



FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

GATOR GAZETTE

MARCH 2023



The Gator Gazette is a monthly electronic publication of Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol.

All issues of the Gator Gazette can be found on the Florida Wing website under "News".

<https://flwg.cap.gov/news/flwg-news/gator-gazette>

Submissions for the magazine should be sent to Florida Wing Director of Public Affairs and Gator Gazette editor Maj. Sybrian Castleman no later than the 27th of each month to be considered for the following month's issue.

Submission email:

sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov

Please be sure articles are in AP Style in either an unformatted Word doc or in the body of the email; photos are attached as separate jpg files – largest size available; and all submissions have been approved by the appropriate command authority before submission.

Interview Opportunities for Florida Wing Squadrons



Each month, a member from a Florida Wing squadron is featured on Wreaths Across America Radio to discuss how they became involved with Civil Air Patrol, talk about the exciting things their squadron is doing and what they are involved within their community, and how their unit supports the Wreaths Across America event each year.

These interviews can be used to help promote your wreath sponsorship sales across social media and with links in emails to potential corporate supporters. To schedule an interview, please email Maj. Castleman at

sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Event Staff Positions: Public Affairs Officers are needed to staff upcoming wing events including the Cadet Florida Wing Leadership Academy (FLA) and Encampment. Please send an email to Maj. Castleman for the FLA and for Encampment, please email Summer Encampment Commander Capt. Dominguez.

Training Opportunities:

Public Affairs Academy Pre-Conference Course- Friday, April 14th, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Registration is through the Conference registration page on the FLWG website.

Conference and Pre-Conference Registration Link: [FLWG Conference Registration](#)

FLWG Conference PA Sessions- Saturday, April 15th

Picture Perfect – Capturing and Creating Extraordinary Images

Boosting Social Media Skills and Engaging Audiences

PA VIRTUAL WORKSHOP on MARCH 4th – HUGE SUCCESS!!

The Public Affairs Workshop featured sessions on "Preparing Articles for Publication" by NHQ MAC team member Dan Bailey; "The Importance of Mission Staff Assistants and the Path to PIO" by Capt. Adelino Marcal; and "Social Media Tools You Can Use" by Maj. Sybrian Castleman. This workshop hosted over 90 students from across the country including a dozen cadets. If you missed the workshop, some of the session topics will be presented during the PA Academy pre-conference course and during Conference on Saturday.

HERALDRY – Graphic Design Assistants Needed

We need additional members assisting with the FLWG Heraldry Project with graphic design. If interested please email Maj. Castleman at sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov

SAVE THE DATES

March 24 – April 2: Sun n Fun International Aerospace Expo, Lakeland

April 13-14: FLWG Pre-Conference Courses, Orlando

April 15: FLWG Conference and Annual Awards Banquet, Orlando

April 15: FLWG Cadet Conference, Orlando

April 28-30: Spring Florida Leadership Academy (FLA), Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla

May 20-21: FLWG Check Pilot School, Lakeland

June 29 – July 8: Florida Wing Summer Encampment, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center

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

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

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

From PROPS:

Civil Air Patrol's 2023 National Conference is happening Aug. 17-19 in Bellevue, Washington.

This event brings together CAP members from across the country and features a full slate of activities, including exciting keynote speakers, learning sessions from members and national staff, Hangar Time in the exhibit hall with sponsors and CAP programs, and social events to spend time networking and engaging with other members.

The conference is also the time when Civil Air Patrol recognizes members' fantastic work in a wide range of roles and responsibilities, highlighted by recognition of the CAP Senior and CAP Cadet Members of the Year.

Registration for the conference will open in early April, so start planning now to join us in Bellevue.



Legislative Day Delegation to Washington, D.C.

By Cadet CMSgt. Sarah Dewey, CAP

A Florida Wing delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Congressmen and Congresswomen to discuss the Civil Air Patrol missions and programs in order to garner their support of our organization by continuing funding to sustain the excellence of the cadet program and the positive influence it has on young people's lives and to maintain our readiness to serve our nation as a highly trained force of volunteers.



The Florida Wing (FLWG) delegation members this year were Col. Luis Negron, FLWG Commander; Maj. Daia Jung, FLWG Vice Commander; Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek, FLWG Chief of Staff; and Capt. David Lanham, St. Augustine Composite Squadron Commander. Cadets - Sarah Dewey, Olivia Pagano, Logan Lanham, and Connor Ernst.

During their visits with the Congress members, Florida Wing members shared how Civil Air Patrol has made a positive impact in their lives, the various experiences they've had as members, and how the Congress members could become Civil Air Patrol members themselves.

They explained the vital roles our volunteers filled and how they contributed to the responses for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, the support roles Civil Air Patrol members fill for various Department of Defense training missions, and the capacities member operate in for search and rescue missions.

The delegation also discussed the unique opportunities for youth in the Cadet Program, such as the Cadet Wings Program where cadets can earn their private pilot certificate. They explained how encampments, color guard duties, and various National Cadet Special Activities challenge cadets and help them grow and develop into leaders and responsible citizens who are active, productive members of their communities.



While at Capitol Hill, the Florida Wing team met cadets and senior members from all over the county. They had the opportunity to speak with CAP National Commander Major General Phelka and attended a congressional meeting with CAP National Vice Commander Brigadier General Aye who is a true inspiration to all cadets.

It was a great honor for the FLWG members to share their passion for Civil Air Patrol with Congressional members to help them understand how their funding is utilized, the service Civil Air Patrol volunteers provide to the country, and its importance in the lives of CAP cadets. The FLWG delegation met

with seventeen Congress men and women representing the state of Florida including Representatives Cory Mills, Gus Bilirakis, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Brian Mast, Mario Diaz-Balart, Kat Cammack, Scott Franklin, Lois Frankel, Byron Donalds, Kathy Castor, Michael Waltz, Frederica Wilson, Laurel Lee, Maria Salazar, Aaron Bean, Shelia Cherfilus-McCormick, and Senator Marco Rubio.



Even though the actual Legislative Day is a single day event, the FLWG delegation flew up a couple of days early to tour Washington, D.C. One of the most amazing sights was the change of the guards at Arlington National Cemetery. Their drill was sharp and their uniforms were perfect, it left everyone in awe.

The team visited the Spy Museum and the Air and Space Museum. They saw displays about many famous people in the aeronautics world including the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart, after which two of the Civil Air Patrol cadet milestones are named.

