

Summer 2014

Peaks and Planes

Official Magazine of the Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol



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Rob Pehkonen**



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Colorado Wing Interim Commander

Lt. Col. David Novotny, CAP

Colorado Wing Director of Public Affairs/Editor

Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP

Vance Brand Squadron Public Affairs Officer/Editor

1st Lt. Lyn Parker, CAP

Article submissions are always welcome. Please send them in Microsoft Word format to 1st Lt. Lyn Parker, Co-Editor, *Peaks and Planes* at lynparker.cap@gmail.com. Attach photos (in jpeg format) to your email and make certain to include full caption information for each one.

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On the Cover:

BACKGROUND: CAP 182 at Mountain SAREX in Leadville, CO. (Photo by the late 1st Lt. Rob Pehkonen, Mission Pilot)

INSET: 1st Lt. Rob Pehkonen after returning from Colorado Floods Mission Sorties. (Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG Floods Mission PIO)

Commander's Comments

Lt. Col. David Novotny, CAP

Interim Commander, Colorado Wing

Fair Skies and Tailwinds



On June 9, 2014, Colorado Wing said “Goodbye” to a great member who made an impact on CAP. First Lieutenant Robert Pehkonen, or Rob to all of us, died suddenly on June 4. Rob was a seasoned Mission Pilot and served on wing staff as the Emergency Services Training Officer. At the funeral, Rob was posthumously presented with the CAP Meritorious Service Award. The Honor Guard from Thompson Valley Composite Squadron performed the flag folding ceremony and I had the honor of presenting that flag to Rob’s widow, Heidi.

At the Wing Conference in May, I asked you as members to think about the legacy you will leave behind when you leave CAP. Never did I ever think that I’d be writing about a legacy so soon. Fair skies and tailwinds, Rob. You can read more about Rob and his legacy elsewhere in this edition of *Peaks and Planes*.

The Colorado Wing Cadet Encampment was held June 14-21, 2014 at the US Air Force Academy Prep School. I had the pleasure of spending a day with the cadets at the Academy’s Ropes Course. The cadets “encouraged” me to accept their challenge and tackle the climbing tower, which I did. As I was about half way up the tower, contemplating my next move, I realized that I had placed my life in the hands of three cadets who were tending my safety line. Never have I trusted cadets more than on that day. Thanks cadets for letting me down safely and thanks to Lt Col Buddy McCormick for planning and executing another fine encampment.

Colorado also hosted the 2014 Advanced Technology Academy. ATA is a National Cadet Special Activity which

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In Memory of 1st Lt. Rob Pehkonen

*By Capt. Michael Fassi, CAP
Thompson Valley Composite Squadron- Public Affairs Officer*



*Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
Colorado Floods
Mission PIO*

In June of this year Thompson Valley Composite Squadron and the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, along with family and friends, suffered a devastating blow with the sudden death of 1st Lt. Rob Pehkonen. Rob was a loving husband, father, successful business man and dedicated volunteer to not only CAP but also the Fort Collins / Loveland Pilots Association, Angel Flight, and the Wings of Freedom Foundation. Rob's love for aviation was contagious and his desire to give back to the community was admired by everyone who knew him.

Rob joined CAP in September 2010. 1st Lt. Rob Pehkonen breezed through training as Mission Scanner, Mission Observer, and became a fully qualified Mission Pilot in June 2011. Rob also served as crew chief for TVCS two aircraft 59X and 2CP. He was instrumental in organizing cadet rides for TVCS, Greeley, Adams and North Valley Squadrons. While running a successful business and raising his family, Rob in 2012 managed to fly 116 total hours for CAP which included 36 Air Force our actual training missions.

In his shortened career with CAP 1st Lt. Rob Pehkonen received 3 SAR Find Ribbons, 2 Disaster Relief Ribbons, 3 Achievement Awards and a Commanders Commendation. At the time of his death Rob was serving as the Wing Emergency Training Officer. Rob also to part with the COWG UAS support team that was asked to provide technical support for the North and South Carolina Wings UAS mission in support of the United States Marines.

We sincerely thank his wife Heidi and their children Sawyer, Ryan, and Saddle for sharing Rob with us. All of us would agree that it was an honor and privilege to work with such an unselfish and dedicated professional. Rob's passing made me think of John G. Magee, Jr.'s poem High Flight (written in 1941).” Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth and danced the skies on laughter- silvered wings, sun ward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth of sun split cloudsput out my hand and touched the face of God.” 

Meritorious Service Award Presented to 1st Lt. Rob Pehkonen Posthumously

This is the citation that accompanied the Meritorious Service Award presented posthumously to 1st Lt. Rob Pehkonen and presented to his family.

1st Lieutenant Rob J. Pehkonen, CAP, distinguished himself in the performance of outstanding meritorious service to Civil Air Patrol as SAR Pilot, Airborne Photographer/Instructor and COWG Emergency Services Training Officer.

During the disastrous floods in 2013 in Northern Colorado, 1st Lt. Pehkonen worked tirelessly from the moment the weather cleared and CAP was cleared to fly missions. Rob's involvement covered setting up the support for capturing the thousands of photos taken by the crews flying in support of the flood mission, flying actual sorties in support of the mission either as a pilot or photographer, and working with FEMA in processing the photos. A number of solutions for the issues that came up during the mission regarding camera procedures, training issues for AP's, and the logistics of cameras were solved by Rob, directly contributing to a successful execution of the mission. He continued to work when our customer changed from FEMA to CO Dept of Transportation, who wanted damage assessment photos of infrastructure.

The actual flood mission lasted 10 days, but Rob and others spent 2 months after the floods supporting FEMA's needs for follow-up recon. 1st Lt. Pehkonen was mentioned and quoted several times in the article in the CAP Volunteer magazine. He helped bring some very good press to CAP. 1st Lt. Pehkonen displayed exceptional leadership, professional competence and unusual devotion to duty in handling the many and diversified func-

tions of COWG Emergency Services Training Officer which, without exception, performed its mission in an outstanding manner. His professional knowledge and administrative ability contributed significantly to improved effectiveness of Colorado Wing Emergency Service program.

Lt. Pehkonen was part of the COWG UAS support team that was asked to provide tactical support for the North and South Carolina Wings UAS mission in support of the US Marines. Rob traveled to the Cherry Point Marine Air Station in North Carolina and spent five days supporting the training of CAP air crews. Rob flew a number of sorties in conjunction with the operation to demonstrate the tactics involved in escorting the UAS. Rob's presence and training capability contributed directly to the outstanding success of the mission. Again, Lt. Pehkonen's involvement was given favorable attention by the CAP Volunteer magazine.

The distinctive accomplishments of 1st Lieutenant Rob J. Pehkonen are very clearly outstanding and unmistakably exceptional when compared to similar achievements of personnel of like grade and responsibility. The efforts of Lt. Pehkonen reflect great credit upon himself and the Civil Air Patrol.



Evergreen Squadron Cadets Enjoy Service Academy Success

By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
COWG Director of Public Affairs

Perhaps it's the mountain air or maybe it's something in the high country water but the Evergreen Composite Squadron has seen three of their cadets receive appointments to three of the five U.S. Service Academies over the last four years. The reality of why the squadron has been enjoying such great success in seeing their cadets receive congressional nominations and academy appointments is likely due to the squadron's leadership and focus.



The Evergreen Composite Squadron's Commander is Maj. Daryll Keeling who is a 1980 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a former F-16 pilot. The squadron's Deputy Commander is Maj. Oleh Stefaniuk who is a 1975 graduate of the USAFA. As a result of their experience, guidance, leadership and mentoring, along with the guidance and expertise of other ECS Staff members, the squadron's cadets seem to have a leg up on the competition.



In 2011, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Stuart Vanderkooi received and accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In 2013, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Danielle Garcia-Lance received and accepted an appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, and in 2014, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Kooper Hackmann, the 2014 COWG Cadet of the Year, received and accepted an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy.



Other Colorado Wing squadrons have seen their cadets win appointments to the service academies over the years but the Evergreen squadron may hold the record for having the most academy appointments over a period of four years during the tenure of the same commander. Maj. Keeling attributes their success to the good fortune of having several terrific young men and women in the Evergreen squadron along with the advantage of a knowledgeable and encouraging senior staff who have provided excellent focus and mentorship to those cadets who are interested in pursuing an academy appointment. And it doesn't hurt to have academy grads in command!



