



Florida WingSpan

Newsletter for Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol

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In Memory: Captain Eileen Tonkinson

It is with deep sadness that we must inform the Florida Wing of the Final Flight of Captain Eileen Tonkinson, the Editor of the Florida Wing "Gator CAPers." Eileen passed away from complications related to a recently diagnosed malignant brain tumor. She was always a very devoted member of the Civil Air Patrol and the Florida Wing and excelled in all that she touched. Many times, Eileen would assist other members of the Staff with their individual duties, always with a smile and encouraging words. Her writing skills and photography prowess continually highlighted the accomplishments of others which made for interesting reading. Her countless articles were published in the Volunteer, Gator CAPers and the Florida websites.



Eileen joined the CAP in June of 2003 and was a member of the Ormond Senior Squadron. After joining, Eileen hit the ground running, never missing an opportunity to take classes, attend meetings and improve her skills. Her knowledge and professional performance in many areas of CAP were the hallmark of her participation. She became ES qualified soon after joining and in a short time became a Mission Scanner, Mission Observer, UDF team member, Mission Staff Assistant and SET-Skills Evaluator. Besides being the Editor of the Gator CAPers, she was the Finance Officer for Headquarters, Group 2 and the PAO for the Ormond Beach Senior Squadron.

"In the short few years I've known her, I do not recall her ever saying 'no' or 'can't,'" said Col. Christian Moersch, Wing Commander. "She was always ready for any opportunity to take on an assignment and follow it through to a successful completion. This loss to this wing and to the membership of Civil Air Patrol is great and will be felt for a long time to come. My personal loss of a dear friend is great, but I know that I am not the only one the same feelings at this tragic time. Whether in or out of uniform, I admired her devotion to her husband, partner and friend, LtCol. R.E. Tonkinson, our Florida Wing Director of Finance," he said.

"I feel that Eileen would not want us to be saddened and would probably be upset for all of the attention her passing is attracting. I believe she would want us to carry on with our Missions and not look back, but rather forward to a rededication to our mission, our members, and our nation. This will not be an easy task for the many whose lives she touched. We honor her and R.E., by remembering the many happy occasions we had with Eileen and remember her smiles and her caring she always showed. Celebrate the full and rewarding life that she enjoyed and all the countless personal and professional contributions she made to so many. Give thanks for having known her and having had her in our lives," said Moersch.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to R.E., the family, and the many friends of Captain Eileen Tonkinson. She will be truly missed.

Florida Wing Commander’s Message — CAP: Competent And Prepared

Christian Moersch, Col CAP - Florida Wing Commander

Recently, Florida Wing supported the Sun-N-Fun (SNF) airshow, one of the largest aviation events in the country, held each spring at Lakeland-Lindner Airport. For thirty-five years, SNF has showcased aviation and aircraft to thousands of visitors. Upwards of 150,000 attend the six-day event that features more than 450 educational forums, seminars and workshops in addition to air shows, exhibitors and sponsors. SNF is strongly supported by the Federal Aviation Administration Safety Center, the Experimental Aircraft Association and the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association.

Sun-N-Fun is one of those rare events that blend many of our CAP missions and specialties. It promotes public education concerning the value of general aviation to the communities as well as supporting the aviation community and youth development. I witnessed firsthand just how well our teams and members came together to showcase the very best of Civil Air Patrol. This year our role expanded significantly and we were able to more fully integrate all three of CAP’s primary missions.

Our traditional responsibility is the logging of all arriving aircraft by tail number, type and color.

Logging teams enter this data into a laptop computer, allowing us to rapidly locate information regarding potentially overdue aircraft. On average, more than 3,500 aircraft make the annual trip to Lakeland, with peak daily arrivals numbering in excess of 900 aircraft.

With our ‘hot-line’ mission interface with the Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center (AFRCC) we were able to quickly identify and respond

to any request in a minimum of time. Our Urban Direction Finding (UDF) teams located and silenced multiple beacons during the event, most in less than twenty minutes. Also, this year we added an on-call, manned and ready ‘alert’ aircraft at a remote airfield which allowed us to get airborne within 30 minutes in the event of an actual SAR mission.

This year we developed more cadet leadership opportunities by directly involving the leaders of the Cadet Advisory Council in the planning, execution and “hands-on” leadership roles during the event. Not only were our cadets better integrated with the ES operations, but also their involvement allowed the ES staff to work elbow-to elbow with our cadet leaders and the Director of Cadet Programs.

In support of Aerospace Education, both our National Headquarters staff and the FLWG Director of AE, LtCol John Lynn assisted with workshops.

Our overall mission response? Emergency Services, Cadet Program, Aerospace Education; no one can do this better than Civil Air Patrol.

