



The Eagles' Eyrie

Leadership, Service With Honor

RMR-CO-179 Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, Colorado Wing (USAF Auxiliary)
Volume 1, Issue 1 – 6 AUG 2009

Important Dates:

- 8 AUG – Cadet PT. 0800 hrs Weisbrod Aircraft Museum. Open Cockpit follows PT at 1000 hrs – see the inside of a B-29!
- 14 AUG – Military Affairs Committee Meeting, Pueblo Chamber of Commerce building, 0900 hrs.
- 28 AUG–7 SEPT – Lost Child Center at the Colorado State Fair. This is one of our most important squadron fundraisers, so make sure you see Lt. Heffler and volunteer for as many shifts as you can!
- 29 AUG – Colorado State Fair Parade, beginning at 1000 hrs. Squadron rally point and time TBA. Uniform: BDUs (blues for color guard).

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Eyrie: 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.

Eagles Cadets Survive Summer Encampment

Four cadet members of the Pueblo Eagles Cadet Flight have added to their "ribbon rack" after surviving encampments held in June, 2009. Cadets Airmen First Class Cassia Brown, Haelie Compton, and Steven Mohan attended the Colorado Wing encampment held at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School, while Cadet Airman First Class Duc Tran opted to attend the Texas Wing encampment held at the Alert Academy in Big Sandy, Texas.



Eagles cadets represented the squadron well. Cadet Tran was the Honor Cadet for India Flight, leading his flight to an award of Encampment Honor Drill Flight and two daily honor flight awards. Cadet Compton was selected as the Honor Cadet for Squadron 5 and for Delta Flight, and earned additional honors as the encampment "Warrior Cadet" after injuring her knee during morning PT but continuing on with the morning activities. Cadet Mohan led Alpha Flight to victory as the head of his flight's Knowledge Bowl team.

Encampment provided the cadets with opportunities to meet and work with cadets from other squadrons, and even other wings. While cadets Brown and Compton served in Squadron 5, they were in separate flights, and the other cadets had no other familiar faces around them.



Cadet Airman 1st Class Cassia Brown assists Echo Flight's First Sergeant in keeping the formation aligned during the pass-in-review at the conclusion of the 2009 Colorado Wing Encampment, held June 13-20 at the Air Force Academy Prep School.
Photo by SM Shad L. Brown

While the cadets were happy to come home after a hard week's work, all of them say that encampment went so fast that they could hardly believe it was over. However, they were satisfied that they had learned a lot and done their best. The cadets were happy that they could "sleep in" after the previous week with a wake-up time of 0515!

[See Encampment "Motivates" Cadets, Page 3](#)

Change of Command, Change of Charter!

Story and photos by SM Shad L. Brown

Big changes were afoot during the month of July at the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum! Squadron Commander Captain Robert Sakamoto announced that he was stepping down after taking a new job in the Aurora area. Captain Sakamoto will continue serving the Civil Air Patrol as Colorado Wing Administration Officer and will be attached to the roster of Group Three.

A familiar squadron commander has assumed the reins of Squadron 179, however! Major Stephen D. Heffler assumed command of the squadron on 23 JULY 2009. Major Heffler has been a long-time member of the Pueblo Eagles Squadron, last serving as squadron commander in 2006, and until recently, was the squadron Emergency Services Officer.

[See Change of Command, Page 2](#)



Captain David Ridge (top left) observing a ground team briefing during the squadron bivouac at Pueblo Mountain Park on 6 JUN 2009. Photo by SM 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!

The Eagles' Eyrrie

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This month, the Eagle's Eyrrie profiles **Captain David Ridge!**

EE: Capt. Ridge, how long have you been a Civil Air Patrol member? And how long with the Pueblo Eagles squadron?

DR: I have been a member for ten years, and all with the Pueblo Eagles.

EE: What have some of your duties been in the organization?

DR: I was a squadron commander for three years; I have also been the public affairs officer and a mission scanner.

EE: Do you have prior military and/or flying experience?

DR: I joined a Marine Air Reserve squadron my senior year of high school, working with the F8F, in 1952. I spent two years on active duty working as an electrician on Sikorsky helicopters, and then attended Naval Aerial Photography school at Pensacola, Florida and was assigned to a Miami squadron (tough duty!)

EE: What kind of work did you do after leaving the military?