Most of the Evergreen squadron's members live in the foothill communities of Evergreen, Pine, Morrison, Conifer and Bailey as well as high country towns like Dillon and Frisco and travel on Hwy 285 or I-70 on Monday evenings to the squadron's meeting location at the Evergreen Lutheran Church on Hwy 73. Of course there's no guarantee that being a top cadet with the Evergreen Composite Squadron will ensure an academy appointment, but history does often repeat itself as proven by this squadron! 🇺🇸

Colorado Wing's Public Affairs Officer Receives Highest Recognition

By 1st Lt. Lyn Parker, CAP
Vance Brand Cadet Squadron, PAO

One of the greatest honors a Civil Air Patrol Public Affairs Officer (PAO) can hope to achieve is being recognized for his or her efforts in the position. At the Wing level, a PAO can be named Squadron Public Affairs Officer of the Year. At the region level, he or she can be selected as Region Public Affairs Officer of the Year. And at the national level, the PAO can be awarded with the Col Robert V. Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year. This honor goes to the senior member who is chosen for displaying extraordinary professionalism during an event in his or her Wing putting the mission first, the community second and bringing a positive view of Civil Air Patrol to everyone who reads the story or sees the newscast. This year the honors of Region Public Affairs Officer of the Year and National Public Affairs Officer of the Year were presented to the Colorado Wing Director of Public Affairs, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Daniels. His exceptional work last year was recognized with the presentation of the National PAO of the Year award at the CAP National Conference in Las Vegas, NV on August 16th.

In a year marked by much activity for the Colorado Wing, Lt. Col. Daniels drew on his expertise in the

use of media — print, broadcast and social — to present the Wing in the best possible light. As Mission Information Officer for the Wing's response to Colorado's historic flooding in September 2013, Lt. Col. Daniels arranged media flights that resulted in CAP mentions on ABC's "World News Tonight" and "Good Morning America," which in turn were picked up by more than 250 ABC affiliate stations as well as the British Broadcasting Corp. in addition, CAP's involvement in the response to this natural disaster — complete with interviews of nine Wing Mission pilots and Aerial Photographers — was featured in stories broadcast by four Denver television stations. On a more routine basis, Lt. Col. Daniels participates in other actual and practice Emergency Services missions. Last summer, he worked with CAP National Headquarters to coordinate, support and

help teach a highly successful National Public Affairs Officer Academy IV in Denver, where almost half of those attending were from Colorado Wing. He also serves as editor of the Wing magazine, Peaks and Planes, which won a first-place Balsem Award presented by the CAP National Headquarters Public Affairs Office. He was also presented with a 1st Place Balsem Award for External Media Coverage. 



Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG Director of Public Affairs (center) receives the Civil Air Patrol's 2014 Col. Robert V. Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year from National Commanders Maj. Gen. Charles Carr (left) and Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez (right). Photo by Susan Schneider, CAP NHQ Photographer

Colorado Wing Members Aid Passengers after Witnessing Roll-Over Car Accident

*By 1st Lt. Lyn Parker, CAP
Vance Brand Cadet Squadron, PAO*

On March 3, 2013, Civil Air Patrol members Major Robert Wray, Major Stefanie Hudgins and then Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Kyle Fields, now Cadet Captain, were traveling to Centennial, Colorado, when a sport-utility vehicle drifted off the road headed south. It hit an embankment and flipped end over end, finally coming to a rest on its roof. The three occupants of the vehicle were coming from Northern Colorado. Maj. Stefanie Hudgins, who was driving, immediately stopped to help.

“When I arrived at the vehicle, all of the windows were busted, the vehicle was still on, smoke was coming from the engine, two occupants were unconscious and the driver was in pain,” said Wray. “Luckily the median was wide enough to where they did not land in the north bound lane, they landed in the median.”

For a brief moment, Wray thought about the pain in his back, a result of two fractured vertebrae due to a car accident one month prior.

“At the time, a lot of thoughts were going through my head,” said Wray. “I was very sensitive to possible spinal cord injuries as I had recently been injured. However, when I saw the smoke from the engine, I made the decision to get the three people out as soon as possible. The adrenaline kicked in.”

Maj. Wray and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Fields went to work not knowing if the two unconscious members in the back seat were alive. Wray lay on the ground and started low crawling through the shattered glass. The driver was still conscious, so Wray went through the front passenger door, reached up and pushed the driver’s seatbelt button, the driver fell to the bottom of the vehicle where Wray helped him crawl out.



Cadet Fields helped provide first aid while Maj. Hudgins provided traffic control in the highway.

Wray went back in for the other two passengers, realizing he was cut up and bleeding from the glass. Both of the other passengers were fairly large male adults who were trapped by the roof of the SUV.

“When I got back in the vehicle, the passenger was stuck and his arms were pinned,” said Wray. “I found a knife in the vehicle and started to cut his seat belt, but found a way to reach his release button for his belt. He didn’t have the strength to help me get him out, so I slowly low crawled backwards to get him out of the vehicle.”

Maj. Wray, Maj. Hudgins, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Fields and a few others who had stopped started administering first aid to the next passenger.

Going back into the vehicle, Wray found the last passenger still unconscious, after checking his pulse, Wray noticed several injuries, but was still concerned with the possibility for fire. This passenger was in the worst position, completely scrunched, surrounded by debris and no immediate entrance

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to the vehicle. Wray said he only had about 12 inches to try and lay the passenger flat and drag him. Soon after the last passenger was out, emergency crews were on scene.

“Someone needed to stop,” said Hudgins. “We did what we had to do. We wanted to make sure everyone was ok. [Wray] did exactly what I would expect him to do; he has never worried about himself, his actions do not surprise me at all.”

Wray said he felt the whole situation lasted forever, but from the time of the crash until the last passenger was out, only about 20 minutes had elapsed. Police and fire crews took a statement from Wray, Hudgins, and Fields.

About thirty minutes after the accident driving to their CAP meeting, Wray started to feel his back again, the adrenaline was gone. The team started to talk through the incident, said Wray.

“I am really proud of the cadet,” said Wray. “The kid took charge and made the older kids who were injured lay down and made sure they were ok. He did an outstanding job. Hudgins also kept people moving and controlled the situation. It was a true team effort.”

Civil Air Patrol Maj. Robert Wray, also a captain in the United States Air Force, was presented the Air Force Commendation Medal July 16, 2014 for his actions in evacuating the passengers after witnessing the rollover, and all three were nominated for CAP Life Saving Awards. 

takes place at Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs every June. The course is headed by Lt Col Mike McNeely of the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron. This week-long activity utilizes several planes and pilots from Colorado Wing where cadets learn about GEIP, Airborne Photography, ARCHER, satellite tracking, night vision goggles, and several other cutting edge technologies. Thanks Col McNeely for another outstanding ATA.

By the time you read this, COWG will have finished its Operations Evaluation (OPSEVAL). An OPSEVAL occurs every 2 years and is the mechanism the Air Force uses to evaluate our Emergency Services ability to respond to various misisions. Mission base was in Fort Collins with satellite bases in Colorado Springs, Montrose, Grand Junction, and Denver.

The 2015 Wing Conference has been scheduled. The dates for the 2015 Wing Conference are May 1-3 and the location will be the beautiful Keystone Lodge in Keystone, CO. Lt Col Andy Rajca is the Project Officer for the event. Mark your calendars for May 1-3, 2015 for a memorable weekend.

Speaking of memorable weekends, the 2014 CAP National Conference is being held August 14-16 in Las Vegas. At the conference will be a change of command ceremony with Maj Gen Chuck Carr turning over CAP command to Maj Gen Joseph Vazquez. Gen Vazquez is the current CAP Vice Commander. He and his wife, Leslie, attended our Mountain Sarex last year in Leadville, so many of you have already met our future commander.

Finally, on the topic of new commanders, I will be stepping down as Interim Wing Commander as Lt Col William Aceves II has been named to be the permanent Commander of Colorado Wing, effective August 11, 2014. I took the position of Interim Wing Commander fully knowing (and expecting) that I would be replaced by the permanent choice. It was my choice not to seek the position of Wing Commander. I have thoroughly enjoyed my short tenure as your Wing Commander (again), since I did the same thing in 2013 as Col Sherwin recovered from heart surgery. Colorado Wing is a great Wing, one of the best in the nation. We are known for responding quickly and being able to carry out long and demanding missions. It has been an honor to lead such a fine group of volunteer professionals.

Until next time, Fair Skies and Tailwinds. 

STAN/EVAL HIGHLIGHTS



By Lt. Col. John E. Mitchell, CAP
COWG/DOV

Colorado Wing has been busy so far during FY14. Our pilots have flown nearly 1,500 powered hours and 240 glider sorties. During this period, we have suffered four aviation mishaps, all fairly minor. One was damage to a C-182 tail section, discovered during a 100-hour inspection, and the other three all involved flat tires during landing, one of which was caused by a tube failure. Blowouts of aircraft tires caused by excessive braking cannot occur if the pilot keeps his/her heels on the floor during takeoff and at touchdown. Enough said.

In my last column, I incorrectly stated that mission pilot trainees may fly B-12 sortie profiles when accompanied by a SET-qualified mission pilot. MP trainees may, in fact, train with any qualified MP. The MP must be SET qualified in order to sign off (evaluate) items in the MP SQTR.

