching the CAP Aerospace curriculum to other cadets and students. These cadets will return to their local squadron prepared to help teach aerospace and technology classes to the other cadets in their local squadron.

Cadet Programs

Better trained and qualified CAP cadets arriving at Spring Academy teach classes to other, inexperienced new cadets, who were taught the basic skills required by the cadet program, such as drill, leadership, chain of command, and everything they need to master for their next promotion in the Airman Leadership School. The Cadet Non-commissioned Officer Education course trains the more seasoned cadets to run a flight and teach the Cadet Airmen under them how to work together to achieve their missions. Cadet Officer courses teach professionalism and more advanced leadership skills.





Left: (L-R) - Cadet Airman 1st Class Ethan Braithwaite and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kadie Sheffield stand at ease during drill practice.

Below: (L-R) Cadet Airman 1st Class Joseph Fontenot, Cadet 2nd Lt. Charity Pyles, Cadet Sr, Airman Logan Bologna, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Amos Pyles take on the Sphero BOLT activity which introduces cyber learning in a fun and interactive way.

Color Guard classes teach young cadets about flag etiquette, how to conduct a flag ceremony, how to honor our flag and our nation's veterans by posting the colors, retiring the colors, and performing the POW/MIA table ceremony.

The CAP Cadet Program is a year-round program for young members ages 12-17 who can learn to fly, lead, hike, camp, get in shape, and push themselves to do great things. Cadets usually meet with their local squadron 2 hours per week and one Saturday per month. The Louisiana Wing provides its cadets with opportunities to attend a summer encampment plus a career academy such as this one.

While there are many youth-oriented programs in America today, CAP's cadet program is unique in that it uses aviation as a cornerstone. Thousands of young persons aged 12 to 21 are introduced to

aviation through CAP's cadet program. This allows them to progress at their own pace through the 16 cadet achievements including aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness, and moral leadership. Cadets compete for academic scholarships to further their studies in fields such as engineering, science, aircraft mechanics, aerospace medicine, meteorology, and many others. Those cadets who earn cadet officer status may enter the Air Force as an E3 (airman first class) rather than an E1 (airman basic).

"Louisiana Wing Academies bring together all the missions of the Civil Air Patrol," said Louisiana Wing Emergency Services Training Officer Col. Mike DuBois, "We get a lot of mileage from this important training. By the end of the academy, we have trained emergency services volunteers, aerospace education teachers, and cadets moving up to new levels of responsibility and leadership. Training makes our organization a tremendous asset to our state and local communities."

After completing the Spring Academy courses, Louisiana Wing members have now returned to their local squadrons across the state better prepared to work in and for their communities. 🇺🇸





Top: Arizona Wing Director of Safety Lt. Col. Corey Stohlquist (right) confers with Capt. Philip Jossi who was a mission safety officer trainee during the operational exercise. (Photo by Lt. Col. Gilbert Day)

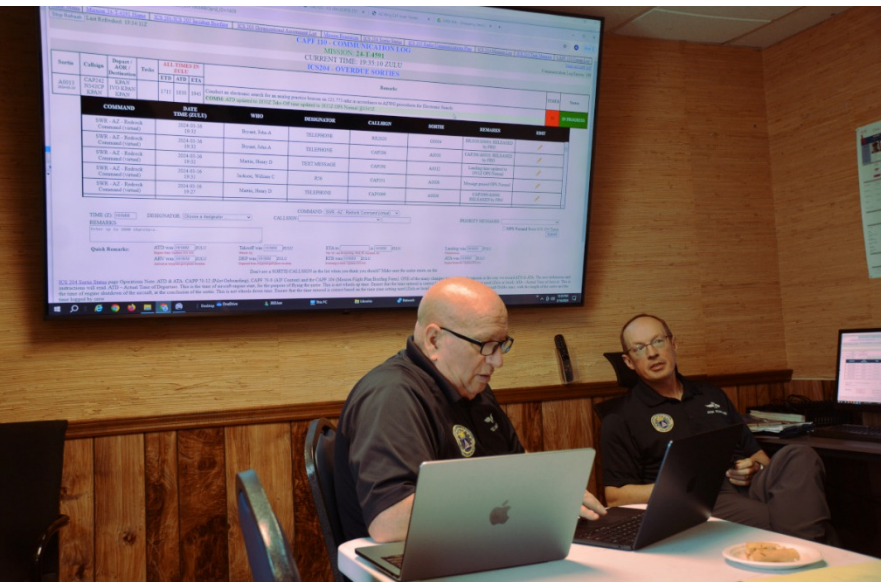
Below: (L-R) Arizona Wing director of Emergency Services Capt. Mike Ricker served as liaison officer and Lt. Col. Josh McIntyre as incident commander trainee for the OpEx. (Photo by Lt. Col. Jerad Hoff)

Arizona and New Mexico Wings Conduct Joint Operational Exercise

by Maj. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – On March 16, 2024, volunteers from Civil Air Patrol’s Arizona and New Mexico Wings collaborated to carry out an operational exercise. The exercise trained aircrews, ground team members, and the incident management team in a realistic environment to rehearse the mission skills needed during a disaster.

The in-person incident command post was located at Deer Valley Composite Squadron in north Phoenix. The incident management team included trainees in nearly every duty position guided by qualified mentors overseeing their work. This is a standard practice as members pursue qualifications to serve in a variety of jobs such as incident commander, mission safety officer, and air operations branch director. Serving during an operational exercise prepares members to perform these jobs during an actual mission.



Right: (L-R) Capt. James McConnell and Maj. Val Bigger from New Mexico Wing flew a FLIR-camera-equipped plane to the mission base in Phoenix to compare notes with Lt. Col. James Quinn and Maj. Chris Dusard about image quality from the FLIR camera. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jerad Hoff)

Below: This mission went beyond the usual glass cockpit with two avionics screens, the pilot's tablet running ForeFlight, and the mission observer's laptop feeding video to the incident command post using the Domestic Operations Awareness and Assessment Response Tool (DAART). (Photo by 1st Lt. Roger Shaw)



“This was a great opportunity to bring people in for face-to-face training,” said Lt. Col. Joshua McIntyre, who managed the exercise as an incident commander trainee. McIntyre, a William Rogers Memorial Senior Squadron member in Tucson, traveled to Phoenix to lead the operational exercise.

