



FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

# GATOR GAZETTE

FEBRUARY 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](mailto: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 with in their community, and how their unit supports the Wreath 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](mailto:sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov)

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Event Staff Positions:** Public Affairs Officers are needed to staff upcoming wing events including the Cadet Competition, Sun n Fun, Conference, Pre-Conference Courses, the Florida Wing Leadership Academy (FLA) and Encampment.

### Training Opportunities:

Virtual PA Workshop- Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to noon. ET

Registration Link: [FLWG PA Workshop March 2023](#)

Public Affairs Academy Pre-Conference Course- Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>

Picture Perfect – Capturing and Creating Extraordinary Images

Boosting Social Media Skills and Engaging Audiences

### PA Mentoring – Be a Mentor or Find a Mentor

PAOs who are working towards their Master Rating in the Public Affairs Specialty Track need to mentor a PAO through their Technician or Senior Rating. If you would like a mentor or would like to be a mentor, please contact Maj. Castleman.

### PAOs Needing Instructor Credit

If you need an instructor credit for your PA Specialty Track, please contact Maj. Castleman with your session topic ideas and to arrange for you to lead a PA training session at upcoming workshops.

# Florida Wing Appointments



## **Vice Commander Major Daia Jung**

Major Jung originally joined the Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol, in 1998 and served faithfully in the North Tampa Lutz Squadron for many years. After a brief hiatus, Major Jung restarted her Civil Air Patrol career in 2013 with the Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron and has remained a dedicated member ever since.

Prior to her selection as the Vice Commander for Florida Wing, Major Daia Jung served as the FLWG Chief of Staff; the Coordinator for the Annual Awards and Training Conference from 2019-2021; and Group 3 Cadet Programs Officer from 2019-2021. Major Jung served as commander of the Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron from 2015-2018 and she was awarded Squadron Commander of the Year in 2015 and 2017 as well as several Wing Commander's Commendations. During her tenure as commander, the unit earned the Quality Cadet Unit Award in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 and a Unit Citation Award in 2016. In addition, the unit was awarded the both the Squadron Merit and Squadron of Distinction awards in 2015 and 2017. In 2015, Major Jung was awarded the Exceptional Service Award for her assignment as the Florida co-liaison to the National Conference.

Major Daia Dees-Jung's professional career began in 1994, after receiving her Bachelor of Arts and Sciences Degree in Criminology from the University of South Florida. She has served with the state of Florida for over 12 years before beginning her current federal law enforcement career. In addition to her professional career and Civil Air Patrol duties, Maj Jung served as the President of her Property Owners Association since December 2020 and manages an Association of 559 homes, a property manager, and a maintenance technician with an annual operating budget exceeding \$500,000 annually.

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## **Chief of Staff Lt. Colonel Phil Zedonek**

Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek was selected for the position of Chief of Staff. His previous duty position was Deputy Chief of Staff for A5 which oversees Cadet Programs, Cyber Programs, and Aerospace Education.

Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek, former Florida Wing Vice Commander, A5, and Current Chief of Staff has published numerous leadership articles. He holds a BS in Public Relations from the University of Florida, a MA in Psychological Counseling from Ball State, and an MS(ABD) in Communications Research and Theory from Florida State University.

Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek was raised in South Florida and upon graduation from the University of Florida he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Signal Corps. During his 21-year career he held leadership positions from Platoon Leader to Commanding a 600-person Tactical Signal Battalion during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. His major staff assignments include being a Brigade Adjutant for 2,900 soldiers, the Fort Gordon Post Inspector General and a Communication Staff Officer with the White House Communications Agency for Presidents Carter and Reagan while in DC and on 32 Presidential trips around the world.



# Southeast Region Powered Flight Academy

by Cadet Captain Evan Jameson, CAP  
FLWG ELP Public Affairs

Ten Civil Air Patrol cadets from across the nation were selected to participate in the nine-day Southeast Region Powered Flight Academy held at the Keystone Heights Airport near Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. Cadets arrived with the goals of understanding the information instructors presented on the Federal Aviation Administration solo exam for private pilots, completing at least twelve hours of flight time, and hopefully soloing. These components are the first stepping stones to earning a private pilot's certificate.

The accomplishment of soloing is quickly followed by a bucket of ice water and the tradition of cutting the back of the solo pilot's shirt. Michael Thometz, one of the flight instructors for the activity described this as "a symbol of letting go and giving up the controls." He also explained that in the old days in biplanes the instructor would tug on the back of the student's shirt to indicate directions and other instructions, but after soloing, the instructor no longer needed the back of the shirt.

Major General Joseph Vazquez, former national commander, was the activity director for the flight academy. At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, he expressed his enthusiasm for the academy and how proud he was of the accomplishments of the cadets and the professionalism of the flight instructors when he said, "This is the first of many Florida Southeast Region Flight Academies, and you all have left quite a high bar to exceed."





# Florida Wing 2022 Winter Encampment

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP  
FLWG Public Affairs Officer



The Florida Wing (FLWG) Winter Encampment was held from December 27<sup>th</sup> to January 3<sup>rd</sup> at Camp Blanding National Guard Joint Training Center near Starke, Florida. This winter's encampment was led by Lt. Col. Al Therriault, Encampment Commander with C/Lt. Col. Cameron Calloway as the Cadet Encampment Commander. Encampment Commandant was Capt. Barbara Rich and the Deputy Commander of Support was Maj. Sybrian Castleman. The Advanced Training Squadron (ATS) was led by Lt. Col. Thomas Trammell.

The Winter Encampment attended by 244 first-time student cadets, 27 returning cadets as part of the Advanced Training Squadron, 93 cadet staff members and 58 adult staff members. Cadets attending their first encampment go through a standard encampment curriculum which is set by Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters Cadet Programs which includes drill, uniform inspections, Civil Air Patrol knowledge, fitness exercises, and customs and courtesies.



Advanced Training Squadron cadets are taught a higher level of leadership lessons, learn and practice many skill sets used in emergency services, and learn the importance of teamwork. ATS cadets completed Basic First Aid Training and had the opportunity to participate in the NRA Winchester Rifle Marksmanship program which promotes gun safety and gives cadets an opportunity to develop their shooting skill.



All cadets participated in special activities including a flight fitness challenge; the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) -which is a team obstacle course; the Air Assault Obstacle Course with a variety of physical challenges; and visiting the on-base static displays outside of the Camp Blanding Museum. A bonfire social was held in celebration of New Year's Eve. The highlight activity of the encampment was a flight on a US Air Force C-17 Globemaster.

The Encampment Pass-in-Review and graduation ceremony was well attended by cadets' family members and friends. The ceremony was broadcast via Facebook Live as the event was taking place on Saturday.



## FLWG 2022 Winter Encampment – From the Cadet Public Affairs Team

### Cadet Commander, C/Lt. Col. Cameron Calloway

by Cadet SSgt. Finn Klein, CAP



After completing his first encampment as a student, Cadet Lt. Colonel Cameron Calloway dreamed of serving as the cadet commander for a Florida Wing Encampment. For the FLWG 2022 Winter Encampment, with the dedication and work he put in towards his goal over several years in the Cadet Program, his dream came true.

As C/Lt. Col. Calloway advanced in the Cadet Program, he attended Florida Leadership Academies, National Cadet Special Activities (NCSA) and served in many staff positions at activities and airshows to help him prepare for encampment command.

