

Winter 2015-2016

# Peaks and Planes

Official Magazine of the Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol



## CAP SAREX TRAINING ATTRACTS MAJOR MEDIA COVERAGE

### In This Issue:

- ▶ More Congressional Gold Medals Presented
- ▶ COWG & CONG Honor Maj. Gen. John L. France
- ▶ Air Force Chief of Staff Visits Air Academy Squadron
- ▶ Steamboat Aircrew Earns Save of Lost Hiker
- ▶ Parker Cadets Win Scholarships
- ▶ CAP/NORAD Mission Timed With Big AOPA Fly-In
- ▶ Colorado Springs Squadron Helps NORAD Track Santa

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Article submissions are always welcome. Please send them in Microsoft Word format to 1st Lt. Lyn Parker, Editor, *Peaks and Planes* at [lynparker.cap@gmail.com](mailto:lynparker.cap@gmail.com). Attach photos (in jpeg format) to your email and make certain to include full caption information for each photo at the end of your article.

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On the Cover: *CAP Cessna 182 Tail & U.S. Flag at Rocky Mountain Airshow at RMMA.*

Inset: *boldmethod.com* founders, Aleks Udriš (left) and Colin Cutler (right) with CAP GA-8 aircrew Lt. Col. Chad Grondahl (Mission Pilot) and Capt. Jennifer Kauffman (Mission Observer) prior to launch of one of four SAREX Media Flights at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs 26JUN15.

# Commander's Comments

*Col. Celeste Gamache, CAP  
Commander, Colorado Wing*

Hello, Colorado Wing! I want to begin my first column to you by saying how honored and humbled I am to be your Wing Commander. At the time of this writing, I've been "in the seat" for about a month and a half, and it has already been quite a ride. I've enjoyed meeting some of you at the events CAP has participated in, such as the WADS mission/AOPA Fly-In, the pinning on of two cadets at the Mustang Cadet Squadron, the CLC in Denver, the funeral for Maj. Gen. France, and the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron Dining-Out, just to name a few.



Taking the reins of command at this time also has had its challenges. Many reports are due this time of year - inventory, AE reports, CAPF 171s, safety. I, as the Wing Commander, sometimes have to be the "heavy" to ensure these reports are completed on time. CAP does require a fair bit of reporting; however, we must remember that we are using other people's money to accomplish our mission. We owe this reporting to allow those above us responsible for the organization to report our responsible use of the money and assets we are provided and to report the great things we do as a Wing.

Those above us are watching how timely we complete our reports. Any of you who have been in large organizations or the military know that higher ups look at who waits until

*Continued on page 9 . . .*

## In Memoriam

*Dorothy (Wiseman) Riggenschach-Keith was a plane spotter in the Monte Vista area during her time with Civil Air Patrol. She was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in June 2015. She passed away in September 2015.*

# Valkyrie Cadet Squadron Escorts Interment for Major General John L. France at Ft. Logan National Cemetery

*By Maj. Gene Munson, CAP*

*Valkyrie Cadet Squadron*

*Photos by 2nd Lt. Michelle Chandler, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron*

On October 26, 2015, an interment with full military honors, similar to those held at Arlington National Cemetery, was conducted in honor of Major General John L. France at Ft. Logan National Cemetery. General France was the longest serving Adjutant General for the State of Colorado from 1979 to 1995. He served under three Colorado Governors as head of the Department of Military Affairs, which is directly in charge of the activities of the Air and Army National Guard units



Governor Hickenlooper and Maj. Gen. Michael Edwards leading the procession.



Valkyrie Cadet Squadron members joined by other Colorado Wing cadets and seniors.

within the State of Colorado.

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and the current Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, led the procession of military and civilian dignitaries, Army and Air National Guardsmen, and Civil Air Patrol escort platoon; all marched through the cemetery ahead of the flag-draped caisson and a riderless horse. The Colorado Wing Commander, Lt. Col. Celeste Gamache, was among the military dignitaries marching in the procession. A twenty-one rifle salute, National Guard canon firing salute, and a “missing man” formation F-16 fly-over were among the proceedings honoring General France. A solemn tribute was also held later at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum.

Members in attendance for the Valkyrie Cadet Squadron were: Senior Airman Mavrick



Caisson and Riderless horse in procession.



Colorado military dignitaries marching in procession included Col. Celeste Gamache, Colorado Wing Commander.



Missing man formation performed by Colorado Air National Guard F-16s.

Chandler, Cadet Staff Sgt. Jiun Chung, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kyle Hericks, Cadet Airman Kevin Manzanares, Cadet 2nd Lt. Filipa Martinovic, Cadet 2nd Lt. Michael Melton, Cadet 2nd Lt. Kyle Vesteka, and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Leighton Wright. Senior staff included: Capt. Jeffery Caldwell, 2nd Lt. Michelle Chandler, Capt. Deborah McAllister, Capt. Christopher Melton, Capt. David Pershing, Capt. Judy Pershing, and Maj. Thomas Scheffel (Commander). 🇺🇸

# Congressional Gold Medals Presented to WWII Members in Colorado Springs

Story and Photos by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP  
COWG Director of Public Affairs

Two World War II CAP members were presented with Congressional Gold Medals on December 9th at the Brookdale Skyline Senior Living Center in Colorado Springs. The ceremony was held to honor the World War II era contributions of Cdr. Edward Siergiej, USN (Ret.) and Col. William D. “Pappy” Madsen, CAP. The Assistant Adjutant General of Colorado and Commander of the Colorado Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Jerome Limoge, Jr., along with Colorado Wing Commander, Col. Celeste Gamache, presented the medals to Cdr. Siergiej while his wife, Mary, looked on and to



Col. Bill Madsen’s Wife Mary Presented Congressional Gold Medal by Brig. Gen. Limoge and COWG Col. Gamache.

Col. Madsen’s wife, Mary and daughter, Karen Madsen. In addition, representatives for U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Corey Gardner and U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn attended the ceremony on their behalf.

After the colors were presented by the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron’s Color Guard, Col. Gary Tobey, COWG Government Relations Officer who served as the emcee for the event, spoke about the history of the Congressional Gold Medal and the history and contributions of the Civil Air Patrol during WWII. He then read the biographies of the recipients. Before the medals were presented both Brig. Gen. Limoge and Col. Gamache also spoke about the important contributions of the CAP to our nation during WWII and through the years.

Cdr. Siergiej entered the Navy after serving as a CAP



CAP Congressional Gold Medal Obverse and Reverse. U.S. Mint photo.



Colorado Springs Squadron color guard members with Cdr. Siergiej from left to right: C/A1C Lexy Belmontes, Lt. Col. Mike McNeely, CSCS Commander, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Jared A. Kinard (Honor Guard Commander), Cadet Staff Sgt. Terren D. Clark, Cadet Airman Katherine N. Anspach.