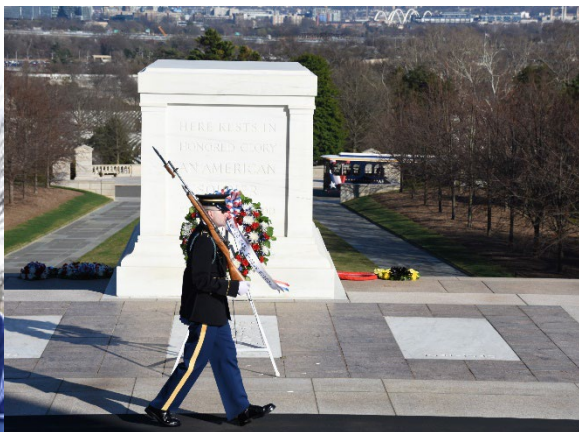


The team visited the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, WWII Memorial, Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, the White House and walked around the Capitol Hill building. They rode the Metrorail to get from place to place. The cadets agreed that it was really neat experience for those who never lived in large cities with a light rail system.

While walking around the city the team saw trees covered in cherry blossoms, historic buildings, cool local diners with great food, and the tip of the Washington Monument was visible from anywhere.



For the Florida Wing delegation cadets, this year's Legislative Day was a memorable 'once in a lifetime' experience. They enjoyed seeing the sights of Washington, D.C., meeting with members of Congress, visiting with other Civil Air Patrol members from across the country, meeting the National Commander and Vice Commander, and traveling with the Florida Wing Command Team.



National Legislative Day – Another Rousing Success for Florida Wing

By Lt. Col. Joyce Nader, CAP

Florida Wing Government Relations Officer

Each year, wings send members to Washington D.C. to advocate on behalf of Civil Air Patrol with elected federal officials from their states. Civil Air Patrol members have the opportunity to speak in person with their Congressional representatives about the various programs and emergency services operations our organization conducts, the benefits of having a trained volunteer base available to our nation and communities when needed to support disaster response efforts, and the organizational funding required to continue operations.

For the in-person meetings in Washington D.C. on March 2nd, Florida Wing was represented by Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negron, Vice Commander Maj. Daia Jung, Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek, St. Augustine Composite Squadron Commander Capt. Dave Lanham, Cadet Lt. Col. Logan Lanham, Cadet CMSgt. Sarah Dewey, Cadet Captain Connor Ernst, and Cadet CMSgt. Olivia Pagano. Ormond Beach Composite Squadron's Cadet Maj. Zackhery Schraeder was in Washington D.C. as part of the Cadet Leadership Academy and joined the Florida Wing delegation for their meeting with Rep. Michael Waltz.

Last year, Legislative Day was primarily a virtual campaign with limited in-person meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions still in place in Washington D.C. In spite of the restrictions, Florida Wing was able to set up meetings with the entire Florida Congressional Delegation of 29 members. This year, there were five new members holding elected seats and an additional seat had been added due to the increased population of the state according to the most recent census. Florida Wing was able to meet with all 30 national legislative delegates and/or their advisors either in-person or through virtual platforms. Since the National Capitol was fully open this year, Florida Wing was able to set up 18 in-person meetings – 17 of which were in Washington D.C.

Rep. Maxwell Frost of Florida Congressional District 10 and members of his staff met with FLWG Commander Col. Luis Negron at an in-person meeting in Orlando. Rep. Frost, the youngest member of Congress, was also a former CAP/FLWG cadet. Col. Negron presented Rep. Frost with his National Congressional Squadron Membership Certificate during their meeting. He's the 5th Congressman from Florida who has joined CAP's National Congressional Squadron, based at Joint Andrews Air Force Base. The other Florida Congressmen who are members are Sen. Marco Rubio, Rep. Bill Posey, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, and Rep. Darren Soto.



The 12 remaining meetings were held virtually from February 13th through March 17th.

Florida Wing members who worked as part of the virtual contingency included 1st Lt. Cyrus Gardner, Lt. Col. Robert Shaw, Lt. Col. Armando Villasana, Maj. Marcos Rodriguez, Maj. Larry Spangler, and Lt. Col. Adrian Cuarta. Members of the virtual delegation trained for several hours once a week for six weeks to prepare for their meetings. The training was led by Lt. Col. Joyce Nader, Florida Wing Government Relations Officer.

Lt. Col. Shaw and 1st Lt. Gardner followed up after meetings to arrange outreach efforts with the congressional members and their staffs, including the District staff, which will prove invaluable to future support of FLWG and Civil Air Patrol's overall missions and programs. Lt. Col. Adrian Cuarta, commander of the Florida Legislative Squadron, provided additional support and assistance with technology and tracking.

With the combined efforts of the in-person and virtual delegation teams, Florida Wing exceeded National Headquarters' meeting goal of 90% by completing visits with all Florida Congressional members. The team was also able to add an additional member to the Civil Air Patrol Congressional Squadron which made for a more than 100% successful National Legislative Day.



Florida Legislative Squadron – What is it and what does it do?

By Lt. Col. Adrian Cuarta, CAP
Commander, Legislative Squadron FL-999
Assistant Government Relations Advisor

While there are 64 squadrons in Florida Wing mostly comprised of Composite, Cadet and Senior units, there is one unit that is unique in its composition and function. That squadron is the Florida Legislative Squadron, FL-999. This FLWG unit is not to be confused with the National Congressional Squadron, which is comprised of members (US Senators and Representatives) of Congress located in Washington D.C.

The Florida Legislative Squadron is a unit specifically created for current members of the Florida Legislature who are our State Senators and Representatives. When a person gets elected to the Florida State Legislature, they become eligible to join as a member of the Florida Legislative Squadron, and become fully fledged CAP members, just like all others who join CAP.

The purpose of the Legislative Squadron is to engage our elected officials in the missions of CAP at the State level, and by doing so, keeping them informed in what our volunteer members are doing to support the citizens of Florida and the nation. Just like all CAP members, these members can participate in CAP missions, activities and training.

Unlike other units in FLWG, the Legislative Squadron does not have regular meetings, in as much as the members are located all over the State. Instead, these members are provided information on FLWG activities and opportunities to keep them informed so that they can engage with their constituents within their districts.

With 40 Senators and 120 Representatives in the State Legislature, every FLWG CAP member in every unit is represented by a legislator in the district in which they reside. This means that these legislators may be available to assist the units in their district with activities, events, award and promotion ceremonies, and more.

In order to engage our legislators in the missions of CAP, it is important to publish unit events and activities. This information can be made available to our members of the legislature so that they can participate and also provide much needed support for our CAP programs.

2023 Florida Wing Cadet Competition

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP



Seven Florida Wing color guard teams traveled to Patrick Space Force Base the weekend of March 11th to participate in the annual Florida Wing Cadet Competition. Squadrons represented at this year's event were Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron, Treasure Coast Composite Squadron, Brandon Cadet Squadron, Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron, Tamiami Composite Squadron, Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron, and a combined team representing Boca Raton Composite Squadron and Crystal Lakes MS Cadet Squadron.

The Cadet Competition highlights the range of skills cadets learn as part of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program. Teams of cadets prepare for many months to compete in the competition which includes challenges in the areas of leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. Written exams test cadets' knowledge of aerospace and leadership while marching drills and the posting of the colors give teams the opportunity to demonstrate their level of precision and teamwork.

