



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 5 – 15 JAN 2010

Important Dates:

- 16 JAN – Group 3 Military Ball, Peterson AFB Club Ballroom, Colorado Springs, 1800-2100 hrs.
- 19 JAN – Pueblo Municipal Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, Airport Conference Room, 1430 hrs.
- 23-24 JAN – ICS 300 training, Deer Mountain Fire Station (all day).
- 30-31 JAN – ICS 400 training, Deer Mountain Fire Station (all day)
- 12 FEB – Military Affairs Committee Meeting, Pueblo Chamber of Commerce. 0900 hrs.
- 12 FEB – Deadline for Colorado Civil Air Patrol Foundation scholarship and grant applications.

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Eagles Lend Helping Hand During Holidays

The cadets and officers of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron spent a busy holiday season serving the Air Force, veterans and their families, and their communities this year, concluding a hard year's work with a squadron pot luck dinner that was well received by all.

Squadron members assisted the United States Air Force Academy Band on December 10th by handing out programs during the band's annual Christmas concert held at the Colorado State Fair Events Center in Pueblo. This service for the USAFA Band is quickly becoming a Christmas tradition for the Pueblo Eagles. Before the concert began, five cadets were promoted before the Christmas audience by squadron commander Major Stephen Heffler (see Eagle News... Briefly! on Page 4 for more details). After the promotion ceremony, the squadron and its guests stayed for the free concert to help get into the holiday spirit!

Two days later, on December 12th, a full contingent of officers and cadets made the long trip to Fort Lyon National Cemetery to participate in the Wreaths Across America program. Civil Air Patrol is a national partner for this unique nonprofit program, whose goal is to place a wreath on the grave of each fallen service member in every national cemetery in the country on the second Saturday of every December.



Members of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron Honor Guard prepare for Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Fort Lyon National Cemetery on 12 DEC. (From left) C/SMSgt Brady Russell, C/TSgt Duc Tran, C/SSgt Brian Bissonnette, and C/TSgt Steven Mohan. Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown

Fourteen squadron members served as a color guard and laid wreaths in honor of service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. Squadron commander Heffler asked those assembled to take a moment to say "thank you" to veterans or active duty service members. "We owe them our way of life, and a moment of your time is well spent," said Heffler.

[See Eagles Lend Helping Hand, Page 3](#)

City Council Recognizes Squadron

Story and photos by 2LT Shad L. Brown

Members of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron were honored by the Pueblo City Council on 14 DEC 2009 and presented with certificates of recognition by City Council President Vera Ortegon.

The squadron was recognized for its service in replacing worn flags at the large flagpoles on the north side of the City of Pueblo during 2009. The squadron also assumed responsibility for flags on

the south end of town as well, after the death of a longtime volunteer left the city scrambling for a replacement.

Senior members and cadets routinely change the U.S. flag, the Colorado flag, and the City of Pueblo flag displayed along Interstate 25, as well as lower the flags when ordered by the President or the

[See Family Experience, Page 2](#)





Major Wayne Gould (right) pins on the new grade for C/Amn Charles Zumpano.

Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown.

The Eagles' Eyrrie

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Publisher

MAJ Stephen D. Heffler

Editor In Chief

2LT Shad L. Brown

Contributors

MAJ Wayne Gould

Submit your stories or photos 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.



This month, the Eagle's Eyrrie profiles **Major Wayne Gould**, Deputy Commander for Cadets!

EE: Major Heffler, how long have you been a Civil Air Patrol member?

WG: I joined in March, 1996, so coming up on 14 years!

EE: Which squadrons have you been a member of?

WG: The Pueblo Eagles is my second squadron. My first was Los Alamitos Cadet Squadron 153 in California.

EE: What are some of the positions you have held?

WG: I started out as a Communications Officer, then Emergency Services, on to Chief of Staff, then Squadron Commander. At this squadron I have been Leadership Officer and now Deputy Commander of Cadets.

EE: How did you learn about Civil Air Patrol?

Eagle In Profile

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

WG: I was at a Fourth of July fireworks show when my daughter and I saw a CAP display. We asked a few questions and then joined together.

