



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 2 – 18 SEPT 2009

Important Dates:

- 19 SEPT – First Aid / CPR Training, Pueblo District Attorney's Office (701 Court St.). Training begins 0830 hrs. and lasts until 1730.
- 9 OCT – Military Affairs Committee Meeting, Pueblo Chamber of Commerce building, 0900 hrs.
- 17 OCT – 23 OCT – National Red Ribbon Week for anti-drug activities.
- 17 OCT – Glider Flights, Boulder. Details TBA
- 20 OCT – Pueblo Municipal Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, Airport Conference Room, 1430–1600 hrs.

Inside this issue:

Eagle in Profile – This Month	2
C/2LT Miranda Abbas	
Information Technology News	3
Eagle News... Briefly!	4

Eagles Take State Fair by Storm

Enduring mother nature's varied elements, the cadets and officers of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron braved weather from heat to thunderstorms to do their part to ensure the success of the 2009 Colorado State Fair in Pueblo. Our squadron continued its tradition of manning the Lost Child Center on the fairgrounds, starting on August 28-30 and continuing September 4-7. Additionally, the Eagles marched in the Colorado State Fair Parade on August 29, with our color guard receiving salutes from police officers, veterans, and citizens of all types along the parade route.

According to project coordinator 1LT Neva Heffler, the Eagles assisted with eighty one cases involving lost children and older adults during the eleven-day run of the State Fair. 1LT Heffler has not tabulated the total man-hours donated by squadron members to the State Fair Lost Child Center as of press time.

Operations were periodically interrupted by severe thunderstorms, which are not an uncommon sight during the state fair. However, the brief storms helped reduce temperatures, enabling search teams to head back out under cooler evening conditions.

Search teams were also able to assist state fair security in reporting incidents that they observed while on patrol to ensure that law enforcement was able to respond to the location before a major disturbance occurred. The State Fair is frequently



The Lost Child Crew ready to set forth on the Colorado State Fairgrounds, searching for lost children and the occasional lost parent or grandparent

Photo by SM Shad L. Brown

plagued by gang activity, and that danger was heightened this year due to a shooting of a gang member by a rival gang two weeks before the State Fair opened. 10th Judicial District Attorney's Office Gang Intervention Coordinator Jeremiah Perez spoke with several cadets on September 4 at the fairgrounds to alert them to the dangers of roving gangs, and how to spot gang colors, along with reasons to stay away from gang affiliation.

[See Helping Bring the Lost Children Home, Page 3](#)

Goodbye to an Old Friend – Capt. David Ridge!

Story and photos by SM Shad L. Brown

It was an emotional goodbye for a familiar face at the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron, as members bid farewell to Captain David Ridge at the meeting on 13 AUG. Captain Ridge, a former squadron commander and public affairs officer, is moving to Michigan with his wife to be closer to family and friends in the area. However, Captain Ridge stopped by to say his goodbyes before heading east,

and was surprised by a special presentation from Major Stephen Heffler at the end of the commander's call.

Major Heffler presented Captain Ridge with two certificates of appreciation prepared by members of the squadron, and with snacks and drinks provided by Captain Alix Brockman and First Lieutenant Neva Heffler.

[See Adios, Captain Ridge, Page 2](#)





Cadet Commander Miranda Abbas (left) and C/SrA Haelie Compton prepare to patrol the Colorado State Fair.

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!

This month, the Eagle's Eyrrie profiles recently promoted C/1LT Miranda Abbas, as interviewed by aspiring writer C/SMSgt Ethan Wilson:



EE: Lt. Abbas, how long have you been in Civil Air Patrol?

MA: About three years.

EE: How did you first hear about the program?

MA: I saw an ad in the newspaper. The ad was totally wrong, though, since it said the meeting started at 1900 hours.

EE: What was something that stood out for you when you joined?

MA: The uniforms, definitely.



C/1LT Miranda Abbas salutes Major Stephen Heffler after being promoted on 3 SEPT 2009.

Photo by SM Shad L. Brown

EE: What are some changes that you've seen in the squadron over the years?

MA: Lots of growth as far as members, and always new faces. There's not really anybody here that was around when I joined.

EE: What has been your biggest challenge so far?

MA: Being Cadet Commander. I didn't have very much time in training for the position, and I didn't expect it to come so fast.

EE: What are some of your goals for the squadron?

MA: To be involved in activities, both national and local; more recruitment; developing my NCO staff.