“After several years of working with virtual incident management teams during the COVID pandemic, we’ve finally returned to an in-person incident command post,” McIntyre said. “But we are still including some people participating virtually, which means that we must be very deliberate about coordinating in-person and off-site staff members.”

Preparation for this Arizona wingwide event took place over several weeks, and more than 60 volunteers supported the mission including pilots, ground team members, radio operators, and safety specialists. Flights originated at the Deer Valley, Chandler, Tucson, and Payson airports in Arizona, and from the Las Cruces, New Mexico, airport.

Part of the training exercise was a search for a simulated emergency locator transmitter, similar to what would be activated in an actual plane crash. Both aircraft and a ground team were involved in this search in southern Arizona.

A virtual auxiliary command post was set up to coordinate the involvement of two New Mexico Wing aircrews. One New Mexico Wing crew arrived at the mission base in a plane equipped with a forward-looking infrared (FLIR) camera. Their objective was to compare the imagery products they have been able to capture with the FLIR camera with those taken by Arizona Wing operators of a similarly equipped airplane.

“The more often we do inter-wing and inter-region exercises, it will help level the playing field for everybody who participates,” said Lt. Col. Greg Griffith, New Mexico Wing’s director of operations, who served as the incident commander for his wing’s participation in the exercise. 🇺🇸





Top: CAP members and members of the US Air Force in front of the MC-130J Commando II. (Photos: Capt Mark Chappell)

New Mexico Wing Cadets Visit USAF 415th Aircraft Maintenance Unit

by Capt. Mark Chappell, New Mexico Wing

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE – On February 17, 2024, Civil Air Patrol cadets from six New Mexico Wing squadrons embarked on an educational journey with the 415th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, guardians of the MC-130J Commando II aircraft. This tour offered cadets an up-close look at maintaining, operating, and managing an aircraft critical to combat search and rescue and special operations missions.

The day was filled with activities, including a tour of the MC-130J, allowing cadets to see the complexities of aircraft maintenance firsthand. USAF Staff Sgt. Jonathan Smith with the 415th discussed the importance of perseverance in achieving the unit's goals. "Don't let anyone tell you what you can't do and keep pushing towards your goals," he said.

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Cadets experienced the thrill of being inside the aircraft as the engines roared to life. They were also given the rare chance to enter the cockpit, where they learned about the aircraft's operation. Furthermore, cadets had the opportunity to use advanced sensor equipment, such as a Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera, demonstrating the aircraft's versatility in search and rescue missions.

Cadet Staff Sgt. Keith Murphy, representing Eagle Composite Squadron, expressed his fascination with the multi-functional nature of the MC-130J. "One of my favorite things was seeing that the plane wasn't just for cargo, but used for multiple other purposes," he said, highlighting the aircraft's role beyond transportation.

New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Andrew Selph praised the initiative for its educational value and impact on the cadets. "This experience not only gives our cadets a deeper understanding of aerospace technology but also inspires them to consider careers in aviation and the military. It shows where dedication and hard work can lead," Colonel Selph said.

This collaboration between Civil Air Patrol and the 415th Aircraft Maintenance Unit highlights the importance of providing real-world experiences to inspire future aerospace leaders. 🇺🇸

Below: A U.S. Air Force maintenance specialist (right) shows specialized aircrew equipment to Civil Air Patrol cadets.



Right: Maj. Val Bigger and Capt. James McConnell from New Mexico Wing participated in the joint Arizona/New Mexico Wing operational exercise, capturing video on the flight from Las Cruces, New Mexico, to Phoenix and comparing notes on use of the forward-looking infrared camera. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jerad Hoff)

When Duty Calls, There Are No Borders

by Maj. John Bryant, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – In recent months, Arizona Wing has crossed a few lines. Although this is usually frowned upon, this time it is good for Civil Air Patrol. The crossed lines were state lines, and Arizona Wing is developing better relationships with neighboring wings to accomplish CAP's mission through interwing collaboration.

On February 6, 2024, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center reported a missing Marine Corps CH-53 Super Stallion heavy lift helicopter during a storm in southern California. Civil Air Patrol was assigned to locate the helicopter and quickly went to work following the available data and clues. Both the National Radar Analysis Team and the National Cell Phone Forensics team were assigned to support the search mission in addition to California Wing.

Resources were arranged and teams were assembled to aid in the search. Unfortunately, many of California Wing's airplanes could not fly to the east because the storm – which may have contributed to the helicopter going missing – was between them and the search area. California Wing made a call to Arizona Wing, which arranged flights and crews to assist in the search. Those crews were just about to cross the border into California at daybreak the following day when word came that the helicopter had been found and the five Marines on board had not survived the crash.

Although unfortunately the mission did not end in a rescue, it showed that neighboring wings are willing and able to share resources to meet mission objectives.

This idea intrigued the leadership in Arizona Wing, and a plan was developed to further explore interoperability between wings during a training exercise. As Arizona planned for a Wing operational exercise on March 16, 2024, the thought was to invite New Mexico Wing to serve as a "reserve" resource for the mission with two aircrews.

New Mexico Wing activated an incident management team to manage its resources, and liaison officers established continuous communications between the two teams. Despite a sudden winter storm in northern Arizona and New Mexico, which canceled all northern activities, New Mexico Wing sent a plane from Las Cruces to the command post at Deer Valley Composite Squadron in north Phoenix.

The plane, which was equipped with a forward-looking infrared camera, was tasked with capturing some video footage taken en route from its home base. The objective was to compare the quality of the video taken by the New Mexico Wing airplane with footage from a similarly equipped Arizona Wing airplane.





Above: A New Mexico Wing airplane equipped with a forward-looking infrared camera is parked on the ramp at Deer Valley Composite Squadron in Phoenix during an operational exercise involving both the Arizona and New Mexico Wings.

“This was a great initial test, as we both use similar IMT planning tools such as CACTUS,” said Maj. Aaron Feller, Arizona Wing director of operations. “The aircrew from Las Cruces, New Mexico, was top-notch, and we look forward to future exercises to integrate our operations.”