EE: What motivated you to join CAP?

WG: I joined for a few reasons actually. I believe in Service to the community. I thought CAP was a great way to do that and joining with my daughter gave us something to do together. Once in CAP I was amazed at the different things I could do. I worked many air shows and served at many mission bases, both practice and actual missions.

EE: We know you are a former law enforcement officer. How long did you serve? What were your favorite and least favorite parts of the job?

WG: I was in law enforcement for about 15 years with three different agencies. The one I loved most was the San Diego Harbor Police. I also served as a patrol officer, investigator,

SWAT team member, Dive Rescue Team member, and Boat Captain. Of all those duties I think my time as a Boat Captain was the best duty I had. I did boat rescues, firefighting, anti-smuggling patrols, and waterfront police patrol as well as airport duty. During my time with the harbor police, I worked on different projects with the Coast Guard, Secret Service, Federal Air Marshals, DEA, FAA, Shore Patrol Military Police, and more. With concurrent jurisdiction with five different cities around San Diego it was a most interesting job. The worst duty of all was dealing with the innocent victims of crimes, especially children.

EE: What is your current job?

WG: My current job is selling fun! I am a District Manager for KYMCO USA, a manufacturer of scooters, motorcycles, and ATVs. I cover TX, OK, CO, UT, NM, and AZ. I keep dealerships supplied with product and help them learn how to retail them.

[See Major Gould, Page 4](#)

City Council Presentation.

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Governor of Colorado. Unfortunately, as council president Ortegon noted during the presentation, the squadron was called upon "a lot" this year to raise and lower flags.

Squadron commander Major Stephen Heffler accepted a certificate of recognition for the entire squadron, as well as



certificates for members who were unable to be present.

Individual presentations were made to MAJ Heffler and 2LT Shad Brown, as well as cadets Miranda Abbas, Brian and Christa Bissonnette, Cassia Brown, Haelie Compton, Matthew Nitka, Samuel Nitka, Tadeusz Nitka, Brady Russell, and Duc Tran.

See more photos of our squadron in action at puebloagles.us.



Eagles Lend Helping Hand

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Kathleen Tomlin, the representative for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Las Animas Ladies' Auxiliary Post 2411, says that the auxiliary began the local Wreaths Across America observance in Fort Lyon with fifteen wreaths in 2005. This year, over sixty wreaths were placed by the Pueblo Eagles and family members. Tomlin says the auxiliary's goal is to someday place a wreath on each of the cemetery's over two thousand graves.

Over fifty visitors gathered for this year's observance in the relatively warm temperatures.

Story by 2LT Shad L. Brown



Left: MAJ Stephen Heffler sets up a wreath prior to ceremonies at Fort Lyon. Below: C/SSgt Christa Bissonnette, C/AB Tadeusz Nitka, C/AB Samuel Nitka, C/AB Matthew Nitka, C/SSgt Cassia Brown, and C/TSgt Haelie Compton observe a moment of silence for the fallen, missing, and imprisoned servicemen. Below (lg. photo): Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron members pose with Karen Von Edmond (at left), local organizer for Wreaths Across America at the Fort Lyon National Cemetery.

Photos by 2LT Shad L. Brown



District 6 VFW Commander Ronald Kiniston plays "Taps" at Fort Lyon National Cemetery.

Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown



"When you see a veteran or an active duty member of the armed services, take a moment to say 'thank you.' We owe them our way of life, and a moment of your time is well spent."

Major Stephen Heffler, Commander, Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron.

CAPNHQ Unveils New Officer Basic Course

By 2LT Shad L. Brown
Profes. Development Officer

Effective on 1 JAN 2010, the Civil Air Patrol has ceased offering the AFIDIL-13 correspondence course which was previously required for promotion to Level II (Benjamin Davis award).

A brand new course has been developed over the last year and is now available for enrollment – the Civil Air Patrol Officer Basic Course (OBC)!

