



FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

# GATOR GAZETTE

APRIL 2023



# SAVE THE DATES

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

**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

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.



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](mailto:sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov)

Please send submissions in no later than the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month to be considered for the next month's issue.



# Red Ace Kicks Off at Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicki Hovanec, CAP

**Lakeland, Fla.** - As the last reveille is sounded just before dawn on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 120 Civil Air Patrol members awakened on the last day of the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo to start their day filled with airshow duties and to breakdown the bivouac site where 47 of them had called "home" for the previous ten days. Over 200,000 visitors attended this year's Sun 'n Fun to see the aerobatic performers – including the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, visit the industry trade show, attend educator workshops and participate in a variety of aerospace related workshops. Sun 'n Fun is the second largest aviation event in the country.



With the attendance of so many aviation-minded people from around the world, Sun 'n Fun is an ideal event to make Civil Air Patrol's presence known through CAP members' volunteer service at the event as flight line marshallers, working on the active taxiways to keep guests safe as they cross the airfield to see static displays, and standing door duty at the vendor hangars. This year, the Civil Air Patrol mission at Sun 'n Fun was given a new name -Red Ace - to reflect the work and importance of the tasks performed by members on the flight lines and taxiways. To earn the Red Hat at Sun 'n Fun is the pinnacle of success for these members. Lt. Col. Dave Panzera, Commander of CAP Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun said, "Cadets learned from each other as they led the mission of public safety. Their efforts paved the way to build upon the newly minted Red Ace program."



Earning the Red Hat begins on the first day members arrive where they received briefings from the Sun 'n Fun Air Boss's team where they reviewed various safety directives, discussed new rules for the taxiway and runway areas where CAP members are assigned, and gave information about the new general aviation parking area which was dubbed as "Way Out There" due to its location on the far side of the Sun 'n Fun campus. Following the briefings, Civil Air Patrol volunteers participate in refresher practical exercises to hone their flight line marshalling skills and to reinforce flight line safety practices. Members who completed this training and performed expertly during their flight line and taxiway duties were awarded the Red Hat on the last day of the airshow.



Lt. Col. Panzera said, "Sun 'n Fun officials gave a lot of praise to our cadets and senior members alike calling them solid professionals. It is such a pleasure to watch cadets grow as followers and leaders. This is a lot of hard work to pull off and the cadets of CAP show just how much they can be counted on and trusted to do quality work."

Once Sun 'n Fun kicked off, members had the opportunity to work on some of their other Emergency Services skills sets including direction finding using a compass and searching for a practice Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). The compass course consisted of locating four locations making a square box around the CAP bivouac site. Additional training included ground vehicle inspections and radio operations tasks.





The Civil Air Patrol static display and recruiting booth located just inside the main gate attracted a record number of visitors where they learned about CAP's programs and missions, flight training opportunities for youth members, and how being a volunteer member benefits them as they serve their community. The static aircraft on display was of major interest to many of the people who stopped by the recruiting booth attracting kids and adults to take a closer look at the cockpit and hear about how Civil Air Patrol supports disaster response missions across the state.

Red Ace isn't only about working the airshow and training. Members had time to walk through the airshow to see static aircraft displays, visit vendor booths, meet various airshow performers, and watch the airshow with aerobatic performances soaring through the sky each day. Gatherings with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets gave cadets and senior members from both organizations a chance to share stories, exchange memorabilia, play sports, and have fun.

"It was a pleasure to see cadets and senior members here from Georgia, Indiana, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun is surely becoming more and more a national event and we hope more members from other wings join us next year," said Lt. Col. Panzera.



CAP Sun 'n Fun Photo Team: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicki Hovanec, Capt. Ron Rowe, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cyrus Gardner, Lt. Col. M.J. Ricketts, Maj. Sybrian Castleman, C/CMSgt. Emma Dewey, C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jonathan Brown, C/CMSgt. Owen Humphreys, and C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Trinity St. Pierre.

To see more photos, visit the Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol Facebook Page Albums





# Royal Air Force Cadets Return to Sun 'n Fun

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

**Lakeland, Fla.** - The Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) were welcomed back to Sun 'n Fun this year after a three-year hiatus due to COVID travel restrictions. The RAFAC has been attending Sun 'n Fun since 1994 as part of their two-week annual U.S. Aerospace Camp. The mission of the camp is for cadets to develop a greater interest in aviation through participation at the airshow as volunteers and by attending the many lectures and hands-on workshops offered during the event.

Their Commander, Squadron Leader John Wohlgemuth shared some of the history of the RAFAC cadets coming to Sun 'n Fun. He said that originally their Aerospace Camp was held at Air Venture at Osh Kosh in the early nineties. Due to multiple travel connections making for a difficult trip to the Wisconsin location, the RAFAC switched to Sun 'n Fun because from London it's a direct flight into either Tampa or Orlando with only an hour from either airport to the Lakeland campus. Over the years, the RAFAC have picked up the nickname "The Brits" at Sun 'n Fun.