A third example of interwing collaboration occurred on March 24, 2024, when the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center tasked Arizona Wing with an Emergency Locator Transmitter mission. The signal was coming from somewhere near Bullhead City in the northwest part of the state, right along the Arizona/Nevada border.

The wing immediately identified two aircrews to start the search, but the weather was a concern. The conditions would have required the aircrews to fly at night under instrument flight rules and there was icing above 6,000 feet, which made safety a factor. The Arizona Wing commander, Col. Linda Yaeger, reached out to her counterpart in Nevada Wing, Col. Brian Howard, and asked if Nevada Wing had an available Urban Direction Finding team that could support the mission. This incident ended quickly with a “find” at the local airport, and no extra teams needed to be deployed, but it showed that Nevada Wing is ready for the call.

These events have been a “perfect storm” of examples to demonstrate how crossing the line may benefit the capabilities of Civil Air Patrol and expand Arizona Wing resources to meet any mission requirement.

Yaeger summed up these events by saying, “Effective and quick response is vital for Civil Air Patrol emergency services teams to meet the needs of communities across Arizona. CAP members train to common high standards, but we realize vital resources are not always available when and where needed. Our volunteers practice rapid support of CAP units across state lines to save time and lives during emergencies.” 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Maj. Frank Gibson, 1st Lt. Justin Krieger, Capt. John Huls, and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jake Holmes participated in the change of command ceremony for Scottsdale Composite Squadron. (Photo: Lt. Col. Scott Curtis, Arizona Wing)

Arizona Wing's Krieger, New Scottsdale Composite Squadron Commander

by Lt. Col. Scott Curtis, Arizona Wing

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – On March 11, 2024, Scottsdale Composite Squadron held a change of command ceremony during its regular squadron meeting at the Scottsdale Airport. Capt. John Huls relinquished command to 1st Lt. Justin Krieger in a ceremony officiated by Arizona Wing East Group Commander Maj. Frank Gibson. Attendees included Arizona Wing Commander Col. Linda Yaeger, as well as cadets and adult members of the squadron, along with other guests and prospective cadets.

The guidon bearer was Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jake Holmes, the squadron's cadet first sergeant, and Cadet 1st Lt. Scott Ransdell served as the master of ceremonies.

Krieger joined CAP in October 2019 at Scottsdale Composite Squadron. He served in the U.S. Air Force and graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

He holds mission scanner, observer, and pilot qualifications in emergency services. Krieger was the squadron's deputy commander until assuming command in March. He also serves as the squadron's administrative, communications, and recruiting officer.

Huls and Krieger both addressed the squadron members. After the change of command, Yaeger spoke to the attendees about the part which the squadron plays in Arizona Wing's success. She also discussed some of the wing's accomplishments and what lies ahead.

Huls will remain a member of the squadron while he assumes his new position as the Arizona Wing director of communications. 🇺🇸



Top: (L-R) Cadet Airman 1st Class Nevan O. Pierce and Cadet Airman Paul Labit after a flight lesson. (Photos: Maj. Dan Oppenheim)

Louisiana Wing Cadets Take to the Skies

by Maj. Dan Oppenheim, Louisiana Wing

ABITA SPRINGS, La. – Cadets from the St. Tammany Composite Squadron took off from the St. Tammany Regional Airport in Abita Springs, Louisiana and discovered the thrill of flying. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets are guaranteed five front-seat orientation flights (O-rides) and in addition may have as many back-seat rides as are available, which do not count toward the front-seat operational ride allowance. The mechanics of the event require a set routine, a reliable and fully functional aircraft, and fair skies with gentle or calm winds. When these come together, they provide the perfect orientation flight event, whether morning or afternoon.

As a rule, cadets pay close attention to the pre-flight aircraft checks and usually ask many questions about the upcoming event, which is always an eagerly awaited experience. Most cadets have never flown before, and the few who have had the experience in a commercial flight as passengers have been cut off from the pilots and the real action.

Ideally, first-time orientation flight cadets have learned the theory of flight in a classroom environment, realize what makes the aircraft fly, and are not apprehensive about leaving the ground in a relatively small and light aircraft that sits four, one of them being the experienced and properly qualified pilot.



Above: Cadet Airman 1st Class Nevan O. Pierce at the controls.

For the pilot, the experience is always rewarding, as the cadets can be relied upon to be highly motivated and elated. After demonstrating how the hand and foot controls maneuver the aircraft in flight, the cadets are allowed to control the flight in a tightly supervised way, responding to the pilot's verbal directives as they execute simple flight maneuvers. The experience of watching the young faces respond to the joy and confidence of flight is always rewarding.

On February 15, 2024, disciplined and able cadets, a reliable and fully functional aircraft, and fair skies with calm winds came together to provide the perfect orientation flight afternoon. Cadets paid close attention to the pre-flight aircraft checks and asked many questions about the upcoming event, as most cadets have never flown before, and a few have had the experience in a commercial flight, which is not the same.

Once aloft, Cadet 1st Lt. Alexander Martin was allowed to take control of CAP1627 for his fifth and final O-ride. As it began its daily journey to the horizon, the setting sun made the perfect companion to accompany Martin on his last official CAP orientation flight. He steadily maintained



Above: Cadet Airman Paul Labit at the controls.

the aircraft's altitude as he monitored his ground speed as well as indicated airspeed, and learned the effects that the wind has on aircraft operations. Pattern work brought the realization that the pilot must fly the airplane all the way to the ground, and there is no time to relax. Lastly, Martin polished his communication skills by quickly and professionally relaying the plane's position to other aircraft in the vicinity. It was obvious that flying was in his blood and would be in his future.

"Great job and congratulations Cadet 1st Lt. Martin," said Maj. Oppenheim.

On March 21, 2024, a still and calm afternoon, as the clouds overhead moved across in sunlight and started their shifting from white to scarlet, Airman Paul Labit was the first to impress with his deft handling of CAP1627, smoothly maneuvering the aircraft around the skies while keeping a steady watch on the ever-changing horizon. After his flight concluded, the aircraft was landed and Cadet Airman 1st Class Nevan O. Pierce took the front-seat. An uneventful take-off later and reaching level operational altitude, Pierce was allowed to take control and demonstrate his aerial skills by performing turns using only rudder and trim to hold a constant altitude.

