'Gator CAPers

Volume 30, No. 3 08001 Dec. 1987

Seated, Florida Wing Commander Col. Richard Leighton accepts the keys to the wing's newest corporate Cessna 182RG from U.S. Rep. Rod Chandler, R-Washington. (Photo by 1/Lt. Jean Stockton)

COVER STORY

Congressman Chandler, a Civil Air Patrol Lieutenant Colonel and member of the Congressional Squadron, delivered the Cessna to Florida in support of the Customs mission.

This is the first of five of Cessna System 182's with retractable landing gear. These aircraft were purchased from funds given to Civil Air Patrol by the Congressional Omnibus Act of 1986. Senator Tom Harkin, Iowa and aide John Swain were instrumental in getting CAP into this Act.

Officials from national headquarters (Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.) signed a formal agreement with U.S. Customs on November 14, 1985, which pledged CAP's voluntary support of official sanctioned missions in the reconnaissance program.

Under the 1985 agreement with Customs, CAP pilots and observers participate as aerial surveillance teams. CAP spotters fly over high traffic areas of suspected Customs violations and report their findings to Custom officials on the ground.

CAP members who agree to fly the reconnaissance missions must adhere to certain limitations specified in the agreement, which include:

- Assistance is restricted to aircraft patrol and surveillance missions and supporting base communications.
- Missions will be flown in daylight, visual meterological conditions only.
- CAP members may not be deputized and no weapons of any nature may be possessed or used by CAP members.
- Support is provided only "if available," as determined by the local CAP unit commander. Actual emergency services missions have priority.

With eighty aircraft to be distributed nationwide, Florida Wing will be receiving five total. There will be two more aircraft delivered soon, then two later for Civil Air Patrol's missions of Customs reconnaissance and Search and Rescue.

As of 30 September, CAP aircrews from Florida Wing have had logged 460 missions, 1,443 flying hours, in 1987 in support of Customs.

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CAP-USAF Photo by Air Force SSgt George Wendl

Wing Historian of the Year

SALT LAKE CITY — Florida Wing Historian Lt. Col. Elizabeth Sedita accepts the 1986 Wing Historian of the Year Award from the Civil Air Patrol National Commander Brig. Gen. E.E. Harwell during an intermission in the historical seminar at National Board. National Historian Col. Les Hopper praised Colonel Sedita's work with the Florida Wing history program. The Merritt Island, Fla., woman is credited with the development of her wing Civil Air Patrol history display and then carrying the idea to the national attention of her peers on the National Historical Committee.

Mission Coordinator's Seminar Held

By: **1st Lt. Jean Stockton**
Asst. Wing PAO

Orlando FL . . . "YOU ARE A MISSION COORDINATOR. YOU RECEIVE A CALL FROM SCOTT AFB THAT TWO AIR CRAFT HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN FLORIDA WING." That's how the afternoon session began at the Semi-annual Mission Coordinator's Emergency Services Seminar. After a morning of lecture, the entire afternoon was spent working on a "paper" mission. The scenario called for two aircraft missing in the same area of the State, but with only one mission number. Attendees had to decipher facts, misinformation and clues to determine where each aircraft was. Given only five for the Mission Coordinator's personal staff, individuals were assigned and proceeded to perform according to his reponsibilities. As in most real missions, team members wore various "hats" determined by the point of time in the mission itself. Regarding the job of the mission Public Affairs Officer, Wing PAO **LtC. Sid Birns** informed the group that whenever media assistance is desired anywhere in Florida contact both AP & UPI in Miami for service to their downline media.

Hearty discussions, heavy decisions, chart & map scrutinizing all played a part of the paper mission. Performance was good, with the more experienced members (real MCs) aiding in the training. Anyone new to Emergency Services received a good feel for the actual ES team operation.

"There is no distinction between an ELT or other kind of mission . . ." **LtC. Fred Swearingen** had said in opening the Seminar. He also remarked that one of the main problems in ES was that "we only have 52 licensed Mission Coordinators for the entire Florida Wing." **Major Barron** had added that "you can have all the training in the world, but it's useless if you cannot be contacted." Perhaps that's one reason why they only let us practice with 5 on a "team."