Teams compete in several events with each event scored separately. Scores are combined to determine the overall team placements. Awards are presented to teams for each event and there is an individual award to the cadet who scores the highest on the written exam. Awards and medals are presented to the teams with the top overall scores.

1st Place Team for Each Event:

Physical Fitness – Tamiami Composite Squadron
Written Exam – Tamiami Composite Squadron
Uniform Preparation – Tamiami Composite Squadron
Spot Inspection – Boca Raton Crystal Lake team
Team Leadership Problem – Brandon Cadet Squadron
Element Drill – Brandon Cadet Squadron
Standard Drill – Tamiami Composite Squadron
Outdoor Practical – Brandon Cadet Squadron
Indoor Practical – Brandon Cadet Squadron



Highest score on the written Exam – Cadet 2nd Lt. Aaron Garcia from Tamiami Composite Squadron

Overall Team Placing:

1st Place – Brandon Cadet Squadron
2nd Place – Tamiami Composite Squadron
3rd Place – Pines Miramar Composite Squadron

First and second place winners advance to the Southeast Region Cadet Competition which will be held April 28th -30th at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Georgia. The first and second place winners from the Southeast Region Cadet Competition will continue to the National Cadet Competition this summer.

In Remembrance of Fallen Astronauts

By 2nd Lt. John Henderson, CAP
Ti-Co Composite Squadron Public Affairs

For the last seven years, members of the Civil Air Patrol Ti-Co Composite Squadron have had the privilege to participate in an annual ceremony honoring the 17 astronauts of the American space program who lost their lives reaching for the stars. Civil Air Patrol members who serve at this event have the opportunity to meet local dignitaries and significant contributors to the space program. The ceremony is sponsored by the City of Titusville and the American Space Museum. It's held at Sand Point Park in Titusville near Kennedy Space Center. This year's event marked the 20th anniversary of the loss of the space shuttle Columbia.

Ti-Co Composite Squadron member Lt. Col. Al Therriault is the chairman of the city's Flag and Memorial Committee. He was master of ceremonies along with Mark Marquette of the American Space Museum. Members from the Ti-Co Composite Squadron assist with setting up the event site, cleaning the area following the event, providing the color guard, and escorting members of the community to plaques honoring each astronaut where they lay flowers.

The 2023 ceremony provided a unique opportunity to the color guard cadets in the handling of a flag of another nation. This year's event highlighted Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon who perished during the re-entry of Columbia. The event was attended by Consul for Administration Eli Gil, from the Israeli consulate in Miami, Rabbi Zvi Konikov, Executive Director of Chabad of the Space and Treasure Coasts, Hadas Leavy, who sang the Israeli national anthem, and local Israeli businessmen Nadav Jerushalmy and Joseph Zevuloni.



Cadet 2nd Lt. Carter Hall and Cadet CMSgt. Garret Hall stand at attention as former NASA Shuttle Launch Director Michael Leinbach pays his respects to STS-107 pilot William McCool.



Former Director of Public Affairs of the Kennedy Space Center Hugh Harris. During the Shuttle program, Harris was commonly known as the "Voice of NASA." Harris passed away a couple of weeks after this ceremony at the age of 90.

Many local dignitaries and notable persons from the space program were present at the ceremony. Keynote speaker astronaut Nicole Stott flew on two space shuttle missions and two International Space Station Expeditions. Presenting the biographies of the Apollo I astronauts was former Director of Public Affairs for Kennedy Space Center Hugh Harris. Astronaut Jon McBride also attended and was recognized during the ceremony. Former Space Shuttle Launch Director Michael Leinbach, who held that position during the last launch of Columbia, was one of the community members laying flowers during the ceremony.



Other notable community members in attendance were Titusville Mayor Dan Diesel, Chief of Police John Hustoles, Fire Chief John Lau, and City Manager Scott Larese. The American Space Museum was represented by former long-time President Charlie Mars, a retired NASA engineer who contributed to the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Shuttle and ISS programs.

Astronauts honored during the ceremony were Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee of Apollo 1 lost January 27, 1967; Christa McAuliffe, Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Ellison Onizuka, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, and Gregory Jarvis of STS-51-L lost on January 28th, 1986; and Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon of STS-107 lost on February 1, 2003.



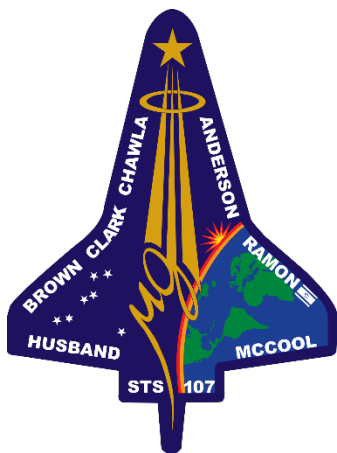
From left to right, are NASA astronaut and keynote speaker Nicole Stott, Consul of Administration Eli Gil of the Miami Israeli Consulate, Cadet 2nd Lt. Luke Henderson, Cadet 2nd Lt. Carter Hall, Mayor of Titusville Dan Diesel, and local Israeli businessmen Joseph Zevuloni and Nadav Jerushalmy.

The Apollo 1 Mission failure occurred during a test on the launch pad when a flash fire erupted in the command module. The test was on January 1, 1967, approximately one month before its scheduled launch.

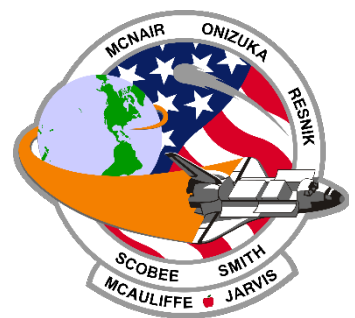
The Space Shuttle Challenger disaster occurred on January 28, 1986 when a structural failure occurred 73 seconds after launch. This mission was planned as the first “Teacher in Space” project flight.

Space Shuttle Columbia successfully completed its mission in space and broke apart upon re-entry into earth’s atmosphere due to a damaged thermal protection system on February 1, 2003.

The annual date of the memorial is chosen to coincide with the six-day period of the year in which these losses occurred on the Apollo 1, Space Shuttle Challenger, and the Space Shuttle Columbia Missions.



Cadet Kaeden McMillon, Cadet 2nd Lt. Carter Hall, Cadet 2nd Lt. Luke Henderson and Cadet Robert Babilonia open the ceremony with the presentation of the colors.



Group 5 Conducts Successful Overwater Survival Course

by Lt. Col. Marian Motyl-Szary, CAP



On Saturday, March 4, 2023, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Florida Wing, Group 5 held an Overwater Survival (OWS) classroom and practical pool sessions. Seven volunteer members from two squadrons in southwest Florida, Marco Island Senior Squadron and SRQ Composite Squadron, completed the requirements to earn this certification. The course includes classroom training, an aircraft egress exercise, an online test, and a practical exercise in a pool. The Marco Island YMCA graciously provided the pool and lifeguard. Experienced OWS course instructors, Captain Robert Boone and Captain Mark Senda, provided interesting and effective presentations and guidance.

