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AIRWAVES

Winner of the 2009 Belsam National Award for Excellence

Guided Training Exercise Stretches Training for Multiple Disasters

by 2d Lt Luc Moens

When disaster strikes, it may have multiple facets that require the trained assistance of first responders from several areas. Mission 10T5959 of July 11, required the cooperation of several squadrons working in sync to overcome complex simulated incidents. Under one Incident Commander, three bases worked to overcome the challenge. Ed.

The warmer months provide ample opportunity for all COWG Squadrons to engage in search and rescue operations simply because of the increased recreational activities in the mountain areas. However, the complexity of such missions requires regular practice and fine-tuning of all technical skills in order to make them successful. One of the larger Wing-wide practice exercises is the Guided Training Exercise, GTE, which is essentially a SAREX supervised by the US Air Force. The multitude and variety of the emergency scenarios gives all participants an opportunity to test their skills in preparation of the Evaluated Search and Rescue Exercise, SAREVAL, which will take place in 2011. The United States Air Force will provide an official rating of the Colorado Wing.

This year, the GTE was based at Peterson AFB, with two remote bases, Rocky Mountain Metro Airport and Montrose Regional Airport, and was code named "Big Burn, High Water." It referred to the fictional declaration of a state of disaster by the Governor of Colorado as a result of extensive flooding of the Arkansas River, as well as fires and smoke throughout the State. Within this context, a number of photo and Archer missions were organized by Lt Col John Mitchell, the Incident Commander.

A simulated mission carried out by an all-Jeffco Squadron team led to a successful finding of a "missing person" in the back country near Sedalia. Thanks to the use of a mirror, which reflected the sun causing flashing from the middle of a forested area, the person was found. This was a textbook example of how important a mirror can be for a lost hiker in such a situation (see photo). The aircrew team composed of 1st Lt Robert Patlovany, Mission Pilot; Maj Victor Sabatini, Mission

Continued on page 2

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP

Observer; and 1st Lt Matt Robertson, Mission Scanner, did not know that during this same mission they would be re-tasked with a second target that would lead them to Greeley. There they were asked to take photos of an oil tanker truck spill near the intersection of US 85 and Weld County Rd. 44, but they were in for an additional surprise when they noticed a nearby field that showed terrific “crop art” that was a farmer’s tribute to the Department of Defense. Beaming with satisfaction, but visibly tired from a 3.7 hour flight, the crew brought home a number of excellent photos, which they downloaded into the National HQ database, WMIRS.



Communications: 1st Lt Mike Linn



Flight Release Officer: Lt Col John Butler



Air Ops: Maj Skip Hyde and Capt Bob Machacek



Finance: Capt Tom Benson



Debriefing: 1st Lt Robert Schmid



Flight Crew: Capt Victor Sabitini, 1st Lt Robert Patlovany, 1st Lt Matt Roberts

Photos by 2d Lt Luc Moens



Flightline: Capt Fred McFarland

Bright Spot in the Forest: Hikers who plan ahead can save their lives by carrying a simple mirror to signal aircraft in the event they become disoriented and lost.

From the air, the forest canopy looks like a mass of fungus on a Petrie dish. The bright light has saved many lives.



Photos by 2d Ariv Gezlov

Another “Save” for Jeffco Air Crew

by
Capt P.D. Sargent

Latisha Tucker did not have a mirror. She had only the clothes on her back as she hiked through a remote region of Larimer County. She had just planned to take a short hike in the Comanche Peaks Wilderness, but suddenly a heavy rain beat down and she could not make it back to her car.

Cold and wet, she spent two miserable nights wondering if she would ever survive her predicament. “I felt like crying,” she told the squadron at the July meeting at which her aircrew, Maj Brian Smiley, 2d Lt Arif Gezalov, and Capt Sy Jenkins were honored. “But I knew if I cried I would just dehydrate.”

Comanche Wilderness has complex terrain. It was not the first time that a Jeffco air crew rescued a lost hiker there. In September, 2007, Lt Col Dick Sargent, Maj Bruce Hertelendy, and Capt Sy Jenkins spotted a lost couple who, unlike Tucker, were very well prepared for hiking and camping. They were experienced hikers and had all the equipment and warm, appropriate clothing so necessary to survive.

