



GATOR GAZETTE

FLORIDA WING NEWSLETTER

Cadets Advance Leadership Training at Weekend Academy

by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Public Affairs Officer, Florida Wing

Photo by Maj. Steve Lampasona, CAP

Public Affairs Officer, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron

Umatilla, Fla. - The Florida Wing Leadership Academy (FLA) was held at the Elks Youth Camp over the weekend of May 13-15th, with Capt. Amon Russell as the activity director and C/Capt. Diego Ochoa as the Cadet Commander.

Cadets attend the Academy based on their current grade in Civil Air Patrol. Cadets who are Senior Airmen to Tech Sergeant attend the Non-commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA); Cadet Master Sergeants and Chief Master Sergeants attend the Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA); and cadet officers attend the Cadet



This year, the NCOA had 15 student cadets in attendance with C/Lt. Col. Kratz as the lead cadet instructor assisted by C/1st Lt. Reese and C/Capt. Shultz. The NCOA senior member advisor was Capt Wiggins. The SNCOA was attended by 12 student cadets with C/Lt. Col. Kraft as lead cadet instructor assisted by C/Maj. Jenkins and C/Capt. Hernandez. The SNCOA senior member advisor was Lt. Col. Trammell. For the CCC, C/Lt. Col. Ocando was the lead cadet instructor with C/Maj. Calloway and C/Maj. Burke assisting. Maj. Gallo was the senior member advisor to the team. Four student cadets attended the CCC. Special guests at this year's FLA were Lt. Col. Sherrie Barnes and Maj. Melanie Golladay from CAP-USA.

Attending the FLA gives cadets instruction to help them to better perform their duties in leadership roles at their home squadrons and other Civil Air Patrol activities. Cadets who intend on applying for Encampment staff are highly encouraged to attend the FLA in order to further develop their leadership abilities and learn what is expected from them as leaders at Civil Air Patrol activities and events.

The Academies include how to instruct other cadets in basic drill, how to perform inspections, and customs and courtesies; the basic principles of followership and servant leadership; and the organization and history of Civil Air Patrol. Cadets also have fun with Training Leadership Problems (TLPs) and a Saturday night bonfire social.

Florida Wing Check Pilot School

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Public Affairs Officer, Florida Wing

Photo by Lt. Col. Sam Chiodo, CAP

Inspector General, Southeast Region

Lakeland, Fla. - Flight is at the heart of what Civil Air Patrol is as an organization. This means that Civil Air Patrol pilots flying any of our over 550 single engine aircraft must be safe, qualified, and meet the requirements of the FAA Private Pilot Airman Certification Standards (ACS). Civil Air Patrol Check Pilots are responsible for assuring that all CAP pilots are able to meet the highest of standards of flight safety and proficiency.

Once every four years, Check Pilots and Mission Check Pilots must complete the National Check Pilot Standardization Course which is offered in a virtual interactive platform. In Florida Wing, both Check Pilots and Mission Pilots must also complete a two-day in-residence training seminar prior to being appointed and then at least once every two years in order to maintain that certification.



This year, the Florida Wing Check Pilot School was held at the Lakeland Linder Airport over a weekend in May. Lt. Col. Russ Reichmann, Florida Wing Director of Standardization and Evaluation, was the project officer and lead instructor for this year's Check Pilot School.

Col. Luis Garcia, National Assistant Senior Program Manager, Standardization and Evaluation gave a presentation on *NHQ Initiatives* and Lt. Col. Al Van Lengen, Southeast Region Director of Operations and FAA Inspector gave a presentation on *Evaluation Techniques and use of the ACS*.

Additional presenters included: Lt. Col. John May and Capt. Cesar Hernandez from HQ FLWG; Maj. Ayrton Ingle, HQ Group 4; Lt. Col. Mark Modrich, Miami Senior One Squadron; Capt. Brian Tourkin, Fernandina Senior Squadron; Maj. Michael Banner, Jacksonville Composite Squadron; and Capt. Michael Thometz, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron. In all, twenty-two students completed this year's course. Lt. Col. Sam Chiodo and Capt. Barbara Rich filled support staff roles for the Check Pilot School weekend.