Historic painting of Col. Madsen’s biplane with P-40 escort.

cadet and went on to serve as a Naval Aviator after WWII earning his Wings of Gold in 1948 at the age of 20. He retired as a Commander from the Navy's Electronic Warfare Branch of the Communications Directorate of the Joint Chiefs of staff and was awarded the JCS Commendation Medal in 1968. When Cdr. Siergiej spoke to the attendees at the ceremony he mentioned his great appreciation of his bride of 63 years, Mary, and his three children, all of whom were in the audience. He talked about his childhood in Pennsylvania and how his experience in the Civil Air Patrol helped him to develop values and discipline that prepared him for the Navy. He said he remembered being selected as a CAP cadet to drive a troop transport truck in a parade honoring Gen. Spaatz in Reading, PA. Cdr. Siergiej has over 6,000 hours as an aviator having flown a number of different military and civilian aircraft undergraduate and graduate degrees in Electrical Engineering, Communication Engineering, International Affairs and Business Administration from the University of Colorado, Naval Post Graduate School, Naval War College, Georgetown University and University of Dallas.

According to a history of Col. Bill Madsen prepared by Col. Gary Tobey, he an "aviator extraordinaire" and was one of the Civil Air Patrol's pioneers who started out under Maj. Gen. John F. Curry at Lowry Army Air Field. The organization of the Colorado Wing during those crucial times was accomplished by then Capt. Madsen. He was the Operations officer, Wing Adjutant and Director of Emergency



Cdr. Siergiej receiving his wings as a Midshipman.

### **Peaks and Planes**

Officer for the "Mountain Boys" flying from Peterson Field in Colorado Springs. He learned to fly the hard way earning money as a wing walker on biplanes to use for flying lessons. He earned



Cdr. Siergiej as a young Naval Aviator.

his pilot license as a teenager which was signed by Orville Wright. Due to a respiratory injury he was unable to fly for the U.S. Army Air Corps when the country entered World War II and he turned his time and talents to the early development of the Civil Air Patrol in Colorado. Bill Madsen organized the courier routes between the various Army Air Corps bases to deliver critical parts and messages through the perilous mountains of the west. He, like many other civilian flyers of the time contributed the use of his own aircraft for these perilous missions. It was while he was returning from one of these missions between Colorado Springs and Pueblo that he was intercepted by three P40 Warhawks, one of which slowed down enough to maintain formation on Bill's little red Waco biplane. The event was captured in one of the best known paintings of Civil Air Patrol history showing the Waco and the P40 with gear down and the other P40's against the Rocky Mountains to their west.

Both Cdr. Siergiej and Col. Madsen's daughter, Karen, spoke of how much the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal meant to them in honoring their CAP service. They thanked and complimented the cadets from the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron and commented on the importance of the Civil Air Patrol then and now. While speaking of his aviation experience, Cdr. Siergiej became emotional and shared how it was by chance when he stopped by the COWG CAP booth at the AOPA Fly-In in Colorado Springs in September that he learned he was eligible to receive the CGM. He stated his appreciation for the quick follow-up of COWG members to make it happen for him and two of his CAP PA Wing squadron colleagues. 🇺🇸

the last minute to get things done. Those that go above and beyond reap the rewards of their actions. I want to see Colorado Wing be the beneficiaries of some of these rewards by being timely in our reporting. Make sure you know when reports are due and begin early enough to complete them in a timely fashion.

In any organization you belong to, there will be paperwork. I know it is not the most glamorous thing to do, but it is required. My philosophy is to knock out this paperwork so we can get to the activities in CAP we enjoy. If you wait to do this paperwork, you will have this cloud hanging over you and me bugging you to get it done. Once the Wing completes the task, the clouds clear and the e-mails and phone calls stop (at least until the next item is due).

Colorado Wing has the people and the missions to be one of the top Wings in the country. I'd like to see us on top; however, we all must want it and work to make it happen. To this end, we must work smarter. Let's all be open to new ideas and ways of doing things and not get set in our ways "because it's always been done that way." Cadets often have great ideas and see new ways to do things. Encourage them to speak up. We need their fresh eyes and ways of thinking about CAP to keep it invigorated.

Great ideas won't matter, though, if they're not communicated. As a Wing, we need to be talking to each other. We need to forward ideas up. We also need to ensure command is informed of what's going on. If you mail or email something to a person in your chain of command to which you expect a response and you don't get one, call or text them. Better to bug them and find out they got it than find out too late they never received your mail or email.

There's a saying that it's better to ask for forgiveness than ask permission. While this saying always gets a chuckle, I'd think twice about using it in regards to CAP. As I said earlier, we owe a fiduciary duty to CAP for the money, aircraft, vehicles, communications gear, and other items we are given as a Wing via taxpayer money. We need to be a watchdog for each other to ensure we are using these items properly and that we are conducting our affairs appropriately and safely. Please communicate with command and ensure you are following the regulations.

CAP is a great organization and I'm proud of my 35 years as a member. I hope we can all work together during my tenure as your Wing Commander and make it a great experience for everyone. Be safe and Semper Vigilans! 🇺🇸

**Peaks and Planes**

## COWG Members Participate at HART Ceremony in Canada

By Maj. Nathan Van Dam, CAP  
Broomfield Composite Squadron,  
Commander



CAP COWG Broomfield Squadron HART participation.

Members of the Broomfield Composite Squadron and Air Academy Cadet Squadron represented the Colorado Wing and Rocky Mountain Region at the Honoring Allies and Remembering Together (HART) joint ceremony in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada the weekend of November 13-15. The ceremony honored all American and Canadian veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

CAP cadets had the opportunity to meet veterans and Royal Canadian Army, Sea and Air Cadets. The COWG cadets and senior members that participated returned to their squadrons with a great deal of stories to tell and inspired their squadrons' members to consider attending the ceremony in years to come. 🇺🇸

# Civil Air Patrol Veterans Receive Congressional Gold Medals in Alamosa, Colorado

*By 1st Lt. Ruth Lewis, CAP  
Heart of the Rockies, PAO*



C/Amn Charlie Davis presented the award to Harriet Wright.



C/2d Lt Mary Hood, Cadet Commander, presented the award to Margaret Howey.

Saturday June 6, 2015 three San Luis Valley women were awarded Congressional Gold Medals for their Civil Air Patrol service during World War II. Congress authorized the medal to recognize significant achievements and contributions. The three women were Margaret (Dorney) Howey, Dorothy (Wiseman) Riggenschach-Keith and Harriet (Pepper) Wright.

Former Colorado Senator Lewis Entz and Col. Gary Tobey described for the audience the nationwide service of Civil Air Patrol during WWII and the special honor represented by the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the CAP and to those individual CAP members who served during that crucial time in the country's history.

*Continued on page 15 . . .*



Former Colorado Senator Lewis Entz and CAP Col. Gary Tobey.



C/A1C Sean Villeneuve presented the award to Dorothy Riggenschach-Keith.



# The Ultimate Reason for Training



*By Capt. Cynthia Smith, CAP  
DCS Professional Development, Rocky Mountain Region*

One thing I like about Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is the personal challenge that I find in everything I do. I was recently appointed to Region Staff as a Professional Development Officer. My largest assignment and biggest opportunity is to hold a viable annual Region Staff College. As part of that process, I have been researching and reading about Leadership. Of course, the more you read, the more experts you find and the more paths you go down in search of what works.

