



FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

GATOR GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2022



Sunshine State Drone Expo NEW DATE!!!

If you're interested in having your squadron volunteer to work at this event with the Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron, please reach out to Capt. Willis Reese at willis.reese@flwgcap.us no later than December 19th.

Squadrons are free to bring members to the event as participants without signing up to work the event.

Sunshine State Drone Expo
Hosted By: The Azalea Middle School Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron, SER FL 829

Saturday, January 14th
From: 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Hit The QR Code For More Info

Free Admission

Food Trucks
Static Displays
Mobile Command Centers
Aerial Exhibitions
Get TRUST Certified
Register Your Drones
Drone Safety Seminars

This All Happens At:
Azalea Middle School
Football Field
7855 22nd Ave. N. St. Pete

News Channel 8 Meteorologist
Amanda Holly, will discuss the weather vs. your drone

- Duke Energy Drone Team
- St. Pete P.D. SWAT Drones And Robotics
- Unmanned Safety Institute
- Speak With A Local F.A.A.S. team Drone Pro

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Gator Gazette is a monthly electronic publication of Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol.

All issues of the Gator Gazette can be found on the Florida Wing website under "News".

<https://flwg.cap.gov/news/flwg-news/gator-gazette>

Submissions for the magazine should be sent to Florida Wing Director of Public Affairs and Gator Gazette editor Maj. Sybrian Castleman no later than the 27th of each month to be considered for the following month's issue.

Submission email:
sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov

Cover Photos:

Top Left: Collecting HWM data in Marco Island FL_ L to R Cadet CMSgt Andrew Crane and Cadet SSGT Noah Oatmeyer, Photo by 2nd Lt. Beth Crane

Top Center: Cadet Lt Col Oliver Hewitt-Qualls, Photo by Capt James Chamberland

Top Right: Maj. Peter Leckband and 1st Lt. David Bynum flying air sortie, by 1Lt David Bynum

Bottom Left: Aerial photographer Lt. Col. Alex Rodriguez , Photo by Maj. Armando Villasana

Bottom Right: Clearwater Composite Ground Team at Ft. Myers Beach and Bonita Springs, Photo by Cadet SSGT Benjamin Young

CAP Tracks High-Water Marks for FEMA

by 1st Lt. Nicole Graves, CAP

Lakeland, Fla. – Members of Civil Air Patrol’s Florida Wing are aiding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in a unique way after Hurricane Ian by identifying high-water marks indicating flood levels.

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.

While Civil Air Patrol is known for providing aerial imaging to FEMA, high-water mark identification is a relatively new tasking for CAP. First utilized by CAP for Hurricane Lane in Hawaii in 2018, the data from this information can prove invaluable to FEMA as well as state and local governments.

“These (high-water mark) missions emphasize the full spectrum capabilities of our volunteer force and gives additional methods of community support to our ground-based response teams,” said Maj. Nathan “Deacon” Hoffman, Florida Wing incident commander for these missions.

High-water marks are the markings left after water recedes from an affected area. The data captures assist the FEMA geospatial team in providing a more comprehensive picture of the water that has infiltrated an area.

Civil Air Patrol’s efforts are utilized to validate reports from other entities and assists in FEMA being able to expedite assistance to these areas. These missions are coordinated through the CAP incident management team and consist of trained adult and youth CAP volunteer members in the community. Youth involvement in disaster response and recovery has been known to help them foster a sense of ownership within their community.

Photographs of the high-water mark lines and their measurements are uploaded into an application for analysis. The application is a Geographic Information System (GIS), which is a custom map software that allows the person collecting the data to add a layer with the new information. This provides a way to visualize all the data together. The app is extremely easy to use and is available for almost any cellphone.

Florida Wing ground teams have been collecting data across the state where storm surge and flooding occurred such as Fort Myers and Orlando.

If you’re interested in more information about Civil Air Patrol GIS visit: gis.cap.gov.



Cadet Airman Quintin Hopkins, Clearwater Composite Squadron, collecting high-water mark data in Orlando. Photo by 2nd Lt. Christian Wukits

From CAP.News

High-Tech Hurricane Ian Response Involves 400+ CAP Members in Air, On Ground, Online

Civil Air Patrol used every imagery tool in its high-tech emergency services toolbox for its multi-mission response to Hurricane Ian, now wrapping up.

About 300 members from the Florida Wing and 23 other CAP wings participated on-site in the missions, which included Federal Emergency Management Agency requests for damage assessment imagery ranging from standard oblique photos taken with digital cameras to advanced orthomosaic images taken by specialized cameras mounted on CAP aircraft.



Members using CAP’s small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS, commonly known as drones) also provided photos in the earliest days of the response at the request of FEMA. One of the sUAS photos taken by a Missouri Wing team resulted in the rescue of a boater stranded in a mangrove swamp in the aftermath of the Category 4 storm, which devastated much of south Florida — in particular, communities like Fort Myers and Naples on the Gulf Coast.

