

# FLORIDA FACTS



Florida Wing News Magazine | Fall 2004 Volume 9 Issue 3

<http://flwg.cap.gov>



Maj. Gen. Dwight Wheless  
National Commander

Brig. Gen. Antonio Pineda  
National Vice Commander

Col. Joseph J. Martin  
Florida Wing Commander

Col. Matthew Sharkey  
Southeast Region Commander

## New Commanders

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# Commander's Comments

It is with honor that I greet you as your new Florida Wing Commander. The Florida Wing is a great organization built upon the tenets of teamwork and volunteerism.

The response during Hurricane Charlie and Hurricane Frances is but a small example of the payoff that extensive training, careful planning and diligent coordination provides. Coordination between our neighboring wings through the National Operations Center (NOC) proved to be quite an asset to us during this trying time. Crews from Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Arkansas and Ohio joined in the response effort, providing us with much needed backup in areas such as Satellite Digital Imaging System (SDIS) flights, mission communications, ground RECON team assistance, as well as hardware resource sharing. The ability to speak the same language and refer to the same "play book" allowed our teams to interact effectively. This ability is directly attributable to participation in SER's multi-wing disaster relief exercises.

The many Florida members that made themselves available for tasking are to be commended. This, of course, includes members who were available but for whatever reason were not tasked. Your part of the hurricane relief efforts as back up personnel is of the utmost importance. It is your availability that helped shore up our first responders' confidence and effectiveness. In addition to our frontline volunteers, there is a whole cadre of mission support personnel who continue to provide support "in the background" by securing logistical resources or processing financial reimbursements. Our mission management personnel operated in an exemplary manor. The amount of coordination needed to secure funding and ensure adequate planning for overall mission tasking is often overlooked. The amount of time and energy spent by these volunteers is really quite extraordinary.

The ability to respond is a credit

to former wing commander Colonel Sharkey. Under his leadership our wing put together several of the wing's key activities. In addition to our disaster relief exercises such as the State Hurricane Exercise, the wing put together key activities



**COL JOSEPH J. MARTIN**  
**Florida Wing Commander**

including the Annual Wing Conference, Tiger Day, the Wing SAR/EVAL, Cadet Competition, Special Activities Selection Board, Sun 'n Fun Fly-In, AOPA Expo in Fort Lauderdale, Various Professional Development Weekends (PDW), Cadet Encampments, Career Shadowing, National Check Pilot Orientation Course, Florida Leadership Academy, etcetera. In addition to our wing key activities, each one of our groups stepped forward with group key activities such as aircrew training, Squadron Leadership Schools (SLS), Corporate Learning Courses (CLC), Level 1's and much more. Also, let us not forget the local squadron key activity events which were many and varied.

From this point we must look forward to the future. The work behind all of our key activities will be the foundation for integrating our efforts into one clear and concise picture. Up to now, each of our key activities were developed

and run by a comprehensive team of volunteers covering all the disciplines (finance, administration, logistics, operations, and etcetera). Our goal over the next year will be to better utilize each of our permanent staff positions for their intended purpose. In doing so, we hope to maximize talent, efforts and logistics.

An important part of tying this picture together includes realization of our wing vision. Simply put our vision is: *"To serve Florida by performing Homeland Security and humanitarian missions for our state; developing our state's youth; and educating our citizens on the importance of air and space power."*

To achieve our vision, it will be necessary for you to study your individual role, identify our deliverables and strive to improve our processes each and every day. The wing's mission: *"To perform missions for the state of Florida with pride and professionalism"* further outlines the challenges that face us. Although generic in nature, the term *"To perform missions"* is all encompassing.

The wing core values: *"Integrity, Citizenship, Excellence, Innovation, and Competence"* are the individual guide to our actions as we forge ahead. If we approach our individual tasking with integrity, citizenship, and excellence then the small leap required to place ourselves on the *"cutting edge"* is innovation. Innovation is the best way to facilitate new processes and continuous improvement. A large part of innovation, however, is change. We must always be cognizant of our own resistance to change. Carefully planned change can be a powerful tool for the organization and its move towards enhanced competence. At the same time, change for the sake of change should and will be avoided. Lastly, the ultimate goal is to attain competence both individually and as an organization. The harder you train, the more you practice, the more you learn, the closer we will be to being more competent in fulfilling our mission and therefore realizing our vision.

## OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER

### FLORIDA WING OFFICERS:

Wing Commander  
Col Joseph J. Martin

Vice Commander North  
Lt Col Valerie Brown  
Vice Commander South  
Lt Col Wes Hannah

Chief of Staff  
Major Fran Gleockler

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FLORIDA FACTS is published quarterly for members and friends of Florida Wing-Civil Air Patrol.

*The opinions expressed herein are those of the Editor/Publisher and are not necessarily those of either the Civil Air Patrol or the Florida Wing.*

*All letters and/or articles submitted are the opinions expressed by the author and are not necessarily those of the Editor/Publisher.*

*The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit or condense materials submitted and to publish articles as content warrants and space permits.*

Deadlines for submission to FLORIDA FACTS:  
1 January, 1 April, 1 July, 1 October.

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On 20 August, 2004 at the National Conference which convened in Tampa, Florida from 18 to 22 August, former National Vice Commander, Brig Gen Dwight H. Wheless was elected by a majority vote of the 67 members of the National Executive Committee to serve as National Commander of the United States Air Force Auxiliary/Civil Air Patrol for a three year term. Simultaneously, the commander was promoted to the rank of Major General.



**MAJ GEN DWIGHT WHELESS**  
National Commander

General Wheless joined CAP in 1981 when the Coastal Senior Squadron reactivated in Mateo, North Carolina. As National Vice Commander he served as a member of CAP's Board of Governors, National Executive Committee, and National Board, the organization's governing and advisory bodies. In addition, he has held positions as National Legal Officer, North Carolina Wing Commander, Chairman of the National Appeal Board, Chairman and member of the Member Appeal Review Board, and member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and has served on numerous panels and study groups.

For his service Maj Gen Wheless has been awarded multiple Distinguished Service medals, Exceptional Service awards, Meritorious Service awards and Commander's Commendations.

Within moments of Gen Wheless' election, the Vice Commander was elected which created a command gap in the Southeast Region. Thus the responsibility of command fell immediately on Maj Gen Wheless' shoulders as he conducted candidate interviews, discussed the candidate's service with those they commanded and concluded who the new Southeast Region Commander would be. That decision then caused a command gap in Florida Wing and, again, Gen Wheless initiated in-depth deliberations as to who would be appointed to serve as the new Florida Wing Commander. That very evening, at the General Banquet, before nearly 1000 conference attendees, National Commander Maj Gen Dwight Wheless announced his appointments for the two commands.

## Southeast Region Commander Elected As NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

**T**he Grand Ballroom on Friday morning at the Tampa Marriott Marina hotel was filled with nearly 1000 Civil Air Patrol members who traveled from far and wide to participate in the 2004 National Conference.

Following presentations from each of the five candidates who filed for the position of Vice Commander, the huge ballroom chandeliers were dimmed and an expected hush settled over the vast room. Ballots were distributed to the 67 members of the National Executive Committee and votes were cast.



**Maj Gen Richard Bowling relinquishes command to Maj Gen Dwight Wheless**

Ballots were collected and members of the national headquarters staff conducted the counting and announcement of the results. Southeast Region Commander, Col Tony Pineda received a plurality of votes cast. However, according to the corporation's Constitution and



**Brigadier General Antonio Pineda and Major General Dwight Wheless**

Bylaws, a majority vote is required. The candidate who received the lowest count was eliminated and a second round of ballots were distributed and collected.

Again a hush settled throughout the room until the ballot count for the four remaining candidates was announced. The newly elected National Vice Commander was Col Antonio Pineda by a majority vote.

Both of the newly elected national officers were then congratulated by a roaring ovation with everyone on their feet.

Maj Gen Richard Bowling, relinquished his command and Maj Gen Dwight Wheless agreed to serve the Civil Air Patrol as its National Commander.

Gen Bowling's term was particularly significant in CAP's history, since it coincided with the

terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the crash of the space shuttle Columbia, and several natural disasters, including fires in the western United States and Hurricanes Isabel and Charley. Bowling also negotiated the restructure of CAP/USAF, served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors and was appointed to the General Officer Steering Committee for Home-

land Security, by Headquarters, United States Air Force, the Pentagon.



**National Commander Dwight Wheless presents the Vice Commander's banner to Tony Pineda .**

USAF Lt Gen John F. Regni, Commander, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base presided over the official Change of Command ceremony for the incoming CAP National Commander.

## Florida Wing CHANGE OF COMMANDS

**T**he change-of command is a time-honored event preserved by the rich heritage of military tradition. It is a formal custom that follows military protocol, and is designed to strengthen the respect for the continuity of command. The culmination of the ceremony is reached when the change-of-command orders are read and the officers face one another, salute, and transfer the flag of command. This provides the entire command with the knowledge the officer directed by proper authority is taking command and an opportunity to witness the transfer of responsibility.

This was the ceremony proudly witnessed by the entire assemblage at the Civil Air Patrol Annual Conference Banquet. It was the culmination of the change-of-command from National Commander Maj Gen Richard Bowling to Maj Gen Dwight Wheless. Upon assuming his assigned responsibility Gen Wheless announced the election of Southeast

Region Commander, Tony Pineda to the position of National Vice Commander created a command gap in the Southeast Region. In recognition of the outstanding ac-

complishments, achievements and awards attained by Col Matthew Sharkey, commander of Florida

Wing—the largest wing in the nation, Gen Wheless announced his appointment to the command of Southeast Region. The region encompasses six states, namely Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, and Tennessee.

Col Sharkey's advancement created another command gap, that of Florida Wing. Gen Wheless then announced his appointment of Vice Commander, Lt Col Joseph Martin to be the commander of Florida Wing and his promotion to the rank of full Colonel.

Col Martin 'hit the responsibility track at a racing start' and within 48 hours, he appointed Lt Col Valerie Brown to be Vice Commander of the northern sector and Major Fran Gleockler, Group Five Commander to serve as his Chief of Staff. Martin cut and issued numerous orders encompassing potential evacuation plans for wing's aircraft from oncoming Hurricane Frances and the scheduling of a Command Call/Wing Staff meeting.



National Vice Commander and former Southeast Region Commander Brig Gen Tony Pineda (left) prepares to relinquish the SER command flag to newly appointed Col Matthew Sharkey.



Col Joseph Martin, former Vice Commander of Florida Wing accepts the command flag from Brig Gen Pineda as Southeast Region Commander Col Matthew Sharkey looks on.

## Major General Richard Bowling SAYS FAREWELL.

**F**ollowing three years of outstanding leadership and faithful service as National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol, Major General Richard Bowling bid farewell to the vast assemblage of CAP members attending the 2004 National Conference in Tampa.

“Every day, CAP volunteers fuel this great nation with pride in our country, unselfish devotion to service, communication within their communities, common sense in running their organization, creativity in meeting our nation’s needs, and vision for the CAP of tomorrow.

Let’s review what we contributed during the past three years;

- 9/11 occurred within a month of my taking command of CAP.
- CAP was the first non-military aircraft launched after the attack,
- CAP flew the first photo reconnaissance over the World Trade Center.
- Wings from throughout the nation flew emergency personnel, medical supplies and blood, and aerial assessments following 9/11.
- Tragedy brought CAP full-circle from its origins as the “eyes of the home skies” tracking German subs off the U.S. coastline

during WWII.

- Major resurgence in CAP’s homeland security mission.
- With help of CAP leadership, we began positioning CAP as the support team of choice for

the Space Shuttle Columbia.

• Developed first-ever HLS CONEMP [Concept of Employment].

• Met with new head of U. S. Dept. Homeland Security, Secretary Tom Ridge.

• Became a charter member of President Bush’s grassroots organization for homeland security, the Citizens Corps.

• Performed major missions including Imperial Valley, Shuttle Columbia recovery, Falcon Virgo, Hurricane Isabel.