Aspiring pilots learned that, left undisturbed, the airplane will fly quite well on its own, needing only the thrust from its 180 hp internal combustion engine to remain aloft. After almost two hours of flight time, it was time to refuel and clean the squadron's "winged warrior," a job made much easier by "many hands which made light work of it all."

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On March 27, 2024, with a North wind of 10 knots blowing down the centerline, CAP1627 eased off Runway 36 at the Greater St. Tammany Regional Airport slightly faster than normal and began its journey to the clear skies above the ground, just another patch on planet Earth. On board was Cadet Airman Allie Portie who was preparing to pilot the squadron's plane on her very first orientation flight.

A brisk climb rate brought the aircraft steadily to an altitude of 1,000 feet, where she was allowed to take over the controls and maneuvered the aircraft above the tree-lined hamlet that squadron members call home. Attitude flying, shallow banks, and a bit of sightseeing were all on tap as the Cessna 172 proved that Bernoulli's principles of flight were sound and true. As the sun slowly made its journey westward, the aircrew, with regrets, pointed the nose of their aircraft towards home. Still, the simple joy of flight brought a smile to pilot and cadet both, knowing that they enjoyed something that many dream of, but few get to experience outside of CAP.

"So, how was your flight experience?" asked Maj. Oppenheim. "A great afternoon of flying, fellowship, and enjoyable time!" replied Cadet Portie. 🇺🇸

Below: Cadet Airman Allie Portie at the controls.





Top: Cadet Senior Airman Harper Perault and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Phillips assist children in making paper airplanes.

Below: A visiting child launches the soda straw rocket he built during Family Fun Day. (Photos: Tech. Sgt. John Horne, Arizona Wing)

Arizona Wing's Sky Harbor Squadron Assists Commemorative Airforce Museum with Family Fun Day

by Tech. Sgt. John Horne, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On March 9, 2024, during the Family Fun Day at the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa, Arizona, the air was filled with children's cheers and giggles as they learned about the aerodynamics of their flying creations. To teach them the principles of flight, Civil Air Patrol cadets from Sky Harbor Composite Squadron helped the children make paper airplanes, paper helicopters, and soda straw rockets.





Above: Cadet Airman 1st Class Jayson Brown works with a young visitor to make a paper airplane.

The Sky Harbor Squadron cadets who participated in the event were Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Phillips, Cadet Senior Airman Harper Perault, Cadet Airman 1st Class Jayson Brown, and Cadet Airman 1st Class Asher Puckett. First Lt. Mitra Pratt and Tech. Sgt John Horne were the adult members supporting the activity.

The Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum, also known as Airbase Arizona Aircraft Museum, was established in 1978 at Falcon Field in Mesa, Arizona. It is the 10th unit of the Commemorative Air Force and the home of one of the world's largest Commemorative Air Force units.

The Commemorative Air Force, which bills itself as the world's largest flying museum, has six aircraft in CAP livery that have been restored to flying condition. One of them is the Aeronca L-16 at Airbase Arizona.

The museum includes an exhibit featuring Civil Air Patrol that was installed in April 2022. On display are vintage CAP uniforms, a flightline bicycle, and a model of the type of bomb some CAP members strapped to their planes during World War II coastal patrols. CAP 80th-anniversary history posters serve as backdrops on some of the pedestals, bringing visitors from the organization's founding to today. A flat-screen monitor plays a selection of CAP videos.

Lt. Col. Ron Marks, Arizona Wing's director of aerospace education, is also a docent at the museum. He arranged for Arizona Wing squadrons to take turns hosting the Family Fun Day events at the museum once each quarter. 🇺🇸



Top: U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. (All photos: 1st Lt. Anne Calvert, unless otherwise shown)

Louisiana Wing Cadet Goes to Washington D.C.

by 1st Lt. Anne Calvert, Louisiana Wing

WASHINGTON (February 23 – March 2) –Cadet Captain Aimee Calvert traveled from Louisiana to Washington D.C. to participate in the highly competitive Civic Leadership Academy (CLA) during February 23 through March 2, 2024, a week-long National Cadet Special Activity where cadets from across the Nation gather to learn about the U.S. Government. This cadet activity teaches cadets about their civic duties, government systems, and some American history.

Calvert is the first Louisiana cadet ever to be selected for CLA.



Above: (L-R) Cadet Capt. Aimee Calvert, U.S. Congresswoman Julia Letlow, Col. James Viney, Col. Todd Scioneaux. (Photo: Staff Assistant)

Below: Civil Leadership Academy CAP cadets take a photo with Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jo Bass. (Photo: Pentagon Staff)

Cadets toured the Pentagon just outside Washington D.C. in Arlington, Virginia for one day and learned about the important work that goes on inside the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jo Bass spent time with the cadets, telling them about the U.S. Air Force and its role in our national defense. Cadets took advantage of the session to ask about opportunities for future careers in the U.S. Air Force.





Left: (L-R) Cadet Capt. Joseph Whitney from North Carolina, Cadet Capt. Aimee Calvert from Louisiana, U.S. Army Guard for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Civil Air Patrol cadets placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. (Photo: Cadet Maj. Lachlan Piper)

Below left: Under the Capitol Dome, "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence" by John Trumbull. Washington D.C.

Bottom: The Louisiana Wreath at the WWII Memorial Washington D.C.