Be sure to check out the National Standardization and Evaluation Monthly Newsletter for training updates and information which you can find at this link: [NHQ Stan/Eval Newsletters](#)

SAVE THE DATES

June 4: Special Olympics Support

Orlando Executive Airport

Registration Link: [Special Olympics](#)

June 6-11: FLWG Annual HURCON Exercise

More details via email to follow

June 7: Florida Wing Monthly Safety Brief –

Virtual on TEAMS

Link: [FLWG Monthly Safety Briefing](#)

June 11-12: Special Olympics Support

Orlando Executive Airport

Registration Link: [Special Olympics](#)

June 15-19: Florida Wing Conference with

Pre- Conference courses, Tampa

Pre-Conference Courses, Conference, Cadet

Conference, and Banquet – Registration

Open

June 16-17: Pre-Conference Courses

June 18: Florida Wing Conference and

Annual Awards Banquet

June 18: Florida Wing Cadet Conference

Register for the FLWG Conference, Cadet Conference,

Pre-Conference Courses and Awards Banquet

here: [FLWG Conference](#)

June 17: Pre-Conference Public Affairs Academy-

Tampa Marriott, Water Street

Registration Link: [Pre-Conference PA Academy](#)

July 7 – 16: Summer Encampment,

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke

– Student Registration Open

TAC Officers Still Needed

More information, staff applications, and

student registration link:

[FLWG Summer Encampment](#)

July 7 – 16: Florida Emergency Services Academy,

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke –

Registration Open

Information and registration link: [FLESA](#)

July 24-30: Cyber Camp, Port St Lucie –

Registration Open (student registration will

close when full – limited seating)

Information and Registration Link:

[FLWG Cyber Academy](#)

July 31-Aug 7: Region Cadet Leadership School,

Tri- State Christian Camp, DeFuniak Springs, FL

TBA

August 25-27: CAP National Conference,

Lexington, KY- Registration Open.

Information and Registration Link: [CAP](#)

[National Conference](#)

August 26-28: FLWG Cadet Color Guard

Academy, Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla

October 21-23: Ultimate Cadet Challenge, TBA

November 18-20: Fall Florida

Leadership Academy, TBA



FLORIDA WING HURCON PLAN

The revised Florida Wing HURCON Plan is now available on the FLWG website. Please become familiar with the plan and the SITREP procedure. It is recommended that you review the plan with members of your unit, discuss local plans for securing assets and maintaining communication with unit members if your area is affected by a storm.

Important Links:

[FLWG HURCON PLAN](#)

[FLWG HURCON STATUS](#)

[Unit SITREP](#)



SER Regional Cadet Leadership School – Staff Applications Open

Florida Wing will be hosting the SER Regional Cadet Leadership School July 31st – August 6th in DeFuniak Springs, FL.
The deadline to apply is June 20th.

Student registration is open and staff applications are being accepted.

We are looking for members, both cadets and seniors, who are interested in serving as instructors and staff at this event.

All applications and registration will be completed on the registration web page at the link below.

[SER Regional Cadet Leadership School](#)



Florida Wing Summer Encampment

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke, FL, July 7-16 2022.

FLWG Summer Encampment is in need of a few more senior members to join the encampment team to fill the following positions:

- Training Officers (TACs)
- Logistics Officer
- Safety Officer
- Chaplain Support Staff

Student cadet and ATS registration has been extended to June 10th.

For student registration or staff applications, please visit: [Florida Wing Summer Encampment](#)



Florida Emergency Services Academy (FLESA)

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke, FL, July 7 – 16 Summer

Summer FLESA 2022 will be based around the basics of Ground Team and UDF training, emphasizing the skills needed to both qualify and be proficient in both of those disciplines.