Results from the four training teams were quite similar, as were the individual layouts, though each team dealt with the information in a different manner. We were reminded of the theme of ES: RAPID RESPONSE. We are judged by the speed of our response. Even though it had been 'just' a paper mission, we left with a sense of a job-well-done, knowing we were better prepared for the real thing.

Cadets Attend USAF Water Survival School

By: **1st Lt. L.S. "Dusty" Miller**

CANOPY! VISOR! MASK! SEAT KIT! LPU! FOUR LINE! STEER! PREPARE! RELEASE!

The nine item checklist was memorized by each cadet preparing for the excitement of parasailing at Water Survival School (WSS). The course, taught to pilots and flight crew of the USAF was a Special Activity held at Homestead AFB, Florida.

I was lucky enough to be allowed to go as female escort officer, but I was also permitted to photograph the escapades. **T/Sgt. Barta,** one of the instructors on hand, and the WSS commander, **LTC. Kittle,** were very helpful in allowing me to get good positions for the action shots, and offering special insights to the school.

It's a rigorous course. You are in the water all three days of training.

DAY ONE. You learn basic parachuting principles, your checklist, how to board small liferafts from the water (what acrobatics!!), how to come out from your chute when it lands on top of you in the water, and how to use your equipment. The day ends with a ride zooming down a cable from a high tower, running through the checklist.

DAY TWO. It begins with learning what equipment is available in your liferaft, how to use flares and signal mirrors. What your survival equipment will do. You get an exciting 15-foot drop off the back of the ship to learn "Drag Techniques," (in case you should be dragged through the water by your parachute.) The day ends with the long-awaited for parasail ride. Hooked by lines and cables, a smaller boat pulls you off the larger ship's deck, into the air, for the fastest elevator ride you could imagine. From the sky you can see forever . . . and when you come down, you want to go again.

DAY THREE. You've heard about the sharks and dangerous marine life, you know your basic survivial needs and first aid, you've almost done it all . . . and you go for your last parasail ride for the course. The instructors hook you up, your safety man gives the signal, and you're up and away! The flag man waves you to release your pelican hooks, then you're free in the air.

CANOPY! VISOR! MASK! SEAT KIT! LPU! FOUR LINE! STEER! PREPARE! . . . RELEASE!!!! You climb into your one-man liferaft looking for all the world like a small dot on a very big ocean.

Look around. Get out your sea anchor. Begin signalling. Contemplate the course. With nothing but the ocean waves for noise, and the sea life swimming around your raft, you wonder if you've done it right. You think about the instructors, and mentally thank your safety man for how gently they've treated a dangerous course.

You remember as CAP Search and Rescue that you are going through what the pilot or crew would have in a "ditching" or "punch-out" . . . and you think.

Just as soon as you have had time to think it out, a chopper swings in for the "rescue." A short written test, and you're finished with the course.

And you want to go back and do it again.

NOTE: The author wishes to express sincere gratitude to the USAF and the WSS instructors: **Dennis, Buntrock, Hill,** and **Rector** for helping with this project. To the Cadet Activities Officer of Florida Wing, **LTC. Tom Welch,** who selected me to go, and a special thanks to **LTC. Kittle,** Commander of WSS, and **T/Sgt. Barta** for allowing me to freely manuever around their ship to obtain these photos.

1/Lt. Dusty Miller gets set to go. "They better give me a push!"

Instructor Sgt. Buntrock is shown giving last minute instructions.

Cadets that attended water survival school are (left to right) Shelli Godfrey, Christine Tuzzo, Karen Geiger, Heather Kent and 1/Lt. Dusty Miller, Escort Officer.

CAP-USAF Photo by Lt. Col. Joseph Day

HUDSON, Fla. — Florida Wing Group 4 Commander Maj. Paul Vandiver, right, accepts a Florida Wing trophy on behalf of his group from Florida Wing Commander Col. Richard Leighton. The trophy honors Group 4 as "the group that went that extra mile for CAP-MAP". The Florida Wing narrowly missed honors as one of the *Top 8 in the 80's* finishing ninth in the nation last year. Colonel Leighton made the presentation during a Group 4 meeting.