• This past year we saved 180 lives.

• Our National Operations Center at CAPHQ serves



our nation’s first responders.

- Researched and acquired new equipment to support security missions, including GA8 Airvan, Digital satellite imaging, Hyperspectral imaging and development of the ARCHER system [Airborne, Real-time Cueing Hyperspectral Enhanced Reconnaissance].
- Participated in homeland security training exercises and missions including TOPOFF 2, AF Doctrine Center HLS Wargame, Determined Promise, joint exercises with the Coast Guard, 2002 Olympics mission in Salt Lake City and pre-launch recon mission over

as a one-stop contact for AF-assigned missions, improving response time for our customers.

• Renewed use of slogans “Eyes of the Home Skies” and Performing missions for America”.

• Received numerous national awards and recognition.

• Membership exceeds 61,000.

• Recognize that within CAP, we have no boundaries when it comes to achievement, excellence and leadership.

God bless our bright, shining nation, and God bless those who help maintain its light, the men and women of Civil Air Patrol.”

# CONFERENCE



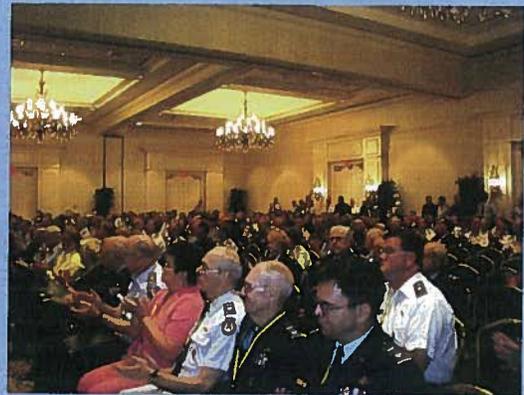
# CANDIDS



L to r Brig Gen Tony Pineda presents the original painting "We Were There" depicting CAP flying over the World Trade Center site to Asst. Sec. USAF Michael Dominguez and Maj Gen Dwight Wheless for permanent display in the Pentagon.



Florida Wing's prize winning color guard presents the colors to open the General Assembly.



National Conference 2004 has standing room only.



Col Matthew Sharkey places his voting ballot for the election of the National Commander, in the ballot box.



Asst. Secretary USAF Michael Dominguez and Lt Gen Nicholas Kehoe, USAF [Ret], members of the CAP Board of Governors, in attendance at the General Assembly.



Bishop Lt Col Dewey Painter, Chaplain Emeritus of Florida Wing attended his exhibit and collected needy items for our military personnel overseas. Bishop Painter also collected and delivered 50,000 pounds of food, water, clothing, baby supplies and other sundries for Florida's Hurricane Charley victims.



One of 65 seminars presented during the National Conference covering advanced technologies, glass cockpits, public affairs, cadet programs, financial management, aerospace education, Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, corporate and legal programs. Each seminar, presented by outstanding instructors, was heavily attended.



Florida Blood Services collected nearly 100 pints of donated blood over the two-day weekend. Col [Dr.] Kay McLaughlin, chief, CAP Health Services, rests after contributing her blood while her husband, Lt Col Richard McLaughlin, NHQ Assistant Medical Officer has his blood drawn.



2 Lt Kelly Green received a standing ovation after singing "Always Vigilant". She wrote both the words and music.



▲ Cadet R. Prada from the South West Orlando Squadron walks the wing out during Cadet Glider Orientation Flight hosted by the Pasco Cadet Squadron and the Tampa Bay Soaring Society.

► In Florida for a visit to DEP Rookery Bay National Estuarine Preserve to speak on Freedom Corps volunteers and preserving the environment, **President George W. Bush** takes time to shake hands with some of the volunteers including Naples Senior Squadron Commander **Maj. Tom Kuznar**.



▲ Group 7 Commander **Maj. Ernie Manzano** (on left) piloted Dominican Republic President **Dr. Leonel Fernandez** on a tour of Florida during a recent diplomatic visit.

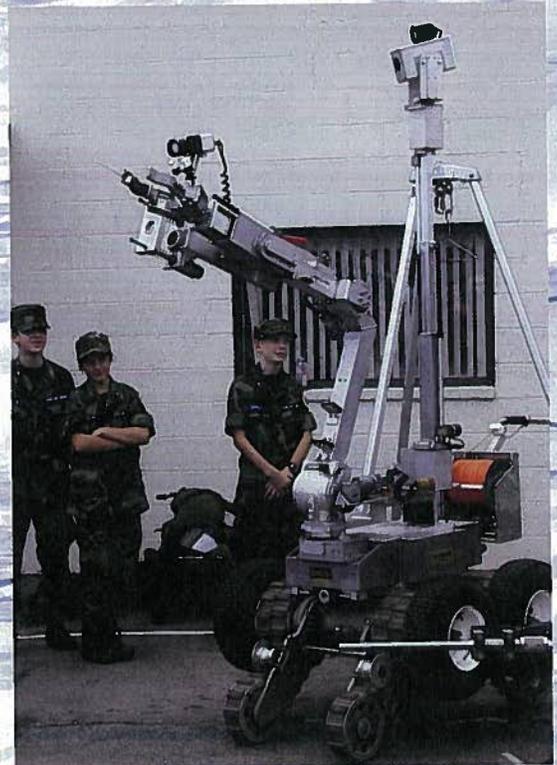
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▲ Cadet Airmen **Javier Parades** undergoes inspection by Cadet **TSgt Jaffrey Poole** during Operation Hometown Heroes in Boca Raton.



▲ C/ AIC Laffy, AIC Clark, Cadet Laffy and Msgr Hegerich on duty at the recruitment station at a sold-out Florida Marlins/New York Mets game.



► Cadets from Group 1 and Group 800 examine a bomb-removal robot on their recent visit to Eglin AFB as part of Cadet Week which is sponsored by the USAF Chief of Staff.



# Thanks to all who have served with me...

Over the past three years, I have had the pleasure to serve with, and lead, some of the finest professional volunteers in the nation as the Florida Wing Commander. Although I will be moving on as the

Southeast Region Commander, my heart remains rooted in the state that has been my home for most of my life.

Throughout my tenure I've experienced successes, trials, joys, and struggles. We all have. We've experienced these emotions as a wing, as a unit, and as individuals. I, personally, wouldn't trade a single one, for I've gained insight into what people can do together as a team. Together we've had the resolve to accomplish much.

If I've learned one thing it is that we should, as my hero President Lincoln said, "Always bear in mind that [our] own resolution to succeed is more important than any other." I've seen that resolve as we've tried new things and stepped out of the mold of "the way it's always been done." I've seen it, too, in the way we came together to define and live out our Core Values. And most recently, I've seen it as we've faced three of the most intense disasters to have hit

our state in many years. The service rendered to our fellow Floridians and CAP members reached beyond anything I could have ever imagined and make our core values more ingrained in our minds.

Our success and challenges have been documented in the *CAP News*, *FLORIDA FACTS*, and on our website. It has been my privilege to have been your advocate, cheerleader, and teammate during my term. I will continue to do so at whatever level I am placed, for in this organization I know I will always be surrounded by friends and, while not by blood, family.

Civil Air Patrol has introduced me to some fine individuals, lifelong friends, enduring work relationships and my lifelong partner.\* I will always treasure the times we've had together and look forward to us building on those foundations toward a successful future serving the nation we all love dearly.

Semper vigilans, and Semper amicitia. Always vigilant, and always friends.  
—Colonel Matt Sharkey

\*I proposed to Kelly at the National Board Banquet. She said yes.



# Wing's Director of Operations Returns From Iraq

Gary Nelson serves his nation proudly in double duty - as a Lt Col in the United States Air Force Reserve and as a Florida Wing Director of Operations of the Civil Air Patrol, an Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Happily he has returned safely from his active tour of duty in Iraq as a member of the 310th Security Forces Squadron.

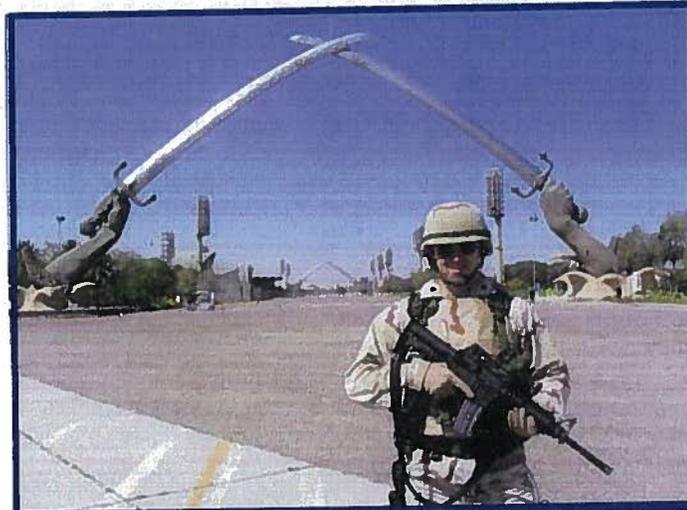
The 310th Security Forces Squadron was created in 1988 as a specialized security force unit to defend, and if necessary, recapture the territorial elements of the Air Force Satellite Control Network and associated ground based facilities. The 310th uses a five-man fire-team, 11-member element structure and a non-standard weapons and equipment package selected specifically to support their role.

Lt Col Nelson and his unit was called up and deployed to Iraq within days after 9/11.

Nelson has served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve since he was 17. He recalls, "During my 22 years of service I've been with several very fine units and have served with some of the finest officers and non-commissioned officers ever to don the Air Force blue. But in all that time, and I suspect in the years to come, I've not witnessed such an outpouring

of devotion and sacrifice. I have never felt so honored to be a part of the 310th Security Forces Squadron."

Nelson continued, "Units all around the country, active



Lt Col Gary Nelson stands under the Triumphal Arch in Baghdad, Iraq. The base on the left has the net holding the Iranian helmets and in the distance can be seen the second pair of swords.

and reserve of all services, are doubtlessly seeing the same sort of selflessness as we prepare to safeguard our nation and strike back at those who so viciously attacked us. Veterans of every war have seen this and more. I suppose this is just our turn at the wheel. Nonetheless, the nation is blessed to have such men and women, now and always."

In spite of the fighting, mortar explosions, personnel being wounded, and missions to be carried out, Lt Col Nelson did have moments to see some of the grandiose monuments built by

the Iraq dictator, Saddam Hussein.

To celebrate his "victory" over Iran, Saddam decided to build a Triumphal Arch. The concept without precedent in the Middle East since Roman times.

The colossal Hands of Victory monument has dominated Baghdad's skyline since the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Built in duplicate, it marks the entrances to a large new parade ground in central Baghdad, towering 140 feet above the highway. The triumphal arch is shaped as two pairs of crossed swords, made from the guns of dead Iraqi soldiers that were melted and recast as the 24-ton blades of the swords. Captured Iranian helmets are in a net held between the swords. Sur-

rounding the base of the arms are another 5,000 Iranian helmets taken from the battle field. The fists that hold the swords aloft are replicas of Saddam Hussein's own hands.

When Saddam inaugurated these triumphal arches, he rode under them on a white horse. The day before the first bombing run on Baghdad during the 1991 Gulf War, Iraqi TV showed a mass of Iraqi soldiers marching beneath the huge crossed swords of the Victory Arch, to the theme music from "Star Wars."

# Air Force Captain Inspired as a CAP Cadet.

In his seven years with the military, 29-year-old Air Force Capt



Captain R.C. DeJesus

R. C. DeJesus from Rockville, Maryland has traveled the world.

However, he still has a vivid memory of his first international experience as a youth when he took part in Civil Air Patrol's International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE), an experience he describes as "awesome." He joined the Air Force in 1997 after completing a college degree in organizational communications from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Being in Germany with cadets from many other countries taught the young Cadet DeJesus how to work with people from other — and very diverse — cultures. He credits his Civil Air Patrol experi-

ence with his understanding of a wide range of personality types and attitudes. As an Air Force Captain in Iraq working in a liaison position with the Army, this gave him the ability to focus on ways to bring together the various goals and coordinate the different methods the Army and the Air Force had of communicating, and then, in the words of Capt DeJesus, "help the Army connect with resources available to get the job done."

