



The Eagles' Eyrie

Everyday Heroes – Every Day!

RMR-CO-179 Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, Colorado Wing (USAF Auxiliary)
Volume I, Issue 6 – 12 FEB 2010

Important Dates:

- 13 FEB – PT Testing and Open Cockpit (T-28), Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, 0900-1600 hrs.
- 16 FEB – Pueblo Municipal Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, Airport Conf. Rm., 1430-1600 hrs.
- 12 MAR – Military Affairs Committee Meeting, Pueblo Chamber of Commerce. 0900 hrs.
- 13 MAR – Colorado Wing Cadet Competition for Color Guards and Honor Guards, Peterson AFB, 0700–1900 hrs.
- 22-23 MAR – ICS 400 Course, Colorado Springs Fire Complex, 0800-1730 both days.

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Eagles Ground Team Assists in Missing Person Search

Members of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron answered the call for help from Fremont County Emergency Management on January 12 by sending a ground team to Florence to assist in the search for a missing woman. The ground team ended up playing a key role in recovering a critical piece of evidence for the Fremont County Sheriff's Office and the Florence Police Department.

The call for help went out to Civil Air Patrol after Beth Rice, 49, went missing from the Florence area on Saturday, January 9. Family members notified the police on January 10th, and on January 11th, two Civil Air Patrol aircraft were deployed to assist in locating Ms. Rice. Late in the afternoon of January 11th, Fremont County Emergency Management again requested Civil Air Patrol assistance, this time requesting ground teams to help in the search.

Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron members responded to the request for ground teams. Squadron commander MAJ Stephen Heffler assembled a team including CAPT Mark Sutton, 2LT Shad Brown, C/TSGt Duc Tran, and C/SSgt Cassia Brown, and the team responded to Florence before dawn on January 12 to be briefed by Florence Police Department and Fremont County Sheriff's Office officials. The Eagles ground team was paired with a ground team from the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron and a dog team from El Paso County Search and Rescue. These teams were given a difficult assignment:



Ground team members from the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron and the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron assist members of the Fremont County Swift Water Rescue Team in recovery of a clue from the icy Arkansas River during a missing person search on 12 JAN. Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown

search the densely-wooded southern bank of the Arkansas River for any clues regarding the disappearance of Ms. Rice.

Departing from the Colorado Highway 67 bridge over the Arkansas River, the three teams searched along the icy riverbank and the dense scrub oak in the riverbottom. Four hours and a mile later,

[See Eagles Assist in Rice Search, Page 3](#)

PPSS Pilots Fire Up New Members and Recruits

Story and photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown

With an influx of new senior members who are experienced pilots, and prospective members who are completing flight training, the senior flight of the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron needed some help to tell the Civil Air Patrol story. Fortunately, our brothers with the Pikes Peak Senior Squadron answered the call! LT COL Earl Sherwin, squadron commander for Pikes Peak Senior Squadron, caught

a ride on Colorado Wing's newest aircraft with 1LT Loren Lancaster and CAP Certified Flight Instructor CAPT Mark Haynes, and took the short flight to Pueblo Municipal Airport for a special senior flight meeting on January 29th. MAJ Stephen Heffler, squadron commander, welcomed the PPSS members at Flower Aviation and brought them to the Weisbrod Aircraft Museum to meet with the members.

[See PPSS Pilots, Page 2](#)





C/SMSGt Brady Russell (left) helps wash an aircraft at the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum. 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!

The Eagles' Eyrrie

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Submit your stories or photos to:

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 the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron First Sergeant, C/SMSGt Brady Russell, as interviewed by C/MSgt Haelie Compton!

EE: How long have you been in Civil Air Patrol?

BR: I have been in the CAP for a little over two years.

EE: What made you want to join?

BR: Starting CAP at 12 years old, the thing that motivated me to join most was the uniform, but also having the opportunity to fly was very motivating.

EE: What is your highest goal in the CAP?

BR: My highest goal is to first fulfill the duties that come along with leadership positions and ensure that other cadets have the tools and knowledge to overcome the obstacles they will meet and to take everything I've learned and accomplished and use those experiences in everyday life.

PPSS Pilots

Continued from Page 2.

New senior members Joe Thorn, Rich Thorn, and James Bellew peppered the CAP pilots with numerous questions about CAPR60-1 and the process necessary to become a Mission Pilot. Prospective members Kyle Lopez, Celestina Roybal, David Becker, and Frank Coombes also had questions about the Civil Air Patrol as well as more practical

EE: What kind of challenges have you met in CAP?

BR: Obstacles such as ensuring lower ranked cadets have what they need to succeed, leadership roles and positions, testing and learning from others.

