



FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

GATOR GAZETTE

JULY 2023



SAVE THE DATES

August 17-19: CAP National Conference, Bellevue, WA

August 25-27: Florida Wing Color Guard Academy, Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla

September 22-24: Fall Florida Leadership Academy (FLA), Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla

November 3-5: Ultimate Cadet Challenge, Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation, Lake Wales

December 5: Sunshine State Drone Expos, Azalea Middle School, St. Pete

December 16: Various locations across the state

Feb 23-25, 2024: Cadet Competition, Patrick Space Force Base

April 4-6, 2024: Florida Wing Conference, Pre-Conference Courses, Annual Awards Banquet

The Gator Gazette is a monthly e-magazine published by Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol.

To submit an article, please send copy and photos (jpg or png format, attached file, largest size available) to: sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov

July cover photo by: Cadet CMSgt. Emma Dewey



All Florida Wing units are now at HURCON 5 which is a seasonal alert condition that is automatically set for all units in FLWG from 1 June through 30 November each year unless directed otherwise by the FLWG/CC.

All units need to complete the HURCON 5 checklist as soon as possible. Please review and refer to Florida Wing Pamphlet 60-004, Tropical Weather/Hurricane Response Plan for additional HURCON information and checklists.

The FLWG HURCON Plan and HURCON Status updates can be found at <https://flwg.cap.gov/news/hurcon-status>

2023 Florida Wing Summer Encampment

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Photos by Maj. Steve Lampasona

The Florida Wing (FLWG) Summer Encampment is a training program that took place from July 7th to July 16th at Camp Blanding National Guard Joint Training Center, located near Starke, Florida. The encampment was led by Captain Christian Dominguez, who served as the Encampment Commander, and C/Lt. Col. Justin McDonald, who took on the role of Cadet Encampment Commander.

Major Larry Spangler was the Encampment Deputy Commander of Support. The support team is vital to the success of an encampment as they serve in positions in logistics, food services, operations, transportation, administration, safety, health services, communications, and public affairs. Serving as part of the encampment cadet leadership team were C/Lt. Col. Elias Paver as the Cadet Deputy of Support and C/Capt. Kristina Duncan as the Cadet Deputy of Operations.

Captain Amon Russell served as the Encampment Commandant to oversee curriculum, mentor the cadet command team and line staff, and serve as a resource for senior member training officers. This summer's Chief Training Officer was Major Anthony Rios who helps coordinate with the commandant and operations to smoothly transition cadets from one activity to the next and to assure cadets' safety throughout the week.

The encampment hosted a total of 336 participants, including 182 first-time student cadets, 34 returning cadets as part of the Advanced Training Squadron, 76 cadet staff members, and 44 adult staff members. Each group of cadets received tailored training based on their level of experience and responsibilities.



Senior member and cadet staff arrived two days before the student cadets to complete required training and to prepare the site for the student arrival. Once the training has been completed, staff members participate in the traditional “hat ceremony” where they receive their encampment hats with embroidered duty assignment designations across the front.



For first-time student cadets, the encampment focused on a standard curriculum provided by Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters Cadet Programs. This curriculum covered various aspects of Civil Air Patrol, including drill exercises, uniform inspections, knowledge about the organization, fitness training, and learning about customs and courtesies. The encampment offered a wide range of special activities for all cadets, providing them with unique and exciting experiences throughout their training. Here are some of the activities they participated in:

Daily Sports: Cadets engaged in various sports activities, promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and friendly competition.

Leadership Reaction Course (LRC): The LRC involved a team-based obstacle course that required cadets to work together, think critically, and communicate effectively to overcome challenges and complete tasks successfully.



Counter Drug Task Force Obstacle Course: Cadets faced obstacle courses designed to simulate the challenges encountered by law enforcement and counter-drug task force members. This course included unique elements such as the A-Frame obstacle, rope wall, and vertical wall.

Air Assault Obstacle Course: In this activity, cadets encountered various physical challenges that tested their endurance, strength, and agility.

Rappelling Tower: Cadets had the opportunity to experience rappelling, completing a controlled vertical descent, which fosters courage and confidence while following safety protocols. Rappel masters from the National Guard gave instruction to cadets and provided additional support for the activity to assure the safety of all participating Civil Air Patrol members.

Visiting the On-Base Fire Station: Cadets visited the on-base fire station to learn about firefighting and emergency response procedures.

Static Displays: Cadet flights took a self-guided tour through the static displays outside the Camp Blanding Museum, showcasing military equipment and vehicles, offering cadets a chance to learn more about military history and technology.

As a special activity, Sea Cadets who were also training at Camp Blanding for the week, joined Civil Air Patrol cadets in a special Jeopardy-style basic knowledge competition. This fun activity helped build the relationship between cadets from the two organizations.

Encampment activities aim to provide cadets with hands-on experiences, leadership opportunities, and exposure to various aspects of military and emergency services. By participating in these diverse activities, the cadets not only enhanced their physical and technical skills but also learned valuable lessons in teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving.