“This has most likely been the largest and most complex non-COVID mission CAP has participated in for several years,” said Lt. Col. John W. May, the Florida Wing’s director of emergency services.

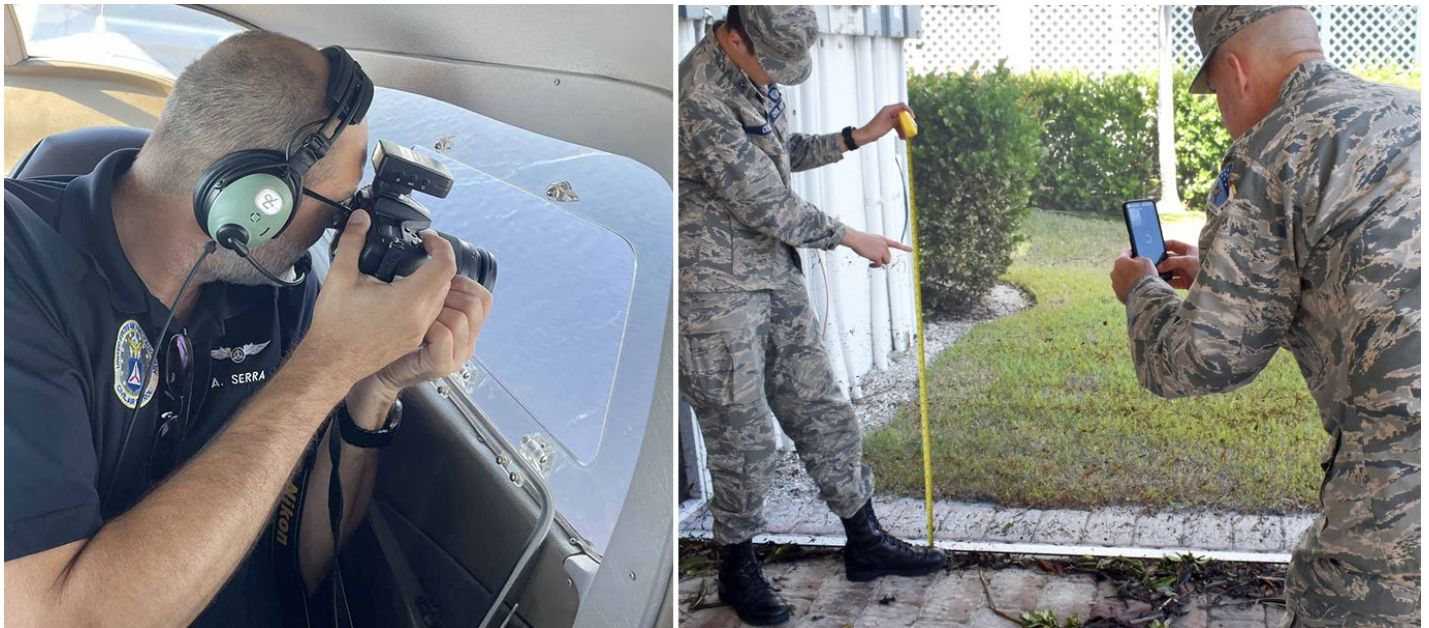
“Many members of the Florida Wing leadership as well as many of the senior incident management team members from several other wings have been working 16-hour days as unpaid volunteers to support the citizens of Florida who were affected by Ian,” May said.

“The nationwide response to Hurricane Ian was nothing short of impressive,” said Maj. Gen. Edward D. Phelka, CAP’s national commander and CEO. “From pre-landfall imagery of the Florida Coast to post-disaster imagery from the air and on the ground, CAP members across the country worked tirelessly to ensure those impacted by the storm could be rescued and/or receive needed relief. “I am incredibly proud of how members of the Florida Wing, Southeast Region, and the rest of CAP responded to this event,” Phelka said.

More than 116,000 photos were taken and uploaded by CAP aircrews and ground teams. The more advanced imagery produces a 3D, 360-degree view of storm-affected areas, which provided emergency management officials with a detailed look at the destruction wrought by Ian.

On the ground, high-water mark photos were taken using CAP's "Quick Capture" phone app.

"With repositioning and final cleanup flights, I'm estimating we'll end up at around 240 flights for approximately 540 hours," May said.



"These numbers don't include 'safe haven' flights to relocate our aircraft out of the storm's path prior to landfall."

The Ian missions were led remotely via Microsoft Teams, May said, as "only a few of the CAP aircrew bases had forward-support operations through fixed-based operators that volunteered their conference rooms at no charge."

The CAP Geospatial Team's mission was also critical to the response, helping FEMA and working in coordination with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) to quickly identify the areas and structures most affected by the storm.