For The Cadet That Might Have Been

By: **2nd Lt. Dusty Miller**

He was a bright and active little guy. Brian Foley would follow his older brother, Roy, to every Civil Air Patrol activity he could get to. He very much wanted to be a cadet, and couldn't wait until he was old enough.

Brian would tag along with the cadets. When they played volleyball, Brian would too. During drill, Brian would be there, practicing snappy movements and imitating older guys. He enjoyed following the commander, **Capt. Kalua-Miller** around, pestering her for things to do, asking questions about aerospace and the Civil Air Patrol missions.

Then, on Christmas, it happened. While riding his bicycle, a driver lost control of the car.

Brian was hit.

He was taken to the hospital, and there he was declared "brain-dead." His family grieved, and Brandon Squadron was with them.

Brian struggled through several weeks on life support systems. Squadron members visited and spoke to the unconscious boy. Then, one bright mid-January morning, Brian was gone.

Brian's family remembered Brandon Squadron by requesting the Honor Guard to perform the funeral detail.

The solemn ceremony ended with 'TAPS' for the cadet who might have been.

Capt. Kalua-Miller presented Brian's father with a memorial plaque at a later ceremony. It reads: "In Memory of Brian Foley" and has the name of each Outstanding Cadet of the Year inscribed on it. The plaque will be displayed at the squadron throughout the years.

Brian would have loved it.

Emergency Services

Maj. Joseph Barron

As the new Florida Wing Emergency Services Officer, I want to continue the emphasis on "Rapid Response" in our missions. In emergency services missions, one major job is to find lost airplanes, whether reported overdue or based on an ELT signal. We look for the airplanes to help the people they carry. At best, the people have endured a crash and may be exposed to the weather without food or proper clothing. More likely, they are injured. Any delay contributes to their worsening physical condition and ultimate death. When you are at an airport or a pilots club meeting or the store, look around. The people you see — men, women, children — are typical of the individuals we will be searching for. We do not conduct "missing aircraft missions"; we conduct "missing people missions."

It is all too easy to delay responding to a call for a mission, especially an "ELT mission" at 3:00 A.M. While only 3 out of 100 ELT missions involve lost **people**, we do not know in advance which single ELT signal represents missing and potentially injured men, women, and children. Like the fire department, we have to go to the false alarms just as fast because you don't know in advance if it is a real fire until you get there.

"Rapid Response" does not mean reckless response; it means respond quickly but safely. If you are in an accident, you are not responding rapidly to help others, you have become another problem to be handled within the overall mission, drawing valuable resources.

When you request and receive the Emergency Services Qualification Card (the "101 card"), you are telling the world you are ready to go and help others in distress. When you are called — GO — NOW!

My correct address and telephone numbers:

Joseph T. Barron, Jr., Major, CAP, Sparrow 84
Florida Wing Emergency Services Officer
5525 N.W. 26th Terrace,
Gainesville, FL 32606-2046
Mail: P.O. Box 1092,
Gainesville FL 32602-1092
Telephone: Home (904) 335-9094
Office (904) 392-1358

300 Plus Members Attend Wing Conference

By: **L/Col. Sid Birns, Wing PAO**

Once again the Florida Wing Conference was a success due to the skillful planning of **Major Elizabeth Leighton.**

In planning the conference, the Wing Commander, **Col. Richard Leighton,** decided to incorporate a Level I class, giving new members an opportunity to take their first step up the senior training program ladder, rather then having to wait to do so at their own units.

Talk about enthusiastic attendance . . . there were over three-hundred members at the conference and the cadets were very well represented.

The conference program was somewhat different from others in that the seminar times were split into shorter hours allowing for more seminars and giving members the opportunity to attend a number of different ones.

Highlighting the conference was the banquet where **Cadet Colonels Darren Warjacki** of Coral Springs Cadet Squadron and **Eric Espino** of Miami Springs Optimist Cadet Squadron, were the recipients of the coveted Spaatz award.

