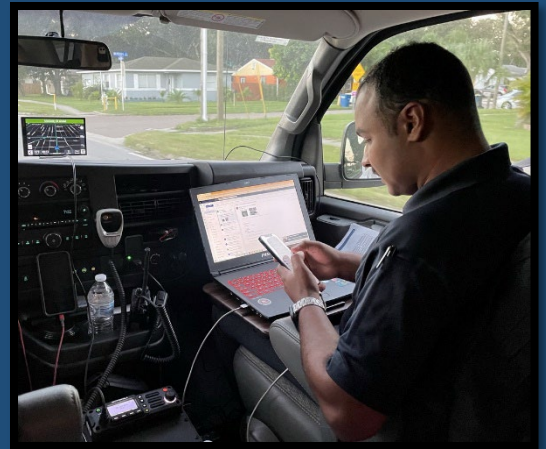




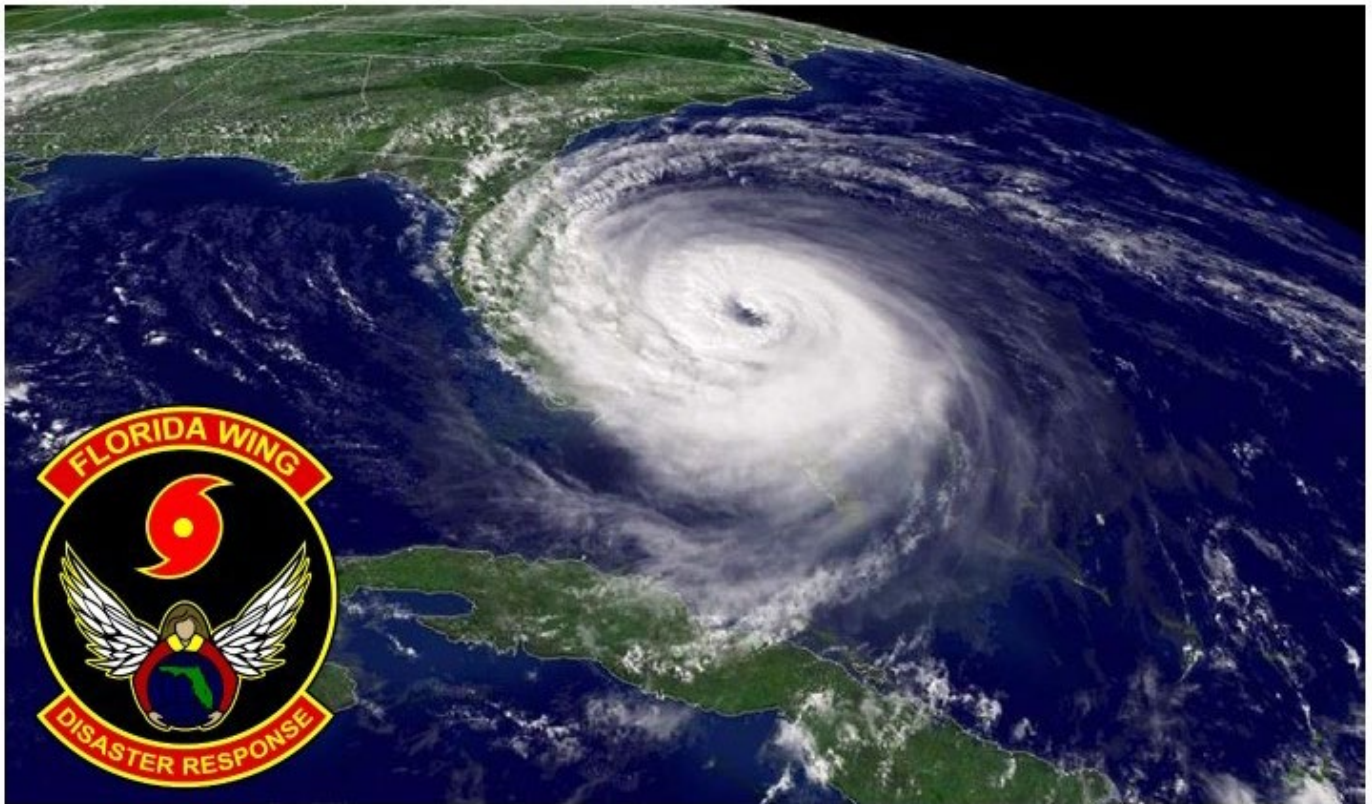
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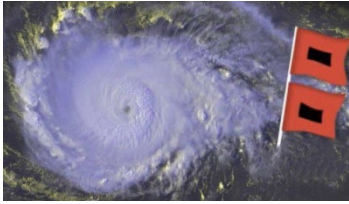
GATOR GAZETTE

JUNE 2023



Florida Wing Volunteers Train for Hurricane Season Disaster Response





Florida Wing Prepares for Hurricane Season with Incident Management Team Disaster Response Exercise

by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing conducted a week-long virtual exercise June 12-17 to verify the readiness of the wing's Incident Management Team (IMT) and to train additional members in the various roles required to run a successful disaster response mission. The tabletop exercise written by Lt. Col John May, the Wing Director of Emergency Services included using updated data management systems that emerged after last year's Hurricane Ian response when new mission tasking components were added at the request of state and federal agencies including pre-storm oblique aerial photos, post-storm ground orthomosaic imagery collection, and high-water mark measurement teams. Since this was a tabletop exercise, no actual air or ground sorties were launched, but many members who serve on those teams supported the exercise by providing simulated data to the IMT as if the sorties had physically been conducted. In all, nearly 100 Florida Wing members participated or supported this exercise.



The scenario for this exercise was that fictional Hurricane Allison made landfall north of Miami as a category 4 storm and took a northwest track across the state and exited the west coast just above Tampa as a weak category 1 storm. While in the gulf, the storm strengthened to a category 3 hurricane, made a second landfall at St. George Island near Apalachicola and weakened as it continued its track into Georgia. Numerous tornadoes spawned off the hurricane north and east of the storm center as it travelled through the peninsula and there was significant flooding statewide.

The exercise included pre-storm hazard planning to conduct wing-wide storm preparation and readiness. As the wing progresses through the HURCON levels outlined in the Florida Wing Hurricane Preparedness Plan, all squadrons and groups complete and submit task checklists known as Situation Reports (SITREPS) for each HURCON level to assure Civil Air Patrol assets including buildings, ground vehicles, aircraft, and communications equipment have been secured and moved to safe locations before a hurricane makes landfall. Aircraft and ground vehicles are positioned out of harm's way with the guidance of the wing Hazard Planning Cell team to locations where they could be easily accessed after the storm for disaster response tasking. SITREPS are also used to confirm that our most valuable assets – our members – are safe before and after the storm and to confirm their availability for tasking post-storm.