Some recent events where he served in leadership positions include:

Cadet Deputy Commander of Support for 2022 Sun n Fun International Aerospace Expo; Cadet Commander for the 2022 Fall Florida Leadership Academy; And as a flight commander and flight sergeant at various encampments. His favorite NCSA that he staffed was National Blue Beret at the Oshkosh Air Show.

Calloway's goals for this winter encampment was for the student cadets and staff to have fun; meet the National Encampment goals for training and education; and stay safe. Due to his leadership, determination, compassion, and the efforts of his cadet cadre to help him meet his goals, the encampment was a success.

### Encampment Cadets Soar in the Sky on USAF C-17

By C/Capt. Steven Zhang



Cadets and seniors at the 2022 Florida Wing Winter Encampment had the opportunity to fly on a Boeing C-17 Globemaster. The C-17 is a military transport aircraft used for delivering cargo and troops. Powered by four Pratt & Whitney turbofan engines producing 40,440 pounds of thrust each, it can operate in and out of short runways while carrying large payloads. In addition, the C-17 can be used for airdrop missions.



Over 300 Civil Air Patrol members were able to participate in this exciting activity. For many, it was their first time flying in a military aircraft. Each flight reached 3,000 ft. and lasted around 40 minutes. Participants were allowed to walk around and observe flight operations while in the air. Takeoff and landing could only be felt as there weren't any windows visible from the seats.



Coordination for the flights to take place out of Cecil Airport in Jacksonville was accomplished by Jose Hernandez, CAP-USAF; Lt. Fred Baron, FLWG Encampment Operations Officer; Lt. Col. Al Therriault, Encampment Commander; and several members of the USAF Air Mobility Command.







## Wreaths Across America in January – Honoring Our Veterans

by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Henderson, CAP  
Public Affairs, Ti-Co Composite Sq.

Each year in December, Civil Air Patrol members join with other community members and organizations to participate in the nationwide Wreaths Across America program to honor our veterans who have passed away by placing wreaths on their graves. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers gather at the National Cemeteries to participate in ceremonies on that day, but a significantly smaller number return in

January to assist with the post-holiday clean-up.

The Ti-Co Composite Squadron is the host organization for five cemeteries in Titusville and Mims on the east coast of Florida. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, approximately 1500 wreaths were placed at Brevard Veterans' Cemetery, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Davis Memorial Cemetery, LaGrange Community Cemetery, and Oaklawn Memorial Gardens.

Honoring our veterans is not complete until the wreaths are removed from the graves after the new year. On Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, over a dozen Ti-Co Composite Squadron members were joined by their family members, friends and other volunteers from the community to collect the wreaths and tidy the surrounding areas leaving the cemeteries in a state of cleanliness for others - and taking the Wreaths Across America "Remember, Honor, Teach" beyond a single day in December.



## From Wreaths Across America Radio – Meet the Civil Air Patrol

Michael W. Hale speaks with Colonel Joseph Martin! Colonel Martin is the current Commander of the Florida Wing's Civil Air Patrol Boca Raton Composite Squadron and former Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol Commander. Pictured with cadets, he will discuss his Civil Air Patrol Career and Wreaths Across America.

Listen here: [WAA Radio Interview Col. Joseph Martin](#)



Meet the Civil Air Patrol on WAA Radio, Michael W Hale talks to 2nd LT Jason Hewitt from the Civil Air Patrol - Clearwater Composite Squadron in Clearwater, Florida. He will be talking about his US Navy Service, CAP Career, his role as the Deputy Commander for Cadets at his squadron, their squadron's involvement with Hurricane Ian response, a recent SAR UDF mission, and his involvement with Wreaths Across America.

Listen here: [WAA Radio Interview Lt. Jason Hewitt](#)



## Florida Executive Leadership Academy – Level V

by Lt. Col. Judith Hewett, CAP

Director of Education and Training, FLWG

Eleven members attended the second weekend of the inaugural Florida Executive Leadership Academy (FELA) in Orlando, FL to work towards their completion of the Civil Air Patrol Gil Robb Wilson Award and Level V of the senior member Education and Training Program. Due to the large number of modules required to complete Level V, the FELA was conducted over two weekends. The first weekend was in November 2022. Eight of the eleven students were returning from November.

Members from CAP National Headquarters presented modules virtually including National Commander Maj. Gen. Phelka and Lt. Col. Michael Willis who is the National Director of the Mentoring Program. National Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Regina Aye presented her session in-person and members had the opportunity visit with her between sessions.

In addition to the in-person classroom sessions, to complete Level V students must finish online training modules which include a number of in-depth tasks and complete their final CAPStone project.

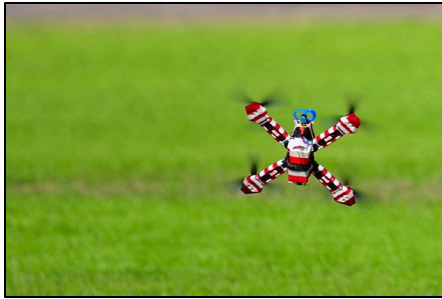


Front L-R: Maj. M.J. Ricketts, Maj. Larry Spangler, Lt. Col. Judith Hewett, Col. Luis Negron, Brig. Gen. Regina Aye, Maj. Daia Jung, Maj. Julio Pastoriza, Lt. Col. Ralph Kugel

Back L-R: Maj. James Sullivan, Ch. Maj. Glenn Mohney, Capt. Kevin Rausch, Capt. David Lanham, Lt. Col. Richard Flowers, Maj. Karl Ahrens, Lt. Col. Joseph M. Martin, Col. Joseph J. Martin, Lt. Col. Michael Willis

Photo by: Lt. Col. William Woody





*Photo Courtesy of Rick Anson*

## Azalea MS Cadet Squadron Hosts Sunshine State Drone Expo

**St. Petersburg, Fla.** - On Saturday, January 14, 2023 the Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sunshine State Drone Expo along with assistance from Raytheon Technologies and members of the Clearwater and Brooksville Composite Squadrons. The six-hour event took place at the Azalea Middle School Campus. Drone businesses, organizations, and enthusiasts came from around the country to take part in the growing exposition.

Capt. Willis Reese, who organized the event, said “The event was originally put together to focus on educating the general public on how drones are being used to serve their communities, and best practices for safely operating a drone.” The day offered attendees a variety of static and interactive displays, flight demonstrations, drone education, food, and fun.



*Photo Courtesy of Dan Foard*

The event was opened by Mayor Ken Welch, and attended by Councilman Ed Montanari, Councilman Richie Floyd, Police Chief Anthony Holloway, Pinellas County School Board Member Caprice Edmond and School Superintendent Kevin Hendrick. Representatives were also on hand from the Tampa Bay Area Flight Standards District Office and local FAASTeam.

People were able to see outdoor drone exhibition racing put on by the Cigar City Multi-Rotors Club, indoor drone racing from Tennessee based company “Rocket Drones”, flight exhibitions from the Duke Energy Drone Team from North Carolina, local remote-control stunt piloting from the SPARKS AMA club, and Azalea Middle School’s very own Drone Safety Team.