All aircrew personnel - mission pilots, observers, and scanners - who will be operating outside of gliding distance of land are required to complete this training every three years. Many of CAP's cooperative missions with the Air Force require flights beyond gliding distance.



The presentations focus on proven procedures and techniques that aircrew members should know and follow - before, during, and after a water landing, which is commonly termed as ditching. The practical exercises focus on applying those processes and assimilating the steps until they become second nature. Egress from the airplane is one of those exercises where the raft is thrown out of the aircraft, and the crewmembers exit the plane in a minimum amount of time. Teamwork and shared experiences from the rest of the crew help accomplish the training successfully.

Safety is one of CAP's top priorities. The overwater survival course is critical because using the techniques included in this training offers an expected 88% survival rate in the event of a ditching. Practicing the skills in a pool, wearing a flight suit, shoes, and a personal flotation device helps reinforce esprit de corps as aircrews work together to demonstrate treading water, swimming together as a group for a distance of 50+ feet, and climbing into a raft, which is harder than it sounds. Most importantly, participants can experience the effectiveness of a personal flotation device, particularly when their clothes and shoes fill with water and feel quite heavy.



All participants completed the program successfully and demonstrated that we are proficient and ready for overwater missions. This is just one of the many training programs Civil Air Patrol uses to stay proficient and to mitigate the risks inherent in flying missions for America.

FROM PROPS (excerpt from full story)

New Cadet Wings Pilots: 'Indescribable Feeling of Satisfaction'

Cadet Lt. Col. Ashton Mark Campbell of the Florida Wing's 463rd Composite Squadron is studying information technology a junior at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. He is interested in both law enforcement and aviation and is also considering Air Force Officer Training School, hoping to fly either the A-10 or KC-135. He is applying for scholarships for instrument rating. Becoming a certificated flight instructor is another goal.



How will earning your private pilot certificate help you at CAP and in your future career?

One of my new long-term goals is to become a CAP mission and orientation pilot. I believe that the missions CAP flies have such a powerful impact. My first orientation flight sparked my love for aviation. I've flown on commercial airliners dozens of times, but there is an indescribable feeling of satisfaction from flying an aircraft yourself. I want to be able to share that same experience with the next generation of cadets and hopefully inspire future aviators.

After earning my certificate, I started exploring new career options. I am interested in flying for the Air Force, and I am looking into the process of becoming an Air Force pilot. I also have aspirations to eventually serve in federal law enforcement. Earning my pilot's certificate has given me a lot more potential career choices, and I am carefully considering my options.

How did your flight instructor assist you during the program?

My instructor, Capt. Ron Creel, was amazing. He always kept his schedule open to make sure we had enough time to fly together. We flew together six days in a row during my first week of training, and I was able to solo my next lesson because of his superior teaching skills. He demonstrates great values and was very patient with me throughout my training. I am very fortunate that he volunteered to teach me. I would not have earned my private pilot certificate without his guidance.

What got you interested in joining CAP?

My father heard about CAP from a co-worker, and my parents brought me to a local meeting soon after I turned 12. I have remained active in my unit ever since. I love that CAP allows cadets to lead cadets. I was really drawn into the program after seeing other people my age entrusted with leadership positions. The cadet program has an amazing structure and really molded me to be the leader I am today.

Do you plan to transition to a CAP adult volunteer after your time as a cadet is completed?

I plan to transition to being an adult member when I age out as a cadet. My experiences as a cadet have been invaluable, and I want to pay it forward to the next generation of cadets. Especially when it comes to aviation, I would love to fly cadets as an orientation pilot once I meet the requirements.

Also featured in the CAPNews Story are Cadet Airman Miles Flack of the Minnesota Wing's Mankato Composite Squadron and Cadet Maj. Ben Allen of the Kentucky Wing's Louisville Cadet Squadron. Read the full story here: <https://www.cap.news/new-cadet-wings-pilots-indescribable-feeling-of-satisfaction/>

Cadet Wings Graduate

Congratulations to Cadet CMSgt. Adam Braman of the North Palm Beach Composite Squadron who is the 223rd graduate of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Wings Program. C/CMSgt. Braman passed his check ride on February 7th.



Cadet Wings is a merit-based program for cadets pursuing a Private Pilot Certificate (PPC) - it's the new diamond of cadet life. Cadets complete their training at a local flight school (sometimes referred to as "FBO") or with CAP flight instructors using our CAP Cessna 172 aircraft. Funding for this program comes from the United States Air Force and other funding partners such as the Ray Foundation with the goal of developing tomorrow's aerospace leaders.

To learn more about the Cadet Wings Program and how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/cadetinvest/cadet-wings>

You can also watch the video: Private Pilot Pathway Opportunities for Cadets in Civil Air Patrol at this link: <https://vimeo.com/649489494>

Florida Wing Welcomes Liberty Middle School Cadet Squadron and Congratulates Squadron Commander Capt. Carolyn Spangler

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Photography by Maj. Steve Lampasona, CAP

The Unit Activation and Assumption of Command Ceremonies were held for Liberty Middle School Cadet Squadron in Florida Wing's Group 2 on February 23rd with Capt. David Lanham, St. Augustine Squadron Commander as the Master of Ceremonies.

The host was Maj. Larry Spangler, Florida Wing Group 2 Commander. Distinguished guests attending included Mrs. Melissa Conner, Liberty Middle School Principal; Mrs. Lori Conrad from the Marion County School Board; and Capt. Dennis Joiner, Commander of the Marion County Sheriff Office Juvenile Department. Cadets from the Liberty Middle School Cadet Squadron were present on stage for the ceremonies and the unit's color guard presented the colors.

The Activation Ceremony is a simple, traditional event. With the uncasing of the squadron's flag, it defines a definite point in time and commemorates the beginning of the unit's history. Florida Wing Vice Commander Maj. Daia Jung delivered the squadron charter which was in turn presented to the incoming squadron commander Capt. Carolyn Spangler and school Principal Mrs. Connor by CAP-USAF Regional Operations Director Jose Hernandez.



The Charter reads:

The National Board of Civil Air Patrol hereby grants this charter to the Liberty Middle School Squadron with such authority as is conferred by the constitution, bylaws, resolutions, and implementing regulations and directives of the corporation.

Charter No. FL-831. Date Issued 24 Oct 2022

Signed by the National Commander, Maj Gen Edward Phelka.



The Assumption of Command Ceremony is a time-honored tradition designed to mark the occasion of a new commander taking responsibility of a unit and marking the beginning of an era in the unit's history. Capt. Carolyn Spangler upon accepting the squadron flag from Group Commander Maj. Larry Spangler assumes the duties as the first commander of Liberty Middle School Cadet Squadron.

