



The Eagles' Eyrie

Citizens Serving Communities – Above and Beyond!

RMR-CO-179 Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, Colorado Wing (USAF Auxiliary)
Volume 1, Issue 8 – 9 APR 2010

Important Dates:

- 9 APR – Military Affairs Committee Meeting, Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, 1000 hrs.
- 10 APR – Glider Flights, Fremont County Airport, beginning 0800 hrs.
- 15 APR – 26th Annual Space Symposium, The Broadmoor, 0800–noon.
- 17 APR – Cadet PT and Emergency Services ground team training, Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, beginning at 0900 hrs.
- 20 APR – Pueblo Municipal Airport Advisory Committee, Airport Conference Room, 1430 hrs.
- 23-25 APR – Colorado Wing SAREX, multiple mission bases.
- 13 MAY – Top Gun Day at Squadron Meeting. See squadron website for details.

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Change of Command for Pueblo Eagles

Squadron members sadly bid farewell to Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron Commander Major Stephen Heffler on 1 APR 2010, and it was unfortunately not an April Fool's prank. Major Heffler's job duties required him to relinquish command of the squadron during a time of growth for both the cadet flight and the newly-expanded senior flight.

Group 3 Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Donald Thomas, was on hand to serve as the master of ceremonies, as the squadron flag was transferred to incoming squadron commander, 1LT Shad Brown. LT Brown was promoted during the ceremony in conjunction with assuming command of the squadron. 1LT Brown has served for the past year as the squadron public affairs officer and is a deputy district attorney at the Pueblo District Attorney's Office. Following change of command, 1LT Brown honored MAJ Heffler with a certificate of appreciation for his two tours of duty as a squadron commander.

Major Heffler will continue to serve the Pueblo Eagles, resuming his prior role as the Emergency Services officer and squadron Leadership Officer. He will be conducting ES training and physical fitness testing on Saturday meetings.

Following the change of command, squadron members and guests were treated to an array of refreshments and beverages while socializing and meeting the incoming and outgoing commander. The change



Colorado Wing Group 3 Commander LT COL Donald Thomas (center) presents the squadron flag to incoming Pueblo Eagles squadron commander 1LT Shad Brown (left), as outgoing commander MAJ Stephen Heffler (right) looks on.
Photo by 1LT Joseph Thorn

of command ceremony was organized by CAPT Alix Brockman, 1LT Neva Heffler, and SM Catherine Bellew.

Major Heffler had a final opportunity to do something he loves – presenting a well-deserved award to one of his cadets. In this case, he awarded Cadet Staff Sergeant Cassia Brown with her ground team member badge and emergency services patch earned in January.

[See Change of Command, Page 3](#)

Eagles Observe, Assist Drill and Color Guard Competition

Story and photos by 2LT Shad L. Brown

Cadet flight members with an interest in advanced color guard techniques recently had the chance to see the best teams that Colorado Wing has to offer – up close and personal!

Squadron members traveled to Peterson AFB on Saturday, 13 APR, to observe the Colorado Wing Drill and Color Guard competition. Five of the best color guard teams in the state competed in the day-

long event, while two drill teams vied for the right to represent Colorado at the Rocky Mountain Region competition later this year.

Cadet Staff Sergeants Brian Bissonnette and Cassia Brown were drafted by competition organizers to assist in marshalling teams and ensuring compliance with competition regulations. In some cases, the cadets were watching as judges scored teams!

[See Wing Drill And Color Guard Competition, Page 2](#)





C/TSgt Brian Bissonnette (right) discusses marshalling techniques with C/SSgt Cassia Brown at the Colorado Wing Cadet Competition on 13 MAR. Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown.



Eagle In Profile

Our monthly look at an interesting squadron member... who also gets to pick next month's subject (err, victim)! Squadron beware!

This month, the Eagle's Eyrrie profiles newly promoted C/TSgt Brian Bissonnette.

EE: How long have you been a member of the squadron?

BB: Almost two years.

EE: How did you learn about the Civil Air Patrol and the Pueblo Eagles?

BB: I learned about them from a friend and former cadet from my church.

EE: What inspired you to join the squadron?

BB: The two greatest things that inspired me were the emergency services and the military experience, but there are too many other reasons to name.

EE: What has been the most difficult challenge you have overcome in CAP?

BB: Speaking in a crowd! I'm still trying to perfect it, but it has gotten a lot better over the last few years.

EE: What is the accomplishment in CAP that you are most proud of?