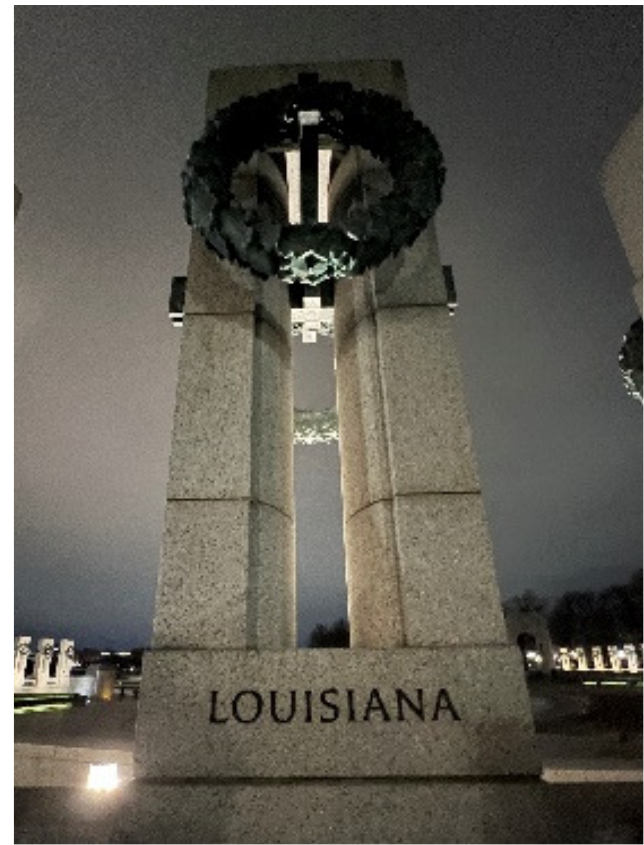
Part of the activities included negotiation exercises, where cadets tried to bring various fictitious nations into peaceful alliances while protecting the human rights of religious and ethnic minorities.

Cadets walked up the steps to the Lincoln Memorial and looked across the Reflecting Pool to the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol Building. They spent time visiting important monuments on the Mall such as the Vietnam Memorial, honoring the U.S. armed forces who served in the Vietnam War. Cadets saw the black granite wall engraved with the names of those who died during that conflict.

CAP cadets saw the WWII Memorial which honors the 16 million men and women who served as part of the U.S. Armed Forces during that conflict. This includes more than 40,000 who died for their country. Cadets visited the Korean War Monument, and other monuments remembering and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation.

On March 1, at the end of the weeklong activity, cadets took part in National

Legislative Day. Cadet Capt. Calvert joined members of the Louisiana Wing as they met with members of the Louisiana Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. Wing Commander Col. James Viney, Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Todd Scioneaux, Col. Patrick Yglesias, and Col. Cecil Scarbrough attended meetings with the U.S. Congressmen representing the 5 Congressional Districts in Louisiana.





Left: Mount Vernon, home of George Washington

Below left: Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in 1607

Bottom: Lincoln Memorial

“These meetings are very important,” said Viney. Talking with our legislators opens doors and helps us to have the opportunities to continue serving our communities.”

One of the best parts of CLA is meeting and interacting with Civil Air Patrol National Commander Major

General Edward Phelka and Vice Commander Brigadier General Regina Aye, enjoying the unique opportunity to ask them questions about the program as well as listening to their insightful leadership advice.

On the last day of the activity, CLA cadets visited the CIA Museum, learning about the CIA’s history, and some fascinating CIA inventions.

The last special location they visited before graduation was the Arlington National Cemetery where two cadets, Cadet Capt. Joseph Whitney from North Carolina and Cadet Capt. Aimee Calvert from Louisiana presented a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier. Cadets then walked through the cemetery where they learned many stories of the people who are buried there.

After the CLA was over, Calvert also visited other historic sites near Washington, D.C. Mount Vernon was only a short drive from the nation’s capital. Virginia had other important historic sites, Jamestown being the first permanent English settlement in 1606, and Yorktown where the Revolutionary War ended and General



Cornwallis surrendered.

“Civic Leadership Academy gave me strong love and admiration for the tremendous sacrifice and labor that made this country what it is today.” Said Calvert. “It gave me a greater understanding of the ways our government is still working to keep alive the freedoms of our great nation.” 🇺🇸





Top: Cadet Capt. Aevyn Peirce controlled a robotic arm during a STEM demonstration

Below: A Great Start student flew an F22 Raptor in a simulated mission while using a virtual reality headset. (Photos: Cadet 2nd Lt. Joey Buix, unless otherwise shown.)

Great Start 2024 Prepares Arizona Wing Cadets for Success

by Cadet 2nd Lt. Joey Buix, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX – During January 19-21, 2024, Civil Air Patrol cadets from around Arizona met for Great Start 2024 to learn valuable tools and skills for advancing through the cadet program. This event prepares cadets for a successful first year and also gets them ready to attend the Arizona Wing's summer encampment.

Cadet Col. Cynthia Liu and Cadet 1st Lt. Prithika Chauhan from Sky Harbor Composite Squadron planned and organized the weekend activities while cadets from several squadrons assisted as instructors. This year's Great Start was hosted by the Sky Harbor Composite Squadron and held at Goldwater Air National Guard Base in Phoenix. Cadets from nine squadrons across the wing participated in this intensive learning opportunity where they worked together in an enjoyable and challenging environment.



Right: Cadet Capt. Sean Geraghty taught cadet students the basics of color guard. (Photo: Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Jayden Monroe.)

Below: Alpha Flight cadets and cadre performed a pass in review during the Great Start graduation ceremony



Civil Air Patrol adult members provided oversight for the overnight experience, which began Friday evening and ended Sunday afternoon with a formal graduation ceremony attended by parents and families. Activities ranged from physical training and drill and ceremonies to leadership and aerospace lessons. On Saturday, cadets were able to use virtual reality flight simulators to experience virtual flight in a new and immersive way. This offered a unique glimpse into the possible future of flight training and provided a game-like way for cadets to experience the joy of flight.

The drill and ceremonies component consisted of color guard and marching practice, where cadets learned self-discipline and precision movement. This provided a good start for cadets interested in being a part of their squadron's color guard team, a sought-after and prominent position.

Another key aspect of Great Start was the emphasis on uniform standards. Being able to wear the United States Air Force uniform is a great honor, and cadets were taught how to properly care for and correctly wear the uniform.

Great Start 2024 was an excellent opportunity for Arizona Wing cadets to learn and grow in the cadet program and practice valuable skills that will aid them throughout life.