Once simulated Hurricane Allison moved out into the gulf, the IMT began receiving initial tasking requests from the state and FEMA for aircrews and ground teams for Ft. Lauderdale and Tampa. The IMT trainees responded to the requests by building air and ground sorties, locating emergency services qualified members to perform the required tasks, managed the sorties as they were in the air or in the field, collected the data from the sorties, and completed the required data uploads and reports. Sorties were closed out as the team assured all mission logs, files, collected data, and financial tracking tasks were completed.

The IMT virtual exercise gave team members the opportunity to practice utilizing the new data systems as well as complete or advance their training to serve on the Incident Management Team as Incident Commanders, Public Information Officers, Air Branch Directors, Ground Branch Directors, Communications Leaders, Finance Officers, Safety Officers, and Mission Staff Assistants. The week-long exercise was successful as a valuable refresher for experienced Incident Management Team members and as a platform to train new IMT members.

Southwest Florida Squadrons Prepare for the 2023 Hurricane Season

By Lt. Col. Robert Corriveau, CAP

Civil Air Patrol, Marco Island Senior Squadron

Marco Island, Fla. - The motto of Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the Auxiliary of the US Air Force, is *Semper Vigilans*, and the members of the Marco Island Senior Squadron and the Naples Composite Squadron incorporate vigilance and professionalism in every mission they fly as they prepare for another hurricane season.



A training exercise was conducted out of Marco Island Executive Airport on Saturday May 20th from the CAP hangar to practice aerial photography, which is and has been a big part of CAP's tasking both before and after each hurricane occurrence for many decades. During these missions, geo-tagged aerial photographs are taken, the images are downloaded to computers and reviewed for quality. The pictures of targets of interest like disaster areas, high storm surge marks, or fallen structures are uploaded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) global database thus expediting FEMA's ability to evaluate the damage and distribute needed emergency resources.

As we enter the new hurricane season, Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing will be conducting several training exercises across the state to ensure all Florida squadrons are ready to respond to any and all upcoming storm events, support local and state agencies assessment efforts, facilitate FEMA recovery operations and help provide needed support to Florida communities.

Marco Island Senior Squadron trains to ensure mission readiness by holding frequent practical exercises. The training recently conducted included several air sorties tasked with photo reconnaissance including the preparation of cameras and equipment, mission briefings, participating in realistic scenarios and practicing using required ground to ground and air to ground radio communications. Remember that Civil Air Patrol volunteers give their personal time, which involves leaving their families, to fly these needed missions. We take to heart our motto of "Always Vigilant"!



Clearwater Composite Squadron Completes CERT Training

By 1st Lt. Jerome Budde, CAP



Since the first of the year, members from the Clearwater Composite Squadron have been making a concentrated effort to boost Emergency Services training within their unit by working on ground team, UDF, First Aid, and POD training. Over the weekend of June 24th, 12 cadets and senior members completed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training with Seminole CERT. It's expected that at least ten additional squadron members will complete the training by the end of the summer.



Hillsborough One Senior Squadron Hosts Mission Observer Training

Photos by Lt. Col. Doug Jessmer

Each weekend in June, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron has been hosting aircrew classes for CAP volunteers from across Tampa Bay to complete initial or requalification training as Mission Observers. Mission Observers (MO) fill a critical role in aircraft operations to help with communications, navigation, planning, and other duties which are outlined in the CAP MO Task Guide. Cadets who are 18 years of age or older may train to be a Mission Observer, but cadets under 18 may attend the ground portion of the training or attend in support of MO training by serving in other roles as Mission Staff Assistants or Communications team members.



First to Respond Should Be the First to Prepare

by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

In preparation for another hurricane season, Florida Wing squadrons across the wing have been holding Emergency Services exercises for the last several weeks with many more planned. Aircrews, ground teams, and mission base staff have been honing their skills and completing qualifications for additional operation qualifications.

Our ability to respond to disaster situations as an organization is directly dependent upon our volunteer members being individually prepared beyond Civil Air Patrol operational training by preparing themselves and their homes well before a severe weather event.

Now is a good time to plan and prepare homes, businesses, and meeting locations by identifying potential hazards and determining damage mitigation actions in case a storm threatens their local area. Gathering storm supplies, identifying local emergency shelter locations, creating an evacuation plan, and knowing the local flood zones should be completed well before a storm is anticipated. Be sure to include pets and prescription refills in your plan.

One of the best resources with information about preparing emergency kits, evacuation routes, flood zones, and shelters is on the Florida Disaster website at <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/>

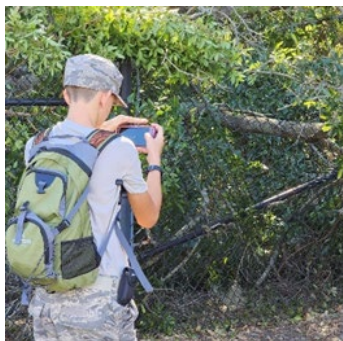
After severe weather events, the same website provides recovery information with links on their home page.

Squadrons should also plan and prepare to secure their meeting locations and assets. While FLWG Operations will typically plan for sheltering aircraft, units are responsible for protecting vehicles, radio equipment, computers and other assets. If a squadron has their own building, members should include damage mitigation as part of their severe weather plan.

As Civil Air Patrol members, we should consider it as part of our service to our communities to not only complete our training and become competent in operational qualifications, but to also personally prepare to remain in a true state of readiness to respond when our communities are in need.



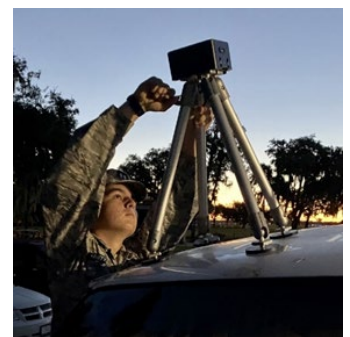
Lt. Col. Alex Rodriguez,
Aerial Photographer for
Hurricane Ian response.
Photo by Maj. Armando
Villasana.