*Photo by Capt. Willis Reese, CAP*



*Photo by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP*



*Photo by Capt. Willis Reese, CAP*

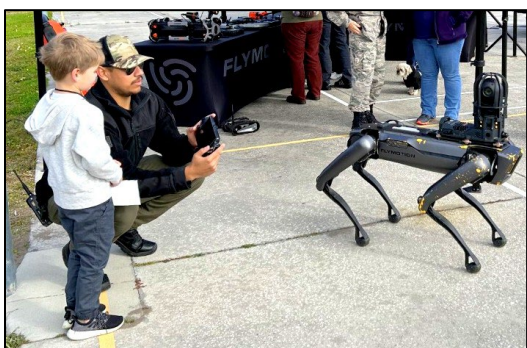


Photo by Capt. Willis Reese, CAP

Classes on drone safety and weather were delivered by local drone pro Melissa Matisko, Vernon Shurtz from AUVSI and News Channel 8 Meteorologist Amanda Holly. New drone and RC hobbyist pilots earned their FAA TRUST Certification on the spot and were given assistance with navigating the FAA Drone Zone Website to register their drones and request waivers for flights. The Unmanned Safety Institute and SPARKS AMA club were giving attendees the opportunity to try their hand at Drone Flight Simulation while Florida Drone Supply and FLYMOTION were giving people hands on experiences with commercial grade drones and robotics.

Capt. Reese said, "The entire expo had grown over the last 3 years from a hand full of Sponsors, Vendors, and FAA representatives, to what it is now. The dream is that one day we might have a drone event that will rival some of the other large manned aircraft fly-ins and airshows."

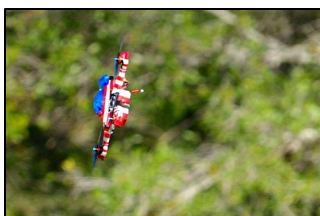


Photo Courtesy of Rick Anson

Local news coverage of the event: : <https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/region-pinellas/azalea-middle-schools-second-annual-sunshine-state-drone-expo>

Event info for the next Sunshine State Drone Expo:  
<https://www.pcsb.org/Domain/12803>



TRUST is a collaboration between the FAA and industry to provide TRUST and educational safety material to Recreational sUAS (drone) Flyers.

To fly your drone as a recreational flyer, you will need to understand recreational flying requirements and learn the rules for recreational flyers. [https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational\\_flyers](https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_flyers)

Take TRUST. All FAA-approved TRUST test administrators offer the test free.

Embry-Riddle offers TRUST at <https://erau.edu/gaetz-aerospace-institute/faa-trust>

After completing TRUST, you'll need to download, save or print your completion certificate.

Download the FAA's B4UFLY mobile app for more recreational drone flying resources.



Recreational users who only fly their drone for fun, now have an improved app – B4UFLY – to help show where they can and cannot fly with interactive maps. The app provides situational awareness to recreational flyers and other drone users. It does not allow users to obtain airspace authorizations to fly in controlled airspace. The B4UFLY app is available to download for free at the App Store for iOS and Google Play store for Android. Desktop option is also available.



# North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron NRA Day

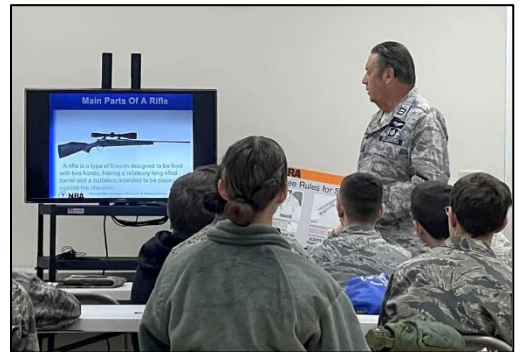


The Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program course is designed to train and familiarize cadets with the concept, operation, and safety procedures involving firearms. In January, 12 cadets from the North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron attended an NRA Day with instructor Capt. Jack Duich of the SRQ Composite Squadron.

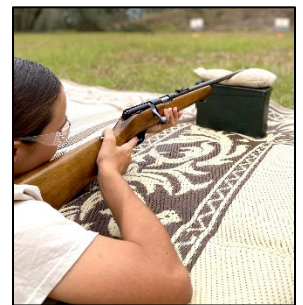
The course is comprised of a classroom session and an opportunity to shoot .22LR bolt action rifles at a firearms range. The classroom instruction emphasizes firearms safety which includes discussions of ground safety, potential hazards, and range protocols with an emphasis on firearms safety. Additional safety training and basic firearms instruction are conducted at the range.

Capt. Duich said, “Cadets have the opportunity to earn marksmanship badges, but that’s secondary. Everyone attending these NRA Days should have a better understanding of, respect for, and safe handling of firearms. This is the primary purpose of the training – to reinforce basic firearms safety which might just prevent a tragedy.”

Cadets took several turns firing the rifles to practice their shooting skills and work towards marksmanship badges. C/Amn. Chaise Beetz achieved the first level, Pro-Marksman and two cadets, C/CMSgt. Sarah Dewey and Cadet Maxwell Giza earned the next level achievement – Marksman. These badges can be worn as part of cadets’ Class B uniform.



Cadet CMSgt. Sarah Dewey said, “I had never fired a rifle before and I was nervous. The safety training helped me understand how to properly handle the rifle. I ended up having a really fun time and even earned my Marksman badge! I recommend other cadets to take advantage of the NRA Days if they can. I hope to do this activity again.”





# CADET PROGRAMS OFFICER 'DISCOVERS' THRILL OF GROUND TEAMS

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jason Hewitt

*2nd Lt. Hewitt serves as his Squadron's Deputy Commander for Cadets. With a roster of 54 Cadets and cadet participation at pre-pandemic levels, it isn't unusual for 45 or more cadets to attend a weekly meeting. The growing program keeps Lt. Hewitt and his team very busy.*

*"It's been easy to keep my entire attention on rebuilding our Cadet Program following the pandemic. There are some people who live and breathe ES. I never saw myself as one of them. Then I got a call from our Group 3 Commander, Major Joe Mora. He asked me to assemble a search team for an activated ELT in Polk County." Lt. Hewitt shares the story of this mission and how it changed the way he sees CAP's Emergency Services mission.*

"I had no real interest in the ground team emergency services mission of CAP..."  
2nd Lt. Jason Hewitt of Florida's Clearwater Composite Squadron.

**Clearwater, Fla.** - On January 6, 2023 the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) reported multiple electronic locator transmitters (ELTs) activated in the vicinity of Auburndale, FL, approximately 65 miles east of Clearwater. CAP deployed an aircrew early in the afternoon, and a ground team located and deactivated an ELT. A short time later, a second signal was detected in the same area.

On that cold, rainy January evening, Lt. Hewitt, along with Lt. Col. Francisco San Pedro, former squadron commander, and seasoned aircrew and ground team member; along with 1st Lt. Jerome Budde as Team Leader, departed Clearwater headed east to Auburndale, FL. The three drove ninety minutes east and rendezvoused with fellow ground team members Lt. Col. Brian Berry of the Seminole Composite Squadron and 2nd Lt. Melanie Lee of the Central Florida Composite Squadron. Incident Commander was Major Ayrton Ingle, FLWG Group 4 Commander.

The Ground Branch Director for the operation was 20-year-old C/2d Lt. Addison English of the Seminole Composite Squadron, working remotely from the Colorado. I was so impressed that a 20-year old cadet was coordinating with the AFRCC managing multiple ground teams remotely from Colorado, and with such professionalism and poise. If he hadn't told us he was a cadet, I would never have known.



UDF Find Team: 2nd Lt. Hewitt, Lt. Col. San Pedro, Lt. Col. Berry, 2nd Lt. Lee, 1st Lt. Budde

We knew there was little likelihood of casualty. What we didn't know was what type of signal it was — whether it was a body-worn ELT of some sort, a marine EPIRB in one of the hundreds of boats in the area, or even an ELT aboard a seaplane at one of the bases on nearby lakes. Searching for the ELT was incredibly interesting. Lt. Budde manned our UDF "sniffer" antenna, and we followed the signal all over an area of about two square miles. After several hours working to triangulate the signal, the teams located an emergency position-indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) at a residential address in a small, quiet neighborhood. It was less than 1/4 mile from the first known coordinates.