Members of the cadet cadre were each presented with a commemorative challenge coin. Cadre members from Sky Harbor Composite Squadron included: Cadet Col. Cynthia Liu, Cadet 1st Lt. Prithika Chauhan, Cadet Chief Master Sgts. Javier Ceballos and Keenan Tucker, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Samuel Phillips, and Cadet Staff Sgts. Elias Carlblom and Kinley Tucker.

Additional cadre members were Cadet Capt. Aevyn Peirce from the 388th Composite Squadron, Cadet 1st Lt. Carlos Cruz from Eloy Composite Squadron, Cadet Chief Master Sgts. Corbin Ballard and Cadence Redmond from Yuma Composite Squadron, Cadet 2nd Lt. Joey Bui from Neotoma Composite Squadron, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jayden Long from Falcon Composite Squadron, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Jayden Monroe from London Bridge Composite Squadron, and Cadet Master Sgt. Genesis Ruiz from Davis-Monthan Composite Squadron. 🇺🇸





Top: CAP members and members of the US Air Force in front of the MC-130J Commando II. (Photos: Capt Mark Chappell)

New Mexico Wing Cadets Visit USAF 415th Aircraft Maintenance Unit

by Capt. Mark Chappell, New Mexico Wing

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE – On February 17, 2024, Civil Air Patrol cadets from six New Mexico Wing squadrons embarked on an educational journey with the 415th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, guardians of the MC-130J Commando II aircraft. This tour offered cadets an up-close look at maintaining, operating, and managing an aircraft critical to combat search and rescue and special operations missions.

The day was filled with activities, including a tour of the MC-130J, allowing cadets to see the complexities of aircraft maintenance firsthand. USAF Staff Sgt. Jonathan Smith with the 415th discussed the importance of perseverance in achieving the unit's goals. "Don't let anyone tell you what you can't do and keep pushing towards your goals," he said.

Cadets experienced the thrill of being inside the aircraft as the engines roared to life. They were also given the rare chance to enter the cockpit, where they learned about the aircraft's

operation. Furthermore, cadets had the opportunity to use advanced sensor equipment, such as a Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera, demonstrating the aircraft's versatility in search and rescue missions.

Cadet Staff Sgt. Keith Murphy, representing Eagle Composite Squadron, expressed his fascination with the multi-functional nature of the MC-130J. "One of my favorite things was seeing that the plane wasn't just for cargo, but used for multiple other purposes," he said, highlighting the aircraft's role beyond transportation.

New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Andrew Selph praised the initiative for its educational value and impact on the cadets. "This experience not only gives our cadets a deeper understanding of aerospace technology but also inspires them to consider careers in aviation and the military. It shows where dedication and hard work can lead," Colonel Selph said.

This collaboration between Civil Air Patrol and the 415th Aircraft Maintenance Unit highlights the importance of providing real-world experiences to inspire future aerospace leaders. 🇺🇸

Below: A U.S. Air Force maintenance specialist (right) shows specialized aircrew equipment to Civil Air Patrol cadets.





Top: Cadets from Code Talker Bahe Ketchum Composite Squadron, with some family members joining in, had an opportunity to use a flight simulator during an activity day in their school gym in November. (All photos: 1st Lt. Brett Seidell, taken from an sUAS in flight)

Northern Arizona Squadron Supports Training for Cadets in Navajo Nation

by Maj. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing

SHONTO, Ariz. – On November 4, 2023, members of the Verde Valley Senior Squadron and Arizona Wing’s Director of sUAS Operations 1st Lt. Brett Seidell introduced Code Talker Bahe Ketchum Composite Squadron cadets to the fundamentals of flying drones – as sUAS are commonly called.

“We have had some successful exercises up in Shonto with incredible results with the cadet team up there, providing boots-on-the-ground search and rescue, communications, urban direction finding (UDF), and sUAS training. It’s debatable who got more out of it, but it was ever so worth it in every way,” said Capt. Ken Evans, deputy commander of the Verde Valley Senior Squadron in Sedona, Arizona.

Evans has been a CAP member for 12 years. In his work teaching aerospace education classes to cadets at a previous squadron, there was great interest in drones.



Above: Members of the Code Talker Bahe Ketchum Composite Squadron lined up to have a group shot with a camera mounted to a drone flying above the Shonto Preparatory School gym.

Below: Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Allex Reynolds, 1st Lt. Mitch Smith, and Master Sgt. George Risinger from the 388th Composite Squadron in Glendale, Arizona, did a demonstration for the Shonto cadets on flag presentation protocol.

“I searched for some YouTube videos to share with the cadets and one of the videos I found had a drone being used to deliver an automated external defibrillator to a patient who was down and there was no other emergency medical service available,” Evans said. “That truly got their attention, so I was teaching about drones long before it became a big item with CAP.

“I’m taking every opportunity now to help the Shonto cadets because they don’t have a lot of resources. We’ve done two activities with them so far,” he said.

In the first visit to Shonto by members of the Verde Valley Senior Squadron on September 9,



2023, Evans planned an activity during which cadets were introduced to the basics of CAP ground teams, learned about VHF radio communications, and saw a demonstration of UDF.

They also participated in an emergency locator transmitter search. The cadets listened in on radio traffic while a Civil Air Patrol airplane flying overhead plotted three lines of position to relay to the ground team the most likely location of the test beacon.

A base station was set up and a mission radio operator trainee was communicating with the airplane. Evans also provided Family Radio Service (FRS) radios to each cadet. The Federal Communications Commission describes FRS as a private, two-way, short-distance voice and data communications service for facilitating family and group activities using small hand-held radios that are like walkie-talkies.

While the cadets were learning how a ground team would respond in this situation, they could also listen in on all the communications with the airplane overhead.

Once that part of the exercise was over, the cadets moved inside the gymnasium. "We started flying drones, and I wanted to see the interest level. It was big," Evans said.

That interest in drones led to the second visit in November, with Seidell joining the group from Verde Valley squadron, to work with the Shonto cadets on flying drones. "We did some formal training in the gym, using a Tello drone that Brett gave us," said Evans. "He was also instructing with one of the larger drones. Being a recreational drone pilot, I could also fly one of my drones that weighs about half a pound, so it doesn't need remote ID. The cadets were getting good information on how to get started with flying drones."