Cadets in the Advanced Training Squadron (ATS) not only participate in many of the same activities as the first-time student cadets, but they also receive a higher level of leadership training, focusing on more advanced leadership lessons. They also learned and practiced various skill sets used in emergency services, preparing them to handle critical situations effectively. The importance of teamwork was emphasized throughout their training. Their training included the following:

Advanced Leadership Lessons: Covered more complex and leadership concepts and practices.

Flight Fitness Challenge: Cadets engaged in physical fitness activities tailored to aviation-related fitness requirements.

Emergency Services Skill Sets: ATS cadets learned and practiced various skills used in emergency services. This included training in search and rescue techniques, disaster response, and other critical emergency procedures.

Teamwork Emphasis: The importance of teamwork was highlighted during ATS training. Cadets were encouraged to work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and support each other to achieve common goals.



NRA Winchester Rifle Marksmanship Program: ATS cadets had the opportunity to participate in this program, with a heavy emphasis on firearm safety and provides them with a chance to develop their shooting skills using Winchester rifles under the supervision of experienced firearms instructors.

ATS cadets also enjoyed an educational aerospace trip to Cape Canaveral where they explored the history of space flight at the Space Force Museum on a tour led by Florida Wing's Lt. Col. Gary Dahlke who is also a volunteer at the museum.

A Blackhawk helicopter from Patrick Space Force Base landed at Camp Blanding for a special meet and greet and tour of the helicopter with ATS cadets.

At the end of the week, all cadets and senior members enjoyed a social "combat dining-out" at the pavilion which was followed by an awards ceremony for the presentation of encampment awards for the training week to flights, squadrons and individual members and cadet officer promotion presentations.

During the Pass-in-Review, cadets demonstrated their newly acquired skills in drill and uniform precision, showcasing their professionalism and discipline. This momentous occasion provided an opportunity for cadets to feel a sense of pride in their achievements, and for their families and friends to witness firsthand the growth and development of the cadets during their time at the encampment. The live broadcast on Facebook further extended the reach of the event, making it a memorable and inclusive experience for family members and friends who could not attend the ceremony in person the ability to join in and experience the celebration in real-time.

2023 National AEO School - Launchpad for Aerospace Education Exploration

*Florida's Space Coast plays host to Civil Air Patrol
Aerospace Education Officers and Aerospace Education Members*

By: 2nd Lt. Beth Crane, CAP

Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Officers (AEOs) and Aerospace Education Members (AEMs) have a passion for teaching others about the amazing world of aerospace and cybertechnology—and several from Florida - recently launched into greater altitudes of aerospace education exploration at a school planned exclusively for them.



In June, Civil Air Patrol hosted the 2023 National Aerospace Education Officers School in our own Florida backyard. Celebrating its 20th year, the school took place in Cocoa Beach, Florida, home to Patrick Space Force Base. This area is a gateway to NASA's Kennedy Space Center and the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, offering aerospace enthusiasts a closeup experience with our nation's historic rocket program as well as its exciting present and optimistic future.



2nd Lt. Don Keister, FLWG Lake Composite Sq. works on STEM kit with Lt. Col. Randy Carlson of CAWG.

AEOs and AEMs from around the United States and Puerto Rico gathered to learn, network, and be inspired, returning to their local squadrons and schools armed with information to build and strengthen their aerospace and cyber education programs. 2nd Lt. Tara Hendry, AEO at the Hernando County Composite Squadron, enthusiastically declared, "I am very grateful for the opportunity to network with other AEOs and AEMs. Being able to have the hands-on experience with CAP STEM Kits inspired me to want to get them into our squadron!"

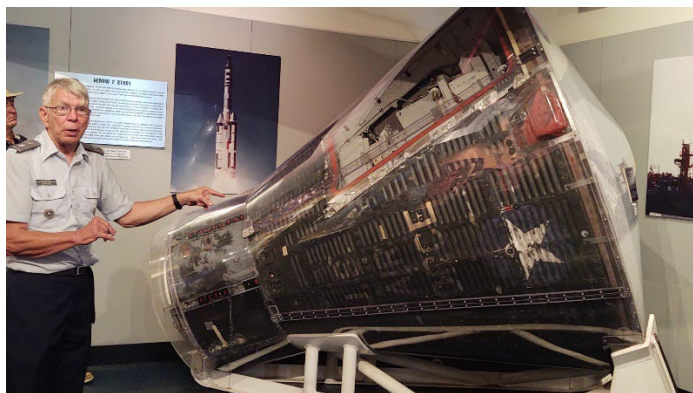
The school week kicked off with an opportunity to witness the early morning launch of the SpaceX

Falcon 9 Starlink Satellite mission. Then the classroom sessions began aboard Patrick Space Force Base. Aerospace Education Officers received instruction regarding the particulars of their duty assignment and CAP regulations which superintend their role. AEOs are Civil Air Patrol members who oversee the aerospace education portion of the cadet and senior member programs at their local squadrons. They ensure cadet orientation flights are taking place, facilitate weekly aerospace current events discussion and lessons, and work with the unit activities officer to plan enrichment activities for the cadets and senior members.