EE: What have you learned from the cadet programs?

BR: To narrow it down from start to present day would be the confidence you gain from doing even the simplest of tasks, the way I have learned from past and present leaders, and giving the ability to teach and inspire cadets the way leaders in the past and present teach and inspired me.

EE: What kind of duties do you have as first sergeant?

BR: There are certain standards by the book that are set for every First Sergeant that serves in the Civil Air Patrol, but my personal standards include: 1. My cadets come before me no matter what the scenario. 2. Set a high standard as an individ-

ual for everything from discipline and respect, to manners and even setting myself no higher than lower ranked cadets so cadets may learn from something positive. 3. Gain the trust of all my cadets—the way I see it is if you trust in your cadets then you can enforce teamwork, and if you can enforce teamwork then you can accomplish anything. 4. Support the Cadet Commander—If I can carry out orders and responsibilities from the leader I look up to, then lower ranked cadets can look upon me and learn from my actions. The basic duties a First Sergeant should execute are Mentoring, following, leading, learning, setting high standards and enforcing those standards under trust and respect.

EE: Do you have any advice for future First Sergeants?

BR: Look at your options and what you have to work with and develop your own leadership style and put yourself as if you were the new cadet who just

[See 1st Sergeant Russell, Page 4](#)

questions, such as what you should do if your aircraft crashes. (The answer: stay with the aircraft!).

Deputy Commander for Seniors CAPT Mark Sutton explained to the Pikes Peak Senior Squadron flight crew that our squadron has its sights set on becoming a flying squadron in the near future. PPSS members offered to coordinate training for our new

flight crews and assisting the Eagles in their long range goal. LT COL Sherwin pledged the support of Pikes Peak Senior Squadron in helping out as needed. The meeting concluded with a special look at the new G-1000 "glass cockpit" Cessna 182 for the prospective and new members!



Eagles Assist in Rice Search

Continued from Page 1

the Civil Air Patrol ground teams were tasked to investigate a clue found by the El Paso County Search and Rescue team in the area.

Both CAP teams met the Fremont County Swift Water Rescue team along the Arkansas River and located a white object which was submerged in a rapid along the south side of the river. Ground team members on shore anchored the swift boat in place using rope lines, while other swift water rescue members anchored the other side of the boat from the river. Boat crews were then eased into position so that they could recover the clue from the rapid. Detectives from Fremont County Sheriff's Office and the Florence Police Department then met the team to recover the evidence. The clue was later determined to be the sweater that Beth Rice had been wearing when she was last seen on Saturday.

The Pueblo Eagles and CSCS ground teams then completed their search of the riverbank to the assigned stopping point, at the Colorado Highway 115 bridge, some 1.5 miles from their jump-off point (although according to GPS tracking, the teams traversed over three miles

through the scrub oak) and over eight hours in the field. The AFRCC later that evening suspended Civil Air Patrol involvement with the search due to the likelihood that search crews were in recovery mode rather than rescue.

On Saturday, January 23, Fremont County Search and Rescue located the remains of Ms. Rice further downstream during a training mission, bringing the mission to an unfortunate end.

Story by 2LT Shad L. Brown



Top Right: Eagles ground team ducks under Highway 67 to begin the search. Photo by Jeff Shane (Canon City Daily Record). Center Right: CAPT Mark Sutton and CSCS Squadron Commander LT COL Jeffrey Mueller discussing the mission during a brief rest. Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown. Bottom: Civil Air Patrol members prepare to steady the swift boat as directed by a member of the Fremont County Swift Water Rescue Team. Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown.



C/SSgt Cassia Brown and C/TSgt Duc Tran observe swift water rescue operations from the shore. Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown

"Tell your team they did a superior job and that they got kudos from the Wing Commander for all their hard work."

COWG Administrator Ian Carman, in an e-mail to squadron commander MAJ Stephen Heffler.



Safety officers are aware of potential hazards in the operational area, such as ice and snow, and conduct a risk analysis to determine if it is safe to continue operations.

Photo by 2LT Shad Brown

Winter Safety Tips

By Squadron Safety Office

Wintertime in Colorado doesn't end in January – and you should still be aware of some common hazards to winter. Make sure you dress in layers to adjust to the unpredictable Colorado temperatures! Several thin layers are better than one or two thick layers which can easily get wet. Make sure to cover your extremities with gloves and a hat, to trap your natural body heat inside you!

While cold weather does not cause colds or flu, viruses that cause these conditions tend to be more plentiful in wintertime. Make sure you frequently wash hands and cough or sneeze into a handkerchief (or the crook of your elbow in a pinch). Consider getting the H1N1 vaccination if you have not already done so!