I found there are many styles of leadership. Some styles work better depending on the situation. So how do leaders decide what type of leadership to use and when? With CAP being a quasi-military organization with a chain of command, most leaders automatically think of the Top-Down, Directive approach that fits best with a Leader-Follower system. CAP has tried to uphold military structure, but in a true military organization, the highest ranking person would be put in charge and there would be no Commanders with 1st Lt on their epaulets. The military could not imagine a higher ranking member who is not willing to step up and lead, yet our members turn down the job for all sorts of reasons.

So we know that CAP is a different kind of organization from the military and that's primarily because we are all volunteers. Many leaders in CAP still try to implement the Leader-Follower system, but what that does is demotivate volunteers. Volunteers with initiative often get told that what they want to do is not their job. And those volunteers who do stay in line waiting for someone to tell them what to do often get criticized for not having any initiative. No wonder no one wants to step forward for leadership positions with mixed messages like that!

During my research, I finally found a book that hit on a possible solution. L. David Marquet, Capt, U.S. Navy (Retired) wrote *Turn the Ship Around! A True Story of Turning Followers into Leaders*. As Commander of the nuclear submarine Santa Fe, he implemented a Leader-Leader system where members down the chain of command were given more authority over and responsibility for their work. Middle level supervisors were made responsible for seeing the work got done and for approving the decisions that needed to be made to get that work done. Sounds totally reasonable except he was talking about doing this in the Navy where there is a long

and proud history of the Captain being in command of his (or her) ship—the lone leader at the top!

I can hear Commanders, including my boss, the Region Commander, all over CAP thinking “Oh great...that's all I need is more people thinking they can do what they want without running it by me!” But that's not what happens in the book. Marquet learned a lot of good lessons and leadership techniques during the process of turning his followers into leaders and in that process his submarine became the best in the fleet. How did he do it and maintain control? You need to read the book—primarily because good leaders keep reading and learning and secondly because there are too many techniques for this short article.

But several results came out of turning followers into leaders. The most immediate was an improvement in morale. The members of his crew felt more listened to and a greater part of the team. Pride in being responsible for their work improved the product or service each member of the crew provided. Once the tradition of ‘doing things only after being told to do them’ was removed, crew members started thinking more about their jobs

and how they were doing them. Marquet's command team and junior officers, who were now responsible for their departments, found that they had to think more like the Commander in order to provide the information flow he needed to be comfortable that things were indeed getting done. This became the best leadership training program for their career progression into becoming Captains of their own ships someday...an automatic training program to prepare senior members for command...imagine that.

The communication process changed from the formal process of the Commander giving an order and that order being relayed down the chain, to a more informal process of talking about what needed to be done and letting higher ups know so that everyone up the chain to the Commander could be informed. The final decision for action was still in the hands of the Commander, but when the information reached him all he needed to do was say "Very Well" or for Star Trek fans "Make it So". The result of this process meant that everyone had a part in every action and all the steps to turn the ship around were done as a result of everyone being involved.

One revelation that came out of this process was that every member of the crew had to be competent. No more being told how to do something and no more being watched and corrected to make sure you did it right. The responsibility given to every crew member required them to know and do their jobs correctly

### **Peaks and Planes**

at all times. The importance of training becomes obvious. Crew members had to know their jobs, the regulations and an overview of the ship's mission.

Of course, when we put a new CAP member into a duty position, unless they are piloting an aircraft or driving a vehicle, there isn't the life and death scenario of being on a nuclear submarine to prompt them to learn their job. But the expectation of training--so that we all can be productive, contributing, effective members of the team--and the feeling that every contribution of time and effort helps CAP be the best organization it can be needs to be shared with every member, new and old.

The concept of continual learning, which is forced in the CAP Professional Development program in order to obtain rank, needs to become a culture of learning that is supported by Professional Development Officers and encouraged by Commanders because it is the best way to operate. The motivation to hold training classes should be to better prepare our members rather than whether or not the regulation requires a course to be done. I have found that if you provide courses with a viable curriculum that promotes interaction and discussion, the members will come. Some of our members may need more coaxing than others... that is the challenge and opportunity being put forth to our leaders to promote the importance of training and learning in Civil Air Patrol. 🇺🇸

Margaret "Marge" Howey graduated with UCLA Master's degree (1939) and went to the U.S. Weather Bureau in Washington D.C. where she worked about two years. She had acquired her pilot's license with the help of the Civilian Pilot Training and she immediately joined the CAP. It was during her stay in Washington that Marge got to know Bill Madsen and met Jackie Cochran, who influenced Marge to join the war effort at a base in Sweetwater, TX where pilots were being trained for the war. Marge trained the pilots in meteorology. After the war ended she returned to her family in Monte Vista, CO. At that time, she met Bill Dorney who was in charge of the local CAP unit in Monte Vista. Marge often went to the Leach Airport near Center, CO, when Ken Leach was organizing a search effort. Margaret participated in exciting searches over Mt. Blanca and the "Spanish Peaks" south of La Veta, CO. She conducted searches using a Cessna 172 Skyhawk that she owned with Bob McCullough and Mary Bloxson.

Dorothy (Wiseman) Riggenbach-Keith and Harriet (Pepper) Wright also served in the Monte Vista area. They were plane spotters. They recalled climbing a tower about 150 feet tall and, using binoculars, spotted planes so they could report the tail numbers and details of the flights. Sadly, Mrs. Riggenbach-Keith passed away on September 5, 2015. 🇺🇸

# Air Force Chief of Staff Promotes Air Academy Squadron Cadet

*Story and Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP  
COWG Director of Public Affairs*

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, who is the senior uniformed Air Force officer responsible for the organization, training and equipping of 664,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the U.S. and overseas, promoted Air Academy Cadet Squadron cadet, Zach Paluch, to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant at the squadron's meeting at the U.S. Air Force Academy on November 2nd.

The General and Mrs. Welsh were in Colorado Springs and at the Air Force Academy that week for meetings and to attend the Air Force vs. Army football game and when they learned that their longtime, close family friend, Glenn Paluch's son, Zach, was a member of the Civil Air Patrol's Air Academy Squadron and about to be promoted, they were happy to do the honors.

According to Glenn Paluch, his father, Brig. Gen. Walter P. Paluch and Gen. Welsh's father, Col. Mark A. Welsh, Jr. met at Connally AFB in Waco, TX back in the early 50's. Their friendship defined the term "wingman" before it was a cool term. They remained best friends until Glenn's Uncle Mick passed away in 2011. Gen. Welsh and Glenn's brother, Walt, were also best friends until his brother lost his battle with cancer in 1970. With Walt's passing, Gen. Welsh stepped in to become Glenn's "big brother" and Gen. Welsh's parents are Glenn's God Parents.



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh and Mrs. Welsh promoting Civil Air Patrol cadet, Zach Paluch, to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant at the Air Academy Squadron on November 2nd, 2015.