Aerospace Education Members (AEMs) later joined the classroom training for orientation to CAP's vast library of aerospace and cyber education materials, STEM kits, and manipulatives. AEMs are K-12 formal and informal educators at schools, youth organizations, museums, and libraries. They are members of the CAP National HQ group rather than a local squadron and do not wear a CAP uniform. However, AEMs provide an extension to the educational mission by exposing students of all ages to STEM-related subjects and careers, in partnership with Civil Air Patrol. AEMs may also benefit from the Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) where they can receive a free orientation flight in one of Civil Air Patrol's fleet of Cessna aircraft.

Kimberly Forsch, AEM at Laurel Nokomis K-8 School, in Venice Beach, explained that "As a K-5th grade computer science teacher, it was great to collaborate with other teachers and the CAP STEM programs and facilitators. I can't wait to use what I learned in the next school year. I'm already planning a STEM Escape activity and look forward to a TOP flight!"

Because the AEO school is held so close to Cape Canaveral, this year's National Aerospace Education Officers School provided unique field trips highlighting historical and futuristic aerospace experiences. Participants and their families were treated to a private dinner at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum, Sands Space History Center. National AE HQ staff were on hand as students explored the variety of historic artifacts which outline the history of rocket launches from the Cape. Local CAP members, Major Ed Lovins and Major Pat Lovins of the Patrick Composite Squadron who also volunteer at the museum, were at the dinner to keep the gift shop open after hours to give attendees an opportunity to purchase keepsakes of their visit.



Lt. Col. Dahlke shares history of the Gemini space program during Space Force Museum tour.

Lt. Col. Gary Dahlke, CAP Florida Wing Deputy Director of Aerospace Education, escorted NAES participants on guided tours of the world's most iconic space exploration centers: Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center. Lt. Col. Dahlke is a co-author of the CAP textbook [Aerospace: The Journey of Flight](#), as well as numerous other CAP publications. He contributed a wealth of personal experience and technical knowledge to the tours, drawing from his active-duty experience in the Air Force in the fields of Ballistic Missile Maintenance, Command and Control as well as his extensive civilian career in the aerospace industry working with NASA's Shuttle program.

"This was my first time attending the AE School and I would highly recommend it to others! I really enjoyed the behind-the-scenes tours and appreciated the knowledge and experience of Lt. Col. Dahlke and the manager of Launch Complex 39A who facilitated a tour of the historic launch pad. I'm looking forward to going back again," reflected 2nd Lt. Donald Keister, AEO at Lake Composite Squadron.

To top off the week, the 2023 National Aerospace Education Officers School participants enjoyed a day at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Complex. The Visitor's Complex features exhibits and displays, historic spacecraft and memorabilia, and hosts daily presentations from veteran NASA astronauts. It was a fitting final experience to an educational and fun-filled week, preparing the Civil Air Patrol aerospace educators to return to their squadrons and classrooms armed with new knowledge and professional connections. These dedicated AEOs and AEMs are now better poised to ignite the imaginations of their students, launching the next generation of aerospace and cybertechnology professionals.

The National Aerospace Education School continues to be a cornerstone in Civil Air Patrol's commitment to aerospace and cyber security education, nurturing a love for exploration and discovery that will positively shape the future of these industries.

Group 4 Conducts Aircrew Water Survival Training

1st Lt. John Henderson, CAP

Anytime a Civil Air Patrol aircraft flies farther from land than gliding distance, all aircrew members must be qualified in Water Survival. On July 1st, Group 4 provided a training opportunity, led by Group 4 Commander Maj. A. J. Ingle who explains, "This training is extremely important to provide our members with an understanding of our ditching procedures so we can keep them safe."

Fourteen CAP members arrived early at the Merritt Island Airport on the Space Coast from as far away as Miami, Clearwater and Jacksonville, representing seven squadrons from five groups. The morning consisted of classroom instruction covering equipment, procedure, weather and sea state. The class then moved out to the ramp for practice at the aircraft, stopping along the way to view a conveniently-timed launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the nearby Cape Canaveral Space Force Station carrying the Euclid space telescope for the European Space Agency. Turning back to the airplane, the students divided into air crews, and took turns practicing ditching procedures, brace positions, and egress from the aircraft.

The class regrouped after lunch at the Brevard County pool at Merritt Island High School, which was reserved exclusively for CAP use. Again, the students divided into aircrews, and after entering the pool in full uniform and wearing personal flotation devices, they had to demonstrate the ability to stay afloat for several minutes, swim to the opposite of the pool and back, right an overturned life raft, and finally, board the life raft from the water.

The students successfully demonstrated all of the required tasks. Judging from the laughter and excited conversation, the students not only learned important skills that might save their lives in an emergency, but thoroughly enjoyed themselves and made valuable contacts with other members from across the wing. "Taking the class has greatly expanded my capabilities to serve as a CAP member. I would highly recommend attending the class when it presents itself," said 2nd Lt. Christian Wukits of the Clearwater Composite Squadron. He also added, "Watching the SpaceX launch over the CAP aircraft was truly a sight to behold."