BB: I feel that just being a member of CAP is my greatest accomplishment.

EE: We understand you are interested in a future career in law enforcement. What are you learning in CAP that will help you achieve your career goals?

BB: I would have to say that CAP is helping me achieve my career goals by teaching leadership and self-discipline along with pushing me to try to be my best.

EE: How did you convince your family (dad 2LT Duane Bissonnette and sister C/TSgt Christa Bissonnette) to join the squadron?

BB: I actually didn't have to convince my Dad or my sister. My Dad and I came as a package deal and when my sister found out she could fly, she joined.

EE: If you were the squadron commander for one day, what one thing would you like to see the squadron do, and why?

BB: If I were squadron commander, the one thing I would like to see the squadron do is to have a drill team, because I feel drill is a great source of discipline and a lot of fun.

EE: What is better — color guard or drill team?

BB: One is not better than the other, but when it comes to competition, drill team is definitely my first choice because you get to use drill in a way that can be very artistic.

EE: Finally, which senior member of the squadron should be profiled in the next issue of the Eagle's Eyrrie?

BB: I would like to learn more about our new squadron commander, 1LT Shad Brown!



The Eagles' Eyrrie

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Eyrrie: British variant of the word Aerie (Noun):

1. The nest of a bird on a cliff or a mountaintop.
2. A brood of birds of prey.
3. An elevated, often secluded dwelling, structure, or position.

Courtesy of Merriam-Webster.com online dictionary.

Wing Drill and Color Guard Competition

Continued from Page 2.

Senior members 1LT Joseph Thorn and 2LT Shad Brown watched the competition along with C/SSgt Christa Bissonnette and C/AB Megan Garcia, enjoying intricate drill maneuvers and challenging colors posting by the assembled teams.

The cadet flight now knows what it will take to be victorious

next year at the wing competition, and is enthusiastic to bring its knowledge back to the squadron to begin working now!



Change of Command

Continued from Page 1

Another special visitor was in attendance during the ceremony. Former squadron commander CAPT Robert Sakamoto came down from Aurora to offer his congratulations and advice to incoming commander 1LT Brown, and presented a challenge coin to C/SSgt Brown for earning her ground team certification.



The change of command ceremony kicks off an extremely busy month of April for the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron. Members will also be flying (both gliders and powered aircraft), attending the 26th National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, and participating in the Colorado Wing SAREX at the end of the month. There will even be time to relax, as squadron members will get together at the end of the month to watch the movie "Amelia" and see whose popcorn reigns supreme!

Top: Cadet Commander Miranda Abbas (blue coat) reports that the squadron is all present and accounted for.

Center: New commander 1LT Brown presents a certificate of appreciation to MAJ Heffler for his service as a two-time squadron commander.

Bottom: Charlie Flight prepares for inspection prior to the change of command ceremony.

All photos by 1LT Joseph Thorn.



Enjoy photos from the change of command ceremony on this page!

Story by 1LT Shad L. Brown



1LT Brown Takes Flight!

By 1LT Joseph Thorn
Deputy Commander Cadets

No, he didn't take flight from our squadron! Our new squadron commander flew with 2LT Rich Thorn and 1LT Joe Thorn in their Cessna 182 to the Pikes Peak Senior Squadron meeting held on Thursday, March 4th. With 2LT Thorn in the left seat (Pilot), 1LT Brown assumed the right seat co-pilot's position. 1LT Brown felt it was a good idea to get some "yoke" time as

he is now in charge of a composite squadron with pilots on board.

On the way up (literally) to Peterson AFB, 1LT Brown was asked if he wanted to take the controls. He responded with an immediate, definitive, command reply of "No!" Being his first flight, filled with lots of sensory input, mysterious instruments, and unique radio language, he felt it would be better to observe the workings of the flight

process his first time up. Good command decision!

As we departed Peterson AFB on the way back to Pueblo, we were vectored right across the path of a C-130 on approach back into Peterson AFB. As we passed by the C-130 we were close enough to wave to the pilots, had it not been dark!

Congratulations to 1LT Brown on his first, and not last, C-182 flight!



A cake that was good enough to eat!

Photo by 1LT Joseph Thorn



Well-wishers enjoy refreshments provided during the reception line as part of the squadron change of command.

Photo by 1LT Joseph Thorn



New squadron commander 1LT Shad Brown shows the old hands how the Cessna 182 should be flown, from the safety of the ground!