C/SSgt Zach Paluch also had the honor of escorting General and Mrs. Welsh for a good portion of the week they were in Colorado Springs. Gen. Welsh had several conversations with Zach and learned of his experiences since joining the Air Academy Cadet Squadron. Quite an honor for a young Colorado Wing Civil Air Patrol cadet to be the "wingman" of the Air Force Chief of Staff even if for just a few days! 🇺🇸

# Colorado Springs AOPA Fly-In Includes CAP/NORAD WADS Mission

Story by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP  
COWG Mission PIO

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) held one of their national Fly-Ins at Colorado Springs Airport on Saturday, September 26th and the Civil Air Patrol was well represented by the Colorado Wing with a strong presence and an attractive booth with nearby display of a CAP Cessna 182 alongside an Air Force F-16 from the Colorado Air National Guard. Members from Pikes Peak Senior Squadron coordinated with COWG staff and other Colorado Springs area squadrons to ensure all of the AOPA's requests for assistance were met.

A morning breakfast started the day for all aviation enthusiasts in attendance and speakers were



Cdr. Edward Siergiej, USN (Ret) with COWG cadets at the CAP booth at the AOPA Fly-In after he learned that he was eligible for the CAP Congressional Gold Medal for his WWII era CAP service. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG WADS Mission PIO.



CONG F-16 and CAP Cessna 182 on Static Display showcasing Air Force Total Force. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG WADS Mission PIO.

scheduled to talk on various aviation related topics throughout the day. A wide variety of military and civilian aircraft were on display in addition to a multitude of exhibitors sharing the latest and greatest in services and products available to AOPA members. Katie Pribyl, Sr. VP of Communications for AOPA shared that she was very pleased with the attendance on a beautiful Colorado day and was very appreciative of the support provided by the Civil Air Patrol. Those cadet and senior members who volunteered to help with parking and crowd control, primarily from the Air Academy Cadet Squadron, were rewarded with AOPA hats and T-shirts.

The CAP booth included a great tri-fold photo display was created for the AOPA event by Pikes Peak Squadron's Lt. Jen Knellinger and that display is now available for use by all Group 3 squadrons for open houses and other events. Capt. Milt Moores from Pikes Peak ensured a CAP Cessna 182 was on static display right by the booth. COWG hats were available for sale and info about CAP including recruiting materials and Peaks and Planes magazines aplenty, figuratively and literally, flew off the table! Throughout the day attendees stopped by to learn more about the Civil Air Patrol and they were greeted by cadets and seniors to answer questions and ascertain their interest in joining our organization. One older gentleman who stopped by to visit the booth was a longtime AOPA member and retired naval aviator. He mentioned that he was a CAP cadet many years ago and

**Peaks and Planes**



NORAD F-16 WADS Mission pilots and Col. Al Wimmer, Director of Air, Space & Information Operations AFNORTH (2nd from right) with a CONG F-16 on static display at the AOPA Fly-In. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG WADS Mission PIO.



CAP Photo Display Board and Handouts at CAP Booth. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG WADS Mission PIO.

when queried as to when he was a cadet he shared it was during WWII. The CAP senior member he was speaking with then told him of his eligibility for a CAP Congressional Gold Medal and after follow-up with supporting

documentation, that gentleman, Cdr. Edward Siergiej, USN (Ret), was presented with his medal at a ceremony in Colorado Springs in December!

Two days prior to the AOPA Fly-In, NORAD performed Western

Air Defense Sector (WADS) missions with the Colorado Wing to help train NORAD pilots to intercept civilian aircraft that enter restricted air space. In order to help train Air Force fighter aircrews and maintain their proficiency, Civil Air Patrol regularly flies our Cessna aircraft into simulated “restricted air-space” to simulate a trespassing aircraft while Air Force fighter crews practice intercept techniques. The Air Force pilots fly alongside the CAP plane, make radio contact and guide it out of the restricted airspace. Col. Al Wimmer, Director of Air, Space and Information Operations for AFNORTH who was interviewed by KKTV CBS at the AOPA Fly-In and is a former CAP cadet and USAFA grad, stated he is extremely pleased with the performance of the Civil Air Patrol whenever called upon for WADS missions. Col. Wimmer was very complimentary of the Colorado



CONG F-16 Intercepts CAP Cessna 182 during WADS Mission. Photo by Lt. Col. Chad Grondahl, COWG WADS Mission Pilot.

Wing and our members and emphasized the importance of the Civil Air Patrol in the Air Force Total Force. The NORAD F-16 pilots who flew the WADS missions along with Col. Wimmer stood by the F-16 static display which was set up next to our CAP booth to answer questions

of attendees at the Fly-In. Being seen and appreciated by the public at the AOPA Fly-In and performing the WADS mission were very important for the Civil Air Patrol and the Air Force and the Colorado Wing did an excellent job planning and executing the mission. 🇺🇸



Col. Al Wimmer, Director of Air, Space & Information Operations AFNORTH sports a COWG baseball hat while standing next to a WADS mission CAP Cessna 182 on static display at the AOPA Fly-In. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG WADS Mission PIO.



Pikes Peak Squadron’s Capt. Milt Moore answered questions of attendees who got up close and personal with the CAP Cessna 182 on static display at the AOPA Fly-In. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG WADS Mission PIO.

# SAREX Training Attracts Major Media Attention and Coverage

*Story and Photos by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP  
COWG Mission PIO*

Though the Colorado Wing conducts regular SAREX training throughout the year, the Group 3 SAREX that was coordinated with the City of Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management on the weekend of June 27th attracted unprecedented media attention for a Civil Air Patrol SAREX. Reporters from all of the Colorado Springs television network affiliate stations including KOAA NBC, KKTV CBS, KRDO ABC and KXRM FOX as well as Boldmethod.com and KVOR Cumulus Media Radio accepted our invitation to fly along on sorties originating



Boldmethod.com founders, Aleks Udrys (left) and Colin Cutler (right) with GA-8 Flight Crew, Lt. Col. Chad Grondahl, Mission Pilot and Capt. Jennifer Kauffman, Mission Observer, prior to launch of first media flight.



KOAA NBC's Maddie Garrett (left) and KVOR's Steve Jordahl (right) flew on the third media flight of the day with the GA-8 aircrew of Capt. Jennifer Kauffman, Mission Observer and Lt. Col. Chad Grondahl, Mission Pilot.

from Peterson AFB to observe how we train.

Mission Pilot, Lt. Col. Chad Grondahl and Mission Observer, Capt. Jennifer Kauffman were the GA-8 aircrew and Mission Pilot, Lt. Rick Couch and Mission Observer, Lt. Jen Knellinger were the Cessna 182 aircrew who flew with the members of the media. Before and after the flights the photojournalists filmed and interviewed the aircrews and Incident Command Center staff including the SAREX Incident Commander, Maj. Stefanie Hudgins, Gordon Brenner with the City of Colorado

Springs Office of Emergency Management, and Rocky Mountain Region Commander, Col. Bob Bost, who flew in to Peterson AFB from Utah to oversee the exercise.

After their respective flights, members of the media were presented with a COWG Baseball Hat to commemorate their airborne experience with the Colorado Civil Air Patrol. Later that day all four stations aired stories about the Civil Air Patrol SAREX thanks to the great work of photojournalists



KRDO ABC's Justin Rushde (left) and KXRM FOX 21's Macy Egeland (right) flew on the second media flight of the day with the GA-8 aircrew of Capt. Jennifer Kauffman, Mission Observer and Lt. Col. Chad Grondahl, Mission Pilot.