For many young people as for Capt DeJesus, the possibility of learning to fly is a reason to join CAP and also a motivating factor for military service. He says, "Civil Air Patrol showed me it really was possible for me to be an aviator — and a leader."



Capt DeJesus logs a MIG during his service in Iraq

He went on to be a C-130 navigator in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Making fast decisions in urgent situations also was

learned from experience in CAP and from his CAP leaders and mentors.

As he and his crew landed in a blacked-out camp in Afghanistan, the C-130 became stuck in the sand on the runway. Capt DeJesus recounts that he "couldn't just leave a loaded plane sitting out there on a hot landing zone with its engines running, risking getting attacked by mortars." The crew chief and Capt DeJesus crawled under the plane and dug sand out from around the nose wheel. He also ordered lightening the load by taking off some of the supplies. The strategy worked and within minutes they were airborne.

Capt DeJesus received a Bronze Star in 2003 from his successful airlift and mobility coordination efforts. He credits his Air Force experience as a CAP cadet commander, "CAP gave me the chance to learn how to work with different people, even under stressful conditions."

(This story was based on an article written by Melanie LeMay, NHQ CAP Public Relations.)

Maj Sharon Taylor, Staff Writer

# HURRICANE DEPLOYMENT



**N**atures three hurricanes, Bonnie, Charley and Frances, furiously pounded Florida with lashing sheets of driving rain, high velocity gusts, and whistling winds. Huge ficus trees with ten foot root balls were uprooted, broken tree limbs were flying, large areas were flooding, roofs were torn off, recreation vehicles as long as 60 feet were overturned, planes were ripped from their tie-down lines and were smashed against buildings or piled into ripped open hangars, mobile homes were torn apart, boats' mooring lines snapped, sanitary sewers backed up, storm sewers overflowed and this devastation was compounded by electric power outage in nearly 5 million homes that lasted, for some, as long as 37 days.

This natural disaster preceded the Civil Air Patrol's National Conference in Tampa by a matter of days causing our air and ground assets and personnel, which would have been used to support the conference, to be diverted to hurricane-related missions.

Prior to the arrival of Hurricane Charley, an evacuation order was issued for the entire west coast and CAP began to fly interstate highway reconnaissance and reporting traffic congestion conditions. Maj Paul Blystone, Director of Communications reports the HF radio Net was activated with a roll call every two hours during the day and every hour during the evening. About 70 percent of all radio stations had generator or battery backup capability. Updated weather information was shared and operations traffic was relayed.

The aftermath of this Category 4 storm required massive cleanup efforts. In what was home to some was now twisted chunks of metal, splintered lumber, and molding furniture and furnishings. Multi-million cubic yards of storm-related waste had to be collected and disposed. Utility crews from neighboring states assisted the Florida Power & Light Co. in power restoration.

As soon as weather permitted, CAP members performed aerial damage assessment missions and provided communications from the field to the operations centers by radio and satellite phones. "We used our satellite transmitted digital imagery systems to capture images of the affected areas," said Maj Gen Dwight Wheless, CAP National Commander. "SDIS allows CAP members to capture images from the air with digital cameras, download them to laptop computers onboard the aircraft, and transmit the high-resolution images in real-time via satellite phone and e-mail," Wheless explained.

In anticipation of landfall of the monster storm Hurricane Frances on the east coast less than three weeks later, CAP moved SDIS aircraft from its Great

Lakes, Northeast and Middle East Regions to a standby position in Columbia, S.C. All CAP's missions are under the direction of the Air Force National Security Emergency Preparedness Office, U.S. Northern Command, 1st Air Force. The CAP National Operations Center at Maxwell AFB, AL. serves as mission coordinator and assigns the use of CAP assets in states surrounding the impacted state.

With the pending onslaught of Frances, Florida Wing evacuated all its assets to 'safe haven' locations as close as possible to the hurricane's expected path. "With the proven value of CAP's services in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley, Florida's emergency operations agencies want to have this resource readily available again," said wing commander Col Joseph Martin.

CAP emergency services personnel served on-site at the Florida State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee and nearly 400 members performed aerial and ground missions during and after the three hurricanes swept across the state. CAP members, all of whom are volunteers, helped to transport key officials and healthcare supplies to support emergency response agencies.

According to Southeast Region Commander Col Matt Sharkey, CAP ground teams were deployed to find emergency locator transmitters that were activated on aircraft and docked boats that sustained damage during the storm. "During Charley, more than 700 of these transmitters were activated and it was important to locate and deactivate them so Air Force Rescue Coordination Center personnel could differentiate these from genuine distress signals."

"CAP can provide SDIS services at a relatively low cost to emergency agencies," Col Joseph Martin said. "Our members are all unpaid, highly trained, professional volunteers who contribute their time from home and work to perform all types of service missions, often traveling considerable distances to be available when and where needed."

90,000 pounds of food, ice, water and clothing were collected and distributed to residents throughout the state. Replacement oxygen tanks needed desperately by people were arranged for. Emergency supplies including flashlight batteries and bulbs in all sizes, battery operated radios and lanterns, insect spray, first-aid kits, and tools, which were in scarce supply, were located, purchased and delivered to the needy.

"I am so very proud of the Florida Wing members - our seniors and cadets - who so generously gave of their time and talent to help others in need. They accepted their mission assignments without hesitation and each was performed proficiently," said Col Martin.

# THE AFTERMATH



Devastation, thirst, hunger, food spoilage, need to boil water, polluted lakes, contaminated areas, downed trees, homes ripped apart, shortage of medical supplies, no power, no lights, no telephones, no TV, no hot water, impassable roads, scarcity of basic needs, flooding, smashed boats and planes, traffic lights inoperable, gasoline shortage were just some of the hurricanes' aftermath conditions to which CAP members responded.



While Florida Representative Adam Hasner helped the unloading of cases

of water, the Boca Raton Composite Squadron also arranged for a full truckload of ice cubes.

C/CMSgt Christina Zarrilli is seen loading bags of ice into a car trunk while other cadets distribute bags of ice cubes to the never ending line-up of cars. The power outage made ice a rare commodity.



Collier County's Emergency Operations Center Director Dan Summers had the EOC in full swing with all phones ringing incessantly and phone operators imparting information, writing up service requests and reports of danger hazards and damage throughout the county.



The damage estimate for the state stands at \$40 billion. The Federal Emergency Management Agency deployed 350 recreation vehicles to various sites on the east coast which will serve as relocation housing for families whose homes were destroyed. Other families have been relocated to hotels throughout the state where they will stay until their damaged homes are repaired.

Modular home parks were the hardest hit and few



came through it with only minor damage. Even boats moored in marinas were destroyed.





## One CAP Squadron's Response To Hurricane Charley

Submitted by 2Lt Gail Swanson, PAO  
Naples Senior Squadron

The urgent phone call on the morning of August 11, 2004 was from the Collier County Emergency Operations Center [CCEOC] for 2Lt Gail Swanson, Public Affairs Officer [PAO] of the Naples Senior Squadron. The request was for her immediate appearance at the CCEOC to assist their Project Information Officer [PIO] since it appeared a Category 4 or 5 hurricane was headed straight for Naples.

Lt Swanson immediately phoned her squadron commander, Lt John Varsames. He advised Gail he was "Pre-fighting the aircraft since it might have to be relocated to the east coast, the unit's alert system is activated and pilots and aircrews are already on their way in. Mission staff and ground teams are on standby. And your service at the EOC is approved."

At the EOC, Swanson relied heavily on her intensive CAP training, and was able to provide valuable assistance before, during, and after the hurricane passed through. Active as liaison between the public phone bank and the EOC command, she also helped in information coordination.

Swanson spent Wednesday through Saturday at the EOC and Lt Varsames continually provided invaluable information to her regarding the condition of the municipal airports, runways accessibility and general aeronautic conditions.

EOC's requests of the Naples Squadron for damage assessments, visual confirmations, flight conditions, etc. were responded to in a matter of minutes.

Merely two weeks prior to Hurricane Charley's 'visit', Naples Senior Squadron members helped Collier County Emergency Management staff ready their supply trailers as evacuation shelters. During Hurricane Charley's 'slam dunk' Naples Senior Squadron members Maj Tom

Kuznar and Lt Ron Swaim personally volunteered to assist the EOC Collier Health Department in getting the last of their special needs persons into shelters. At one home, they determined the occupant needed to go to a hospital instead of a shelter. While at the hospital, with hurricane winds blowing outside, Swaim was approached by a family who needed a place to go. Without hesitation, he took the family and their dog to spend the night at his house.

The Naples Squadron hangar and headquarters building sustained minor damage but the radio tower required the help of Lt Varsame's employees, his equipment, and a cement mixer to right the damaged antenna mast.

Following the hurricane, the squadron flew Collier County EOC Director Dan Summers and county representatives for aerial damage assessment, and ground teams of seniors and cadets were deployed to Forward Control at the Charlotte County Airport. The cadets helped the Charlotte County Squadron unload boxes of water bottles from a National Guard truck.

Senior ground teams were tasked as RECON I with a mission assignment to look for residents in the south grid of the county in need of assistance. RECON I used a GPS laptop computer mapping system which sent search coordinates back to CAP Forward Control.

RECON I found 25 homes on a long stretch of country road without electrical power. One mobile home was totally demolished. All residents were without food, water, ice, and baby formula. Livestock also needed water. A report was relayed to Forward Control and supplies were immediately dispatched from the Charlotte EOC.

With the passing of Hurricane Charley, the Collier County conducted a mission stand-down briefing at which CAP's participation in the hurricane efforts was noted to have been "priceless". FOX-4 and NBC-2 evening news interviewed LTC's Bob Berlam and Charles Dinsmoor. NBC called CAP "the unsung heroes of Hurricane Charley." The Naples Daily News and Marco Island Eagle ran lengthy articles also praising CAP's efforts.



 From the **Naples Cadet Squadron**, C/2Lt Jake Harcarik, is just reporting to the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2008; C/Lt Col Shawn Roser has just completed his sophomore year on a full Air Force ROTC scholarship to Embry-Riddle University; and C/CMSgt Ryan Joyce has completed his sophomore year at West Point.

From the **Coral Springs Squadron**, C/Lt Col Paul Cheval has completed his freshman year at West Point.

From the **Weston Cadet Squadron** C/A1C Lawrence Melnicoff has been accepted to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Wing Commander Colonel Joseph Martin expressed, "Congratulations to each of you for your hard work and professional dedication. Keep it up."

 Hearty welcome back to wing staff officer Lt Col Gary Nelson who recently returned from a second tour of duty in Iraq and our sincerest wishes and prayers to wing staff officer Capt Luis Garcia who is still serving in the Baghdad area of Iraq; USAF 1Lt Gregory Auerbach, formerly Broward Cadet Squadron, who is now serving in Japan; USAF T/Sgt Joseph Mark Busby, formerly West Broward

Composite Squadron Commander, is currently in Germany but soon to be assigned to Iraq; 1 Lt Alex Acevedo, former Cadet Commander of the Pompano Beach Cadet Squadron just returned from Iraq and Qatar; 1 Lt Victor Aguilar, a former CAP Cadet of the Puerto Rico Wing flies in and out of Germany and Iraq in a C-117 Globemaster; Capt Chris Hawk, former Cadet Commander of the Coral Springs Cadet Squadron is serving in Korea as an F-16 pilot; Pfc William Morden, U.S. Army formerly Cadet Commander of the Boca Raton Composite Squadron is now serving in Iraq. Florida Wing Chaplain Major Tom Carson asks us to keep those who are in the military serving our nation in our prayers for their safe and rapid return.