Photo by 1LT Joseph Thorn

Eagle News... Briefly!

Recent Promotions:



First Lieutenant: Shad Brown, promoted on 1 APR 2010 in conjunction with his promotion to squadron commander. Lieutenant Brown served most recently as squadron public affairs officer and will continue to serve in that role.



Second Lieutenant: James Bellew, promoted on 8 APR 2010 for his rating as a private pilot. 2LT Bellew will begin training towards orientation, transportation, and mission pilot status. He was recently appointed assistant aerospace education officer and assistant operations officer.



Armstrong Achievement: Awarded to C/CMSgt Jonathan Montgomery on 18 MAR 2010. Chief Montgomery has completed his last requirements to move on to Phase III of the cadet program — once he earns his Mitchell Award! We wish you the best of luck in testing for Mitchell and as you become a new cadet officer!



Cadet Senior Master Sergeant: Duc Tran, promoted at the squadron meeting on 18 MAR 2010. Sergeant Tran is also rapidly closing in on the Mitchell Award, before he moves on to Colorado Technical University this fall and puts his CAP skills to good use as part of CTU's ROTC program.



Cadet Technical Sergeants: Brian and Christa Bissonnette, both promoted at the squadron meeting on 18 MAR 2010. This brother-sister team continues on the path to Spaatz and to earn their diamonds. Keep up the outstanding work, sergeants!



Cadet Airmen First Class: Matthew and Tadeusz Nitka, both promoted at the squadron meeting on 18 MAR 2010. Two brothers who are also rapidly progressing in Charlie Flight! Congratulations on earning your Arnold Achievement.



Cadet Airmen: Stephen Crandall and Derek Miller, both promoted at the squadron meeting on 18 MAR 2010. Our next generation of squadron leadership! Nice job earning your Curry Achievement. Next stop, cadet staff sergeant and beyond!

Awards:



Level I: Congratulations to 2LT James Bellew and senior member Catherine Bellew for completing their Level I professional development and being awarded with the Membership Ribbon!

New members: Welcome to new senior members Paul Crandall and Don Henderson, and new cadet member Dominic Pacheco. Senior member Crandall is a lieutenant colonel in the USAF, serving at Doss Aviation as the primary flight instructor. Major Henderson is transferring into our squadron from Group 4 and will serve as the squadron chaplain. Cadet Pacheco can't wait to get into the air and fly, and hopefully will get his wish soon, either in a Cessna or a glider!

Confirmed Encampment Attendees: Cadet Technical Sergeant Brian Bissonnette, Cadet Airmen First Class Matthew and Tadeusz Nitka, and Cadet Airmen Stephen Crandall and Samuel Nitka are all confirmed participants in the 2010 Colorado Wing Encampment to be held 12-19 JUN 2010 at the United States Air Force Academy Prep School. First Sergeant Brady Russell's application is pending as well. This may be one of the largest encampment classes ever for the Pueblo Eagles, which bodes well for our future officer corps! Congratulations, gentlemen!

Certificates of First Flight: Awarded to Cadet Airmen First Class Matthew and Tadeusz Nitka, and Cadet Airmen Stephen Crandall and Derek Miller at squadron meeting on 25 MAR, recognizing their first powered flight in a Cessna 182 during orientation flights on 13 MAR. May this be the first step on your journey of flight, cadets!

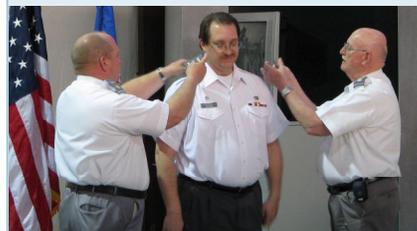


C/AB Megan Garcia, C/SSgt Brian Bissonnette, C/SSgt Christa Bissonnette, C/SSgt Cassia Brown, and 2LT Shad Brown observe the Colorado Wing Cadet Competition at Peterson AFB on 13 MAR. Photo by 1LT Joseph Thorn



2LT Richard Thorn (in BDUs, left) and 1LT Joseph Thorn (BDUs, right) show off their Pueblo Eagles style while visiting a meeting of the Pikes Peak Senior Squadron on 4 MAR 2010.

Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown



"Oh, did a promotion come with that?" New squadron commander Shad Brown is promoted to first lieutenant by MAJ Stephen Heffler (left) and LT COL Donald Thomas (right) during the change of command ceremony on 1 APR 2010.

Photo by 1LT Joseph Thorn