Mrs. Connor provided the keynote speech on this occasion. She said, "We encourage our students to think about "what's next?" They have to do something after high school, but if we don't start talking about it in middle school, they're kind of lost once they get there. So, whether it's to become employed, enroll in college, be an entrepreneur, or enlist in the military, we want students to think about their plans and this [Civil Air Patrol] provides a catalyst for that.

"Liberty benefits from having students in the Civil Air Patrol because the program is based upon character and leadership training. We're a stronger school because our cadets adhere to that code of ethics. And at Liberty we follow the big three – we do our best, we do what's right, and we treat others the way they want to be treated. I know these three expectations can help create strong members of our community.

"We look forward to seeing our Civil Air Patrol Cadet squadron grow and we look forward to seeing what our cadets can do their opportunities, whether engineering, aircraft mechanics, aerospace medicine, the chances for our cadets to find their "E" is tremendous because of this opportunity.

"Maj. Spangler and Capt. Spangler thank you for your hard work and dedication in starting this program. To our cadets, your Liberty family is very proud of you and I know that Liberty Middle School and our students will benefit from this squadron for many years to come."

Find Your "E" references the Liberty Middle School Program which encourages students to explore options after high school which include employment, enrollment into a college or trade school, becoming an entrepreneur, or enlisting in the military.



Newly installed Liberty Middle School Cadet Squadron Commander Capt. Carolyn Spangler closed the event by saying, "It's a great honor working with the Liberty Middle School cadets, watching them grow from basic recruits to leading the new recruits; teaching leadership and demonstrating military bearing.

My commitment to you is that we will remain focused on organizing, training, and equipping these young cadets standing before you and future cadets to become productive leaders of tomorrow. "

A Walk Through WWII History – The “Mighty” 8th Air Force

by Capt. Chuck Vaughn, CAP



Capt. Mike Davison and Capt. Chuck Vaughn with twelve cadets lead by Cadet 2nd Lt. Janna Elizabeth Tannous from the Jacksonville Composite Squadron, ventured to the Mighty 8th Air Force museum in Savannah, Georgia the first weekend in March to learn about the history of the "Mighty 8th" Air Force and the role it played in WWII.

A museum docent led us in a walk through the history of the Mighty 8th and how the United States got involved in the war effort during WWII. There was a myriad of historic artifacts and displays representing nearly all aspects relating to the Mighty 8th's operations and its heroic airmen. It was a fascinating exploration of how the United States put the nation's full industrial might, military strength, and the willpower and unwavering courage of its people into defeating the Axis powers in Europe.

The centerpiece of the tour was the fully restored B17G bomber nicknamed “The City of Savannah” which looked as though it was ready to take off on its next bombing raid. Cadets and senior members learned how this aircraft and thousands like it were produced in the United States mostly by the Women Ordnance Workers (WOWs) and included a talk about how the famed “Rosie the Riveter” made it possible to win the war.



He noted that without the women of our country building aircraft and the WASPs – Women's Airforce Service Pilots – delivering the aircraft all over the world, the result of the war may have been much different. The tour concluded with a visit to the section that detailed the African-American participation in the Army Air Corps, highlighted by a discussion of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, or Red Tails as they were commonly called, and their mission flying fighter cover for the bombers.



After the official tour, cadets were given the opportunity to explore the museum's expansive collection of memorabilia, including monuments honoring the various aircrews of the 8th Air Force and other static aircraft displays. The final stop was the gift shop where they could buy souvenirs to commemorate their visit. Cadet CMSgt. William Douglass said, “I thought the static displays were awesome and really enjoyed looking at all of them. I loved hearing about all of the history and I'm glad they are working to expanding the museum.”

Celebrating the Mighty Eighth Air Force: 80 Years of Warfighting History (excerpts)

By Staff Sgt. Bria Hughes Eighth Air Force

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. – On February 1, 1942, the heritage, honors and lineage of the “Mighty Eighth” sprung to life. The Eighth Air Force's story began during World War II and continues today with a charge to conduct indefinite strategic deterrence anytime, anywhere in order to safeguard the United States of America.

From its first air combat bombardment mission conducted on July 4, 1942 through the present use of standoff precision munitions, 8th Air Force has decisively taken the air battle into the enemy's airspace and homeland. But the Eighth Air Force of today is not just bombers anymore.

Read the full article: <https://www.stratcom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/2923890/celebrating-the-mighty-eighth-air-force-80-years-of-warfighting-history/>



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 February:

George Harvey, Naples Composite Squadron
Judson Richardson, Stuart Composite Squadron
Maurice Gauthier, Ormond Beach Composite Sqdrn.
Terri Eros, Charlotte County Composite Squadron
Richard Scanlon, Pinellas Senior Squadron
John Valdes, Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron
Tara Hendry, Hernando County Composite Squadron
Julian Nicasio, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron
Chimin Jim, Doral Cadet Squadron
Robert Peters, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron
Carlos Forneck, Boca Raton Composite Squadron
Albert Vandiver, Jacksonville Composite Squadron
Andre Acevedo, Eglin Composite Squadron
Paul Rast, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron
Robert Smith, 463rd Composite Squadron
Molly Byers, Lakeland Composite Squadron
Casey Martin, Gold Coast Senior Squadron
Sabrina Torres, Liberty Middle School 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 February:

Vicky Frankline, Stuart Composite Squadron
Aaron Lyon, Hernando County Composite Squadron

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.

Michael Ange, Suwannee River Composite Squadron, completed the requirements for Level III in February.

Level V primarily focuses on developing a strategic view of the organization, continued leadership skills, and further developing the region or national level leader who aspires to serve on staff or as a commander.

This is the highest level of CAP career development and is for those officers performing duty as commanders or staff officers at the region or national level. As such, only the members most dedicated to advancing their education and training complete this level.

Successful completion of Level V of the Education and Training Program qualifies the CAP officer for the Gill Robb Wilson Award, the highest education and training award earned by a senior member. The award honors an airman, poet, writer, and founder of CAP.