Staff applications due: June 17, 2022

Student applications due: June 30, 2022

For more information and registration please visit: [FLESA](#)



Florida Wing Cyber Academy

July 24th – July 30th

Saint Lucie County Operations Center, Fort Pierce, Florida

The academy will focus on providing cadets with a better knowledge of Windows and Linux operating systems, NETCAD, networking, cyber security defense techniques, and leadership. We will also explore the different career opportunities and the future demand in the cyber fields. The course consists of learning through classroom instruction and practical application.

For information about registration and staff applications, please visit: [Cyber Academy](#)



Florida Wing Supports Vero Beach Airshow

By Capt. Thomas McMahan, CAP
Commander, Treasure Coast Composite Squadron

Vero Beach, Fla. - Five squadrons from three Florida Wing Groups worked together to support the Vero Beach Airshow earlier this month. The team was comprised of members from the Treasure Coast Composite Squadron, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron, Patrick Composite Squadron, Vero Beach Composite Squadron, and the Brandon Cadet Squadron lead by C/Major Raul Pozniak and Captain Thomas McMahan.



The Treasure Coast Composite Squadron took aim at assisting the Board of Directors of the 2022 Vero Beach Airshow by volunteering to work and serve at two food concession stands. However, when a last-minute cancellation from some other volunteers left the board with an unmanned tent, the members of Florida Wing stepped up, manning three concession tents.

The cadets and senior members spent Saturday evening helping out at Riverside Park in beautiful Vero Beach, Florida in direct support of the Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron. Volunteering has its privileges, following the short detail the members had a personal meet and greet with the Commanding Officer of the Blue Angels, Captain Brian Kesselring. Following the time with Captain Kesselring the team had a short meet with the entire crew of the Donnell Douglas Boeing C17 Globemaster III, stationed out of McGuire AFB, NJ. The weekend brought on hard work and great laughs. Friendships and memories were made. FUN was had by all.



C/Maj. Pozniak with his sister who assisted with photos at the event.



HOSS Hosts Elementary School STEM Field Trip

By Lt. Col. Robert Maxey, CAP

Character Development Instructor, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron



Tampa, Fla. - Hillsborough One Senior Squadron (HOSS) members hosted four third-grade classes totaling to 48 children from Oak Park Elementary in Hillsborough County for a field trip at their squadron building at Tampa Executive Airport to share their passion for aviation with the students.

Lt. Col. Bob Maxey visited Oak Part in November of 2021 for The Great American Teach-In, where he met many of these students, showed them his drone and spoke about being a private pilot, a volunteer in the Civil Air Patrol, and taught them the basics of how to operate an airplane. This sparked an idea for one of the teachers, Mrs. Kim Mallard, who asked if they could have a field trip to see a CAP airplane and have the squadron provide an aviation-related STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) lesson for all the third-grade classes at Oak Park.

When the eager students arrived at HOSS, their field trip started with a Safety Briefing to ensure everyone's safety on the busy airport tarmac. CAP members talked about the various uniforms the members were wearing that day - Class A, Flight Suit, Corporate Aviator Shirt, and Golf Shirt - so the students could see the differences. The members explained why some uniforms are more practical or safer than others for different activities. The students were introduced to the Phonetic Alphabet used to make radio communications clearer and we had some fun getting to know each other. After these sessions, the students were divided into three groups for the remainder of the visit to move through a rotation of activities.

The first group stayed with 1st Lt. Michael Hernando, who gave a presentation on Col. Gail "The Candy Bomber" Halvorsen, aka "Uncle Wiggly Wings," and his contributions to raise German children's spirits during the Berlin Airlift. After relating the inspiring story of then-Lt. Halvorsen dropping candy to the children of East Berlin, he explained the basics of flight (Thrust, Drag, Gravity, and Lift) and how airplanes work. Then the students got help from Col. Ray Lyons, Maj. Gil Dembeck, and 2nd Lt. Athena Fox in making parachutes out of cotton fabric and crochet string, complete with a Hershey's chocolate payload secured by masking tape. Then they were able throw them high in the sky and watch the parachutes bring their candy back to earth slowly and unharmed. Most of them used the red, white, and blue parachutes as hats, but they also learned something about gravity and drag, too!