I want to continue the discussion about MP qualification and CAPF 91 checkrides in this issue of Peaks and Planes. First, let's go over a logical progression for becoming a MP. For a new CAP member, the sequence would be CAP pilot, transport mission pilot, mission scanner, mission observer, plains mission pilot, then mountain mission pilot.

Mountain qualification in COWG is a two-part process – the first part affects all CAP pilots and the second is for mission pilots. To fly in the mountains (terrain exceeding 8,000 ft.), a pilot must have a “mountain flight” endorsement on his/her CAPF 5. Initially, this entails taking a mountain flying ground school (the AOPA on-line course, or a CAP or Colorado Pilots Assoc classroom course) and satisfactorily completing a COWGF 9 flight check with an IP, all within the previous 24 months. If the pilot is already a qualified CAP pilot, a check pilot can add the endorsement with an abbreviated Form 5 without additional flight time. Renewing the mountain flight endorsement on subsequent Form 5's is done by showing the check pilot the previous Form 5 mountain flying endorsement and taking a



Crew mission briefing at a 2006 SAREX. Because of today's mission demands, only the MP (or MO, if acting as the mission commander) is briefed while the other crew members are performing other assigned duties.

ground school within the preceding 24 months. The requirements for obtaining and renewing the CAPF 5 mountain flight endorsement are specified in the Wing Supplement to CAPR 60-1.

To become a mountain MP, a plains MP must obtain the MFC qualification. The CAP Mountain Flying Clinic Classroom Instruction tasks of the MFC SQTR can be satisfied by taking either a CAP or the Colorado Pilot's Association Mountain Flying ground school. The CAP Mountain Flying Clinic Airborne Instruction task consists of Section V (mountainous terrain procedures) of a CAPF 91. MFC-qualified MP's should always renew their MFC qualification when taking a Form 91. The requirements for obtaining and renewing the MFC are specified in the Wing Supplement to CAPR 60-3.

A CAPF 91 checkride is administered much like an actual REDCAP sortie. There is a simulated overall mission, usually known by the pilot a day or two in advance, followed by a specific assignment given at the time the checkride starts. In every case, a departure time or time on target will be part of the mission brief. The MP will be expected to make that

time unless unforeseen circumstances arise.

CAPF 91 check rides are taken with a crew of three, with the MCP acting as MO. Given the increased demands by CAP's customers (FEMA, Colorado Division of Homeland Security, county emergency management offices, etc.) for aerial photos, MP's should expect an air photo tasking to be part of the mission scenario for their Form 91, and arrange for a qualified AP to be part of their crew if at all possible.

A Form 91 checkride (plains or mountain) primarily focuses upon the pilot's ability to plan the assigned mission, manage the crew, meet any off time or time-on-target, and safely accomplish the mission in a professional manner using crew resource management. In order to do that, the MP must delegate responsibilities to crew members during the planning phase, make duty assignments during the mission brief prior to departure, and implement crew resource management procedures during the flight. Some of the items to be accomplished during the planning phase are:

- Identifying the assigned search area, including lat/longs of grid corners.
- If a grid search, determining what part of the grid to search first.
- Determining a route and waypoints to the search area utilizing dead reckoning and pilotage.
- Preflight inspection, including having the appropriate amount of fuel.
- Loading and organizing personal gear on board.
- Programming the GPS, if appropriate.
- Weather and TFR checks.
- Completing weight and balance and risk assessment calculations
- Completing the briefing part of the e104 and attaching the W&B and RA.

One way to assure being able to meet an off time or time-on-target is to allocate assignments and deadlines using a reverse planning process. The MP, given a specified time-on-target, could plan backwards to determine a takeoff time, an engine start time, and the crew mission briefing time. Knowing that, the MP could establish a time and location for crew members to complete their assigned planning or preflight tasks and meet for the mission brief.

A Form 91 checkride requires the pilot to locate the grid to be searched "without electronic aids." Often, grid corners are not close to obvious landmarks, making this task anything but simple. An approach that foresters used in the days before GPS to find permanent monitoring locations in the forest works well for locating grid corners: You first fly to a location somewhere near the grid corner that can easily be identified from the air; then proceed from there to a less prominent waypoint that's closer to the grid corner; then identify the actual corner on the basis of the second waypoint. For example, to find the NW corner of CYS grid 500, a MP might fly first to the town of Briggsdale, then proceed north up Crow Creek to a small reservoir. From the reservoir, the pilot could fly on a bearing of 050° for approximately 4nm. The grid corner would be ¼-mile east of Crow Creek at that point. Once the grid has been located using pilotage and dead reckoning, the MP is allowed to make use of electronic means to find the other corners.

Let's review some administrative matters to be accomplished during the postflight. First, make sure the MCP makes a notation on the CAPF 91 that the MO and MS ratings have also been renewed. You still have to renew the MO and MS SQTR's in Ops Quals, but the Form 91 is all that must be uploaded. If the MP's MO qualification has expired, it may not be renewed as part of the Form 91 checkride. Second, MFC-qualified MP's should bring a copy of their MFC SQTR, and have the MCP renew it at the same time. It, too, must be renewed electronically in Ops Quals and a copy uploaded.

As you might surmise, successfully completing a CAPF 91 checkride requires significantly more time and resources than does a CAPF 5 checkride. Planning for it, including getting a AP/MS for the crew, can start several days prior to the checkride. The oral, planning, execution, debrief, and postflight components of the Form 91 will last at least a half day. And the mission is never over until the paperwork has been submitted into WMIRS, which takes even more time.

If you have any questions concerning mission pilot training or CAPF 91 checkrides, talk to your unit stan/eval officer. 

AWARDS PRESENTED AT 2014 COLORADO WING CONFERENCE

Congratulations to the recipients of the following awards that were presented at the 2014 Colorado Wing Conference:

Cadet of the Year C/2nd Lt. Kooper Hackmann

Cadet Officer of the Year C/1st Lt. Nicholas Timpe

Cadet NCO of the Year C/CMSgt. Cody Hedrick

Aerospace Education Cadet of the Year C/1st Lt. Carlin Idle

Aerospace Education Senior of the Year Capt. William Blatchley

Communicator of the Year Maj. Gary Oplinger

Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year-Maj. Donald Bolles

Wing PAO of the Year Lt. Col. Michael Daniels

Squadron PAO of the Year 2nd Lt. Lyn Parker

Chaplain of the Year Maj. Alan Garner

Senior Member of the Year Lt. Col. John Butler (posthumously)

William Hines Aircrew Member of the Year 1st Lt. Randy Settergren

James G. Alsum Wing Counter Drug Member of the Year Lt. Col. James Jenkins

Rocky Mountain Region AFA Aerospace Education Cadet of the Year C/1st Lt. Carlin B. Idle



Rocky Mountain Region Legislative Officer of the Year Col. Gary H. Tobey

Rocky Mountain Region PAO of the Year Lt. Col. Michael C. Daniels

Rocky Mountain Region Squadron Chaplain of the Year Maj. Alan K. Garner



Distinguished Service Award Col. Earl B. Sherwin
 Exceptional Service Award Maj. Morris "Mo" Hall
 Exceptional Service Award Maj. Gail E. Jergensen
 Exceptional Service Award Col. Brian Smiley
 Meritorious Service Award Maj. Karen Dale
 Meritorious Service Award Maj. Gail Jergensen
 Meritorious Service Award Maj. Thomas N. Scheffel
 Meritorious Service Award Maj. William J O'Connor
 Region Commander's Commendation Chap. (Lt. Col.) Jeffrey Williams
 Commander's Commendation 1st Lt. Keith Watson
 Commander's Commendation Capt. Jon Bucher
 Commander's Commendation Capt Michael Schulte
 Commander's Commendation Lt. Col. Tom Eggers 



By Ch. Lt. Col. Jeff Williams, CAP
Colorado Wing Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner



What does it mean to be a CAP Chaplain? What possible benefit does the organization gain from having the largest volunteer Chaplain Corps in the world? What does the chaplain do, anyway? These are things to ponder while on the road at midnight returning home from a National Cadet Special Activity. No, I wasn't there to do a devotion or worship service, I was there to be a "victim" for a night exercise with cadets from all over the country.

Another chaplain and I were discussing this very thing the weekend before while driving back from a SAREX. He said, and I paraphrase, "A chaplain is a lot more than church services. He has to be involved, he has to be there for his or her people, he has to be ready to listen and act at a moment's notice." We were also discussing a request, being handled by a third chaplain who was at the same SAREX, to train Disaster Relief teams in "psychological first aid," or responding to abnormal situations. As the Air Force manual on traumatic stress reminds us, we need to deal with "normal reactions to an abnormal situation." The chaplain is that friendly ear when things are going wrong, when life throws you that curve ball, when you simply need to talk and know the conversation won't go any farther.