The cadets and staff who come to Lakeland each year are from the RAFAC London and South East Region which includes the counties of London, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, and Sussex. This year, 40 cadets accompanied by 12 seniors travelled from London to Lakeland to serve as volunteers at Sun 'n Fun and tour parts of Florida the week after the airshow. Cadets attending the camp must be between 16-20 years old, have demonstrated that they are ready to be away from home for an extended period, be able to pay their own way for the trip - which is approximately \$1500 U.S. dollars, and have extra spending money for theme parks and shopping.

The second week of their trip includes visiting Kennedy Space Center and Oakridge Cemetery in Arcadia where they pay their respects to the 23 British Airman who lost their lives while training to fly during WWII. They visited Patrick Space Force Base and toured MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa where they were able to enjoy recreational time at the base beach. Each year they typically spend a day at one of the Orlando area theme parks and enjoy shopping at the nearby malls and Wal-Mart.

During Sun 'n Fun, the British cadets volunteer in the General Aviation Camping, General Aircraft Parking, on the Warbird Ramp, and at the Registration area. Their assignments are similar to the tasks Civil Air Patrol cadets perform at the airshow. Before selected RAF, cadets make the trip to Florida, they have a training day where they practice flight line marshalling by directing motor vehicles in a parking lot, which is also similar to how most CAP cadets learn this skill set.

Civil Air Patrol Cadets and Royal Air Force Air Cadets have enjoyed a Friday night pizza social where cadets exchange memorabilia, talk about the similarities and differences in their respective cadet programs and make overseas friends for many years. This year, an additional night of social time and sports was added to the schedule to the delight of the cadets and the enjoyment of senior leaders of both organizations. Lt. Col. Dave Panzera who was the CAP Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun Commander this year said, "We had an amazing time by having our British counterparts over. Friendly games of soccer, exchanging all manner of cadet memorabilia and more. Simply a joy to see such respect among peers, senior and cadet."



## Civil Air Patrol Aircraft Arrives at Sun 'n Fun for Static Display

The first weekend at Sun 'n Fun is a busy time with event set-up across the extensive campus at the Lakeland Linder International Airport. While many of the Florida Wing Red Ace team were busy with tasks such as hangar duty and flight-line marshalling, one group of cadets was selected to assist with tying down the CAP aircraft that arrived to serve as the static display by Civil Air Patrol's booth.



Next year, the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Put this event on your calendar today, because you will want to be a part of it!



## Excellent Performance During Sun 'n Fun Hangar Duty

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

**Lakeland, Fla-** Part of the duties Civil Air Patrol members perform during the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo each year is to act as door monitors at the vendor hangars during event set-up to assure only credentialed persons have access to the hangars.

While cadets were working hangar duty, Airman Basic Oliva Evans noted suspicious behavior and properly reported a suspected theft when a vendor removing items from a booth refused to acknowledge her when asked to show ID badges and proceeded to remove items from the hangar.

Lakeland Police and Sun 'n Fun security were able to respond rapidly to resolve the situation due to Cadet Airman Evan's appropriate use of the chain of command and following prescribed reporting procedures. Assisting Cadet Airman Evans were Cadet Capt. Kyle Straubel and Cadet CMSgt. Sarah Dewey.



Sergeant Chad Mumbauer of the Special Operations Section, Lakeland Police Department shakes Cadet Evans' hand for her diligence during hangar duty at Sun 'n Fun.  
Photo by: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cyrus Gardner, CAP

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cyrus Gardner, Deputy Commander of Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun for Civil Air Patrol said, "Cadet Evans displayed a high level of proficiency in applying her training in the hangar situation, which goes to show how even younger cadets can win the day in a real-world mission-oriented environment. She is a credit to the core values of Civil Air Patrol and to Florida Wing."

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## Red Hats Earned During Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun



Earning a Red Hat for Flight Operations during Sun 'n Fun is the pinnacle of success for all of those assigned to flight-line duties during the week. Congratulations to the following members for earning their Red Hat:

1st Lt. Cyrus Gardner  
Capt. Cameron Calloway  
MSgt. Nick Magers  
Cadet Maj. Ian Purrone  
Cadet Maj. Uriah Romero  
Cadet Maj. Raul Pozniak

## 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing from MacDill AFB Supports CAP Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun

by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP



The 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing from MacDill AFB supported Florida Wing's Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun by supplying two triple S tents for cadet billeting, a mess tent with equipment to support meal preparation and service, and assisted with cooking for the 120 Civil Air Patrol volunteers during the airshow.