Lt. Col. Bob Maxey and SM Jeff Williams took the second group where Maxey demonstrated how his drone flies, how the controls work, and explained the value of being able to use a drone in places where a person may not want or be able to walk. The students got to see what they look like from 100 feet up and they all wanted to race the drone, but none of them could beat its speed.

Capt. Dan Klein and 2nd Lt. Myra Hall took the third group out to the airplane, a Civil Air Patrol Cessna 172, where many got to see an airplane up close for the very first time. Each sat in the pilot's seat. They got a feel for the yoke and saw how it moves the ailerons and elevator and how the pedals move the rudder. The teachers got in on the fun, too, and most said they would like to become AE Members and take a TOP orientation flight. This was the highlight of the day for most of them.

Hillsborough One Senior Squadron members had a fantastic time meeting the children, inspiring them to become Cadets, Pilots, and beyond. The teachers were impressed with the program and said they would like to make this an annual event.

Col. Gail Halvorsen is an international hero whose aviation career began with Civil Air Patrol before WWII. He was a CAP Congressional Gold Medal recipient due to his early involvement with CAP. As the Berlin Airlift 70th anniversary is celebrated, Col. Halvorsen shares his love of and appreciation for CAP in the video below. Help us share with other youth the amazing CAP Cadet and Aerospace Education programs to inspire them toward the skies. The inspiring humanitarian effort of the Candy Bomber/Uncle Wiggly Wings is portrayed in CAP's "Uncle Wiggly Wings" early learning book and teachers guide.

CAP Aerospace Education Featured Book: Uncle Wiggly Wings

In honor of Col. Gail Halvorsen (Uncle Wiggly Wings) who passed away in February at age 101, and the great American legacy this mission left, CAP is featuring the early learning book and teachers guide for Uncle Wiggly Wings, the Candy Bomber.

To learn more about Col. Gail "The Candy Bomber" Halvorsen, aka "Uncle Wiggly Wings," check out this article from Smithsonian Magazine and a video from a commemorative ceremony in Germany 70 years after the Berlin Airlift.

[Smithsonian Magazine - Candy Bomber](#)

['The Candy Bomber' Honored in Germany 70 Years After Historic Berlin Airlift](#)

[CAP AE Video: Col. Gail Halvorsen's aviation career began with Civil Air Patrol](#)

[Uncle Wiggly Wings CAP Activity Booklet](#)



Southeast Region Cadet Competition Results – Wing Commander Announcement

It is my honor to announce the 2022 SER Virtual Cadet Competition results:

- 1st Place – Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron – SER FL- 458
- 2nd Place – Puerto Rico Wing Color Guard Team – SER-PR-001
- 3rd Place – Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron – SER-FL-459
- 4th Place – Gen Joe Wheeler Composite Squadron – SER-AL-134

Best Team Performances

- Outdoor Posting of Colors: SER-FL-458, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron
- Indoor Posting of Colors: SER-FL-458, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron
- Standard Drill: SER-FL-458, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron
- Element Drill: SER-FL-458, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron
- Team Leadership Problem: SER-FL-459, Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron
- Uniform Inspection: SER-PR-001, Puerto Rico Wing Color Guard Team
- Health Fitness: SER-PR-001, Puerto Rico Wing Color Guard Team
- Written Tests: SER-FL-458, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron

Best Individual results

- Fitness - C/SrA Fabian Hernandez, SER-PR-001
- Academic: C/SSgt Sarah Dewey, SER-FL-459
- Distinguished Cadet-Leadership (tie): C/Capt Carter Coan, SER-AL-134 and C/2Lt Alexandra Weiss, SER-FL-458



Congratulations to Wesley Chapel and Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadrons on your outstanding performance and dedication.