That friendly ear shows up with the cadet program, especially at the encampment. The past few years we have had several chaplains at the encampment, as much to calm fears as to make sure the participants' First Amendment rights are not violated. Our cadet students, especially, are in a very difficult situation. For many, sometimes as young as 12 years old, this is the first time they have been away from home without the ability to talk to parents or other family members. They are scared, overwhelmed by the experience, and homesick. "You need to talk to the chaplain," these cadets are told by their flight staff. So we talk, maybe at the picnic table, maybe in the cafeteria, maybe outside the auditorium. A chaplain shows up at the encampment with a large number of pocket packs of facial tissue, and leaves with very few. We encourage, we plead, we let the cadet talk, and we cheer them, sometime with tears of our own, as they march in the graduation Pass in Review.

But it isn't just the cadets who need that friendly ear, so do the seniors. Indeed the seniors, not only at encampment, know the chaplain has a wealth of resources, and is always ready with a prayer and a word of hope.

The chaplain's job also is to keep track of unit morale, assist in writing citations for various awards, and informing the commander of that which is both positive and negative. We help the commander make decisions by helping them remember the CAP core values of integrity, volunteer service, excellence and respect.

Those core values are also the heart of the monthly character development sessions we are privileged to do with our cadets. Most chaplains don't seem to mind if you listen in while the cadets deal with moral and ethical case studies.

And, on occasion, we get to lead a worship service.

The chaplain's life is far from dull. The chaplain is a great resource for fulfilling the three-prong mission of the Civil Air Patrol. 

Mobile App Created by CAP Member Launches Aircrews With Aid of an Apple iPad

*Maj. Ed O'Brien, CAP
Black Sheep Senior Squadron*

The most friction in any REDCAP heats-up in the first hour of an alert. The biggest rub is the complexity of paperwork dueling the tic-tock of the mission clock.

Assembling crews, assembling gear, communicating with the IC, filling out an initial 104, scanning it to the IC, taking down briefing notes, filling out the weight and balance, filling out the ORMs safety worksheet, Entering the 104 and other data to WMIRs, getting to the airport, getting aircraft keys, checking weather, the preflight checklist, pulling out the plane, loading crew and gear, updating the 104, etc, etc, etc...

AND at this point the mission hasn't even begun.

It is hard paperwork deadlines meets real REDCAP pressure.

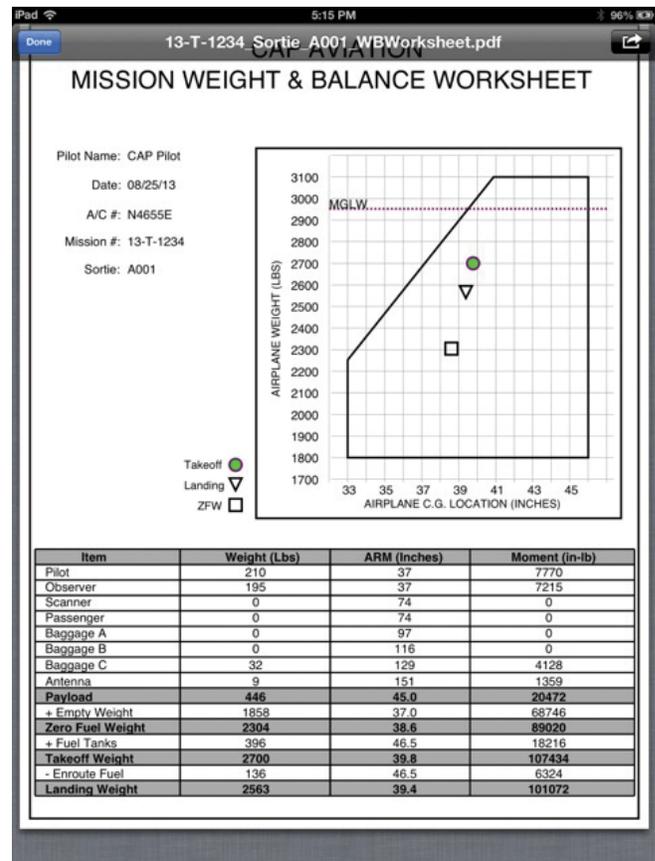
To the rescue of search-and-rescue-crews comes a time saving App for Apple devices. An App with a step-by-step layout, intuitive controls, everything without cutting one corner or missing a mission beat.

Conceived and programmed by Black Sheep member Capt. Mike Schulte, this App, according to the pilots using it, saves 30 to 45 minutes of time from alert to launch.

Remember that 45 minutes saved - puts our aircraft



Peaks and Planes



100 miles closer to a REDCAP target.

It also saves redos, can't-find-that's, where'd-it-goes, whatta-mean-you-didn't get-its, and perspiration piled on exasperation.

All the CAP forms in one zippy package that's as handy as a Smart-phone or iPad. Prefills, reference data (like the weight and balance for every single plane in CAP's National Fleet), search grids, access passwords, intuitive maneuvering through all the steps, and the connectivity to send it to WMIRs, ICPs, or Flight Release Officers.

What Capt. Schulte has developed is actually 4 different products:

1. CAP Preflight - CAP Preflight integrates the CAPForm 104 Briefing, ORM, and Weight &

Summer 2014



Balance worksheets to streamline the preflight planning process so you can breeze through the paperwork and focus on the mission.

2. CAPFlightPro2 - incorporates all the features of CAP Preflight and adds:

In Flight Tracking - capture sortie events and a GPS log of the flight for a great debriefing
Form 71 - Aircraft Inspection Checklist
Fuel Receipt Capture - take a picture of the receipt and the app creates the PDF for you

3. CAP Grid - Supports Conventional and Cell Grid Formats. For planning on the fly and flying that plan.

4. SAR Track - Use on a mission to keep an easy, accurate, real-time log and provide a detailed debriefing.

Capt. Schulte estimates it took him 500-700 hours of his own volunteered sweat to produce these Apps. However, if every pilot in the Colorado Wing saves 30-45 minutes per sortie, then Mike’s contribution to mission efficiency, finds made, lives rescued and performance enhanced – this application will payoff in man-years of paperwork time saved.

The reason Mike took on this App-build is simple. As he stated in a recent interview; “I thought it was ridiculous how long it took us to get going. The ICs got testy, the crews got frustrated, and the customers complained. I just figured I could help.” AND so Mike has. Mike really has...

Colorado Wing Wins Awards for Outstanding Performance in Region at National Conference

By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
COWG Director of Public Affaris

Congratulations COWG! At the 2014 Civil Air Patrol National Conference in Las Vegas on Saturday, 16AUG, the Colorado Wing was presented with awards for outstanding performance within the

Rocky Mountain Region in Disaster Relief as well as Counterdrug and Homeland Security. Lt. Col. Dave Novotny accepted the awards for the Wing from National Commanders Major General Carr and Major General Vazquez.



30 Years of Service for Black Sheep

By SM Thomas J. Welle, CAP
Black Sheep Senior Squadron Asst. PAO

In July 1984, Carl Feldhamer established the Black Sheep Squadron. On July 17, 2014, Feldhamer's widow, Lt. Col. Thelma Feldhamer, their children and grandchildren joined current and former members of the squadron to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the unit Carl began. Master of Ceremonies, Col. Gary Tobey detailed the Black Sheep's early beginnings, introduced family members and former squadron commanders. Col. Tobey said Carl Feldhamer, a WWII veteran and lawyer, was enthusiastic and driven. He strove for prompt and efficient training to meet CAP missions. He immediately assigned new members to a job in the squadron. He initiated newspaper collection drives to purchase hand held radios for members. He held monthly aircrew training to help crews meet flight requirements. He started and trained the Colorado Legislative Squadron and revised the Colorado Worker's Compensation laws to include CAP cadets.

The Black Sheep started out as a composite

squadron and during that time, Feldhamer hosted an International Cadet Exchange program, growing the unit to the nation's largest, at 227 members.

Tragically, on April 7, 1990, Carl Feldhamer died in a plane crash on a flight home from Colorado Springs to Centennial. Some members that searched and ultimately found him near Elber, CO, were present at the anniversary celebration.

"He died as he lived, at full throttle with his boots on," said Col. Tobey.

The Black Sheep Senior Squadron is extremely grateful to the Feldhamer family, Colorado Wing Commander Lt. Col. David Novotny, and former members that honored us with their presence at the anniversary. Their legacy lives on through those of us that serve today. 🇺🇸



Front row, left to right: Andy Hartsough, Dick Hugen, Gary Tobey, Thelma Feldhamer, Raquel Rosen (Carl Feldhamer's daughter), Richard Rosen, Jack Head, Ernie Batchelder.
Second row, left to right: Ed Wade, Leonard Ginther, Mark Feldhamer (Carl's son), Ken Cameron, Leigh Hettick, Shane Wathen (Carl's grandson, Raquel's son), Rod Jenkins, Bryan Raley, Mike Fensten, Bob Warner.