The team contacted local Auburndale Police Department for support. None of the six responding officers, nor the Polk County Deputy Sheriff who responded had ever heard of an ELT. Lt. Col. Berry and Lt. Col. San Pedro explained the technology and conveyed to law enforcement the gravity of the mission. All responding officers were curious and assisted with the search efforts. Once the source of the signal was located, the owner was not at home. The police officers were able to identify the owner from vehicle registration information and obtained contact information.

We were finally able to contact the owner of the EPIRB by phone after 11:30pm. He had no idea what an ELT was. He told us he bought it at a recent boat auction, and when he was unable to figure out what it was or what it did, he decided he would sell it for scrap. He left it in a trailer in his driveway, in a plastic bin. Rain earlier in the day accumulated in the plastic bin causing the EPIRB to activate.

Needless to say, the large law enforcement presence made for quite a noticeable presence in the quiet community. We didn't mean to cause such a stir, but the neighborhood definitely noticed our presence while we searched. Several residents came out of their homes to see what the fuss was about. This gave us an opportunity to tell them who we were, what we were looking for, and to tell them a little bit about CAP.



*Lt. Col. Berry Finds Transmitter*

Throughout the night, as the search progressed, I asked 1st Lt. Budde what it would take to train all of our members to the most basic level to be deployable, contributing ground team members for missions like this one. We had a fantastic conversation throughout the evening and we developed a plan to integrate ES training into our core monthly curriculum at our squadron, with an emphasis on getting all our members trained to GTM3 qualification standards.

"It wasn't until I deployed on that ground team mission that I began to understand exactly what the CAP ground teams do.

It wasn't as abstract, or uninteresting, or even as physically rigorous as I'd imagined it would be. It also wasn't beyond my ability to learn and contribute.

Now I'm telling every one of our squadron cadets about my initial skepticism, sharing what I learned, and helping them to attain GTM3 qualification."

As a result of their renewed enthusiasm for Emergency Services Ground Team and UDF training, squadron members joined the Charlotte County Composite Squadron's SAREX in late January. Clearwater Composite Squadron has integrated a regular schedule of Emergency Services subjects into its monthly training schedule, plans to participate in ES training offered by other units, and is working towards hosting SAREXs to provide more training opportunities to CAP members throughout the area.

Former CAP cadet commander, U.S. Air Force veteran, and now FLWG Group 3 Emergency Services Officer, 1st Lt. Jerome Budde said, "I love working with Cadets, because I was one. It's easy for everyone to focus on the Cadet Program since we place so much emphasis on youth development, but if we don't simultaneously maintain readiness in our other two core areas of responsibility — Aerospace Education, and Emergency Services — our skills as an Emergency Services organization immediately begins to atrophy, depriving our community of the professionally trained volunteers available to serve in emergency and disaster response capacities for which CAP has always been known."

# Charlotte County Composite Hosts Mult-Squadron O-Flights and SAREX

by Capt. Ronald Rowe, CAP  
SRQ Public Affairs Officer

**PUNTA GORDA, FLA.** - Flying, new skills and fun was the order of the day for cadets hosted by the Charlotte County Composite Squadron. The Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) was held on January 28, 2023 at the Punta Gorda Airport for cadet orientation flights, training on the installation and use of ground orthomosaic camera systems, and flight line marshalling.

Other squadrons included the SRQ Composite Squadron, Venice Cadet Squadron, Naples Cadet Squadron, and Clearwater Composite Squadron. A total of 62 members comprised of 36 senior members and 26 cadet members were in attendance. Three aircraft were flown in for the orientation flights. Group 5 Commander Maj. Peter Leckband determined that utilizing the joint squadron training concept allowed a more efficient use of training funds and would foster a greater level of participation.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Anthony Young provided classroom instruction on the ground orthomosaic camera system that was used in collecting imagery following Hurricane Ian last year. The training included mounting the equipment on a van and running a practice search grid in nearby Punta Gorda. The camera system is a 360° system that records images in all directions which are stitched together electronically to create a seamless mosaic image. These images are used by state and federal agencies to help assess the level of damage caused by natural disasters.

Lt. Col. Nick Modders of the Minnesota Wing provided classes in flight line marshaling in preparation for the upcoming Sun n Fun event which will be held in Lakeland next month.

C/SrA. Christian Mellenthin was asked what the day meant to him. He stated "Not only do I get to fly I am also able to work on more qualifications towards something I'm really passionate about- which is helping others and helping out on the flight line". Based on the accomplishments and good time had by all, more joint squadron training events are planned for the future.



Left to right: Charlotte Co. Comp. Sq. Commander Capt. Tom Hansen, C/Amn Dickev, C/SrA Deans





# PRIDE – Personal Recognition In Daily Efforts

By Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek, CAP  
FLWG Chief of Staff

Do you take pride in what you do? Do you get satisfaction from completing a task on time and knowing you did your best? Having pride is a key component to ensuring your continued success in all your endeavors. Webster defines Pride as getting deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements or achievements with whom one is strongly associated. I like to define pride as "Personal Recognition In Daily Efforts" - a simple concept which has profound implications for all leaders if they take the time to honestly evaluate how they interact with others each day.

If I hear that a certain leader is arrogant, presumptuous or has an exceedingly high regard for themselves, from my experience, this can reflect on the overall mission and the ability for the team to get satisfaction from mission accomplishment. An attitude of conceit or overly inflated ego is the negative side of pride. Some leaders/managers think they are so cool their stuff does not stink and that they're better than everyone else. These types of leaders are missing a key component which if applied would make all the difference within themselves and their followers.



The key component is Humility! This is the secret that will have a dramatic impact on everything you do within an organization. The simple act of putting others above yourself will not only make you feel good but will also those around you and will be the glue that will bind a cohesive team. Humility will not only promote self-affirmation and dignity within yourself but with all your co-workers or team members.

I think every effective leader should do a self-evaluation of their HQ—Humility Quotient. This is a simple yet effective means of analyzing your attitude and the perception others may have of you. When dealing with fellow team members or assigning tasks to your subordinates, how is the message being conveyed and received? Does the team feel they are being preached to, talked down to, or intimidated? Are you always bragging about what YOU achieved, your awards and accolades, and the time you accomplished something special with others- yet you took all the credit? Chances are if that is how you are perceived by your team then you need to work on your HQ.

This self-evaluation can be painful if you are brutally honest with yourself, but it's the only way you can get a reality check on who you are and desire to be as a leader. You must look inward and not be afraid to ask yourself the tough questions. You must do a whole person analysis to include evaluating your appearance, your mental, physical and spiritual state.



For example, does your personal appearance and the way you dress meet the standards you have set for your subordinates or do you take liberty with how you look because you are in charge and make the rules? I can assure you your followers or team members will notice if you are slacking on the standards you've set for others and they perceive it as "do as I say and not as I do". This perception can be a killer to any organization.

So how can I change and enhance my HQ in a manner which will have a definite impact on who I am as an individual first and leader/manager secondarily?

The best place to start is to let your book of talents, specialized skills and uniqueness do the talking for you. Your team knows you are in your position because somewhere along the line you have proven your abilities, knows you must have demonstrated competence, and met certain goals as you progressed through the ranks. However, you can't just survive on your past performances. You must continually seek improvement and take on new challenges in all your endeavors so you can continue to grow and become a better leader.

Let's get back to the basics of enhancing your Humility Quotient in a manner your subordinates, peers and superiors will recognize.



**SEEK FEEDBACK:** A key HQ enhancer is to constantly SEEK FEEDBACK. Talk with your associates, team members, peers and others concerning how you are doing as a leader or manager. Sometimes you may not like what you hear but don't just discount it as sour grapes or someone being vindictive. Remember it's their perception of you and you must sort out why they are saying the things you do not want to hear. **LISTEN:** Do not just *hear* what others are saying but truly try to understand what and how they are saying things so you can have a better perspective and respond accordingly. This is often one of the hardest things to learn yet can pay the most dividends.

**APPLY FEEDBACK:** Try to find some nuggets you can incorporate based on their comments so you can fine tune and make minor adjustments to yourself. Overreacting to someone's feedback and doing a 180 degree turn with your leadership style can be devastating. Slow and steady minor tweaking will be the most effective means of achieving the desired effect in the long run. Believe me, people will notice as you grow into a more confident and concerning leader!



**KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS:** You must KNOW YOURSELF. Realize your physical, mental limitations, and boundaries of your expertise. Just because you know first aid doesn't make you a brain surgeon. You do not have all the answers so seek out those who can help you. Surround yourself with talented individuals who will complement your abilities and be honest brokers. You do not need "Yes" persons to stroke your ego.

Being proud of who you are, your accomplishments and abilities make you a truly unique individual who can achieve any goal you set for yourself or team members.

Keep in mind PRIDE – Personal Recognition In Daily Effort –  
as you go through your day to help guide your interactions with others.

Remember to be open to change, even if sometimes it is painful, and keep adjusting your course. Constantly evaluate your Humility Quotient to keep yourself grounded. Keep your ego in check!

I can assure you following these few simple steps your team, business, peers and superiors will notice and they (and you) will be grateful for the new you.





# 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 January:

Kyle Bradshaw, SRQ Composite Squadron  
Susan Clavey, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron  
Craig Monce, Treasure Coast Composite Squadron  
Alex Fightmaster, MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron  
Nathaniel Kiker, Gainesville Composite Squadron  
Dennis Sanford, St. Augustine Composite Squadron  
Mary Lou Sanford, St. Augustine Composite Squadron  
Christopher Bittner, Polk County Composite Squadron  
Aaron Lyon, Hernando County Composite Squadron  
James Bassa, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron  
John Knab, Marco Island Senior Squadron  
Tyler Kelley, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron  
Calvin Vandivier, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron  
Susan Vandivier, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron  
Justin Blankenship, Clearwater Composite Squadron  
James Leonard, Clearwater Composite Squadron  
Alan McPeck, Clearwater Composite Squadron  
Tammy Ball, Suwannee River Composite 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 January:

Marlene Ten, Doral Cadet Squadron  
Karl Coutinho, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron  
Byron Beplay, Eglin Composite Squadron  
Taryn Sible, Key West Cadet 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.

The following members completed the requirements for Level III in January:

Frederick Baron, St. Augustine Composite Squadron  
Thomas Ficarra, Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron

**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.

Col. Luis Negron, FLWG Commander completed the requirements for Level V in January.



## Florida Wing Members Crowdsourcing Participants Recognized for Service During Hurricane Ian

Crowdsourced data helps fill the information gap and provides responders with contextualized, real-time information in disaster areas where conditions and needs on the ground are constantly shifting.

The resulting products provide emergency managers with increased situational awareness and identifies resource gaps based on data that would have otherwise been untapped. In many cases, crowdsourced data can be more accurate and obtained faster than traditional sources.

Four Florida Wing members were awarded the Disaster Relief Ribbon with the V device by Ronald Olienyk, CAP National Deputy Director of Operations, for participating in CAP disaster relief support to FEMA during the Presidentially declared disaster created by Hurricane Ian in September of last year.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Anthony Young, Clearwater Composite Squadron

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Steven Riley, Marco Island Senior Squadron

C/MSgt. Neil MacMillan, Seminole Composite Squadron

C/CMSgt. Mark Majeska, Seminole Composite Squadron

Their support of the mission was extremely valuable, providing outstanding service to CAP and FEMA.

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## Florida Wing Pilot Excellence Recognized with Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award

By Capt. Joanne Ernst, CAP

St. Augustine Composite Squadron

Major Patrick Healey of the St. Augustine Composite Squadron in Florida Wing joined the ranks of 7,461 individuals to have ever earned the coveted Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award on January 10, 2023. Major Healey's varied and distinguished career extends over more than five decades and he well exceeds the high standards this award demands.



Soloing as a young Civil Air Patrol cadet and earning his wings at sixteen years of age launched his life-long love of flying. He continued his career by serving in the Navy flying the carrier-based A-4 Skyhawk and A-7E Corsair-II. Following his Naval career, he was hired on by several airlines culminating with a 33-year career with United Air Lines flying to four continents on the DC-10, 727, 737, and 767-400.

Upon retiring he returned to serve the next generation of cadets in the Civil Air Patrol. Major Healey's long and distinguished career as a pilot and mentor made him more than deserving to be the newest recipient of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

To read a more detailed story about Maj. Healey, how being a cadet influenced his life and career, please visit Civil Air Patrol's AEO Focus article at: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/aerospace-education/ae-officers/aeo-focus/2020/12/09/capt-patrick-healey>



# Florida Wing Grieves the Loss of Chaplain Ray Marco

Florida Wing lost a valued and dedicated member, Chaplain (Captain) Maurice Ray Marco of the Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Please keep Chaplain Marco's family and friends in your thoughts as we remember him here.



Chaplain Ray Marco, a member of Civil Air Patrol since 2014, passed away on January 12, 2023 at the age of 76 following a long battle with cancer. Born in Peacedale, Rhode Island, he graduated from seminary and came to South Florida soon afterwards, pastoring the Oak Grove Church in Miami for over 50 years. During his pastoral ministry, he helped to establish the Cristo Salva mission in Honduras as well as a faith-based day care center at his church in Miami.

Chaplain Marco was recruited into CAP by fellow squadron chaplain, Chaplain (Major) Joseph Finn, who knew him since his teen years at Chaplain Marco's church. As a Chaplain, he provided inspiration to cadets and senior members alike through his example of devotion to duty and good humor even in the face of incredible adversity.

Throughout the COVID crisis where the squadron was forced to meet online for roughly two years, Chaplain Marco was always present and engaged with lessons, stories, and good clean jokes to keep up morale.

As a Character Development Instructor, Chaplain Marco was instrumental in welcoming new cadets to the squadron and providing them a firm foundation for their CAP careers through the Cadet Wingman Course, as well as through monthly lessons that set the tone for an atmosphere of trust and respect within the unit.

Chaplain Marco's longtime enjoyment of table tennis led him to donate a table to the squadron, where it continues to serve to build camaraderie and good sportsmanship amongst unit members.



Over the course of his service in CAP, Chaplain Marco was recognized with both a Commander's Commendation and an Achievement Award, as well as multiple Certificates of Appreciation for his contributions to the squadron's members and the broader CAP community. He was Technician rated as both a chaplain and communicator.

Chaplain Marco is survived by his wife, Ledy, three daughters, and eight grandchildren.

# FLWG Mourns the Loss of Capt. Ron Bower and SM Mary Bower



Florida Wing has lost two valuable members, Capt. Ron Bower and his wife SM Mary Bower, who were involved in a fatal car accident on February 11th. Capt. Bower and SM Bower were members of the Charlotte County Composite Squadron. They are survived by their daughter 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rhondala Mulvaney and their two grandchildren, C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Alexandria Mulvaney and C/CMSgt. Nathaniel Mulvaney who are members of the Charlotte County Composite Squadron.

