



# The Eagles' Eyrie

## Leadership, Service with Honor!

*RMR-CO-179 Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, Colorado Wing (USAF Auxiliary)  
Volume I, Issue 4 – 20 NOV 2009*

### Important Dates:

- 1 DEC – Civil Air Patrol 68th Anniversary
- 10 DEC – Air Force Academy Band Christmas Concert, State Fair Events Center, Pueblo. Arrive at 1730 hours. No squadron meeting on 10 DEC.
- 12 DEC – Wreaths Across America, Ft. Lyon National Cemetery. Squadron will assemble at 0800 for trip to Ft. Lyon.
- 14 DEC – Pueblo City Council Meeting, 1900 hours. Squadron will be honored for its work with city flags. Class A Blues.
- 17 DEC – Last squadron meeting of 2009, at 1830 hours.

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## Eagles Focus on Aerospace During the Fall

The Cadet Flight of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron proved its leadership in aerospace education activities during October and November, by flying, learning about rocketry, and educating the public about aerospace history.

The squadron van was full of Eagles on the way to Boulder Municipal Airport for day filled with glider flying on Saturday, October 17, 2009. On a perfect day with clear, blue skies, Captain Sam Streiger, Glider Program Manager for Colorado Wing, taught cadets how to assemble the gliders and move them onto and off of the glider runway at Boulder. CAPT Streiger and Lieutenant Colonel Jer Eberhard then began to fly cadets from our squadron as well as Broomfield and Boulder. Pilots and cadets were towed aloft by Captain Bob Lynn, Colorado Wing Vice Tow Officer. Each cadet leaving the glider did so with a large smile and a statement of “Awesome!” Due to the tireless efforts of the Colorado Wing glider team, every Pueblo Eagles cadet who wanted to fly again was able to do so!

Cadets taking their first glider flight included C/1LT Miranda Abbas, C/SSgt Haelie Compton, C/Amn Charles Zumpano, C/AB Jeremiah Manning, and C/AB Derek Miller. Cadets with previous flight experience were C/SrA Cassia Brown and C/A1C Caitlyn King. MAJ Stephen Heffler and 2LT Shad Brown served as escorts and assisted the glider ground team in hooking up tow cables and maintaining



*Cadet Staff Sergeant Haelie Compton and Cadet First Lieutenant Miranda Abbas assist with the assembly of one of the two gliders flown by Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron cadets on 17 OCT 2009 at the Boulder Municipal Airport.  
Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown*

safety awareness around the glider and on the glider runway.

Beginning in October, the cadet flight began working on the model rocketry program, both to earn the rocketry badge for their uniform, and to work towards the Aerospace Excellence Award for the squadron. Aerospace Education NCOIC C/SSgt

[See Eagles Enjoy Aerospace, Page 3](#)

## Eagles Part of Historic Cyberdefense Competition

*Story and photos by 2LT Shad L. Brown*

Three members of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron learned about Internet warfare and cyberdefense while participating in an historic competition during the month of November.

C/SrA Cassia Brown, C/A1C Caitlyn King, and C/Amn Charles Zumpano represented our squadron during the CyberPatriot II competition, sponsored by the Air Force Association in partnership with Air Force

R.O.T.C. and the Civil Air Patrol. This year’s competition expanded on a limited test last year involving C.A.P. units in the Florida Wing. Over three hundred teams affiliated with A.F.R.O.T.C. and C.A.P. registered to participate in the exercise, which was billed as the largest high school cyber defense competition ever attempted. Cyber Patriot II was a “proof of concept” to test the ability to score multiple teams in “real time” over the

[See Cyberpatriot, Page 2](#)





Cadet Staff Sergeant Duc Tran discussing his experiences at the Texas Wing Encampment with Eagles squadron members. 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

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

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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.*

This month, the Eagle's Eyrrie profiles C/SSgt Duc Tran.

**EE:** How long have you been a member of Civil Air Patrol?

**DT:** I have been a member for nine months now.

**EE:** What inspired you to join?

**DT:** I would have to say my dad, since he was in the Air Force and I wanted to be like him. Then I found CAP and said, "This is for me. The opportunity to be in uniform and do military stuff like my dad, and more."

**EE:** We understand you are a big fan of Texas. Why?

**DT:** Well, ah lived thar about four years now, everything close by, had lotsa friends, great weather too. Ooh, can't ferget the beef, loved them barbecues down thar. Why, my favorite BBQ restaurant was called Rudy's, the "Worst BBQ in Texas." Yup, maybe ah can take y'all down thar for a visit... \$\$\$?... maybe not.

**EE:** Persuade one of your fellow squadron members why they should attend the National Emergency Services Academy (NESA)!

- DT:**
1. Because I went there.
  2. In the Basic Ground Search and Rescue school, you can be qualified for Ground Team Member Level 3 rating in one week if you pass.
  3. If you already have your GTM3, you can go to Advanced Ground Search and Rescue and be qualified for UDF, GTM2, and GTM1 in a week also.
  4. You will get lots of experience working with cadets from all over the U.S.
  5. You will get to practice what you have been taught and learn what or what not to do.
  6. Not only does NESA have Ground Search and Rescue Schools, for ya'll with a different interest, it has Mission Aircrew School and Mission Base School with sub-categories below each.

If there are any questions, y'all can always contact me. I can give you a lot of more reasons why you should attend NESA.

**EE:** We understand you are applying to service academies? Which ones? Why do you want to attend a service academy?

**DT:** I was applying to the Air Force Academy, but now having thought it over, I felt that going into the Air Force through the academy was not for me. I originally wanted to go because of the free education if they accepted you as a cadet. I would still like to go into the military, either through ROTC or OTS (officer training school).

**EE:** How is your CAP experience assisting you with those goals?

**DT:** By teaching me "Leadership, Service with Honor", discipline, integrity, and responsibility.

**EE:** What has been your biggest challenge in CAP? Your biggest achievement?

[See Duc Tran, page 4.](#)

## Cyberpatriot Competition.

**Continued from Page 2.**

Internet. Over 120 teams ultimately attempted to resolve twenty computer security issues contained in a "virtual" computer which was downloaded by each team during the first round of the competition.

The first round was hindered by problems with the competition's "ScoreBot", which monitors

team progress over the Internet and gives each team feedback as to how many security issues have been resolved. However, the computer problems were fixed for the second round of competition.

While the Pueblo Eagles team did not advance to the medalist flight, the team members had a great time competing and learning more about cybersecurity,

an area which the Air Force has recently reassigned hundreds of airmen to begin studying.

The Cyberpatriot competition will continue next year and will be open to all high-school aged students for teams of up to five people. More information on cybersecurity is available on the squadron website on the Information Technology page.



## Eagles Enjoy Aerospace

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Steven Mohan began teaching rocketry modules during squadron aerospace education time in October. Cadets took the first rocketry test in November, and have begun assembly of the first rockets for the program, the "Fizzy Flyer".

Eagles squadron members also volunteered to educate the public about aircraft and aviation during the quarterly "Open Cockpit" tour held at the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum on Saturday, November 14, 2009. Cadets led tours inside the museum's fully restored B-29 Superfortress bomber, as well as assisting visitors who wanted to slide into the cockpit of an F9F Cougar fighter built in the 1950s.

The squadron assists with open cockpit days alongside the Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society and its volunteers, who operate the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum.

Whether in the air, inside a hanger, or by building, the cadet flight of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron learned about aerospace by doing and excelling this fall!

Story by 2LT Shad L. Brown



First-time glider flyer C/AB Jeremiah Manning (top left) gives the thumbs-up, while C/A1C Caitlyn King (top right) checks the buckles on the cockpit restraints. Below, C/AB Derek Miller and C/AB Manning, along with C/SrA Cassia Brown, assist a member of the Broomfield Composite Squadron who is getting ready to fly.



COWG Glider Program Manager CAPT Sam Streiger (white shirt in Center) inspects the glider. Photo by SM Shad L. Brown

*The Eagle's Eyrie will not publish an issue in December, 2009.*

*Volume I, Issue 5 will be released in mid-January, 2010.*

*Have a happy holiday season and please be safe during your Thanksgiving and Christmas vacation!*



C/SSgt Duc Tran has collapsed after thinking of all of the National Cadet Special Activities he can participate in since he has completed his encampment requirement! Photo by SM Shad Brown

## Cadet Programs Today

By MAJ Wayne Gould  
Deputy Commander of Cadets

In this issue, I want to talk about the fantastic opportunities available to the cadets of our squadron. Cadets often say, "We are tired of just coming to meetings and doing the same old thing over and over." The answer is to look at all the "OUTSIDE the squadron" CAP Activities that are available. In fact, there are more now than ever before.

In the past, I have had cadets travel to Pennsylvania for Hawk Mountain Ranger School; Nebraska for USAF Weather School; Oshkosh, Wisconsin for Blue Beret; numerous states for encampments; and many more fun activities.

On the immediate horizon is Winter Encampment held in many states over the traditional Christmas holidays. With suitable permissions you could attend! Imagine climbing on a plane to be met at the other end

by CAP escorts and off to your fun event.

Be sure you are signed up for all the announcements, local, state, and national CAP. You will learn about air shows, public service opportunities and more. CAP can be all about fun for the highly motivated cadet that takes the leadership position. So have fun!

Click [here](#) to see the list of national cadet special activities!



# Eagle News... Briefly!

## New members:



Welcome to our newest squadron members, Cadets Airman Basic Matthew Nitka, Samuel Nitka, and Tadeusz Nitka. Yes, they ARE brothers, and they are looking forward to their first Orientation Flight, hopefully soon!

## Squadron Appoints New First Sergeant:



C/SMSgt Brady Russell was recently appointed by cadet squadron commander C/1LT Miranda Abbas to serve as the squadron's new first sergeant. C/SMSgt Russell assumes the position vacated by Ethan Wilson, who is departing the Pueblo Eagles cadet flight to pursue other opportunities. We wish the best to First Sergeant Wilson, and welcome First Sergeant Russell!

## Squadron Visited by Group Three Commander

The Pueblo Eagles were visited for the first time by new Group Three commander, LT COL Donald Thomas, at the squadron meeting held on Thursday, 5 NOV 2009. Although the Colonel's arrival was delayed by a flat tire, he was able to meet several cadets and pass along some good news from group staff, including plans to conduct a Group Three SAREX, which is being planned for early 2010.

## Squadron Stands Down for Holiday Season

By order of squadron commander MAJ Stephen Heffler, the squadron will not hold meetings on 26 NOV, 24 DEC, and 31 DEC (which are Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve, respectively). Enjoy your holiday season!

## Squadron To Assist Air Force Academy Band

In lieu of a squadron meeting on 10 DEC 2009, members of the squadron are encouraged to attend the Air Force Academy Band's annual Christmas Concert, to be held at the Colorado State Fair Events Center. Squadron members will assist in distributing programs and escorting people to their seats, and will be allowed to enjoy the concert afterwards! Please assemble at the main entrance of the events center by 1730 hours, or no later than 1800. Uniform of the day will be Class A Blues or Sunday best.

## Squadron To Be Honored By Pueblo City Council

The Pueblo City Council will honor the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron at their regular meeting on 14 DEC 2009, beginning at 1900 hours at the City Hall, downtown Pueblo. City Council is recognizing our work in caring for the flags that are flown on the north and south ends of Pueblo along I-25, and in raising and lowering the flags when ordered by the President or the Governor. All squadron members should make an extra effort to attend this special event. Members are asked to wear Class A Blues or Sunday best if they do not have Class A's.



C/Amn Charles Zumpano, C/SrA Cassia Brown, and C/A1C Caitlin King, the CyberPatriot team for the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron, hard at work protecting their chicken from Dokken during first round competition on 7 NOV 2009.

Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown



Eagles Cadet Flight members on lunch break during a long day of glider flying at the Boulder Municipal Airport on Saturday, 17 OCT, 2009.

Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown



## Duc Tran

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**DT:** Trying to keep up with my schedule to promote to C/2Lt and get to the Mitchell Award. My biggest achievement is probably being Ground Team Leader... well, almost!

**EE:** Will you give me your camera? Tell me all about it!

**DT:** I will NOT give away my camera! Well, maybe if someone offered to purchase it... Photography is one of my favorite hobbies. I've been in it for about 4-5 years now. Through the years, I've learned how to take landscapes, portraits, weddings, photojournalism, nature, and so on. Hopefully, after I get qualified for Mission Scanner, I can

get qualified in Mission Videographer and continue to take photos in CAP Emergency Services.

**EE:** What else do you do for fun?

**DT:** Play the piano, read, swordfight with my friends (they're foam swords by the way, Safety Officers!), and of course CAP.

**EE:** Tell us about your family! Any future CAP cadets at home?

**DT:** We are a family of six, soon to be seven. I have three younger sisters: Kim, Anh, and Grace. We are adopting a new baby brother, Timothy, who is 2 years old, from China and hope to get him by next summer. My dad is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. He now works at D.O.S.S. Aviation, train-

ing and evaluating new pilots. As for any future cadets, my sisters are not interested, and it will be another 10 years before Timothy can join. I have asked my dad, but so far he doesn't want to join!

**EE:** Do you plan on continuing in CAP?

**DT:** Now that I have been in CAP for a while, and saw all the fun things I could do, I will definitely continue, as far as I can as a cadet, and then as a Senior Member.

**EE:** Finally, which senior member would you like to learn about in the next installment of "Eagle in Profile?"

**DT:** I would have to say Major Wayne Gould.