Civil Air Patrol cadets assembled the triple S tents with the assistance of and under the direction of the 927<sup>th</sup> team – and disassembled the tents on the last day of the event. Cadets assisted with meal preparation and served breakfast and supper to their fellow volunteers. Sun 'n Fun provides sandwiches for lunch to all volunteers during the event.

The valuable assistance from 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing members TSgt. Daniel Huertas, TSgt. Sherelyn Atkins, SSgt. Edunys Perez Sarmiento, and SrA. Sitera Jacobs throughout the week is deeply appreciated by the Red Ace team.







## Challenge Coins for Red Ace Volunteers

Several CAP members were awarded coins for outstanding performance during Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun. This year, the coins were not event specific but were generously supplied by the various military performance teams who participated in the airshow.

### Members recognized:

Cadet Amn. Maxwell Giza  
Cadet CMSgt. Mark Majeska  
Cadet TSgt. Leighton Parke  
Cadet TSgt. Killian Coy  
Cadet MSgt. Kaylee Anderson  
Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nielson Nicolosi

Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sarah Dewey  
Cadet MSgt. Emma Dewey  
Cadet Lt. Col. Esther Macias  
Cadet Amn. Nelson Rita  
Cadet Maj. Raul Pozniak

Cadet CMSgt. Kyleigh Andersson  
Cadet Capt. Kyle Straubel  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Adam Pozniak  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Keiper

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## 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing Promotion During Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

At a special surprise ceremony at the Red Ace bivouac site, Lt. Col. Dave Panzera, Commander of CAP Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun and a retired U.S. Air Force C-130 pilot had the honor of presiding over 927<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing's Edunys Perez Sarmiento's promotion to Staff Sergeant as his team and CAP members watched. SSgt. Sarmiento was part of the volunteer team supporting Civil Air Patrol at Sun 'n Fun for ten days by cooking meals and assisting with the set up and break down of the Triple S tents on loan from their unit at MacDill AFB.



# Civil Air Patrol Emergency Services Training at Sun 'n Fun

by Capt. Ron Rowe, CAP

**Lakeland, Fla.** - One of the important operations support team supplied by Civil Air Patrol during the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo each is the Urban Direction Finding (UDF) team. This year's team was led by Capt. Jack Duich from the SRQ Composite Squadron.

The UDF team stands ready during Sun 'n Fun to locate activated emergency locator transmitters (ELT) as needed. Sometimes ELTs are activated due to an aircraft taxiing on the rougher grass terrain where pilots park their aircraft and camp beneath its wings or are accidentally bumped into the "on" position as pilots and passengers are unloading items to set up camp. More sensitive transmitters often activate during the airshow itself as the military jets, such as the Thunderbird or Blue Angel teams, are performing their routines. Each year, the number of transmitters activated during the event varies from zero to dozens. This year was quiet with no activations.



During time between ELT call-outs, team leaders focus on training senior members and cadets in skillsets required to be part of Civil Air Patrol ground teams for search and rescue missions and disaster response. This year, Capt. Duich, who is also an assistant Florida Wing Emergency Training Officer held training classes throughout the week with no ELT interruptions. Seventy-one cadet members completed a compass course and 57 of those cadets were also able to complete several training tasks towards their qualifications for ELT teams.

Lt. Col. John May, Maj. M.J. Ricketts and Lt. John Keiper trained 41 cadets on how to perform mandatory vehicle inspections which are to be completed when a ground vehicle is checked into a mission.



Radio communications training was also conducted during the week by Lt. Col. Al Therriault, although most members attending arrived to the airshow with the basic communications requirements completed. Three cadets and one senior member completed the basic Introductory Communication User Training (ICUT) and two members completed the requirements for a more advanced Mission Radio Operator course.

The number of members who were able to complete Emergency Services training tasks this year exceeded the numbers from the last two Sun 'n Fun airshows with 45 members in 2022 and 40 in 2021. This year, the total number of members who received training was 77 which adds to the overall number of Florida Wing members who are qualified to respond for search and rescue operations and disaster response support when Civil Air Patrol is activated by First Air Force.



# An Inspiration for Educators: Lt. Col. Panzera Speaks at Luncheon

by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Educators from across the country attend the annual Educators' Workshops at the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo held at Central Florida Aviation Academy. On Saturday, a special Educators' Luncheon is held featuring a keynote speaker who has a background in aerospace, STEM related fields, or education. This year, Lt. Col. Dave Panzera who is the Florida Wing Group 8 Commander, 2023 CAP Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun Commander, and a retired U.S. Air Force C-130 pilot.



Lt. Col. Panzera shared stories from his Air Force career and led into why he became a pilot. His motivation and inspiration came from two key people from when he was a young man – his flight instructor and a teacher. As he continued speaking, he emphasized how we never know who we will have an impact upon and how we influence the paths they choose to take. Educators, by the very nature of their positions, have the potential to positively inspire many young people towards achieving life goals and being successful in their careers long after their students have left their classrooms.