Set reasonable time limits on your outdoor exposure during cold weather.

Remember that the sun's rays may be even more intense during the winter if there is snow for them to reflect off of. Remember to use sunscreen on exposed skin even during the winter!

Because household fires become more common during winter months, it is a good time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors, test the alarm, and install a carbon monoxide detector!



Eagle News... Briefly!



Level I Professional Development: Senior members Joseph Thorn and Richard Thorn have completed their requirements for the Membership Ribbon and completed Level I Professional Development. Joe Thorn is pending promotion to 1st Lieutenant and will become the new squadron Safety Officer, while Rich Thorn is pending promotion to 2nd Lieutenant and will be learning the new squadron job of Flight Operations Officer! Welcome!



Emergency Services Patch / Ground Team Member Level 3: 2LT Shad Brown and C/SSgt Cassia Brown. The Brown family's participation in the Fremont County ground team mission and BCUT training qualifies them to wear both the Emergency Services patch and the GTM-3 Basic Ground Team Member Badge. Well done, Mr. and Miss Brown!



Commander's Commendation: Awarded to 2LT Shad Brown during squadron meeting on 4 FEB. MAJ Stephen Heffler requested this award for 2LT Brown's work on behalf of the squadron from June to August of 2009. 2LT Brown is the squadron public affairs officer (among other jobs)! Congratulations, Lieutenant Brown!

New members: The squadron welcomes new cadet members Stephen Crandall, Tyler Ingram, and Jerad Vecellio, and new senior member James Bellew!

Emergency Services Training: C/TSgt Duc Tran, cadet NCO in charge of Emergency Services, taught a class on using LPERs to locate a practice beacon, line searches, and safety while engaging in ground team training activities following squadron PT testing on 9 JAN 2010. Cadets participating included C/SSgt Cassia Brown, C/TSgt Haelie Compton, C/1LT Miranda Abbas, C/AB Matthew Nitka, C/AB Samuel Nitka, C/AB Tadeusz Nitka, and C/AB Andrew Sanders all participated in the exercise.

ICS 300 & 400: MAJ Stephen Heffler and 2LTs Kelly Bosley and Shad Brown completed ICS 300 training (Intermediate Incident Command System) at the Deer Mountain Fire Station in Fremont County on 23-24 JAN 2010. MAJ Heffler and 2LT Brown also completed the Advanced ICS course, ICS 400, on 30-31 JAN 2010. Congratulations to all on completion of your ICS qualifications!

Eagles Welcome Newest Ground Team Leader: C/MSgt Duc Tran has completed his requirements for qualification as a ground team leader with his participation in the mission in Fremont County on 12 JAN 2010. Congratulations, Master Sergeant!

Scanner Training: Scanner training is scheduled to resume in February for both previous class participants and new members. Talk to CAPT Mark Sutton or 2LT Kelly Bosley for more details!

BCUT Training: Communications Officer CAPT Richard Zordel taught Basic Communications User Training on 4 FEB 2010. Thank you, Captain Zordel, for providing this informative and necessary training!

Squadron Fundraising: The Cadet Flight assisted the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce on 21 JAN by operating a coat check for the Chamber's annual awards dinner at the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center. Squadron members earned \$94 in tips for a hard evening's work! Well done, Cadet Flight!

1st Sergeant Russell

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joined and needs help just as you did when you first joined. Never ask a cadet to do something you can't do or couldn't have done at that grade or level, and never put yourself above everyone else... you are only as strong as your weakest link.

EE: Do you participate in any groups other than Civil Air Patrol?

BR: School sports and extracurricular activities including football, mixed martial arts, track and field, and weight lifting.

EE: What do you think is the best thing about CAP?

BR: To learn, then to teach and lead others.

EE: What do you want to do after you have finished high school?

BR: I plan on attending the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, if not that I want to go to college. I do not know which college yet, but I would like to join the U.S. Air Force and become a pilot or even having a government agency career interests me greatly.



Newly-promoted Cadet Airman Tadeusz Nitka salutes squadron commander Major Stephen Heffler during squadron promotion night on 14 JAN 2010.

Photo by 2LT Shad L. Brown



Above: C/CMSgt Jonathan Montgomery leads the pack on the mile run during physical training at the Pueblo Municipal Airport.

Below: CAPT Richard Zordel teaches Basic Communications User Training to the squadron on 4 FEB 2010 at the Aircraft Museum.

Photos by 2LT Shad L. Brown



EE: Finally, which senior squadron member should we profile next month?

BR: I would like to learn more about Captain Alix Brockman [squadron Logistics and Finance Officer]!

