



FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

GATOR GAZETTE

MAY 2023



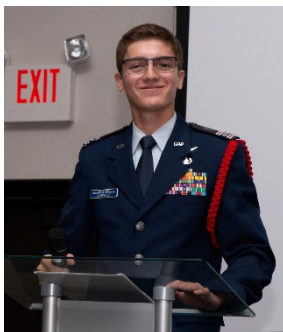


Challenge Accepted!

2023 Florida Wing Conference

Over 300 Florida Wing members and guests gathered at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Disney Springs, Orlando in mid-April for the annual pre-conference, conference, and awards banquet where they attended sessions to advance their skill sets, networked with other members, and had fun.

Pre-conference courses were held on April 13th and 14th and included a wide variety of offerings including communications training, an Incident Management Team tabletop exercise conducted by the NESM Mobile Training Team, Training Leaders of Cadets, Commanders Course, and a Public Affairs Academy.



On Saturday morning, the conference opened with the General Session with Cadet Capt. Nicholas Camperos as the master of ceremonies, the posting of the colors by the Tamiami Composite Squadron color guard team, and the invocation given by Chaplain Lt. Col. Nicholas Wyborski.



Distinguished guests were introduced including National Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Regena Aye; Southeast Region Commander Col. Andrea Van Buren; CAP-USAF Southeast Region, Melanie Golladay; Ms. Kristina Jones from National Headquarters Staff; Mr. Jose Hernandez-Franco, CAP-USAF; former National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez; Southeast Region Staff, Col. Richard Greenwood; Georgia Wing Commander Col. Jeffrey Garrett; and past Florida Wing Commanders Col. Michael Cook, Col. Joseph Martin, and Lt. Col. Joseph Martin.

Introductions were followed by the safety briefing presented by Florida Wing Director of Safety Capt. Mike Shekari. The General Session continued with opening remarks from honored guests and Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negrón, the Florida Wing memorial slide presentation, and concluded with the presentation of awards to outstanding Florida Wing members before beginning the day's breakout sessions and Cadet Conference.

The breakout sessions included informational meetings, interactive training sessions, and roundtable discussions spanning from operations, communications, logistics, and information technology to diversity, ethical leadership, cadet programs, and aerospace education topics, to name a few. Additional sessions covered areas such as history, photography, inspector general, safety, mentoring, and philanthropy.



In the evening, the Florida Wing Annual Awards Banquet opened with an invocation given by Chaplain Lawrence Vollink. Following the invocation, Awards Banquet Master of Ceremonies, Lt. Karl Coutinho from the Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron welcomed guests on behalf of Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negron by saying,

"Tonight's banquet is the culmination of a few days of exciting learning opportunities, networking with members from across the state or region, and of course honoring Civil Air Patrol's many partners. During our 81-year history, C.A.P. has partnered with numerous Federal agencies, private corporations and of course hundreds of thousands of individuals who have become the heart of the organization as our members. The goal of this conference was to inspire all of you to continue your service and be inspired to share what you have learned with others in your home squadron. Also, to share the impact our valuable partners have had on the overall success of the organization. The strong relationship our Aerospace Education directorate has made with the STEM community, and the continued growth in our operational missions through closer relationships with all of our federal partners, Civil Air Patrol and the Florida Wing are poised for success in the next 80 years."



Following the introduction of distinguished guests, Col. Negron stepped to the podium to honor those who were not among the guests and to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War with the acknowledgement of the Missing Man MIA-POW table. *"As you entered the banquet hall this evening, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor. It is set for one. This table is our way of symbolizing the fact that one member of Florida Wing is missing from our midst. This evening we honor four Florida wing members who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War and one who has not returned home."* The four former Florida Wing members who were killed-in-action and one who is still missing-in-action were remembered with a reading of their names and a brief history of each of the five soldiers.

After dinner, special guest keynote speaker Linda Reid, Vice President, Security Operations, from The Walt Disney World Resort shared her experiences as an analyst and operations officer with the Central Intelligence Agency with a number of overseas duties, as a founding member of the Department of Homeland Security's Classified Intelligence Forum, and other work experience before joining the Walt Disney World Resort.



SER Commander Col. Van Buren

The awards segment of the evening began after the keynote with the "Of the Year" awards for individual members and the Squadron of Merit award. The evening concluded with special recognitions for the Conference coordinator Capt. Nina Anderson and assistant coordinator Capt. Barbara Rich; an additional Wing Commander's Commendation for Capt. Adelino Marcal for outstanding service during the conference; and a thank you gift to Col. Van Buren for her service to Florida Wing during her tour as the Southeast Region Commander. Col. Negron also presented a special award to the team from the Drury Plaza Hotel for their dedication and outstanding service to Florida Wing before and during the conference.

Details about award presentations from the Florida Wing Conference are shared in additional articles in this issue of the Gator Gazette.

An additional special recognition to 1st Lt. Jason Hewitt of the Clearwater Composite Squadron for creating the 2023 Florida Wing Conference Logo.



Col. Negron presenting Drury team with award.

Florida Wing Communications Conducts Training in Orlando

Florida Wing Communications offered Mission Radio Operator and Communications Unit Leader training as pre-conference courses. As part of the training, participating senior members and cadets learned how to set up the Mobile Communication Unit (MCU) for operation and how to use the communication equipment and tools. This year, several of the members in training were able to participate in a real-world mission with an Urban Direction Finding (UDF) Team being called out to locate an emergency beacon signal source that had activated in the local area.



NESA Conducts Incident Management Team Training at the FLWG Conference



Civil Air Patrol's National Emergency Services Academy (NESA) Mobile Training Team offered an Incident Management Team training course during the Florida Wing pre-conference days in Orlando. Incident Management Team (IMT) Certification Course instructors – Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk, Lt. Col. Bob Ditch, and Col. Mark Lahan - led nineteen Florida Wing members through three back-to-back operational periods of tabletop exercises simulating IMT function during hurricane or other major disaster response

missions. During the exercises, participants were able to hone their skills and learn new best practices which evolved from the Hurricane Ian missions last year. This was the second time the NESA Mobile Training Team conducted courses in Florida Wing. The first was in 2019 in Tampa a few months before the wing responded to Hurricane Dorian missions in Florida and the international mission in the Bahamas.

Across the Wing ELT Mission Ends with Find

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



Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing was alerted by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) on the evening of April 13th of an emergency locator beacon broadcasting very near a FedEx facility in the Ft. Lauderdale area. With heavy rainfall and historic flooding in the area, a ground team was unable to locate the beacon. The search was suspended for the night due to the weather. AFRCC later in the evening reported that the signal was no longer being heard and the mission was closed.

The next morning, the beacon reappeared in the Orlando area at a different FedEx location. The mission was reopened and an Urban Direction Finding (UDF) team attending the Florida Wing annual conference was dispatched to the FedEx facility. Upon arrival, the team obtained permission to conduct their search for the beacon, asked where the trucks arriving from Ft. Lauderdale were parked, and they were able to quickly locate the beacon.

A box containing a life raft was opened by FedEx personnel and the beacon was turned off. The box with the life raft was being shipped to Texas. Not having found the beacon before it was put on another truck would have possibly led CAP on a cross-country chase thru several states.

Several members working on their mission radio operator training during the Wing Conference also participated and were able to complete training tasks. The communications team consisted of Mission Radio Operators (MRO) 2nd Lt. James Anderson, Cadet CMSgt. Andrew Crane, Cadet CMSgt. Everette Crane, Lt. Col. Lazaro Garcia, and Communication Unit Leader Capt. Jay Rosenfeld. The UDF team members were Capt. Christian Dominguez, Capt. Cesar Hernandez, Capt. Barbara Rich and Senior Member Alejandro Serra. The Incident Commander for the mission was Lt. Col. Bruce Smith.

Tragedy Averted Due to Timely Actions of Civil Air Patrol Member

During the Florida Wing Conference, a family of hotel guests who were not part of the Civil Air Patrol gathering nearly experienced a major tragedy. Thanks to the rapid response of Major Martin C. Krebs who was attending the conference, tragedy was averted.



Below is the Proposed Summary of Action for the award of the Civil Air Patrol Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving with a silver star device.

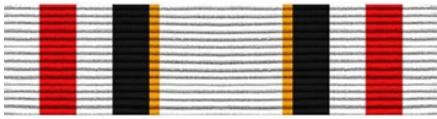
“Major Martin C. Krebs, CAP, distinguished himself by heroic actions in the saving of a human life on the night of April 14th in Orlando by his lightning-fast response to a near drowning situation at a hotel pool.

“While at the Florida Wing Conference, Maj. Krebs was sitting at a table with members of the Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron when a woman began screaming as she carried her motionless young girl out of the pool. He sprang into action, tearing away from the table to enter the fenced pool area and immediately aided in getting the unconscious girl on her side where her airway could be cleared.

“While her mother screamed hysterically and bystanders called 911, Maj. Krebs assisted with administering rapid blows on the victim’s back to force her body to expel water from her lungs. Within seconds, the girl’s eyes began to open and she began to cough, gaining responsiveness. Having recently recertified on first air procedures, Maj. Krebs was aware that the near drowning victim like had residual water in her lungs that required expulsion. He remained by the victim’s side and aided her in sitting up, where she was able to expel additional fluid.