Members who attended the class were:

Capt. Steven Friedman, Jacksonville Composite Squadron

1st Lt. John Henderson, Ti-Co Composite Squadron

Capt. Brent Hippert, Merritt Island Senior Squadron

Lt. Col. David Horowitz, Miami One Senior Squadron

Lt. Col. Mary Horowitz, Miami One Senior Squadron

Capt. Jan Kratochvil, Tamiami Composite Squadron

1st Lt. Giovanni Martinez, 463rd Composite Squadron

Lt. Col. Mark Modrich, Miami One Senior Squadron

1st Lt. Gerardo Quinones, Miami One Senior Squadron

SM Rod Stout, Merritt Island Senior Squadron

Capt. Jean Velez, Group 2 HQ

2nd Lt. Christian Wukits, Clearwater Composite Squadron

Capt. Michael Schumacher, Tamiami Composite Squadron

2nd Lt. Milton Carvajal, Tamiami Composite Squadron



Photos from the Group 4 Over Water Survival Class
Photos by 1st Lt. John Henderson



Tallahassee Composite Cadet Receives Highest CAP Cadet Achievement

By Capt. Curtis "Wayne" Hooks, CAP

Photos courtesy of Preston Hooks, Flashover Photography

Cadet Colonel Ethan Leeman received the highest achievement a cadet serving in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) can achieve. At the Tallahassee International Airport, before a gathering of family, friends, fellow cadets and dignitaries, Cadet Leeman received the Carl A. Spaatz award. Named for the first Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

Representatives from Senator Marco Rubio's office, Congressman Dunn's office, City of Tallahassee Commissioner Curtis Richardson and U.S. Representative Al Lawson. As well as; Lt. Col. Daia Jung, the Florida Wing Vice Commander were present for the prestigious ceremony.



C/Col. Leeman with U.S. Representative Al Lawson

Representative Lawson, who gave Cadet Leeman his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy had the honor of presenting him with the Spaatz award.

This cadet has had an awe-inspiring cadet career and has touched many people along the way, cadets, and senior members alike. This was evidenced by how many people came to speak about Ethan and how he affected their life with his leadership and kindness. When his father came up to speak about his son and the positive influence of CAP and all those who have influenced his growth, the emotion was overflowing.

As Cadet Leeman reports back to the Air Force Academy in August, we know he will continue to be a positive force in all his endeavors, and a positive influence upon all those under his leadership.

About the Spaatz Award: Cadets qualify for this prestigious award after devoting an average of four years to progress through sixteen achievements in the CAP Cadet Program. Along the way they develop self-discipline, a strong sense of personal responsibility, the ability to lead and persuade, and the foundation necessary for pursuing a career in aviation, space, or technology. The final step a cadet must complete to earn the Spaatz Award is a rigorous four-part exam. Upon passing the Spaatz Award exams, the cadet is promoted to the grade of cadet colonel.

The Spaatz Award is named in honor of Carl "Tooey" Spaatz, the first Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. One of the giants in the history of airpower, in 1929 Spaatz, together with another pilot, set an important flight endurance record of 150 hours and 40 minutes in the early days of aviation. During World War II, he commanded the Allied air campaign against the Nazis. In the Pacific Theater, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki took place under his command. After retiring from the Air Force, General Spaatz served as the first chairman of the Civil Air Patrol National Board.



Civil Air Patrol Merritt Island Senior Squadron Assists in Search and Rescue Find

by Cadet 2nd Lt. Addison English, CAP
Mission PIO Trainee

July 17, 2023 - Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing received tasking from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) to locate the source of an Emergency Locator Transmission (ELT) reported to be heard throughout the Merritt Island area on the afternoon of July 17th. Due to the localized reports of the emergency transmitter, Florida Wing (FLWG) initiated a ground team search to locate the ELT as quickly as possible.

A squadron member from Merritt Island Senior Squadron and a member of Group Four staff responded to form a ground team and search for the beacon. After a quick check of the Merritt Island airport, it was determined that the beacon was transmitting somewhere on the airfield. The ground team exited their vehicles and proceeded on foot to locate the source of the beacon. The teams were able to identify the parked aircraft broadcasting the transmission in a very short amount of time. Local airport management was contacted and assisted the ground team to gain access to the aircraft and disable the beacon. The CAP ground team members for this mission were Lt. Col. William Weiler and 1st Lt. Omar Capellan-Vega.

"This ELT mission is a sample of one of the many non-distress searches Civil Air Patrol (CAP) volunteers work across the country almost daily. In fact, there have been three other missions similar to this one in the state of Florida in the past ten days," said Major Peter Leckband, the Incident Commander for the current mission. Our members train rigorously for these missions and are always ready to serve when they are called by the United States Air Force to assist their communities.

Acting as a Total Force partner and official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, Civil Air Patrol helps First Air Force rapidly respond to nonmilitary threats domestically in a Defense Support of Civil Authorities capacity to save lives, relieve suffering, prevent property damage, and provide humanitarian assistance.



Photo by 1st Lt. Brandon Thompson, FLWG stock image taken during Hurricane Ian Response

Hillsborough One Senior Squadron Conducts Emergency Services Training in June

On June 10th Hillsborough One Senior Squadron conducted Mission Observer academic training for six members from Groups 3 and 8, representing 4 units. Maj. Richard Qualls, from MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron joined Lt. Col. Ries and Lt. Col. Minsterl as the trainers. All 17 of the MO tasks were covered and nine of the familiarization and preparatory training tasks were completed.