The team from Sedona hopes to involve the Shonto cadets in another activity on April 20, 2024. "We are planning a northern Arizona operational exercise and working out ways to get the Shonto cadets to participate," Evans said. "I'm dedicated to helping that squadron continue to be viable."

Evans said he is also looking at low-cost opportunities to offer exposure to the CyberPatriot program to the Shonto cadets. "I'd love to see what we can do to help these children get a leg up."

The Code Talker Bahe Ketchum squadron meets at the Shonto Preparatory School and now includes three senior members and 12 cadets. It is the only CAP squadron in the Navajo Nation, which stretches more than 27,000 square miles across parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The squadron name honors Bahe Ketchum, a Shonto native who was a World War II Marine veteran and a Navajo Code Talker. 🇺🇸

Right: Maj. William Tripp and Capt. Ken Evans, members of the Verde Valley Senior Squadron in Sedona, Arizona, supported the drone-flying activity for cadets at the Code Talker Bahe Ketchum Composite Squadron in Shonto, Arizona.





Top: Arizona Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Mark Schadt (right) presented the 50-Year Member Award to Maj. William Cowley (center). At left is Willie Composite Squadron commander Capt. Brett Russo. (Photos: Cadet Master Sgt. Daphne Gerdes)

Two Arizona Wing's Willie Composite Squadron Members Receive Awards

by Maj. McKay Monson and Maj. Margot Myers, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On March 7, 2024, members of Willie Composite Squadron celebrated a long-time adult member and an outstanding cadet member. Maj. William E. Cowley III was recognized for 50 years of service in Civil Air Patrol. Cadet Lt. Col. Asmera McNeace was honored by the Desert Wells Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution with its Outstanding Cadet award.

Cowley's life-long service began in Del Rio, Texas, where he joined the U.S. Air Force. He served in operations during the Vietnam War. In his Air Force career, culminating in his retirement as a chief master sergeant, Cowley's assignments took him across the globe, from North Dakota to England and Germany.

In England, Cowley saw first-hand how the International Air Cadet Exchange forged lasting bonds between Royal Air Force air cadets and CAP cadets, fostering cross-cultural understanding and collaboration. His tenure at Royal Air Force Mildenhall saw him leading a squadron of CAP cadets, imparting his wisdom and offering leadership lessons to the next generation of aviators.

Cowley joined Civil Air Patrol in September 1973 after retiring from the Air Force. He has served in the Idaho and Arizona Wings and became a member of Willie Composite Squadron in November 2014. He holds an emergency services aircrew rating as a senior observer.



Above: The DAR Outstanding Cadet award was presented to Cadet Lt. Col. Asmera McNeace of Willie Composite Squadron. (L-R) Cadet McNeace's mother, Rebecca McNeace; Cynthia Woempner-Martin, DAR Desert Wells Chapter patriotism chair; Cadet McNeace, and his father, Maj. John Clark McNeace.

During one search and rescue mission in Texas, Cowley's expertise as a mission observer led to the discovery of a crash site that had eluded search efforts for three days. He was recognized for his invaluable contribution to this CAP search and rescue mission.

Lt. Col. Mark Schadt, Arizona Wing vice commander presented the award recognizing Cowley's lengthy membership.

"We thank Major Cowley for his loyal service," said Capt. Brett Russo, Willie Composite Squadron commander. "He is an inspiration for cadets and adult members alike."

McNeace joined CAP in November 2017. He has attended encampment six times, five in Arizona and one in Texas Wing. Currently, he is assigned as the squadron's cadet leadership education officer. McNeace served previously as the squadron representative to the wing Cadet Advisory Council and advanced through leadership positions as a flight commander, element leader, deputy commander for support, deputy commander for operations, and cadet commander.

McNeace received the Gen. Ira C. Eaker award in October 2023 and was promoted to cadet lieutenant colonel. He has completed the Air Force Pararescue and Survival Orientation Course at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico and Cadet Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

In presenting the award, Cynthia Woempner-Martin, the Desert Wells Chapter patriotism chair cited McNeace for his "outstanding leadership, honor, service, courage and patriotism." He has "shown a level of dedication that is far above and beyond that of his peers," she said.

"Cadet McNeace's contributions to CAP and his community stand as an example for cadets everywhere, and his outstanding conduct makes him an ideal exemplar for the Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Cadet medal," said Midge Garrison, the Desert Wells Chapter historian. 🇺🇸

On Writing

How to Write a Good CAP Article

AUSTIN, Texas – At its most basic level, an article is a permanent record of an event. As such, it has a time of event, normally person(s) involved in the activity, reason for the event, and purpose of the event. In the interest of brevity, the news media likes to define it as the Five Ws, which are: *Who? Where? When? What?* and *Why?*

But in practice, there is also the honorary W = How? In fact, the How? is often the most interesting part of the article. So let's take these W's one at a time.

Who

You need to know who is at the top and who are the rest of the people attending the event. Get full personal information: Full Name, grade, duty position, and unit of assignment. Do the legwork now so you don't get overwhelmed when you are trying to report the event.

Take notes as appropriate.

Where

At times, you will be told that there are restrictions, such as when you cannot use a flash when you take photos, restricted hours of operation, taking care of the venue (leaving it better than you found it, that is, no debris, damage, or other forms of abusive use.)

When

This is the easy part, except that it may not be easy on you when you prepare for your reporting assignment. Is your camera in good working order? Have you set aside a "go kit" with notepad, writing instrument, optional tablet or notebook computer, refresher on AP Style writing? You need to capture things as they happen, because getting a rerun is not always possible.

What

This is the fun part. Read up on what will take place. If possible, read similar articles and see what others have done in your circumstances. Can you match that standard? Can you do better?

Why

Is this event part of a larger mission? What are the requirements of attendance and accomplishments? Is this a training mission? Is it mandated by higher headquarters? Are there any published materials either in hard copy or online? Learn all you can about it before you get there, so you will not be surprised when the day progresses.

How

The honorary W might be important. Is the experience required for achieving a special qualification? Is it needed for promotion? Is it applicable for credit elsewhere? Is it part of a larger mission or program? Will it represent a needed skill that attendees need to acquire as a prerequisite of an overall training program?

