



October 2022

GATOR GAZETTE

Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol



Photo by SM
Alejandro Serra

Florida Wing Tackles Pre-Storm Tasking from FEMA While Making Disaster Preparations

Lakeland, Fla. – Florida Wing standard hurricane procedures ahead of storm arrival includes moving aircraft and ground vehicles to safe locations to protect them and have them ready to be moved in response mission status as soon as it is safe to take on tasking from state and federal agencies.

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.



Photo by 1st Lt. Kevin Rought

With the uncertainty of where Hurricane Ian would actually make landfall, Florida Wing delayed early relocation, which was an exceptionally wise decision since the storm took a sharp turn changing course from a predicted landfall range from Tampa through to the big bend to an actual landfall at Fort Myers/Cape Coral, which is considerably south of the initial predictions.

Just a few days ahead of Hurricane Ian's landfall, Florida Wing received a tasking request from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for aerial photos of the entire west coast of the state to have updated imagery of the coastline to use for comparison to post-storm imagery to assess storm damage.

Although this was a short notice request, Civil Air Patrol was able to provide FEMA with the requested imagery and still safely relocate aircraft before the storm. Florida Wing volunteer members, who were also preparing themselves and their homes for the storm, stepped up to assure these important pre-storm images and aircraft relocations were completed well before Hurricane Ian made landfall.

Florida Wing mission incident commander Lt. Col. Sam Chiodo said, "We are very proud of our volunteers for being able to fully accomplish the mission sorties in such a short period of time while they were preparing themselves for the arrival of a major storm with an unpredictable path."

The Gator Gazette is a monthly publication by Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol.
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Civil Air Patrol Credited with Rescue in South Florida

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP



Aerial Photographer Lt. Col. Alex Rodriguez.
Photo by Maj. Armando Villasana

Lakeland, Fla. (Oct. 4, 2022) — Images supplied by Civil Air Patrol's small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) team for the Federal Emergency Management Agency resulted in the rescue this morning of a person trapped in a boat in a mangrove swamp in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

The rescued individual is receiving medical attention. According to FEMA, which credited CAP with a life saved, the victim wouldn't have been found anytime soon without the sUAS imagery.

The sUAS team, dispatched from Civil Air Patrol's Missouri Wing, has been assisting FEMA's ground search and rescue efforts since Ian made landfall last week. Team-provided information and imagery has enabled search and rescue workers to rapidly and effectively locate people in need of life-saving assistance, particularly in difficult-to-access areas.

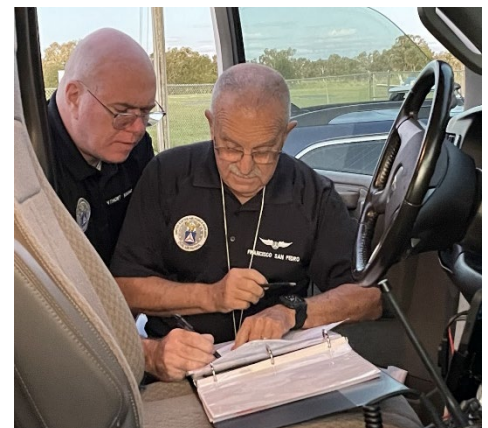
Acting as a Total Force partner and official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, Civil Air Patrol helps First Air Force rapidly respond to nonmilitary threats domestically in a Defense Support of Civil Authorities capacity to save lives, relieve suffering, prevent property damage, and provide humanitarian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

The sUAS team is only one component of Civil Air Patrol's efforts in assisting state agencies and FEMA after Ian. Aircrews and ground teams have been working continuously since the hurricane made landfall last week, completing a variety of requested tasks to assist with damage assessments. The information and images they provide help expedite assistance to those in need and to determine priorities for repairs to storm-damaged infrastructure.

Aircrews from the Florida Wing and other Civil Air Patrol wings have been supplying a variety of photos, including standard oblique images taken by photographers using digital cameras. Some aircraft have been outfitted with specialized cameras that generate orthomosaic imagery, which produces a 3D, 360-degree view of storm-affected areas.

Civil Air Patrol ground teams are continuing to collect high-water mark data, also used in damage assessments. Several CAP ground vehicles have orthomosaic cameras temporarily installed to provide 3D, 360-degree ground-level images. These teams have been working in areas surrounding Daytona, Orlando, Fort Myers, Tamiami, and Naples.

The sUAS team, along with hundreds of other CAP volunteers from across the country, will continue to work in various capacities in the air, on the ground, and on remote support teams as part of the response to Ian.



L to R- SM Anthony Young,
Lt. Col. Frank San Pedro.
Photo by 1st Lt. Craig Hormes

Colonel Fernald Flies Final Florida Wing Flight

by Maj. Stephen Lampasona, CAP

St. Petersburg, Fla. -

On Saturday, September 17th, out of Albert Whitted Airport in St. Petersburg, Lt. Col. Larry Fernald flew his last Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol flight. It was very fitting that it was a Cadet Orientation flight with two cadets who were taking their first orientation flight as he was flying his final Florida flight. With cooperation from the tower, upon landing, Larry was instructed to taxi someplace different than usual and then instructed to switch his communication to a different radio frequency.