Capt. Ron Bower joined CAP in 2001 and recently served many years in various duty positions at the Charlotte County Composite Squadron including three years as the Deputy Commander for Cadets and four years as primary PAO. He was currently serving as the unit's primary Recruiting and Retention Officer along with holding several assistant positions as an Aerospace Officer, Cadet Programs Activity Officer, Public Affairs, and Safety. He held a Senior Rating in Cadet Programs and Technician Ratings in Aerospace and Public Affairs. As a Mission Aerial Photographer and Mission Radio Operator, Ron worked many of Florida Wing's high-profile hurricane missions.

Over the years, Capt. Bower served at many wing-level Cadet Programs activities including encampments, as a team escort at the Ultimate Cadet Challenge and Color Guard Academy and staffed a Cadet Honor Academy. He served as a member of many Florida Wing Public Affairs teams for these events and conferences. He was awarded a Wing Commander's Commendation in 2020 and received the Public Affairs Circle of Excellence Award in 2018 and 2019.

Capt. Ron Bower will be remembered most for his work with cadets and his cheerfulness, willingness, and kindness. He was truly a gentleman and was always there to lend a hand in any way possible. He always had a smile on his face and shared his enthusiasm and joy of being able to serve and was particularly dedicated to the excellence of the Cadet Program. Capt. Bower went above and beyond in his service to Civil Air Patrol, Florida Wing, and his squadron.



*Lt. Col. Rafael Salort (L) and Col. Luis Garcia (R) present the 2018 Public Affairs Circle of Excellence Award to Capt. Ron Bower.*

SM Mary Bower joined the Charlotte County Composite Squadron in early 2020 as a Patron member. Although she didn't have as many years to work through CAP achievements, she regularly attended squadron meetings and assisted with the Cadet Program. She cheerfully helped with whatever she was asked to do and added to the overall success of the cadets in any way possible.

The impact of losing Ron and Mary has been felt throughout the wing. Words are inadequate to express the grief of their passing so unexpectedly and tragically. Please keep Ron and Mary's family, friends, and squadron members in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.





## FLWG Cadet of the Year Nominees

Cadet of the Year is a prestigious national award for Phase 4 cadets. They compete at the wing level to advance to their regional level. Each region sends one Phase 4 cadet to compete for the National Cadet of the Year. In the Florida wing we hold the competition for all phases.

Phases 1 - 3 do not get to advance to regional, but they get the distinction of being named the Cadet of the Year for Florida Wing in their phase. They gain valuable experience and knowledge of competing for this award and are much more prepared when they reach Phase 4.

Florida Wing held the selection boards for Cadet of the Year for Phases 1, 2, and 3 last month. The Cadet of the Year for each phase will be announced at the Florida Wing Conference on April 15<sup>th</sup> from the top nominees listed below. Congratulations to the following cadets:

### Phase 1

C/A1C Caden Ballentine  
C/SrA. Cooper Labelle

### Phase 2

C/MSgt. Bryce Byrnes  
C/CMSgt. Ann Jacobo  
C/CMSgt. Olivia Pagano

### Phase 3

C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicholas Camperos  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Casey Clarkson  
C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Neilson Nicolosi

### Phase 4

C/Lt. Col. Cameron Calloway  
C/Maj. Autumn Rhodes

## Florida Wing “Green Lights” for National Cadet Special Activities

Florida Wing congratulates all the cadets who competed in the selection boards for the Highly Recommended (Green Light) status to be applied to their first choice of National Cadet Special Activity (NCSA). Florida Wing was awarded 12 “Green Light” slots for 2023.

Cadets were required to submit a detailed application package and interview with the Selection Board. During the interview, cadets were asked questions about general CAP knowledge, the NCSA they requested, and why it was important to them to attend.

## Congratulations to Florida Wing’s “Green Light” cadets!

C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicholas Camperos, Tamiami Comp. Sq.  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Matthew Santos, Wesley Chapel Cadet Sq.  
C/CMSgt. Olivia Pagano, Boca Raton Comp. Sq.  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Casey Clarkson, Crystal Lakes MS Cadet Sq.  
C/Lt. Col. Logan Lanham, St. Augustine Comp. Sq.  
C/Capt. Connor Ernst, St. Augustine Composite Sq.  
C/SMSgt. Kyle Peterson, Boca Raton Comp. Sq.  
C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Neilson Nicolosi, Hernando Co. Comp. Sq.  
C/SMSgt. William Douglass, Jacksonville Comp. Sq.  
C/CMSgt. Ann Jacobo, Wesley Chapel Cadet Sq.  
C/SMSgt. Jett Justin, Boca Raton Comp. Sq.  
C/TSgt. Rodrigo Ma-Pinto, Boca Raton Comp/ Sq.



## Cadet Honor Society Inductees

C/MSgt. Bryce A. Byrnes  
Central Florida Composite Squadron  
Cadet Honor Society Inductee #651

C/CMSgt. Stella Nawyn  
Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron  
Cadet Honor Society Inductee #652



## 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 Florida Wing cadets completed the requirements to earn the Wright Brothers Award in January:

Giannkarlo Baez, Lake Composite Squadron  
Alex Collins, Stuart Composite Squadron  
Myloh Yose, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron  
Olivia Phoenix-Dean, Fruit Cover Cadet Squadron  
Marcus Giles, St. Augustine Composite Squadron  
Hudson Vance, St. Augustine Composite Squadron  
Jayden Hanes, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron  
Maxwell Chavez, Central Florida Composite Squadron  
Cooper Labelle, Central Florida Composite Squadron  
Serena Ramkarran, Polk County Composite Squadron  
Adrien Goodman, Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron  
Rita Gornowicz, Hernando County Composite Squadron  
Elyes Beloulehi, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron  
Lucas Pagan, Boca Raton Composite Squadron  
Sophia Alvarado, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Sheik Hassan, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Farah Hicks, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Cecilia Michel, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Leighton Parke, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron  
Jeret Jones, 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.

The "Father of the Independent Air Force," Billy Mitchell led an aerial bombing demonstration resulting in the sinking of the surplus German battleship Ostfriesland in 1921. The Navy had said such a feat would be impossible, and the Army remained skeptical toward airpower. Mitchell continued his all-out public campaign for airpower, even facing court-martial for his persistence. He knew that in the new "aeronautical era," military airpower, operating independently of ground and sea forces, needed to be the first line of defense. Not until World War II did the full U.S. military establishment realize how right he was. After the Allied victory, and by a special act of Congress, Mitchell was posthumously awarded a gold medal.

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 January:

Roger Roden, Lake Composite Squadron  
Wyatt Garcia, Treasure Coast Composite Squadron  
Henry Conary, MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron  
Miikka Kritzer, MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron  
Josiah Roger, Brandon Cadet Squadron  
Trent Volker, Polk County Composite Squadron  
Andrew Burns, Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron  
William Emiro, Eglin Composite Squadron  
Robert Madden, Clearwater Composite Squadron

## Amelia Earhart Award



The Amelia Earhart Award honors an aviatrix, writer, and champion for civil rights who set many records in aviation's infancy before her famous disappearance during her attempt to become the first woman to circumnavigate the globe.

Adored by the public, Earhart spoke and wrote about the romance of aviation. "The stars seemed near enough to touch and never before have I seen so many," she wrote of one record setting flight. "I always believed the lure of flying is the lure of beauty, but I was sure of it that night."