So much for what you will need to do. Now, the specifics.

As a photojournalist, you need to take photos and write about what you witnessed. This is very important and involves several skills.

1. ***Take good photos:*** It is your responsibility to make sure that your subjects are posed correctly: no hands in the pockets, no hands crossed in front of the body (fig-leaf position), if in uniform, all must be the same – either all have the sleeves down, or all rolled up; there are no uniform violations; if they are wearing dark glasses, can you see the eyes? If you cannot, have the culprit take off the glasses. If the person insists on wearing the

offending glasses, position that person at an end, to make it easier for you to crop off later.

2. **Get the names right:** if you do not know all the participants, write down all required information. Unless they are members of your unit, you need to identify them by unit of assignment and duty position.
3. **Prepare your outline:** Start writing the guts of your article by identifying all participants, writing down essential time and place where the event takes place. This is where you can shine, provided you follow the rules. Your text must be written in Associated Press Style. That means that you cannot express your opinion, which is a simple maneuver you see nightly on the evening news. To remember what to say and what not to say, think of yourself as a video recorder. You give back all you recorded, which, by definition, cannot be opinion.
4. **How do you make the article come to life?** That is what separates the beginner from the seasoned reporter. To introduce opinion into your story, get quotes from credible individuals. Get as many quotes as you can, and then use only the best. Do not suggest comments to the quoted person, or else you'll influence what they say. When they are done talking, thank each one at the time you get your quote. If in doubt, ask if the person meant to say what you heard. If not, get a revised quote.
5. **Which quotes are the most important?** People in a position of leadership are the most authoritative on that count. And yes, you can ask leading questions, but try not to be too obvious about it. Remember that you will be able to emphasize the points you want to stress by the quotes that you select, so the more quotes you get the better off you'll be.

When do you write your first draft?

Once you have all the material you need, write a first draft on your favorite tablet, notebook computer, or PC. Organize it chronologically and provide all the essential information.

- Write an overall narrative in the order it happened.
- Names of States are written out in full; only the dateline has the state abbreviated, but the abbreviation of Texas is Texas.
- Do not use the day name in your writing. It is not *Sunday, June 4 of 2023* but *June 4, 2023*, [notice the year is enclosed in commas].
- Insert your quotes at an appropriate point in your article.
- Ask the person in charge of the event to give you a summary of what was accomplished.
- Ask one or two credible and informed attendees to tell you how they perceived the event: was it useful, clear, was it what they had expected?
- Did it exceed expectations?
- Would they like to go through it again?
- Would they like an advanced version of this skill?

If you are not your unit's PAO, seek your PAO's assistance with the article's general organization, content, and completeness.

Look at the photos you took. Select a couple of photos of the trainer(s), the overall view of the attendees, and individual photos of students doing something interesting.

When you are done gathering all information, you should have a coherent tale of all that transpired, with images to prove that the event took place.

Keep in mind the main points of Associated Press Style.

- Write in third person and never express opinion.
- Do not use colloquial English (not *kids* but *children*, not *guys* but *CAP members*).
- Only quotes can be reported in the first person.

Lt. Col. Arthur E. Woodgate

Editor in Chief

The Safety Corner

How Am I Supposed to Know?

A relatively common minor mishap that CAP leaders see, and the type of minor mishap which must be reduced at all costs, is the following scenario: Cadets show up at their unit meeting after a long day at school, after having completed their after-school activities, after having done their homework. Tonight is testing night; the night that they perform the several events that make up the CPFT, along with the mile run. Occasionally, a cadet feels ill, or faints, or drops out of the run and the mishap review determines that the cadet hardly drank water all day, skipped lunch to study for a test, and missed dinner.

In some cases, squadron leadership is at a loss about how this can be prevented, since these are issues that do not happen at the squadron but on the cadet's home environment.

"How am I supposed to know if they ate or drank that day?"

This is a common question posed by squadron commanders or cadet leaders. It is not enough for CAP leaders of cadets to ask, "How am I supposed to know?" They must also try to answer that question proactively. One suggestion that has met with considerable success in many squadrons is to use available cadets to lead cadets. Some squadrons have set up a recurring reminder the night before PT, whereby cadets call cadets to stress to them the need to be well-rested, fed, and prepared for the next day's PT events.

Some squadrons have instituted a wingman approach to PT prep. How does this work? Cadets are paired up to remind each other and help each other prepare. Rounding this up with a touch of "squadron care" display, when cadets walk in the door for their evening meeting, nutritional snacks and water are always available.

These methods work well for all types of cadet events. Finally, as has been touched upon in earlier Fly-By articles, a "sub-activity ... safety briefing" is required before PT. That is the last chance that leadership will have to ask each cadet the key questions.

- Do you feel well?
- Are you prepared and ready to go?
- Do you have any pre-existing conditions that might lead to problems?

"How am I supposed to know?" Easy. There are ways. Proven and successful ways. It is a common scenario, with adult members continuing to say they simply don't know how to ensure their cadets are ready for the strenuous activities at the unit meetings. So, yes. "How am I supposed to know?" is a common question. Recently, there was a mishap involving a similar set of circumstances involving a cadet passing out at the beginning of a day-long activity, a preventable case of a cadet fainting at the opening of a daylong event, after having – not surprisingly –no breakfast at home, a donut at the event, and nothing to drink.

That is where this mishap review breaks down. Every leader CAN know. Send a message to cadets and parents the night before the event. Make preparation part of event planning. Have senior cadets remind the younger cadets. Have something other than sugary donuts as the food provided to cadets. Everyone must drink plenty of liquids before the event starts. There are a lot of ideas to help prevent trouble before it happens, or at least minimize it. That is what leaders ought to focus on. There is no such thing as too much prevention. In a connected world, connect.

A good, lasting, preventive action would be to work with the deputy commander for cadets to come up with a program that will help monitor and remind cadets of the lifesaving NSH: healthy Nutrition, adequate Sleep, and required Hydration before day-long events."

Every leader ought to focus on "knowing," because neglecting it can cost someone's poor performance, illness, or even loss of life.

Lt. Col. Corey Stohlquist

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. 🇺🇸