When that effort concluded, 105 additional CAP members from 36 wings and two overseas squadrons based in Misawa and Yokota, Japan, had collaborated with FEMA and NGA to conduct imagery-based ground damage assessments of 56,000-plus structures in Florida, with CAP providing more than 1,270 hours of volunteer service.

Also — in a first for CAP — assisting in the damage assessment effort were 21 NGA employees who joined the CAP collaborative environment while conducting the assessments.

"Every additional trained set of eyes working the problem increases the speed of recovery for the victims," said Maj. Scott Kaplan, national program manager for the CAP Geospatial Program.

"We learn from every mission and group the team interacts with and continue to build partnerships," Kaplan said.

The [interactive original version](#) of the map depicted at right shows the storm-affected areas and indicates the magnitude of CAP's response.



A Mission Observer's Perspective – Flying with CAP for a Hurricane Ian Sortie

by Capt. Robert Downing, CAP

With Hurricane Ian having left the State of Florida - leaving a path of destruction and flooding in its wake - one of the immediate tasks for CAP's Florida Wing was to carry out airborne photographic missions and provide photographic information in the form of electronic files to state and federal agencies for damage assessment. As part of that effort, Mission Pilot Lt. Col. Bob Cochran, Aerial Photographer Capt. Richard Qualls and myself, Mission Observer Capt. Robert Downing were tasked with photographing targets in an area southwest of Orlando.

Aircrew members met at Albert Whitted Airport in St. Petersburg to begin our flight preparations. Capt. Qualls had been very proactive in preparation for the sortie with our targets identified, the sequence of targets to be photographed, the coordinates of each target and a visual description for each of the targets; this was incredibly helpful to our flight planning effort.



Within an hour, the preflight check was completed and we had our flight release. With the information provided by Capt. Qualls, I input the target information into the G1000 to create our flight plan. We lifted into clear, sunny, if still bumpy skies and set course for our first target some 46 miles away. Once airborne, I checked in with Mission Base, announced our airborne time and that we were on our way to the target area.

The flight proceeded as planned, we checked in with Mission Base at the top and bottom of each hour and photographed each target from four sides; this would provide an image of the target from the four cardinal points; north, south, east and west. There was a total of eight targets to be photographed for this sortie.

Once all of the targets had been photographed, we contacted Mission Base, announced that we were leaving the target area and returned to base. Upon landing back at St. Petersburg - some 2 hours 10 minutes after take-off - we deplaned, refueled, secured the aircraft and made our way back in to download our pictures and complete paperwork.

It was deemed a successful mission with each target photographed as requested with clear, in-focus images with a good resolution. A key aspect from my point of view was planning and team work; everyone on my flight had prepared carefully for the mission, so when we got together on the morning to fly the actual sortie, everybody was prepared and we worked together very well.

I was fortunate to experience a small taste of how good CAP's Florida Wing can be in these situations and that the organization is even more ready for whatever nature throws at us next. At squadron level, our challenge is to remain proficient and mission ready for when the next "Hurricane Ian" comes calling.



2022-23 Winter FLESA - Registration is OPEN!

Avon Park Air Force Range

December 26, 2022 to January 2, 2023

Instructor/Activity Director: Capt. Chris Krier

Student activity fee - \$250

Staff activity fee - \$150

The registration link and additional information can be found at:

<https://flwg.cap.gov/news/events/flesa>

Winter FLESA is offering three schools. Members attending these schools will become proficient in the skills sets and complete qualifications towards their Emergency Services Ratings.

Ground Search and Rescue students (GSAR) will spend extensive time outdoors practicing the skills in the field.

-The **Basic Ground School** focuses on entry level search and rescue and first aid procedures and protocols. Students will earn Ground Team Member 3 (GTM3) and Urban Direction Finding (UDF) qualifications at this school.

-The **Advanced Ground School** focuses on advanced skills including tracking, survival, and advanced position skills such as scout and navigator. Advanced students will earn the Ground Team Member 2 (GTM2) and Ground Team Member 1 (GTM1) qualifications.

The Advanced and Basic Schools will combine in field exercises where the advanced students will oversee the basic students in multiple outdoor scenarios.

The Mission Base School will focus on developing members' skills for Mission Staff Assistant (MSA) and Mission Radio Operator (MSO) and other Incident Management Team (IMT) staff positions if we have availability of instructors.

The academy will culminate with a multi-day graduation exercise combining all skill learned during the academy.

We are currently looking for instructors and SET evaluators to assist with all the listed schools, if interested, please send email to Capt Chris Krier at Christopher.krier@flwg.cap.gov

Florida Wing Winter Encampment – Back to Blanding



Florida Wing is pleased to announce a change of location for the 2022-23 Winter Encampment to allow for a greater number of student cadets with the required additional support staff. With this move, FLWG is able to continue accepting students and extend registration through November 18th.