Maddie Garrett of KOAA NBC, Dustin Cuzick of KKTV CBS, Macy Egeland of KXRM FOX, and Justin Rushde of KRDO ABC who spent time with us that morning and afternoon. In addition, Steve Jordahl of KVOR Radio spoke of his experience on his radio show and Aleks Udriš and Colin Cutler of Boulder based Boldmethod.com plan to use the video and interviews they compiled for a story on the Civil Air Patrol that they're preparing to post on their website that has a following of almost a million aviation enthusiasts. In fact, Aleks Udriš is a former CAP cadet and recipient of the Spaatz Award so he's very familiar with our organization!

RMR Commander, Col. Bost, was very pleased with how well the COWG performed on all of the SAREX scenarios and the professionalism of the cadet and senior members who participated while being observed by the media. The SAREX showcased the important capabilities of the Colorado Civil Air Patrol in assisting our communities, state and nation and Col. Bost lauded the contributions of several key participants by presenting them with RMR Challenge Coins. 🪖



KKTV CBS' Dustin Cuzick (center) flew on the last media flight of the day with the Cessna 182 aircrew of Lt. Jen Knellinger, Mission AP and Lt. Rick Couch, Mission Pilot.

# Civil Air Patrol Supports NORAD's Largest Mission

## Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron Marks 60th Anniversary Milestone

By Maj. Robert Wray, CAP  
CSCS Public Affairs Officer

Photos by Capt. Daniel Cochran, CSCS Dep PAO

The Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron, located on Peterson AFB CO, volunteered their time to represent Civil Air Patrol as an official partner to the North American Aerospace Defense Command, commonly known as NORAD, in one of its oldest and most popular missions: tracking Santa Claus. On 24 December 2015, CSCS cadets and senior members joined hundreds of other volunteers in fielding phone calls from children all over the globe asking questions about Santa. NORAD, using its advanced radars and satellites, tracks Santa's location during his 24-hour journey to deliver presents to children in every nation. Volunteers like those from CSCS field phone calls asking about his location and anticipated arrival at their homes.



First year Santa trackers. (Left to Right): C/A1C Katie Anspach, C/SRA Elizabeth Belmontes

NORAD has been tracking Santa for 60 years. It all began when a local newspaper ad printed a phone number to talk to Santa. However, instead of publishing the phone number for the department store representative, they printed the number for NORAD's command center. At first, the



CSCS Cadets fielding calls.

personnel working that Christmas Eve thought it was a joke. However, calls came in by the thousands, and NORAD's mission to track Santa was born. NORAD, headquartered on Peterson AFB, has expanded its tracking support to include international phone services, a real-time web interface and live chat. To follow Santa in 2016, visit the official NORAD website: [www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org).

The CSCS cadets sat alongside military personnel from NORAD's bi-lateral military forces. Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen from Canada and the United States ensure the mutual defense of both nations on a daily basis, but for one day, these same servicemen and servicewomen



CSCS field phone calls. (Left to Right): Maj. Bill Blatchley, C/CMSgt Jared Kinard, Maj. Robert Wray

work hand-in-hand with select organizations like CAP to field over 4,000 phone calls per hour. The pace is frenetic. Within 2 second of completing a phone call, one's phone rings again. CSCS personnel each answered almost 100 phone calls per hour. Calls came from every U.S. state as well as across Canada and nations with a high military presence, such as England, Italy and Germany. Other calls came from excited children in countries such as Albania, Argentina, Ghana and India. Non-English speakers were routed to those proficient in one of a dozen foreign languages. As Cadet Carlin Idle, CSCS Cadet Commander, described the afternoon, "It was the fastest two hours of my life."

Answering questions for young children is the most entertaining part of this event. NORAD provided a live feed to show volunteers where Santa was at any given time and where he would be going next. Those types of questions were easy. Other questions were a bit more difficult. Several cadets were asked if the caller was on the naughty or nice list. One senior member was asked why Santa was fat; another was asked what the reindeer's favorite food was. Some cadets were asked if they were Mrs. Claus while still others asked how old Santa was. CSCS volunteers did their reading and were able to adeptly answer all of the questions. Each phone call ended with Santa's



C/Capt Carlin Idle fields Santa questions.

one instruction for NORAD: he would not stop by a house until all the children were asleep. Thankfully, most children heeded that advice.

CSCS is proud to partner with NORAD for this special activity. Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Falese, event co-director, explained why CAP is such an important partner, "CAP supports the community and supports NORAD; they are always welcome." Falese thanked CSCS for their professionalism and enthusiasm and looks forward to continued support in 2016. As long as NORAD is tracking Santa, CSCS will be there to help in this important mission. 



NORAD track Santa HQ.

## Chaplain's Corner



Of the four CAP core values, the one that seems to be most misunderstood is that of Volunteer Service. When asked about this particular core value many cadets and seniors will focus on the aspect that volunteers do not get paid. Thus the core value becomes a call to sign up, pay your dues, and work hard to serve your community, state, and nation.

Although we are unpaid professionals who willingly give of our time, talent, and treasures for the good of others, the core value goes quite a bit deeper. As with the other core values of Integrity, Excellence, and Respect, the true exercise of this core value can be seen in the little things more so than the large.

During a high profile mission such as the 2013 floods along the Front Range, newspapers and other media applaud our volunteer service. Pictures of our airplanes, videos taken in flight, adorn the printed page and can be found on You Tube.

Lately, however, I've been impressed with the professionalism and hard work of those who provide cadet orientation flights. A lot more goes in to these flights than meets the eye. Planning for an orientation flight weekend begins a month or so in advance when the planning officers begin to find pilots, teachers, and senior member sponsors who will commit to a full day of work. At the local cadet or composite squadron, a coordinator finds out who is eligible for a flight, encourages cadets to sign up, and ensures the planning officers know of the number of cadets committed to flying.

The planning officers, the pilots, the teachers, the sponsors put in a lot of time on the day of the flights. Cadets who have never flown have the chance to handle the aircraft controls, to see the operation of an airplane, and to act as crew members by reading checklists, watching for traffic, and helping with navigation.

When asked why they give up a Saturday or Sunday for this activity, the typical answer is, "The cadets enjoy it." This is most certainly true. But what goes unsaid is the real demonstration of the core value. To volunteer is to willingly place your needs under the needs of someone else. The need for cadets to fly and fulfill that part of the program is more important than sleeping late on a Saturday morning. The need to provide a safe environment and a place for learning means hours of preparation before the day of the mission. Yet the focus is on the needs of others, not of self.