“It was only after the victim was stabilized that first responders arrived on scene and proceeded to assess and prepare the patient for movement to a local hospital for further observation and treatment. Jam. Krebs took a leading role in the swift response to this near drowning. His level-headedness brought order to a chaotic scene and prevented tragedy by ensuring that a child would remain alive.

“His actions exemplified Civil Air Patrol’s motto of ‘Semper Vigilans’ and were in alignment with the highest traditions of the organization. By his prompt action and humanitarian regard for his fellow human being, Maj. Krebs reflected a great credit upon himself and Civil Air Patrol.”



2022 Florida Wing Exceptional Service Awards

The Exceptional Service Award is presented to CAP members who provide exceptionally outstanding service to CAP in a duty of great responsibility. The duty should usually carry with it the ultimate responsibility for a major project within the wing or region and the fulfillment of that duty greatly benefits the wing or the region. Col. Van Buren presented Exceptional Service Awards to the following Florida Wing members during the annual conference:

Lt. Col. Adrian Cuarta, Lt. Col. Daia Jung, Maj. Ann Marie Kozloski, and Lt. Col. Ralph Kugel



2022 Florida Wing Meritorious Service Awards

A Meritorious Service Award is awarded for the recognition of achievements and services which are clearly outstanding and unmistakably exceptional when compared to similar achievements and accomplishments of personnel of like rank and responsibilities. Superior performance of normal duties does not, in itself, constitute automatic justification for the Meritorious Service Award. In instances where many individuals are affiliated with an exceptionally successful program, project, or mission, the Meritorious Service Award should be awarded to the relatively few individuals whose contributions clearly stand out from the others and who have contributed most to the success of the program.

The following members were presented with Meritorious Service Awards at the Florida Wing Conference for their service and achievements in 2022.

Lt. Col. Danielle DeAngelo
Lt. Col. Manuel Pelati
Lt. Col. Paul Rowen
Lt. Col. Donald Windle
Maj. Sybrian Castleman
Maj. Nathan Hoffman
Maj. Ayrton Ingle
Maj. Stephen Kirkpatrick
Maj. Peter Leckband

Maj. Joe Mora
Maj. Julio Pastoriza
Maj. Larry Spangler
Capt. Gregory Becker
Capt. Jay Rosenfeld
Capt. Arrash "Mike" Shekari
Capt. David Taylor
1st Lt. Heather Parth



2022 Florida Wing Commander Commendation Awards

A Commander's Commendation is awarded for outstanding duty performance where achievement and services are clearly and unmistakably exceptional when compared to similar achievements and service of members of like rank and responsibility. In instances where several members are affiliated with an exceptionally successful program, project, or mission, a Commander's Commendation may be awarded only to those who clearly stand out from the others and who contributed most to the success of the program.

The following members were presented with Commander Commendation Awards at the Florida Wing Conference for their service and achievements in 2022.

Lt. Col. Brian E. Crane
Lt. Col. Bruce P. Smith
Lt. Col. David A. Horowitz
Lt. Col. Ernest C. Manzano
Lt. Col. John L. Sims
Lt. Col. Joseph M. Martin
Lt. Col. Linda E. Trimpey
Lt. Col. Patrick Sullivan
Lt. Col. Ramon C. Palacio
Lt. Col. Robert E. Maxey, Jr.
Lt. Col. Robert W. Shaw
Lt. Col. Thomas A. Ficarra
Lt. Col. William F. Rake
Maj. Douglas C. Martin
Maj. James Sullivan
Maj. Joseph J. Finn
Maj. Robert W. Smith
Capt. Anthony J. Burns
Capt. Austin J. Schultz

Capt. Justin W. Kirik
Capt. Marc E. Deslauriers
Capt. Michael K. James
Capt. Michael P. Thometz
Capt. Natascha V. Harrison
1st Lt. Andre J. Venter
1st Lt. Denise M. Heady
1st Lt. Jerome Budde
1st Lt. Ronnie L. Fuentes Rodriguez
1st Lt. Thomas H. Ellis
1st Lt. Tobias Benjamin P. Baxley
2nd Lt. Beth T. Crane
2nd Lt. Daniel A. Valdivia
2nd Lt. Debra W. Jenkins
2nd Lt. Jason V. Hewitt
2nd Lt. Kelly M. Fitzgerald
2nd Lt. Luis A. Torres
2nd Lt. Teresa M. Beebe
Senior Member Michael G. Rowe



Florida Wing 2022 National Safety Officer College Graduates

Nine Florida Wing members graduated from the National Safety Officer College in 2022. To recognize their achievements, Brig. Gen. Aye presented coins to the Florida Wing graduates to celebrate their achievement. These members sacrificed many hours over several weeks to complete the course. We are thrilled to be able to recognize their hard work and dedication to ensure that they have the skills need to maintain a safe environment for Civil Air Patrol members.

Congratulations to: Lt. Col. Thomas Ficarra, Lt. Col. Jose Herrera, Lt. Col. Michael Hively, Lt. Col. Robert Shaw, Maj. Charles Larson, Maj. Robert Smith, Maj. James Sullivan, Capt. Pedro Jimenez, and Capt. Arrash "Mike" Shekari.



2022 Florida Wing Circle of Excellence Awards

The Circle of Excellence Awards are presented to Florida Wing members who go above and beyond the standard job description. Members receiving this award have proven that they are exceptional, dedicated and embody the core values of Civil Air Patrol.

A1: Lt. Col. Judith Hewett and 1st Lt. Heather Parth

A3: Capt. Cesar Hernandez, Lt. Col. John May, and Lt. Col. William Rake

A4: Lt. Col. Paul Rowen and 2nd Lt. Donald Keister

A5: Capt. Brian Collins and Lt. Col. Danielle DeAngelo

A6: Capt. Jay Rosenfeld and Capt. Christian Dominguez

Group 1: 2nd Lt. Jeremy W. Thomason and Capt. Michael P. Thometz

Group 2: Capt. Frederick T. Baron and Capt. Carolyn Spangler

Group 3: 2nd Lt. Teresa Beebe and SM Scott Kirkwood

Group 4: Cadet 2nd Lt. Addison English and Capt. Natascha Harrison

Group 5: 1st Lt. David Bynum and 2nd Lt. David Schaare, Jr.

Group 6: Maj. Earl Webb

Group 7: Capt. Diego Leiva and Lt. Col. Trevor Stewart



Ultimate Cadet Challenge Starts New Tradition

The Ultimate Cadet Challenge (UCC) is an annual event that tests the abilities of cadets in all areas of the Civil Air Patrol mission. Teams of four cadets compete for the title of 'Ultimate Cadet' against others in the wing. Events include Emergency Services activities, AE activities, written examination, uniform inspection, drill evaluation, leadership reaction courses and more.

Starting this year, the squadron that places first will have their unit's name placed on a legacy trophy that will capture the names of every squadron that claims the title of UCC champion every year. In addition, there is a new UCC champion guidon that will accompany the winning squadron until the next UCC and the team will be awarded a new streamer that the unit can proudly display on its official Guidon.

The 2022 UCC Champion is the St. Augustine Composite Squadron.



2022 Cadet of the Year Awards

The Cadet of the Year Award is based on the demonstration of outstanding leadership skills as well as academic excellence. The following cadets exemplified what it means to be a Civil Air Patrol member.

Phase I: Cadet A1C Caden Ballentine, of the Central Florida Composite Squadron.

Phase II: Cadet CMSgt. Olivia Pagano, of the Boca Raton Composite Squadron

Phase III: Cadet Capt. Nicholas Camperos, of the Tamiami Composite Squadron

Phase IV: Cadet Col. (now Senior Member) Capt. Cameron Calloway, Seminole Composite Squadron



Florida Wing Top Units in 2022

Unit "Of the Year" Awards are presented each year to the Florida Wing Senior Squadron of the Year and the Group of the Year. The Squadron of Merit is an annual award for the top Florida Wing composite or cadet squadron for distinctive accomplishments in the cadet program during the preceding calendar year.

Senior Squadron of the Year: Merritt Island Senior Squadron, Group 4.

Squadron of Merit: Boca Raton Composite Squadron, Group 6.

Group of the Year: Florida Wing Group 6.

Based upon several factors including participation in activities, operations, and membership the following units are also recognized for their superb performance in 2022:

Senior Squadrons

Fernandina Senior Squadron

Pinellas Senior Squadron

Gold Coast Senior Squadron

Composite Squadrons

Tallahassee Composite Squadron

Saint Augustine Composite Squadron

Clearwater Composite Squadron

463rd Composite Squadron

SRQ Composite Squadron

Tamiami Composite Squadron

Cadet Squadrons

Pensacola Cadet Squadron

Fruit Cove Cadet Squadron

North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron

Venice Cadet Squadron

North Palm Beach County Cadet Squadron

Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron

National Vice Commander Presents Three Gill Robb Wilson Awards at Florida Wing Banquet

The Gill Robb Wilson Award is Civil Air Patrol's highest award for senior members who complete Level V of the Education and Training Program. This award was first given in 1964 to honor the late Gill Robb Wilson who is regarded as the founder of Civil Air Patrol and served as CAP's first executive officer.