Maj. Dan Klein conducted the advanced task G1000 training for Mission Observers on June 17th. As a follow up to the classroom training, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron held a SAREX on June 24th where members were able to complete “hands on” training tasks to complete or renew aircrew and mission base staff ratings. Col. Jerry Weiss, who is a member of Group 5, drove up from Cape Coral in Lee County to be the Incident Commander for SAREX.

At the June 24th SAREX, Lt. John Buonasera renewed his Mission Scanner (MS) and Airborne Photography (AP) ratings, Senior Member Glenn Maslowski attained his AP rating, Maj. Joe Mora renewed his MO rating, and Lt. Chris Wukits attained his MO rating.

Col. Lyon renewed his Mission Radio Operator rating, and C/CMSgt. Bryce Cruz and C/Sgt. Olivia Jessmer worked on the MRO ratings. Lt Col. Ries was the Communications Unit Leader overseeing MRO training. Lt. James Langford and Senior Member Alex White achieved their Mission Staff Assistant (MSA) ratings, and 2nd Lt. Cerat worked on his MSA rating. Lt. Col. Minsterl renewed his Planning Section Chief (PSC) rating.



(L-R) Maj. Richard Qualls, Lt. Chris Wukits, Lt. James Langford, and SM Dayron Nunez-Beral - June 10th.



Lt. Col. David Lawson and Lt. Chris Wukits



SM Alex White and Lt. Will Cerat



Lt. Col. Larry McConnell and Maj. Dan Klein



Lt. James Langford and Maj. Joe Mora

Lt. Mike Riebe flew two sorties the Tuesday evening following the SAREX to complete his MO qualification.

Hillsborough One Senior Squadron continuously trains to maintain excellence and readiness to serve as evidenced by the multiple training exercises held during the month of June.



Col. Jerry Weiss (front) and Lt. Col. Larry McConnell



Capt. Peter Leet and Lt. Col. Jim Minsterl

Fernandina Senior Squadron Conducts Cadet Orientation Flights

Fernandina Senior Squadron pilots flew two weekends in June to support cadet orientation flights for the Fruit Cove Cadet Squadron and Jacksonville Composite Squadron. On June 10th, Fernandina pilots flew cadets from the Jacksonville Composite Squadron from Craig Field. The following weekend, pilots Capt. Brian Tourkin and Capt. Chuck Colcord flew Fruit Cove Cadets out of Cecil Field.



Marion County Composite Squadron Celebrates Member Achievements



Marion County Composite Squadron

6d · 🌐

Great job C/CMSgt. Holmes, who gave a compelling speech on leadership and the importance of "followership". According to Holmes, following is actively supporting the group's vision and goals; it's not a passive position. Both leading and following are keys to any group's success.



Marion County Composite Squadron

July 20 at 8:40 PM · 🌐

Congratulations Cadets Holmes, Ormedilla and Fletcher on hard-earned promotions! Well done 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸



Marion County Composite Squadron

2d · 🌐

Congratulations go out to Captain Frank Vice... Well deserved promotion! MCCS Commander Col. Rainwater was joined by Maj. Spangler, FLWG Group 2 Commander, to do the pinning. And, Cadet Commander Cajamarca was recognized for her participation in hurricane relief 2022. Well done!



St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron - Promotions



St Petersburg Cadet Squadron

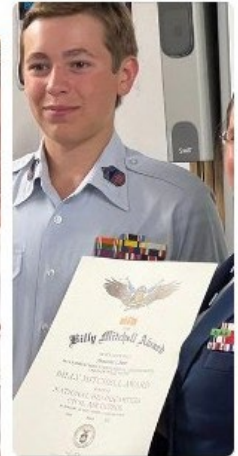
June 26 · 🌐

Congratulations to the St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron cadets who recently earned milestone awards!

Cadet James Connors was promoted to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and earned the Eaker Award. Only 2% of cadets in the nation have earned the Eaker award.

Cadets Olivia Dailey and Alexander Stent achieved the Mitchell Award and were promoted to Cadet Second Lieutenant.

Milestone awards recognize sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character.



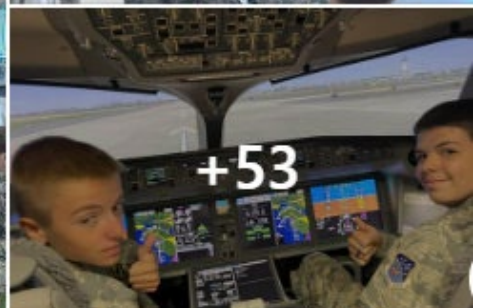
Polk and Lakeland Composite Squadrons Visit Jet Blue University



Polk County Composite Squadron FL

July 13 at 6:32 PM · 🌐

Members of Lakeland Composite Squadron and Polk County Composite Squadron toured the JetBlue University located at Orlando International Airport. Both cadets and seniors were given the opportunity to fly in the simulator A220(Airbus). special thanks goes out to our Group Commander making this happen.



Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron Flies Gliders



Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron, Civil Air Patrol

3d · 🌐

...



HARB Cadet squadron was at it again this weekend. Way to soar Makos 🦅



Ti-Co Composite Squadron Cadet Joins Honor Society



Civil Air Patrol, Ti-Co Composite Squadron

July 16 at 2:51 PM · 🌐

...

Ti-Co Composite Squadron was pleased to present Cadet 1st Lt. Luke Henderson with a certificate proclaiming him a Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society Member of High Distinction.

The Member of High Distinction is the highest of three levels of membership in the Cadet Honor Society, and requires, among other things, that the recipient be a cadet officer and achieve a minimum score of 93% on the first attempt of four consecutive achievement or milestone tests.



Clearwater Cadet Earns Earhart Award



Civil Air Patrol - Clearwater Composite Squadron
July 13 at 9:44 PM · 🌐

Cadet Matthew Spence was presented this evening with the Amelia Earhart Award by Lt. Col. Daia Jung, Vice Commander of CAP's Florida Wing. Clearwater Police Chief Dan Slaughter, right, applauds. The Earhart Award is the third milestone of five in the cadet program, and comes with a promotion to cadet captain.



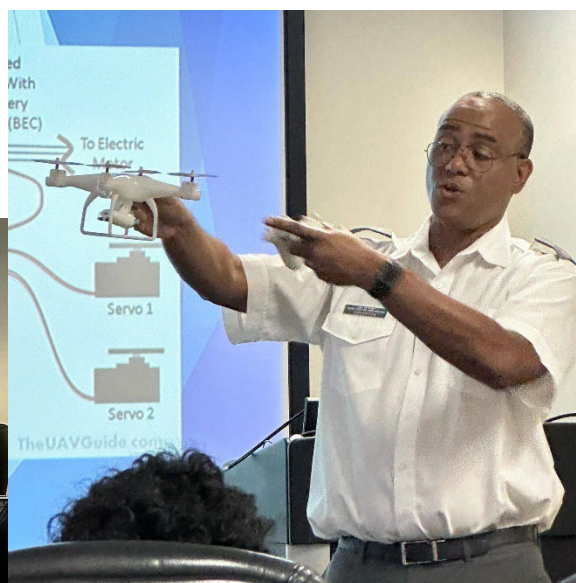
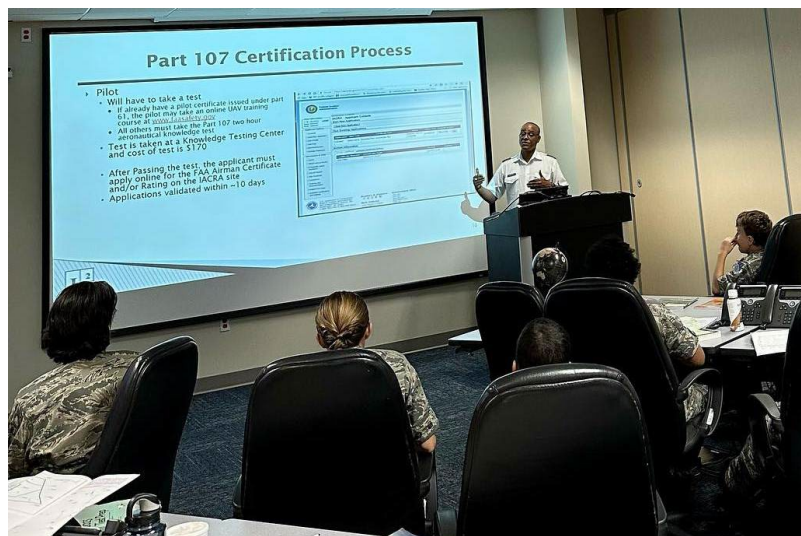
Ft. Lauderdale Composite Holds Part 107 Class



Fort Lauderdale Composite Squadron - Civil Air Patrol is ...
at KFXE - Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

July 15 at 9:54 AM · Fort Lauderdale, FL · 🌐

Part 107 sUAS class for cadets, taught by 1st Lt Richard Haughton, an experienced instructor. 🇺🇸



Across the Wing

Tamiami and Stuart Composite Squadrons Tour American Airlines Hangar



Tamiami Composite Squadron is at American Airlines
Aircraft Maintenance Miami.

June 23 · Miami, FL · 🌐

Thank you to our very own 1st
Lt Alfaro Domingo and his
colleagues at American
Airlines for organizing this trip
for our cadets and Stuart
Composite Squadron to tour
their hangar!



Doral Presents Colors at MAU Graduation



Doral Cadet Squadron - Civil Air Patrol

July 15 at 6:45 PM · 🌐

"The Cadets of the Doral Cadet Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, as auxiliaries of the United States Air Force, had the honor of presenting the colors at the graduation ceremony of MAU University. The emotional event took place at the Intercontinental Hotel in Doral, where the young cadets demonstrated their commitment and dedication to the country by participating in this important ceremony. Their prominent presence at the event celebrated the connection between youth and the armed forces, highlighting the vital role they play as future leaders in the community and the nation. An inspiring and significant moment for all those in attendance."

All attendees were impressed by the excellent discipline of the Squadron.