Col Luis E. Negrón

Florida Wing Commander

The first and second place teams will advance to represent Southeast Region at the National Cadet Competition being held at Wright State University in July.



Cadet Milestone Awards – May 2022

Wright Brothers Award

Presley Brown, Lake Composite Squadron
Alexander Stent, St. Pete Cadet Squadron
Adrian Camacho, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron
Charlotte Joseph, Boca Raton Composite Squadron

Mitchell Award

Luke Schoettle, Eglin Composite Squadron
Matthew Santos, Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron
Jibrael Khan, Crystal Lakes MS Cadet Squadron

Earhart Award

Suzi Lin Melrum-Green, Seminole Composite Squadron
Andrew Potenza, Boca Raton Composite Squadron

Eaker Award

Anya Kratz, SRQ Composite Squadron

CAP Members Volunteer for Hot Air Balloon Launches

by 2nd Lt. Davina Hovanec, CAP
Merritt Island Senior Squadron

Lakeland, Fla. – Assisting with setting up hot air balloons for evening balloon glows and successful early morning launches during the Up, Up, and Away Balloon Festival at the Sun n Fun campus located at Lakeland Linder Airport in early May was a new experience for many Civil Air Patrol volunteer members.

Over the course of the weekend cadet and senior members assisted the balloon teams with setting up the hot air balloons for glows at night and early morning balloon race launches. Setting up a hot air balloon includes filling the balloons with hot air, holding down the gondolas as the balloons fill, and handling the crown line which helps keep control of the balloon as it is inflated or deflated. Once a flight or glow is done, the balloons have to be deflated and everything needs to be packed away into trailers.



While balloons remain stationary for the glows, the launches are more involved. Balloonists and Civil Air Patrol volunteers have an early start as they must wake before sunrise to be on the airfield for the morning launches. Pulling the balloons from large bags, spreading them down field for several yards, and assisting the balloon pilots with other tasks in inflating the balloons and preparing them for a successful launch.



One after another, the balloons inflated with the use of large fans and soon after blasts of fire from the burners lit up the morning sky. Suddenly, there was a field full of colorful, inflated hot air balloons ready to launch for the balloon race. The first balloon, known as the “hare” launches and many minutes pass as the race participants or “hounds” wait for the clear to launch signal. The launch signal is given and balloon after balloon was lifting from the ground and into the air - each one heading for the target balloon.

A balloon race is not a test of speed, but a “hare and hound” style of race. The “hare” balloon launches first, lands, and places a large “X” as a target on the ground next to where it lands. The other balloons, the “hounds” try to follow the first balloon as closely as they can and the balloon pilot who drops a bean bag as close to the center of the target wins the race.

The balloon ground crews, including Civil Air Patrol volunteers assigned to the various balloon teams, watch the colorful display rising into the air and floating away for a few minutes, but the ground team job isn’t done. The launch team turns into a hot air balloon chase team which must track and follow their assigned balloon to where it lands to be deflated, packed, and loaded into the transport trailer.

Chase teams started from the airfield in a convoy style departure, but the vehicles soon began moving in various directions after the “hounds” reached the “hare” in order to stay with their assigned balloon. Most of the hot air balloons landed in subdivisions and parking lots with only a few finding open fields in the suburbs of Lakeland. Neighborhood residents were delighted to have the colorful balloons landing in their front yards

and driveways and were enjoying being able to watch as the balloons were deflated and packed away. Many photos were taken by residents of the balloons in front of their homes with the pilot and CAP chase teams.

CAP Activity Director for the balloon festival Capt. James Chamberland said, "It's amazing just how incredible it is - early morning, the balloons going up, seeing all the colors, the light's perfect. It's just a great experience, and I hope everyone had a wonderful time."