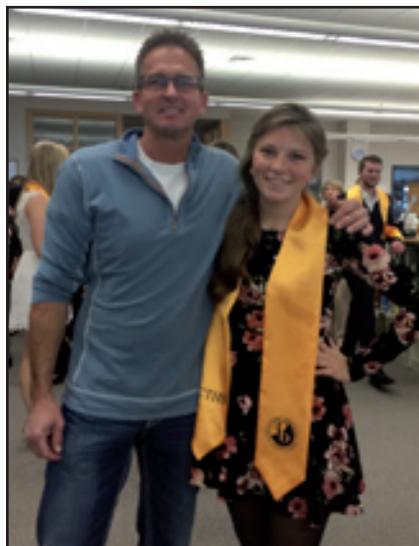
To put it another way, it is the little things which demonstrate volunteer service. Holding the door for someone else rather than letting it slam in their face is volunteer service as well as respect. By spending all of five seconds, you enhance the life of another, be they known or unknown. Volunteer Service shows up in driving politely, following the rules of the road even when you don't wish to do so, or taking the time to help another by being a mentor.

But is it right to say we are unpaid? Yes, if we are looking for a paycheck. But we are rewarded by the satisfaction of seeing a job get done, a cadet flown, or someone else having a better day. May volunteer service become your watchword, even as you live the other CAP core values. 🇺🇸

# Parker Cadets Earn Scholarships

By Lt. Col. Eric Hauff, CAP  
Parker Cadet Squadron, Commander

Cadet First Lieutenant Alyssa Letts joined Civil Air Patrol in September 2009 when she turned 12. She had a phenomenal six-year cadet career closing out as the 2014 Cadet Commander at the Parker Cadet Squadron.



C/1st Lt Alyssa Letts and her father at her high school graduation.

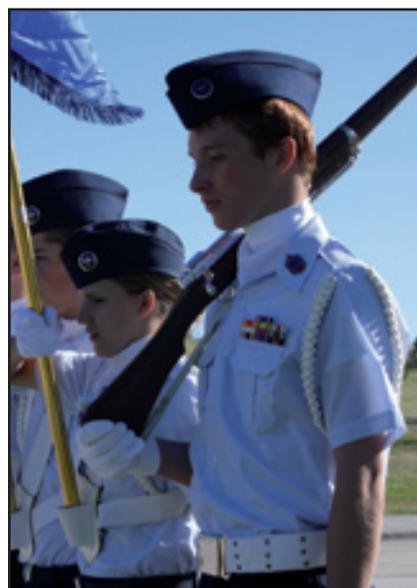
Baccalaureate program at Cherokee Trail High School. She is a proud recipient of full scholarship to attend Northwestern Military Preparatory School in the fall. She plans to parlay this year of Military Prep to an appointment at the United States Air Force Academy.

Cadet Second Lieutenant Kamden Weis of the Parker Cadet Squadron has been awarded a national four-year United States Army ROTC Scholarship to the University of Wyoming.

Cadet Weis joined the Idaho Wing Civil Air Patrol, Boise Composite Squadron, when he was 12 years old and in 2011, joined the Parker Cadet Squadron. He considers among his greatest achievements being selected to and attending

In her last two years alone, she garnered the coveted Commanders Commendation Award as well as the Air Force Association Cadet of the Year! However, she considers her greatest CAP achievement as graduating from ParaRescue and Survival Orientation Course (PJOC) as one of four honor cadets and commanding Honor Flight at Kansas Wing Training Group encampment during the 2013-2014 year.

In high school, Cadet 1st Lt. Letts was active in cross country as well as track and graduated this month from the International



C/2d Lt Weis with Honor Guard.



C/1st Lt Letts is presented with the Commander's Commendation Award by Colorado Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Michael Edwards (right).



C/1st Lt Letts is presented with the 2014 Air Force Association Cadet of the Year Award.



C/2d Lt Kamden Weis presented 2012 VFW NCO of the Year.

*Continued . . .*

*PARKER CADETS, cont.*

the ParaRescue and Survival Orientation course (PJOC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico and earning his Billy Mitchell Award in 2013.



C/2d Lt Weis displays his 4 Year Univ. of Wyoming ROTC Scholarship Letter.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Weis was a National Honor Society member, lettered in two varsity sports and qualified for the state championship swim meets for all four years of high school. He is an accomplished chamber orchestra member and was selected for the District Honor Orchestra all four years as well.

After completing the ROTC program at the University of Wyoming and getting commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Cadet 2nd Lt. Weis plans on a career in the Special Forces community. His valuable experience within the Civil Air Patrol has prepared him extremely well for the exciting challenges ahead. 🇺🇸

**Peaks and Planes**

## Three Valkyrie Squadron Cadets Earn Mitchell Award

*By Capt. Trevor Munson, CAP  
Valkyrie Cadet Squadron*



(L to R) C/2d Lt Filipa Martinovic, C/2d Lt Michael Melton, and C/2d Lt Kyle Vestecka.

Three Mitchell Awards were given to three very deserving cadets at Valkyrie Cadet Squadron in Denver, Colorado. Cadets Kyle Vestecka, Filipa Martinovic, and Michael Melton were all found deserving of the Billy Mitchell award, and were commissioned as cadet officers on August 25, 2015.

These cadets have achieved much over three years of service. In addition to working hard for completing the comprehensive exam, these cadets are held in high regard in the squadron. Martinovic is the cadet deputy commander, Melton the cadet executive officer, and Vestecka performs as the Alpha flight commander.

Squadron Commander Maj. Thomas Scheffel said of the cadets, “These cadets represent the future of our squadron, and of our country. After going through the first two phases of the cadet program, they are equipped to lead their fellow cadets through first-rate leadership.”

The awards were presented by Capt. Daniel Schutte of the United States Marine Corps. Capt. Schutte is a personal friend of the squadron, and stopped by upon request from the squadron commander, Maj. Scheffel.

The Mitchell Award honors the late General Billy Mitchell, an aviation pioneer, advocate and supporter of an independent Air Force for America. The award is an important milestone in the CAP cadet program and is earned by cadets who have completed the second phase of the cadet program. 🇺🇸

**Winter 2015-16**

# Steamboat Squadron Aircrew Earns Save of Lost Hiker

*By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP  
COWG Mission PIO*

On Friday, July 17, avid and experienced hiker and backpacker, John Timm Gorske from Avon, Indiana, set out to go backpacking on the Continental Divide Trail. He was well prepared and equipped with 10 days' worth of supplies and his plan was to spend a few days on the trail and then finish the trip backpacking in Rocky Mountain National Park. He followed trails with CD trail markers and at one point came to a meadow where the trail became less distinct and soon lost his way. He used his compass and educated decisions as to where he was but soon realized he was lost. So began the search for Mr. Gorske initiated by Grand County Search and Rescue (GCSAR) which led to the Colorado Civil Air Patrol being tasked with a search and rescue mission.

The Grand County Search and Rescue team searched for Mr. Gorske for 2 days while trying to find a beacon

using hand-held direction finding devices known as "L-Per's" on both horseback and ATV's with no success. After the third day of trying to find his way, Gorske made the reluctant decision to activate his personal ELT beacon which proved to be a good decision. However, Gorske's ELT signal bounced off of everything surrounding it, thereby producing false signals in every direction. On the third day of their search the GCSAR requested CAP assistance and the Colorado Wing (COWG) was assigned an Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) mission. COWG Incident Commander, Maj. Stephanie Hudgins notified the Steamboat Composite Squadron's Maj. Bob Del Valle asking him to assemble an aircrew. Maj. Del Valle manned the right seat of the aircraft as the Mission Observer and handled all communications with the Grand County Search and Rescue ground teams. Lt. Col. Brett Barkey served as the rear seat Mission Scanner while Lt. Col. Don Heineman was the Mission Pilot & Aircraft Commander.