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.

After earning the Earhart Award, only Phase IV of the Cadet Program, and the prestigious Spaatz Award Examination remains for the young person to conquer as a CAP cadet. In granting CAP permission to name this milestone award in Amelia's honor, her sister said that it would've been, "the kind of award Amelia would [have chosen for] herself."

The following Florida Wing Cadets completed the requirements to earn the Amelia Earhart Award in January:

Aden Baxley, Fruit Cove Cadet Squadron

Jackson Davis, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron

Torrey Williams, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron





## 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.

With General (then major) Carl Spaatz, in 1929 Eaker remained aloft aboard The Question Mark, a modified Atlantic-Fokker C-2A, for nearly a week, to demonstrate a newfound capability of aerial refueling. During WWII, Eaker rose to the grade of lieutenant general and commanded the Eighth Air Force, "The Mighty Eighth" force of strategic bombers. Even as a general, Eaker preferred to lead from the front, personally flying B-17 precision bombing missions over occupied France and Germany.

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.

Olivia Jenkins from the North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron

completed the requirements for the General Ira C. Eaker Award.



Cadet Lt. Col. Jenkins served as North Tampa-Lutz's cadet commander and is currently attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. C/Lt. Col. Jenkins is the 139<sup>th</sup> graduate of CAP's Cadet Wings Program which is a merit-based program for cadets pursuing their Private Pilot's Certificate.

During COVID, she gave many virtual presentations to outside organizations about Civil Air Patrol to increase awareness of CAP's vital role in the community and to share information about the Cadet Program.

She was interviewed by Florida Aviation Network during Sun n Fun 2021 and 2022 and was a guest speaker on Janet's Planets in 2020. Janet's Planets is broadcast to school-age audiences across the nation.

To watch the 2021 FAN interview, click here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufv55bm\\_maw&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufv55bm_maw&t=8s)

To watch the 2022 FAN interview, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cw7oCDPct80&t=1s>

To watch the Janet's Planets interview, starting at the 19-minute mark -click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kalaQwWHG38>



## GENERAL CARL A. SPAATZ AWARD

The General Carl A. Spaatz Award is Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor. It is presented to cadets who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace education.

Cadets qualify for this prestigious award after devoting an average of five years to progress through sixteen achievements in the CAP Cadet Program. Along the way they develop self-discipline, a strong sense of personal responsibility, the ability to lead and persuade, and the foundation necessary for pursuing a career in aviation, space, or technology.

The final step a cadet must complete to earn the Spaatz Award is a rigorous four-part exam consisting of a challenging physical fitness test, an essay exam testing their moral reasoning, a comprehensive written exam on leadership, and a comprehensive written exam on aerospace education.

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

Since the award's inception in 1964, Civil Air Patrol has presented the Spaatz Award to only 2442 cadets nation-wide. Spaatz Cadets are expected to serve as role models for junior cadets, and become leaders in their communities as they enter adulthood. The first recipient of the Spaatz Award, Michigan's Douglas C. Roach, served as a pilot with the Air Force Thunderbirds.

Maximus Kousiry, 463<sup>rd</sup> Composite Squadron, is the 2429<sup>th</sup> recipient of the General Carl A. Spaatz Award.

Cadet Col. Kousiry is currently serving as his squadron's cadet commander and as the Florida Wing Cadet Advisory Council Chair; is an inductee of the FLWG Honor Society; and is a member of the Florida Wing Public Affairs Team as part of the Cadet Programs Executive Leadership Program.

He has served in leadership roles both in Civil Air Patrol and in other organizations, excelled in his education holding a 4.18 GPA, participates in sports, and earned his student pilot certificate while working as an assistant manager at a local deli. Some of his leadership roles outside of CAP include National Junior Honor Society President; Kiwanis Builder's Club President; and Co-Captain of his high school wrestling team. C/Col. Kousiry is a recipient of the Florida Wing Public Affairs Circle of Excellence Award and was selected as Student of the Year at his high school.

As a member of the FLWG Public Affairs team, C/Col. Maximus Kousiry conducted an on-camera interview with Col. Joseph Kittinger during the NHQ High-Altitude Balloon Watch Party held in Orlando in 2022. Col. Joseph Kittinger, who was the sponsor for the CAP National Event, was renowned for holding the world record for the highest skydive—102,800 feet (31.3 km)—from 1960 until 2012 and was the first man to witness the curvature of the earth from space.

C/Col. Kousiry received Congressional nominations for the service academies and will be graduating from high school this year.





# SAVE THE DATES

**February 18:** Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) hosted by Groups 3 and 8, Tampa

**February 23:** Liberty MS Cadet Squadron Activation Ceremony, Ocala

**February 25:** Flight-line Marshalling Training, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron, Tampa

**March 4:** FLWG Public Affairs Workshop, Virtual

**March 4-5:** Florida Senior Leadership Academy (FSLA), Level IV, Orlando

**March 10-12:** FLWG Cadet Competition, Patrick Space Force Base

**March 11:** Flight-line Marshalling Training, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron, Tampa

**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



***Colonel Luis Negron, Cap  
Commander, Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol  
and  
Major Larry Spangler, CAP  
Commander, Group 2  
Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol***

*cordially invites you to attend  
the Activation of a Cadet Squadron*

*at which*

***Captain Carolyn F. Spangler, CAP***

*will accept command of the  
Liberty Middle School Cadet Squadron, SER-FL-831*

*Thursday, the Twenty Third of February 2023  
Six o'clock in the evening*

*Liberty Middle School Cafeteria  
4773 SW 95th Street  
Ocala, Florida 34476*

*Reception to follow in the Liberty Middle School Cafeteria*

R.S.V.P. by 16 Feb 2023  
POC: Maj Larry Spangler CAP  
[larry.spangler@flwg.cap.us](mailto:larry.spangler@flwg.cap.us)  
(352-209-2935)

Dress requirement  
Military: Uniform of the Day  
Civilian: Business casual



# **FLWG Senior Leadership Academy, Level IV**

**FLWG will hold a Face-to-Face instruction opportunity for the 14 moderated modules of Level IV.**

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

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

Date: Saturday March 4 and Sunday March 5

Times: Start each day at 08:30 a.m.

Fee: \$0.00, but a donation to the church would be appreciated

Uniform: USAF Class B or Corporate White/Gray combination

NO Virtual Option for this course

Location: Faith Christian Academy

9307 Curry Ford Rd.

Orlando, FL

Requirements:

Completion of Level III

Grade of Captain or above, or NCO equivalents

Registration deadline: February 25, 2023

Space is limited to 25 members, so register early.

More information will come to registrants via email in a Student Guide.

To register, click here:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BEBSR5BaTEajaTw6Ub2tBkQlssJiq15PvPe3BbHAVphUQUxPOU5ZNzIIRkkyNVFYMFYXVFIcNUpSOC4u>

Director: Lt Col Judith Hewett / [judith.hewett@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:judith.hewett@flwg.cap.gov)

Co-Director: Maj Julio Pastoriza / [julio.pastoriz@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:julio.pastoriz@flwg.cap.gov)





## FLWG 2023 Cadet Competition

Registration is now open for Florida Wing Cadet Competition. Be sure to carefully read the Operations Order posted on the web page. The deadline to register is Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> at midnight. NO late entries will be accepted.