Cadet Quintin Hopkins
collecting highwater mark
data in Orlando after
Hurricane Ian. Photo by
2nd Lt Christian Wukits



L to R Lt. Anthony Young, Lt.
Col. Frank San Pedro, Ground
photography team in Ft.
Myers after Hurricane Ian.
Photo by 1st Lt. Craig Hormes



Cadet Lt. Col. Oliver
Hewitt-Qualls in Lakeland
adjusting camera for
Hurricane Ian ground
photo mission. Photo by
Capt. James Chamberland

Florida Wing Member Assists Pennsylvania Wing with Orthomosaic Camera Integration

By Capt. David Bynum, CAP

Harrisburg, Pa.- Capt. David Bynum of the SRQ Composite Squadron of Sarasota traveled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in May to assist in orthomosaic camera instruction. At the request of Lt. Col. Ron Olienyk, CAP National Orthomosaic Imagery Program Manager, the Capital City Composite Squadron of the Pennsylvania Wing needed instruction in using the camera system.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) purchased 2 complete photographic imagery units for the Pennsylvania Wing to perform orthomosaic imagery for the State of Pennsylvania. Capt. Bynum has significant hands-on experience with this system having flown numerous sorties after Hurricane Ian in 2022.



*Members of the Pennsylvania Wing Orthomosaic Camera Class
Left to Right: Lt. Col. Stephen Riley, Capital City Composite Squadron Commander; Lt. Col. Larry Anderson, Knoxville Senior Squadron Commander; Capt. David Bynum, SRQ Composite Squadron, FLWG; 1st Lt. Bob Grover, Capital City Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Seniors; kneeling in front is Col. Will Schlosser, Pennsylvania Wing Commander.*

Photo by: Pennsylvania Wing Public Affairs

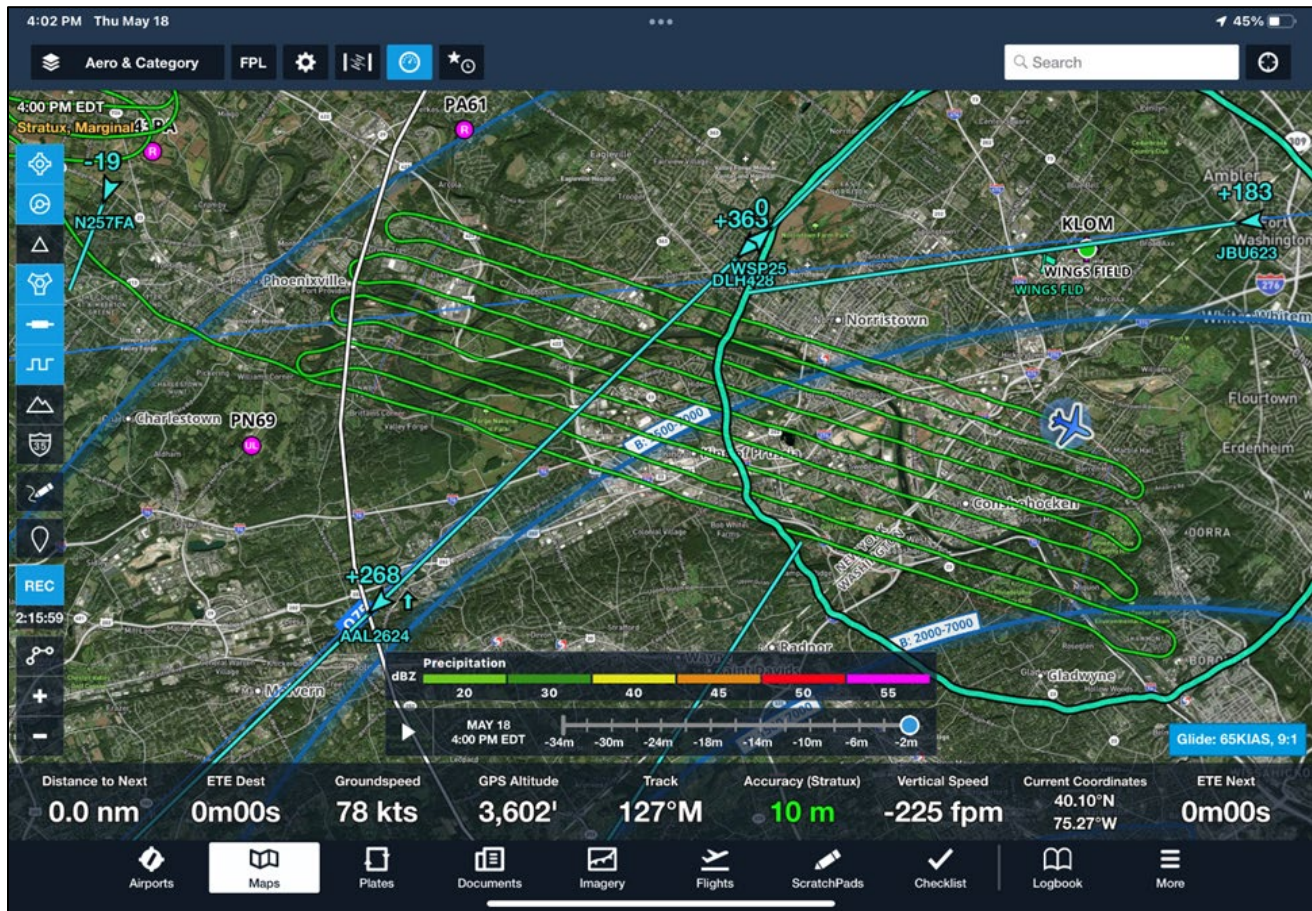
During the three days of training in Harrisburg, Capt. Bynum flew 6 training sorties instructing pilots and observers the operation and utilization of the camera system. At the request of PEMA, Capt. Bynum flew a real-world tasking sortie for imagery of an area that PEMA needed to document and as a demonstration of capabilities.

CAP members are also engaged in development work to integrate the Garmin G1000 and autopilot to reduce the amount of hand flying previously necessary. When asked about the experience, Capt. Bynum replied, "This is an example how the Civil Air Patrol is continually increasing the service capability to the citizenry by new technology and cross unit instruction"

The finished product can be viewed by opening the following link:

<https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=6dbd6af52b8a466e8a551a5a47d6f4ac>

The picture below depicts the orthomosaic imagery flight pattern recorded in Foreflight of a training sortie.



What is Orthomosaic Imagery?

Over the last few years, Civil Air Patrol has added to its photographic capabilities by adding the ability to produce 3D 360-degree images using special camera equipment. The first time this camera system was used in Florida Wing was during the disaster response missions following Hurricane Michael in 2018.

Want to learn more about the difference between normal aerial photographic images and orthomosaic imagery? Check out this website for more information: <https://www.dronegenuity.com/orthomosaic-maps-explained/>



NEWS RELEASE

Press Contact

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Email: sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov

Civil Air Patrol Joins Search for Missing Diver

June 26, 2023 – Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing is helping search for a missing diver after being activated by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at the U.S. Coast Guard Southeast's request.

This morning three CAP aircraft conducted an aerial search from Jupiter to Lighthouse Point along the coastline to about 1 mile offshore.

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.

The missing diver was with a group exploring the sunken Lady Luck in the Deerfield Beach area Saturday and failed to surface with the other members of the diving party. Coast Guard air and surface crews along with local partner agencies have been searching for Erick Gaunt, described as a white male in his 30s last seen wearing a black wetsuit with yellow and white air tanks.

Please contact U.S. Coast Guard Sector Miami watch standers if you have any information at 305-535-4472.

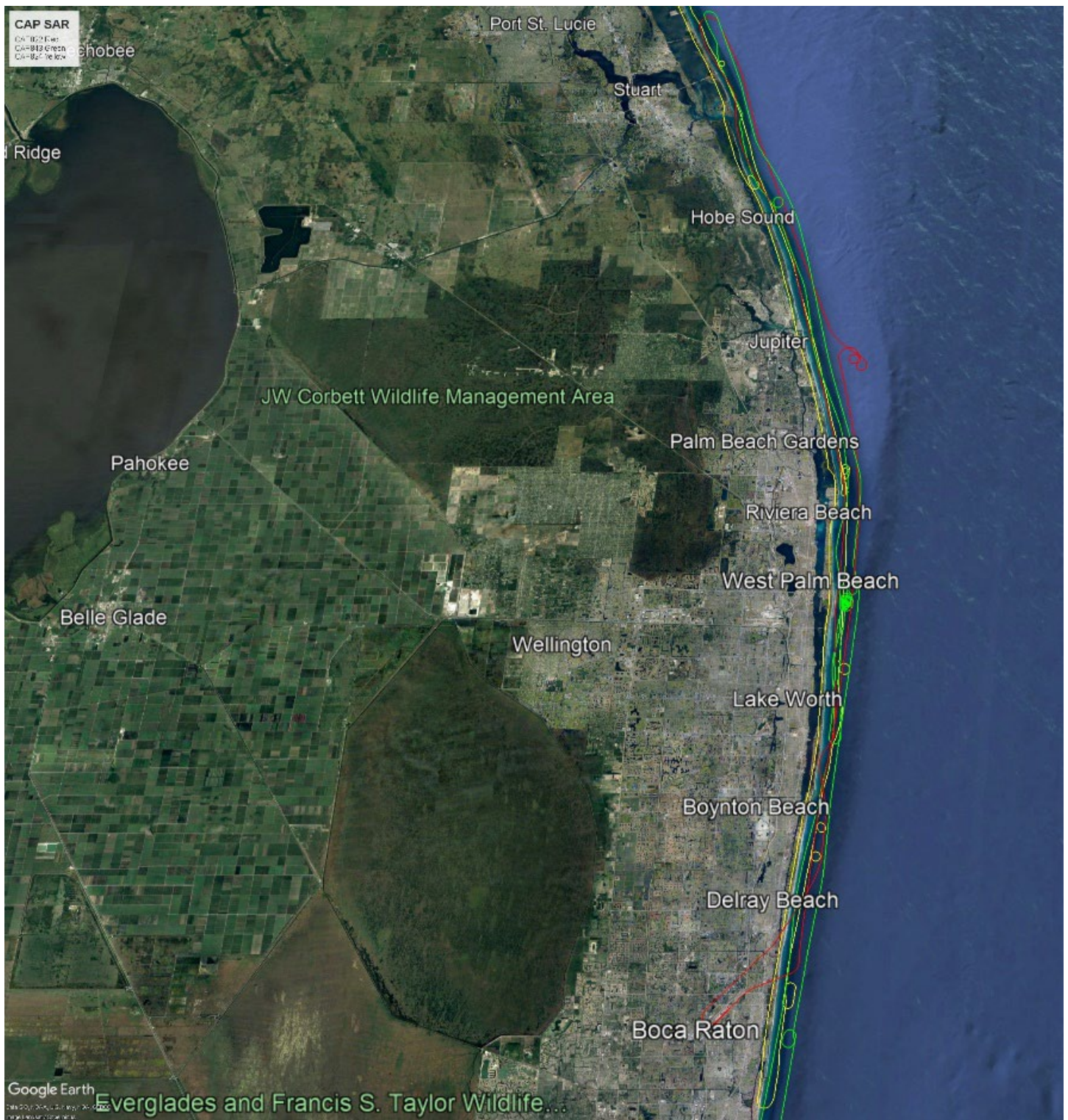
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About Civil Air Patrol

Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 540 single-engine aircraft and nearly 3,000 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of all search and rescue operations within the contiguous United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Often using innovative cellphone forensics and radar analysis software, CAP was credited by the AFRCC with saving 108 lives last year. CAP's more than 60,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state, and local agencies. As a nonprofit organization, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace education using national academic standards-based STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education resources. Members also serve as mentors to over 25,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs.

Visit [CAP.news](https://www.civilairpatrol.com/news) or [GoCivilAirPatrol.com](https://www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com) for more information. Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CivilAirPatrol), [Facebook](https://facebook.com/CivilAirPatrol), [Instagram](https://instagram.com/CivilAirPatrol), [LinkedIn](https://linkedin.com/company/civil-air-patrol), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/CivilAirPatrol). For more information about Florida Wing, visit www.flwg.gov.

Photo: Overlay of three CAP aircraft flight paths while searching for missing diver.
CAP 822 is in red; CAP 843 is in green; CAP 824 is in yellow.



Florida Wing Group 6 Welcomes New Commander

by Capt. Thomas Cznarty, CAP



Lt. Col. Robert Shaw accepts guidon from FLWG Commander Col. Luis Negron and assumes command of Group 6.

A change of command ceremony for Group 6 was held at the Lantana Composite Squadron in Palm Beach County on Saturday, June 10th where Maj. Stephen Kirkpatrick relinquished command of the group to Lt. Col. Robert Shaw. The ceremony was officiated by Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negron. Notable attendees included Florida Wing Command Chief, Chief MSgt. Scott Jung; former Florida Wing Commander Col. Joseph Martin who is currently serving as the Boca Raton Composite Squadron Commander; Former Wing Commander Lt. Col. Joseph Martin; and Florida Wing Personnel Officer Maj. Earl Webb. Additional attendees included other members of wing and group staff and Group 6 squadron commanders.

Maj. Kirkpatrick had served as commander since May 2019 and led the group through the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and several major disaster response missions. Maj. Kirkpatrick received an appreciation award from the Group 6 staff for his years of committed service, mentorship, and friendship as Group 6 commander. Maj. Kirkpatrick said, "It has been my honor and indeed a privilege to have served the members of group 6 for these past 7+ years as both Deputy and Group 6 Commander."

Lt. Col. Shaw, prior to taking command of Group 6, served as commander of the North Palm Beach Composite Squadron in Jupiter Florida. He said, "I want to thank my squadron members in the North Palm Beach County Squadron for asking me to be their squadron commander. It's been a pleasure to serve as your commander. A special thanks goes to Maj. Kirkpatrick for supporting the squadron and myself and giving me the opportunity to lead the North Palm Beach Composite squadron. Additionally, I'd like to thank the Florida Wing Command Team for this opportunity to be the new commander of Group 6. My Leadership Philosophy is 'Leader-Leader' where those that take on an assignment assume responsibility to lead and make it better for all that participate and follow after them."



Maj. Earl Webb presents appreciation award to Maj. Stephen Kirkpatrick for his service to Group 6 as commander.

Civil Air Patrol Members Honor Fallen on Memorial Day in Palm Beach

by Capt. Thomas Czarty, CAP

Civil Air Patrol members from North Palm Beach County Cadet Squadron assisted with the City of Palm Beach Gardens' Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Veterans Plaza Amphitheatre. Cadets and senior members greeted the arriving crowd with American flags and poppy flowers—a symbol of recognition for the lives lost during war.

The event was highlighted by a three-gun salute performed by the Palm Beach Gardens Police and fire department color guard. Taps was played as the mayor of Palm Beach Gardens and dignitaries laid three wreaths for our countries' fallen soldiers. The North Palm Beach squadron members who worked the event had a sublime morning interacting with members of the community and contributed significantly to the success of the Memorial Day Ceremony. Squadron members also set up seating prior to the event and assisted in the breakdown afterward.



L to R: C/2dLt. Joy, C/Amn Ward, C/MSgt. Jules, C/TSgt. Craft, C/A1C Berg, C/CMSgt. Eisenburg, and C/SrA Dudevoir.



L to R: 2nd Lt. Jules, Capt. Czarty, SM Craft and Capt. Kirik.



Tamiami Composite Squadron Compares Rockets During Redstone Rocketry

by Lt. Col. Bonnie Hinck, CAP

The Tamiami Composite Squadron dedicated part of their meeting to having a Redstone Phase Rocketry Day on Saturday, May 13th. Approximately 25 cadets participated in the activity lead by Group 7 AEO Lt. Col. Bonnie Hinck who guided the cadets in building model rockets while briefing them about the components of a rocket and how they work. They even did a comparison between the cadets built and store-bought versions. The rockets the cadets built exceeded the time aloft and highest altitude than the store-bought rockets.



Hillsborough One Senior Squadron Hosts Aviation Day for Students

Hillsborough One Senior Squadron (HOSS) hosted an Aviation Day Field Trip for third grade students from Oak Park Elementary School at their squadron building in May. Nearly 50 students were split into three groups to rotate through activities. The activities included learning about tornados, creating aircraft airfoils and paper airplanes, making electricity from lemons to power and LED light, and experiencing gyroscope physics. Lt. Col. Bob Maxey gave a drone demonstration. Students also learned about Civil Air Patrol aircraft. They were given a tour of a static aircraft and were given the opportunity to sit in the front seat. HOSS members who helped with the event were Lt. Col. Jim Minsterl, Lt. Col. Beth Ries, Lt. Col. Mike Hively, Maj. Dan Klein, Maj. Gil Dembeck, and Lt. Col. Bob Maxey. This is the second year that HOSS has hosted Oak Park Elementary School for a fun and educational aviation event at their squadron location.



Level 4 Course in South Florida - A Two-Day Journey of Growth and Skill Development

By: Capt. Christian A. Dominguez, CAP

Members from Florida Wing's Group 6 and Group 7 gathered in Lantana for an immersive Level 4 Education and Training course on June 3rd and 4th. This transformative experience aimed to equip participants with advanced knowledge, leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of the mission of Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The course served as a testament to the commitment and dedication of FLWG members in their pursuit of excellence.



The Level 4 training weekend began with a warm welcome and an overview of the course objectives from the course director Col. Joseph J. Martin. Participants included many seasoned officers eagerly engaging in discussions, workshops, and hands-on activities. The instructors, experienced CAP leaders, guided the attendees through various modules, providing insights into leadership principles and effective communication strategies. The instructors were Capt. Christian Dominguez, Maj. Earl Webb, Lt. Col. Trevor Stewart, Lt. Col. Manuel Pelati, Lt. Col. Sonia Soto-Ramirez, Lt. Col. David Mikelson, and Col. Joseph Martin.

They explored topics such as effective mentorship, motivational techniques, and conflict-resolution strategies. Through interactive activities, attendees learned how to inspire and guide others toward achieving organizational goals. An exceptional aspect of this course was the opportunity for participants to collaborate. The diverse backgrounds and perspectives brought by attendees enriched the learning environment, fostering networking opportunities and the exchange of ideas. Participants forged valuable connections with fellow members, building a stronger sense of camaraderie among them.

The course was a resounding success with 13 students completing the Level 4 requirements. The two-day program provided a platform for participants to expand their knowledge, refine their leadership abilities, and deepen their commitment to Civil Air Patrol's mission.

As these newly empowered leaders return to their units, the ripple effect of the Level 4 course will undoubtedly be felt across FLWG. Equipped with advanced skills and a renewed sense of dedication, participants are poised to drive positive change, inspire their peers, and contribute to the continuous improvement of Civil Air Patrol.