He also talked about Civil Air Patrol and how the Cadet Program gives teenagers the opportunity to learn and lead as they serve their community under the direction of adult leadership who bear the same responsibility as formal educators in maintaining their awareness of their potential to influence the lives of others.

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## Sun 'n Fun Memories – A Family's Love of Aviation

Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Dakota Allen and his father 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas Chandler shared a photo of their first Sun 'n Fun together ten years ago and a photo of them at Sun 'n Fun this year. Both are members of the Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron and Lt. Chandler spent many years working in the aviation industry.



## Civil Air Patrol Featured on Florida Aviation Network and Sun 'n Fun Radio

Each year, Florida Aviation Network (FAN) and Sun 'n Fun Radio invites members of Civil Air Patrol to their studios to be interviewed as part of their live broadcasts during the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo.

Col. Luis Negrón, CAP  
Florida Wing Commander

Talks about Civil Air Patrol, Florida Wing's role in disaster response for the recent hurricanes, and Cadet Programs.

Sun 'n Fun Radio, Live on the Deck

<http://www.chatsfromthedeck.com/?fbclid=IwAR0dE4cD6PQykKo5bisVyzjNGF1l63DuKcp44mBgSoC6pQ1xoggIO8Bgr1Y>

Florida Aviation Network Studios

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldbHgM2wuYE>



Lt. Col. Al Therriault, CAP

Talks about the role communications officers play during disaster response and search and rescue missions.

Florida Aviation Network

On location at the CAP FLWG Mobile Communications Unit at Sun 'n Fun

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7E\\_-D9SNno](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7E_-D9SNno)

Lt. Col. John May, CAP  
Florida Wing Director of Emergency Services

Sun 'n Fun Radio, Live on the Deck

Civil Air Patrol and Emergency Services and Search and Rescue. How to become a Civil Air Patrol Pilot and what CAP Pilots Do.

<http://www.chatsfromthedeck.com/?fbclid=IwAR0dE4cD6PQykKo5bisVyzjNGF1l63DuKcp44mBgSoC6pQ1xoggIO8Bgr1Y>







Lt. Col. Dave Panzera, CAP  
Florida Wing Group 8 Commander  
CAP Red Ace at Sun 'n Fun Commander

Talks about the Cadet Program and what it can do for its cadets and their future.

Sun 'n Fun Radio

<http://www.chatsfromthedeck.com/?fbclid=IwAR0dE4cD6PQykKo5bisVyzjNGF1l63DuKcp44mBgSoC6pQ1xoggIO8Bgr1Y>

Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek

Lt. Col. Zedonek talks about Civil Air Patrol (CAP) - Community Service, Search and Rescue and Youth Development.

Sun n Fun Radio

<http://www.chatsfromthedeck.com/?fbclid=IwAR0dE4cD6PQykKo5bisVyzjNGF1l63DuKcp44mBgSoC6pQ1xoggIO8Bgr1Y>

Florida Aviation Network Studios

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1WCOxgMjkY&list=PLGRPzKh25RiDtQF4mR\\_Hep99p6Wy\\_J6Qn&index=37](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1WCOxgMjkY&list=PLGRPzKh25RiDtQF4mR_Hep99p6Wy_J6Qn&index=37)



Susan Mallett  
Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters  
Aerospace/STEM Education Outreach

Ms. Mallett talks about Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Educator Membership and STEM programs.

Florida Aviation Network Studios

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXu\\_Ml6MoHw&list=PLGRPzKh25RiDtQF4mR\\_Hep99p6Wy\\_J6Qn&index=30](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXu_Ml6MoHw&list=PLGRPzKh25RiDtQF4mR_Hep99p6Wy_J6Qn&index=30)

# U.S. Congressman Dunn Visits the Tallahassee Composite Squadron

by Capt. Ken Jacobs, CAP

U.S. Congressman Neil Dunn and his staff visited the Tallahassee Composite Squadron in March. The Congressman was given a tour of the squadron's building, their communications trailer, and the flight-line to see the CAP Cessna 172 outfitted with a G1000 cockpit.



During his visit, the Congressman learned about the history of Civil Air Patrol, our funding, our relationship with the US Air Force, and our 3 main missions with an emphasis on disaster response and the opportunities available to our youth members through the Cadet Program.

Squadron members Capt. Ken Jacobs, Capt. Peter Bliss, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chris Bouley and Senior Member Robert Bruhl discussed with Congressman Dunn the squadron's involvement in the numerous disaster response missions related to hurricanes over the last four years and their participation in search and rescue missions. The squadron members also talked about their recent training exercises and how Civil Air Patrol continuously trains to maintain readiness to serve the State of Florida when called upon.