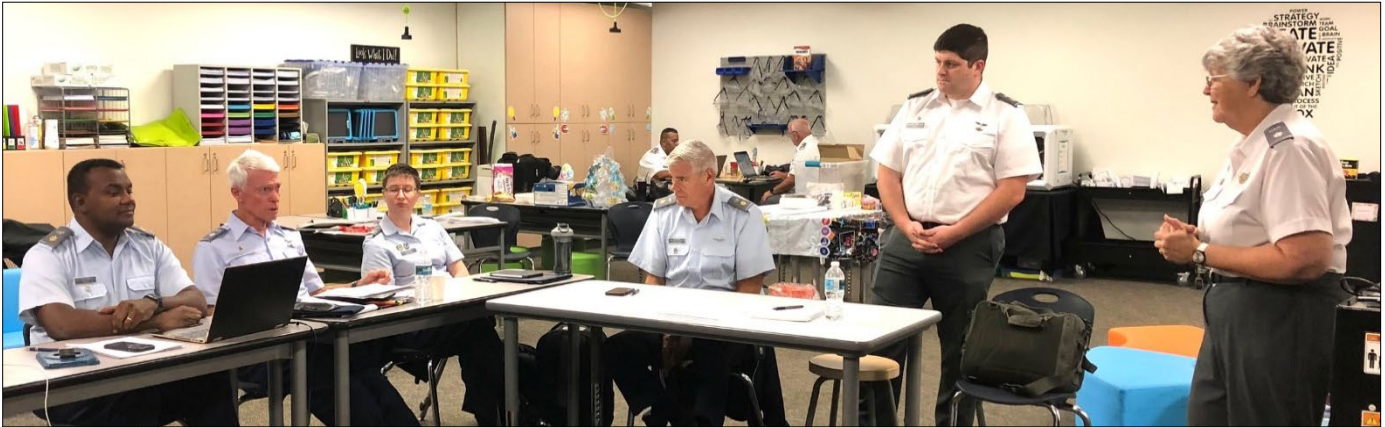
Maj. Daia Jung, FLWG Vice Commander completed the requirements for Level V in February.

**Congratulations to all of our members for
advancing their CAP Education and Training and
completing the requirements for these senior
member milestone awards.**

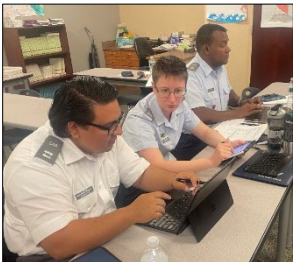
Florida Senior Leadership Academy

Compiled by: Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

The Florida Senior Leadership Academy (FSLA) is an in-person Education and Training course offered by Florida Wing as an alternative to the national online cohorts for senior members to complete the required training modules for Level IV. Seven students attended the most recent FSLA which was held on March 4th and 5th at the Faith Christian Academy in Orlando.



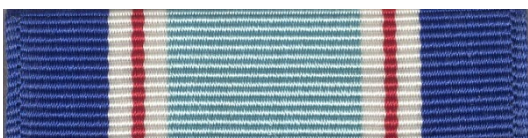
Level IV primarily focuses on expanding leadership skills, program development, and building a more holistic view of Civil Air Patrol. This level prepares the member for service as a group or wing-level leader who aspires to serve on staff or as a commander. The Level IV modules provide students with in-depth studies of management, leadership, and communications skills, and shows how CAP's missions are accomplished at the group and wing levels. Discussions, case studies, and practical exercises are integral parts of the modules.



FSLA Director Lt. Col. Judy Hewett and Deputy Director Maj. Julio Pastoriza were joined in instructing students by CMSgt. Scott Jung, Maj. Larry Spangler, Maj. Sybrian Castleman and Capt. Kevin Rausch. Florida Wing senior members who attended to complete the module portion of their Level IV requirements were: Maj. Christopher Davis, Capt. Christian Dominguez, Capt. Natasha Harrison, Maj. Ayrton "A.J." Ingle, Maj. Stephen Lampasona, Capt. Michael Piwowarski, and Lt. Col. Thomas Simm.

To complete Level IV and earn the Paul E. Garber Award, CAP members must complete the requirements for a master rating in a specialty track, serve as a staff member at 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 Paul E. Garber Award recognizes those members who have dedicated themselves to leadership and personal development in CAP. This award was first given in 1964 and honors Paul E. Garber. Mr. Garber was a noted aviation pioneer, curator emeritus of the National Air and Space Museum, and early champion of Civil Air Patrol.



CONGRATULATIONS to Kristen Miller, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron for completing the requirements for Level IV and the Paul E. Garber Award in February.



FLORIDA WING CONFERENCE

UPDATED HOTEL and REGISTRATION DEADLINES

The conference team is proud to present the Conference Programming Schedule for you to review and print. Please note that while every effort has been taken to put together a solid program, sessions may change without notice. Updates will be posted to the FLWG Conference Website and the FLWG Facebook page. The final conference program will be emailed to registered participants.

The conference opens Saturday morning with the annual General Session and Awards Ceremony starting at 8 a.m. The Cadet Conference and FLWG Conference breakout sessions begin following immediately after the General Session. With the variety of subjects being offered at this year's conference during the breakout sessions there are topics of interest for new senior members as well as those who have been in CAP for many years. The 45-minute breakout sessions include topics from Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, Unit Management, Command Focus, Education and Training, Emergency Services, Safety, Public Affairs, History, Information Technology, and Radio Communications.

Following a day filled with learning new information, participating in hands-on workshops, and exchanging ideas with other Florida Wing members, the Annual Florida Wing Awards Banquet is held Saturday evening. During this awards ceremony, FLWG shines the spotlight on some of our most outstanding dedicated volunteers in recognition for their willingness to go "above and beyond" in service to our communities, our organization, and our members.

Pre-Conference courses, offered on Thursday, April 13th and Friday, April 14th include: Incident Management Team (IMT) Training (2-day); Squadron Commander Course (2-day); Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) Basic on Thursday; Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) Intermediate on Friday; and a Public Affairs Academy on Friday. HF Radio is scheduled for Thursday and Mission Radio Operator (MRO) is scheduled for both days, pending confirmations.

Don't forget the fun of networking and reconnecting with other members from across the wing! On Friday night, there is a social with food and fun! Test your CAP knowledge against other members in a special FLWG Conference Jeopardy game or just relax on the terrace and visit with friends. Either way, it will be a great evening event to kickoff this year's conference!

Be sure to check the conference registration link for more information INCLUDING Uniform of the Day for each conference segment (check the banquet attire!), hotel breakfast serving hours, and the full conference schedule.

****UPDATED DEADLINES****

Please refer to the below deadlines when making your plans to attend the Conference at the Drury Plaza Disney Springs.

- 03/27/23 @ 23:59: HOTEL RESERVATION CUTOFF – We were able to extend our special pricing of \$159/night!
- 03/31/23 @ 23:59: Banquet Ticket Cutoff
- 04/07/23 @ 23:59: Pre-Conference Registration Cutoff
- 04/11/23 @ 23:59: Conference Only Registration Cutoff

LINKS

Conference Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-flwg-conference-registration-tickets-534656129877>

Hotel Registration Link: <https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10016984>

Hotel Virtual Tour Link: <https://vimeo.com/716926588>

Cadet Forms Link: <https://flwg.cap.gov/news/events/2023-florida-wing-conference/cadet-form-upload>

Florida Wing Website: <https://flwg.cap.gov/>

Florida Wing Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/flwgcap>

(Note: Gator Gazette is imbedded in emailed as a jpg. Links are clickable in the pdf attached format only.)