Take Your Color Guard Team to the Next Level

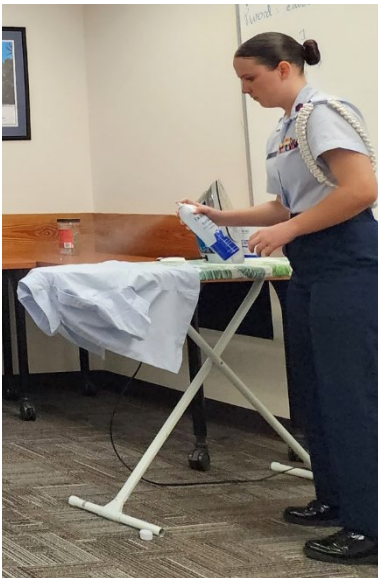
The Annual Florida Wing Color Guard Academy is the place to be the weekend of August 25th-27th to prepare your squadron's team to compete in the Florida Wing Cadet Competition which will be held at Patrick Space Force Base February 23rd-25th in 2024.



The Color Guard Academy gives squadrons the opportunity to learn how to present the colors at different types of events. Participants should be able to take their newly acquired skill sets back to their home units to train additional cadets at their unit in color guard basics. It's important that units have color guard teams which have been trained to properly present the colors so they can proudly represent their squadron and Civil Air Patrol at community events in a professional manner.

Teams which attend the Color Guard Academy will also learn what they need to know to prepare to compete in the Florida Wing Cadet Competition where the top two teams will advance to represent Florida Wing at the Southeast Region Cadet Competition. The competition consists of several elements including uniform inspections, military style drill performances, athletic challenges and academic evaluations. The top two teams from region advance to the national competition.

Registration will be opening soon and the academy has a limited number of team slots available. Make your plans now for your team to attend so your squadron doesn't miss out on this once a year special training event.



Final Salute to Former Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron Commander Pedro Jimenez

Submitted by Lt. Col. Brian Crane, CAP
Commander, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron



Capt. Pedro Jimenez with his son Daniel during an ES training exercise.

Pedro M. ("Pete") Jimenez was born on Puerto Rico on 3 April 1971 and moved with his family to south Florida early in life. Following graduation from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served on active duty and with the reserve component for roughly a decade, including a deployment to Southwest Asia with the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He served as a communications wireman, armored vehicle driver, and was the Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge of his unit's Tactical Operations Center. Returning stateside, he eventually transitioned to the reserve component and began a career with the telephone company as a lineman. Through mergers and corporate restructuring, he began working with AT&T, taking on leadership roles as a part of their disaster response team and in their new product research and testing section.



Capt. Jimenez being presented with Group 7 Squadron of the Year award by FLWG Commander Col. Luis Negron.

Joining CAP two weeks after his son Daniel joined as a cadet in June of 2017, he rapidly began training to advance his skills, demonstrating a thirst to learn and to train others to maximize their CAP experience. By October of 2018, he had earned an aircrew rating, communications technician rating, and had assumed command of the Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron. Starting in March of 2020, he confronted the COVID-19 pandemic by rapidly adapting the squadron to the virtual meeting format, seeking out and developing productive training material that set the stage for unit success. He led the effort to design a new squadron logo and patch, which was approved and has been extremely well received by members of the unit as it has grown in size.



Group 7 Commander Lt. Col. Manuel Pelatti and Capt. Jimenez present a milestone award to a cadet.

A thoughtful yet decisive leader, he took steps to maximize opportunities to train on emergency services tasks during the latter stages of the pandemic, building a core group of motivated and skilled junior cadet leaders who would go on to become the senior NCO and officer cadre as the squadron expanded nearly three-fold over the last two years. He worked diligently to encourage cadets and senior members to further their qualifications and prepare for advancement, growing many qualified future leaders and mentoring many new seniors to ensure continuity of leadership for the squadron. His efforts led to the squadron being recognized as the Group 7 Cadet Squadron of the Year for 2021 and 2022, attaining Aerospace Education Excellence and Quality



Cadet Unit Award standards in 2022, and prepared the unit for an operational deployment for high water mark assessment in the wake of Hurricane Ian in October 2022.

Captain Jimenez attained qualifications as a Mission Radio Operator and Ground Team Member-3, and due to his solid knowledge and skillful instructional capabilities was approved to serve as a skills evaluator in those ratings. He was technician rated in the Cadet Programs, Safety, and Command Specialty Tracks, and most recently completed requirements for his Aerospace Education Master rating. He completed Level 4 and was a graduate of the Squadron and Group Commander's Courses. Always one to

give back to his organization, he became a VolU instructor, where he participated in instruction during training sessions for Levels 1-3. He relinquished command of the Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron in January 2023, shifting roles to serve as squadron Deputy Commander.

Captain Jimenez is survived by his wife Maria, step daughter Elizabeth, and son Daniel.

Wreaths Across America Radio

Each month, Wreaths Across America Radio features members from Florida Wing during their weekly "Meet the Civil Air Patrol" segment. This month's interview was with Capt. Wayne Hooks, Florida Wing Group 1 Public Affairs Officer and recipient of the Florida Wing 2022 Public Affairs Officer of the Year Award.



Capt. Hooks talks about how he became involved with Civil Air Patrol, the growth of Florida Wing, and what he enjoys about volunteering with CAP. He shares information about how his home squadron, Tallahassee Composite Squadron, supports the National Wreaths Across America Day, how they garner publicity for their WAA fund raiser, and his involvement with Wreaths Across America as a site coordinator for two Tallahassee area cemeteries.

Listen to the interview here:

https://soundcloud.com/wreathsacrossamericaradio/meet-the-civil-air-patrol-capt-wayne-hooks-6123?si=6a8770b9a11443cbb9021b3f79aefda6&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.

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 May:

Roland Ireland, Lake Composite Squadron
Benedict Lok-Yan Leung, Naples Composite Sq.
Katalin Watkins, Stuart Composite Squadron
Nicole Bulawa, Lantana Composite Squadron
Benjamin Bulawa, Lantana Composite Squadron
Daniel Tadeo, Lantana Composite Squadron
Angelina Wustehausen, Lantana Composite Sq.
Jayna Filakosky, Brandon Cadet Squadron
Joshua Perdomo, Brandon Cadet Squadron
Leah Rill, Brandon Cadet Squadron
Kenrick Whittaker, Jr., Brandon Cadet Squadron
Madisyn Hamm, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Sq.
Leonel Altuve, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Samara Hernandez, Homestead ARB Cadet Sq.
Morten Krebs, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Sonya Vigilant, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron
Deborah Dillard, Pines-Miramar Composite Sq.