Lt Sabatella.

"Photo credits: Lt. Chimin Jim."



Fruit Cove Presents Colors at Local Event



Fruit Cove Cadet Squadron, Civil Air Patrol

July 3 at 5:24 PM · 🌐

This past Saturday members of Fruit Cove Color Guard we're able to give back to our local community by presenting the colors at the Fruit Cove Baptist Church, senior ice cream social. This is an annual event held every year for the seniors ministry of the church.

The church has been a great partner in support to our Squadron for many years. The church members loved spending time with the cadets and seeing how the cadets exhibited respect and honor for the many attendees who were Veterans of multiple branches of the military. The cadets were even able to receive a little bit of ice cream as well.

Thank you to Fruit Cove Baptist Church for allowing us to assist at this event and to the following Cadets who represented the Squadron well.

C/MSgt Elizabeth Lobetti

C/ Capt Aden Baxley

C/ A1C Evangelynn Bolduc



Wesley Chapel Cadet Promotions



Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron

13h · 🌐

What an outstanding night of promotions!

We had 14 cadets move up to their next rank (and 4 additional cadets that weren't able to make the meeting tonight). We couldn't be more proud of our cadets!

CONGRATS EVERYONE! Keep up the amazing work!





Wright Brothers Award

The Wright Brothers Award in the CAP Cadet Program launched in 2003, during the centennial of Orville and Wilbur Wright's historic first flight.

Cadets earn the award upon completing Phase I, "The Learning Phase," consisting of the Cadet Program's first three achievements. As such, the award recognizes excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. In addition, Wright Brothers Award recipients have passed a challenging, closed-book examination testing leadership knowledge and proficiency in drill and ceremonies.

Once a cadet earns the Wright Brothers Award, he or she is promoted to the grade of cadet staff sergeant and begins service as a cadet non-commissioned officer. Cadet NCOs are expected to transition from individuals who have been cared for to young servant-leaders who care for others as they enter Phase II of the Cadet Program – The Leadership Phase.

The following FLWG cadets completed the requirements to earn the Wright Brothers Award in June:

Martina Lopez, North Perry Composite Squadron
Corban Pendrak, North Perry Composite Squadron
Randolph Olfus, Naples Composite Squadron
Rowan Lukey, Stuart Composite Squadron
Kaylee Walker, Charlotte County Composite Squadron
Josiah Kiker, Gainesville Composite Squadron
Samuel Morrison, Gainesville Composite Squadron
Thomas Wyman, Ti-Co Composite Squadron
Allyson Gomez, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Samantha Hernandez, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Jonathan Hernandez, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Jayden Lawton, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Mckayla Deeg, Hernando County Composite Squadron
Faith St. Pierre, Hernando Composite Squadron
Daniel Rodriguez, Tamiami Composite Squadron
Justin Moore, Eglin Composite Squadron
Cavander Mathis, Pensacola Cadet Squadron
Logan Mackesy, Clearwater Composite Squadron
Wesley Swank, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron
Christian Geibig, Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron
Isaac Lazukin, Lakeland Composite Squadron
Jacob Kummelman, Sunlake High School Cadet Squadron
Mathias Petroff, Sunlake High School Cadet Squadron
Matyas Ortiz, Liberty Middle School Cadet Squadron



Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award

The Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award honors a fearless pilot whose patriotism, foresight, and tenacity surpassed the ridicule he faced.

With General Mitchell as their role model, cadet officers know that speaking truth to power is a moral duty. The Mitchell Award marks completion of Phase II of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. Further, Mitchell cadets must have passed comprehensive examinations on leadership and aerospace topics and have completed a week-long encampment immersing them in a challenging Core Values and Stem environment.

The U.S. Air Force respects Mitchell Award recipients' accomplishments. Mitchell cadets who enlist in the Air Force enter the service at the advanced grade of E-3, Airman First Class. The service also looks favorably upon Mitchell cadets when evaluating AFROTC and Academy applicants.

Once a cadet earns the Mitchell Award, he or she becomes a cadet officer, is promoted to the grade of cadet second lieutenant, and is challenged to lead and serve junior-ranking cadets, while continuing to develop into a "dynamic American and aerospace leader."

The following Florida Wing cadets completed the requirements to earn the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award in June:

Anthony Rubino, Naples Composite Squadron
Neil Klein, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron
Daniel Tran, Polk County Composite Squadron
Everette Crane, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron

Stella Nawyn, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Jacob Murray, Jacksonville Composite Squadron
Eliana Butler, Eglin Composite Squadron
Trent Greco, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron



Amelia Earhart Award

The Earhart Award marks completion of Phase III of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. Further, Earhart Award cadets must have passed comprehensive examinations on leadership and aerospace topics.

Once a cadet earns the Amelia Earhart Award, he or she is promoted to the grade of cadet captain and is challenged to lead and serve junior-ranking cadets not just in the hometown squadron but around their wing (state) as well. Perhaps the award's most coveted benefit is that Earhart cadets become eligible to represent the United States in the International Air Cadet Exchange.

To further illustrate the significance of this accomplishment, only three percent of Civil Air Patrol cadets complete the requirements to earn the Earhart Award.