Over the radio Lt. Col. Robert Cochran said, "Colonel Fernald, we in aviation, your friends, colleagues, and fellow aviators congratulate you on 51 years of distinguished service with the U.S. Air Force, Northwest Airlines, and Civil Air Patrol. You have made a profoundly positive impact on our lives and on our flying community. You gracefully slipped the surly bonds of Earth, and didn't spill the Champagne. COVEY562 you are cleared into retirement at your discretion. God speed to you."



As Lt. Col. Fernald taxied his aircraft around a corner, at the end of the taxiway he found Florida Wing Group 3 squadrons, Group 3 HQ, and Florida Wing HQ members joined together for a surprise celebration to honor him for his years of service to Florida Wing and came to bid him farewell before his move out of state. He was welcomed by being doused with buckets of water by his fellow CAP pilots and presented with tokens of appreciation by his squadron, Group 3, and Florida Wing.

Lt. Col. Fernald has flown for Florida Wing for over a decade as a cadet orientation pilot, transport pilot, and as a mission pilot serving during many of the hurricane response missions including hurricanes Michael, Dorian, and Irma. He has also flown during Operation America's Shield and for Super Bowl Air Intercept missions.

Lt. Col. Fernald said, "One day, one of two things will happen to each pilot: he will walk to the plane knowing it is his last flight or he will walk to the plane NOT knowing it is his last flight. After 52 years and 11 months, I am hanging up my headset (for the third time--first from the USAF, then from Northwest Airlines, and now from the Florida Wing of Civil Air Patrol). My last flight today was in a Cessna 206 and was a cadet orientation flight with two cadets on their first flight. Will I fly again when we move to Georgia? Who knows, but at this point, I think not. It's been a great ride! Would I change anything? No, except for the friends and squadron mates who had option two forced upon them."



Thank you, Col. Fernald for all you have done for this wing and our members.



New Squadron – Pahokee Middle-Senior High School Cadet Squadron

Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negron and Maj. Steve Kirkpatrick, Commander of Group 6, are pleased to announce a new charter in Palm Beach County.

Please welcome Pahokee Middle-Senior High School Cadet Squadron, SER-FL-830, to the Florida Wing family of units! Also welcome back Lt. Col. Sonia Soto-Ramirez who is a 23-year CAP member, returning after a five-year hiatus, to serve as Pahokee's squadron commander.



CAP SILVERED WINGS

Rearwin Sportster 7000 NC18024

c1943 CAP Pennsylvania Wing By Ron Finger, Civil Air Patrol National Artist



Civil Air Patrol Releases Next Aircraft in Vintage Series 2

The Rearwin Sportster 7000 was manufactured by Rearwin Airplanes Inc. at Fairfax Field in Kansas City, Kansas, from 1935-1937. Other Rearwin models flown by CAP include the Cloudster, Skyranger, Junior, and Speedster.

Read more about this aircraft and see others in this series and series one by clicking the link: <https://www.cap.news/silvered-wings-3/>

Azalea Middle School Launches Civil Air Patrol Squadron

by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

St. Petersburg, Fla. – Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron held their Unit Activation Ceremony and Assumption of Command for Capt. Willis Reese on September 15th in the Azalea Middle School auditorium.

Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negron was in attendance to preside over Capt. Willis Reese's assumption of command of the squadron. Distinguished visitors who attended were Mrs. Susan Alvaro, Principal of Azalea Middle School; Mr. Mark Hunt, CTAE; and CAP-USAF Liaison Maj. Melanie Golladay.



Cadets of Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron stood in formation on the stage under the direction of Cadet A1C Benton Stuart, who also performed duties as the guidon bearer for the assumption of command. Colors were presented by Clearwater Composite Squadron. Capt. Alexander Andujar, Chaplain gave the invocation and Lt. Col. Diane Zamot narrated the ceremony. Deputy Group 3 Commander Capt. James Chamberland presented the unit charter to Capt. Reese.

The Charter reads: The National Board of Civil Air Patrol hereby grants this charter to the Azalea Middle School Squadron with such authority as is conferred by the constitution, bylaws, resolutions, and implementing regulations and directives of the corporation. Charter No. FL-829. Date Issued 5 May 2022 and signed by the National Commander, Maj Gen Edward Phelka.



MacDill Cadets Set POW/MIA Table for MacDill AFB 75th Anniversary Ball

By Lt. Col. Dave Panzera, CAP

Deputy Commander

089th MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron



MacDill AFB celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the USAF in grand style with their annual Air Force Ball. Overseeing the event as the Senior Officer was Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Bergeron, Deputy Commander U.S. Centcom. With him was Brigadier General Stephen P. Snelson, Deputy Director of Operations U.S. Centcom.

Cadets from Civil Air Patrol's 089th MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron performed a modified version of the POW/MIA Table Ceremony under the eyes of over 850 Senior Officers, NCO's, local officials and many guests. It was modified to accommodate the elevated table they had for all to see. The cadets practiced many hours to be as sharp as possible as they fully understood who they were honoring. MSGT Nick Magers dedicated himself to the development of the cadet team. Lead cadet for the effort was C/CMSGT Miika Kritzer.