Unfortunately, they became disoriented, an easy thing to do in the dense forest. They were warm but hungry. They did not know they would be in the mountains for four nights. They did not have enough food, so they survived on mushrooms and berries. That they survived was fortunate as every night in the Colorado mountains is winter, and not all fungus is edible. They were lucky.

The Smiley-Jenkins-Gezalov team has many saves on their records. Each save is a blessing both to the survivor and to the team as well.



Smiles All Around: Left to Right, Colonel Ed Phelka, Capt Steve Schneider, Ground Team Leader, Latisha Turner, and Air Crew: 2d Lt Arif Gezalov, Capt Sy Jenkins, and Maj Brian Smiley. These broad smiles reflect the satisfaction that training, preparedness, and commitment bring when a team of people work together to save a life. Air crews, ground crews, and the many highly trained support people at the command base make search and rescue possible.

Captain Fred McFarland a CAP member in 1946

by
2dLt Todd Sainer

From his Nebraska homeland, Capt Fred McFarland traveled across the world eventually returning to the West and his beginnings as a cadet in Civil Air Patrol. Ed.

As a young man right out of the Navy, Fred McFarland enrolled, attended, and was kicked out of college--twice. Years later, though, Fred completed his undergraduate studies--twice! Now a CAP captain and Jeffco Squadron's assistant Maintenance Officer, Fred's journey is a noteworthy and fascinating tale, starting in Nebraska and winding across the globe before rejoining CAP and settling in Denver five years ago.

The wartime stories Fred heard from returning WWII pilots left a lasting impression on the teenage cadet. Having joined CAP in 1946, his first two flights were aboard a DC-3 during a national cadet encampment at Offutt AFB in southeastern Nebraska. With his interest piqued, Fred enlisted as a Navy aviation mechanic shortly after graduating

high school in 1949. After a two-year tour, Fred's first attempt at college ended in probation and his dismissal from Valparaiso University in northern Indiana. Not long afterward, his second attempt at the same university resulted in the same outcome.

Without any prospective leads, he left for Washington D.C. in the mid-1950s in search of a government job.

Fortunately, through a church group, Fred landed a position in the copyright department at the Library of Congress.

"I regret not taking advantage of the privileged role I had at the time with

access to some of the world's best research," said Fred. Instead, he was too busy socializing and working out at the local YMCA. Within a year he was back in Indiana to work in construction.



Capt Fred McFarland

Photos by Maj Bruce Hertelendy

Still determined, Fred decided to give college another try. However, his third attempt almost didn't happen. He applied to many Indiana area universities and all refused admission except for Ball State, which immediately put him on probation before he even started his first class. Fred persevered and finally finished with a B average and a business degree.

Fred moved to Denver to work on the ramp for Continental Airlines, but was soon drawn to his roots as a CAP cadet and sailor. Knowing he could get an officer commission as a college graduate, he found himself in Pensacola to train as a naval aviator. Unfortunately, his eyesight was too poor for a pilot slot, so he joined the ranks as an airborne radar officer, spending years in Guam searching for typhoons in a time before satellite photography became a normal tool for meteorologists.

During his years as a radar officer, Fred met his future wife, Ruth, who at the time was recently widowed with three boys and three girls. They married in Hawaii while he was stationed in Guam and she was living in Georgia. With a simple "I do," his single life morphed into a paternal one in a household of eight!

In the early 1970s, the Navy asked 5,000 radar officers to leave, including Fred, so he and his family moved to Boulder to rear his teenage stepdaughters. Though he resigned his commission as a Lt Commander, he enlisted in the Colorado Air National Guard and served from 1972 to 1991. During these years, he successfully returned to school for his second bachelor's degree, this time in aviation management from Metro State. Subsequently, he worked

briefly for Continental Airlines before moving to Estes Park to work as a "trail dog," maintaining hiking paths in Rocky Mountain National Park for ten years. Though he was worried about retiring from the Air Guard as an enlisted airman, the military honored Fred's past Navy service, and he retained his rank as Lt Commander in retirement.

Now married for 46 years with eight great-grandchildren, Fred remains active in both the Naval Officer's Association in Boulder and volunteering with CAP.

"The beauty of both of them is that I'm amazed by the talent they have and their training and skills," noted Fred. "It's nice to be in that kind of company."