Congratulations to Christian Fackrell of the Clearwater Composite Squadron and Casey Clarkson of the Crystal Lakes MS Squadron for completing the requirements to earn the Amelia Earhart Award in June.



Senior Member Education and Training Awards

Level I, or Onboarding, is the first of CAP's five Education and Training Program levels. The materials in Level I provide the new senior member with the information required to participate actively in CAP.

The following senior members completed the requirements for Level I in June:

Raymond Carter, Naples Composite Squadron
Shauna Kalinoski, Ormond Beach Comp. Squadron
Christina Sosa Gutierrez, Lantana Comp. Squadron
Tracie Coffey, Treasure Coast Composite Squadron
Clifford Labbe, Treasure Coast Composite Squadron
Susan Morris, Pinellas Senior Squadron
Benjamin Watts, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Sq.
Guillaume Labelle, Central Florida Comp. Squadron
Dawn Albright O'Leary, Homestead ARB Cadet Sq.
Christopher Sharp, Hernando Co. Composite Sq.

Monica Guevara Lozano, Doral Cadet Squadron
Zachary Bonner, Fernandina Senior Squadron
David Prado, Tamiami Composite Squadron
Allen Ashley, Marion County Composite Squadron
Santo Messina, Jacksonville Composite Squadron
Calvin Murray, Jacksonville Composite Squadron
Andrew Orton, Eglin Composite Squadron
William Denington, Tallahassee Composite Sq.
Shuskil Kumar Devanoni, 463rd Composite Sq.
Melanie Maestre, Opa-Locka Cadet Squadron

Level II focuses on developing members to participate actively at the squadron level. At this level, members select a specialty track which aligns with their duty position and earns a Technician Rating in that specialty. Members must also earn the Yeager Award which is part of CAP's Aerospace Education Program.

The following senior members completed the requirements for Level II in June:

Russell Humphreys, 089th MacDill Cadet Squadron
John Hudacek, Merritt Island Senior Squadron
Thomas Cznarty, North Palm Beach Co. Comp. Sq.

Cassandra Kreig, Hernando County Composite Sq.
Randy Scheiwe, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron
Terry Burgess, Suwannee River Composite Sq.

Level III focuses on developing the squadron level leader who aspires to serve on staff or as a commander.

To complete this level and earn the Grover C. Loening Award and the Loening ribbon, members must become senior rated in a specialty track, attend two major conferences, serve in a staff or command assignment for at least one year, mentor a member through Level I, and complete the Level III modules. See CAPR 40-1 for details on these requirements.

Edwin Maier of Stuart Composite Squadron, completed the requirements for Level III in June.

Level IV primarily focuses on expanding leadership skills, program development, and building a more holistic view of CAP. Level IV prepares the member for service as a group or wing-level leader who aspires to serve on staff or as a commander.

To complete this level and earn the Paul E. Garber Award and Garber ribbon, members must become master rated in a specialty track, serve as a staff member in a wing level activity or conference, give a presentation, complete the Level IV modules, and serve in a staff or command assignment for at least two years.

The following members completed the requirements for Level IV in June:

Stephen Kirkpatrick, Florida Wing
Jay Rosenfeld, Florida Wing
Randy Wilkinson, Stuart Composite Squadron
Ronald Rowe, SQR Composite Squadron

From PROPS

New National MAC Photo/Video Competition Coming Soon: CAP in Focus Awards

Civil Air Patrol's National Marketing and Communications team is launching a new competition to find the best photos taken and videos produced by any CAP member. The goal of this competition is to support MAC's needs for photographs and videos for a variety of marketing programs and products.

Separate from the longstanding Balsem Awards competition, which is limited to public affairs officers, the "CAP in Focus Awards" are open to any current CAP senior member or cadet member except for those currently serving on any national volunteer staff.

Submissions for the CAP in Focus Awards competition will be accepted from Sept. 1-30 via an online portal, which will open Sept. 1st. More information and submission links will be published at that time.

All work submitted for consideration for an award must have been completed from Sept. 1, 2022-Aug. 31, 2023.

Photos will be judged in five categories: community service, education, activities, fleet, and technology.

Videos may cover any relevant topic and will be judged in two categories: video shorts (one minute or less) and three-minute videos.

PA Reminders:

Members in photos and videos need to be wearing their uniform properly according to the regulations. Videos should not contain copyrighted music.

Sunshine State Drone Expo



Hosted By: The Azalea Middle School
Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron, SER-FL-829

Saturday, December 2nd

From: 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Hit The QR Code
For More Info



Free Admission

- FlyMotion
- Aerobatics
- Pilot Institute
- HAZMAT Demonstration
- Duke Energy Drone Team
- St. Pete P.D. SWAT Drones And Robotics
- Unmanned Safety Institute
- Speak With A Local F.A.A.S. team Drone Pro



- Food Trucks
- Static Displays
- Mobile Command Centers
- Aerial Exhibitions
- Get TRUST Certified
- Register Your Drones
- FAA Wings Credit Classes

This All Happens At:
Azalea Middle School
Football Field
7855 22nd Ave. N. St. Pete