Steamboat Springs Civil Air Patrol Pilots find Plane Crash Site

*By Capt. Carrie Gibbs, CAP
Deputy Commander for Cadets
Steamboat Springs Composite Squadron*

Steamboat Springs, Colo.—On Saturday, August 9, a single-engine Piper Arrow was reported overdue for arrival in Boulder. Lieutenant Colonel Don Heineman and Major Robert Del Valle located the plane crash around 8 p.m. on Rabbit Ears Pass. Heineman and Del Valle, both of the Steamboat Springs Composite Squadron, relayed the location of the plane to ground units with Routt County Search and Rescue who hiked into the wreckage area and found the crash at 2:30 a.m. Sunday. As many COWG CAP aircrews were involved with the Wing-wide evaluated SAREX on August 9th and since Heineman and Del Valle were not participating in

the SAREX and knew the mountain area, they took the initiative without CAP assignment to look for the missing plane in Del Valle's personal aircraft.

The crash site was near the Harrison Creek drainage south of Walton Peak, a 10,544 ft mountain, and occurred Saturday morning during a flight lesson.

William Earl Allen, 62, of Broomfield and his student Terry Lynn Stewart, 60, lost their lives in the accident. Locals say that pilots unfamiliar with the terrain can misjudge how much elevation they need to gain to clear the drainage. The crash is still under investigation. 🇺🇸



COWG members if you've yet to order your own personalized Colorado Wing 3 Season Jacket the next opportunity is now! A Wing announcement will be sent out with the order form attached.

All questions about how your jacket can be personalized should be addressed to Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, COWG Director of Public Affairs at mdaniels.cocap@gmail.com.



The Colorado Civil Air Patrol License Plate is now available at your County Clerk's office!

USAF OPS Evaluators Give COWG Excellent Rating

By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
2014 COWG Ops Eval PIO and
Maj. Bill O'Connor, CAP
2014 COWG Ops Eval IC



Kudos to the ICP Staff shown here in their various colored vests to identify their respective sections. Special thanks to IC Maj Bill O'Connor and Logistics Section Chief Maj Stefanie Huggins for pulling it all together. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, OPS EVAL PIO

The COWG received an “extremely strong” EXCELLENT rating after the USAF Operations Evaluation concluded on August 9th at Ft. Collins-Loveland Airport. Maj. Bill O'Connor was the Incident Commander and afterward he shared the following message with the Wing from an Emergency Services perspective:



Capt. Jaeger, Planning Section Chief, was recognized by the USAF Evaluators for Outstanding Performance. Ian (Left) seen here conversing with Liaison Officer Col. Earl Sherwin (Far Right) and COWG Interim Commander, Lt. Col. Dave Novotny (Center). Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, OPS EVAL PIO



Communications Section Chief 1st Lt. Mark Sheets (Left) and his Deputy, Maj. Eric Schwarm (Right) were recognized by the USAF OPS Evaluators for Outstanding Performance during the COWG OPS EVAL. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, OPS EVAL PIO

“Two years ago the COWG received a rating from the AF evaluation team that we felt was fair based on the actual execution of the Ops Eval, but not reflective of the excellence of COWG’s ES performance as measured by actual missions. ES and Wing command set out on a plan to improve the execution of ES tasks through focused training on

ES, and improve the ICS system through technology assist, plus good old fashion training emphasis. The results were evidenced with our Excellent rating on the Ops Eval this year.

With a mission or an exercise of this magnitude, individual effort does not make it successful unless that individual effort is team based and in concert with the entire team. Successful execution of the mission is a result of the team all pulling in the same direction. COWG and its 100+ members who stepped up to the challenge pulled off what the evaluators said was an impressive improvement over the last Ops Eval. Our aircrews (including two from WYWG), ground teams, and ICP staff all performed at the excellent and outstanding levels, with truly outstanding individual performances as measured by the evaluators.



IC Maj. Bill O'Connor conferring with Mission Chaplains Lt. Col. Gary Breig and Maj Alan Garner. No Divine intervention was needed on our Ops Eval thanks to the skills, talent, training and experience of our super COWG team but still nice to have them there "just in case!" Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, OPS EVAL PIO

As good as we are, we can improve. The AF, and RMR, support COWG's training efforts through funded exercises and flights. We need to continue to make these as efficient and effective as we can. Through focus on the tasks and objectives, we keep ourselves sharp and improve on the excellence we show. Two years from now we get to do this all over again. At the 2016 Ops Eval, we can achieve

Peaks and Planes



The COWG Planning Section was rated as Outstanding by the USAF Evaluators! Photo by Lt. Col Mike Daniels, OPS EVAL PIO

an outstanding rating based on a slight improvement on our performance at the 2014 Ops Eval. We can certainly achieve this as the Wing has the talent and dedication to achieve it.

I am proud to be associated with a professional ES organization such as the COWG, and we continue to demonstrate our abilities where it counts; on actual missions. Thanks to all who participated in the Ops Eval and everyone else who were not able to be at the exercise but cheered on the team from the sidelines.”



USAF Ops Evaluator Lt. Col. Randy Koenig interviews Maj. Jim Garrard COWG OPS EVAL Finance Section Chief

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. Carl A. Spaatz Award

C/Col. Matthew Ten Eyck, Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron
C/Col. Skylar Caldwell, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron



Paul E. Garber Award

Maj. Morris Hall, Pikes Peak Senior Squadron
Maj. Bethany Lenell, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron



Amelia Earhart Award

C/Capt. Sarah Hiryak, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
C/Capt. Christina Archer, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron
C/Capt. McKade Clark, Mile High Cadet Squadron
C/Capt. Aidan Gibbs, Steamboat Springs Composite Squadron
C/Capt. Aidan Ascio, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
C/Capt. Nicholas Timpe, Boulder Composite Squadron
C/Capt. Spencer Erjavec, Mustang Cadet Squadron
C/Capt. Anna Gilmer, Broomfield Composite Squadron
C/Capt. Collin Parsons, Arvada Cadet Squadron
C/Capt. Isaac Aughenbaugh, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron



Grover Loening Award

Capt. Mary Cast, Foothills Cadet Squadron
Capt. Keith Christian, Broomfield Composite Squadron
Capt. Michele Compton, Mile High Cadet Squadron
1st Lt. Michael Frank, Greeley Composite Squadron
Maj. Loren Johnson, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
Capt. Cathy LaLiberte, Adams County Cadet Squadron
Maj. Michael Lunn, Jefferson County Senior Squadron
1st Lt. Deborah McAllister, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron
Capt. Richard Shaw, Parker Cadet Squadron
Capt. Dale Snavelly, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
Maj. Robert Wray, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron



Gen. Billy Mitchell Award

C/2nd Lt. Tyler Griffin, Douglas Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Chad Lewis, Mustang Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Lauren Sides, Broomfield Composite Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Austin Hazlehurst, Douglas Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Geraldine Fuentes, Mustang Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Janae Letts, Parker Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Parker Koppes, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Emma Hanley, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Qashr Middleton, Foothills Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Victoria Schmidt, Mustang Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Christopher Ottesen, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Benjamin Maroney, Broomfield Composite Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Durga Niroula, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Eddie Patterson, Evergreen Composite Squadron
C/1st Lt. Christian Witham, Heart of the Rockies Composite Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Jozef Szabo, Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Matthew LaJoy, Montrose Composite Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Lucia Stark, Banning Lewis Ranch Cadet Squadron
C/2nd Lt. Jordanne Stobbs-Vergara, Mile High Cadet Squadron



Specialty Track Master Rating

Capt. William Blatchley, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
Capt. Keith Christian, Broomfield Composite Squadron
Maj. Gary Olinger, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
Lt. Col. John Mitchell, Colorado Wing Headquarters
Maj. Deborah Archer, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron
Maj. William O'Connor, Group 1 Headquarters
Capt. Tammy Mattics, Group 2 Headquarters 

Colorado Wing Veteran to Receive Congressional Gold Medal

By Maj. Robert Wray, CAP
Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron PAO

Civil Air Patrol Maj. A. Wayne Field is among four Colorado Wing personnel who will be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal later this year. Field, a Colorado Springs resident, served more than three decades in CAP and is receiving the nation's highest civilian honor specifically for his contributions to national defense during World War II when in 1943, as a member of New York Wing's Tri-City Squadron, he trained in Nazi aircraft identification in the event of an attack on the United States.