Even though CAP is a volunteer organization, Fred appreciates the demanding performance required. "You can compare it to volunteer firefighting. They have standards they have to meet, and we do too with the Air Force even though we're just volunteers. Your mission is to do your best, because mistakes can be costly," he added.

Though aviation is his passion, he's happier as a CAP volunteer doing something important and meaningful. So if you see Fred at the next SAREX tutoring young cadets on the flight line, be sure to catch his great attitude and hear his captivating tales as he mentors America's next generation of service-minded citizens.





2d Lt Bob Burrell is promoted to 1st Lt.

BELSAM, 3 NATIONAL AWARDS:
Airwaves, Peaks and Planes, and Media Contact



Happy that Jeffco Squadron, Group II, and the Colorado Wing won three Belsam Awards are Group II Commander, Maj Ryan Lord; Jeffco Squadron Public Affairs Officer, Capt Patricia Sargent, and Wing Commander, Col Ed Phelka. please see p 8.

Best of Air Crew Recognition



Listening intently, Lt Colonel Dick Sargent receives the Best of Aircrew Award and Commander's Coin from Col Ed Phelka. Maj Ryan Lord. assists. Please see p. 8



The "Saves" go on and on. 2d Lt Arif Gezalov receives his second recognition for saving a life. His full participation in Search and Rescue has also won him a "Find" award. Arif often serves as a discerning Scanner. His sharp eye has saved more than one mountain wanderer.

Photos by Arif Gezalov and Capt P D Sargent



A sunny day for Lt Col Sargent, See p. 8

**Days of Summer, a Time For
Vacation, Family, Picnics, and Fun.**



August is usually filled with the "crazy, lazy, hazy days of summer." So we have chosen the sunflower motif to illustrate the warmth and joy that summer brings. Summer also stirs folks to hike and camp in Colorado Mountains. All the more reason to celebrate CAP's leadership in saving lives.



Lt Col Sargent Awarded Best of Air Crew Recognition

by Capt P D Sargent

“Dick was selected for the Col William Hines Memorial Air Crew Member of the year award for his outstanding efforts, both as a pilot and observer, as well as his tremendous efforts coordinating Cadet Orientation Flying for Group 2. Dick sets a fine example for members to follow, showing a willingness to serve in any capacity on an air crew. His success as both a mission pilot, mission observer, and cadet orientation pilot are inspirational to members of the wing. When the time came to discuss nominees for this award, the discussion was short, as Dick was a highly-qualified, excellent candidate to receive this prestigious recognition.” - Colonel Ed Phelka, Colorado Wing Commander



FIND



AIRSHOWS



SAVE



COMMENDATION



CONFERENCES



CROSS COUNTRY PLANNING



O RIDE FLIGHT SCHEDULING



SAVE



MENTOR

Photos Capt P.D. Sargent

Kudos to Lt Col Dick Sargent who was awarded the 2009 “Best of Aircrew Award” at the July squadron meeting. Members who are fully involved with Civil Air Patrol reap the greatest rewards. In his five-year membership, Sargent has actively participated in two “Saves,” numerous SAREXs, and a couple of “Finds.” He has also enjoyed camaraderie with squadron buddies at both CLC and SLS in addition to the ICS series. At the 2009 Christmas party, he did what he loves best—mentoring young people. He is pictured here with young Zach Smith. Sargent’s Business Builder for Shaklee Corporation and a full colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, loves people as much as flying.

Colorado Wing Wins Three Belsams, National Awards for Public Relations Excellence.

Capt Patricia Sargent won U.S. Air Force Maj. Howell Belsam Awards in three categories for 2009. The award was to be presented at the Wing Conference; however, as Sargent was a delegate at the Republican Convention she was unable to attend. Col Ed Phelka conferred the awards during the July Squadron meeting.



Col Ed Phelka also presents Capt Sargent the Commander's Coin.

The Belsam awards honor top-notch public relations and marketing initiatives produced by CAP officers and cadets throughout the nation over the past year.

Sargent's first place awards include "Writing for Media", "Newsletter," and "Magazine" categories. She won top honors in three of nine total categories.

The newsletter, *Airwaves*, is a monthly production. "Our goal is to recognize and honor as many members as possible," said Sargent. "We also inform members of upcoming events, identify key contacts, recognize promotions, awards, birthdays, and also include articles of scientific and aerospace information and those of entertainment value."