 Vice President Richard Ortega, Aerospace Education Foundation of the Air Force Association recently accepted applications for CAP Aerospace Education Grants. Since 1996, AFA has provided nearly \$70,000 in grants to expand the CAP Aerospace Education Program. At the National Conference in Tampa, Vice President Ortega presented an Air Force Association plaque to Lt Col John Lierenz, Delaware Wing as the Senior Member of the Year and to Cadet Col Hila Levy, Puerto Rico Wing as Cadet of the Year. Each recipient also received a commemorative one year membership in the Air Force Association.

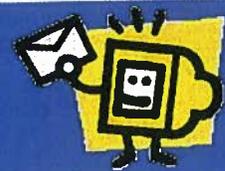
 Cadets from the **Pasco Cadet Squadron**, **North Tampa Cadet Squadron** and **St Petersburg Cadet Squadron** had a great glider fly day. Cadet Ground Crew, Glider Pilots and

Tow Pilot arrived, gliders were untied and moved to the flight line, safety briefing and operations instructions were given, preflight was completed and the gliders were towed aloft to soar "into the wild blue yonder." Cadets who completed their orientation glider flights were speechless except with expressed adjectives that ranged from "awesome" to "coolest ever".

 Newest members to the Civil Air Patrol Board of Governors include a Director from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and a prominent retired Air Force officer. Retired Coast Guard Rear Admiral David R. Nicholson and retired Air Force Lt Gen Charles Searock Jr. were honored guests at the National Conference. Bruce Whitman, President of Flight-Safety International has been re-appointed to the Board for another term. "We're pleased to welcome the new Board members who are willing to give us the benefit of their experience and training," said Col Robert Bess, CAP, chairman of the CAP Board of Governors. Civil Air Patrol has operated under a Board of Governors since 2001, when the Board was established under the Defense Authorization Act. The Board of Governors is the primary decision-making body for our 62,000 member organization.

 How many of you are aware that Pensacola, Florida is on a different time zone than the rest of Florida? How's that for a FLORIDA FACT?

# E-MAIL EXTRACTS



C/Major Alfredo Valdivia is now serving as Cadet Commander - Group 7. Valdivia has a tremendous amount of experience in the re-engineering of cadet squadrons. He served as a member of the Southeast Region and Florida Wing Drill and Color Guard Teams in 2001, 2002, and 2003; Special Acts Selection Board 2001, 2002 and 2003; Cadet Commander Summer 2002; CAC Representative; Executive Officer; Flight Commander; and NJROTC. C/Maj Valdivia has set forth his program plans which include visiting every Cadet and Composite Squadron in his Group by mid-year and to apply a **SWOT** analysis on each. [Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat]; assist and recommend the CAC Representatives; keep a working record of all cadet activities; work with Maj George Navarini as part of the Middle School Program; and have monthly or quarterly meetings with the squadron's Cadet Commanders on related issues.

Maj Ernie Manzano

**Congratulations to Florida Wing on taking First Place in the Southeast Region Color Guard Competition. Puerto Rico Wing took First Place in the Drill Team Competition. Both contests were held at Tyndall Air Force Base. The two winning teams will now fly to Maxwell AFB, home of CAP National Headquarters to compete in the National competition. SER Chief of Staff, Maj Guillermo Heredia Jr. expressed his thanks to Tyndall AFB NCO Academy and Base Honor Guard judges for an outstanding job in making this competition so successful.**

Wal-Mart recently awarded the Cadets of the SRQ Composite Squadron \$1500 through the "Safe Neighborhood Heroes Grant" for their outstanding service to the community.

2Lt Debra Kilpatrick, PAO

**Previous to his promotion. Florida Wing Commander, Col Matt Sharkey announced his ap-**

**pointment of Major Tom Carson as the Florida Wing Chaplain. Chaplain Lt Col Dewey Painter, who has served with distinction from August 2001 through June 2004, will serve as Florida Wing Chaplain Emeritus.**

Lt Col Larry Dunham has been appointed as the Group 4 Commander. Major Walt Lane, the outgoing commander, has served with recognizable distinction between September 2001 through June 2004. Major Lane received an Exceptional Service Award for all of his outstanding efforts during the Change of Command ceremony.

**Group 5 Commander, Major Fran Gleockler appointed 1Lt John Varsames to be the new commanding officer of the Naples Senior Squadron replacing Major Thomas Kuznar. During Major Kuznar's command, the Naples Senior Squadron received the Merit Award for Squadron of the Year 2003 out of 87 squadrons in the wing and the Distinguished Award of the Year 2002. Kuznar was also recognized as the Commander of the Year 2003.**

2Lt Gail Swanson, PAO

The Lake County Composite Squadron Color Guard presented the colors for the 2004 James H. Parke Award Luncheon at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando. The ceremonial guard was accompanied by a field drum whose sound filled the room. It was apparent to the huge crowd the Color Guard represented the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** and the standing ovation they received made it apparent the attendees will **REMEMBER WE WERE THERE**. CMSgt Richard Ortega said, "You and your troops are doing a magnificent job providing superior performance standards and peerless leadership."

Lt Col David Mosely



## From The MAILBAG

The Editor reserves the right to edit letters for brevity, clarity, good taste and accuracy; to reject letters; and to avoid slander and libel to others.

Hey everyone,

Just wanted to say hi and give you a Baghdad update. We all are O.K. I'm sure the news has been saying the worst of what is going on here. We have been mortared and rocketed today. It's to be expected since some Iraqi don't want the new government to succeed. Hard to believe, in 72 hours we hand Iraq to a new sovereign power.

Hope everything is going O.K. at home. Some of you have asked me what it is we could use. If you can send us children's shoes, backpacks, notebooks, school supplies, children's clothes [5 to 15 years old], toiletries, etc. We can put those items to good use in our Civil Affairs projects.

Capt Luis Garcia  
Baghdad, Iraq

*Editors note: Capt Garcia was a member of Florida Wing Staff prior to his call-up. Our prayers are with him for a safe return*



Dear Cadets:

Thank you for inviting me to be a part of the Boca Raton Composite Squadron's Awards Ceremony. I am sorry I am unable to be with you but I wanted to take this opportunity to offer my heartiest congratulations to each and every one of you.

The awards that you are receiving demonstrate your dedication and commitment to each other, to our veterans and to your community. As young adults in today's troubled world, I commend you for your patriotism, your willingness to be involved and your perseverance to achieve your goals. I am certain your friends and families are very proud of you.

My best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,  
**BURT AARONSON**  
Palm Beach County Commissioner  
District 5

Former West Broward Composite Squadron member, Edwin Louis, graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy. Edwin Louis was a Mitchell Award recipient and a dedicated member of Civil Air Patrol. He is now commissioned as a 2Lt and has a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. 2Lt Louis will now be serving at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

1Lt Scott Schaefer



Dear Col Sharkey,

I am pleased to advise you some 680 cadets in your wing have received or are in the process of receiving some \$39,000 in uniforms. As part of the free cadet uniforms program.

Robert LePage  
Supply Inventory Control Technician  
National Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol



Cadets from the Clearwater Composite Squadron welcomed NASA Astronauts Nicole Passonno-Stott and Kevin Ford to the recent Clearwater Airpark Open House.

This annual event drew an estimated 3,000 local residents who had an opportunity to meet the Astronauts and chat with them about their space experiences as well as receive a personalized autographed picture.

Additionally, the Open House featured a static display of vintage aircraft pre-dating World War II as well as current aircraft, including a Lear Jet. Aviation enthusiasts of all ages took advantage of low cost helicopter or small plane rides around their own neighborhood. The pilots were busy flying all day as the waiting lines never seemed to get shorter.

Displays and demonstrations by the Civil Air Patrol, Clearwater Police K-9 Team and the Clearwater Fire Department made for a fun-filled, exciting day.

Capt Terrance Power, PAO

# THANKS, FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE

*Editor's Note: State Director Jerry Angley is assisting the hurricane response at the state EOC and his article will appear again in the next issue.*

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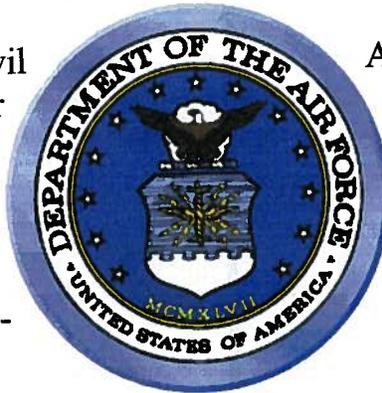
Hi all,

The time has come for me to say goodbye as the CAP-USAF Commander.

I would first like to give thanks to those who have offered me their full support. The Commanders of the Southeast Region and Florida Wing and all the senior members that have supported my involvement every step of the way. Working with Southeast Region leaders has been teamwork - teamwork that worked. No one could have asked for more.

I will never forget the Civil during the last eight years. Never rywhere I went. I will never for-dedicated their time and effort the senior members' tireless ef-

These last years were ex-and my passion.



Air Patrol members I encountered forget your generous hospitality eve-get the pilots and air crew who to search for missing aircraft and forts to support cadet activities.

hilarating. My work became my play

The world is again a dangerous place. CAP and the Air Force need to continue to remain united and to train. I know CAP will play a major role in preventing and supporting relief actions if terrorists again strike America. The country needs every single Civil Air Patrol member.

For Pam and me, what lies ahead are undiscovered adventures, choices, and challenges. The end of one journey merely signals the start of another.

I started my Air Force career in ROTC with my Dad's advice....do your homework, have courage, and don't give up. No better advice can I leave you as a gift.

Always, may the wind be at your back and your heart filled with hope and determination . This isn't *goodbye* - but as we say in the south, "*catch you later.*"

***Lt Col Mark E. O'Brien,  
USAF-CAP Commander***

# Hurricanes Wrap-up - HOPEFULLY

**W**ith Hurricanes Bonnie, Charley and Frances having departed the state of Florida — with Hurricanes Jeanne and Karl moving off to the north without landfall — and with only Hurricane Ivan's onslaught requiring convergence, deployment, assessment, and response, a breather is within sight. ...we hope.

CAP's ability to sustain a lengthy operational disaster response with more than 600 highly trained and experienced mission personnel, and with more than three times that many on mission standby, was put to the severest of tests.

For nearly forty five days, Florida Wing members in concert with members and assets from nine other wings provided round-the-clock manning at Emergency Operations Centers from the State EOC in Tallahassee to the County EOC in Naples. Hundreds of hours were flown on numerous sorties with varied air crews assessing and reporting on state-ordered evacuation traffic flows and damage assessments captured on digital imaging equipment transmitted via satellite to emergency officials. Additional flights were completed in transporting emergency service agency personnel to hard hit areas.

Ground teams located the need for and delivered water, ice, MRE's [meals ready to eat], baby formula, clothing, etc. to families who had lost their homes and those who had lost their electric power.

Communications teams maintained a communication flow of information, emergency messages, aircraft radio contact, and intra—and inter-state VHF and HF communication.

"Florida Wing's response and assistance, provided by all our volunteer members, necessitated by four hurricanes crossing our state, has been an invaluable, cost-effective, and human services effort that makes me extremely proud to be serving with you," commented Wing Commander Col Joseph Martin.

"Though response to Hurricane Ivan continues concerns about Lisa, as FLORIDA FACTS goes to press, I am pleased to observe and be informed by state officials that our personnel did ease the suffering of lots of people, did save the lives of many, and did assist the state in their response efforts," continued Col Martin.



Florida Wing's RECON teams will now be demobilized, and the FCT [Forward Control Team] will demobilize from the state EOC in Tallahassee after turning in all issued state equipment and debriefing. Air operations will continue, as needed, though all high priority missions should soon be ended. Ground teams are rapidly closing in on all ELT and EPIRB alarm signals and turning the emergency signal units off. Nearly 1,000 such alarms have blanketed the state.

Many of Florida Wing's members have been personally impacted by the storms in one way or the other. Some who are still suffering from the devastation after nearly 45 days.

"We are grateful, in spite of our exposure to these many hurricanes, in spite of our flying in less than blue-sky weather, in spite of our traversing hazardous ground areas we have experienced no fatalities and no severe injuries. Our Safety Program is well observed and well practiced," concluded Col Joe Martin.