New location: Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke, Fl.

Our gracious hosts at Tyndall AFB, Silver Flag, and Red Horse had put all available resources at our disposal, but the overwhelming response from student cadets and their need for an encampment credit to advance in the Cadet Program exceeded their current capacities. They are still rebuilding many areas of the base from Hurricane Michael. Florida Wing is looking forward to working with Tyndall AFB and Silver Flag in the future for other cadet activities and encampments as more of the reconstruction is completed.

Additional information will be provided including staff and student arrivals for those traveling by commercial airline; graduation information; updated operations order; updated packing lists; additional Camp Blanding required forms; and any other updates will be added to the FLWG Cadet Programs Encampment main webpage within the next couple of days and will be followed by an email to those registered when the updates are available. Please follow the Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol Facebook page for announcements.

Staff arrival: December 27, 2022, 9 a.m. to noon

Student arrival: December 28, 2022, noon to 1 p.m. Students must eat lunch before arriving.

Members who previously registered and paid for the Tyndall encampment may request a full refund in writing through November 22, 2022. After that date, the standard encampment refund policy applies. Please send refund requests due to change of location to:

refunds@flwgcap.us

If you have any immediate questions, please send an email to: cpforms@flwgcap.us

The Ultimate Cadet Challenge Returns to Florida Wing

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Photos by 2nd Lt. Thomas Chandler, CAP

This is the first time since 2019 that the Ultimate Cadet Challenge could be held due to the COVID standdown and restrictions. This year's event proved to be the most competitive and challenging competition ever. In late October, twelve teams from across Florida Wing competed in the Ultimate Cadet Challenge at the Flaming Arrow Boy Scout Reservation in Lake Wales, Florida.



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. Awards are presented prior to the dismissal of the activity.

This year's challenge included the following events: Uniform inspection, drill evaluation, written examination, team leadership problem, team relay run, team tug-of-war, aero-build, sUAS (drone), urban direction finding, land navigation, and emergency services first aid scenario.

There was a mere 15 point spread between first place and 12th place with many placements

decided by a single point...or less. This made for a fantastic competition, so a congratulations is in order for not only the winners, but for each and every team that participated this year!

1st Place: St. Augustine Falcons

2nd Place: Zephyr Airport Fox Holes

3rd Place: Brandon Spartans

Fleet Foot Award was presented to Cadet Sr. Airman Michael Coy

Fleet Flight Award went to Cadet Tech. Sergeant Reese Trevino

Staff Cadet of the Activity was Cadet 2d Lt. Nicholas Camperos, Cadet Commander

Staff Senior Member of the Activity, Capt. David King, Health Services/Safety Officer

Participating squadron teams at this year's event were: North Tampa-Lutz Firefox; Ti-Co Composite Polar Bears; Wesley Chapel Vulcans; Homestead Makos; Marion County LTC Rainwater; Boca Raton's BOCA TEAM; Stuart Sailfish; Tamiami Raiders; and Patrick Deltas.



MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron Holds Change of Command Ceremonies

By Cadet A1C Chasity Oubre

On 11 October 2022, change of command ceremonies for both squadron commander and cadet commander took place for the MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron. The Change of Command is a traditional ceremony which represents the transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit from one commanding officer to another.



Captain David Taylor, who has rebuilt the MacDill Squadron with the help of a great senior staff, is now ready to relinquish his four-year command tour of the squadron to Captain Richard Qualls. Major Joe Mora, Florida Wing Group Three Commander, officiated the command change from Captain Taylor to Captain Qualls who graciously stepped up to take the responsibility of squadron commander.

Following the squadron change of command ceremony, the cadet change of command ceremony took place. The outgoing Cadet Commander Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Qualls transferred from Virginia Wing last year with his father Captain Richard Qualls and had assumed the role of Cadet Commander in January of 2022.

Cadet Lt. Col. Qualls relinquished command to the incoming cadet commander Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Miikka Kritzer. Cadet Chief Kritzer is dedicated and gives his all to the program and is prepared to take command of the squadron.

Although it is sad to have to say goodbye to two amazing commanders, who have made a huge impact on their peers, it is amazing to see two new commanders who are willing to put their all into the program for the success of the squadron and its members. CAP is often a family affair for many and there was both pride and joy in having the father of the outgoing cadet commander coin his own so, a military tradition acknowledging excellence, for a job well done.



Cadet at Crystal Lake Middle School Completes Multiple NRA Certifications

By Bruce Clarkson

Cadet 2nd Lt. Casey Clarkson from Crystal Lake Middle School Cadet Squadron recently completed several National Rifle Association (NRA) certificates to add to her already impressive NRA resume.

C/2d Lt. Clarkson is now an NRA certified Apprentice Instructor in three disciplines: Basic Rifle, Basic Pistol, and Basic Shotgun. She also holds a Range Safety Officer certification.