To add to the excitement of the Spaatz award was the address given by **Brig. General Charles Duke,** USAF RET. His career in the Air Force is inspirational to the cadets of Florida Wing . . . starting out in the Naval Academy and experiencing his first flight in the Navy's N3N, known as the "Yellow Peril," he was hooked on flying. At one point he decided to switch over to the Air Force because he didn't like sea duty and he felt the Air Force had aircraft he wanted to fly. The rest is history . . . working his Air Force career up to General.

If **General Duke** would leave words of encouragement for the cadets, they would be, "whatever you decide as your career, set your goal and work very hard to attain that goal and to do it as a member of the team."

Brig. Gen. Charles Duke, USAF/Ret. (left) presents a signed photograph of Apollo 16 liftoff to Col. Richard Leighton.

Cadet Col. Eric Espino, Spaatz recipient, with (left) Brig. Gen. Charles Duke and Col. Richard Leighton.

Cadet Col. Darren Wargacki, Spaatz recipient, with parents. Looking on at left, Col. Richard Leighton and at right is Brig. Gen. Charles Duke, USAF/Ret.

Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Sid Birns

I read in many of the unit newsletters of promotions, awards, change of command activities, unit activities, etc. Then I look at the units quarterly report and find no indicatioin of any of these activities. No photos, no stories, not even that the story was sent to the local paper. Not only didn't the unit not send anything to the paper, but nothing was sent to National Headquarters or to the GatorCAPers. It seems to me an awful waste of opportunity not to show what your unit is doing and to have that opportunity to get local recognition. If you go through all the effort to put together an activity, why not get the recognition and publicity?

And speaking of the quarterly report . . . thanks to the Group Commanders complying with the need for PAO's . . . they are now being filled and the number of reports has jumped to almost 40% of what it was. Commanders keep up the good work.

Now that the summer is over maybe it would be a good idea to put together a six-month compilation of your unit's progress and activities, in scrapbook form. And then finsih it off at the end of the year. I would like to see more scrapbooks when we have our wing conference. It gives all of us an idea as to what each of the units are doing and it also helps to spark ideas for each of us when we see things the other units are doing.

What about this for an idea. . . . An encampment strictly for seniors?

To last a week and to encompass:

- Wear and care of the uniform
- Drills and ceremonies
- Saluting
- Communications
- Leadership
- Administration
- Observer orientation
- The need for Public Affairs
- Physical training
- Level I, II and III instruction

And whatever else you think would be helpful within the senior program.

FYI . . . I am working on weekends, now-a-days at WESH 2 (NBC) as the news assignment editor, therefore, I will not be available to assist in some of our local unit activities . . . but my phone is still available to all if you have a problem and would like to discuss an upcoming project. Or if you just want to talk . . . the number is (305) 886-4928 . . . anytime.

Almsteadts' Earn Instructor Certificates

By: **Capt. Anne Almsteadt, PAO**

The Cedar Key Comp. Squadron 08352 of the Civil Air Patrol was represented at a recent Radiological Monitoring Instructor Course sponsored by the Florida Division of Emergency Management, at Fort Pierce.

Captains William and **Anne Almsteadt,** who are Radiological Responder Team members and have been studying radiological subject for several years, received their radiological monitoring instructor certificates at the completion of this course.

The 3-day course was held at the St. Lucie County Emergency Operations Center, a newly erected building, simulating an "underground" atmosphere. This atmosphere is created by a process known as "berming," that uses earth to cover exterior structures.

The instructors of the radiological monitoring class were **Edward Lane,** Escambia County Emergency Medical Services; **Capt. Julius Halas,** Sarasota Fire Department; and **Lt. Col. Gary Sawyer,** Disaster Preparedness Officer, Civil Air Patrol Headquarters, Orlando.

In addition to Civil Air Patrol members, the students included personnel from Departments of Health and Safety, Fire Departments, Sheriff's Departments and County Emergency Management Coordinators — all from Okeechobee, Miami, Naples, Daytona Beach, Fort Myers, Stuart, Bradenton, Inverness, Fort Lauderdale, and Tallahassee. State Radiological Officer, **Albert Hostetter** also sat in on the course.