While the balloon glow and launches were the primary activities senior and cadet members enjoyed assisting with during the festival, members were also able to tour the Florida Air Museum located on the Sun n Fun campus and enjoy the event's live music. Cadets became better acquainted with each other through a variety of team building exercises and leadership scenarios during activity breaks.

As CAP members were later taking down tents, cleaning the campsite, and visiting with parents arriving to pick up cadets, Captain Jack Duich said, "It was an awesome weekend for cadets and seniors."

Join CAP's Ongoing Damage Assessment Efforts (From PROPS Newsletter)

Attention, CAP members. Do you want to be involved in a disaster response, regardless of where you live? Have you always wanted to serve during a mission but felt you don't get the opportunity because disasters don't occur where you live, you don't fly, or you're not a member of a specialized team?

Things are changing. Did you see this article on "[Harnessing Technology](#)" in the Spring edition of Civil Air Patrol Volunteer? This past year, CAP helped assess damage from Hurricane Ida; tornadoes in the Quad States, New Orleans, and Andover, Kansas; and New Mexico's Hermit Creek Fire.

You now have the opportunity to support FEMA by helping conduct imagery-based damage assessments. On behalf of the CAP Geospatial Program, all members, including those from our international squadrons, are eligible to apply and help.

You must complete the training to be eligible. You may be called on to support a disaster response (to hurricane, fires, tornadoes, floods, etc.), regardless of where you live. To sign up and help, [see these details](#).

The Return of the Air Show

by Capt. Michael Piwowarski, CAP
Ti-Co Composite Squadron
Photos by 2nd Lt. Melanie Lee, CAP
Central Florida Composite Squadron

Titusville, Fla. – To the delight of the Space Coast community and aviation enthusiasts, the air show was back and the skies over Titusville roared with the sound of high performance jets and low powered biplanes last month. Formerly, the TiCo Warbird Air Show was run by the on-field Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum. The airshow was rebranded this year as the Space Coast International Airshow with the help of an outside air show vendor. Due to COVID, the familiar sight of flying warbirds had not been seen in Brevard since March of 2019.

Civil Air Patrol has long been a partner at this air show and things were no different this year. With representation of over fifty members from six different squadrons, Project Officer Capt. Mike Piwowarski and Cadet Commander C/1Lt. Morgan Mejia successfully integrated the missions of Civil Air Patrol with the needs of the air show.

Cadets and senior members participated by performing flight line duties, aircrew escorts, and served as aircraft ambassadors just to name a few of the support roles in which CAP members served at the show. With a CAP Cessna on-site as a static display, airshow visitors had the opportunity to see the interior of the aircraft and learn about Civil Air Patrol by talking with pilots and cadets. Members were also able to tour the static displays, visit the many vendor booths, and watch the airshow each day.



Florida Wing Holds Inaugural Senior Leadership Academy

by Capt. Adelino Marcal, CAP, FLWG Public Affairs

Tampa, Fla. - Civil Air Patrol senior members from Florida and Georgia Wings attended the inaugural Florida Wing Senior Leadership Academy (FSLA) at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL on May 14th and 15th to complete the requirements for the moderated modules of the Level IV training program.

Florida Wing Director of Education and Training Lt. Col. Judy Hewett said, "Florida Wing is really excited to offer the Level IV moderated modules in an on-site format to senior members to further their training and progression through the Civil Air Patrol Education and Training Program."



Attending students had to have previously completed Level III and hold the Civil Air Patrol grade of Captain or higher and complete pre-course assignments guides before attending the weekend in-residence training session. During the FSLA, students participated in seminars and practical exercises led by highly qualified personnel. Capt. William Klein, who was one of the students, said, "Not only were the instructors professional and knowledgeable, but the camaraderie among the students was valuable."