At just 13 years old, she is already an accomplished cadet and marksman, putting in hours of range time every week to hone her skills. She has achieved the NRA Distinguished Expert qualification in both rifle and pistol and is just a couple of clays away from adding the NRA Distinguished Expert shotgun qualification.

C/2d Lt. Clarkson credits much of her success to the guidance and support she has received from her squadron commander, Capt. Traci Cohen, and especially Lt. Col. Steven Stimpson who has mentored her along the way. She plans to put her training to good use by motivating other cadets who have an interest in the NRA basic rifle course and assisting Lt. Col. Stimpson with upcoming basic rifle shooting events.

Lt. Col. Stimpson serves at the Boca Raton Composite Squadron Operations Officer and is an NRA-certified Rifle Instructor. He has been instrumental in teaching the NRA Basic Rifle Course to cadets from the Boca Raton Composite Squadron and surrounding squadrons since February of 2016. Lt. Col. Stimpson is delighted to be a part of C/2d Lt Clarkson's success.

Capt. Cohen added that C/2d Lt. Clarkson, who is in charge of the Elective Leadership class at the Crystal Lake Middle School Cadet Squadron, has been a positive influence on the other young cadets and has become a great mentor and leader. She has shown what discipline, attention to detail and hard work are all about. All of these qualities and more have certainly made her a successful cadet and an excellent marksman. We are proud to have her as part of our squadron and look forward to her continued success.



Congratulating C/2d Lt. Clarkson are Lt. Col. Steven Stimpson (left), and Capt. Traci Cohen (right). Photo by 1st Lt. Elise Stimpson.

St. Augustine Composite Squadron Change of Command Ceremony – October 11, 2022



Change of Command
SER- FL-173

1LT Nicole Graves – Outgoing CC
Captain Dave Lanham – Incoming CC



Commander's Commendation Award
1st LT Nicole Graves



Clearwater Composite Emergency Services Training

Cadet Robert Madden, center, uses a flashlight to help teach cadets to pick up a person on a backboard during the Oct. 27 Clearwater Composite Squadron meeting. Cadet Logan Mackesy is on the backboard supported by, from left, Cadets Peyton Avery, Andrew Poulos, Michael Stammer and Cesar Bernardino.

Photo by Cadet Darius Rimmele



North Tampa-Lutz Squadron Recognizes MacDill Squadron Members' Service

By Lt. Col. Dave Panzera, CAP

A delegation from the North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron attended the MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron Change of Command Ceremonies to assist with a special awards presentation to several MacDill Squadron members on behalf of their unit as authorized by Group 3 Commander Maj. Joe Mora.

Senior Member Lois Miller, Senior Member Choice Miller, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Miikka Kritzer, Cadet Airman First Class Chandra Miller, and Cadet Airman Camila Cerrada received the Civil Air Patrol Achievement Award for outstanding duty performance while planning and executing support activities to the North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron during their time of need by filling critical duties with exemplary performance at the memorial service of one of the North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron's leaders. In showing their support of another unit in Group 3 in a time of stress they exemplified the true spirit of "One Civil Air Patrol." Their efforts reflect great credit upon themselves, the Florida Wing and Civil Air Patrol.



Each month, Wreaths Across America features one Florida Wing unit on their "Meet the Civil Air Patrol" Thursday morning segment.

For October, WAA Radio interviewed Maj. Nathan "Deacon" Hoffman, Florida Wing's Group 1 Commander who also served during the Hurricane Ian Response Missions as one of the Incident Commanders. Maj. Hoffman talks about how he became involved with CAP, the teamwork behind the Hurricane Ian missions, how the cadet program helps youth members become good citizens and leaders, and how the WAA mission compliments the CAP programs.

Interview link:

https://soundcloud.com/wreathscrossamericaradio/major-nathan-deacon-hoffman?si=0cc704eb528f4665a09464dc145632b4&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing



If you're interested in having your unit featured on Wreaths Across America Radio, please contact FLWG PAO Maj. Sybrian Castleman at Sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov



Florida Wing Cadet Advisory Council Monthly Update

By C/Lt. Col. Maximus Kousiry, CAP
FLWG CAC Chair

This month, the Florida Wing Cadet Advisory Council is working on selecting the new officers for each Group. With new officers comes new ideas and possibilities for the upcoming 2022-23 term. The Group Councils work closely with their local squadrons as a connection to the wing echelon, in hopes of serving as a representation of each cadet's voice. As the next few weeks pass on, the main focus at the start of a new term is to regroup as a cohesive team, and begin brainstorming to find the best possible ways to utilize this year and opportunities to the fullest.

To accompany the new term and officers, a new website directorate has been created to give easier access to information and updates for anything related to the CAC. This was updated in hopes of opening avenues for communication and learning more about the cadets that represent each local jurisdiction on the group echelon. The new website can be located [here](#).