In late 2008, Sargent was asked to be the Wing Public Affairs Officer. "I served an interim period of time," said Sargent, "until a permanent PAO could be found." She had the

option of keeping both squadron and Wing posts, but chose to "remain where my heart is." During her half year as COWG PAO, she produced two quarterly issues of *Peaks and Planes*.

"Connecting with the media is important," said Sargent. It is a pleasure to let the public know the good job Civil Air Patrol does in Search and Rescue. When we send a team

out, they 'get their man,'" she said laughingly. Her media releases won her the third Belsam.

"I share this honor with the members of the squadron and the Wing," said Sargent. "Without their patience, cooperation, and outstanding achievement, and without their dedicated activities and accomplishments, this would not be possible." Sargent, who started her writing career as editor of Golden High school's newspaper, *The Demon*, and wrote for Colorado's Oldest Weekly Newspaper, the *Colorado Transcript*, during her college years, has earned previous writing awards including, the Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence for her doctoral dissertation, the Phi Delta Kappa Research Award, and the Colorado Independent Publishers' Evvy Award for her first publication, *Maltese Crossing: Love, Loss, and Lessons of Compassion*. Presently, she is writing a history series, *Power Women: Lessons From the Ancient World*.

Photo by Arif Gezalov

✓ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Happy
Birthday!



**ROBERT PATLOVANY
FARIDA BURNHAM**

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SEPTEMBER

4 **Air Crew Clinic**, Jeffco
10-11 **FEMA ICS-400** Fri 2:45-9pm, Sat 8 am-5pm

Location: 2573 Midpoint Drive, Fort Collins

Application: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGoxQW5pSGdfcUlwZ2R6WWF4Y3FqWHc6MA>

Course outline: <http://www.nesa.cap.gov/icsscurr.htm>

CAP IS-400 Requirements: http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/NIMS_August_2009_92A75FD36A3A0.pdf

11-12 **Communication Unit Leader Class**, TBA

OCTOBER

2 **Air Crew Clinic**, Western Air Flight Academy
15/16 **Rocky Mountain Conference**
16 **Winter Weather Hazards Seminar** **
30 **Professional Development workshop: Historian**

DECEMBER

8 **Mountain Flying Seminar** **

ICS 300 and 400 available on request:
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Contributors

PHOTOGRAPHER

2LT ARIF GEZALOV



Credited with two “Saves,” and always reliable to be where he is needed, using his skills of experience and focus, Arif, takes outstanding pictures of special events, squadron meetings, SAREXs, and Civil Patrol life in general. Arif is the Senior Software Engineer at Webroot Software Inc. in Boulder. Please see his photos on page 2.

LEADERSHIP ABOUNDS IN CIVIL AIR PATROL

Jeffco squadron is filled with members who serve willingly and joyfully, and within the membership are leaders. Leadership is actually a fancy name for service. Leaders inspire others to greatness. Leaders are not self-serving but promote others to stretch their abilities and achieve greatness.

Leaders accept responsibilities for the success of others and the mission; they reach out their hands to help. They also bear responsibility for the failure of the group and offer solutions to the problem not excuses and blame.

Leaders do not expect others to do what they themselves are unwilling to do. Leaders do not intimidate, they lead by example.

Watch for the next issue and a full discourse on leadership.

STAFF WRITERS

2ND LT TODD SAINER



With a degree in journalism, Todd knows his Five Ws, who, what, where, when, why, and sometimes how, and with new business experience he knows his Ps and Qs. Please see his biographical sketch of Capt Fred McFarland, pp. 4-5.

2ND LT LUC MOENS



A Senior Research Scientist, Chemist, at the NREL, Dr. Moens is actively engaged in biofuel research. He enjoys educating the public about ongoing R&D. Please enjoy his article, “Guided Training Exercise,” pp. 1-2. He can be contacted at lucmo@msn.com.

CAPT P.D. SARGENT



PAO team leader, Dr. Patricia Sargent is responsible for the design and format of *Airwaves* She is the winner of the National Belsam Award for Public Affairs Excellence in 2009.

Please contact her with suggestions or corrections 303.216.1931

Thanks to proofreaders

Maj Bruce Hertelendy, 2d Lt Todd Sainer, and Lt Col Dick Sargent, and thanks to photographers Maj Bruce Hertelendy and 2Lt Arif Gezalov,, and Capt P.D Sargent.