Florida Wing Summer Encampment Command Team Selected

Congratulations to Cadet Major Justin McDonald upon his selection as the Florida Wing 2023 Summer Encampment Cadet Commander. C/Maj. McDonald has been a dedicated member of CAP for seven years and has demonstrated exceptional leadership

skills and commitment to the program as a squadron cadet commander, lead instructor at the Florida Leadership Academy, and encampment squadron commander. Congratulations also to Cadet Maj. Elias Paver as the Encampment Cadet Deputy of Support and Cadet Capt. Kristina Duncan as the Cadet Deputy of Operations.

Congratulations to Capt. Amon Russell upon his selection for the position of Commandant of Cadets and to Maj. Larry Spangles upon his selection for the position of Deputy of Support. Capt. Russell and Maj. Spangler bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their respective roles, and we are confident that they will lead our cadets and senior members to a successful encampment.

Senior Members – We NEED YOU for Encampment!!!

Senior member staff applications are now being accepted for support staff positions and training officers. This is an opportunity for individuals passionate about serving our organization and making a difference in the lives of young people to take on leadership roles and contribute to the success of the encampment. Please send an email to Encampment Commander Capt. Christian Dominguez at christian.dominguez@flwg.cap.gov with your CAP resume and in the body of the email, please state three positions you would be interested in working for summer encampment. If you have questions about senior staff positions, please email Capt. Dominguez.

Open Senior Member Positions:

Administrative Officer
Communications Officer
Food Services Officer
Logistics Officer
Transportation Officer
Public Affairs Officer

Operations Officer
Chaplain
Chaplain Support Team Member (Chaplain Support Specialist or Character Development Instructor)
Chief Training Officer
Training Officers (Minimum of 16)



Important Summer Encampment Announcements

STUDENT APPLICATIONS OPEN
CADET STAFF APPLICATIONS OPEN
SENIOR MEMBER STAFF APPLICATIONS OPEN

Encampment Student Registration will be different for students this year. Due to the high demand for attendance at the FLWG Encampment, *students will now APPLY to attend the encampment*. This aims to ensure cadets who need to attend the encampment for promotion, age, or other reasons get a better chance to attend.

The slotting will be limited to 200 student slots and 20 Advanced Training Squadron slots. The Encampment Operations Order on the encampment webpage provides more details on this process.

Advanced Training Squadron (ATS): Cadets who apply for staff and are not selected will have the first opportunity to enroll in the Advanced Training Squadron. Cadets who do not wish to staff but want to apply for ATS will complete the Cadet Student application and select ATS.

General Encampment (student/parent) Inquiries, please email:

flencampmentadmin@flwgcap.us

More Information and Application Link for Students and Cadet Staff:

<https://flwg.cap.gov/programs/cadet-programs/flwg-summer-encampment>



CADET ENCAMPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Thanks to Air Force support, CAP has special funding available to cover encampment fees and uniforms with an emphasis on serving economically disadvantaged cadets through the Cadet Encampment Assistance Program or CEAP (say, "seep"). An inability to afford encampment should not hold back cadets who want to participate in encampment.

First-Year & Returnees. Priority is given to our highest financial need encampment attendees. Remaining funding is prioritized for first-time encampment attendees. Graduates wanting to attend a second or third encampment are welcome to apply.

How do I apply?

Visit eServices, open the "Cadet Encampment Assistance Program" module, and follow the on-screen instructions to apply for CEAP. However, you will also need to apply for encampment itself, if you haven't already. **CEAP APPLICATION DEADLINE - MAY 1, 2023**



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 February:

Timothy Hanna, Coral Springs Cadet Squadron
Christian Cassidy, Stuart Composite Squadron
Juan Inclan, Stuart Composite Squadron
Hannah Mariani, Stuart Composite Squadron
Aidan Vale, Stuart Composite Squadron
Camila Cerrada, MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron
David Meldrum-Green, Seminole Composite Squadron
Michael Craft, North Palm Beach County Cadet Squadron
Allen Christensen, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron
Davis Dillinger, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron
Lawrence Gornowicz, Hernando County Composite Squadron
Hector Serrano, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron
Alekszander Ma-Pinto, Boca Raton Composite Squadron
Hannah Michel, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron
Reagan Hunink, Lakeland Composite Squadron
Jithesh Bhuvaneswaran, Sunlake HS Cadet Squadron
Austin Burton, Sunlake HS Cadet Squadron
Natalie Castaneda, Pahokee MS Cadet Squadron
Candace Deleonardo, Pahokee MS Cadet Squadron
Alexander Fonseca, Pahokee MS Cadet Squadron

Congratulations to FLWG's Wright Brothers Award cadets!



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 February:

Olivia Dailey, St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron

Trinity St. Pierre, Hernando County Composite Squadron



Wreaths Across America Radio

In February, SM Scott Kirkwood, member of the Lakeland Composite Squadron, talked with Wreaths Across America Radio host Michael W. Hale to share his story and explain what opportunities there are to join CAP.

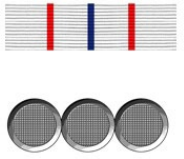
Listen to the interview here:

[Wreath Across America Radio Scott Kirkwood Interview](#)



Watch the Florida Wing Facebook page for upcoming interviews –

Wreaths Across America Radio will be featuring Florida Wing once a week in April, not just once a month! Squadrons represented in the April interviews are Ti-Co Composite Squadron, Lantana Composite Squadron, Tallahassee Composite Squadron, and Boca Raton Composite Squadron. Get your squadron featured on WAA Radio by sending an email to Maj. Castleman at sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov



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 Sydney Sanford of the St. Augustine Composite Squadron for completing the requirements to earn the Amelia Earhart Award in February.



General Ira C. Eaker Award

The General Ira C. Eaker Award is the CAP Cadet Program's second most prestigious award and honors one of the forefathers of an independent Air Force.

The Eaker Award marks completion of Phase IV of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character.

Further, cadets will have graduated from an academically-intensive leadership academy to qualify for this honor, which is especially appropriate considering that today, the Air Force celebrates Gen Eaker's legacy by naming the service's top school for commanders in his honor – the Ira C. Eaker Center for Professional Development at Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala. To stand in General Eaker's shadow is to study leadership carefully and serve others.

To further illustrate the significance of this accomplishment, only 1416 Eaker Awards have been presented since the award's inception in 1998.

Once a cadet earns the General Ira C. Eaker Award, he or she is promoted to the grade of cadet lieutenant colonel and is challenged to lead and serve junior-ranking cadets not just in the hometown squadron but around their wing (state) as well. After earning the Eaker Award, only the prestigious Spaatz Award Examination remains for the young person to conquer as a CAP cadet.

Congratulations to James Connors of the St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron for completing the requirements to earn the Ira C. Eaker Award in February.