The OBC is an online course using the Blackboard computer technology. There are multiple short modules which make up the course – designed to be studied during a lunch hour or your free time. Once you have studied a course module, you take an online quiz over the materials. Once you have completed all of the modules and successfully passed the quizzes, you will be instantly credited through eServices with comple-

tion of the OBC requirement.

Due to a limited number of Blackboard licenses, registration for each class is limited. Currently, NHQ is registering members for classes beginning in July and August, 2010. Therefore, if you plan on a promotion requiring completion of Level II, you should get registered as soon as possible. Visit members.gocivilairpatrol.com/cap_university/officer_basic_course.cfm !



If you want to have a nice ribbon rack like Major Heffler, you need to complete the Officer Basic Course, which replaces the AFIDIL-13 correspondence course.

Photo by 2LT Shad Brown

Eagle News... Briefly!

Recent Promotions:



is on to Mitchell!

Cadet Master Sergeants: Haelie Compton and Duc Tran, promoted on 14 JAN. Nice job earning the Lindbergh achievement. The race



Cadet Technical Sergeants: Haelie Compton, Steven Mohan, and Duc Tran, promoted at the Air Force Academy Band Christmas show at the State Fair Events Center on 10 DEC 2009. Congratulations on earning your Captain Eddie Rickenbacher Achievement!



Cadet Staff Sergeants: Christa Bissonnette and Cassia Brown, promoted on 5 NOV. C/SSgt Brown and Bissonnette have completed their Phase I requirements and earned the Wright Brothers Award. Next target in sight: C/2LT and the Billy Mitchell Award!



Cadet Airman First Class: Charles Zumpano, promoted on 14 JAN. Airman Zumpano is preparing for an appointment to the United States Military Academy. We wish you good luck in securing an appointment!



Cadet Airmen: Tadeusz, Matthew, and Samuel Nitka, Andrew Sanders, and Brandon Minnich, all promoted on 14 JAN. All are looking forward to their first orientation flights and the Colorado Wing Encampment this summer.

New members: The squadron welcomes new cadet member Nick Nawrocki, and new senior members Richard Thorn and Joe Thorn.

Returning member: The squadron is excited to welcome back C/CMSgt Jonathan Montgomery, who is returning to the Pueblo Eagles after a brief hiatus in membership! Glad to have you back, Chief!

Major Gould

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The fun part is when I get to ride in different parts of the country both on road and off.

EE: What skills have you learned in CAP that you have been able to use in your working career?

WG: Wow, that one is tough. I think attention to detail is most important. Second to Time Management. Both help me in my day to day job.

EE: You are a very experienced cadet programs officer. Share with our cadets three secrets to getting the most out of the CAP Cadet Program.

WG: This one is easy, and thanks for asking. First: Positive Attitudes Change Everything! Decide now that you will strive at all times to have a Positive Attitude. If you take this attitude with you to CAP you can influence others as well as your self! Second: Commit To Promoting as quickly as possible because this requires you to study and learn and challenge yourself to succeed. It also requires better time management to make it all fit into your life. Third: Mentor others as your rank increases This teaches leadership and is a core value to the program. And if I may, just one more: Look outside the squadron for opportunities to have fun and use your CAP skills. Air shows, missions, ground team training, and on and on.

EE: Tell us about your family. How long have you been married? Any children?

WG: I am married to my wife Rosalie for 31 years with two grown daughters and two grandsons.

EE: If you could take your cadets to see anything but you could only pick one place, where would you take the squadron?

WG: My favorite goal and ultimate field trip would be to get the Air Force to fly us to Washington, D.C. to see the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

EE: Finally, which cadet member would you like to see profiled in the next issue?

WG: I would like to learn more about our squadron's First Sergeant, C/SMSgt Brady Russell.



MAJ Stephen Heffler shows Cadets Airman Basic Andrew Sanders (left) and Tadeusz Nitka good technique in performing the shuttle run.

Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown



Above: Squadron members practice a line search at the Pueblo Municipal Airport on 9 JAN 2010

Below: MAJ Heffler, C/TSgt Haelie Compton, and C/1LT Miranda Abbas retiring a flag on the south side of Pueblo.

Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown