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. Only the members most dedicated to advancing their education and training complete this level. Successful completion of Level 5 qualifies the CAP officer for the Gill Robb Wilson Award and makes them eligible to promote to the Civil Air Patrol grade of Lieutenant Colonel, if they have not previously received the grade through other promotion methods.

National Vice Brig. Gen. Regena Aye presented the Wilson Award to Maj. Daia Jung, Florida Wing Vice Commander, who was also promoted to Lt. Colonel; Lt. Col. Armando Villasana, whose official promotion to Lt. Colonel was conducted; and Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negron.



Top Left: Brig. Gen. Aye with Lt. Col. Daia Jung. Bottom Left: Brig. Gen. Aye and CMSgt. Scott Jung pin Daia Jung with new grade.



Top Left: Brig. Gen. Aye with Lt. Col. Villasana. Bottom Left, Lt. Col. Villasana being pinned by his parents.



Below: Brig. Gen. Aye presents Col. Negron with his Wilson Award.



2022 Florida Wing “Of the Year” Awards

Florida Wing “Of the Year” awards represent the “Best of the Best” in that these individuals are the volunteers who make things happen out in the field and do so day after day. These members were also submitted for the Southeast Region “Of the Year” awards and will receive a Meritorious Service Award. Those who were also selected as the Southeast Region awardees will advance to the national level for consideration for the national “Of the Year” awards.



Professional Development (Education and Training Officer) of the Year: Lt. Col Judith Hewett

Recognizes a member who is currently assigned as a Professional Development Officer and whose life-time contribution to the Professional Development Program has had the greatest positive impact on the professional development of CAP members.



Col. Edwin W. Lewis Incident Staff Member of the Year: Lt. Col. John May

An annual award established to recognize active cadet or senior members in all of CAP who have contributed significantly to the success of CAP’s emergency services and operational mission on the incident staff level.



George Texido Legislative Officer of the Year for Florida Wing and Southeast Region: Lt. Col. Joyce Nader

An annual award established to recognize the outstanding Legislative/Government Relations Officer at the wing or region level that has contributed the most to the success of Civil Air Patrol through his/her legislative efforts.



Col. “Bud” Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year: Capt. Curtis “Wayne” Hooks

The Colonel Robert (Bud) V. Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year award recognizes the PAO who epitomizes the PA program of CAP. The award is presented to a PAO at any level of the organization who provides outstanding and exemplary support for the CAP Cadet Program, Aerospace Education Program and Emergency Services Program and has greatly enhanced the perceived value of CAP to the community.



Finance Officer of the Year: Maj. Christopher David (second consecutive year)
This award is given for outstanding performance as a Finance Officer.



Safety Officer of the Year: Capt. Kevin Rausch
An annual award presented to the Safety Officer who has contributed most to the CAP Safety Program.



Character Development Officer of the Year: Capt. Diego Levia
This award is given for outstanding service as a Character Development Instructor.



John V. "Jack" Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year for Florida and Southeast Region:
Maj. Logan Gallo
This award, named in honor of Jack Sorenson, celebrated as the architect of the revised cadet program that CAP has enjoyed since 1964, recognizes the cadet programs officer who has contributed the most to cadet during his or her lifetime.



Col. David Kantor Operations Staff Officer of the Year: Capt. Cesar Hernandez (second consecutive year)
An annual award established to recognize active members in all of CAP who have contributed significantly to the success of CAP's operational missions.



Major General Jeanne M. Holm Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Officer of the Year:

Maj. Anthony Rios

An annual award established to recognize and reward outstanding performance in aerospace education by CAP AE officers assigned duties at the squadron, group, wing or region levels.



Aerospace Education Teacher: Capt. Willis Reese III

An annual award established to recognize outstanding performance in the classroom. Nominees must be Civil Air Patrol members and certified classroom teachers from grades kindergarten through twelfth from any public, private or parochial school. Nominees must either teach aerospace education as a subject or use aerospace education to enrich the teaching of traditional subjects.



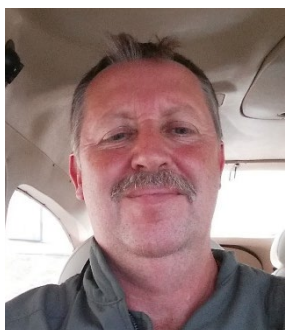
Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award Senior Member: SM Ryan Novack

The Brewer awards are presented in commemoration of Frank G. Brewer, Sr. and his lifelong interest in aviation, youth and education. Recognition is given to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of youth in aerospace activities.



Chaplain of the Year: Maj. Glenn Mohny

This award is given for outstanding chaplain ministry.



Communications Officer of the Year for Florida Wing and Southeast Region: Lt. Col.

Jim Clark

This award has been established to recognize a current member who has made a significant contribution to the CAP Communications Program as a whole.



Historian of the Year: Capt. William Glenn

An annual award presented to the Historian who has contributed most to the CAP History Program.



Senior Member of the Year: 1st Lt. Victoria Jenkins

The Senior Member of the Year Award recognizes a Senior Members' contributions and achievements in fulfilling cap's missions.

Special Recognition for 50 Years of Service in Civil Air Patrol



Lt. Col. Mary J. Horowitz of the Miami Senior One Squadron was recognized during the Florida Wing Conference awards banquet for 50 years of service to Civil Air Patrol.



Lt. Col. Horowitz is currently serving as the squadron commander of her unit. She has served in group and wing level positions and holds a master specialty track rating in Finance and a senior specialty track rating in Professional Development. She holds current Emergency Services ratings as a Mission Radio Operator and Mission Scanner.

Recognition for Members Service During Hurricane Ian Disaster Response Mission



Florida Wing members who participated in the Hurricane Ian Disaster Response Mission and attended the Florida Wing Conference were given a custom pin as a token of appreciation and recognition for their efforts.



Conference Banquet Keynote: Linda Reid from Walt Disney World Resort

Florida Wing was honored to have Linda Reid, Vice President of Security Operations for the Walt Disney World Resort as the 2023 Conference Banquet Keynote Speaker.

Ms. Reid currently serves as the security leader for the largest Disney Park and Resort complex in the company, the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. Prior to relocating to Orlando, Linda had security responsibility for Disney's international theme parks and served as the strategic security resource for the Disney Parks and Resorts overseas properties at Hong Kong Disneyland, Shanghai Disneyland, Tokyo Disney, Disneyland Paris, Disney Cruise Line, Adventures by Disney land tours, Disney Institute, and Disney Vacation Club properties including the Aulani resort in Hawaii.

She joined the Walt Disney Company after an 18-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency. During her CIA career, Linda served as both an analyst and operations officer and has extensive overseas experience in South Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East. She worked on issues ranging from terrorism to cyber intelligence to weapons of mass destruction, verification of international arms control treaties, and unmanned aircraft programs.

Ms. Reid is the recipient of the Intelligence Community's Studeman Award for Excellence, Intelligence Medals for service in Iraq and Bosnia, a National Meritorious Unit Citation for Weapons of Mass Destruction, and numerous other CIA awards for Merit, Excellence, and Distinguished Service.

Ms. Reid graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has done graduate level work at Cambridge University in England. Linda is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter of UCLA.

Her keynote speech was both informative and interesting as she shared many experiences from her fascinating career.

Following the conclusion of her speech, Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negrón presented Ms. Reid with a Civil Air Patrol model aircraft as a token of appreciation.



General Ira C. Eaker Award Presented to Cadet Lt. Col. Ramos at Florida Wing Conference

Cadet Lt. Colonel Alejandro Ramos of the Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron was presented with the General Ira C. Eaker Award at the Florida Wing Conference by Brig. Gen. Regena Aye, Civil Air Patrol National Vice Commander.



The General Ira C. Eaker Award is the Civil Air Patrol's 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 C.A.P. 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.

Cadet Lt. Col. Ramos was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Miami in 2015. He is in his sophomore year at the University of South Florida in Tampa where he is majoring in Business Analytics and Information Systems and is soon starting is AS200 year in the Air Force ROTC program. C/Lt. Col. Ramos is working towards obtaining his private pilot certificates through an ROTC scholarship and the Osh Kosh National Flight Academy which he will be attending this summer. In his free time, he enjoys working out with friends and beating them in any video game they play. His goal is to graduate with his bachelor's degree in 2026 and commission as a pilot in the Air Force.

Congratulations to Cadet Lt. Col. Alejandro Ramos!

Brig. Gen. Regena Aye Presents Spaatz to Capt. Cameron Calloway



During the Florida Wing Awards Banquet, National Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Regena Aye presented Cadet Colonel- now senior member- Capt. Cameron Calloway with the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, which 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. Upon passing the Spaatz Award exams, the cadet is promoted to the grade of cadet colonel.

On average, only five cadets in one thousand earn the Spaatz Award. Since the award's inception in 1964, Civil Air Patrol has presented the Spaatz Award to fewer than 2460 cadets. Capt. Calloway is Spaatz Award recipient number 2443 and he was added to the Spaatz Association Award list on February 5th of this year.

Capt. Calloway recently served as the 2022 Winter Encampment Cadet Commander which was his final major activity as a cadet. He is currently serving as the Group 4 Cadet Programs Officer and as the Education and Training Officer for Seminole Composite Squadron.

Public Affairs Academy at Florida Wing Conference



Some members of the PA Academy pre-conference course with Brig. Gen. Aye. Photo by Capt. Ronald Rowe

This year's pre-conference Public Affairs Academy and Conference breakout sessions covered several topics including Cell Phone Photography instructed by Maj. Stephen Lampasona; Working with the Media with presenter Capt. James Chamberland; and Capt. Curtis Hooks presented What is a Story and Proper Uniform Wear. On Friday, Maj. Margot Myers who is a member of the NHQ MAC team made a virtual presentation to give some insight to the upcoming regulation changes for Public Affairs.



2023 Florida Wing Cadet Conference

by Cadet MSgt. Landon Keister, CAP

The Florida Wing Cadet Conference is an outstanding annual event put on by the Florida Wing Cadet Advisory Council in conjunction with the annual Florida Wing Conference which holds training sessions for senior members.

The Cadet Conference offered numerous exciting and unique classes designed to provide strong opportunities to inform, enrich and educate all CAP members in attendance. Some of the classes/seminars were cyber patriot, leadership, emergency services, and even a strong public speaking class put on by one of our own Florida CAP cadets. The cadets also had a drill class to learn drill and become more proficient in it and a class on proper uniform wear. There were a lot of fun activities on the schedule including a fun trivia game with our Wing Commander Col. Negron on Civil Air Patrol knowledge.

Civil Air Patrol National Vice Commander Gen. Regina Aye and Southeast Region Commander Col. Van Buren were both in attendance at the conference and are very nice and interesting people. They visited the Cadet Conference classes and we were given the opportunity to ask them questions.



Photo by Capt. Barbara Rich, CAP

The Cadet Conference is totally recommended and an amazing place to meet people and learn more about Civil Air Patrol. The staff had a lot of fun at this conference and all cadets who attended came away stronger for having participated. The conference was outstanding, you can meet Civil Air Patrol VIPs, get to know other members from across the wing, and have fun while learning important information and skills.



Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society

Please help us congratulate C/2Lt Luke Henderson of Ti-Co Composite Squadron on his tremendous achievement. He has received the highest possible level of achievement in the Cadet Honor Society as a Member of High Distinction!!

The purpose of the Cadet Honor Society is to recognize academic excellence within the Cadet Program by allowing those cadets who've consistently demonstrated superior academic performance the opportunity to be recognized among their peers. This recognition helps provide additional motivation to achieve success and excellence in achievement testing. In addition to this recognition, cadets have the privilege of noting they are members of the Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society. This accomplishment will help cadets further their educational progression outside of Civil Air Patrol by identifying them as top performers from within the Cadet Program. Cadet Honor Society is an optional program, but squadrons are highly encouraged to participate and support their cadets in earning this distinction.

To learn more about the Cadet Honor Society and how to earn this achievement, visit:

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

From SER Facebook

Brandon Cadet Squadron Advances to National Cadet Competition

Top cadets from throughout Civil Air Patrol (CAP) / Southeast Region (SER) converged on the Joint Base--Clay National Guard Center/Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Marietta, GA, for the SER 2023 cadet competition. The April 28-30 event was characterized by good-natured rivalry along with fierce pride in accomplishment.

Team members represented four different wings – Florida, Puerto Rico, Georgia, and Alabama -competing for both team and individual awards. The annual competition covers key areas of development including leadership, public speaking, physical fitness, uniforms, inspection preparedness, and a written evaluation of general knowledge.

Capt Michael Piwowarski, SER assistant deputy chief of staff, cadet programs, served as event activity director. “It is an honor to watch these young men and women demonstrate their skills and dedication,” he said. “To get to this level, cadets have put in an untold number of hours learning complex material, working with their team members, and practicing precision drills.”

Col Andrea Van Buren, commander of CAP’s Southeast Region, called the CAP cadet program one of the finest, most comprehensive youth training programs in the country. She stated, “CAP’s positive impact on young people speaks for itself. Our cadets consistently represent a high percentage of top high school graduates. CAP training makes a meaningful difference not only to our youth, but to our communities and country as well.”

The Brandon Cadet Squadron placed second overall which advances them to the National Cadet Competition. Individual awards to C/Maj Meldrum-Green for PT and C/TSgt Morgan for her speech. Cadets from Puerto Rico wing (PR-123) took first place-overall in the competition.



Two Space Coast Cadets Recognized by Military Officers Association of America

By 2nd Lt. John Henderson, CAP



Photo courtesy of Pish Pishdad, MOAACC.

Civil Air Patrol Cadet 1st Lt. Carter Hall of Ti-Co Composite Squadron in Titusville and Cadet 2nd Lt. Evan Wiseman of Patrick Composite Squadron in Satellite Beach were awarded the Certificate of Military Merit by the Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) at an award luncheon at the Indian River Colony Club on April 18th, 2023. In all, 19 cadets from Brevard County military-affiliated units were recognized.

Amir Pishdad, MOAACC Public Affairs Officer, writes that the cadets “were recognized for good academic standing, high moral character, demonstrated high degree of loyalty to their unit, and their country. In addition, they have demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership.” Each year, the military mentor or instructor from each unit is asked to select a cadet that meets these requirements. Hall and Wiseman were recognized among a group of 19 cadets from Brevard County JROTC, ROTC and Sea Cadet units.

Also attending the awards luncheon to celebrate the achievement of their cadets were Ti-Co Squadron Commander Capt. Rhonda McMillen, and Patrick Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Maria Granados. The awards were presented by MOAACC president, Brian Whelan.

The MOAACC is very supportive of the military-affiliated cadet programs in Brevard County. Last year, their Good Deeds Foundation made generous donations to the operating budgets of both composite squadrons. For more information about MOAACC, please visit www.moaacc.org.



Left photo: Certificate of Military Merit is awarded CAP Cadet 1st Lt. Carter Hall (right) by MOAACC president, Brian Whelan (left).



Right photo: Certificate of Military Merit is awarded CAP Cadet 2nd Lt. Evan Wiseman (right) by MOAACC president, Brian Whelan (left).

Photos courtesy of Pish

Brevard Interagency Disaster Training Weekend

By Maj. Martin Percifield, CAP

Merritt Island, FL. – Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol in conjunction with the Brevard County Sheriff's office, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and aircrews from AirCare1 Air Ambulance and Escort Services conducted a search and rescue and disaster response exercise the weekend of April 29th.

The exercise was designed to imitate real-world scenarios typically encountered following the impact of a major storm. The training is intended to practice seamless collaboration among the multi-agency coordination at the federal, state and local levels with a focus on information sharing, air and ground operations, and communications management. Civil Air Patrol volunteer members will be honing skillsets in the areas of ground search and rescue, radio communications, mission base support staff, and aircrew.



Photo by Maj. Ayrton Ingle

“By participating in this exercise, I know I’ll be able to make a positive difference in my community after a hurricane comes through with the new skill sets I’m learning this weekend,” said Cadet 2nd Lt. Addison English. Cadet English served during the Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole missions last year as part of the virtual Incident Management Team for Civil Air Patrol.

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

“We are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with so many response agencies for this exercise as we prepare for this year’s hurricane season, especially since Civil Air Patrol is always a supporting agency. It’s important for our volunteers to train with other organizations and understand where we fit into the response missions when we are called into action,” said Lt. Col. John May, CAP who is the Emergency Services Training Officer for Florida Wing and one of the Wing’s Incident Commanders.

Group 4 Commander Maj. Ayrton Ingle said, “I’m extremely happy with the hard work the Group 4 team has been doing. This is our first big exercise post-pandemic and the energy that our members put into this training evolution was phenomenal.”

Cadet Wings Pilot Certification: 'Point of Pride That Cannot be Diminished'

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Adam Braman of the Florida Wing's North Palm Beach County Composite Squadron plans to become a commercial airline pilot and achieve ratings all through ATP. He will attend the Florida Institute of Technology to complete the remainder of his flight training.



What does earning your private pilot certificate through Cadet Wings mean to you?

First, it shows that hard work will eventually pay off. I've never worked harder to achieve anything in my life than I have my certificate. I've spent many hours whether in the air flying or on the ground studying and practicing material every chance I got. Whether it was studying books for hours a day or practicing maneuvers with my flight instructor in the hot Florida climate, I never let a second go wasted without doing something that would benefit me in my flight training

Second, it shows that if you have a dream, pursue it regardless of how difficult it may seem. Flying airplanes has always been a dream of mine since I was 5 years old, but it's not like you can simply jump in a plane and become a pilot. It takes years of dedication, perseverance, and hard work to become the best pilot possible.

How will it help you in CAP and in your future career?

Becoming a private pilot is a great achievement, but it is only a small step in my career. I have various other ratings I plan to achieve and hours to build before I become a professional pilot. However, earning my certificate has taught me that if I put in the hard work, then anything is possible.

Describe how you felt before, during, and after your first solo.

I was extremely excited before, during, and after my solo in the pattern for the first time. I felt an immense sense of confidence because I was in control of an airplane for the first time without any assistance from my flight instructor.

What got you interested in joining CAP?

I have always been interested in aviation, so I felt CAP would be a great way to enhance my passion and learn more about the industry.

Cadets Hone Leadership Skills at the Florida Leadership Academy

By Cadet MSgt. Landon Keister, CAP



The spring Florida Leadership Academy (FLA) was held at the Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla over the weekend of April 28th. There are three levels of courses offered for cadets: Non-commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA), Cadet Commander Course (CCC). These courses are led by other cadets under the guidance of Cadet Programs senior members.

The curriculum includes classroom instruction, hands-on activities, and practical exercises that cover a wide range of topics related to leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. One of the NCOA exercises was how to have cadets quickly, efficiently, and safely move personnel in and out of passenger vans as required during encampments.

The Florida Leadership Academy is a challenging and rewarding program that provides participants with valuable skills and experiences that can benefit them in all aspects of their lives.

The program helps to develop confident, responsible leaders who are committed to serving their communities and making a positive difference in the world. It is an experience that can have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of those who participate.

Attending an FLA is highly recommended to help cadets prepare to fill leadership roles at their home squadrons and other Civil Air Patrol activities. Whether or not a cadet has attended a recent FLA weighs heavily on Florida Wing encampment staff selections.

The next Florida Leadership Academy is scheduled in September at the Elks Youth Camp.



Civil Air Patrol Cadets Hear Whispers of the Past at Historic Nike Missile Site

Civil Air Patrol Cadets from South Florida learn critical role of aerospace readiness in the history of our nation's defense and security

By: 2nd Lt Beth Crane, CAP

Deep in the heart of South Florida, nestled amid the sub-tropical wetlands of Everglades National Park, lies an abandoned missile site once maintained as a critical defense mechanism for the United States during the years from 1966 to 1979. This former Nike-Hercules missile base, known as HM-69, is one of the best-preserved relics of the Cold War Era, listed with the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Recently, a group of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets from the Florida Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron had the opportunity to visit the site and learn more about its history and significance. This remote location was once part of a vast network of surface-to-air Nike missile systems located throughout the United States. The Everglades HM-69 site remains virtually the same as it was when official use of the area ended in 1979 as the threat of a Soviet bomber attack diminished and new missile defense systems were developed.



U.S. National Park Service ranger Leon Howell explains the stringent security measures of Nike Missile launch sites during the Cold War Era. Civil Air Patrol cadets from Florida's Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron recently toured the Everglades National Park historic site. Pictured L to R: C/CMSgt. Everett Crane, NPS ranger Leon Howell, C/MSgt. Brian Hurt. Photo by: 2d Lt Beth Crane, CAP

The preserved relics of the historic compound include three missile barns, a missile assembly building, a guard dog kennel, barracks building, an inert Nike Hercules missile, fencing and a berm which still surrounds the launch areas. CAP cadets explored the various structures that were once used to house the missiles and the soldiers who operated them. They learned about the different missile types and how their launching systems operated. The Nike missile system consisted of a missile launch site, which typically had multiple launchers, and a control site where the missiles were tracked and guided towards their targets. The missile itself was about 40 feet long and weighed several tons. It had a range of up to 100 miles and could reach speeds of over Mach 2 (twice the speed of sound).

The cadets also had the opportunity to learn about the history of the Cold War and how the threat of a nuclear attack shaped the United States' defense strategy during that time. They learned about the tense political climate of the era and the various policies and programs implemented to protect the country from the Soviet threat, especially during the post-Cuban Missile Crisis years.



At Everglades National Park, Civil Air Patrol cadets from Florida's Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron assist National Park Service ranger Leon Howell, opening missile barn doors to reveal the Cold War Era Nike Missile contained within. Pictured L to R: C/CMSgt. Lukas Iglesias, C/MSgt. Brian Hurt, NPS ranger Leon Howell, C/SrA. Allyson Gomez, and C/SrA. Jonathan Salazar. Photo by: 2d Lt Beth Crane, CAP

Tour guide and park ranger, Leon Howell, helped the cadets connect with the past and develop a greater appreciation for the sacrifices and dedication of the soldiers who operated and defended this site long ago. He encouraged them to not just observe the remaining structures of this long-abandoned location, but to listen out for the “whispers of the past” left behind by the soldiers working in the remote, and often dangerous, location. Howell highlighted small unique details—a message celebrating the unit’s achievements embedded in cement, a painting of a gigantic mosquito applied to pavement, hand-drawn sketches and personal posters still attached to the missile barn walls—that represented unassuming whispers. As the cadets learned more, those whispers soon began to “shout” the story of the experiences of those who lived and worked under intense conditions and the looming threat of nuclear war.

As they toured the historic grounds, Civil Air Patrol cadets gained valuable knowledge and a deeper understanding of the critical value these missile sites contributed to protecting our nation during the Cold War. Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Lukas Iglesias, an 8th grade student from Kendall, Florida, declared “It was interesting to be able to go to such an historic place and learn about these missiles and the important role they truly played. I wish more people knew about the Cuban Missile Crisis as well as all these sites.”

For the cadets of the Homestead Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron and their senior member escorts, the tour provided an opportunity to experience history in a unique and engaging way while deepening their appreciation for the sacrifices and dedication of those who serve in the military. Their interest in aerospace was also engaged as they learned about the critical role that the aerospace industry has played in the history of our nation’s defense and security.



Civil Air Patrol cadets from Florida's Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron pose with U.S. National Park Service ranger Leon Howell by the Cold War Era Nike Hercules missile, housed at the historic launch site in Everglades National Park. Pictured L to R: C/SrA. Russell Albright, C/SrA. Leonel Altuve, C/CMSgt. Everett Crane, USNPS ranger Leon Howell, C/CMSgt. Lukas Iglesias, C/CMSgt. Andrew Crane, C/MSgt. Brian Hurt, C/SrA. Allyson Gomez, C/SrA. Jonathan Salazar, C/SrA. Elixander Valladares. Photo by: 2d Lt Beth Crane, CAP

Spaatz Award Presentation to Cadet Colonel Maximus Kousiry

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Photo by 2nd Lt. Melanie Lee, CAP

The 463rd Composite Squadron in Kissimmee held a special ceremony to present Cadet Colonel Maximus Kousiry with the General Carl A. Spaatz Award on April 18th.

Cadet Col. Kousiry served 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.



The presenter for the Spaatz Award was Rear Admiral Raymond Jones, U.S. Navy, Retired. Other distinguished members in attendance were introduced including Mr. John Cortes representing the office of Congressman Soto; Former Georgia Wing Commander, former Southeast Region Vice Commander and current Southeast Region Director of Cadet Programs Col. Richard Greenwood; Florida Wing Group 4 Commander Major Ayrton Ingle; Florida Wing Director of Public Affairs and mentor to Cadet Colonel Kousiry, Major Sybrian Castleman; two former 463rd Composite Squadron Commanders, Lt. Colonel Edward Fresneda and Lt. Col. Caroline Fresneda; and special guest George Kousiry, the recipient's father.

Maj. Ingle introduced Rear Admiral Jones and shared some of his background. He served in the U.S. Navy for 34 years after graduating from the Naval Academy in 1960. He served active duty on nuclear submarines before gaining command of the USS L Mendel Rivers (SSN 686). Rear Admiral

Jones went on to command Submarine Squadron 16, Submarine Group 9, and Navy Region Northwest. He also served on the staff for the Chief of Naval Operations before retiring in 1994.

Civil Air Patrol Southeast Region Director of Cadet Programs Colonel Richard Greenwood shared the information and background about the Spaatz Award before Rear Admiral Jones presented Cadet Colonel Kousiry with his certificate.



“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.”

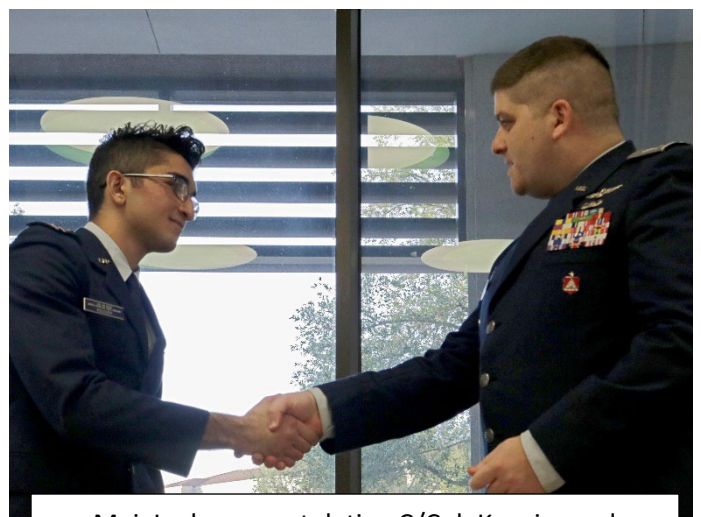
Following the presentation of the certificate, 463rd Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Capt. Natasha Harrison presented Cadet Col. Kousiry with a Spaatz challenge coin which had his Spaatz ID number, 2429, engraved on it.

The final ceremony of the evening was the Cadet Change of Command. Cadet Col. Kousiry concluded his term as the 463rd Composite Squadron’s Cadet Commander and passed the guidon to Cadet Lt. Col. Ashton Campbell with Squadron Command Major Michael Adamus presiding over the ceremony.

C/Col. Kousiry received Congressional nominations for the service academies and after his graduation from high school this month, he will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy.



L to R: Lt. Col. Edward Fresneda, C/Col. Kousiry, Maj. Castleman, Lt. Col. Carolyn Fresneda, George Kousiry.



Maj. Ingle congratulating C/Col. Kousiry and wishing him a successful future.

Honoring Those Lost



As the nation commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, let us remember those Florida Wing CAP volunteers who went on to serve in Vietnam and were lost.

*There are *still* eight known former CAP members and CAP-USAF officer who have yet to be accounted for and are still Missing In Action. One of the eight was a Florida Wing member.*

WO KEVIN MARK FRYE – Killed in Action

Kevin was born 11 January 1950 in Jacksonville, Florida to a Roman Catholic family. Raised in Jacksonville, Kevin always had a passion to fly. When he turned 13, he joined Civil Air Patrol to further that passion. Cadet Frye soloed just after his 16th birthday and expressed that his ambition was to become a Naval Aviator and fly jets off aircraft carriers.

He was very active in Florida Wing activities, serving in several leadership trainings. Fellow cadet Skip Pfeiffer from Squadron 114 in Orlando remembered Cadet Frye, saying, “Kevin was impressive. He had a leader persona. His uniform and appearance were impeccable. He was strict but fair as a disciplinarian. I remember walking past his room on a number of occasions and he would be sitting at his desk writing in his journal.”

Cadet/ Colonel Kevin Frye was issued the Gen Carl A. Spaatz Award #32 on 9 December 1966. He was 16.



After finishing high school, C/Col Frye enrolled at the University of South Carolina and the Naval ROTC detachment. His roommate, Clarence Walker, remembered Kevin “having to fly.” Walker expressed that the political tensions in Columbia, South Carolina were rising to demonstrations of people burning their draft cards and riots in town and on campus continued to grow. With the tensions in town, Kevin focused much of his off time on his girlfriend, Carla Hembree. Kevin’s desire to serve became overwhelming, and Kevin decided to leave college to go get into the action of combat. He explored all available options of how to fly combat missions. He knew he would not be able to fly fixed wing aircraft as an NCO if he enlisted, and he found the Army’s Warrant Officer program that would allow him to fly helicopters. He left college and went to Army Basic Training. Tragically, while Pvt Frye was in training, Carla was killed in a horseback accident.

Kevin was accepted into the warrant officer program. After completing initial training and pilot training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, he was appointed as a Warrant Officer 1 in the U.S. Army. He was part of a flight school class of 224 aviators. WO Frye wanted to fly the new AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter, except there were only two slots available for the Cobra. WO1 Frye demonstrated his piloting abilities during his training, and he received a Cobra assignment.

WO Frye left for Vietnam on 8 March 1970, and he reported for duty to fly as gunner and co-pilot in AH-1 Cobras with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Less than five months later, WO Frye had received over 20 Air Medals for his actions in theatre.



On 28 July 1970, an AH-1G Cobra, tail number 66-15305, took off with CW2 David E. Zimmerman and WO Frye took off on a visual reconnaissance mission led by a Light Observation Helicopter, OH-1. During the flight, the OH-1 crew heard the Cobra call that they had an engine failure. The OH-1 broke off the recon and began a climb to altitude to observe and assist the Cobra crew. The two aircraft passed one another at about 500 feet, the OH-1 climbing and the AH-1 descending in what appeared to be a normal autorotation to landing. The autorotative glide carried the AH-1 past a stand of trees to a clearing, where the AH-1 appeared to decelerate radically, pitch up, and fall vertically to the ground. The OH-1 landed and rushed to the Cobra to pull out the crew. Both CW2 Zimmerman and WO Frye were killed on impact in the crash. He was 20.

WO Frye is buried next to his one true Love, Carla, outside Gainesville in Newberry, Florida at Forest Meadows Memorial Park. They died only 18 months apart. His name is engraved on Panel 8W, Line 62 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In a letter WO Frye wrote for his parents in the event of his death, he wrote, "My dream of flying has been fulfilled. I was an officer in the United States Army. What more could one ask for? I am proud of my accomplishments."

CPT NORMAN EARL BALDWIN – Killed in Action

Earl was born 6 January 1947 at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Growing up in Fort Lauderdale, Earl was a cadet in Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol before graduating from Northeast High School in May 1965. Due to his aptitude, he was accepted into the US Army Armor Officer Candidate School, Class 18-66, at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He graduated on 13 August 1966 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant at the age of 19.

2LT Baldwin was assigned to the US Army Firing Center at Fort Stewart, Georgia. He then applied for and was selected for the US Army Special Forces. After completing Special Forces training, including jump school, 2LT Baldwin earned his green beret and was eventually assigned to Detachment B-20, 201st Mobile Strike Force Company B, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), United States Army Republic of Vietnam.



Shortly after being promoted, now-1LT Baldwin faced his last battle.

The Duc Lap Special Forces (SF) Camp (Det A-239, commanded by 1LT William A. Harp) was situated on two hilltops linked by a saddle southwest of Ban Me Thout. Shortly after midnight on 23 August 1968, the 95th North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment struck both the SF camp and the district headquarters compound about four miles away; by dawn, they had surrounded the camp. During the day of the 23rd, two Mobile Strike Force (MSF) companies from Pleiku were airlifted into the area but were unable to make

headway against the now-entrenched NVA. After nightfall, the NVA assaulted and captured the smaller northern hilltop, using captured weapons and munitions to increase the fire being brought to bear on the southern hilltop.

On the 24th, three MSF companies were engaged in a battle on the camp's runway; two were turned back, but the 202nd MSF Company was able to make it into the camp perimeter. Shortly afterwards, a B-40 rocket hit just outside the tactical operations center, killing one SF soldier (SFC Harold F. Kline) and a Montagnard artilleryman, as well as severely wounding the senior SF officer present and several others.

Just before dawn on the 25th, the NVA staged another assault, breaching the outer perimeter and occupying bunkers there; the assault was halted at the inner wire line. By midmorning, several of the captured bunkers had been destroyed, but the situation was grim: the ammunition supply was depleted, the partially trained Montagnards were panicked, and the US and Australian advisors were uncertain if the camp could be held.

Conditions improved when Air Force C-7 CARIBOU transports made low-level ammunition drops into the camp perimeter and more radically when four MSF companies were able to get into the camp itself. By early afternoon, the defenders had organized themselves and planned a counterassault. The 513th MSF Company assaulted the remaining captured bunkers in the saddle while the 522nd Company assaulted the NVA-held northern hilltop – Hill A-239. The initial assaults were successful, and additional MSF troops were put into what became a five-hour bloody battle for the hilltop. By mid-evening, Hill A-239 was in friendly hands - but at high cost to both sides. Five US Special Forces soldiers had died in the fighting, including 1LT Baldwin. He was 21.

The circumstances of 1LT Baldwin's death led to both his posthumous promotion to Captain and awarding of the Distinguished Service Cross.

His citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Captain (Armor) Norman Earl Baldwin (ASN: 0-5233469), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Detachment B-20, Company B, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces. Captain Baldwin distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 25 August 1968 as the commander of a mobile strike force company engaged in relieving the besieged Duc Lap Special Forces camp. During an assault on a hill occupied by an estimated North Vietnamese Army company, he found himself alone and under intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Shouting encouragement to his men to follow him, he rushed forward and single-handedly wiped out an enemy bunker, killing three aggressors. Seeing this heroic act on the part of their commander, his troops began to advance. Twenty feet from the crest of the hill Captain Baldwin and his company came under a withering barrage of small arms and automatic weapons fire from hostile positions southwest of their line of assault. Captain Baldwin placed a burst of fire on the enemy emplacements from an exposed position, inspiring his men to also locate and bring fire against them. He continued to lead the assault in the face of a hail of bullets, and when he had nearly reached the top of the hill he was mortally wounded by the North Vietnamese fusillade. Captain Baldwin's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

CPT Baldwin is buried in Fort Lauderdale, Florida at Lauderdale Memorial Park, Block 21, Row 10, and his name is engraved on Panel 46W, Line 28 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

1LT TONY LEE BUHOLTZ – Killed in Action

Tony was born 22 September 1947 in Miami, Florida. Growing up, he was active in the Central Miami Civil Air Patrol Squadron, becoming the Cadet Commander.



Tony entered into a commissioning program for US Army aviators. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and was assigned to the Transportation Corps.

LT Buholtz eventually became Commander of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division.

On 22 March 1969, 1LT Buholtz took off in a U.S. Army OH-6A helicopter, tail number 67-16482, callsign Apache White, with SP5 Robert Ilsley and PFC James Wright, Jr. aboard for an unarmed recon mission. While in the target area in Tay Ninh Province, the helicopter was reported to have attacked at 25 feet and 60 knots. At UTM grid coordinates of approximately XT236640, the helicopter was hit in the cockpit by groundfire and crashed, claiming the lives of all three soldiers. He was 21.

Throughout his time in Vietnam, 1LT Buholtz earned a Silver Star, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and six Air Medals.

1LT Buholtz is buried in Miami, Florida at Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery, and his name is engraved on Panel 28W, Line 9 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

WO DAVID CURTIS GREESON – Killed in Action

David "Grinny" Greeson was born 15 July 1948 in Graham, North Carolina. His family later moved to Melbourne, Florida where David was raised. He served as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol in Melbourne and graduated from Melbourne High School. David attended the Florida Institute of Technology from 1966-1968 while remaining active with CAP. Cadet/ Colonel Greeson was issued the Gen Carl A. Spaatz Award #51 on 22 September 1967.

In 1968, David chose to join the U.S. Army to progress through the Warrant Officer program and fly helicopters. Sadly, one of his brothers, U.S. Army Specialist 5 John Egbert Green, was killed in action in Vietnam on 22 July 1968. After completing basic training and Warrant Officer Candidate School, he was appointed as a Warrant Officer 1. During flight training, he was selected to fly the dedicated attack helicopter, the AH-1 Cobra. WO Greeson was assigned to B Battery, 2d Battalion, 20th Aerial Rocket Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division as a Cobra pilot.



On 7 November 1969, an AH-1G Cobra attack helicopter, tail number 67-15712, took off with WO "Grinny" Greeson aboard to support ground forces in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam. Special Forces A-Team A-341 were operating outside Phuoc Thinh and were encountering opposition. WO Greeson's ship, callsign Blue Max

68 Papa, radioed the special forces and offered to perform recon of the area. While over the village, small arms fire erupted towards the Cobra.

The helicopter was damaged, and the crew took it down as quickly as possible. However, the crew lost what control they had and crashed. As the special forces team headed for the site, the aircraft exploded. The special forces members remember WO Greeson as having died trying to make it easier for those on the ground. He was 21.

WO Greeson is buried in Rockledge, Florida at Florida Memorial Gardens cemetery, and his name is engraved on Panel 16W, Line 42 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

SP5 BARRY DANIEL MURPHY – Missing in Action



Barry was born on 7 January 1947 in New York City, although he considered his hometown to be Cutler Ridge, Florida in the Miami area. Barry was a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol in Miami.

Barry's determination enabled him, not to simply be successful in the U.S. Army following Basic Training, but also be selected for the U.S. Army Special Forces. Specialist 5 Murphy earned his green beret and was assigned for augmentation to the Command and Control Detachment South, 5th Special Forces Group.

On 18 March 1969, SP5 Murphy was serving as the assistant team leader of a 10-man team which had been inserted by helicopter on a reconnaissance mission in Kampong Cham Province, located in south central Cambodia. Soon after leaving the helicopter and moving on to the objective, the team was ambushed by an unknown size enemy force. During the ensuing fire fight, Murphy was hit several times from small arms fire and died. Three other team members were killed before the helicopter could extract the survivors. Because of enemy fire, all remains were left behind. Subsequent air search for the remains failed to locate them. SP5 Murphy was 22.

He remains unaccounted for. Though presumed killed, SP5 Murphy is listed among the missing because his body has yet to be recovered to bury in America. His name is located on Panel 29W, Line 69 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Remember that these Civil Air Patrol members wore the same uniforms you and I do and went on to serve and give their all during the Vietnam War. Until all missing American service men and women are brought home, let us remember them.

The information and photos for this article were provided by Civil Air Patrol's National History Team.

Boca Raton Composite Represents Civil Air Patrol on Nationally Televised Event

Boca Raton Composite Squadron Color Guard comprised of Cadets SMSgt. Lillian Phillips, MSgt. Isabella Diaz, SMSgt. Gabriella Diaz, CMSgt. Camden Potts, CMSgt. Kyle Peterson, CMSgt. Charlotte Joseph and MSgt. William Kersbergen presented

the Colors at one of the Panthers vs Bruins Stanley Cup National Hockey League playoff game in Miami. The cadets and their senior member escorts – Lt. Katy Peterson and Lt. Karin Potts- did a great job of representing their squadron and Civil Air Patrol as a whole during the nationally televised opening ceremonies and event. *Photos by Lt. Karen Potts.*



Tamiami Composite Squadron Visits with C-130 Aircrew

Members of the Tamiami Composite Squadron had the opportunity to visit with a C-130 aircrew that were returning from a mission in Latin America. The C-130 crew took the time to answer questions and give a tour their aircraft.



Hillsborough One Senior Squadron Installs New HF Antenna

Maj. Jim La Follette and 2d Lt. "Chip" Ward installed a new HF antenna to replace the one damaged by a lightning strike. They also installed a bulkhead connector plate that Maj. La Follette fabricated which allows disconnecting antennas at the window to mitigate lightning entering the building via their cables. There is also an AC receptacle on the bulkhead with a 20'+ cord which gives the squadron the ability to move an outside generator to a safe distance away from building windows. (From the HOSS Newsletter)



Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron Thanks Local Firefighters

The Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron recently visited Pasco County Fire Rescue 4420 to show their appreciation and present them with a plaque to thank them for their donation of three new flag stands to the squadron.



Tallahassee Composite Squadron Serves at Honor Flight



The Tallahassee Composite Squadron members participated in the “Welcome Home” arrival of an Honor Flight returning to Tallahassee. An Honor Flight is conducted by various non-profit organizations dedicated to transporting United States military veterans at no charge to see the memorials and monuments in Washington, D.C. of the respective war in which they fought. Videos of the arrival of the Honor Flight can be viewed on the Tallahassee Composite Squadron Facebook page.



Naples Composite Squadron Participates in Community Event

Naples Composite Squadron was invited to have a recruiting table at the Collier County Mosquito Control Open House. During the event, members connected with visitors from the surrounding area and shared information about Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program, STEM related activities, as well as the role CAP plays in disaster response and search and rescue. Squadron members had the opportunity to visit other booths, tour static displays, and tryout the interactive displays.



Wreaths Across America Radio



Each month, Wreaths Across America Radio features members from Florida Wing during their weekly “Meet the Civil Air Patrol” segment. In April, Capt. Ken Jacobs of the Tallahassee Composite Squadron and Chaplain James Houchens of the Boca Raton Composite Squadron were guests on the podcast. They shared information about their squadrons and about their experiences as Civil Air Patrol members.



To listen to the interview with Capt. Ken Jacobs, click here:

https://soundcloud.com/wreathsassamericaradio/meet-the-cap-capt-ken-jacobs-meet-the-cap-42023?si=d34aee4a57c5447eb0d05310408893ee&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing



To listen to the interview with Chaplain James Houchens, click here:

https://soundcloud.com/wreathsassamericaradio/meet-the-cap-chaplain-james-houchens-42723?si=59b4c018fa884805b089aff94ab57f17&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

If you would like to have one of your squadron members featured on the Wreaths Across America Radio podcast, please contact Maj. Sybrian Castleman at sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov.

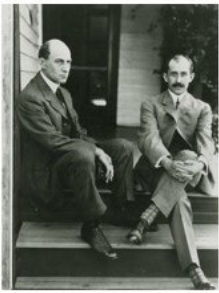


National Wreaths Across America Day is December 16, 2023

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 3,700 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

If your squadron is interested in participating in the Wreaths Across America wreath sponsorship fundraiser, it's not too early to start! Wreath sponsorships are sold year-round. For more information on how your unit can support Wreaths Across America and fundraise for your unit, visit their website at:

<https://learn.wreathsassamerica.org/fundraising>



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 April:

Elias Gonzalez, Stuart Composite Squadron
Alexander Richardson, Stuart Composite Squadron
Briana Riggs, Stuart Composite Squadron
Isaiah Jones, SRQ Composite Squadron
Kevin Donaghue, St. Augustine Composite Squadron
Connor Clark, Central Florida Composite Squadron
Dariel Salva Mendez, Polk Composite Squadron
Russell Albright-Maragoto, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Jonathan Salazar, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Elixander Valladares, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Zoey Chapman, Patrick Composite Squadron
Madyson Ruell, Patrick Composite Squadron
Alexander Holmes, Ti-Co Composite Squadron
Madelyn Smaracheck, Jacksonville Composite Squadron
Garrett Hoffman, Eglin Composite Squadron
Samuel Hormberg, Eglin Composite Squadron
Ciara Sapp, Pensacola Cadet Squadron
Matthew Richards, Tallahassee Composite Squadron
Sara Boswell, Clearwater Composite Squadron
Ceili Collins, Clearwater Composite Squadron
Diya Pulicherla, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron
Emily Byers, Lakeland Composite Squadron
Luke McCastlain, Lakeland Composite Squadron
Cayden Moore, Sunlake HS Cadet Squadron
Connor Schilaty, Sunlake HS Cadet Squadron
Jamarius Johnson, Pahokee MS Cadet Squadron
Aracely Leon-Martinez, Pahokee MS Cadet Squadron
Tristan Beaver, Liberty MS Cadet Squadron
Harper Burke, Liberty MS Cadet Squadron
Kaleb Sigmon, Liberty MS 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 April:

Sarah Dewey, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron

Kyle Dawson, Central Florida Composite Squadron

Donovan Getter, Central Florida Composite Squadron

Mackney Joseph Jr., Central Florida Composite Squadron

Joseph Grete, Eglin Composite Squadron

Nathaniel Thompson, Tallahassee Composite Squadron

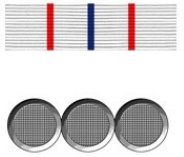
Dillon Williams, Tallahassee Composite Squadron

Jason Poulos, Clearwater Composite Squadron

Ann Jacobo, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron

Felipe Tasama, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron

Congratulations to all of these Florida Wing Cadets for their achievement!



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 Nicholas Camperos of the Tamiami Composite Squadron for completing the requirements to earn the Amelia Earhart Award in April.



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 Zackrey Schraeder of the Ormond Beach Composite Squadron for completing the requirements to earn the Ira C. Eaker Award in April.



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 April:

Penni Nachols, SRQ Composite Squadron
Catherine MacArthur, Ormond Beach Comp. Sq.
Jonathan Klase, St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron
Christian Dewey, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Sq.
Garrett Pomicher, Patrick Composite Squadron
Jason Rowe, Hernando County Composite Sq.
David Yates, Hernando County Composite Sq.
Omar Munoz, Venice Cadet Squadron
Hedley Linton, Boca Raton Composite Squadron
Brian Ferko, Jacksonville Composite Squadron
Erin Spence, Clearwater Composite Squadron
William Howard, Indian River Flight
Jonathon O'Neil, Sunlake HS Cadet Squadron

Level II focuses on developing members to participate actively at the squadron level. At this level, members select a specialty track which aligns with their duty position and earns a Technician Rating in that specialty.

Members must also earn the Yeager Award which is part of CAP's Aerospace Education Program.

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

Moises Escolastico, Naples Composite Squadron
David Curtiss, Charlotte County Composite Sq.
Michael Riebe, Hillsborough One Senior Sq.
Ariel Fuentes, Doral Cadet Squadron
Donald Pagel, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron
Robert Nager, Marco Island Senior Squadron
Janelys Hormes, Clearwater Composite Sq.
Casey Martin, Gold Coast Senior Squadron
Dominic Rondina, Azalea MS 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.

Rhonda McMillen, Ti-Co Composite Squadron, completed the requirements for Level III in April.

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



From NHQ CAP AE Newsletter

AFA grants for Civil Air Patrol units

Funding for CAP Unit Grants has been generously restored by CAP partner in aerospace/STEM education, the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA).

CAP AE officers can now submit applications for a \$250 grant to promote AE and STEM within their cadet or composite units. If the squadron desires to also share their project with youth outside the squadron, that is a plus!

Grants can fund aerospace field trips, STEM outreach events, or equipment/materials for special STEM projects.

Applications are due by midnight (applicant's time zone) June 30. The application is found [HERE](#). The grant competition will result in STEM projects being funded for competitively-selected units. All applicants will be notified by the end of July whether or not the project was selected to be funded.

All details are found at the link below.

https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/AFA_Grant_Application_for_CAP_Units_79DC4B4771203.pdf

Silvered Wings — Meyers OTW-125 "Out-To-Win"

Meyers OTW-125 "Out-To-Win" — NC26460

- **Capacity:** 2
- **Length:** 22 feet 8 inches
- **Maximum speed:** 115 mph
- **Cruise speed:** 100 mph
- **Range:** 350 miles
- **Service ceiling:** 14,000 feet



CAP SILVERED WINGS

Meyers OTW-125 "Out-To-Win" NC26460

©1943 CAP Kansas Wing By Ron Finger, Civil Air Patrol National Artist



<https://www.cap.news/silvered-wings---meyers-otw-125-out-to-win/>

"Something old, something new, modern rivets, and old-fashioned glue" was an apt descriptor for the Meyers OTW trainer. The OTW "Out-To-Win" was formally introduced in 1940 and soon training student pilots across America.

The OTW was built by the Meyers Aircraft Co. at Tecumseh, Michigan, where president and chief engineer Al Meyers insisted on quality and pilot welfare as his main concerns. The fuselage framework was an all-metal structure with "Alclad" covering. The wing framework was built of solid spruce spar beams with spruce and plywood rib-trusses and fabric covering. Ailerons were attached to the lower wings only, where spoiler strips promoted a nice "clean stall." Both cockpits were deep, with adjustable seats, wells for parachutes, and full dual-stick controls.

The original 125-horsepower Warner "Scarab" engine was no great charger but allowed students time to learn good flying habits. Later OTWs were upgraded to 145- and 160-horsepower models with enough muscle to stand up to almost anything.

NC26460, operated out of the Kansas Wing, was the sole Meyers OTW recorded as flown by Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

Maj. Ron Finger is a freelance illustrator and member of the Minnesota Wing's Crow Wing Composite Squadron. This is the 11th painting in Finger's second series of depictions of vintage CAP aircraft.

From the CAP NHQ Dispatch Safety Newsletter, May 2023

Vehicle Risk Management Program

by Emmanuel Manning, CAP/LGT, CAP Vehicle Fleet Manager

CAP/LGT is introducing a new program called the Vehicle Risk Management Program. This program was created to train, educate, and promote awareness to our members about vehicle safety.

Let's be honest with one another. We can get complacent when it comes to operating vehicles. This is because we do it every day. We drive to work, we drive to get food and shop, we drive to visit family and friends, and we even drive to go on vacations. We drive to do so many things that we can easily forget all the risk that comes with it.

Did you know that by the end of 2022 there were over 238 million licensed drivers and over 284 million vehicles being operated in the United States alone. With so many people driving and it being easy to become complacent while doing it, it's no wonder why over 6 million accidents happen yearly.

Over the past few years CAP has been in many vehicle incidents, most being minor, but some were very serious. Vehicle accidents are one of the leading causes of deaths in the country, resulting in more than 38 thousand people losing their lives every year. With CAP having a vehicle fleet of over one thousand vehicles, we need to look closer at our vehicle operations to ensure we are doing our best to give our members tools to being safe while on the road. Let's do our best to alleviate CAP from becoming a part of those statistics. The Vehicle Risk Management Program will help with this.

The program will consist of three elements:

1. Drivers Orientation Training (the training element)
2. Drivers Education Training (the education element)
3. Drivers Awareness Bulletin (the promote awareness element)

The Drivers Orientation Training (DOT) will be mandatory training for all CAP members who will be operating CAP owned vehicles. This training will be conducted in AXIS and linked to members Operation Qualifications. It is directly related to having a CAP Driver's License. A member will need both this training and authorization from their commander to be able to operate a CAP vehicle. This training will need to be refreshed every three years.

The Driver Education Training (DET) will be mandatory for all Transportation Officers once a year, but all members will be able to take the training. It will also be conducted in AXIS and will provide answers and clarification to many vehicle regulations, issues, and questions.

The Drivers Awareness Bulletin (DAB) is a new quarterly publication about vehicle safety. This publication can be found on the gocivilairpartol.com website under the Transportation Management section. It is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged to view/read. Members are even encouraged to participate by submitting articles on/about vehicle safety. You can submit your article request to emanning@capnhq.gov.

The Vehicle Risk Management Program will help keep our members safe by being prepared and aware of the inherent risk that comes with driving. This training will be outlined in the updated Vehicle Management Regulation, and any will become available soon. Any questions or concerns can always be routed to CAP/LGT.

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

Registration is now open for the 2023 CAP National Conference

Hyatt Regency Bellevue
Bellevue, Washington
18-19 August 2023

More information and Registration:

<https://www.gocivillairpatrol.com/members/events/conference2023>

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

Florida Wing Conference

Public Affairs credits for photos, videos, slideshows, articles, social media coverage, and instruction:

Col. Richard Greenwood, Lt. Col. Lazaro Garcia, Maj. Sybrian Castleman,
Maj. Steve Lampasona, Capt. Curtis Hooks, Capt. James Chamberland, Capt. Ronald Rowe,
Capt. Adelino Marcal, 1st Lt. Nicki Hovanec, 2nd Lt. John Henderson, Capt. Barbara Rich,
Maj. Margot Myers (Assistant National Public Affairs Officer/virtual presentation), and Maj. Kurt Efinger
(NHQ History Team).