Steamboat Composite Squadron Aircrew who found John Gorske and were credited with a Save by AFRCC. From Left to Right: Lt. Col. Don Heineman, Mission Pilot, Maj. Bob Del Valle, Mission Observer, Lt. Col. Brett Barkey, Mission Scanner. Photo supplied by Steamboat Composite Squadron.

About 30 minutes after launch from the Steamboat Springs Airport, the aircrew began hearing the ELT signal at a point about 20 miles west of Monarch Lake. They tracked the ELT signal using the Becker Direction Finding Unit installed in the aircraft. The terrain Mr. Gorske was in varied in altitude from 9,000' to 12,000' MSL, and was located to the southeast of Monarch Lake. Their first ground track was from the northwest to the southeast. The signal strength got stronger as they approached, and began to get weaker, telling them they had passed over the ELT. The aircraft then turned to the southwest for a few minutes in order to set up

an intersecting 90-degree track from the southwest to the northeast while following the Becker indication. The point where the two tracks intersected gave them a location on the ground, which they verified with 2-3 more passes. During those extra passes, Lt. Col. Barkey spotted a light flash he thought might be a signal mirror. According to John Gorske, he had been turning his beacon on and off but had it on when he started to see a plane in his area and then began signaling with a mirror. The aircrew continued to circle over that point, and both observers saw multiple light flashes. Being certain they had located Mr. Gorske, Lt. Col. Heineman wagged the plane's wings to let Mr. Gorske know they saw him, while Maj. Del Valle contacted the GCSAR ground teams. They then orbited the area and guided ground teams on horseback into the area until they were able to speak verbally to Mr. Gorske across a deep ravine.

From the time the CAP aircrew first intercepted the ELT signal until they departed the area was about 45 minutes. When the GCSAR ground teams released the aircraft from the search they departed the area enroute to the Granby Airport to refuel and contact the IC Mission Base for further instructions.

At that time the GCSAR had two ground teams work their way toward John's location from the north and from the south. Both teams reached him at the same time so he went from complete isolation to having people all around him. Being quite tired from the ordeal he heard someone say something but it wasn't clear so he asked what was said and the paramedic said "who's your best son?" to which he turned to find his son, Daniel, who was part of the search and rescue team. Dan had jumped on a plane to Colorado from Indianapolis as soon as he learned from the GCSAR that his father was missing and upon arrival connected with the GCSAR ground team so he could be part of the search efforts. After the EMS



John Gorske (Right) with son, Daniel (Left) at Monarch Lake after being found by the CAP COWG Steamboat Squadron Aircrew and the Grand County Search and Rescue. Photo supplied by John Gorske and taken by GCSAR team member.

paramedic verified that he was in good health they all walked out of the mountains to a temporary base at Monarch Lake where he was interviewed by the Grand County Sheriff's Dept. and GCSAR.

Upon returning to Indiana with his son and reflecting back on his experience in Colorado, John Gorske has now become quite interested in the Civil Air Patrol and is actually entertaining the idea of joining our ranks. During an interview with John he shared that he wanted to thank the Colorado CAP and particularly the Steamboat Springs Composite Squadron who located him, the Grand County Search and Rescue and his son, Daniel, as well as the Grand County Sheriff's Dept. and Flight for Life that assisted on the first day of the search. Mr. Gorske sent a very generous donation to the Steamboat Squadron and when asked about it he quipped, "I want to be sure to be in their good graces because you never know if I'll need their services again!" As a result of their find and save of John Gorske, the Steamboat Composite Squadron aircrew of Lt. Col. Don Heineman, Lt. Col. Brett Barkey and Maj. Don Del Valle and the COWG were officially credited with a Save by the AFRCC. 🇺🇸

# First Annual Customs and Courtesies Dinner

*By Capt. Joseph Thorn, CAP  
Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron, Commander*

We continually lead and instruct our Cadets in military customs and courtesies. Many of them are also involved in community activities outside of CAP. One of our Senior Member moms suggested we have a dinner event focusing on civilian customs and courtesies, or “The Lost Art of Chivalry”. Escorting your date, opening doors, holding a chair and helping with a coat were some of the acts covered.



Cadets practicing courtesies with their “dates.”

Capt. Todd Blanchard, one of our Senior Members, was a professional chef and volunteered to cook what turned out to be a very delicious 4 course meal. Since we have mostly male Cadets, the female Cadets, female Senior Members and squadron moms became “dates” for the male Cadets. The male Senior Members and squadron dads became “servers” under the guidance of a former professional server.

A very fun evening was had by all. At the beginning I think some of the male Cadets were a bit nervous, but that all went away when their dates graced them

with plenty of cute smiles and “Thank you’s”. Our Squadron Chaplain, Lt. Col. Don Henderson, even rounded out the evening with a few words about Chivalry customs around the world.

Much of what we teach the Cadets in CAP translates to real-life skills. We all agreed this dinner event gave them skills they can use in both a military and civilian setting. 🇺🇸



The dining hall awaits cadets and their guests.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don Henderson speaks about chivalry around the world.

# Thunder Mountain Cadets Earn Mitchell Awards

*By 2nd Lt. Paul Russell, CAP  
Deputy Commander of Cadets, Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron*

Cadet 2nd Lt. Ezra Russell (left in picture), Flight Commander and Safety Officer, TMCS

Cadet Russell has been a member of CAP for 2 years and has held the positions of Flight Sergeant, Lead Rifleman in Color Guard, and served as Echo Flight Sergeant for the 2015 Blackbird Encampment. He currently serves as Flight Commander and Safety Officer as well as Color Guard Commander at TMCS. He hopes to attend the Air Force Academy after graduation. His future goal is to become a Fighter Pilot for the Air Force. He also is planning on attending the Powered Flight Academy in Shawnee, OK, this summer, and will also be applying for another staff position for the 2016 Encampment.



Cadet 2nd Lt. Javan Yeager (Center of Picture), Cadet Commander, TMCS

Cadet Yeager has been a member of CAP for four years and has held the positions of Basic and Alpha Flight Sergeant, Color Guard Commander, 1st Sergeant, and Assistant Cadet Seminar Leader. He currently holds the position of Cadet Commander which is the highest squadron level cadet position in CAP and requires a substantial amount of responsibilities such running the squadron on the cadet level, appointing cadet staff, and putting together the schedule. Presently, he is trying to get flight instruction through CAP, and he assists with overseeing and mentoring the members of our Color Guard. Cadet Yeager plans on attending college after high school, and he will obtain his private pilot's license so he can become an airline pilot.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Cody Hedrick (Right of Picture), Recruitment and Retention Officer, TMCS

Cadet Hedrick has been a member of CAP for four years and has held the positions of CAC, Cadet Commander, Flight Commander, and Flight Sergeant as well as served as a lead member of the Color Guard. Currently he serves as the Recruitment and Retention Officer and leads cadets through the Great Start Program. His future plans include attending Colorado Mesa University in the fall and after college he plans on joining the Marine Corps.