Do you have an idea that could be implemented? Reach out to your Cadet Advisory Council Representative, and see to it that all ideas and proposals are reviewed and analyzed, no matter how big or small they may be.

CAC webpage link: <https://flwg.cap.gov/programs/cadet-programs/cadet-advisory-council>



Florida Wing Honor Society

The Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society congratulates the following cadets for their achievements:
Rodger Roden, Lake Composite Squadron has achieved Member of Distinction.
Daniel Jimenez and Katherine Crane, both from the Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron have been inducted as FLWG Honor Society Members.

The purpose of the Cadet Honor Society (CHS) 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. CHS is an optional program, but squadrons are highly encouraged to participate and support their cadets in earning this distinction.

To learn more about the Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society, please visit:

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

Wright Brothers Award



The Wright Brothers Award in the CAP Cadet Program launched in 2003, during the centennial of Orville and Wilbur Wright's historic first flight.

Cadets earn the award upon completing Phase I, "The Learning Phase," consisting of the Cadet Program's first three achievements. As such, the award recognizes excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. In addition, Wright Brothers Award recipients have passed a challenging, closed-book examination testing leadership knowledge and proficiency in drill and ceremonies.

Once a cadet earns the Wright Brothers Award, he or she is promoted to the grade of cadet staff sergeant and begins service as a cadet non-commissioned officer. Cadet NCOs are expected to transition from individuals who have been cared for to young servant-leaders who care for others as they enter Phase II of the Cadet Program – The Leadership Phase.

The following Florida Wing cadets completed the requirements to earn the Wright Brothers Award during the month of October:

Alexis D Rojas, Lake Composite Sq.
Gia-Marie Jada Tim, Lake Composite Sq.
Josiah Michael Bone, Stuart Composite Sq.
Kezra Renee Burns, Brandon Cadet Sq.
Spencer Thomas Best, Ti-Co Composite Sq.
Mackenzie Joan Cope, Ti-Co Composite Sq.
Killian Michael Coy, Ti-Co Composite Sq.
Juan Miguel Arnau, Tamiami Composite Sq.
Andres Felipe Vergara, Tamiami Composite Sq.
Eli Jacob Nin, Marion County Composite Sq.
Gabrielle R Diaz, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
Isabella F Diaz, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
Rodrigo Ma-Pinto, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
Felipe Ma-Pinto, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
Matthew Cutler Bess, Tallahassee Composite Sq.
Emma Carolina Santana Boudreaux, Crystal Lakes MS Cadet Sq.
Christopher Michael Claudio, Sunlake High School Cadet Sq.

Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award

The Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award honors a fearless pilot whose patriotism, foresight, and tenacity surpassed the ridicule he faced.

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

With General Mitchell as their role model, cadet officers know that speaking truth to power is a moral duty. The Mitchell Award marks completion of Phase II of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. Further, Mitchell cadets must have passed comprehensive examinations on leadership and aerospace topics and have completed a week-long encampment immersing them in a challenging Core Values and Stem environment.

The U.S. Air Force respects Mitchell Award recipients' accomplishments. Mitchell cadets who enlist in the Air Force enter the service at the advanced grade of E-3, Airman First Class. The service also looks favorably upon Mitchell cadets when evaluating AFROTC and Academy applicants.

Once a cadet earns the Mitchell Award, he or she becomes a cadet officer, is promoted to the grade of cadet second lieutenant, and is challenged to lead and serve junior-ranking cadets, while continuing to develop into a "dynamic American and aerospace leader."

The following Florida Wing cadets completed the requirements to earn the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award during the month of October:

Steven Agoston, Naples Composite Sq.
Jameson Gitchel, Charlotte County Composite Sq.
Jeremiah Jonathan Williams, Seminole Composite Sq.
Carter L Hall, Ti-Co Composite Sq.
Janna Elizabeth Tannous, Jacksonville Composite Sq.
Casey June Clarkson, Crystal Lakes Middle School Cadet Sq.





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 have completed the requirements for Level I in October:

Kent Conwell, Naples Composite Sq.
Moises DaSilva, Stuart Composite Sq.
James Dobias, Stuart Composite Sq.
Robert Schellenberg, Stuart Composite Sq.
Nicholas Schillen, Stuart Composite Sq.
David Johnson, Ormond Beach Composite Sq.
John Howard, Miami Senior One Sq.
Robin Hollinger, Merritt Island Senior Sq.
Joy McGreevy, Merritt Island Senior Sq.
Ciro Villa, Merritt Island Senior Sq.
Jazz Jules, North Palm Beach Co. Composite Sq.
John Bradley, St. Augustine Composite Sq.
Dayron Nunez Bernal, Pinellas Senior Sq.
Michael Riebe, Hillsborough One Senior Sq.
Ames Hendrickson, Fernandina Senior Sq.
Jorge Alvarez, Tamiami Composite Sq.
Adriana Forero, Tamiami Composite Sq.
Joseph Bjornstad, Marion County Composite Sq.
Brandon Stout, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
Russell Hardage, Eglin Composite Sq.
Jarrod Gasper, Emerald Coast Senior Sq.
Cynthia Alvarado, Pensacola Cadet Sq.
Zachary Johnson, Tyndall Composite Sq.
Alexis Mercado, Pahokee Middle-Senior HS Cadet Sq.
Sonia Soto-Ramirez, Pahokee Middle-Senior HS Cadet Sq.
Jennifer Mays, Liberty Middle School Sq.