We provided daily assistance at the FAA Media Center, which allowed us the opportunity to highlight the role of CAP in support of aviation. Additionally, we expanded the presence of our Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program this year using our “Fatal Vision” goggles and simulator, which educated visitors to the effects of over-the-counter drugs on flying skills. On the first day alone, more than 1,200 people passed through our DDR tent. Our special thanks to LtCol Jett Mayhew from MER/HQ who provided support to our DDR coordinator, Captain Tim Medeiros that included the colorful “wrapped” CAP vehicle and trailer.



Christian Moersch, Col CAP

Our overall mission response? Emergency Services, Cadet Program, Aerospace Education; no one can do this better than Civil Air Patrol. Due to the experience of our mission base leaders, the efforts of our membership, and months of preparation, the Florida Wing arrived competent and prepared. Our Project Officer, Major George Barker worked closely with the SNF liaisons, while LtCol Phil Zedonek and Captain Al Ruppel establishing customer expectations and developed new opportunities. Concurrently, Incident Commander, Lt. Nick Simoncini insured overall mission success and that the capabilities of our members were coordinated. Chaplain Harris coordinated the daily activities in the non-ES events. Well over one hundred of you turned out to support these efforts, including our culinary wizards, John “Stumpy” Posey and LtCol Lou Caporicci who nourished our volunteers.

From a command perspective, I was able to meet individually with the

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Competent and Prepared

Continued from Page 2

President and Director of Marketing from the Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association (AOPA), the Regional Vice President of the FAA, and the President of the Sun N' Fun organization. This allowed me to insure that Florida Wing remains strategically positioned to increase our operations, as well as laying a foundation for the construction of a new and permanent Wing Headquarters at Lakeland-Linder Airport.

SNF 2009 served as a prime example of "Planning with People," "Training with Purpose," and our ability to "Execute with Excellence."

Now we must "Make Our Future Happen." Preparations must begin well in advance and be effectively coordinated so that next year's event can enjoy the same level of success that we enjoyed this year. We must identify and employ our 'best practices'. Frequent conference calls and email work groups have helped to identify the challenges and gaps while there is time to problem solve before the activity.

It also means the experienced and seasoned staff must assist and mentor the new and willing volunteers, helping them to be prepared. As I visit our units and activities throughout the Wing, I see new faces among the familiar ones. I see the team training together to be competent. Our members create the cycle of success – Competent and Prepared.

FLWG Cadet Programs is preparing for many upcoming activities in the Wing. Our newest Cadet activity, the Ultimate Cadet Challenge, is coming soon, as is the Summer Cadet Encampment. The preparation for the Cadet Staff School, as well as hosting the International Air Cadet Exchange, are all progressing well, as is practice for National Cadet Competition. FLWG will represent SER in both the Color Guard and Drill Team competitions.

Elsewhere, our Aerospace Education officers will attend the AEO Workshop offered by National Headquarters in Pensacola in June, while the Emergency Services team focuses on the upcoming USAF Search and Rescue Evaluation (SAREVAL) of FLWG capabilities, the State Hurri-

cane Exercise and preparations for the hurricane season itself.

Successful missions begin with preparation. Be ready when the call comes. Individually, be competent and prepared. Please take the time to review your ES qualifications and the individual tasks involved for that qualification. Make sure you are, in fact, still qualified and properly documented in the CAP database.

Be prepared to perform in any rated specialty. You never know what will be needed when you arrive at the mission base. Step up to becoming an Urban Direction Finding (UDF) team member, a Mission Staff Assistant (MSA) or a Branch Director (BD). No matter which mission you serve in the FLWG, let CAP stand for Competent And Prepared.

Proudly serving alongside each of you,

Chris

CHRISTIAN F. MOERSCH,
Col., CAP - Commander,
Florida Wing



Photo by SM Tim Grable

Carol Ann Garrett Visits Squadron

Submitted by:
Sandy McKenzie, CAP

Recently, our squadron was lucky enough to have Carol Ann Garrett visit and discuss her trip around the world with our squadron. She is expecting to add the international title for the fastest flight of a single engine prop plane around the world soon for her eight and one half -day flight. The US has already acknowledged her success in breaking the US records.

Standing L to R : C/Capt. Rhett Semko, C/SrA Christian Kearns, C/SSgt Jason Warren, C/AIC Donna Vicente, Seated: CarolAnn Garrett

Florida's Group One Sponsors first Corporate Leadership Course

2nd Lt. John R. Sudduth
Tyndall Panama Composite Squadron

Florida Wing's Group One hosted their Corporate Leadership Course (CLC) during the week-end of December 7-8, 2008. In the past, personnel from the Florida Panhandle and lower Alabama routinely had to travel a substantial distance for the majority of the career enhancing training. Lt. Col. Bob Gray took the initiative and asked the question "is anybody interested"...and was met with a resounding YES by 30 members.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members that gathered at the Equal Opportunity Center onboard Eglin Air Force Base represented the cross section of society that makes CAP thrive. Volunteers traveled as far as 600 miles to attend and their time in service ranged from 50 years to less than one. The one thing all of these people had in common was the desire to serve their country one volunteer hour at a time, year after year.