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

Staff members are needed for this event. Senior members are needed for event judges, test proctors, time keepers, and administrative duties. Cadets may serve in administrative positions. If you are interested in staffing the event, please email Maj. Kozloski at [annmarie.kozloski@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:annmarie.kozloski@flwg.cap.gov) stating what position you want and your experience in that position. Deadline for staff applications is Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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## FLWG 2023 Summer Encampment

Florida Wing is excited to announce that Capt. Christian Dominguez will be the 2023 Summer Encampment Commander. Capt. Dominguez's experience as a cadet attending FLWG encampments as well as serving as a senior member in the positions of training officer, administrative officer, and ATS commander give him a varied background with the event. We look forward to working with him as the commander.

Applications are being accepted for the positions of Commandant and Deputy Commander of Support. To apply for these positions please send in your CAP resume and a cover letter stating what position you are applying for and why to [christian.dominguez@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:christian.dominguez@flwg.cap.gov). The deadline to apply for these positions is Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please watch the Florida Wing website, social media channels, and email for encampment updates including remaining staff application and student application opening announcements.

The Florida Wing 2023 Summer Encampment will be held at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Starke, FL. Staff arrival is Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Student arrival is Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Graduation will be held on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Cadet Encampment Assistance Program (CEAP) Applications open March 1<sup>st</sup>!!!



# Sun n Fun 2023 at Lakeland Linder Airport

SUN N FUN REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!!

FLWG and CAP members from other wings are invited to register for Sun N Fun!

The 2023 CAP EVENT at the SUN n FUN AEROSPACE EXPO is a 10-day event at Lakeland Linder Airport and attracts more than 160,000 aviation minded people from around the world. Part exhibition/part airshow, Sun n Fun is the nation's second-largest aviation event after EAA Air Venture in Oshkosh, WI. The CAP partnership with SUN n FUN is a perfect fit with all three core components of the CAP mission. CAP provides ES and operations support.

Aerospace Education hands-on activities and aviation-related vendors are plentiful and abundant. Cadet and Senior Officer participation is essential to fulfilling the many volunteer roles needed for a show of this size, and this year, the known and loved "Sun n Fun" event will grow to new heights with a to be announced new name, logo, and qualification process.

With plenty of Emergency Services training, flight line marshalling, visitor safety, and fast and loud jets flying overhead, this will be an exciting cadet special activity. This year we have catered food, fresh hot breakfast, special VIP visits, and a few other aces up our sleeves to guarantee this is an event you won't want to miss!



Registration can be completed by going to the FLWG website and clicking on the blue "register here" button.  
<https://flwg.cap.gov/programs/aerospace-education/sun-n-fun>

**Please remember to READ THE OPS ORDER.**

**Questions:** Contact 1st Lt Cyrus Gardner, CAP  
2023 CAP Sun n Fun Deputy Commander  
[cyrus.gardner@flwgcap.us](mailto:cyrus.gardner@flwgcap.us)



## Florida Wing 2023 Annual Conference and Awards Banquet

Drury Plaza Hotel, Orlando – Disney Springs  
Pre-Conference Courses: April 13-14<sup>th</sup>  
Conference, Cadet Conference, and Awards Banquet: April 15<sup>th</sup>

Early Bird Registration: Now through Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 p.m. ET  
Hotel Conference Pricing: Now through Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 p.m. ET

Streamlined conference ticketing allows you to select your membership level and gives you the option to purchase banquet tickets. Early bird pricing for conference only is \$40.00 for senior members and cadets and \$90.00 for conference and banquet.

This year there's an exciting line up of fun events, informational sessions, contests, and CAP fellowship at the Florida Wing Conference. Pre-Conference Courses and Saturday Breakout Sessions will be announced soon.

Capt. Nina Anderson, CAP  
FLWG 2023 Conference Coordinator

Hotel rooms at the CAP rate are limited and are expected to sell out quickly.  
Hotel special rate reservations include:

- FREE hot breakfasts daily
- FREE Coffee all day
- FREE Evening hot snacks and beverages at the "Kickback" function
- FREE Wi-Fi
- FREE Shuttle service to the Disney parks for your family members
- Reduced parking rates (\$18.00 per day vs \$25.00)
- 3 onsite restaurants with affordable pricing and reasonable hours. Call ahead ordering available.
- Onsite convenience store
- Salt Water resort pool and splash pad
- Video game arcade
- Each room includes: microwaves, refrigerators, coffee makers, iron, hair dryer and safe

Registration Link:

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

Hotel Reservation Link:

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

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

# Florida Wing Cadet Advisory Council – Cadet Conference

Florida Wing's Cadet Advisory Council is pleased to invite cadets to attend the annual Cadet Conference on April 15th in conjunction with the FLWG general conference.

This event is an excellent opportunity to learn about many other facets of CAP that are not traditionally explored and utilized through local events. The courses provided will cover a wide array of topics that cater to all interests through active hands-on demonstrations and admirable guest speakers.

The Cadet Conference allows cadets from across Florida to network and learn from their peers through common interests and experiences. This event dives deep into all that CAP has to offer. There is a world of opportunity to be explored: Are you up for the journey?



## Specialty Badges and Additional Programs

Have you ever seen a cadet wearing a badge on their ABUs and wondered, "Wow, how did they get that?". Delve into the multitude of awards and specialty badges Civil Air Patrol has to offer. You'll learn everything from what they mean, to how to get them, to how to wear them properly.

## Introduction to Color Guard

Experienced color guard champions will be giving you the breakdown of the basics. Learn how to hoist the flag, carry the rifle, and bring honor to the military's traditions! This intro class is the perfect opportunity to jumpstart your squadron's color guard program and represent FLWG in your community.

## Cyber Patriot

What is Cyber Patriot? Find out during this interactive cyber security demonstration and Q & A hosted by the St. Augustine Composite Squadron! These experienced Cyber Patriot champions want to show you the possibilities, opportunities, and excitement of competing in the national competition.

## Leadership Seminar

Leadership is a complicated and highly philosophical topic. Discuss these topics with fellow cadets, share leadership experiences, and gather advice from others. Make connections and develop your leadership philosophy in this Socratic seminar!

## Emergency Services Training

Are you excited about emergency services and helping others? Take part in this interactive training course and gain first-hand knowledge about General Emergency Services!

## Public Speaking

Do you get nervous in front of a crowd? Challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone with this public speaking practice and critique. You'll have the opportunity to present on a variety of topics among fellow cadets and receive feedback from experienced cadet officers!

## Service Academies and Applications

Are you a high school student interested in applying for a service academy? Talk to recruiters from the US Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, West Point, Merchant Marine Academy, and the Coast Guard Academy, as well as former graduates about their experiences and learn more about the application process.

**Cadet instructors are still needed to lead several sessions. If you would like to apply, please send an email to Lt. Col. Danielle DeAngelo by March 18<sup>th</sup> at [daniell.deangelo@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:daniell.deangelo@flwg.cap.gov)**



From PROPS:

## ***Aircraft Artwork Series Carries Over to New Year***



CAP SILVERED WINGS

**Kinner Sportster B NC14201**

c1943 CAP Independent Courier By Ron Finger, Civil Air Patrol National Artist



The popularity of Maj. Ronald C. Finger's "Timeline Flight" paintings leading up to CAP's 80th anniversary has inspired a second series of vintage aircraft artwork — the Silvered Wings Series.

Debuting in August and continuing into 2023, this series once again features the work of Finger, a national staff member on CAP's Marketing & Strategic Communications team.

Check out the latest vintage CAP aircraft in the Silvered Wings Series, as posted on CAP.news:

<https://www.cap.news/silvered-wings-kinner-sportster-b/>

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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.**