DR: I worked for aerial survey companies and for Boeing for four years as a photographer, supervised photographic implementation on the Minuteman project for Thiokol Corporation in Utah, have worked for companies that produced microfilm, and worked at the General Motors Proving Ground taking high speed motion pictures of crash tests. My final job before retiring in 1996 was driving a car hauler over the road.

EE: Are you married or have children?

DR: I've been married 42 years (in November) and we have no children.

EE: What's the most fun you've ever had in CAP?

DR: It's a tossup between scanner missions or going to the Space Symposium every year.

EE: What is your most memorable CAP experience?

DR: Doing contour search of the Sangre de Cristo mountains.

EE: What led you to join CAP?

DR: A friend got me involved to get some flying in together. I joined, the friend didn't.

EE: If you could only give one piece of advice to our cadets, what would it be?

DR: Do well in school and keep your military bearing, you will find it useful at a service academy or in ROTC.

EE: What is the secret to taking a memorable photograph?

DR: Pure luck!

EE: OK, Captain. You get to pick a cadet for next month's Profile... who will we meet?

DR: I'd have to go with [C/2LT] Miranda [Abbas]!



Change of Command

Continued from Page 1.

One of the first decisions made by the new commander was to request a change in our squadron's charter. Within 24 hours of the change of command, the Pueblo Eagles Cadet Squadron ceased to exist, and became the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron. According to MAJ Heffler, this change was necessary due to the growing membership

among senior members, and the increased training tempo for those members. MAJ Heffler appointed MAJ Wayne Gould as Deputy Commander for Cadets, while CAPT Mark Sutton was named Deputy Commander for Seniors.

Welcome back to the helm, MAJ Heffler!



Maj. Heffler teaching cadets direction finding during bivouac on 5 JUN.

Encampment “Motivates” Cadets

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After encampment, the cadets returned to the Pueblo Eagles and gave everyone a briefing about how the week had gone. Cadet Airman Basic Megan Garcia provided S'Mores for the cadet flight as they discussed the good and the bad parts of the encampment program:



C/A1C Tran tells the cadet flight about being “motivated”

Photo by Shad L. Brown

When did you realize encampment wasn't going to be like other summer camps?

C/A1C Brown: When I got the paperwork!

C/A1C Compton: When they woke me up at 0500 with a horn!

What's the coolest thing you did at encampment?

C/A1C Mohan: Won the knowledge bowl.

C/A1C Compton: Tour the Air Force Academy.

C/A1C Brown: Fun during personal time!

What's the worst thing you had to do during encampment?

C/A1C Compton: Clean the boys' barracks.

C/A1C Mohan: Inspections.

C/A1C Brown: Getting up at 0515 hours.

Which squadron and flight were you assigned to? What was your flight's motto?

C/A1C Brown: Squadron 5, Echo Flight. Echo Elites – It's Our Time!

C/A1C Compton: Squadron 5, Delta Flight. Dino D-D-D-Delta Dignitas: Vollenes et Potens (Willing and Able)

C/A1C Mohan: Squadron 4, Alpha Flight. Strong and Steady.

What was the best food and the worst food?

C/A1C Mohan: Best: Food during the closing banquet. Worst: Pancakes.

C/A1C Compton and C/A1C Brown: Best: Cereal (Cheerios). Worst: Sweet and sour chicken.

What additional gear or advice would you recommend to next year's encampment cadets?

C/A1C Brown: Pair of scissors.

C/A1C Mohan: Roll your clothes before arriving at encampment.

C/A1C Compton: Iron and ironing board.

Which summer cadet activity or activities would you like to attend next year?

C/A1C Mohan: Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course.

C/A1C Compton: Colorado Wing Encampment as a staff sergeant.

C/A1C Brown: National Flight Academy and Blue Beret.

Congratulations to all of our Encampment cadets, and keep on making your squadron proud!



Story by SM Shad L. Brown



C/A1C Haelie Compton (left) waits for in-processing at the COWG Encampment. Photo by SM Shad L. Brown

“It's not the officers or staff that are yelling that you should worry about, it's the ones that are quiet that you need to look out for.”

C/A1C Haelie Compton giving advice to future encampment attendees.

Commander's Call



By MAJ Stephen D. Heffler, Commander RMR-CO-179

Once again, I have the chance to lead this squadron to higher goals as the squadron commander. It's been almost two years since Captain Robert Sakamoto took over the reins of the Pueblo Eagles Cadet Squadron, and he accomplished the goals that he had in mind.