# CHAPLAIN CARSON TO YOU

As a healthcare chaplain, I tell the nurses in orientation that I am privileged to be part of the team that will provide care to the patients that come into our medical center. The nurses have been trained to meet certain patients' needs, just as I have been trained to meet other patients' needs and those of their family.

In the same way, I see the Civil Air Patrol chaplain as a team member who provides for specific needs as a ministry. Chaplains have been tasked to meet the religious needs of our members. To this end, Chaplains provide Moral Leadership Seminars, counseling, worship, and other services as needed. Mission Chaplains care for emotional and spiritual needs of not only CAP members, but those of the community who have been impacted by a traumatic incident, emergency, or disaster.

In recent years that service has been expanded to include being available to meet some of the needs of the United States Air Force.

According to CAPR-265-2, "CAP provides the USAF with trained civilian resources for executing non-combatant USAF missions." With that in mind, "the CAP chaplains remain civilian resources to the Chief of Chaplains, USAF. They may be called upon to supplement the resources of the USAF Chaplain Service." In more recent years the resources that CAP can provide to the USAF have become even more evident through Homeland Security issues. Chaplain Lorraine Potter, Chief of Chaplains of the USAF said, "The mission of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Chaplain Service program is to provide qualified chaplains who assist commanders in the moral, religious, and spiritual growth of the CAP membership at large. In addition, CAP chaplains support U.S. Air Force active-duty and reserve chaplains, particularly during times of war when military personnel are deployed. CAP chaplains also assist other national relief organizations in times of disaster and minister to victims and emergency workers."

Chaplain Potter goes on to write, "As the United States continues its Global War on Terrorism, our Active Duty chaplain resources continue to stretch thin as we provide worldwide chaplain support. We must continue to use every asset available to provide our people world-class

ministry. Air Force Auxiliary Chaplains benefit our nation and our members. Conducting ministry together, our chaplains learn more about how God is working in their own lives and the lives of others."

CAP Chaplains have been endorsed by their religious faith groups to provide for moral and spiritual needs of the members of the CAP and the USAF. While being faithful to their faith groups, chaplains must work with and respect those who come from other denominations and faith groups.

Educational standards and continuing education are key to the provision of appropriate pastoral care to members of the

CAP and USAF. Because of this, Chaplain Rivers (SE Region Chaplain) and Chaplain Painter (Chaplain Emeritus of the Florida Wing) have sought to provide Chaplain Colleges and Conferences that will help chaplains provide pastoral care in difficult situations. The Florida Wing Chaplain Staff continues to be committed to the education chaplains need to work in a diverse society in times of trauma and stress. Chaplain Atchley (Deputy Wing Chaplain) and I look forward to working with the great Group Chaplains of Florida Wing to provide Squadron Chaplains with tools to work in their units and in the community.



**Chaplain Major Tom Carson**  
**Florida Wing Chaplain**

Recent training has focused on disaster relief (sanctioned by the Red Cross) and Critical Incident Stress Management (endorsed by ICISF). Hopefully this training and more will be repeated to make the Florida Wing Chaplain Service even better equipped to meet the needs of Florida. Chaplains must continue to train and prepare just as pilots and ground teams do. We all can stay sharp and be prepared when needed, whether we are performing a CAP mission or covering for a USAF Chaplain.

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**Chaplain Tom Carson joined the Civil Air Patrol in 1993 as a senior member to work with cadets. At that time, the chaplain's son was a CAP cadet. Major Carson served as an Aerospace Education Officer and as a Deputy Squadron Commander.**

**In 1998, he was appointed a chaplain and immediately served as a squadron chaplain. In 2002, he was appointed Assistant to Florida Wing Chaplain Lt Col Dewey Painter and to serve in the Professional Development Program.**

**In 2003, Chaplain Carson was appointed Deputy Florida Wing Chaplain and was appointed Florida Wing Chaplain in 2004 by Florida Wing Commander Col Matthew Sharkey. At the same time, Chaplain Lt Col Dewey Painter was advanced to the position of Chaplain Emeritus for Florida Wing.**

# Final Flight



**Major Don Amacker**  
Naples Senior Squadron

**Major Bob Schultz**  
Osceola Cadet Squadron, Florida  
Wing ES

**Ltc Harford P. Jenks**  
Marion County Composite Squadron

**Col Robert Schaetzi**  
Ocala Squadron

*Dear Chaplain Painter,*

*It is with great pleasure that I confirm your selection and appointment as Bishop. Your service to mankind and to the Lord whom you love are evident in all that you do.*



**Lt Col Dewey E. Painter,**  
Chaplain Emeritus,  
Florida Wing

*This appointment is just bringing to reality the service you have performed over the past few years. You truly have served as a Bishop and Overseer to many of the other Pastors and Leaders within our fellowship. It is only right that you now have that honor bestowed upon you.*

*Due to the nature of your service you have been assigned as our Bishop at Large so that you might continue to provide your guidance and Godly wisdom throughout the United States and abroad to all those within our fellowship and beyond.*

*Please share this letter with those with whom you serve, we want them all to be notified. In that you are serving under the same endorsement agency for Chaplains as we are, this appointment will be forwarded to them for their records as well.*

*May the Lord bless you as you continue to serve Him and others.*

*Sincerely,*

**Bishop Charles Grooms**  
Senior Bishop

## VA Wing Commander Col Cramer Dies

Tim Cramer and his wife Marcia first joined Civil Air Patrol in Connecticut. He began his career in "any position" asked of him, and soon became the commander of the Westfield Composite Squadron. He also served as a group commander in both Massachusetts and North Carolina wings, followed by his appointment to Virginia Wing Commander.

CAP members have described him as "honorable," "kind and observant," and "the real deal."

Elements of the Middle East

Region Honor Guard and the Hanover Color Guard made an "impressive display of precision and honor of the US flag for the late VA Wing Commander and his family," including Florida cadet Matthew DiLeonardo who played the bugle at the funeral.



# Cadet CAPERS

## Miami Cadets Ride C-17

A total of 15 members from the Miami Beach Cadet Squadron participated in a weekend trip aboard a USAF C-17 aircraft on their visit to Charleston, SC. Aside from enjoying the thrill of riding on the newest transport plane in the USAF's inventory, the members were treated to a tour of the Citadel Military College. As special guest, C/Lt Col Paul Gonzalez from the Tami-ami Composite Squadron, who will be attending The Citadel this fall, was treated to a grand tour of his future home for the next three years. Later on that same afternoon, the group headed over to Patriots' Point, home of the Yorktown Museum, a WWII Aircraft Carrier.



Miami Cadets with the C-17 Globemaster II

On Sunday the group was allowed to tour the ramp at Charleston AFB and ask questions on the airlift operations conducted by the 437th AWG based there. The cadets were able to get acquainted with the newest equipment operated by the Air Mobility Command, as well as talk to current Active Duty and Reserve personnel about their experiences and the opportunities available to them.

1Lt Linus Gomez, CC,  
Miami Beach Cadet Squadron

## Fleet Week Visit Exciting

Members of the Weston Cadet Squad-

ron recently visited the USS Enterprise in Ft. Lauderdale during Fleet Week. Members of the Enterprise (as well as an armed guard) escorted 16 cadets, one cadet officer, and two senior members on board the ship. The "Big E," as the Enterprise is affectionately called, is the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

The group enjoyed seeing an F-16, various aircraft engines, and a number of displays on the lower deck. On the flight deck they had the chance to sit in the pilot seat of a helicopter. Of-



C/ILT Tarry Reid in front of an F-14 Tomcat

ficers and crew members alike were pleased to answer any and all questions



college and a Hewlett Packard computer. C/MSgt Mike Bramblett, Cadet PAO,

## Summer Encampment Held at Camp Blanding

Camp Blanding, Florida National Guard Military Reservation, hosted the 2004 Summer Encampment.

Considered one of the most beneficial activities for cadets, encampment is a time for development of self-discipline and teamwork. In addition, cadets gain a greater understanding of aerospace.

Cadets had an 0500 wake-up call followed by an hour of physical training. Other activities included drill practice, aerospace education classes, moral leadership instruction, and opportunities for leadership growth.

2Lt Kelly Green, Staff Writer

cadets posed.

Maj Diane Reid, SER Director,  
Personnel/PAO

## Cadet Wins Four-Year Scholarship

Homestead Composite Squadron Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Stephanie Ruiz, a sophomore, was visited by Florida Governor Jeb Bush at Braddock Senior High School to congratulate her for winning the Hispanic Heritage



Cadets at Camp Blanding for Summer Encampment on the parade field for Pass In Review.

## Yeager Cadet Squadron Change of Command

The Yeager Cadet Squadron announced a change of command of their Squadron Commander. Lt. Dion stepped down from the post to pursue professional development opportunities. Captain Marcus assumes the position with five years' experience as a squadron commander and in emergency services.

2Lt David Cook, PAO

## Air Fest Supported by CAP

At Air Fest '04, 96 members, mainly cadets, participated in support of the air show at MacDill Air Force Base. The campsite was a sea of tents, over 80, arranged at the DUC facility.

Every cadet and senior member had a pocket full of brochures and was armed with information for recruiting.

Teenagers visiting air shows

usually have an interest in aviation, and it is our goal to encourage them and cultivate that interest, perhaps by joining a local CAP unit.

The most asked question at the F-16 display was, "How fast is Mach (the speed of sound)?" This was the opening to ask kids how old they were and if they were interested in airplanes. From that we took the opportunity to tell them about CAP.

Capt Eugene Olson, Group 8

## Cadet Squadron Announces New Commander

Palmer Trinity Private School Cadet Squadron, a newly formed squadron,

announces that Captain Ramon Palacio is their commander. Located in Miami, Palmer is the only school in the area to offer its students the opportunity to be a part of CAP.

Lt Col David Mikelson, Commander, Group 800



15 Florida Cadets (pictured above) participated in the wreath laying ceremony honoring the Red Horse Squadron (ceremony shown at left).



C/MSgt James Cook of the Yeager Cadet Squadron stands watch over the Blue Angels at AirFest 2004

## HGA Cadets Honor Heroes

The Honor Guard Academy was held this year at Camp Pendleton, Virginia. Fifteen Florida Cadets represented our state learning how to render honors to the flag, perform in honor escort capacities, parade functions, and other time-honored traditions that foster pride and patriotism.

In addition to classes on flag etiquette, rifle presentation, and uniform wear, cadets practice what they've learned in real-world ceremonies such as the wreath laying ceremony honoring the Red Horse Sq.

## Cadets Practice Basic Outdoor Survival

Civil Air Patrol-Training (CAP-T) was conducted earlier this year by the 8049th Composite Squadron, Daytona Beach.

Cadets spent a weekend at Tiger Bay Recreation Area, receiving instruction in performing campsite setup, fire building, navigation, and compass usage.

A light rain created a challenge for the two hour nighttime land navigation course taught by 1Lt Micheal Veltman, Activity Officer, assisted by 1Lt Rob Goodreau, and Cadet Captains Eric Harris and Ron Boisvert. Marker points were stored a few days earlier by 1Lt Veltman on a handheld GPS.

2Lt Anthony Gorss, PAO,



1 Lt Nate Francis teaches a class in advanced shelter building, instructing cadets how to use the surrounding area for shelter.



Lt Col PATRICIA FAUNT  
SER Nurse Officer

# PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

## WHILE TRAVELING

If you are going abroad, it's wise to check which vaccines and treatments are recommended, or required for the country or region you plan to visit. Highly developed regions such as Western Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand are generally pretty safe. In countries with poor sanitation and profusion of mosquitoes you are increasing your chances of acquiring some kind of disease or illness.

Before traveling make sure your standard vaccinations

are up to date, especially diptheria, tetanus and polio. A good idea is to check with your family physician. However he/she may not be up to date on foreign country immunizations and preventative measures, so you

may want to visit a travel-medicine clinic. The web site is [www.istm.org](http://www.istm.org) (International Society of Travel Medicine.)