Congressman Dunn was thanked for his assistance in getting Cadet MSgt. Rebecca Presnell her appointment to West Point this year and listed the number of overall academy appointments cadets from the Tallahassee Composite Squadron have received over the last six years.

The Tallahassee Composite Squadron greatly appreciated Congressman Dunn and his staff visiting the unit and showing an interest in them and Civil Air Patrol.



# South Florida Squadrons Volunteer at “Glow with the Flow” Easter Egg Hunt

by Capt. Thomas Czarny, CAP

**Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. –** Civil Air Patrol members from North Palm Beach County Cadet Squadron, Lantana Composite Squadron, and Boca Raton Composite Squadron provided visitor safety and assisted with the egg hunt during the “Glow With the Flow Easter Egg Hunt” organized by the county Parks and Recreation Department. The event was held in the evening at Garden’s Park in Palm Beach Gardens.

Cadets help ensure the safety of event participants by monitoring for potential safety hazards in the event area and were prepared to respond to assist with any emergencies or incidents that may have arisen during the event.

The event featured a variety of activities including inflatable games, dancing with live music, and a face-painting station where children could have their faces painted with glowing designs. A photo booth provided families with an opportunity for them to capture special memories of the evening. The highlight of the event was the egg hunt itself. Cadets assisted event organizers to gather children into their respective age groups to count the eggs collected by each child for additional prizes.

Civil Air Patrol cadets who volunteer at community events such as this provides them with valuable leadership experience, practice their communication and problem-solving skills, and further develop their abilities to work as a team with cadets from other units and with event organizers. Civil Air Patrol members who worked the event had an enjoyable evening interacting with members of the community and contributed significantly to the safety and success of the “Glow With the Flow Easter Egg Hunt”.







## Group 1 Soars with Orientation Flight Numbers

by Maj. Nick Marcantonio, CAP



In February and March of this year, 11 pilots from Emerald Coast Senior Squadron and Eglin Composite Squadron have flown 102 sorties in support of orientation rides for 8 different units.

Cadets were flown from Civil Air Patrol's Tyndall-Panama Composite Squadron, Tallahassee Composite Squadron, Pensacola Cadet Squadron, Marianna Composite Squadron, Air Force ROTC cadets from the University of West Florida, and Air Force JROTC cadets from Rutherford High School, Pensacola High School, and Gulf Breeze High School.

This huge increase in orientation flight operational tempo has only been possible due to the direction and support of the Group DCC and DO, who organized a scheduling program enabling maximum utilization of aircraft and pilot availability. As a result, Group One has exceeded flight hours of all other FLWG groups *COMBINED* during the same time period.



**Rutherford High School JROTC Take Flight**  
CIVIL AIR PATROL CONDUCTS FLIGHT ORIENTATION PROGRAM



The pilots who contributed to achieving this orientation flight record are: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Christopher Bouley, Senior Member Charles Good, Lt. Col. Jerry Wells, Capt. Michael Thometz, Maj. Nick Marcantonio, Capt. Louis Toth, Maj. Nathan Hoffman, Maj. David McCormack, Lt. Col. Don Hamblen, Senior Member Karl Kuersteiner, and Maj. James Hobbs. Without their dedication and volunteer service, this worthwhile endeavor to give cadets the experience of flight would not have been possible.

Check out the news coverage from the Rutherford High School JROTC flights here:

<https://www.wjhg.com/2023/03/24/flight-orientation-program-makes-comeback-rutherford-high/>





## Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society

C/CMSgt Emma Dewey of the North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron is the 653<sup>rd</sup> inductee into the Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society. She has also been awarded the Member of Distinction! Congrats to Cadet Dewey on this outstanding achievement!

## Florida Wing Members Recognized for Volunteer Service

### Lt. Col. Gary Dahlke Receives U.S. Air Force Volunteer Excellence Award

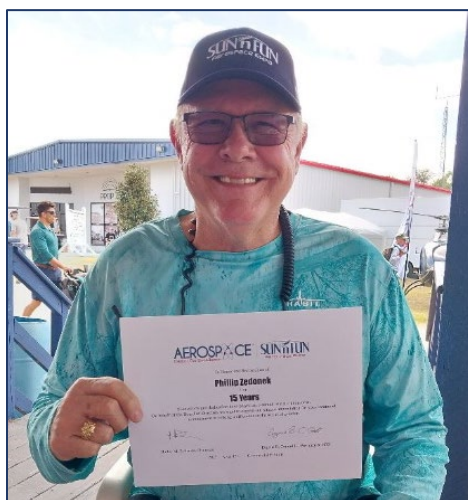


Lt. Col. Gary Dahlke, Florida Wing assistant Director Aerospace Education Officer, was recognized last month by the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum as one of their many dedicated volunteers. Lt. Col. Dahlke was presented with the U.S. Air Force Volunteer Excellence Award (VEA) in a special ceremony at Patrick Space Force Base. The VEA is a prestigious lifetime achievement award which recognizes those “who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature.” Lt. Col. Dahlke has dedicated over 35 years of volunteer service to the museum in addition to his over 20-years of service to Civil Air Patrol.