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 for Senior Members.

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

Joanne Ernst, St. Augustine Composite Sq.
Ira Ward, Hillsborough One Senior Sq.
Juan Peralta, Doral Cadet Sq.
Douglas Braun, Marco Island Senior Sq.
Jeremy Thomason, Marianna Composite Sq.
Joseph Fernandez, Sunlake HS Cadet Sq.

Level IV primarily focuses on expanding leadership skills, program development, and building a more holistic view of CAP. Level IV prepares the member for service as a group or wing-level leader who aspires to serve on staff or as a commander. To complete this level and earn the Paul E. Garber Award, a member must become master rated in a specialty track, serve as a staff member in a wing level activity or conference, give a presentation, complete the Level IV training modules, and serve in a staff or command assignment for at least two years.

Nicholas Marcantonio of the Emerald Coast Senior Squadron completed the requirements for Level IV and the Paul E. Garber Award in October 2022.



New Charters in Florida Wing Group 2

Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negrón and Maj. Larry Spangler, Commander of Group 2, are pleased to announce two new unit charters. Please welcome Suwannee River Composite Squadron and Liberty Middle School Squadron to the Florida Wing family of units!

New Aircraft Artwork Series Underway

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

Here is the fourth installment of the Silvered Wings Series, as posted on CAP.news.



CAP SILVERED WINGS

CESSNA U-3B "Blue Canoe" N5215G

©1976 CAP Alaska Wing By Ron Finger, Civil Air Patrol National Artist



Popularly known in the U.S. Air Force as the "Blue Canoe," the U-3 is the military version of the Cessna 310 light twin-engine transport. The U-3B variant was delivered in 1960-1961 as an all-weather type with more powerful engines, a longer nose, and a swept vertical tail.

With its older-style "tuna tanks," N5215G served Civil Air Patrol's Alaska Wing in the 1970s following service in Vietnam. It was later discovered and purchased by the Alaska Wing's Capt. Tim Maynard and his wife, Maj. Deb Maynard, who have restored and repainted it with a Kennedy era-inspired livery.

<https://www.cap.news/silvered-wings-cessna-u-3b-blue-canoe/>

SAVE THE DATES

November 18-20: Florida Leadership Academy (FLA), Florida Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla, FL. Registration closed.

November 19-20: Florida Executive Leadership Academy – Level V, Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital, Orlando, FL. Registration closed.

December 17: Wreaths Across America Day, various locations.

December 26 – Jan 2: Winter FLESA, Avon Park. Registration and staff applications opening soon

December 27 – Jan 3: FLWG Winter Encampment, New Location, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.
Staff arrival Dec. 27
Student arrival Dec. 28

See FLWG website for additional information and updates.

Student Registration open through Nov. 18th.
Senior member staff applications open until all positions filled.

New Date - January 14: Sunshine State Drone Expo, Azalea Middle School, St. Petersburg, Florida. Free admission.

[Sunshine State Drone Expo Info](#)



Hurricane season is not over yet!

Be sure to review your disaster preparedness plans for your home and unit.

Important Links:

[FLWG HURCON PLAN](#)

[FLWG HURCON STATUS](#)

[Unit SITREP](#)

FLORIDA WING HURCON PLAN

The revised Florida Wing HURCON Plan is 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.

Florida Wing 2023 Conference and Pre-Conference Courses



The next Florida Wing Conference will be held in Orlando Florida at the brand-new Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando - Disney Springs® Area.

This conference will feature a variety of courses and hands-on workshops you won't want to miss!

Pre-conference courses: April 13-14, 2023

Conference, Awards Banquet and Cadet Conference: April 15, 2023

For CAP, the Numbers Tell the FY2022 Story

From PROPS



By all accounts, fiscal 2022 was a banner year for CAP. Consider these significant yearend milestones:

- 60,125 members, including 25,000 cadets. That's a 6.5% increase in membership over the previous Sept. 30. Most notably, it pushes CAP back over the 60,000 mark and indicates a complete rebound from the membership decline experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 151 lives saved. That speaks for itself. Because of CAP technology that includes cellphone forensics and radar analysis, along with search and rescue aircrews and ground teams, 151 people are alive today. As credited by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, that's the fourth-highest year for lives saved in our recorded history.