Also think about emergency medical insurance. Check with your health insurance carrier to make sure your policy covers overseas illness or accidents. (Medicare does not cover medical expenses incurred outside the U.S.) If you are not covered consider purchasing travel insurance. If you happen to be in an area of the world that cannot provide ade-

quate medical treatment, contact the U. S. State Department for assistance.

Be aware of DVT, deep vein thrombosis. These are blood clots in leg veins that can kill you by traveling to the lungs. This is caused by sitting too long without moving your legs. If you're traveling by car, the AAA suggests frequent rest stops, about every two hours or so. Get out and move about. If you are traveling by plane request an aisle seat or an emer-

gency-exit row that has additional legroom so you can stretch out and get up more easily. Exercise your legs while seated by stretching your lower legs and flexing your feet. Periodically walk around the cabin.

Drink plenty

of water and minimize caffeine and alcohol.

If you travel by ship you may want to purchase over the counter seasickness remedies or purchase a wristband to prevent nausea. Other helpful hints are to stay in the middle of the ship, both vertically and horizontally, avoid heavy meals, limit alcohol, keep busy and keep your eyes on the horizon. To sum it up, USE COMMON SENSE, watch what you eat and drink.

Enjoy and have a good vacation.

**Take care and be aware.**



## ROUNDUP

► FAA and several national aviation organizations sponsored a national art contest as part of an international competition arranged by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. The theme was "Flying Saves Lives" and was open to age groups six to nine, ten to 13, and 14 to 17. The top three entries from each state were in the national competition and the top three were then moved to the international judges. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be announced and many young aviation artists are awaiting the final results.

► Cadet Tara Guthrie was one of 32 top CAP Cadets who traveled to Washington, D.C. to take part in the first national Civil Leadership Academy. They were selected from CAP squadrons throughout the nation based on their records and experience in aerospace education, emergency services, and community service. Time was divided between class sessions, presentations from branches of government, visits to the Capitol, Supreme Court, Air and Space Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, and the State Department.

► Pilots from MacDill AFB dispatched to Afghanistan or Iraq on KC-135 refueling missions have over 250 hours of flight time 'in the box', which is what they call the \$25 million KC-135 Flight Simulator at MacDill. Seven lucky cadets from Yeager Cadet Sq. experienced a small part of that training, thanks to USAF pilot Lt Aaron Gills.

► Tamiami Composite Squadron completed required sign-offs for Mission Pilot, Mission Observer, and Mission Scanner. Uniquely, the training was done in concert with Ground Team training that was conducted in the Everglades. Aircrews honed their skills with the Directional Finder, air-to-ground communications, and visual searches.

► Maj Linda Trimpey received the Parent Involvement Award for her work with the Ferrell Middle School from Dr. Earl Lennard, Hillsborough County School District Superintendent.

► Forty cadets and seniors from Group Six participated in an intersquadron weekend bivouac for Non-Commissioned Officer teamwork training on the COPE obstacle course at Camp Seminole in Davie.

► Awards Night at Miami Senior Squadron had nine members receiving a total of 19 ribbons. Capt Anthony Hay received three ribbons with clasp and star, Capt William Starnes-three ribbons with clasp and star, Capt Michael Sciafani-Leadership ribbon with bronze star, 1Lt Claudio DeMassis-two ribbons, SM John Ydrovo, SM Hugo Gonzalez, John Hendricks, and SM Jonathon Spearing -Membership ribbons, 1Lt Robert Moreland received a Certificate of Appreciation for instructing GES and Scanner Courses to 16 students at the Opa Locka USCG Station.

► Cessna Aircraft Company anticipates 2004 delivery of the 5,000th single-engine aircraft since restarting production in July 1996. The new Cessnas to be delivered to CAP will all include the G1000 Glass Cockpit. It integrates all primary flight, navigation, communication, terrain, traffic, weather, and engine sensor data on two large 10.4 inch glass, high resolution, XGA technology display units. The unit will ease pilot workload and offer new level of safety and situational awareness during all phases of flight. Cessna, the world's leading manufacturer of single-engine aircraft, is a subsidiary of Textron Inc. with 49,000 employees in 40 countries. The Bell Helicopter and Lycoming are also owned by Textron.

► Jaime George, WPBT-Channel 2 TV Producer is developing a show featuring Coastal Patrol Defense activities which will include CAP's WWII and today's Homeland Security missions.

► FLWG Inspector General Maj Gary Owen announces the appointment of Lt Col Mark McKirchy as IG for Inspections and Capt Ray Bass as IGO/IGJ [Inspector General for Complaints/ Legal Advisor. Capt Bass is an attorney and will be attending the National IG College at Kirkland AFB.

## CAP's LEADERS OF TOMORROW GRADUATE STAFF COLLEGE

The Southeast Region Staff College, directed by Lt Col Wes Hannah, proudly graduated the 2004 class with students from California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee. [See story on Pages 34 and 35].



Front row l to r LTC S. Buddy Harris [staff], LTC Valerie Brown [staff] Capt Robert Curry, LTC Margaret Hannah [staff], Capt Lee Ann Curry, 1Lt Jose Fernandez, LTC Patricia Faunt [staff], Maj Jaime Rojas [staff], Capt Russ Loomis [staff], and Capt Theresa Longley.

Middle row l to r 1Lt Melissa Cook, Col John Wilkes [staff], Maj John Longley, Capt John Witner, Maj Scott Nations, Maj Raymond Meyers, LTC Matt Ferris [staff], Capt Gary Spradlin and Maj Vincent Murray II.

Back Row l to r Capt Robert Saltgaver [staff], Maj Jean DuBois [staff], LTC Wes Hannah [Director], Capt Michael Cook, Col James Rushing [staff], LTC Anthony Williams, Maj Guillermo Heredia, Maj Richard Milling, and LTC Ed Wasserman [staff].

## CAP SIGNS CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Jim Shea, Director of NHQ Strategic Partnerships advises FLORIDA FACTS of several recent partnerships for Civil Air Patrol with important aviation suppliers.

**Air BP**...one of the world's largest suppliers of aviation fuel will provide funds to support CAP youth development programs. In return, Air BP will receive the right to use the CAP name and corporate supporter mark in their company's advertising.

**Tanis Aircraft Services**...The leading supplier of aircraft pre-heat systems. Tanis will provide CAP with financial and promotional support for its community service missions.

**VTS Inc**...is a Minnesota-based aviation training company. VTS Inc will provide financial and promotional support of CAP cadet programs. VTS supports a good cause and CAP utilizes Cessna aircraft for which VTS builds instructional software and flight training devices.

## CAP UPDATING NCASE

CAP has begun to revamp its venerable National Congress on Aviation and Space Education [NCASE]. A planning group composed of representatives from NASA, FAA, U.S. Department of Education, The Challenger Center, U.S. Air Force, the Wolf Aviation Fund, American Institute of aeronautics and Astronautics, Space Day Partners, STARBASE, and the Public School System met in our nation's capital to redesign NCASE in order to emphasize the practical application of aerospace education for present day science teachers.

CAP has committed the next year to planning a completely revamped NCASE on the premise that aerospace education is critical to our nation's children. Knowing teachers want the best way to incorporate aviation and space into their lessons so that their students are better prepared for the increasingly high-tech world.

The planners objective is to present classroom teachers attending the NCASE Conference 2006 with lesson plans, best practices in aerospace teaching and concrete ways to meet federal standards for classroom and teacher performance. CAP hosts NCASE and realizes that-as Judy Rice, CAP's deputy of aerospace education states, "The National Congress has been an institution in the aerospace education arena for almost 40 years. We've seen the face of education change. From the standpoint of our nation's future, it is important we craft a new future for Aviation and Space Education."

Edith Street, sixth-grade teacher of Gulfport, MS, is this year's A. Scott Crossfield Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year. She was inducted into the CAP Crown Circle for AE Leadership.

Betty Morris, Staff Writer

## TEAMWORK BY CAP AND 1ST AIR FORCE PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR G8 SUMMIT CONFERENCE

Civil Air Patrol provided multi-tasked support for the G8 Summit Conference held at Sea Island, GA. CAP, CAP-USAF, and the 1st Air Force teamed to fly more than 50 sorties and 120 hours of flight time to assist in the calibration of the numerous Air Defense Systems supporting this National Security event. President Bush, Russia's President Putin and numerous international leaders attended this



AIR FORCE ONE

conference. CAP provided courier flights to and from Tyndall AFB carrying sensitive information and utilized SDIS for aerial imaging. CAP also maintained a 24/7 transport alert status. All flight operations were conducted without incident. NORCOM/1st Air Force were extremely pleased with CAP's response speed and flexibility, commitment and level of professionalism.

### FORMER TUSKEGEE AIRMEN JOIN CAP

Two former Tuskegee airmen have joined the recruiting team for Alabama Wing. Maj Carrol Woods and Col Harry Ford, according to wing commander, Col John Tilton, are "men who made history with their contribution to our country. They understand the importance of serving selflessly, and will have a huge impact on both members and potential members."

Woods and Ford are 83 years old. Woods was a member of the Army Air Corps, served in the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group flying long range escort in P-47's and P-51's for bomber missions. He was the first black American taken prisoner by the Germans during World War II. He was held captive for seven months before being liberated by Patton's Third Army in 1945.

Ford's military career spanned 31 years. He graduated from Aviation Cadet Training in 1945 and served as a B-25 pilot in the 477th Composite Group. Ford graduated from the Air Force Command and General Staff College and went on to serve on the Air Staff at the Pentagon.

Both of these veterans are role models for young people of all ages and races and CAP is proud to add them to the membership rolls.

### CAP's OPS Center Ready To Move From Hurricane's Path

CAP's National Headquarters is preparing to move its operations center to Richmond, VA from Maxwell AFB to avoid an onslaught from Cat 4 Hurricane Ivan, if necessary.

The CAP National Operations Center coordinates CAP personnel, aircraft, vehicles and communications equipment for large-scale missions. If the Montgomery-based NOC cannot be manned due to the storm, then CAP will move its ops center to the CAP Advanced Technology Center in Richmond, VA. The 24/7 phone number will remain the same.

Once Ivan is no longer a threat, CAP will again respond to requests from emergency management agencies to provide ground and aerial reconnaissance for reporting damage assessment findings from impacted areas. Florida Wing has been reporting hurricane impact assessment findings since Hurricane Charley and Frances struck the state. FLWG will continue to fulfill these missions in Florida as well as other affected states, after Ivan passes through.

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**Editor's Note:** Three hurricanes and their impact, disaster response missions across the entire state, new commanders on three chain links of command, the National Conference, our members fighting in Iraq, etc. caused many of your stories and photos to be 'pulled'. News level circumstances made that unavoidable. However, where your stories are not 'time of essence', they will appear in the very next issue of FLORIDA FACTS.

# PROP WASH

Speaker icon Southeast Region may soon have a band specializing in military music for playing at national and regional ceremonies and wing events. The CAP Bandmaster wants to attain a list of all SER cadets interested in participating and learning more about military music. Members wanting to participate should submit their names to C/ CMSgt Derek Chambers, Cadet Commander, Knoxville Composite Squadron at derekchambers488@msn.com.

Speaker icon Capt Vickie Meyer, Wing Director, Cadet Programs, and Lt Col Rex Meyer, Wing Safety Officer were on a whirlwind of travel and activities. An early stop was at National Headquarters at Maxwell AFB, Alabama then straight to Camp Blanding for encampment. Following 'knock down and pack up' they went to Virginia to the National Guard Academy, then back to Patrick Air Force Base in Florida for Region Corporate Learning Course, Career Shadowing and Non-Commissioned Officers School. Before returning home, they attended the National Conference in Tampa. Certainly not the ordinary vacation!

Speaker icon **Reminder:** The On-Line Membership Renewal Program is up and running well. It provides a way to renew 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Membership information is immediately updated in the CAP-WATCH system once the credit card transaction is approved. If your membership has already expired you may still use this service as long as you are within the prescribed renewal period.