These three cadets are extremely deserving of the Billy Mitchell Award. They not only recite their CAP Oath, they live by it. The TMCS is proud to have them as part of our squadron. Through CAP, they have truly grown into amazing leaders. 🇺🇸

# Cadets Participate in Rocket Launch

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Lyn Parker, CAP  
Vance Brand Cadet Squadron, PAO

One of the most popular squadron activities is the model rocketry program. The program introduces simple alternative-power models and progressively challenges cadets to construct more advanced models in three stages. The stages are: Redstone, Titan and Saturn. The Vance Brand cadets completed the second stage, Titan Stage, in August.

When the cadets arrived, Lt. Col. Dave Ellis conducted a safety briefing. Safety was the focus of the day as we prepared to launch each rocket. Cadet 2nd Lt. Cody Laxton led the group in launch instruction. The eight cadets in attendance were divided into teams of those launching rockets and those measuring the distance the rockets traveled upon recovery of the rockets. After cadets in the launch group cycled through, the groups switched places and everyone was able to launch a rocket. It



A Viking rocket sits on the launch pad awaiting liftoff.

was an exciting activity and one that is sure to engage cadets in the future.

As a special treat for all the Colorado Wing squadrons, the Colorado Civil Air Patrol Foundation gifted model rocketry kits to each unit in order to promote a more active role in the Model Rocketry program. If you are interested in learning more about hosting a rocket launch for your squadron, visit the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education website at: [http://ae.capmembers.com/programs/model\\_rocketry](http://ae.capmembers.com/programs/model_rocketry). 🇺🇸



Launch retrieval team.



Vance Brand Cadet Squadron members pose with their rockets.



Cadets readying their rockets for launch.



Making blocks for the igloo.



Building an igloo.

## Winter Bivouac for Heart of the Rockies Squadron

*By 1st Lt. Ruth Lewis, CAP  
Heart of the Rockies Squadron and Group II PAO*

The Cadets went on a winter Bivouac this past February in the San Luis Valley. They snow shoed into a cabin from out of Del Norte. In addition to their snowshoeing excursion, they were able to build an igloo. The cadets and senior members tried to build a snow cave, but the snow was not deep enough. We all contributed in building a “dog house” where we dug out a part of an area of snow and we told someone to lay down where we cleared

out the snow. Next, we put a tarp over them with a ski pole in the middle so they could sit up without hitting their head. It was a very good experience for the Cadets to go out and see what they could do in the snow. This exercise is especially beneficial for knowledge if Cadets are cross-country skiing or snowshoeing and they get in a snow storm then they would know how to build one of these snow caves or “dog house”. 🏆



Heart of the Rockies members ready for the Winter Bivouac.

# Civil Air Patrol at Rocky Mountain Airshow

Story and Photos by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP COWG Director of Public Affairs



CAP Cessna 182 Big & Small at CAP booth at Rocky Mountain Airshow at RMMA.



CAP Cessna 182 Tail & U.S. Flag at Rocky Mountain Airshow at RMMA.

The annual high-flying Rocky Mountain Airshow took place at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Broomfield the weekend of August 15-16 and the Civil Air Patrol had a strong presence thanks to the Colorado Wing's cadet and senior members who volunteered to assist with our exhibit. In addition to a booth and Cessna 182 aircraft supplied by the Jeffco Senior Squadron, members from the Broomfield Composite Squadron, Arvada Cadet Squadron and Valkyrie Cadet Squadron were on hand to speak with show attendees who stopped by to learn about the Civil Air Patrol and what we do for our communities, state and nation. 🇺🇸



Some of the COWG members who participated at the Rocky Mountain Airshow Civil Air Patrol exhibit (L to R): Cadet Master Sgt. Alexander Hoffman, Broomfield Composite Squadron, Capt. Jan Johnson, Arvada Cadet Squadron, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Kyle Heck, Broomfield Composite Squadron, Cadet 1st Lt. Gage Salyer, Broomfield Composite Squadron and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kyle Hericks, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron.

# Achievements

*Congratulations to the Cadets and Senior Members listed below. The Colorado Wing is proud to acknowledge the dedication, determination and hard work these individuals demonstrate by earning these important milestones in the spirit Civil Air Patrol seeks in each of its members.*



## Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award

C/Lt Col Dalton Mendoza, Parker Cadet Squadron  
SM Noah Gibbs, Steamboat Springs Composite Squadron  
C/Lt Col Brendan Todd, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron  
C/Lt Col Kaleb Todd, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron  
C/Lt Col Nathaniel Todd, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron



## Amelia Earhart Award

C/Capt Steven Geist, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron  
C/Capt Megan Laubhan, Broomfield Composite Squadron  
C/Capt Christina Jensen, Air Academy Cadet Squadron  
C/Capt Mikayla Roberts, Mustang Cadet Squadron



## Gen. Billy Mitchell Award

C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Jordan Akins, Douglas Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Camden Bole, Air Academy Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Elizabeth Essek, Mustang Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Ezra Russell, Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Levi Shutt, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Christopher Eldridge, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Christian Behards, Air Academy Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Mary Hood, Heart of the Rockies Comp Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Steven Hindman, Mustang Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt William Goss, Evergreen Composite Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Nathanael Leavitt, Mustang Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Filipa Martinovic, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Alexis Clements, Dakota Ridge Comp Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Victoria Bernabei, Douglas Cadet Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Gregory Royal, Evergreen Composite Squadron  
C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Madison Fulling, Greeley Composite Squadron



## Paul E. Garber Award

Capt Mary Cast, Foothills Cadet Squadron  
Capt Anthony Dattilo, Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron  
Lt Col Michael Fay, Air Academy Cadet Squadron

Lt Col Ryan Glass, Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron  
Maj Stefanie Hudgins, Colorado Wing HQ  
Lt Col MaryBeth King, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron  
Lt Col Gene Munson, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron  
Lt Col Thomas Scheffel, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron  
Maj Sam Turner, Mile High Cadet Squadron  
Maj Susan Wilson, Jefferson Country Senior Squadron



## Grover Loening Award

Maj Terry Brookham, Banning Lewis Ranch Cadet Squadron  
Maj Frank Clark, Pikes Peak Senior Squadron  
Capt Les Gilmer, Broomfield Composite Squadron  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Lyn Parker, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Tammy Peebles, Boulder Composite  
Capt Norman Teltow, Mile High Cadet Squadron



## Gill Robb Wilson Award

Lt Col Thomas Eggers, Air Academy Cadet Squadron



## Specialty Track Master Rating

Maj Judith Huff, Administration, Mile High Cadet Squadron  
Capt Deborah McAllister, Administration, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron  
Capt Anthony Dattilo, Cadet Programs, Dakota Ridge Comp Squadron  
Capt Jeff Caldwell, Administration, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron  
Maj Terry Thompson, Personnel, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron  
Lt Col Celeste Gamache, Legal, Colorado Wing HQ  
Lt Col Jeff Williams, Professional Development, Broomfield Comp Squadron