Field, now 88, addressed approximately 75 cadets and senior members on Peterson AFB on June 24, 2014, to tell his story. In 1943, Field, then 17, was working at the Binghamton, NY airport, home to the Tri-City (Composite) Squadron. A pilot in-training himself, he joined CAP as a cadet for extra flying hours and because of what the squadron



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Wayne Field stands in his backyard here May 28, 2014, with his Military Order Purple Heart Association flight cap. Field is a mechanized reconnaissance veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded shortly after in 1945. After being discharged from the Army, Field started the first post-World War II Civil Air Patrol units in Binghamton, New York, and served in CAP for more than 30 years contributing to the success of CAP today. (Photo by Jacob Morgan)



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Wayne Field sits in his backyard here May 28, 2014, with his U.S. Army ribbons earned during service in World War II. The Purple Heart sits on the left as the highest honor Field earned during World War II. Field is a mechanized reconnaissance veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded shortly after in 1945. After being discharged from the Army, Field started one of the first post-World War II Civil Air Patrol units in Binghamton, New York, and served in CAP for more than 30 years contributing to the success of CAP today. (Photo by Jacob Morgan)

represented during a time of War. With America fighting on multiple front around the world, there was a patriotic fervor and Field was happy to support however he could. In addition to training on Nazi aircraft identification, Field participated in many of the same programs found in CAP squadrons today – marching, uniform inspections and classroom-style aerospace lessons. He was proud of his service and was a regular participant in his smaller squadron until he was chosen to serve in the U.S. Army.

Field was originally selected to attend college as part of a U.S. Army training program. When funding for that program was canceled, Field, then 18, quickly became



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Wayne Field and his wife Marie Field stands in his backyard here May 28, 2014. The Purple Heart sits on the left as the highest honor Field earned during World War II. Field is a mechanized reconnaissance veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded shortly after in 1945. After being discharged from the Army, Field started one of the first post-World War II Civil Air Patrol units in Binghamton, New York, and served in CAP for more than 30 years contributing to the success of CAP today. (Photo by Jacob Morgan)

a prime candidate to enlist, which he did. Deployed to Europe shortly after D-Day in 1944, Field explained how he was an infantry member who fought in France and Germany. His most notable battle was the Battle of the Bulge where from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945, the German Army launched its last major offensive of the War. Field described his most challenging experience, when he became separated from his unit with one other soldier. They wandered into a small town, thinking it had been liberated from Nazi control. It had not. After taking fire, they sought refuge in a German controlled building, occupied by the SS, the elite German fighting force. Field hid in the building for over a day, stealing a German firearm. At one point, he hid under a dark stairwell with his fellow soldier while SS patrols walked right by him. “I don’t know how they didn’t see me. I thought I was going to die. The SS didn’t take prisoners this late in the war,” said Field. The two soldiers escaped

the next day. Field remained in Europe until August, 1945. He was injured twice and received the Purple Heart medal.

The attendees were captivated by Field’s stories, asking dozens of questions. Even after World War II ended, Field described how he continued to serve his country through his leadership in Civil Air Patrol. Upon his return home, he found the Tri-City Squadron to be inactive, so he placed an advertisement in the local newspaper and quickly re-activated the squadron and added 30 cadet and senior members in less than two months. An instructor pilot, he also served as squadron commander in New York Wing, Massachusetts Wing, Illinois Wing, Missouri Wing and Colorado Wing. Field had a decorated CAP career that included dozens of search and rescue missions and the opportunity to fly Active Duty Air Force Aircraft on cross-country missions in the 1960s.

Upon hearing that he was selected for the Congressional Gold Medal, Field was especially proud, saying, “I have lived a long life, but this is the most meaningful thing that has happened to me, and I cannot be more proud.” Field feels that this award was long overdue since so many Civil Air Patrol personnel served during World War II in anti-submarine and homeland defense, but also have continued a proud tradition of cadet training and search and rescue since. Field loved his service, exclaiming, “I love it; the cadets, fellow members and everything I did while in CAP.”

Maj. Field is scheduled to receive the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015 along with three other Colorado Wing members: Col. Jim Cooksey from Aurora, Maj. Paul Gilmore, from Aurora and Lt. Col. John Butler, now deceased, from Westminster. 



(L-R) Col. Jim Cooksey, Maj. Paul Gilmore and Lt. Col. John Butler

Colorado Wing Sends Five to National IG College

*By Col. William E. Aceves II, CAP
Colorado Wing Commander
Formerly COWG Inspector General*

Colorado Wing had the largest contingent of students attend the CAP National Inspector General (IG) College June 1-6, 2014, held at the Air Force Inspection Agency, located at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. What better place to hold the CAP IG College than at the home of the USAF Inspector General program! Instructors were from the CAP IG staff as well as the CAP-USAF staff.

The college, offered every two years, is the capstone training course for the Inspector General program, and completion of the Basic and Senior IG courses are prerequisites. Wing Inspector Generals are required to attend the course, and region and wing commanders as well as Assistant Inspector Generals are strongly encouraged to attend. The Colorado Wing Inspector General and four of the five Assistant Inspector Generals were students. Also attending as a student was the next National Commander of CAP, Brigadier General Joseph Vasquez, which helped to highlight the importance



COWG IG Contingent with the CAPCV Maj. Wayne Gould, Lt. Col. Harvey Siegel, Brig. Gen. Joseph Vasquez, Lt. Col. Skip Hyde, 2nd Lt. Cynthia Smith, Lt. Col. William Aceves

that is placed on the Inspector General program.

Prior to arriving, all fifty students were required to take an examination, as well as complete a variety of homework assignments which received feedback during the college. Experience would reveal that there would be very little time available once the course started to finish any uncompleted homework!

Col. Kenneth Parris, CAP/IG, and Col Lawrence Stys, CAP/IGT and the Course Director, started the college by warmly greeting the assembled students. The first day's instruction introduced the students to the role Inspector Generals have in the organization, with an emphasis on how they interact with and help the key leadership. Also covered was the requirement by the Statement of Work for the Civil Air Patrol to have an Inspector General program patterned after the Air Force Inspector General program, to include a complaint process, an inspection program, and a method to address Fraud, Waste, and Abuse. The students then broke up into their assigned seminar groups.



Col. Lawrence Stys, Course Director, looks on as Maj. Gen. Charles Carr addresses the IG College.

The next two days focused on complaint resolution. Students learned how to intake a complaint using the Electronic Case Information Management system (ECIM), as well as how to manage a case using the system. A large amount of time was devoted to the Complaint Analysis step. This step is probably the single most important part of the complaint process. It is here where a complaint allegation is properly framed, and the proper resolution (assist, refer, transfer, dismiss, or investigate) is decided. There was a lot of writing and re-writing in this section, which successfully mirrored what transpires during an actual complaint. Additionally, every student received instruction in and an opportunity to practice interviewing techniques. The final task was training in writing up a Report of Investigation, again requiring writing and re-writing.

Days four thru six were devoted to the new Subordinate Unit Inspection (SUI) process. The inspection process underwent a complete change this year through collaboration between CAP and CAP-USAF to bring it in line with how Wing level Compliance Inspections are done.

Part of the process includes a new checklist that has been provided to members through CAP's Knowledgebase. Four tabs have been eliminated, and the number of questions has been reduced. The checklist has standardized discrepancies and standardized methods required to clear up each discrepancy. This takes all guesswork out of what a unit needs to do to be successful. The key to inspections is providing the required documentation that proves units are in compliance with regulations.

The process has also streamlined the interview process by requiring documents to be uploaded by the unit to e-Services so the inspection team can review them prior to the onsite inspection. There is also a new online report and inspection grade resolution tool which makes inspections more standardized and less subjective.

Students spent an entire day being briefed on and exposed to the new checklists, the new grading system, and the philosophies behind each change. The next day was spent covering any last minute questions, and the afternoon culminated with a practice SUI at the New Mexico Wing headquarters.

Peaks and Planes



COWG IG Contingent with the CAPCC Lt. Col. Skip Hyde, Maj. Wayne Gould, Maj. Gen. Charles Carr, 2nd Lt. Cynthia Smith, Lt. Col. Harvey Siegel, Lt. Col. William Aceves

The following day the seminar groups worked on completing the SUI checklists, writing the SUI report, and got a taste of how the discrepancies will be handled by the units using the upcoming Discrepancy Tracking System (DTS).

There was a little time for leisure. On Thursday evening the college met at Santiago's Mexican Restaurant, located at the base of the Sandia Tram. Those taking the tram to the top of Sandia Peak (10,300 feet) before diner felt the view was awe inspiring, but not the COWG Contingent – the view from Pike's Peak is better! Joining the college for dinner was the National Commander, Major General Charles Carr, Chief Operating Officer for CAP, Mr. Donald Rowland, and the CAP-USAF Vice Commander, Col Jay Updegraff.

On Friday, after the last of the SUI section was over, Major General Charles Carr, and the National CAP-USAF Vice Commander, Col Jay Updegraff, shared their views with regards to the role of the Inspector General program overall, and how with CAP being tasked with new missions in the 21st century, 24/7/365 mission readiness will be critical and the role that the CAP Inspectors Generals will play in achieving that necessary level of mission readiness.

The final bit of business was graduation. All members of the COWG contingent graduated, which gives COWG one of the best trained group of Inspector Generals of any wing. 🇺🇸

Colorado Wing Welcomes New Commander

*By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
COWG Director of Public Affairs*

Although he officially took command of the Colorado Wing on Monday, 11AUG14, Col. Bill Aceves participated in a Colorado Wing Change of Command Ceremony at the 2014 CAP National Conference in Las Vegas. On 15AUG14 Rocky Mountain Region Commander, Col. Robert Bost, RMR Chief of Staff, Col Stan Skrabut and former COWG Interim Commander, Lt. Col. Dave Novotny, conducted a formal Change of Command complete with the Colorado Wing flag as other Rocky Mountain Region Wing Commanders and RMR staff looked on.