Speaker icon More than 9,972 students in 181 schools in 42 states and Puerto Rico participated in the 2003 Aerospace Education Excellence Award Program for Schools. Each student received a certificate designed especially for the Centennial of Flight and the teachers received a plaque for the school. The program's hands-on activities have been extremely popular with teachers since its inception in 1998.

Speaker icon Florida Wing Cadets are the recipients of more free uniforms than any other wing. In addition to the \$39,000 of free uniforms distributed by National Headquarters, Capt Vickie Meyer obtains and distributes uniforms from the JROTC [Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps] units throughout the state. The uniforms are picked up, categorized by size, and given to needy cadets throughout the wing. Uniforms are also obtained from the Chief's Association at several Air Force bases. Most recently, 200 pieces of clothing and 60 pairs of shoes were distributed at the Florida Wing Conference in Ft. Lauderdale.

Speaker icon CAP provided an advanced technology demonstration at Andrews Air Force Base to showcase current and future CAPabilities to dignitaries from the U.S. Congress, National Transportation Safety Board, Aviation Week Magazine, Cessna Aircraft, USAF, FEMA, and other government agencies. The event was covered by ABC network, CNN TV, and District of Columbia media. The same demonstration was conducted for all attendees at the CAP National Conference in Tampa.

Speaker icon CAP is rapidly losing its reputation for being "the best kept secret"...NHQ was responsible for Civil Air Patrol receiving 71 million media impressions through print. This includes 18 million impressions received directly through the NASCAR program. 18 national media outlets also covered CAP activities. Local print, TV and radio media impressions added to this total would easily exceed half-a-million impressions. If we double that success rate, we will approach 23% of the American Red Cross' coverage,

Speaker icon The HISTORY Channel videotaped an "Aerial Reconnaissance" TV Show which follows the history of aerial recon from WWII to the present day. CAP's Submarine Patrol and Coastal Patrol activities were recounted in an interview of Lt Col S. Buddy Har-

ris by show producer Julie Mirocha. Harris recounted the history of Civil Air Patrol's creation on 1 December 1941 - just six days before Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked the United States. He recalled how merchant marine convoys were blown out of the water by lurking Nazi submarines as the ships departed from the east coast harbors of the U.S. By August 1943, CAP had forced the Nazi sub packs back to the North Sea having spotted 173 subs, bombed 56, and sank 2. Also to be featured in the show are Viet Nam veterans who re-enact air recon in their Army Cobra Chopper. The show's host is Hunter Ellis, a former USAF jet pilot. The filming took place at the Port St. Lucie County International Airport. The very first Wings 'n' Wheels Air and Military Vehicle show was held at the airport two days following the filming. Also at the airport is the Pan American International Flight Academy. The student body sometimes approaches 350 pilots who live in dormitories on the airport grounds. PanAm and KLM Airline pilots are constantly in training. Additionally on the airport grounds is a headquarters building for the CAP Treasure Coast Composite Squadron.

Speaker icon Two significant changes have been made to CAPR 60-1. First, the minimum flight altitude is 1,000' AGL [daytime] and 2,000' AGL [nighttime] for all CAP flight operations. Aircraft on SAR, DR, or HLS missions may descend below the designated search altitude to prevent loss of life, property, or human suffering provided such descent has been previously cleared with mission incident management staff. At no time will the aircraft come within 500' of terrain or obstacles. Second, mission flight release authorities will release all aircraft flown under a designated mission number. This includes pre-positioning, employment, and de-positioning of aircraft and travel to/from mission base. The flight release procedure may involve a flight release by the mission base authorities that is coordinated with an FRO familiar with the pilot's qualifications.

# Career Shadowing

Told to 2 Lt Kelly Green by Major Vickie Meyer

Six cadets spent five days living out the most life-changing experience opportunity may ever offer. Career Shadowing, a program initiated by Florida Wing Cadet Programs and sponsored by active duty Air Force personnel, is a chance for cadets to see the possible career choices available to them in the future.

Welcomed by Col Tarchick of the 920th Rescue Squadron, the cadets received his commander's coin as a special memento of the trip. Afterward the group was shown static displays of the HC-130 and the HH-60G helicopter.

Each day held new adventures and learning experiences. Various personnel, including a loadmaster, maintenance crew chief, intelligence officers, and others, offered insight into their working environment. The hospitality extended was beyond all expectations.

A mission briefing allowed the cadets to experience a "real-world" scenario. In the simulation, Orlando was Baghdad, both sobering, and thought pro-



Cadet Appleton in full pilot life-support equipment (which weighs 165 pounds).



With the launch pad in the background, these cadets are proud to be a part of the Career Shadowing Program

voking.

In another briefing the group learned they were going to get the ride of their lives on the HH-60G Pavehawk



Cadets Cary Camus and Tiara Patrick



Getting ready to board the HC-130

helicopter. Besides providing an amazing view of the base, it was a chance for a little touch of nature... literally. By lowering the skids onto the tops of pine trees, the pilot allowed the cadets to pick pine needles which some carried home as treasured memorabilia.

Another exciting trip was a 70-minute ride on a HC-130. Cadets were accompanied by a para-rescue team on a HALO [high altitude, low opening] jump exercise. The HC-130 landed for the cadets to get off and watch the parachutists complete their mission.

Other trips included a visit to a JAG courtroom, talks with reserve recruiters, and a "cool" (as the cadets described it) try at the virtual parachute program. It isn't the real thing, but close enough to give them all quite a rush.

All in all it was an amazing five days and will definitely be scheduled again next year.

Special thanks go to Capt Ivan Acosta, USAF, who let the cadets see "the various opportunities in the Air Force that they [may not] know about, and to relate those jobs to their natural scholastic desires."

Thanks also to Col Rex Meyer, Executive Officer to the 920th Wing Commander who made the contacts and helped make it all possible.



## LATE BREAKING NEWS!



 Warmest and sincerest congratulations to Southeast Region Commander Col Matt Sharkey and 2 Lt Kelly Green on his proposal of marriage and her acceptance at the National Conference Banquet. *Matt really believes in a complete change-of-command.*

 Civil Air Patrol has now been assigned to the First Air Force which has responsibility for ensuring the air sovereignty and air defense of the continental United States. The First Air Force is headquartered at Tyndall AFB near Panama City, FL.

 CAPMart is now open from 0900 to 1800 EST for call-in orders or to speak with personnel. The number is 1-800-633-8768. On-line shopping is available 24/7 at [www.capmart.org](http://www.capmart.org) and industry-wide standards for credit card security are in use.

 The National Vice Commander, Brig Gen Tony Pineda ordered a number of prints of the original oil painting "We Were There" painted by Diane Kraus. [See Page 7]. The Limited Edition, numbered/signed prints by the artist were presented as follows:  
 Print No. 1 to Maj Gen Richard Bowling;  
 Print No. 2 for display at National Headquarters;  
 Print No. 3 to Col Rick Greenhut, Commander of North East Region;  
 Print No. 4 to New York Wing Headquarters;  
 Print No. 5 to Col Leonard Blascovitch, National Historian;  
 Print No. 6 to the Air Crew of the depicted Cessna 182; and  
 Print No. 7 to Col George Sciss, CAP-USAF

 In support of Air Force's "Determined Promise 04", a nation-wide disaster response exercise,

members of Florida Wing performed a damage assessment flight of two sites in South Florida. The aircrew consisted of Lt Colonels Bud Borner and Russ Reichmann who took photos via the SDIS [Satellite Digital Imaging System]. These sites were only two of thirty sites assigned to the Civil Air Patrol to photo in over fifteen different wings.

 New commands are usually paralleled with new appointments - and there have been many:

- Major Sharon Freeberg moves from Florida Wing Finance Officer to Unit Finance Analyst on National Headquarters staff.
- Lt Col Joseph M. Martin is the new Florida Wing Finance Officer.
- Lt Col William Brockman moves from wing Chief of Staff to a new position at the Southeast Region.
- Major Fran Gleockler moves up from Group Five Commander to Florida Wing Chief of Staff.
- Captain Patrick O'Key is the new Group Five Commander.
- Lt Col Valerie Brown is the new wing Vice Commander-North.
- Major Robert Sims is the new wing Information Technology Manager.
- C/Major Ashlei Hamada is the new Chairperson of the Cadet Advisory Committee.

Chaplain Emeritus Lt Col Dewey Painter wishes "God speed to all in their new missions."

**Editor's Note:** In spite of a six day power outage, a one day evacuation and physical disruption by Hurricane Charley and Hurricane Frances and the delay, by choice, to have this issue include coverage of the National Conference 2004, we regret the late issuance of this Fall edition. My very sincerest thanks to the NHQ staff - Al Allenback, Don Rowland, James Shea, Marc Huchete, and particularly Jim Tynan and Melanie LeMay, for all the assistance and logistics they provided and to all the other staff who so readily fulfilled my production needs.

# Color Guard Wins National

Submitted by Capt David Leali/ 2Lt Kelly Green, Staff Writer



Award-winning team is all smiles.

The team was presented the United States Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Award for their competition efforts at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. Eight color guard teams, selected by each Civil Air Patrol Region, competed.

The first event was the Mile Run, where male and female "Fleet Foot" awards were presented to Cadets Jack Campa and Kayla Smith, respectively, for the fastest individual mile. The team earned first place.

Following the event, all teams toured the United States Air Force Museum. The massive museum consists of six hangers with historic Air Force aircraft, static displays, exhibits and an IMAX movie theater.

The first day of competition ended with the Written Test. Cadet Cassandra Wagner set the team's high score with a 90 percent. The team placed third overall in this event.

Florida Wing's team placed first in the In-Ranks Inspection event on the second day. The inspection criteria ranges from uniform fit, placement of uniform items, as well as grooming and bearing standards. The Air Force Honor Guardsmen were still talking after the event about how impressed they were by the SER cadet's uniforms.

After the inspection, the team was visited by Civil Air Patrol National Commander Maj. Gen Richard Bowling and team commander C/MSgt Jessica Aubuchon received Bowling's commemorative challenge coin.

The second day of competition ended with the Indoor Practical event. The team presented the Colors in the Air Force Institute of Technology's auditorium, posting and retrieving the Colors flawlessly. An Air Force Honor Guard judge was overheard saying "Wow, I've never seen them [the Colors] posted like that!"

The following morning the competition continued with

The Charlotte County Composite Squadron Color Guard representing the Florida Wing and South East Region won Civil Air Patrol's National Color Guard Competition (NCGC).

the Outdoor Practical event which simulates the raising of the Colors at reveille, as well as the retrieval of the Colors at retreat. The team overcame an unexpected snag in the rope lines and maintained their bearing to place second.

The final event of the competition was the exhibition panel quiz event. Each color guard played a game-show type round against other teams. The SER team tied for first place in this event with a 5-1 record. At the end of the competition, the color guard had the opportunity to meet with Col George Vogt, Commander CAP-USAF.

The awards banquet was held at the Wright-Patterson AFB Officers' Club. Each participant was presented a commemorative "NCC" silver coin for their efforts. The United States Air Force Drill Team did an impressive indoor display of armed drill. By the end of the evening, the team had received four first place awards, two second place awards, and 2 individual event trophies as well as the coveted overall championship and United States Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Award. This marks Florida Wing's second

victory at the National Color Guard Competition in the last three years. This was Charlotte County Composite Squadron's first participation in the National Color Guard Competition



After the snag in the rope lines, Capt Leali assures the team they recovered well!



A reporter interviews the team.

Championship. The Charlotte County Composite Squadron's Color Guard members are C/MSgt Jessica Aubuchon, C/SMSgt Jack Campa, C/TSgt Kayla Smith, C/CMSgt Steve Suggs, and C/SRA Cassandra Wagner. The team was escorted by Capt Edith Miller, and Capt David Leali. Florida Wing Commander Col Matthew Sharkey was on hand to support the team, as well as the team's own cheering section of 17 Florida Wing and family members who made the trip to Ohio.



Parents' support helped make it all possible!



National Award-Winning SER Teams: Florida Color Guard & Puerto Rico Drill Team, with Gen Bowling, Col Pineda, Col Tomassini, Col Sharkey, Capt Leali, and Capt Edith Miller.