Students were Capt. James Chamberland, Capt. John Duich, Capt. William Klein, Capt. Peter Leet, Maj. Christopher Mace, Capt. Adelino Marcal, Capt. Robert Masters, Capt. Craig Ortman, Capt. Kevin Rausch, Capt. Barbara Rich, SM (Maj.) Michael Schumacher, and Maj. Daniel Sweitzer.

Instructors were Lt. Col. Judith Hewett (the Activity Director), Lt. Col. Robert Maxey, Lt. Col. Ed Junk, Lt. Col. William Woody, Maj. Daia Jung, Maj. Sybrian Castleman. Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negron also paid a special visit to the Academy and spoke with students.



"The next opportunity we are looking at is the Florida Wing Executive Leadership Academy (FELA) with all the Level V modules presented on-site for senior members to complete the requirements for the Gill Robb Wilson Award and promotion to CAP Lt. Colonel," said Lt. Col. Judy Hewett.

South Florida Squadron Commanders Course

Photo by Capt. Christian Dominguez

Miami Gardens, Fla. - In early May, Florida Wing Groups 6 and 7 conducted an in-person Squadron Commanders Course at Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens. The two-day in-residence course was presented consisting of a combined platform with online pre-course work before the in person classes.

The objective of the Unit Commanders Course is to build a cadre of well-trained officers who are prepared to become unit commanders at the squadron level. Graduates will be able to weave the management responsibilities of command with the leadership skills necessary to build and encourage a team of dedicated members from all walks of life and of all ages to accomplish the CAP mission and squadron objectives.

The goal of the Unit Commanders Course is to influence CAP officers towards accepting more leadership and responsibility at their unit. The overall course objective cited above is divided into four major areas of emphasis which are organized into lesson blocks.

The Officer in Charge and one of the instructors for the Squadron Commanders Course was Lt. Col. Ernest Manzano, who is a former Group 7 Commander. Additional instructors for the course were Lt. Col. Manuel Pelati, current Group 7 Commander; Lt. Col. Joseph M. Martin and Lt. Col. Joseph J. Martin, both former Florida Wing Commanders. Sixteen students completed the course over the weekend.



Senior Member Education and Training Awards – May 2022

Level 1

SM Russell Humphreys, 089th MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron
SM Ecaterina Balaceanu, Merritt Island Senior Squadron
SM Patrick Lynch, Pinellas Senior Squadron
SM Reva Goldberg, Brandon Cadet Squadron
SM Paul Anderson, Ti-Co Composite Squadron
SM Douglas Maples, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron
SM Ana Frometa, Doral Cadet Squadron
SM Ariel Fuentes, Doral Cadet Squadron
SM Nicholas Obirek, Marion County Composite Squadron
SM Marcos Gonzalez, Boca Raton Composite Squadron
SM Yaite Arthmann, Tallahassee Composite Squadron
SM Benjamin Rapheal, Tallahassee Composite Squadron
SM Mark Carrier, Marianna Composite Squadron
SM Drake Shoulta, Clearwater Composite Squadron
SM Susan Hoffacker, Sunlake High School Cadet Sq.
SM Randolph Spencer, Sunlake High School Cadet Sq.

Level 2

2d Lt. Ronnie Fuentes Rodriguez, Stuart Composite Squadron
1st Lt. Robert Sohl, Charlotte County Composite Squadron
1st Lt. David Bahr, Merritt Island Senior Squadron
1st Lt. Johan Martinez, Polk Composite Squadron

Level 4

Capt. Craig Ortman, FLWG HQ
Capt. Patrick Healey, St. Augustine Composite Squadron
Capt. William (Dan) Klein, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron
Capt. Barbara Rich, Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron
Maj. Christopher Mace, GAWG



C/Lt. Col. Kratz Honored at City Commission Meeting

At the April 19th Ormond Beach City Commission meeting, Mayor Bill Partington announced Cadet Lt. Col. Emily Kraft's acceptance and offer of admission to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis this fall along with awards to her and other young people for their service in the Civil Air Patrol. The Mayor also proclaimed April 19th as "Emily Kraft Day."