Col. William Aceves is highly qualified for the position of Wing Commander



as he has extensive command experience having served in command positions at the squadron and group level. He has completed all levels of the CAP Senior Training Program, having received the Garber, Loening, Yeager and Wilson awards. Col. Aceves holds nine (9) specialty track Master Ratings including Command, Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services and has received numerous CAP honors including the Exceptional Service, Meritorious Service and Commanders Commendation awards.

Congratulations to our new Colorado Wing Commander, Col. Bill Aceves! 

Mile Hi Supports Buckley Retiree Appreciation Day

By Lt. Col. Tom O'Melia, CAP
Mile Hi Cadet Squadron, Safety/Finance/Supply Officer

Members of the Mile Hi Cadet Squadron provided support at the annual Buckley Retiree Appreciation Day event on June 14, 2014. Cadets greeted visitors, provided brochures, and staffed an information table. The event was held in the Buckley Leadership Development Center. United States Air Force Command staff from the 460th Space Wing conducted a POW/MIA ceremony, and representatives from 49 federal, state and local non-profit organizations were present to provide information on benefits to over 300 military retirees from all branches of the services. The Commander of the 460th Space Wing, Colonel John Wagner, thanked Civil Air Patrol for their support at this and other base events. 



(L-R) Maj. Judy Huff, Commander Mile Hi Cadet Sq., Cadet Airman Ronan Pelz, Cadet Staff Sgt. Zachary Worrell



(L-R) Col. John Wagner (Commander, 460th Space Wing), Maj. Judy Huff, CAP (Commander, Mile Hi Cadet Sq), C/SSgt. Zachary Worrell, C/Amn Ronan Pelz, (Unknown AF NCO in back), Lt. Col. Tom O'Melia, CAP, Lt. Col. Gary Schulz, CAP, and Command Chief Master Sergeant Craig Hall, 460th Space Wing

Black Sheep Senior Squadron Hosts Change of Command Ceremony

By SM Thomas J. Welle, CAP
Black Sheep Senior Squadron, Asst. PAO

Black Sheep Senior Squadron hosted a Change of Command ceremony on May 14, 2014. With over 50 members present, Maj. Hank Eng handed over the reins to Capt. Benjamin Krieger.

Eng, a 20 year veteran of CAP, served as Black Sheep Commanding Officer for two and a half years. He built a squadron staff that was prepared to take on the tasks of a Wing in transition. Maj. Eng is a rated Mission Pilot and Air Operations Branch Director and will now serve as the squadron Emergency Services Training Officer.

Capt. Krieger, Deputy Commander prior to stepping up to the top job, wants the unit to strive for excel-



lence in all we do. Krieger has over four years of service with CAP and is a rated Mission Pilot, Aerial Photographer, and Flight Release Officer.

Maj. Von Campbell, Group 1 Commander, presided over the ceremony. After the flag was passed and Capt. Krieger sworn in, the squadron enjoyed a very special presentation by military and aviation author Stephen Coonts. Mr. Coonts gave an account of his life from combat naval aviator to attorney to writing several books on the bestseller lists. Members were given copies of his books and Mr. Coonts spent over an hour signing books and talking to all.

The celebration ended with cake, coffee and camaraderie as members looked forward to working with Capt. Krieger to take the Black Sheep Squadron into a new era. 



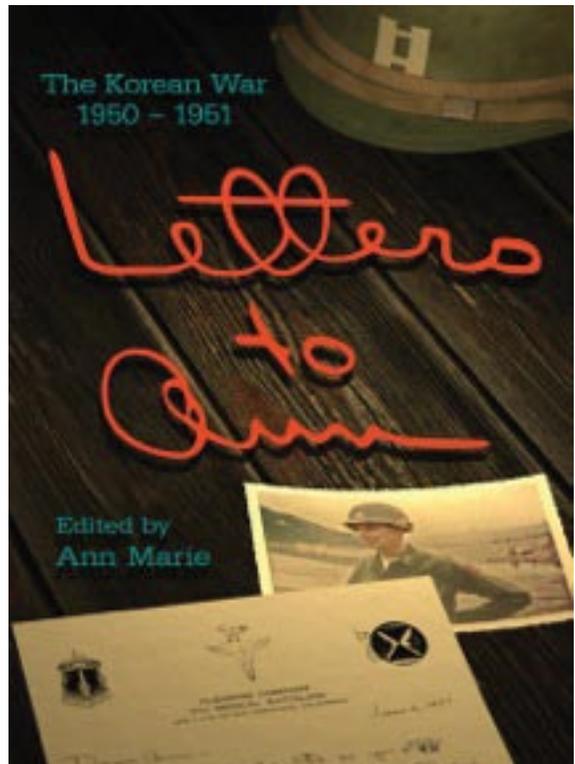
COVER TO COVER

Letters to Ann: The Korean War 1950-1951

www.letterstoann.info

“The great truism of war is that it makes good men do bad things, and bad men do terrible things. Letters to Ann offers an important addendum: that through the worst moments of war, the best part of humanity, our ability to love and comfort one another, survives intact. It’s impossible to read this collection of a soldier’s letters from the battlefield in Korea to his 4 year-old daughter at home without being charmed, and touched.” Glenn Garvin, columnist, Miami Herald

Letters to Ann Edited by Ann Marie (not the Ann the letters were written to) is a collection of letters and notes accompanied by wonderful drawings by a father describing and depicting his experience serving in Korea during the war that he sent to his 4 year-old daughter back home in America. Bronze Star recipient Capt. John Hughes served with a medical unit during the “Forgotten War” and one can easily conjure images of Capt. Benjamin “Hawkeye” Pierce or Capt. B.J. Hunnicutt from M*A*S*H as they read through the letters, view the often humorous drawings and learn about the Korean War through scattered historical records, facts and photographs. This is a very well done account of one man’s wartime tour of duty on the Korean Peninsula while educating the reader about the Korean War.



8.5 x 11, 184 pages, color text, Hardcover \$24.95

Letters to Ann is available at the Tattered Cover, Boulder Book Store, amazon.com, barnes&noble.com and at select independent booksellers around Colorado. Mention “Peaks and Planes” in a direct email to the author and she would be pleased to offer a signed copy and free shipping to CAP members on any book order placed before the end of 2014. Contact Ann Marie at annmarie83@mac.com.

Peaks and Planes

Summer 2014

Seesaw: How November '42 Shaped the Future

www.seesaw1942.com

By late 1942, the world had been fighting World War Two for a long time with no end in sight. November of that year saw campaigns and battles which set the course of the rest of the war. Specific battles, decisions, and actions contributed to the war's outcome. Those results continue to shape lives around the world.

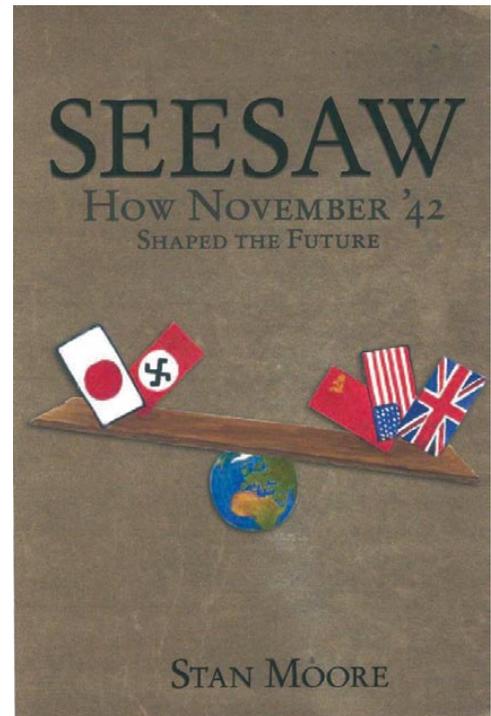
The author, Stan Moore, discusses what led up to the battles and campaigns of late 1942, and looks at how specific decisions and their effects are important to today's world. Moore draws on new and unpublished letters and personal accounts. He also taps a wide range of books, journals, and research to explore personalities known and unknown, pivotal battles and decisions, and underlying reasons and motivations.

This book is an excellent read to quickly learn and understand the facts (known and little known), key players and the overall outcome of World War II. Includes several photographs and maps of the European and Pacific Theaters.

Stan Moore is a third generation Coloradan and a Vietnam veteran.

6 x 9, 260 pages, black & white text, Paperback \$14.00.