# Squadron Clips

2Lt Kelly Green, Staff Writer



## Commander Appointed

Lt John Varsames has been appointed as Squadron Commander for the nearly 100-member Naples Senior Squadron. A full-time Naples resident and business owner, Varsames began in CAP as a youth in Westchester County, NY.

Varsames replaces Major Thomas Kuznar who will remain with the squadron as the Logistics Officer.

The Naples aircraft flew in support of the Columbia Shuttle launch security mission, homeland security, and search and rescue missions. Their aircraft flies the coast almost every night in support of the Coast Guard, searching for boaters and swimmers in distress.

2Lt Gail Swanson, PAO

received the award as the Group 3 Squadron of the Year. In addition, Operations Officer Major Arnold Glauser won the Group 3 Senior Member of the Year.

As a flying squadron with a primary function of Emergency Services, HOSS is credited with participating in aerospace education, 75 orientation flights, 20 ROTC flights, 20-ELT missions and 7 counter-drug flights.



Capt Tom Beukelman

1Lt Daniel Runge, Deputy Commander

Gainesville Composite Squadron served their community by providing parking and traffic control services for the Spring Garden Festival at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. This annual weekend-long event draws thousands of visitors.

During this event, both cadets and senior members had the opportunity to practice their radio communication skills. In addition, an informational and recruiting booth

was staffed the entire weekend.

Capt. Tom Beukelman, Squadron Commander, praised the members' efforts saying, "They proudly served their community and presented a very professional face for Civil Air Patrol."

2Lt Leslie Ballard, PAO

## Gainesville Squadron Helps Benefit Auction

The Gainesville Composite Squadron recently partnered with SunState Federal Credit Union to participate in the 2004 Community Media Auction. For several years SunState FCU has spearheaded the effort to give not-for-profit organizations the opportunity to raise funds by benefiting from the sale of donated goods and services.

2Lt Leslie Ballard, PAO



2Lt Leslie Ballard, Public Affairs Officer, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Robert Hart, Vice President of Marketing for the SunState Federal Credit Union in Gainesville.

## Emerald Coast Provides Aerial Surveys

The Emerald Coast Senior Squadron flew survey flights of low level Military Training Routes (MTR) for the 16th Special Operations Wing (SOW), USAF.

Florida Wing did a great job completing this work on time. The MTRs were flown 2nms either side of centerline (approximately 7600nms), to survey about 15,000 square miles of airspace. This mission saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars and kept training routes open to support training within the operations arena.

Lt Col Doug Kelley, Group 1 Commander

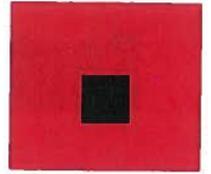
## HOSS Members Awarded

Hillsborough One Senior Squadron (a.k.a. HOSS, by its members) re-

## Squadron Serves Spring Festival

For the fifth year, members of

# HURRICANE'S WAKE



**W**ithin a period of less than three weeks, two major hurricanes left a path of destruction and a trail of ruin throughout Florida. Thousands homeless, 3 million evacuated, 5 million homes without power and some for 13 days before restoration. Damage estimates exceed 40 billion dollars. Cutting down broken or uprooted trees, gathering debris, purchasing supplies, water, ice and food were major-and all too often a frustrating-challenge.



Cadets remove fallen communication antenna from squadron building. A temporary antenna was installed in its place.

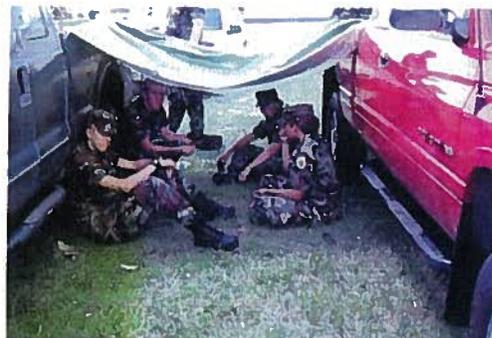
Captiva Island on the west coast was devastated. In fact there is now an Upper Captiva and a Lower Captiva separated by a 200 yards wide cut carved out by Hurricane Charley. Dozens of Australian Pine trees that once called the island home are now scattered in Pine Island Sound as seen in the upper waterway.



CAP Ground Teams searched for more than 700 ELT and EPIRB alarm set off by damaged boats and planes. These missions throughout the state were assigned by the United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.



Food, water and ice were vitally needed supplies for residents who were without power for more than two days. Millions of dollars of food had to be disposed of due to non-refrigerated spoilage. CAP delivered food, water and clothing to thousands of residents. The Boca Raton Composite Squadron delivered MRE's [Meals-Ready-To-Eat] to 650 elderly residents of the low-income Lake Delray Apartments. This five-story facility had been without power for six days and the residents were unable to walk down or up the stairwells. CAP members climbed the stairs three times a day delivering MRE's, water and ice and continued to serve the residents until their power was restored.



Working in 100+ degree heat and high humidity forced CAP workers to take a 'shade break' under a tarpaulin spread between two vans.

Two youngsters, so thrilled to have received food and a drink, asked if they could take a photo with two of the cadets who served them. They called the CAP members "Charley's Angels".



Delivery of human services was made extremely difficult and dangerous with numerous downed High-power lines that are lethal.

# Southeast Region Staff College Gets an "A".

## College Preparations

On a warm summer day, thirteen Southeast Region Staff College faculty members and fifteen students from California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee began packing suitcases with a weeks quantity of uniforms and dormitory wear; polishing shoes; boxing supplies; filling out forms; refueling cars, vans or aircraft; studying road maps or air charts; plotting schedules; and praying for good weather.

While the birds were still asleep and the sun below the horizon, ignition keys were turned, cars backed out of driveways, aircraft taxied for take-off and all were enroute to McGhee Tyson U.S. Air Force Air National Guard Training and Education Center at Alcoa, Tennessee.



The faculty for SER Staff College 2004 arrived at the ANG Base on Friday followed by the student body on Saturday. Following check-in at the billeting, all faculty and a few early student arrivers proceeded to an off-base "Getting to Know You Dinner". Upon return to the dormitory,

bags and supplies were unpacked, and thoughts of relaxing were obliterated by a rap on the door advising that College Director, Lt Col Wes Hannah would convene a staff meeting in five minutes. From that moment on there would be no R and R for the remainder of the college.

## College Registration



On Saturday morning, students arrived, unpacked their bags, settled in their rooms, registered with SERSC staff, received their study portfolios, campus maps, and class schedules and - only then— did they realize they had to double-time it to one of the three classroom buildings for an orientation session by Director Hannah.

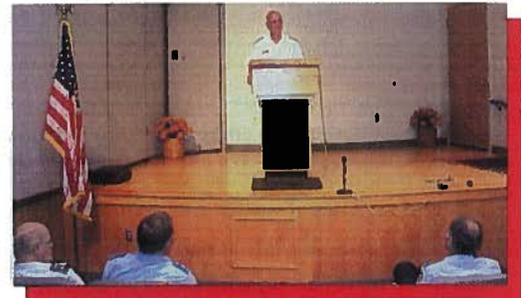
## Orientation

Lt Col Hannah welcomed all students to the college and introduced them to their Seminar Leaders—Lt Col Ed Wasserman, Lt Col Pat Faunt and Major Jaime Rojas; CAP instructors—Mississippi Wing Commander, Col John Wilkes and Lt Col S. Buddy Harris; Evaluation Officers—Major Jean DuBois, Capt Russ Loomis; and administrative staff—Lt Col Matt Ferris, Ass't Staff College Director; Lt Col Margaret Hannah, Finance Offi-

cer; Capt Robert Saltgaver, Logistics Officer and Tennessee Wing Commander, Col James Rushing, SERSC Host and Coordinator.

## Student Assignments

Lt Col Valerie Brown, College Curriculum Director then explained the college objectives, reviewed the curriculum courses, the new instruction techniques and methodologies to be introduced for the very first time, and gave the students their assignments and seminar projects.



## Classes Begin

A five-minute breather was immediately followed by the first of the full week's curriculum, a seminar by Lt Col Harris on "Effective Listening."

## Coordination

The day-to-day on-base logistics of classrooms, seminar rooms, audio and video equipment, supplies, computers, printers, and materials availability was singularly provided by SSgt Kevin Prezwrocki, ANG. At the college graduation banquet, particular appreciation was bestowed on Kevin for his untiring assistance.

# Experts Teach Broad Spectrum of Courses

One of the many major tasks undertaken by Director, Lt Col Wes Hannah, far in advance of convening the Southeast Region Staff College 2004 was the selecting and obtaining commitments from and scheduling of faculty instructors, guest instructors, and administrative staff.

These experts in their respective fields came from the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard, Civil Air Patrol - Southeast Region Mississippi Wing, Tennessee Wing and Florida Wing.

The spectrum of class topics as developed by Lt Col Valerie

Brown was broad and comprehensive. The following instructors conducted seminars on the following subjects:

Lt Col S. Buddy Harris, **Effective Listening and Newsletter Preparation**; Chaplain Marcus Taylor, **CAP Core Values**, Lt Col Dave Garner, **Aerospace Education**, MSgt Lynda Parker, ANG, **PowerPoint Preparation**, SMSgt Chris Coyne, ANG **Developing Effective Teams**, Maj Tim Vowell ANG, **Vision 20/20 and USAF Doctrine**,

Lt Col Pat Faunt, **Managing Stress**, MSgt Tom Bragg, ANG, **Leadership and Mentoring Development**, Lt Col Valerie Brown, **Planning a Conference**, SMSgt Jeff Miller ANG, **Leadership at the Senior Level**, and MSgt Wendell Bandy, ANG, **Management Concepts**.

The student body was particularly honored to be addressed by the Commandant of the Training and Education Center, Lt Col McRee. All students successfully graduated and were presented with diplomas by Director Wes Hannah.

See class photo on Page 9.



Major Jaime Rojas works with Majors Ray Meyer and Scottie Nations, Captains Robert Curry and John Witmer and 1 Lt Melissa Cook. ↓



↑ Instructor MSgt Linda Parker ANG receives a Certificate of Appreciation.



LTC Patricia Faunt checks production of Majors Guillermo Heredia and Richard Milling, Captains Lea Ann Curry and Gary Spradlin, and 1 Lt Jose Fernandez. →



↑ LTC Ed Wasserman oversees output of LTC Anthony Williams, Majors Richard Milling and Vincent Murray, and Captains Michael Cook and Teresa Longley.

# FLORIDA WING

## CIVIL AIR PATROL

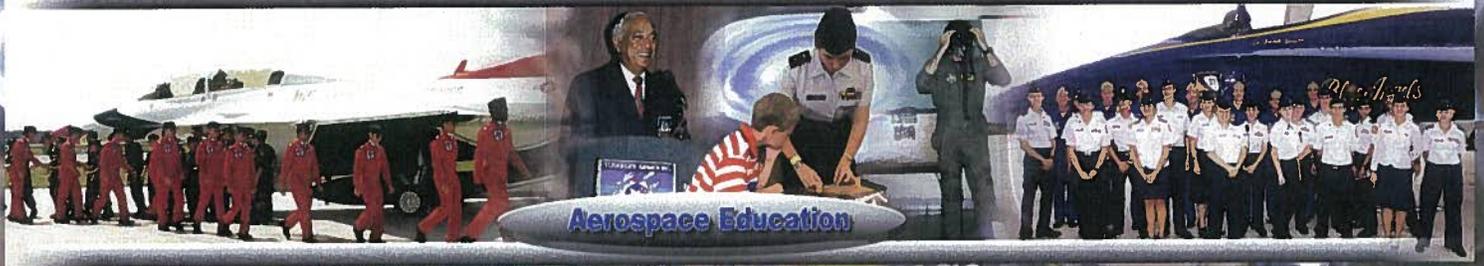
Where  
imagination  
takes FLIGHT



Emergency Services



Cadet Programs



Aerospace Education



<http://flwg.cap.gov>

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