Camden Leonard, Seminole Composite Sq.
Benjamin Soderholm, Seminole Composite Sq.
Benjamin Hendry, Hernando Composite Sq.
Layla Jarussi, Fort Lauderdale Composite Sq.
Maya Moore, Fort Lauderdale Composite Sq.
Leonardo Schaugg, Tamiami Composite Sq.
William King, Eglin Composite Squadron
Jacob Messer, Marianna Composite Squadron
Olivia Jessmer, Clearwater Composite Sq.
Aiden Invictus, 463rd Composite Squadron
Clayton Kervin, Suwannee River Comp. Sq.
Aiden Kimmel, Suwannee River Composite Sq.
Brandon Alvarez, Crystal Lakes MS Cadet Sq.
Emmanuel Cartwright, Crystal Lakes MS Cdt. Sq.
Alexander Hearn, Sunlake HS Cadet Squadron
Saige Jeffers, Sunlake HS 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 May:

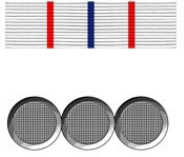
Mark Majeska, Seminole Composite Squadron
Malachi Melicharek, Saint Augustine Composite Squadron
Tristan Saya, Central Florida Composite Squadron
Garret Hall, Ti-Co Composite Squadron
Thomas Merrill III, Ti-Co Composite Squadron
Stephen Ingersoll, Pensacola Cadet Squadron
Jose Barrero, Clearwater Composite Squadron



Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society

Congratulations to Cadet CMSgt. Anthony Rubino of the Naples Composite Squadron on his outstanding achievement. Not only was he inducted into the Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society as our 654th member, but he also achieved Member of Distinction! We hope to see him back as a cadet officer achieving the Member of High Distinction next.

Congratulations to Cadet Maj. Ian Purrone of Lakeland Composite Squadron for achieving the Member of Distinction! Hopefully we will see him back for Member of High Distinction next!



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 the following

Florida Wing cadets for completing the requirements for the Earhart Award in May:

Niles Alexis, North Perry Composite Squadron

Cristian Fuentes, Sturt Composite Squadron

James Dewey, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron

Chase Lunsford, Eglin Composite Squadron

Matthew Spence, Jr., Clearwater Composite Squadron

Jibrael Khan, Crystal Lakes Middle School Cadet Squadron



General Ira C. Eaker Award

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

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 Justin McDonald and Elias Paver, both members of the Venice Cadet Squadron, for completing the requirements to earn the Ira C. Eaker Award in May.



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 May:

James Bretney, Stuart Composite Squadron
Sonya Milu, Stuart Composite Squadron
Michelle Knapp, Group 2 HQ
Nicholas Iannitti, SRQ Composite Squadron
Amrita Nambiar, SRQ Composite Squadron
Nisanth Panicker, SRQ Composite Squadron
Amanda Segraves, SRQ Composite Squadron
Salim Taher, Ormond Beach Composite Sq.
Giorgio Angelino, Charlotte Co. Composite Sq.
Magdalena Sardinias Bulawa, Lantana Comp. Sq.
Klark Ortiz, Merritt Island Senior Squadron
Matthew Tibbetts, Merritt Island Senior Sq.
Nazareth del Carmen Villarreal Robles,
Merritt Island Senior Squadron
Steven Craft, North Palm Beach Composite Sq.
Nicholas Foster, Hernando Co. Composite Sq.
Michael White, Hillsborough One Senior Sq.
Bruce Clarkson, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
John Goodson, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron
Chase Horner, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron
Dorothy Brooks, Suwannee River Comp. Sq.
Angela Leischner, Sunlake H.S. Cadet Sq.
Anthony Gaines, Azalea M.S. Cadet Sq.
Elana Aroch, Liberty M.S. Cadet Squadron
Jason Mays, Liberty M.S. Cadet Squadron
Matthew Spangler, Liberty M.S. 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 May:

Cyrus Gardner, Group 8 HQ
Charles Nannenga, St. Augustine Composite Sq.
Teresa Beebe, Brandon Cadet Squadron
Richard Moore, Jacksonville Composite Squadron
Tom Lunsford, Eglin Composite Squadron
Charles Good, Emerald Coast Senior Squadron
Jason Hewitt, Clearwater Composite Squadron

Level III focuses on developing the squadron level leader who aspires to serve on staff or as a commander. The following senior members completed the requirements for Level III in May.

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.

Jean Velez, Group 2 HQ
Walter Andino, Doral Cadet Squadron
Diego Leiva, Venice Cadet Squadron

Across the Wing

Featured stories have been selected from unit Facebook pages.

The "Facebook Page of the Month" goes to the Tamiami Composite Squadron for quality and consistency.

Patrick Composite Squadron Hosts Radio Communications Training



The Patrick Composite Squadron hosted a Mission Radio Operator (MRO) class organized by Chief Master Sgt. Jose Tamayo. The class was open to any CAP member who wished to take advantage of this training, and eight CAP members, all from Group 4, both adults and cadets, either took the class for the first time, attended to update an expiring qualification, or came as a refresher. The class was taught by Maj. Martin Percifield, Group 4 Assistant Communications Officer, and he was assisted by 2nd Lt. John Henderson.



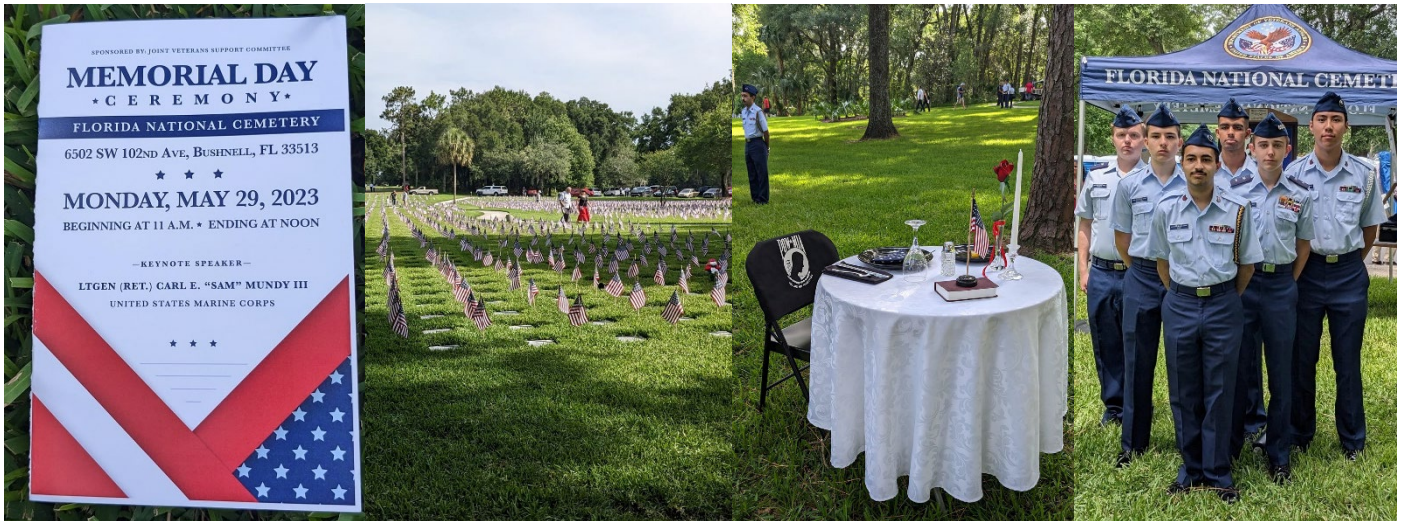
Group 6 and 7 Aerospace Education Officers Attend Annual National AEO School