Across the Wing

Featured stories have been selected from unit Facebook pages.

The “Facebook Page of the Month” goes to the Azalea Middle School Squadron in Group 3.

Featured Facebook Post:

Tamiami Composite Squadron

Meet the squadron! C/1stLt Nicholas Camperos is a junior at John A. Ferguson High School, currently serving as the Cadet Advisory Council Chair for Group 7 (Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties). He joined CAP in 2021 out of an interest in cybersecurity and joining the U.S. Air Force. His favorite part of the program is the mentorship and leadership. After high school, he plans to study Cyber security and hopes to commission as an Air Force officer. He is currently nominated for Florida Wing’s Cadet of the Year!



Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron

It was a great day for the Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron. The Clearwater Composite Squadron came down to assist us with our morning and afternoon flag ceremonies as well as our presentation of the colors for events. We had a good couple of hours of hard work put in by the cadets and then everyone got to enjoy a nice hot dog cookout. We had senior members as well as parents joining in to help out with everything. It was a great day of work, success, accomplishment, and celebration. Today our two squadrons came together, and it felt like family.



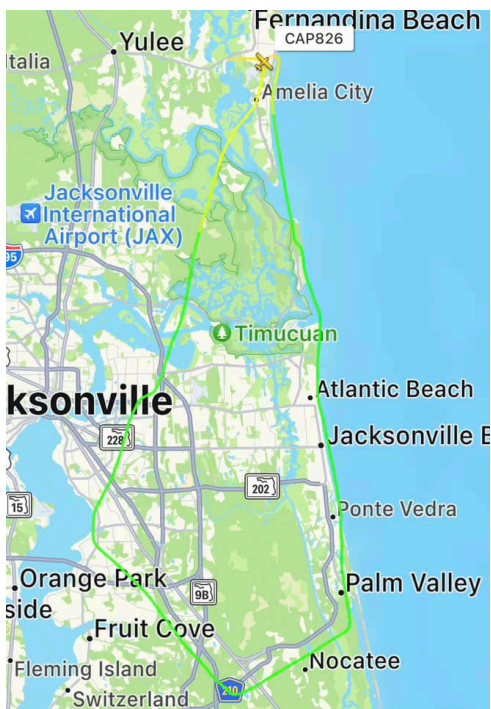
While most of our squadron was having a marvelous day of training and bonding with the Clearwater cadets, three of our cadets were taking to the skies for the first time in a civil air patrol aircraft.



Across the Wing

Fernandina Senior Squadron

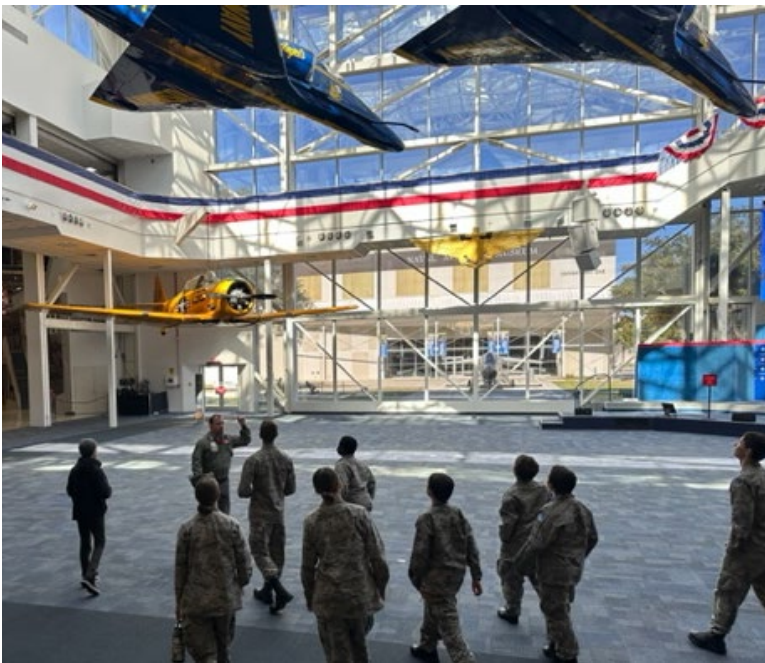
Fernandina Senior Squadron pilots with West Nassau HS AFJROTC cadets 07 February 2023 for orientation sorties.



Visit to National Museum of Naval Aviation

The Pensacola Cadet Squadron made a long-awaited visit to the Museum of Naval Aviation on February 18th. Those in attendance had the pleasure of a retired naval aviator as a docent. Our own Capt. Cashman also pitched-in, not only with sharing his expert knowledge of aviation, but also by getting our cadets access to flight simulators!

Photos courtesy of: SM Nicole Reed, Mrs. April Crawford and Capt. Leo Bowersox



Across the Wing

Brandon Cadet Squadron

Orientation
Flights

North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron





Silvered Wings: Boeing Model 40-A/B

- Capacity: three
- Length: 33 feet
- Maximum speed: 128 mph
- Cruise speed: 105 mph
- Range: 650 miles
- Service ceiling: 14,500 feet

Civil Air Patrol flew NC7471 as part of its wartime Southern Liaison Patrol, which monitored the U.S. border with Mexico to circumvent any possible enemy activity there and allow the Army to deploy men and materiel needed elsewhere.

Dawn-to-dusk patrols were flown below 500 feet above ground level from two main bases at Laredo and El Paso, Texas. Aircraft and participants came from the California Wing and Eastern and Gulf Coast coastal patrol bases.

The 1927 Boeing Model 40-A/B biplane was Boeing's entry into the new airmail and passenger aircraft market. The Model 40-A was a large, rugged plane with room for cargo in the rear and two passengers enclosed in a "chummy" forward compartment.

The pilot was isolated in an open cockpit on the top, aft area. Powered by Pratt & Whitney's nine-cylinder, 400-horsepower "Wasp" engine, many 40-A models were later upgraded with the newer 500-horsepower "Hornet" engine used on the 1929 four-passenger 40-B model.

NC7471 was owned by John H. Bailey of Brea, California, and was one of more than 1,000 "A" Classification private aircraft volunteered for CAP wartime use. Although its usage as nose art isn't documented, the liaison patrol's "Feathered Minuteman" emblem is shown on this portrait.

Maj. Ron Finger is a freelance illustrator and member of the Minnesota Wing's Crow Wing Composite Squadron. He is an Air Force Art Program artist, where a select pool of artists are assigned "art missions" to document specific U.S. Air Force operations. Among his duties as Civil Air Patrol's national artist, Finger researches and creates art that portrays our historical emergency service. A personal goal is to complete paintings documenting every aircraft type CAP has flown.

This is the eighth painting in Finger's second series of depictions of vintage CAP aircraft.

Link:

<https://www.cap.news/silvered-wings-boeing-model-40-ab/>