Photo L to R: C/CMSGT Miika Kritzer, C/A1C Camila Cerrada, C/A1C Olivia Magers, C/A1C Chasity Oubre, Brig. Gen. Stephen Snelson, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bergeson, C/A1C Nicholas Hilton, C/A1C Chandra Miller, C/SSgt Owen Humphreys and C/CMSGT Henry Conary



Any cadet unit that displays strong program fundamentals can earn the Quality Cadet Unit Award. This award motivates squadrons to pursue goals that will inevitably lead to their having a vibrant Cadet Program. The award is purely objective. Cadet and composite squadrons who meet the challenging criteria automatically earn the award.

Florida Wing Command Staff and Cadet Programs are excited to announce and congratulate the following squadrons on earning the Quality Cadet Unit Award. Earning this award shows that a unit displays strong program fundamentals, and a commitment to excellence by both the cadets and senior members as it is a team accomplishment. There are several squadrons who are receiving this award for the first time, and a few who have a long history of excellence. Congratulations to all the squadrons keep up the good work.

NORTH PERRY COMPOSITE SQUADRON - 10
STUART COMPOSITE SQDN - 1
SRQ COMPOSITE SQDN - 7
ST PETERSBURG CADET SQDN - 1
TREASURE COAST COMPOSITE SQDN - 1
89TH MACDILL AVIATION CADET SQUADRON - 1
SEMINOLE COMPOSITE SQUADRON - 3
NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY CADET SQUADRON - 1
SAINT AUGUSTINE COMPOSITE SQUADRON - 3
BRANDON CADET SQUADRON - 1
HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE CADET SQ - 1
TAMIAMI COMPOSITE SQDN - 3
MARION COUNTY COMPOSITE SQDN - 1
BOCA RATON COMPOSITE SQUADRON - 1
JACKSONVILLE COMPOSITE SQDN - 2
PENSACOLA CADET SQDN - 6
WESLEY CHAPEL CADET SQUADRON - 10
ZEPHYR AIRPORT CADET SQUADRON - 1
463RD COMPOSITE SQUADRON - 2
CRYSTAL LAKE MS CADET SQDN- 1

South Florida Civil Air Patrol Participates in local SAFEE Air Expo

Civil Air Patrol members from Florida Wing Group 7 participated in the South Florida Aviator Fly-In and Educational Exposition (SAFEE).

By 2nd Lt. Beth Crane, CAP
Public Affairs Officer, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron

Miami, Fla. - Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members from Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol (FLWG) Group 7 participated in the South Florida Aviator Fly-In and Educational Exposition (SAFEE). The exposition, returning after a two-year pandemic hiatus, took place at the Signature Flight Support hanger in the Miami Opa Locka Executive Airport. The SAFEE Air Expo is a two-day event exposing thousands of youths and their families to the world of aviation and aviation careers.

The first day of the event, Friday, Sept 23, was billed as SAFEE K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Day. Members from Group 7 local squadrons manned the static display of a CAP Cessna 182 airplane and the CAP recruiting table. More than 2,000 students of the Miami-Dade and Broward school systems were bussed in for the event. Friday activities were supported by 13 seniors and 4 cadets from Group HQ, Miami Senior Squadron One, Opa Locka Cadet Squadron, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron, and Doral Cadet Squadron.

The second day, Saturday, Sept 24, was open to the public. Like the previous day, it featured an aviation career fair, \$25 discovery flights, flight simulators, Coast Guard helicopter hoist operation, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue demonstration, aircraft displays, food trucks and a kid's fun zone. Saturday activities were supported by 14 seniors and 20 cadets from Group HQ, Miami Senior Squadron One, Opa Locka Cadet Squadron, Homestead ARB Cadet Squadron, Doral Cadet Squadron, and Tamiami Composite Squadron.

CAP senior members and cadets served in various capacities at the event: recruiting table, aircraft guard duty, flight simulator mentoring, gate guards, guest safety, kid zone monitoring, clean-up, and additional ancillary tasks as requested by the SAFEE administration.

Senior Member Lt.Col. David Horowitz served as emcee on Saturday. Presenters from the Civil Air Patrol included



C/CMSgt. Andrew Crane (Homestead ARB Cadet Sq FL279) inspires school children toward a future as CAP cadets, 2022 SAFEE Air Expo.

Lt. Col. Bonnie Hinck, Group 7 Aerospace Education Officer, who explained the benefits of membership in CAP. Lt.Col. Ernest Manzano spoke on the human factors in training for aircraft maintenance and safety.

Cadet Airman Samantha Bacallao of the Opa-Locka Cadet Squadron was quoted as saying, "The SAFEE air expo is a fun event for CAP members to attend. It was a good experience learning about aviation opportunities, future career options, and practical aerospace education. I met cadets from other squadrons and earned community service hours, too."



C/Amn. Jonathan Salazar (Homestead ARB Cadet Sq FL279) assists with entry control at the 2022 SAFEE Air Expo entrance gate.



C/Amn. Javier Bacallao (Opa-Locka Cadet Sq FL464) monitors the Kid's Zone at the 2022 SAFEE Air Expo.



Lt. Col. M.J. Horowitz (Miami One Senior Sq.) and C/SMSGt Emilio Hernandez (Opa-Locka Cadet Sq.) talk with a man at the recruiting booth at the 2022 SAFEE Air Expo event.



Lt. Col. Mark Modrich (Miami One Senior Sq.) hosts a future pilot in the cockpit of a CAP Cessna 872 on display at the 2022 SAFEE Air Expo.



Maj. Kevin Simon (Group 7 HQ) helps facilitate flight exploration from the controls of digital flight simulators at the SAFEE 2022 Air Expo.



Florida Wing Cadet Advisory Council Update

by C/Lt. Col. Maximus Kousiry, CAP
FLWG CAC Vice-Chair/FLWG PA ELP

The Cadet Advisory Council is a national initiative that allows cadets from all levels of the program to make their voices heard as well as suggest new ideas, events, and changes to the Cadet Program. In September, the Florida Wing CAC, chaired by C/Major Autumn Rhodes, conducted a meeting with the Group Chairs/Representatives to discuss their area's activity, as well as conducting a vote on a recent proposal.

This proposal, named the eServices Axis Pamphlet Proposal, entailed creating a new distribution system for supplying new members with supporting documents to assist them in locating essential modules within the eServices. The pamphlet itself is a useful asset in itself. However, members of the Florida Wing CAC believed that this pamphlet should be more accessible for members who have not been acclimated to all the various websites and resources CAP has to offer. With unanimous approval, the proposal has been sent to the Florida Wing Command Staff for further comments along with their approval of the project.

The Cadet Advisory Council proposal process can seem arduous at times when the voting, approval, and sending it through the next CAC echelons are accounted for, but these ideas can have a positive impact on the entire cadet program on a national level.

That is the importance and purpose of the CAC. One idea from a local cadet submitting their idea to their CAC representative for their squadron can have a major impact in making the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program better for all involved.

To see the eServices Pamphlet visit:

https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CI_Tutorial_F4991B0DB59BB.pdf



Wreaths Across America Radio

Each month, Florida Wing has a featured interview on Wreaths Across America Radio.

If your squadron participates in WAA and you are interested in having your squadron featured, we have interview openings October through January – and some months, we are able to get additional interviews! Please e-mail Maj. Castleman at Sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov to request an interview slot.

September's "Meet the Civil Air Patrol" on the Wreaths Across America Radio Morning Show featured Lt. Col. John Morrison of the Jacksonville Composite Squadron. Morrison shares his Civil Air Patrol career and talks about his squadron's involvement with Wreaths Across America.

https://soundcloud.com/wreathscrossamericaradio/john-morrison-of-the-jacksonville-composite-squadron?si=dd3d8d10e7024163814f73573320d79d&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

TOP Flight with Jacksonville Composite Squadron

By Lt. Col. Judy Hewett, CAP

Jacksonville Composite Squadron

Jacksonville, Fla. - Friday, September 9th proved to be the perfect day for a Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flight for two Aerospace Education Members (AEM) from the J. Allen Axson Montessori School in Jacksonville. Mrs. Cecilia Vanhoy, school Principal, and Mrs. Sandra Pond, Science Teacher, took flight with Maj. Richard Bush as pilot. Lt. Col. Judith Hewett was able to coordinate the event to be most advantageous for the AEMs. Capt. Michael Davison, Deputy Commander for Cadets arranged for three cadets to go the school and be with the students when Mrs. Pond flew overhead. The school called a "Red Alert" to allow all the students to leave their classroom and be outside and watch part of the flight.



Photo: All smiles on flight day! Maj. Richard Bush, Mrs. Cecilia Vanhoy, Mrs. Sandra Pond, Lt. Col. Judith Hewett (photo credit: Mrs. Vanhoy)

Groups 6 and 7 Host VOLU Level III Course

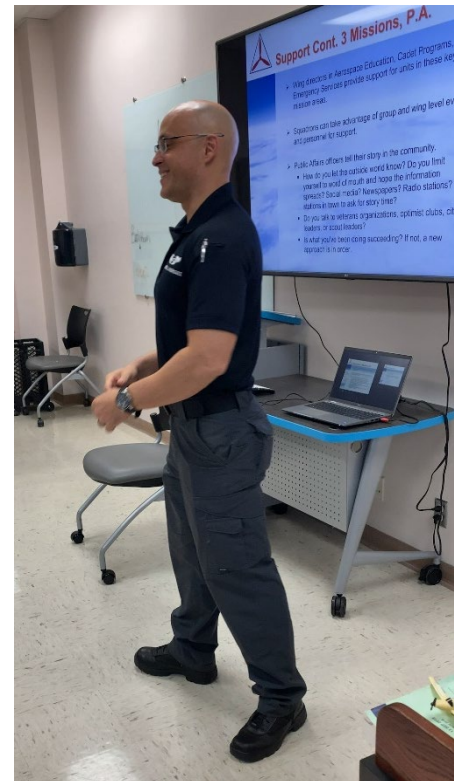
By Lt. Col. Trevor Stewart, CAP
Public Affairs Officer, FLWG Group 7

Miami Gardens, Fla. - In three days over two weekends, Groups 6 and 7 delivered the 27 modules of the VOLU Level III course to 14 senior members at the facilities of the Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Supporting course director, Lt. Col. Trevor H Stewart with instructors Col. Joseph J Martin, Lt. Col. Joseph M. Martin, Lt. Col. Manuel Pelati, Lt. Col. Ernest Manzano, Maj. Marcos Rodriguez, Capt. Pedro Jimenez, and Capt. Christian Dominguez took the time to share their knowledge and wide-ranging experiences with the students.