Group 7 AEO Lt. Col. Bonnie Hinck, Homestead AEO 2nd Lt. Beth Crane and Group 6 AEO Col. Joe Martin are representing South Florida at the 2023 National Aerospace Officers School this week. About half of the AEOs got up early the first day to watch the SpaceX Falcon 9 launch before the first class of the day.



Brandon Cadet Squadron Serves at Memorial Day Event

On Memorial Day, Brandon Cadet Squadron, alongside other cadets from Group 3 and Group 8, had the honor of assisting the Memorial event at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Honor and remember!



Lantana Composite Squadron Glider Flights



Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron Conducts Flight-Line Marshalling Training

Orientation Flights on June 3rd were a bust, but it was perfect weather for flight-line marshalling training with Lt. Kirkwood at Hillsborough One Senior Squadron.



Tallahassee Composite Squadron Flies Marianna Composite Squadron Cadet Orientation Flights



Tamiami Composite Squadron - Spotlight Posts



Tamiami Composite Squadron

June 11 at 10:26 PM · 🌐

...

Thank you @miamidadecounty Emergency Management for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training! Our volunteers are trained and ready to perform basic disaster response tasks for the #305



Tamiami Composite Squadron is at Homestead Air Reserve Base.

June 17 at 4:45 PM · 🌐

...

Day of ground search & rescue training with our friends from Homestead Air Reserve Cadet Squadron! #GoCivilAirPatrol #capcadet



Tamiami Composite Squadron is at Miami Executive Airport.

June 19 at 9:43 PM · Miami · 🌐

...

Through orientation flights in powered aircraft and gliders, cadets experience flight first-hand. CAP's pilots are licensed by the FAA, follow a syllabus for each flight, and ensure the flight is conducted safely. Orientation flights are free to cadets. 📷: SM Omar Muñoz



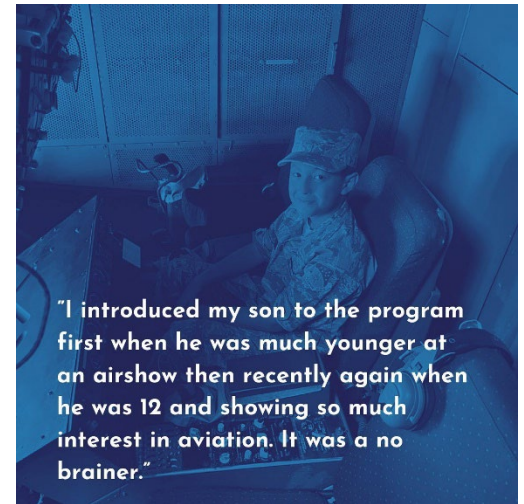


Tamiami Composite Squadron

June 11 at 8:21 AM · 🌐

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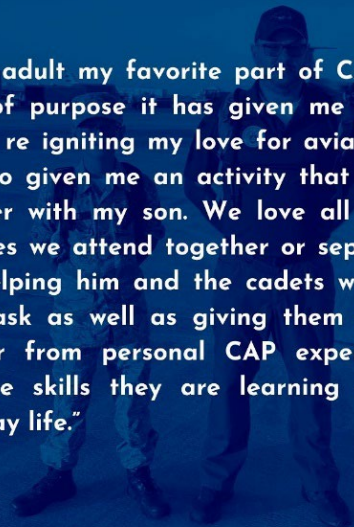
Meet the squadron! SM Omar Muñoz is a former cadet and CAP parent who serves as our Deputy Commander for Cadets. He joined as "a distracted teenager" just before Hurricane Andrew as was a member of the squadron by the University of Miami under the command of David Horowitz. He rejoined as a senior member after his son decided to join the program this past March. Welcome back, sir! His favorite part of CAP is the sense of purpose it has given me again as well as re igniting my love for aviation. CAP has also given me an activity that I can do together with my son. His hobbies include working on motorcycles (or really anything with an internal combustion engine), fishing, competitive shooting, music, and camping.



"Originally, I joined CAP when they came to my middle school for a presentation. At the time I had a dream of becoming a pilot in the air force but entering high school– high school distractions took me down a different career path. CAP gave me structure and provided me with a purpose during some of my most formative years."



"As an adult my favorite part of CAP is the sense of purpose it has given me again as well as re igniting my love for aviation. CAP has also given me an activity that I can do together with my son. We love all the CAP activities we attend together or separately. I love helping him and the cadets with all of their task as well as giving them guidance whether from personal CAP experience or how the skills they are learning apply to everyday life."



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

Feb 23-25, 2024: Cadet Competition, Patrick Space Force Base

April 4-6, 2024: Florida Wing Conference, Pre-Conference Courses, Annual Awards Banquet

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

June cover photos by: Capt. James Chamberland, Capt. Craig Hormes, and by Ian aircrew



All Florida Wing units are now at HURCON 5 which is a seasonal alert condition that is automatically set for all units in FLWG from 1 June through 30 November each year unless directed otherwise by the FLWG/CC.

All units need to complete the HURCON 5 checklist as soon as possible. Please review and refer to Florida Wing Pamphlet 60-004, Tropical Weather/Hurricane Response Plan for additional HURCON information and checklists.

The FLWG HURCON Plan and HURCON Status updates can be found at <https://flwg.cap.gov/news/hurcon-status>