As you may have noticed, I did not waste much time! In less than a week, when the paperwork went in for my approval as squadron commander, I also put in for a name change for the squadron to improve our officer membership. I saw the need to make the change when the adults were talking about training as mission scanners and observers. To attract qualified adults to join and fly in the Civil Air Patrol as pilots, our name

was changed to the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron.

Cadets will always be the ones that started this squadron and we will never forget that! Years ago we started with six cadets and four officers, and today we have seventeen cadets and fifteen officers! Some officers have indicated that they wish to remain with the Cadet Flight. That is great! I expect nothing

See Commander's Call, page 4.



New squadron commander MAJ Stephen Heffler promoting C/SrA Hailee Compton on 25 JUL. Photo by SM Shad Brown

Eagle News... Briefly!

Recent Promotions:



Captain Mark Sutton: Promoted at squadron meeting on 11 JUN.

Captain Sutton has also been appointed the new Colorado Wing Health Services Officer by Wing Commander Colonel Edward Phelka, and as the new Deputy Commander for Seniors for the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron by new squadron commander Major Stephen D. Heffler. Keep up the great work, Sir!



Cadet Senior Airmen Haelie Compton and Steven Mohan: Promoted at squadron meeting on 23 JUL.



Cadet Airman First Class Duc Tran: Awarded ground team member badge for achieving GTM level 3, 2, and 1 during the National Emergency Services Academy program in July. C/A1C Tran was also able to complete the requirements for Ground Team Leader during the evaluated SAREX on 25 JUL 09. Well done!

Eagle Ground Team Leads Colorado Wing to “Excellent” Rating:



C/2LT Miranda Abbas, C/TSGT Ethan Wilson, C/SrA Haelie Compton, C/A1C Cassia Brown, and C/A1C Duc Tran participated in the Colorado Wing Evaluated SAREX on 25 JUL 2009. The Air Force rated the wing's ground teams as “successful” and the Colorado Wing as a whole as “excellent.” The cadets responded professionally after waiting for a mission tasking which suddenly turned into a “real world” mission when a CAP aircraft failed to check in on time. The ground team was loaded in the van and ready to proceed in ten minutes, faster than the 15 minutes given to them by the ground branch director. Fortunately, the aircraft was located with no harm and the team was able to stand down. Senior Members Kelly Bosley and Shad Brown (not pictured) also participated on the ground team.

Squadron Begins Mission Scanner Training:

Captain Mark Sutton and Senior Member Kelly Bosley have begun teaching other senior members and some of the older cadets the basic Mission Scanner course as part of the senior members' effort to increase training opportunities in the squadron. Training continues through August and into September.

Squadron Website Fully Operational:

Visit the new and improved Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron website at www.puebloeagles.us !

The Webmaster suggests you become very familiar with all of the new features, as it may benefit you in the near future!

Eagles Observe DUI Checkpoint:

Several members of the squadron observed a Pueblo County joint agency DUI enforcement checkpoint on 29 JUN 2009 to learn about real-world applications of the National Incident Management System. Cadets Brian and Christa Bissonnette assisted the Sheriff's Department's Logistics Branch in recording checkpoint activity. Senior members observing the checkpoint included Major Stephen Heffler and Major Wayne Gould, and senior members Duane Bissonnette, Kelly Bosley, and Shad Brown. Almost 470 vehicles were stopped, and members observed ten DUI investigations, six DUI arrests, and three other arrests of persons wanted on warrants, as well as the use of K-9 units in searching for illegal narcotics. Sheriff's officials were complementary of the cadets' maturity and helpfulness to the operation.



C/SrA Steven Mohan reports to new squadron commander MAJ Stephen Heffler to receive his promotion on 23 JUL 2009.

Photo by SM Shad L. Brown



Group 3 Vice Commander Captain David Atwood (second from right) discusses a clue found by First Sergeant Ethan Wilson during a simulated line search at Peterson Air Force Base. The group was brushing up on ground team techniques while waiting for a mission tasking during the COWG Evaluated SAREX on 25 JUL 2009.

Photo by SM Shad L. Brown

Commander's Call

Continued from Page 3

short of excellence from the Cadet Flight!

The officer flight under Captain Mark Sutton is going to have a lot of growing pains like we had seven years ago—but they have a strong core of officers and I have seen the determination in the efforts they have shown in the past months.

I wish everyone in the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron success in their careers with the Civil Air Patrol. We are truly blessed by the outstanding members that comprise the Pueblo Eagles.