Photo and information courtesy of Air Force Space and Missile Museum Foundation.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ccspacemuseum>

### Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek Recognized for Sun ‘n Fun Volunteer Service



Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek, Florida Wing Chief of Staff, was recognized by Sun ‘n Fun Aerospace Expo for his 15 years of dedicated volunteer service to the event.

This year he served as the Chairperson of Outdoor Exhibits for Sun ‘n Fun and is the Civil Air Patrol liaison to Sun ‘n Fun for Florida Wing to coordinate CAP’s involvement in Sun ‘n Fun and other activities and events held on the Sun ‘n Fun campus throughout the year.

Photo provided by Lt. Col. Zedonek

Sun ‘n Fun Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FlySNF/>

## **91 Scholarships Worth \$155K Go to Civil Air Patrol Cadets**



Ninety-one scholarships totaling \$155,000 have been awarded to Civil Air Patrol cadets from 32 wings and one overseas unit. This includes 63 academic scholarships worth \$123,500 and 28 flight scholarships worth \$31,500. Cadets in the Southeast Region accounted for the highest numbers of scholarships, 19. The recipients were chosen from 1,698 applicants — 89.5% over the previous year. In all, 984 applied for academic and flying scholarships.

Applicants for academic scholarships totaled 604, with 177 ranked as highly qualified. That's a 45% increase from fiscal 2022. Highly qualified means the applicant had a 3.87 or higher GPA and an SAT score of at least 1311 and/or an ACT score of 28 or above.

Of the 758 flight scholarship applicants, 227 have piloting experience equivalent to the CAP pre-solo badge or more. Applicants for the Youth Aviation Initiative, Cadet Wings, Cadet Lift, and Take-off programs numbered 1,467.

### **Congratulations to the following Florida Wing cadets:**



#### CAP Cadet Academic Scholarship, \$2000

Autumn Rhodes, Naples Composite Squadron  
Matthew Santos, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Maximus Kousiry, 463<sup>rd</sup> Composite Squadron  
Ian Purrone, Lakeland Composite Squadron



#### Lt. Col. Richard Brinkman, Jr. Cadet Flight Scholarship Fund, \$1,000

James Dewey, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron  
Andrew Potenza, Boca Raton Composite Squadron

#### USAFA Preparatory School Recommendation

Maximus Kousiry, 463<sup>rd</sup> Composite Squadron  
Matthew Santos, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron





## 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:

Jordan Low, Lake Composite Squadron  
John-William Trainer IV, Naples Composite Squadron  
Christian Mellenthin, SRQ Composite Squadron  
David Klein, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron  
Rico Gordon, MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron  
Chandra Miller, MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron  
Donavon Whittaker, MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron  
Noah Kjos, North Palm Beach County Cadet Squadron  
Annabelle Ernst, St. Augustine Composite Squadron  
Rickey Zeng, Brandon Cadet Squadron  
Jayden Portalatin, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron  
Caden Ballentine, Central Florida Composite Squadron  
Thomas Gordon, Central Florida Composite Squadron  
Byron Pearce, Venice Cadet Squadron  
Connor Heise, Jacksonville Composite Squadron  
Garrison King, Eglin Composite Squadron  
Quintin Hopkins, Clearwater Composite Squadron  
Lucy Linton, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Naomi Santos, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Marsalis Walton, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Joshua Henry, Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron  
Aiden Richard, Key West Cadet Squadron  
Santiago Martinez, Sunlake High 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 February:

Grace Joy, Stuart Composite Squadron  
Alexander Stent, St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron  
Evan Wiseman, Patrick Composite Squadron  
Trace Maus, Hernando County Composite Squadron  
Vincent Keane, Tamiami Composite Squadron  
William O'Leary, Clearwater Composite Squadron  
Sarah Keene, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Mason Lockert, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron



### Encampment Cadet Assistance Program (CEAP)

Application Deadline is May 1, 2023 for Summer Encampment.

For more information, visit

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/newcadet/ceap>



### Florida Wing Summer Encampment

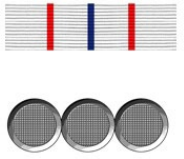
Student Applications open through May 31, 2023.

Senior member staff – especially Training Officers – are still needed.

Information and applications at

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





## 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 Christopher Beebe of the Brandon Cadet 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 David Ramos of the Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron for completing the requirements to earn the Ira C. Eaker Award.



# 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.

Completing the requirements for Level I in March:

Christine McCullough, Lake Composite Squadron  
Steven Brown, Group 2 HQ  
Roderick Mickle, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron  
Andrew Schmitz, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron  
Shenoa Simpson, St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron  
George Stevens, Treasure Coast Composite Squadron  
Jessica Gordon, MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron  
Cameron Calloway, Seminole Composite Squadron  
Christopher Hobden, Seminole Composite Squadron  
Roderick Stout, Merritt Island Senior Squadron  
John Welch, Gainesville Composite Squadron  
David Karson, Central Florida Composite Squadron  
Thomas Young, Central Florida Composite Squadron  
Kyler Blair, Ti-Co Composite Squadron  
Salina Mohammed, Polk County Composite Squadron  
Katie Hernandez, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron  
Elizander Valladares-Quintana, Homestead Cadet Sq.  
Pamela Garran, Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron  
Carly Lopez, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron  
Jacklyn Allinger, Tamiami Composite Squadron  
Karin Campbell, Marion County Composite Squadron  
Justin Chue, Jacksonville Composite Squadron  
Samantha Davis, Jacksonville Composite Squadron  
Elizabeth Bradford, Eglin Composite Squadron  
Norman Butler, Eglin Composite Squadron  
Robert Bruhl, Group 1 HQ  
Adam Hughs, Tyndall Panama Composite Squadron  
James Kerven, Suwannee River Composite Squadron

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

**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.

Completing the requirements for Level II in March:

Cameron Calloway, Seminole Composite Squadron  
Troy Majeska, Seminole Composite Squadron  
Vincent Iglesias, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron  
Christine Klein, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron  
Noel Feliciano, Doral Cadet Squadron  
Ettore Sabatella, Doral Cadet Squadron  
Francis Scollieri Garlin, Doral Cadet Squadron  
Victor Ten, Doral Cadet Squadron  
Jennifer Schumacher, Tamiami Composite Squadron  
Ryan Novack, Eglin Composite Squadron  
Carlos Rosado-Pabon, 463<sup>rd</sup> Composite Squadron  
Glenn Sims, Lakeland 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.

Completing the requirements for Level III in March:

Heather Parth, Florida Wing HQ  
Michael Piwowarski, Central Florida Composite Sq.  
David Bean, Clearwater Composite Squadron



**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.

To complete Level IV and earn the Paul E. Garber Award and Garber ribbon, 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 the CAP.

Completing the requirements for Level IV in March:  
Christian Dominguez, Group 7 HQ/Florida Wing HQ



## Wreaths Across America Radio

Florida was the featured Civil Air Patrol wing for the month of April. Our members talk about their experiences in Civil Air Patrol and their squadron's involvement with Wreaths Across America and WAA's "Remember, Honor, Teach" mission.



Major Kristen Miller of the Ormond Beach Composite Squadron.

[https://soundcloud.com/wreathsassamericaradio/meet-the-cap-maj-kristen-miller-4623?si=536a8462bdc64f2db5c80c40e0f524e2&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/wreathsassamericaradio/meet-the-cap-maj-kristen-miller-4623?si=536a8462bdc64f2db5c80c40e0f524e2&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)



Lt. Col. Al Therriault of the Ti-Co Composite Squadron and a Wreaths Across America site coordinator on the Space Coast.

[https://soundcloud.com/wreathsassamericaradio/meet-the-cap-al-therriault-3-23-23?si=692cc11a3eab444eae927dac50628dec&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/wreathsassamericaradio/meet-the-cap-al-therriault-3-23-23?si=692cc11a3eab444eae927dac50628dec&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)



Maj. Catherine Scantlan of the Lantana Composite Squadron.

<https://soundcloud.com/wreathsassamericaradio/meet-the-cap-catherine-scantlan-41223>

From PROPS:

## Capitol Campaign More Successful Than Ever

This year's National Legislative Day campaign reached more congressional offices than ever before.

The campaign, designed to inform and educate members of Congress and staff about CAP programs and service, has met with 94% of Congress so far. Last year the figure was 89%.

The highlight of the month-long hybrid campaign was a day of in-person meetings in Washington, D.C., where hundreds of CAP adult members and cadets representing every wing blanketed the Capitol complex. This was an opportunity for members to tell their CAP story to help Congress understand CAP's role as both a nonprofit and the U.S. Air Force auxiliary.

Along with the record number of campaign meetings, 39 wings met with 100% of their state congressional delegation, up from last year's record of 34. Leading this charge were California (54 meetings), Florida (30), and New York (28). Several members of Congress and staff (see our [Tweet of the Week](#), above) also joined the Congressional Squadron, including U.S. Rep. Maxwell Frost, D-Fla., a former CAP cadet major and the first Gen-Z member of Congress, and U.S. Sen. Ted Budd, R-N.C., an active pilot.

While the campaign is officially over, several CAP wings are pursuing meetings with hard-to-reach offices while the Government Relations team is conducting follow-ups, including supporting appropriations requests with more than 300 offices.





## I.M.S.A.F.E.

“**IM SAFE**” is a personal checklist put into practice by the FAA that ensures the following statement is valid:  
I’m physically and mentally safe to fly.

BUT- it’s a good checklist for all aircrew members, sUAS pilots sUAS visual observers, and ground vehicle operators to use.

The mnemonic “IM SAFE” is a great way to remember each of the items on the checklist.



*A popular public safety campaign slogan to remind motorists to drive safely.*

**Illness.** Even a minor illness suffered in day-to-day living can seriously degrade performance of many piloting tasks vital to safe flight. The safest rule is not to fly while suffering from any illness. If this rule is considered too stringent for a particular illness, the pilot should contact an Aviation Medical Examiner for advice.

**Medication.** Pilot performance can be seriously degraded by both prescribed and over-the-counter medications, as well as by the medical conditions for which they are taken. The FARs prohibit pilots from performing crewmember duties while using any medication that affects the faculties in any way contrary to safety.

**Stress.** Stress from everyday living can impair pilot performance, often in very subtle ways. Stress and fatigue (lack of adequate rest) can be an extremely hazardous combination.

**Alcohol.** Extensive research has provided a number of facts about hazards of alcohol consumption and flying. As little as one ounce of liquor, one bottle of beer, or four ounces of wine can impair flying skills.

**Fatigue.** Fatigue and lack of adequate sleep continue to be some of the most treacherous hazards to flight safety, as it may not be apparent to a pilot until serious errors are made.

**Emotion.** The emotions of anger, depression, and anxiety may lead to taking risks that border on self-destruction

Keep in mind, Civil Air Patrol regulations and guidelines further define rest requirements and other parameters for members operating CAP assets. Be sure you check the regulations and guidelines before driving a van full of cadets or checking in for a mission.

Safety is our number one priority and Civil Air Patrol’s most valuable assets are our members.



# Across the Wing

Featured stories have been selected from unit Facebook pages.

The “Facebook Page of the Month” goes to  
Seminole Composite Squadron, Group 4

Featured Facebook Post:

Clearwater Composite Squadron, Group 3

Cadets received a primer on aerodynamics this evening from Dave Harvey, the vice president of Experimental Aviation Assn. Clearwater Chapter 282. Harvey used his 1968 Piper Cherokee for part of the presentation.





# Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS)

The Army Military Auxiliary Radio System posted on their Facebook page and was shared by Seminole Composite Squadron.

Across the Wing



Our cadets really enjoyed operating on HF for the first time during the DoD Low Power QRPX Exercise!

Thank you to Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) for providing our cadets with the opportunity to participate!



Always good to see Cadets operating in QRPX 2023.

C/2d Lt Addison English (Q241) expressed "This was a fun exercise, and my unit was able to expose three new cadets to the wonders of HF radio. Due to this exercise, two of the cadets are already asking to get put on the air with CAP HF radios!"

What they believe went well:

1: Communications between the teams both within CAP and outside CAP went well.

2: The initial QRPX notification to our members and the timing of those notifications were good.

3: The exercise ran smoothly, and the MICOM 3 was well-suited for the voice portion of the exercise.

3: This was a great exercise to train cadets on due to its higher level of complexity. That allowed us to create positions to keep the cadets busy and learning (IE Radio operator, logger, Authenticator, etc...).

4: The direct communication with the primary POC for Army Network Command was beneficial.

5: The WIMRS mission number was a great addition and aided in tracking personnel.



Thank you to all the personnel that used QRPX to get Cadets some air time.

## Group 4

April 26, 2023

Last weekend, members from Civil Air Patrol Group 4 – Florida Wing participated in our first major field training exercise in almost two years. During that time over 50 members from 8 units conducted Ground Team and UDF Training to prepare them to respond to search and rescue missions and emergency beacon searches.

Concurrently with that event, aircrew members of Groups 2 and 4 completed an Aviation Water Survival course which is required when any search or flight goes beyond gliding distance of land, such as our missions in the Bahamas or coordinated missions with the USCG to search for missing boats or persons off the coast.

Our training is planned to continue this weekend with an aircrew centric training event.

## Across the Wing

### Lantana Composite Squadron, Group 6

Lantana Cadets were honored to serve as Color Guard at the Miracle League of Palm Beach County's Exhibition Game on March 4 at Palm Beach Garden's Park.

Participating Cadets ' were:

C/A1C's Catheryn Espenilla, Nicole Sardinas, Benjamin Sardinas, and C/SrA Daniel Tadeo.

Senior Member escorts were Capt Lin Alan Lin and SM Magdalena Sardinas. Well done, all!

Photo Credits: SM Magdalena Sardinas