The **Captains Almsteadt** are now qualified to hold instruction classes on radioactive materials and radioactivity occuring in peacetime as well as nuclear wartime. Familiarity with radio activity includes: what it is, how to detect it, measure it and report it, how to protect against it and methods of decontamination.

The **Almsteadts** expect to hold classes for Civil Air Patrol members and other groups throughout Levy County.

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FL Wing Hosts Philippine Air Cadets

As part of the International Air Cadet Exchange, two Philippine air cadets, along with their escort, were welcomed to the United States by **Col. Richard Leighton,** Commander, Florida Wing, left.

They were here for eleven days of whirlwind sun and fun, met with local CAP cadets with an orientation flight in a single engine airplane high on their list of excitement.

The Philippine air cadet program is similar to the CAP program, which puts high emphasis on the aerospace training and military programs.

While they were here, the cadets visited Walt Disney World and Epcot Center and put in a full day at Wet and Wild.

Shown left to right as they look at the history of Florida Wing and the history of insignia are : Col. Richard Leighton, pointing to achievement ribbons; Col. Fernando S. David, senior escort; Cadet First Lt. Lawrence DelMundo, cadet Wing Commander and Cadet First Lt. Eva Matinez, Cadet Group Commander. (Photo by L/Col. Sid Birns, Wing PAO)

Lakeland Encampments are Great Success!

By: **1st Lt. Jean Stockton**

The 1987 Civil Air Patrol Summer Encampment at Lakeland is over but the experience and training lives on. The military environment created for 200 cadets and senior members on the campus of South East College aided the cadet staff in displaying and instructing military bearing to all attendance.

In opening ceremonies which included Mayor O'Reilly's representative, Larry Turnipseed's proclamation of Civil Air Patrol Week in Lakeland, each of the encampment commanders challenged the cadets.

LTC. Linda Eddy urged the cadets to "listen" to their officers, "learn how to follow, and self-discipline. Your officers are charged with the responsibility of giving you the education so you can be them (cadet staff) next year," she finished.

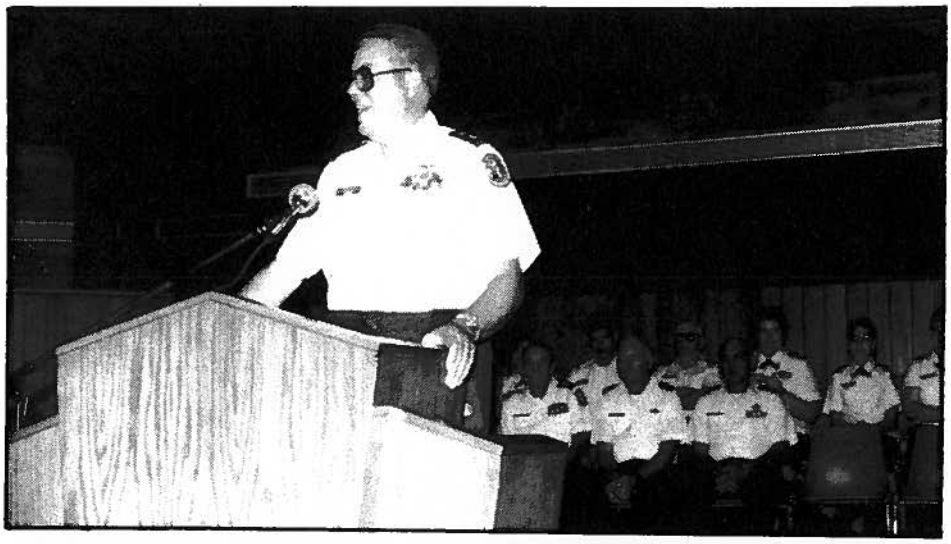
It was evident that the caliber of the cadet officers contributed greatly to the huge success of the Lakeland encampment. Most had scored high at the previous week's training (ECCSS) and lead by example and respect the entire week.

Major Martin, Commandant of Cadets, had urged all that "If you don't learn anything else, learn self-discipline." And whether it was in physical activity time, PIR practice, inspection or meal time, the cadets displayed exceptional self-discipline.