Participants were drawn from Miami Senior One, Opa-Locka Cadet, Doral Cadet, Homestead ARB, Tamiami Composite, and Boca

Composite squadrons. At the end of the course, Lt. Robert Bindler of the Boca Raton Composite Squadron remarked, "It was a long drive to get here, but the sacrifice was well worth it for the value we received."



Successful ELT Mission in Florida Wing Group 2

By 1st Lt. Nicole Graves



1st Lt. Shekari operating ELT equipment at mission.

New Smyrna Beach, Fla. – Civil Air Patrol (CAP) embarked on a mission to help locate an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Saturday, September 17, 2022. Incident Commander, Captain Nick Marcantonio, stated information from the Airforce Rescue Coordination Center indicated that an ELT was near the New Smyrna Beach airport. Marcantonio utilized a new “Alert List” to inform qualified individuals that assistance was needed.

Major Robert McFadden responded quickly and mustered an Urban Direction-Finding Team at Epic Flight Academy, with individuals from multiple squadrons participating. The team immediately picked up on the signal and after performing an airfield search discovered the alerting ELT in Piper aircraft. The team deactivated the ELT with permission from airport personnel. After deactivation no further alerting signals were heard.



Members of the team included (L to R): Maj Robert McFadden, 1st Lt. Arrash “Mike” Shekari, Capt. Nicole Graves, Cadet 2nd Lt. Addison English, Cadet 2nd Lt. Edward English, Lt. Col. Arthur Giles, Capt. Maria Giles, and Capt. David King.

Cadet Milestone Awards September 2022

Wright Brothers Award

Joshua Dominguez, Naples Composite Sq.
Oceane Rico, Naples Composite Sq.
Daniel Lankin, Stuart Composite Sq.
Drake McGee, Stuart Composite Sq.
Emmanuel Aybar, Polk County Composite Sq.
Logan McPeek, Pines-Miramar Composite Sq.
Samuel Rojas, Pines-Miramar Composite Sq.
Patrick McBrien, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Sq.
Tyler Holmes, Marion County Composite Sq.
Makary Jackson, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
Ethan Negron, Jacksonville Composite Sq.
Gunner Williams, Clearwater Composite Sq.
Brooklyn DeAngelo, Wesley Chapel Cadet Sq.
Demetrios Garderis, Wesley Chapel Cadet Sq.
Abigail Fields, Key West Cadet Sq.

Mitchell Award

Elena Fuentes, Stuart Composite Sq.
Christian Fuentes, Stuart Composite Sq.
James Dewey, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Sq.

Amelia Earhart Award

Elias Paver, Venice Cadet Sq.
Ian Purrone, Lakeland Composite Sq.



Application Period for CadetInvest Now Open

It's time for Civil Air Patrol cadets to apply for academic scholarships, Cadet Wings, flight scholarships, Lift/Take-Off, for National Cadet Special Activities (NCSA financial aid), and a U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School recommendation.

Applications are due by noon Central Time Dec. 31.

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/cadetinvest>



Safety Program Striving For Course Compliance

Civil Air Patrol safety officers are being asked to take the CAPSIS Safety Reporting and Reviewing Courses, which will usually take less than 45 minutes.

Just log into AXIS and search for "Safety Reporting" and "Safety Reviewing." These courses will ensure you're up to date on requirements and best practices.

"Thank you for your help in meeting this milestone for our program while we continue to serve the community," said Alecia Singh, CAP's Safety Program administrator.



Senior Member Education and Training Awards September

Level I

Richard Wallen, Stuart Composite Sq.
Chester Gray, Gainesville Composite Sq.
Judith Chu, North Palm Beach Composite Sq.
Javier Rosa-Blas, Brandon Cadet Sq.
Alexandre Beaumont, Hillsborough One Senior
Carlos Cortesi, Doral Cadet Sq.
Arturo Quintero, Doral Cadet Sq.
Michael D. Moore, Ft. Lauderdale Composite S
Donald Pagel, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Sq.
James A. Stewart, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
James Villeda, Marco Island Senior Sq.
Byron Beplay, Eglin Composite Sq.
Darin Wilson, Eglin Composite Sq.
David Arthmann, Tallahassee Composite Sq.

Level II

Paul Anderson, Ti-Co Composite Sq.
Seth Tucker, Hernando County Composite Sq.
Jeffrey Williams, Hillsborough One Senior Sq.

Level IV

David Lanham, St. Augustine Composite Sq.



Sunshine State Drone Expo

The 2022 Sunshine State Drone Expo is hosted by the Civil Air Patrol Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron (SER-FL-829) in partnership with the Azalea Middle School Drone Academy.

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2022
starting at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Azalea Middle School Football Field - 7855 22nd Ave. N. St. Petersburg Florida.

Admission: Free

[INFO Sunshine State Drone Expo](#)



Lessons Florida Officer Learned in Antarctic Cold Impress Cadets in Subtropical Tampa



For the young members of the Florida Wing's 89th MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron, Lt. Col. David Panzera brings a valuable added dimension to Civil Air Patrol activities; For the young members – including one vivid lesson from his days flying in Antarctica, a far cry in more ways than one from the squadron's Tampa location.

A CAP command pilot and former U.S. Air Force pilot with over 6,000 hours in Air Force aircraft, Panzera is the squadron's deputy commander. The married father with five children and another three in guardianship flies as a Boston-based first officer for JetBlue Airways. He's qualified as an Airbus 320 and Airbus 321 pilot with over 1,560 hours of experience in these aircraft.

But Panzera considers himself lucky to be a pilot at all. He nearly didn't make it.

"I was a weak student coming out of high school. I often jest that I came out of high school dumb as a box of hair," he recalled. "My graduating year in ROTC only got seven pilot slots, whereas the year before had over 40.

"I was denied. I was denied a second time and started looking at Air Guard units. I applied to five of them and did many interviews, getting nowhere closer.

"Then, on the third interview with the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York, I won the day. I will never forget that feeling. It's the feeling I want every cadet to experience for themselves," Panzera said.

He draws on that background in emphasizing the importance of perseverance and determination for the MacDill squadron's cadets.

Panzer, who has a master's from Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, excelled in the military, serving more than a dozen years as an instructor pilot, followed by three years as bilateral affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in South Africa.

Later, he was chief pilot at the 139th Airlift Squadron at the Air National Guard Base in Stratton, New York, and finished as chief of the 109th Airlift Wing Integration Office there.



"During every encampment and several times at the squadron level I often talk about missions I flew as a LC-130H pilot in Antarctica," Panzer said, "And when discussing servant leadership, I go into a few examples in history of figures most everyone knows. I then talk about how at least once a week down in Antarctica when we got back to McMurdo Station at the end of the week, I would leave all my things at the pilot seat as others were packing up and getting ready to head to town from the skiway."

He then got to the point.

"I would go into the back of the aircraft and unstrap a small stainless-steel case from the front wall of the cargo compartment. I would ask the cadets what they thought it was. They were always amazed when I would tell them that it was everyone's contribution from the bathroom.

"Why is the major or lieutenant colonel doing this?' Of course, being youthful cadets, the thought of the whole thing is 'yuck' or worse. However, a discussion of what is happening is revealing to all in the room.

"I declare that 'the aircraft cannot fly if the bathroom is not clean.' I ask them to then consider those at their schools who do this for them and what they should now think of those humble and hardworking people, or their mom or dad who cleans their house."

Such lessons have left a deep impact on young members like Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Mikka Kritzer, the MacDill squadron's cadet first sergeant, who cites "immeasurable influence on my life."

After joining Civil Air Patrol in January 2020, Kritzer said, "every time I went to a squadron meeting, I returned feeling inspired and ready to change my life for the better, due to Lt. Col. Panzer's active teaching and leading style. He knows how to grab the attention of people and use it for their own good."

"He introduced me to the idea that becoming a leader was a possibility in my future ... I saw Lt. Col. Panzer as a true leader who could inspire people to do what was difficult – because they wanted to do it."





“Time and time again he has shown a dedication to young cadets, trying to connect to them and raise them up. I can say now, as a cadet first sergeant and cadet battalion commander in Navy Junior ROTC, he is the reason I am who I am today.

“He is who I want to be when I grow up,” the cadet said.

Along with lessons he shares from his military career, Panzera also influences cadets by using what he calls “Challenge and Response.”

“I do this all the time, but especially at encampment. I yell out. ‘Cadets, where are you going?’ The response is ‘All the way, sir!’

“I then yell, ‘What are you going to do when you get there?’ Their reply is ‘WIN THE DAY, SIR!’

“And just before I introduce the keynote speaker at their graduation, I tell the cadets that the speaker is hard of hearing. ‘Cadets, where are you going?’

“And they properly respond. The speaker is always revved up by this and some have even done the challenge and response before they finish.”

When Panzera retired from the Air Force in 2018, he was given a so-called fini flight, a military aviation tradition marking a pilot’s retirement. After completion of the flight, tradition calls for the pilot to be sprayed down or doused with water and a bottle of champagne upon leaving the aircraft.

Panzera’s fini flight made Air Force history.

“I had my fini flight in the LC-130 and elected to have it a month early so I could have my final flight be one of the flights at the 2017 New York Wing Encampment,” said Panzera, who was then a member of that wing’s Schenectady Composite Squadron. “

Because of the rules, I was allowed to have two special people on board. One was a character development instructor, my father (Capt. Joe Panzera), working at encampment, and the other a cadet at the flight academy for that year, my son Philip.”

And other than flying in a ski-equipped variant of the C-130 Hercules used in the Arctic and Antarctic, what made this Fini flight one for the history books?

“I am the only man in Department of Defense history to conduct his official fini flight in uniform in a military aircraft with his father and his son on board,” Panzera said. “It was one heck of an honor and event.”

Lt. Col. Steven Solomon

National Public Affairs Officer

This article on Lt. Col. David Panzera, the former U.S. Air Force pilot who serves as deputy commander of the Florida Wing’s 89th MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron, is fourth in a regular series of articles showcasing how CAP and its members make an impact throughout the nation.

Article is from CAP.news

Ti-Co Composite Squadron Attends Historic Artemis Launch Attempt

by 2nd Lt. John Henderson, CAP

Public Affairs Officer, Ti-Co Composite Squadron

Several members from the Ti-Co Composite Squadron were given a surprise opportunity to witness close-up the launch of NASA's new moon rocket Artemis 1 from a causeway on the Space Force Station where they would have a direct line of sight of the rocket. Ti-Co member Lt. Col. Al Therriault was able to obtain a VIP vehicle pass through his volunteer position at the Air Force Space and Missile Museum on the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.



Artemis 1 is the first launch vehicle of the Space Launch System, designed to return Americans to the moon. A vehicle capable of reaching the moon has not launched from Kennedy Space Center (KSC) since 1973, so the launch of Artemis is truly a historic occasion. At 322 feet high, Artemis is not quite as tall as its Saturn V predecessor, but features about 17 percent more thrust at takeoff.

On August 29th, the original launch day for Artemis 1, three Ti-Co senior members and eight cadets joined Col. Therriault for the launch to the viewing location which was only 7.6 miles south of Launch Complex 39B at Kennedy Space Center. Launch control dealt with some minor issues, but everyone was still hopeful for a "go." Disappointingly, launch control started to discuss a problem with the fuel flow on core engine no. 3, rain clouds moved on shore, and a lightning warning was issued for KSC. The launch was



scrubbed for the day with a possible rescheduled launch for the following Saturday. Although the launch was postponed, the museum tours for the rest of the day continued as planned.



The first stop was Hangar C next to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Hangar C is the museum annex that houses many examples of the early rockets launched from Cape Canaveral. They were met by Cadet 2nd Lt. Addison English of the Seminole Composite Squadron, who is also a docent for the museum. English gave a tour of collection before joining the group to head out to other sites.

Civil Air Patrol members visited LC 34, site of the Apollo 1 fire. The launch stand still marks the location, and memorial to the three astronauts whose lives were lost is located on the edge of the concrete pad. The group visited LC 19, from which all Gemini flights were launched. They took a group picture at the Mercury 7 memorial outside of LC 14, from which John Glenn was launched to become the first American to orbit the Earth, and had a picnic outside LC 26, from which the first US successful satellite, Explorer 1, was launched.



Lunch was followed by touring the blockhouse museum, which exhibits the equipment used to conduct a launch in the earliest years of space exploration. The day was completed by visiting LC-5/6, the pad from which Alan Shepard was launched, making him the first American in space.

Despite the fulfilling day, the squadron was determined to see the Artemis launch, and returned on Saturday, Sept. 3 for the next launch attempt scheduled for 2 p.m. The launch was scrubbed this time because controllers could not eliminate a hydrogen leak in an umbilical hose connector to the pad. The squadron had a few different cadets in attendance this day, so they spent the day visiting the museum and historical launch sites again. The next launch attempt will be in October.



North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron Receives Donation from Guv'na

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Lutz, Fla. - Each year, local citizens run for the honorary title of "Guv'na of Lutz." The election is decided by dollars, as in donations each of the candidates raise to support local community charities, clubs, and organizations. The candidate who collects the most "votes" is elected Guv'na for a year. This year, the candidates raised over \$25,000 which they distributed during the newly elected Guv'na Atlas Cortecero's first official assembly held at the Old Lutz School House on September 13th. Among the donation recipients was the North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron in recognition for their involvement in the community and at community events.



North Tampa-Lutz Squadron Commander Capt. Marc Deslauriers talks about CAP Cadet Programs as Guv'na Cortecero listens before presenting donation. Photo by Capt. Barbara Rich



Florida Wing Public Affairs Holds Virtual Workshop in September

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, CAP

Florida Wing Public Affairs offered a virtual workshop open to any CAP cadet or senior member interested in learning more about working with external media in September.

The first session titled "What is a Story" was presented by Capt. Curtis "Wayne" Hooks, Group 1 Public Affairs Officer. In this session, Capt. Hooks reviewed various types of content which would interest an external audience and shared ideas about how to make an article more likely to be published.

The second session presented by Capt. James Chamberland, Group 3 Public Affairs Officer dealt more specifically with how to get a story published or aired once written. He also discussed the importance of building relationships with local reporters and how to work with them on an on-going basis.

The final session was presented by Maj. Sybrian Castleman, Director of Public Affairs for Florida Wing. This session covered how critical it is to make sure all official public facing websites and social media platforms are maintained and active. Another item covered is the importance of being sure that the unit's information in e-services for the "Unit Locator" on the national website always has the most current unit contact information, meeting location, web link, and other meeting information since this is usually the first stop for prospective members.

Over sixty CAP member from across the country attended the virtual workshop.

Stuart Composite Squadron Changes Command

By 1st Lt. Amber Garcia, CAP

Public Affairs Officer, Stuart Composite Squadron

STUART, Fla. – Stuart Composite Squadron welcomed their new squadron commander on September 6th at Indian River State College – Chastain Campus. The change of command ceremony is a traditional Air Force custom of formally transferring command from one officer to another. Maj. Stephen Kirkpatrick, Group 6 Commander, presided over the ceremony in which 1st Lt. Mark Melton passed command of the squadron on to 2nd Lt. Ronnie Fuentes.



*Command Group: Major Stephen Kirkpatrick, 1st Lt Mark Melton, and 2nd Lt Ronnie Fuentes
Photos by: C/MSgt Sophia Chamran*

Lt. Mark Melton will continue as the Financial Officer of the squadron. Following the ceremony he said, " 'A man's reach should exceed his grasp.' --Robert Browning. This ideal is exemplified by our cadet corps!" He looks forward to working with the new commander and helping the squadron grow.

Lt. Ronnie Fuentes transferred to Stuart Composite Squadron from the Treasure Coast Composite Squadron last year. He hit the ground running serving as the unit Information Technologies Officer and Cyber Education Officer. Lt. Fuentes has also been the squadron's CyberPatriot coach, with this year being his second year. He said, "It is a privilege and source of pride to work with the cadet and senior members of Stuart Composite Squadron. This team is teaching me the meaning of dedication and excellence." In addition to the change of command ceremony, the squadron recognized member achievements and conducted promotion ceremonies.

Five cadets received the Major General John F. Curry Achievement and were promoted to the grade of

Cadet Airman. This is the first step in advancing through Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program. The cadets promoted are: Kyle Morin, Miles Keech, Liam Keech, Juan Pablo Inclan, and Alex Collins. The Curry Achievement is the first step of the cadet program.

Cadets Anthony Geiser and Malachi Milu received the Wright Brothers Award and were promoted to the grade of Cadet Staff Sergeant. The Wright Brothers Award is the first major milestone of the cadet program which starts the NCO grades and increases the cadets' leadership responsibilities.

The following cadets were also acknowledged for their promotions: Avraham Orsini was promoted to Cadet Master Sergeant and Edvin Ramos was promoted to Cadet Technical Sergeant. Josiah Bone, Drake McGee, and Daniel Lankin advanced to Cadet Senior Airman. Promoted to Cadet Airman First Class are Christian Cassidy, Hannah Mariani and Dalashia Velazquez.

Adult members of Civil Air Patrol also complete training levels to promote in the Senior Member Education and Training Program. Senior members Sandra Lukey and Vicky Franklin were recognized for completing Level I of the Senior Member Education and Training Program. 1st Lt. Amber Garcia was presented with the Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Award for completing Level II.

Senior Member Franklin was also presented with the Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award.



Photo left - Lt. Ronnie Fuentes presented an appreciation plaque to Martin County Fire Rescue District Chief Thomas Hornbostel for their continued support of the Stuart Composite Squadron. Martin County Fire Rescue has provided the Stuart Composite Squadron with a meeting space at their Administration Building.

Photo right - An appreciation plaque was also presented to Dr. Alessandro "Alex" Anzalone, Indian River State College- Chastain Campus President, for their continued support of the Stuart Composite Squadron. The Chastain Campus allows the Stuart Composite Squadron cyber and color guard teams to practice at their location on a regular basis.



Ti-Co Composite Squadron Receives MOAA Donation

by 2nd Lt. John Henderson, CAP

Public Affairs Officer, Ti-Co Composite Squadron

Titusville, Fla. - The Ti-Co Composite Squadron recently received a \$1000 donation from the Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter MOAACC) through their Good Deeds Foundation (GDF).



MOAACC representatives, retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Whalen, MOAACC 1st vice president; retired U.S. Coast Guard Reserves Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dan McIntyre, MOAACC student liaison: and former U.S. Army Capt. Donn Weaver, GDF president attended the weekly squadron meeting to present Ti-Co's squadron commander 1st Lt. Rhonda McMillen and cadet commander Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Carter Hall with the donation check.

Ti-Co Squadron has enjoyed growth recently in both numbers of cadets and senior members, and their current meeting space is becoming tight. Squadron Commander 1st Lt. Rhonda McMillen said, "What a surprise it to receive such a generous gift from MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation. Ti-Co is in the process of trying to purchase a large shed to expand our squadron space and this money helps tremendously."

Weaver said of the GDF and its support of CAP cadet programs, "Thanks to generous donors this year, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation was able to provide more than \$30,000 collectively to every JROTC and other cadet program in Brevard County. For the GDF, supporting Titusville CAP goes back many years including funds to help repair the current unit facility. Providing \$1000 to the Unit is a part of the GDF commitment to support youth programs focused on military values and connections." Last month, the GDF also presented a donation to the CAP Patrick Composite Squadron.

SAVE THE DATES

November 1: FLWG Monthly Safety Brief

Virtual on Teams. Open to all FLWG members. Squadrons are welcome to login to use for their unit's Safety Brief requirement (must log member safety brief credit as usual.)

[FLWG Monthly Safety Brief](#)

October 21-23: Ultimate Cadet Challenge,

Camp Flaming Arrow, Lake Wales.

Team registration closes October 7th

(This is an extended deadline due to IAN)

[UCC Registration](#)

November 18-20: Florida Leadership Academy

(FLA), Florida Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla, FL.

Registration opens soon.

December 3: Sunshine State Drone Expo,
Azalea Middle School, St. Petersburg, Florida.
Free admission.

[Sunshine State Drone Expo Info](#)

December 17: Wreaths Across America Day,

various locations.
Check the WAA article in this issue for links to sign up for wreath sponsorship fundraising for your unit.

December 26 – Jan 2: Winter FLESA,

Avon Park. Staff applications and student registration opening soon.

December 26- Jan 3: Tyndall AFB

Staff applications and student registration opening soon.



FLORIDA WING HURCON PLAN

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

Important Links:

[FLWG HURCON PLAN](#)

[FLWG HURCON STATUS](#)

[Unit SITREP](#)

Hurricane Ian Relief Information:

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/recovery/public-assistance-program/>

<https://www.usa.gov/hurricane-ian>

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/hurricane-ian>