Civil Air Patrol
US Air Force Auxiliary

Florida Wing
Headquarters

Bulletin Board Circular

Subject: Hurricane Operations Recognition
Initiated By: Col. Joseph M. Martin, Wing Commander
Directed To: All Members

Date: 06 Oct 04
BBC No.: 04-00010

Dear fellow Florida Wing Members,

The past month and a half was quite a challenge for all of us as Charlie, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne ravaged our State from all sides. As we recover from these storms, I would ask that each member take some time to think about the events as they unfolded during the storms. Many of our members volunteered during the storms and participated during the respective relief efforts. Take some time to jot down some notes regarding these members and send the information up the chain so that we may recognize everyone that sacrificed their time in support of these efforts.

I would certainly like to take a few moments to thank our entire ECO team that deployed to Tallahassee for 40+ days over the course of these four hurricanes. These folks worked long hours away from their homes and loved ones, endured great frustration, learned a great deal and most of all represented Florida Wing at the State in an exemplary manner. A couple of special notes: Major Chip Maher performed admirably in his role as the ECO for our wing. His excellent and professional relationship with the State emergency management officials will pay dividends for us all in the future. Lt Col Mac McConnell worked diligently behind the scenes analyzing the input generated by the many sorties flown by our members around the state. Lt Col Mike Brown and Capt Mike Cook served as IC's during crucial phases of operations around the Wing. Lt Col Mike Brown continues to serve to this day as over $50,000 in reimbursements are processed, documented, and submitted to higher headquarters for payment. He truly deserves thanks from each of us, especially upon receipt of that reimbursement check! Many more individuals participated at the ECO => special thanks to them also.

All of the folks that were activated as part of the RECON teams are to be commended. Their service during the events demonstrated to Florida officials the high level of response that our organization is capable of providing. One thing to note is that there were times when personnel on these teams felt that their contribution was something less than helpful. There was a lot of driving and yes there was some confusion and downtime, not surprising given the new beginning that the CAP RECON team is experiencing from a State awareness standpoint. The State is just now beginning to see the importance of the CAP RECON team, based upon the hard work and sacrifice of our RECON team members. The valued folks on the RECON teams should expect a great deal of tasking from the State in the future, especially if Group and Wing leadership are successful in cultivating better relationships at local County EOC organizations.

The many flight crews that flew during the relief effort are also to be commended. The SDIS input that was provided to the State was most helpful and valued. Many, many more individuals participated and contributed during the effort that also need to be recognized.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those members who made themselves available for tasking but for whatever reason were not called. Your availability to serve our mission is in itself highly commendable. This type of sacrifice is most necessary AND appreciated. Do not lose faith, because as we forge ahead the operational tempo in Florida will increase. Your availability will become even more important than it is today.

As far as I am concerned all the individuals that participated in or that were available during the hurricane relief efforts are our "Unsung Heroes". All Florida Wing Leaders: Let us all take the time to sing great praises to our "Unsung Heroes" for their hard work!

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Note of interest:

As many of you know, in the past I myself have had the pleasure of running several of the Wing's larger activities. In doing so, I have taken note of the good and sometimes bad things that accompany these coordinated efforts. Overall there is a feeling of accomplishment and relief that follows these activities; but, during the execution phase project leaders are usually faced with great pressure that is put in place by competing interests of many well meaning people. The trick to managing one of these activities often is in how each individual's interest is addressed. This is not an easy task to say the least and it is usually not possible to make everyone happy. The important point here is that we all do our best to minimize the "bad" and maximize or capitalize on the "good". Historically, Florida Wing has been very good at capitalizing on the "good", let's keep that up!!

Special thanks to all!!

Joseph J. Martin, Colonel, CAP
Florida Wing Commander