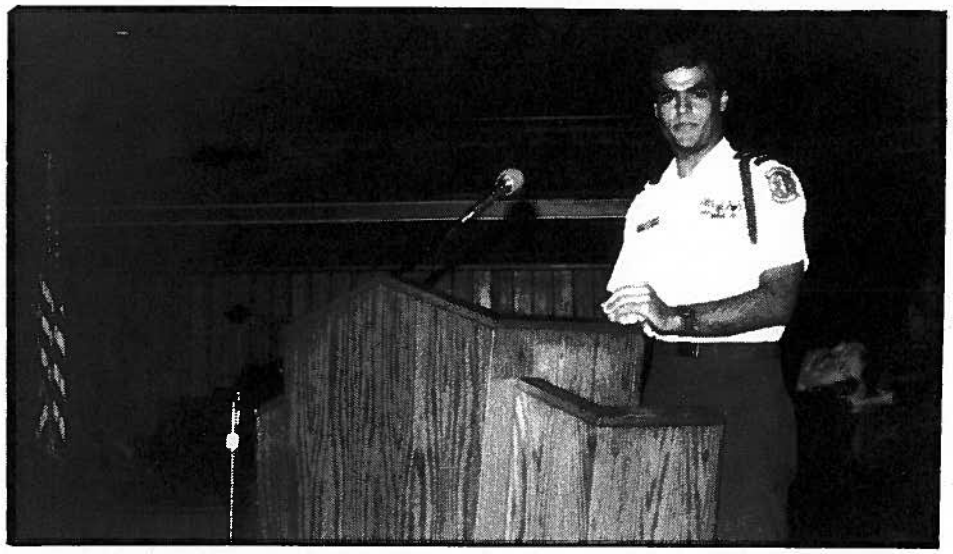
Civil Air Patrol encampment attendees were such superb guests that they were immediately welcomed back to the SE College next year. (The dates, which include one week of ECCSS are 9-24 July 1988.)

The one main highlight of the week's activity: PIR (pass in Review) was having **LTC. Dick Read** as Reviewing Officer. Since he will no longer be our Liaison Officer, this was his last activity in that capacity. It was evident that it overwhelmed him to Review as it did the Cadets to Pass in Reveiw.

C/Col. Espino, Cadet Encampment Commander, in his enthusiastic welcome had given the attendees a challenge that seemed to carry them through the whole week. "YOU are the future of the Wing . . . let's work together and help it grow." Judging from the success of this encampment, we can expect they took this challenge home with them too.



Commandant of Cadets Maj. Martin greets encampment attendees.



Cadet Commander C/Col. Eric Espino makes opening remarks.

Encampment Commander L/Col. Linda Eddy accepts proclamation of "Civil Air Patrol Week in Lakeland" from the Mayors representative Larry Turnipseed.

BASE LICENSE EXPIRATIONS 1988

EXP. DATE	SPARROW	NAME	UNIT
02-16-88	1116	CHARLOTTE CTY., COMP. SQDN.	08/051
02-16-88	6301	LAWRENCE, JR. JAMES — LTC.	DOS/001
02-22-88	0516	PETIT, GEORGE — LTC.	HS/000
03-18-88	0807	WOODBURY, ORPHEUS — LTC.	08/376
04-14-88	0130	ELLSWORTH, DONALD — MAJ.	01/433
04-14-88	1117	PETTIT, ROSS — 2/LT.	08/314
05-02-88	0193	CAIN, WILBER — CPT.	08/023
05-02-88	0206	HOOD, SR. JACK — LT.	02/336
05-13-88	0912	WINKLEMANN, WALTER — MAJ.	09/026
06-22-88	0161	KERN, WILLIAM — CPT.	03/089

2nd Lt. Cathy Laessig Cadet Programs Officer Group 5 is shown receiving award of appreciation and donation check from Dr. Rocco Pelegrino, Director of the Northern Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce 15 May. The award and donation was in recognition of participation by the Cadets and Senior members of Group 5 for assisting with the gigantic air show at Pratt Whitney airfield when despite the heavy rains and low clouds Group 5 Cadets and Senior members under the direction of **Lt. Laessig** carried out their varied duties. (Photo by **Capt. Saul Sherman**)

Gator CAPers

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