EE: What do you plan to do after CAP?

MA: Attend the Air Force Academy, hopefully.

EE: Any advice for the cadets?

MA: Stay involved, even when things get boring. And even if you don't achieve something at first, keep going for it; you'll get there eventually.

EE: Well, it's been great talking with you. One last question, though: Which Senior Member do you think should be the subject for the interview in next month's edition of the Eagle's Eyrrie?

MA: I would have to say Major Stephen Heffler!



The Eagles' Eyrrie

Published online monthly by the Public Affairs Unit of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron.

Publisher

MAJ Stephen D. Heffler

Editor In Chief

SM Shad L. Brown

Contributors

C/SMSgt Ethan Wilson
Kim Tran

Submissions to:

cappao179@gmail.com

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.

Adios, Captain Ridge

Continued from Page 1.

The text of the certificate presented to Captain Ridge is as follows:

This Certificate is awarded to Captain David W. Ridge in recognition of your valuable contributions to the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron 179, Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol, as a former unit commander and public affairs officer, mission scanner, and photographer extraordinaire, and as a brother and a friend.

mander and public affairs officer, mission scanner, and photographer extraordinaire, and as a brother and a friend.

On behalf of all of the Eagles, we wish you Godspeed, Captain Ridge, and continued health and happiness for you and your wife! You will be sorely missed!



Capt. Ridge presented with his certificate by Major Stephen Heffler.



Helping Bring the Lost Children Home

Continued from Page 1

The Lost Child Center was appreciated by both parents and by state fair security. Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Lt. Paul Toth is in charge of security for the fairgrounds, and was excited to welcome the Pueblo Eagles back again this year, pointing out that the Eagles are well-trained, professional, and enable fair security and law enforcement to handle more difficult issues to ensure the safety of fairgoers. The parents who were assisted by our search teams were also highly impressed, indicating how relieved they felt when they were "surrounded by a team of orange shirts" and led back to the Lost Child Center to be reunited with their kids.

Several members of the squadron gathered at the Mesa Junction on August 29 to represent the Colorado Wing in the annual Colorado State Fair Parade, led by the cadet color guard, consisting of C/SrA Haelie Compton, C/SMSgt Ethan Wilson, C/2LT Miranda Abbas, and C/SSgt Brian Bissonnette. Other cadets and senior members marched at the rear of the group, demonstrating Civil Air Patrol's emergency services capabilities.

Story by SM Shad L. Brown



Top Left: CAPT Mark Sutton and 2LT Duane Bissonnette supervising preparations for the Colorado State Fair Parade. Above: MAJ Wayne Gould (left) gives a safety briefing after a thunderstorm at the Colorado State Fairgrounds to C/SrA Mohan, C/SMSgt Wilson, and C/A1C King. Below: C/SrA Duc Tran waves to the crowd while marching in the parade. Photos by SM Shad L. Brown and Kim Tran (bottom picture).



Top Right: 1LT Neva Heffler mans Eagle Base. Above: Eagle 7 ready to join the search – with a little help from Pueblo County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Explorer Cadet Michela Ammeter (left). SM Shad Brown and C/AB Sanders round out the team. Below: Eagles color guard leads the way during the State Fair Parade on 29 AUG 2009. Photos by SM Shad L. Brown (top), C/SrA Cassia Brown (center), and Kim Tran (below).



Pueblo Eagles receiving final instructions before the Colorado State Fair Parade. Photo by SM Shad L. Brown

Parents who were assisted by the Pueblo Eagles search teams described how impressed they were and how relieved they felt when they were "surrounded by a team of orange shirts" and led back to the Lost Child Center to be reunited with their missing children.

Cyberwarfare and Cyberpatriot

News from Cyberspace

By SM Shad L. Brown, IT/WSA Officer and Webmaster

We have finalized our team for the Cyberpatriot competition. The five members will be: C/SMSgt Ethan Wilson, C/SrA Cassia Brown, C/SrA Duc Tran, C/A1C Caitlyn King, and C/Amn Charles Zumpano. There is still room for an alternate if you are interested in participating.

Full details about the Cyberpatriot competition are available on our website under the IT/Web Security section, or in the Cadet's Corner section. Team members should review the training materials available on those pages – we will begin meeting in September to prepare for the competition, which begins in late October.

Cyberpatriots should all be aware of the latest developments involving cyberspace and

specifically cyberwarfare, especially given attacks on our nation's computers (including the cap.gov domain!) by North Korea over the Fourth of July Weekend. Our IT/Web Security page has several interesting articles on the North Korean Attack, on the Air Force's preparations to carry out cyberattack in the future, and striking a balance between operational security and social networking tools.



Would you trust this man with your password? Practice safe computing practices and be a Cyberpatriot!

Photo by SM Shad Brown

Eagle News... Briefly!

Recent Promotions (August):



Second Lieutenant Duane Bissonnette: Promoted at squadron meeting on 6 AUG. 2LT Bissonnette has also been an active part of our mission scanner training course and was recently appointed the squadron Safety Officer. Keep up the great work, sir!



Cadet Senior Master Sergeants: Ethan Wilson, promoted at squadron meeting on 6 AUG, and Brady Russell, promoted at squadron meeting on 27 AUG. C/SMSGt Wilson serves as the First Sergeant for the Eagles, while C/SMSGt Russell was recently appointed as flight sergeant for Charlie Flight. Keep striving for your Mitchell Award, guys!



Cadet Staff Sergeant Brian Bissonnette: Promoted at squadron meeting on 27 AUG. C/SSGT Bissonnette has completed his Phase I training by earning the Wright Brothers milestone award, and was recently appointed as flight sergeant for Bravo Flight. Congratulations, Sergeant!



Cadet Senior Airmen: Duc Tran, promoted 13 AUG; Cassia Brown promoted 20 AUG; and Christa Bissonnette promoted 27 AUG. C/SrA Bissonnette was also recognized by the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office for her hard work and assistance at the DUI Checkpoint last June. Next stop, Wright Brothers and Phase III!



Cadet Airman Charles Zumpano: Promoted at squadron meeting on 27 AUG. C/Amn Zumpano is hard at work on college applications while working towards the Arnold Achievement!

Recent Awards:



Find Ribbon: C/2LT Miranda Abbas, awarded 21 AUG 2009.



Cadet Special Activities Ribbon, with clasp: C/SrA Duc Tran, awarded 21 AUG 2009 for completion of ground team training at the National Emergency Services Academy (clasp for completing Ground Team Leader training in a separate week).



Community Service Ribbon: C/AB Megan Garcia, awarded at squadron meeting on 6 AUG, for completion of at least sixty hours of volunteer work outside of Civil Air Patrol. Ms. Garcia did almost 74 hours of work at the Therapeutic Riding and Education center, which works with mentally and physically handicapped people as well as soldiers who have been injured in combat. Ms. Garcia's service is in the truest spirit of Citizens Serving Communities!



Red Service Ribbon: Awarded 21 AUG 2009 to 1 LT Neva Heffler and Lt. Col. Gregg Lloyd for two years of service to Civil Air Patrol. Clasps for this ribbon were awarded on 21 AUG 2009 to CAPT Timothy Austin (15 years), Capt. Alix Brockman



(10 years), Major Wayne Gould (10 years), Major Stephen Heffler (5 years), Captain David Ridge (10 years), and Captain Richard Zordell (5 years).

New members:

 Welcome to our newest squadron member, Cadet Jeremiah Manning!

Mission Scanner Training:

Mission Scanner training continues during September. Pikes Peak Senior Squadron members have offered to get our scanners into the air as soon as we are ready! Thanks, PPSS!

See Our Squadron In Action:

The Pueblo Eagles were recently featured in CAP News Online and the Pueblo Chieftain for our work during the open cockpit B-29 tours, where C/A1C Caitlyn King and C/A1C Cassia Brown gave a tour to one of the original builders of the B-29, Mrs. Sandoval. You can read the story [here](#), our media center at <http://media.puebloegles.us>, and look for the Rosie the Riveter press release.



2LT Duane Bissonnette presented with his epaulets by squadron commander MAJ Stephen Heffler. How do you attach those to a polo shirt, sir?

Photo by SM Shad L. Brown



Cadets Caitlyn King, Ethan Wilson, and Steven Mohan looking at a display showing overseas bases for the B-24 Bomber during the Open Cockpit at the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum in Pueblo on 15 AUG 2009.

Photo by SM Shad L. Brown



The Bissonnette Family celebrates the promotion of C/SSgt Brian Bissonnette and C/SrA Christa Bissonnette as proud papa 2LT Duane Bissonnette looks on.

Photo by SM Shad L. Brown