Full Story at: [Hometown News Ormond Beach - C/Lt Col Kratz Honored](#)

Up, Up, and Away Balloon Festival

(excerpt from article below)

Hot air balloons filled the sky Sunday at Polk County's Up, Up, and Away Florida Hot Air Balloon Festival. This community event was supported by non-profit organizations, like the Civil Air Patrol Program. Dozens of people came out and volunteered their time to make sure the balloons went up into the sky and made it down safely.

"Everything with solar patrol is fun," said volunteer and Cadet Major Cameron Calloway. "Of course being a part of it, not just watching from the sidelines but talking with the pilots, getting to know them is an amazing, exhilarating experience."

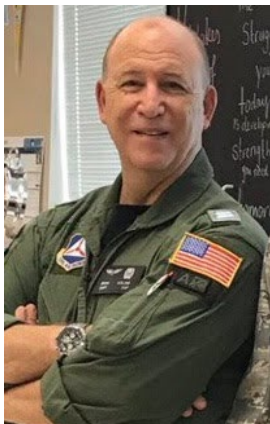
Full Story at: [Up, Up, and Away - Bay News 9](#)

Stolen Air Conditioning Unit Replaced by Local Business

The St. Augustine Composite Squadron was planning to raise funds to replace the air conditioning unit which had been stolen from their unit's building in April, but a local company stepped up and donated a new unit. "Donovan Heat, Air, & Electric told Action News Jax that the company wanted to give back to the cadets, who volunteer and serve their community."

[Company Donates AC to Squadron - Action News Jacksonville](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Capt. Brian Collins, Florida Wing Aerospace Education Officer, was selected to present "Incredible Aerospace Education Ideas from a Former Walt Disney Imagineer" at the 2022 Civil Air Patrol National Convention.



Capt. Nathan Hoffman will be taking command of Florida Wing Group 1 in June. He has served in many duty positions within Group 1 including his current assignment as commander of the Eglin Composite Squadron.

Florida Wing Group 7 Supports Miami Air and Sea Show

by Lt. Col. Trevor Stewart, CAP, Group 7 Public Affairs Officer

Photo by Lt. Col. Bonnie Hinck, CAP, Group 7 Aerospace Education Officer

Miami Beach, Fla. - The Hyundai Air & Sea Show on Miami Beach is touted as "The Greatest Show Above Earth" and highlights the five military branches and first responder agencies. Held over Memorial Day weekend, the event showcases many military demonstration teams and includes interactive displays featuring flight and navigation simulators and other military displays.

Members from five Florida Wing Group 7 squadrons supported the Coast Guard Auxiliary and other volunteer organizations at the event to manage radio communications, logistics, transportation, traffic flow, and guest relations and safety. Their participation made a significant contribution to the success of the event.



On Friday, 27 May 2022, CAP seniors and cadets from five Group 7 squadrons turned out to support the opening day for the 2022 Hyundai Air and Sea on Miami Beach.

Supporting the Coast Guard Auxiliary and working in concert with other voluntary organizations to manage radio communications, logistics, transportation, traffic and crowd control, CAP made a significant contribution to the success of the event.

Gliders Take Flight in Hernando County

by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP, Public Affairs Officer, Florida Wing

Photos by 2nd Lt. Richard Johnson, CAP

Public Affairs Officer, Hernando Composite Squadron

Brooksville, Fla. - Over Memorial Day weekend, Hernando County Composite Squadron hosted Florida Wing Glider Cadet Orientation Flights for the first time in many months. Glider operations had temporarily stopped due to runway resurfacing and construction projects.

Any Florida Wing squadron commander may schedule glider cadet orientation flights by contacting Lt. Col. John Aden

by e-mail at John.Aden@flwg.cap.gov. Glider flight scheduling is contingent upon pilot availability, aircraft availability, and is subject to postponement or cancellation due to weather conditions.