- 9,202 units of blood collected. This milestone is also a high mark for CAP, by a large margin. These blood units collected by Operation Pulse Lift over the past year also saved lives — up to three per unit, according to the American Red Cross — and moved the mission closer to its goal of 16,667 units by the end of the calendar year.

- 2,540 certificated VFR pilots and 62 new Cadet Wings pilots. CAP's pilot proficiency program has added about a hundred experienced pilots, and dozens more earned their private pilot certificates through the Cadet Wings Program.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By 2nd Lt. Dennis Lasowski, CAP
Safety Officer, 463rd Composite Squadron

Almost everyone has heard or read that poem written by Clement Clarke Moore, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." What feelings are stirred within us when we hear that poem? I know for me it is a cozy warm feeling of being safe and secure in my home, enjoying time with my family and friends, and sharing special holiday meals with them.

Not to be a scrooge and put a damper on anyone's holiday, but with the holidays, comes the increased risk of house fires. During the holiday season, we bring live trees into our homes; cook and bake for our friends and family; decorate our homes inside and out with lights and ornaments; and light candles and fireplaces to create a relaxing and inviting atmosphere in our homes.

All of these things present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires during the holiday season. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for house fires. The number one day for house fires in the United States is Thanksgiving Day.

"December is a leading month for home fires, in large part because of the many of activities we engage in during the holiday season." Said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of outreach and advocacy. Fortunately, Carli notes, the majority of holiday fires can be prevented with a little added awareness and planning. "By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking some basic safety precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive fire-free holiday season," said Cali.



Cooking:

Unbelievably, according to NFPA "cooking is the leading cause of home fires (49%) and the second leading cause of home fire deaths". While unattended cooking is a major factor of that percentage. We are way too busy with guests, decorating, wrapping gifts, or just catching up with people to pay attention to what's on the stove or in the oven. To mitigate the dangers, be sure to stay focused on what is on the stove or in the oven and ask for some help from a family member or guest to watch over the kitchen if you have to step away.



Fireplaces:

Wood-burning fireplaces may be the most coveted home amenity, but they're also the riskiest to own. Poorly maintained, fireplaces are a potential source of house fires. According to the NFPA, one in every three home heating fires (about 22,000 a year) are caused by a poorly maintained fireplace.

Have your fireplace and chimney inspected each year by a professional chimney sweep. The chimney sweep will check the flue for a buildup of creosote. Creosote is a by-product of combustion that builds up on the chimney's walls and could cause a chimney fire. Make sure your chimney has a chimney cap to keep critters, debris, and rainwater out of your chimney.

Make sure the damper is opened so smoke and toxic gases can go out through the chimney. Failure to do this will fill your house with smoke in a short period of time. Start fires only with newspaper, dry kindling, or fire starter logs. Never use gasoline, kerosene, or charcoal starter. Avoid using wet or green (unseasoned) wood.

Never throw garbage, plastics, foam, treated wood, or colored-ink packaging into the fire. They can release toxic chemicals when burned. Place a safety screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks and hot embers from flying into the room.

Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away, including kids and pets. Keep a fully charged, working fire extinguisher, and know how to use it, next to the fireplace. If your fireplace is not your sole source of heat, be sure to extinguish it before you leave the room.



Candles:

According to NFPA, "from 2015-2019 US Fire departments responded to an estimated 7,400 structure fires that involved candles each year. These fires caused an annual average of 90 deaths, and \$291 million dollars in property damage". Christmas is the peak day for candle fires.

Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep. Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Candles should be kept out of reach of children and pets. Blow out all candles before you leave the room or go to bed. Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell just like the real ones.

Christmas Trees:

According to NFPA, "US Fire Departments responded to an estimated annual average of 200 structure fires that involved Christmas trees. These fires caused an annual average of six civilian deaths and \$14.8 million in property damage".

As you deck the halls this holiday season be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large within minutes. When picking a tree, choose a tree with fresh green needles that do not fall off when touched. Before placing the tree in its stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the tree. Add water to the tree stand and water daily.

Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source and the tree is not blocking any exits. When stringing the tree with lights make sure to use sets that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Never use lit candles to decorate the tree. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



A house fire is an incredibly dangerous scenario that is not uncommon in the United States. I was a volunteer firefighter for over thirty years and I cannot count how many times I was pulled from my Thanksgiving dinner to respond to a house fire. For ten years in a row, we've had at least one structure fire on Christmas Eve.

It is important that you familiarize yourself and your family with the tools and plans to prevent a fire in your home. All structure fires bring great loss and hardship upon a family. A structure fire during the holidays is devastating.

Please be aware of the potential hazards and take precautions so you and your family can have a safe and joyous holiday.

For more information on fire prevention, please visit the National Fire Prevention Association's website at: <https://www.nfpa.org/education>