Seesaw is available at the Tattered Cover, Wings Over the Rockies, Amazon, Kindle, and Nook and at select independent booksellers around Colorado. Mention "Peaks and Planes" in a direct email to the author and he would be pleased to offer a signed copy and free shipping to CAP members on any book order placed before the end of 2014. Stan Moore can be reached at stan338@gmail.com. 



Heart of the Rockies Squadron Active in Community Events

By 2nd Lt. Ruth M. Lewis, CAP
Heart of the Rockies Composite Squadron, PAO

On March 8th and 9th our squadron went to the Monte Vista Crane Festival. On the 8th, Bailee Velasquez and Mary Hood had a table to let the folks at the Crane Festival know that we had a squadron in the Valley. They passed out pamphlets to kids and adults. On March 9th, we had several cadets that worked for about 3 – 4 hours to help pack up the vendors and take items out to their cars and sweep up the venue. This was a great way to show community service.

Monte Vista Crane Festival (This was the Greater Sand Hill Crane where folks come to watch the cranes)



Tyler Copley, Mitchell Dallas, Luke Bright, Tristan Archuleta, Nick Davis, Jeremiah Walker



Nick Davis and Luke Bright helping to break down vendor



Bailee Velasquez and Mary Hood

On May 17th three senior members and one cadet showed up to help with cleaning up the Del Norte Cemetery. There were community members there as well to get rid of weeds, prior to the Memorial Day weekend.

Del Norte Cemetery Clean Up, May 17



"American Gothic" at the Del Norte Cemetery clean up



Senior and Cadet put weeds and trash in the truck

During the Memorial Day Observance on May 26, the Home Lake Veterans Community Living Center had a ceremony which several cadets and seniors came to watch. There were Calvary members from the Ft. Garland Memorial Regiment that were on horseback and they rode past the tall tower carrying flags. There was also a bagpipe musician that played “Amazing Grace.” Five small planes from the “San Juan Fliers” flew overhead with one plane that billowed smoke behind it honoring the fallen.

Memorial Day Observance, May 26



Ft. Garland Regiment



Cadets/Senior members at Home Lake Memorial

The Cadets had a fundraiser at the Alamosa Air Show on July 12. We sold water, lemonade, tea and soda. We will be using the funds to get our cadets certified in first aid and CPR.

Alamosa Air Show, July 12



Bailee Velasquez, Ethan Gearhar and Nick Davis with a cooler in a trailer out at the Tarmac



New Cadet Ethan and Jeremiah Walker at the table



Foothills Cadet Squadron Participates in Memorial Day Ceremonies at Ft. Logan National Cemetery

By Capt. Mary Cast, CAP
Foothills Cadet Squadron, Commander

While many of their peers took a long three-day weekend to celebrate the first long weekend of summer, Memorial Day weekend found Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members taking time out to remember and honor American's fallen service personnel. On Memorial Day, dozens of Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members chose to demonstrate one of CAP's core values - volunteer service - and participated in the Memorial Day services at Ft. Logan National Cemetery. CAP members have become an integral part of the service and the organizers of this event have come to rely heavily on CAP members to serve in meaningful ways throughout the ceremony. Participating in this ceremony has become a highlight for many CAP

cadets and one they look forward to every year as this is an opportunity to honor those Americans who "gave the last full measure of devotion" in service of their country and her ideals. Foothills cadets joined with cadets from Valkyrie Cadet Squadron and other



Denver-area squadrons to be a part of Memorial Day ceremonies at Ft. Logan National Cemetery. Cadet duties ranged from passing out bulletins to holding flags, escorting Gold Star families, and assisting dignitaries to lay wreaths.



Dressed in their best blues, cadets arrived early to direct visitors to parking and to the ceremony. Stationed along roadways and paths, cadets greeted guests, distributed programs, and answered questions about the event. Other cadets met with the master of ceremony and the CAP Officer-in-Charge to finalize various duties that CAP would handle during

the actual ceremony. As in years past, CAP cadets were tasked with holding the national and service flags throughout the ceremony. Several cadets were assigned to escort the Gold Star Mothers to lay flowers during the ceremony. Two cadets were assigned to be on the stage to guard the wreath and escort dignitaries.



Services began promptly at 1100 with the presentation of the colors by a unified service color guard and an opening prayer given by Lt. Col. Jeffrey Williams, COWG Chaplain. During this time, a lone A-6 painted in Navy yellow and blue flew overhead to render honors. After the opening ceremony, the color guard placed the flags in stands and CAP cadets took charge of the flags. The cadets held the flags for the remainder of the ceremonies, making sure that wind and sloping ground did not conspire to make the flags fall. After a few introductory remarks, recognition of veterans from the several different conflicts and a rousing rendition of the Armed Forces Medley, the ceremony grew a bit more somber as different speakers reflected on the meaning of the day. Speakers included Major General H. Michael Edwards, Adjutant General for Colorado, and Senator Mark Udall.



Following the speeches, it was time to honor the fallen. Several cadets came forward to escort Gold Star Mothers to lay their flowers at the foot of the symbolic headstone. After flowers were laid, it was the turn of the dignitaries who were there on behalf



of the United States and Colorado government. As the dignitaries moved to the front of the stage and formed around the headstone, CAP Cadet Lt. Col. C. Blome brought the wreath forward and assisted the dignitaries in placing the wreath. Afterward Cadet Chief Master Sgt. D. Strock assisted the Gold Star families in placing their wreath.

The final ceremonies of the service began. A flock of beautiful white homing pigeons were released to circle overhead before they flew off to the northwest and home. Their flight was followed by Chaplain Williams giving the benediction. The solemn notes of "Taps" echoed through the cemetery and overhead a lone WWII aircraft made a final pass over the cemetery. After the conclusion of the ceremonies, all the cadets and senior members were able to meet Maj Gen Edwards. He greeted the cadets and met each individually, sharing a few words.

Foothills
c a d e t s
t h a t
p a r t i c i p a t e d
i n
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s e r v i c e
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y e a r
w e r e
C a d e t
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C o l .
C h a r l e s
B l o m e ,



Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Dusten Strock, Cadet Senior Airman Matthew Gardner, Cadet Airman Alexander Hill, Cadet Airman First Class Gabriel Ingebritsten, and Cadet Noah Malik. 

2014 Colorado Wing “Lancer” Encampment

*By Cadet 1st Lt. Daniel Turner, CAP
Fremont Starfire Composite Squadron, Cadet Commander*

For many cadets encampment is the most exciting and fulfilling activity in Civil Air Patrol. This year’s encampment definitely didn’t disappoint! The Lancer Encampment was my third encampment at the Air Force Academy Prep School, my second as cadet cadre (staff). As many cadets will agree, encampment is one of the greatest learning experiences in their CAP career and many have made life-long friends in the process.

For those who have not yet attended or participated in an encampment, allow me to describe it for you. As a student, cadets will learn the Air Force way of life while actually living for a week at the Academy Prep School. The flight staff cadets will

teach students how to keep barracks clean and how to properly wear the CAP uniforms. They will also ensure that cadets will know drill and ceremonies, which they will need throughout their entire CAP career! The main goal of encampment is for cadets to learn, and I guarantee, they will learn a lot!

A week of making beds and marching around sounds boring right? Fear not, there are many other activities to do at encampment. This year the cadets got to visit many places and do lots of educational “field trips” during the week. My personal favorite and probably the most awe-inspiring was the tour of the Air Force Academy. The cadets got to see the very area where Air Force cadets live and work and learn



Charlie flight cadets at the Air Force Academy (photo by Lancer Encampment PAO Staff)

a lot about the Air Force's mission during the tour, as well as a visit to the Chapel and library.

Aerospace education is an important mission of Civil Air Patrol, so it is included in the encampment, too. At USAFA, students visited the Aeronautics lab and also used flight simulators and get to experience what flying in an Air Force trainer is really like!

Cadets also had an opportunity to visit Fort Carson and use many other simulators including a search and rescue simulator where cadets had a sortie mission to find a downed airplane. There is also a shooting simulator where students had the chance to hold a demilitarized M-16 connected to a projector and they worked on "fine-tuning" their shooting skills. To describe in detail all the activities of encampment would take more space than I have available, but



Cadets learning on flight simulators (photo by Lancer Encampment PAO Staff)

some more fun activities include the ropes course, volleyball, and drill competitions.

For those of you who haven't attended an encampment yet, it needs to be added to your "to do" list. If my description isn't enough to convince you to go, then think about this: without attending an encampment you will not be able to achieve the Billy Mitchell award. Furthermore, you will not be able to attend any National Cadet Special Activities (NCSA's) which could include the Powered Flight Academy, Glider Academy, Cadet Officer School, and so many more. Encampment is the key to unlock the really cool activities and events that you can do in Civil Air Patrol. The encampment training isn't easy and not always fun. But when you look back on it and see how much better it has made your CAP career, you may even want to go back as staff and be a leader to new students who want to further their career in Civil Air Patrol! 



Lt. Col. Novotny at the Ropes Course (photo by Lancer Encampment PAO Staff)