CLC discusses the relationship the CAP squadron has with the next major echelon of command -- the wing. Specifically, CLC discusses how wing-level operations help to accomplish CAP's three missions of aerospace education, emergency services, and cadet programs. It describes the working relationships wing staff officers have with each other, and their squadron level counterparts.

Unofficially, and the reason why every CAP Senior Member should attend, is the people you meet and the friendships you can make. When 15 year veteran Lt. Col. Lee Taylor was asked what his take-away from this class was, he responded with a "deep respect for my fellow volunteers". Chaplain (Major) Larry Wade when asked the same question responded with "enjoyed meeting other leaders". 1st Lt. Matthew Thompson summarized the sentiment about the CLC class when his take-away was simply "networking and getting an answer to some questions."

The truth therefore, lies somewhere in the middle. The course material does an ex-

cellent job presenting its objective to explain the role of the wing in squadron life. CAP members volunteer their time to perform 95 percent of the continental United States inland search and rescue missions. However, this classroom experience would not have been possible without the help of those unnamed Air Force personnel that assisted in the scheduling and use of the facilities at Eglin Air Force Base. They were supportive and gracious hosts and have fostered an environment highly conducive to not only obtaining, but more importantly, keeping a volunteer force happy and well trained.

After completing the Corporate Leadership Course, the CAP members that attended this course would all agree that it is more than just a "check in the box" for various awards or advancement. It is an opportunity to connect with friends you'd never met; learn about the resources available from the wing, and also from each other. If you ever get the opportunity to attend, seize it and you're sure to have a positive experience.



Standing: Capt. Daryl White, 1st Lt. Jack Penland, Lt. Col. Guy Rassmussen, 2nd Lt. Jason Zuromski, 1st Lt. Andrew Miller, Capt. Justin McElvaney, 1st Lt. Brady Rogers, 1st Lt. Ernie Blair, Maj. Joel Lowery, Maj. Larry Wade, Col. William Bass, Lt. Col. Richard Dean, Lt. Col. Fred Carnes, Maj. Eric Duron, Capt. Ron Gyorkos, 2nd Lt. James Irby, Lt. Col. Carole Jewett, 1st Lt. Arnie Massey, Capt. Pamela Becker, 2nd Lt. John Sudduth, Lt. Col. Lee Taylor, 1st Lt. Matthew Thompson

Kneeling: Capt. David Hyden, Capt. James Pons, 1st Lt. Jim Davis, SM Shawn Bartlett, 2nd Lt. Emil Pagliari, Capt. George Schaefer, Capt. Ben Poffenberger, Capt. Robin Estes

Not Pictured: Lt. Col. Bob Gray, Lt. Col. Rogers Porter

Florida Wing CAP Team takes Honors at Air Force Association’s First CyberPatriot Competition

JACKIE ZARRILLI, 1Lt, CAP
 Florida Wing Cadet Programs Public Affairs Officer

Florida Wing’s team of four cadets and one senior member coach faced off against seven high school ROTC units in the Air Force Association’s first cyber defense competition, CyberPatriot. The competition mimicked real life situations faced by computer administrators on a daily basis. The cadets were placed in a simulated computer attack where their mission was to defend a network of computers much like you would find at our own Civil Air Patrol’s National Headquarters.

Unlike the high school ROTC teams who could meet together regularly after school, the CAP coach and cadets representing four squadrons couldn’t physically get together for practices. They creatively solved this problem with on line drills and coaching.



CAP Cadets Charles Walker and Isaac Harding of Team Wilson monitor their network for intrusions on Day Two of the competition.



Time flew for CAP Florida Wing Cadet Joshua Dovi (r) as he and Cadet Christian Kearns (l) fought off computer attack at Air Force Association’s Cyber Patriot Competition.



Team Wilson of the Civil Air Patrol Florida Wing is recognized as Day Two winners. The team is flanked by General Lorenz on the left and AFA Vice Chairman Schlitt on the right. Team Wilson includes (l to r): Cadet Charles Walker, Captain Timothy Walker (Coach), Christian Kearns, Isaac Harding, and Joshua Dovi.

Sixteen-year-old sophomore, Cadet Senior Airman Joshua Dovi said, “It was the fastest three hours I ever spent in front of a computer. I felt nervous and excited at the same time. My teammates and I had never met prior to the competition, but while we were in the middle of the exercise, we were working as if we had known each other for a long time”

“When they announced that we had won for that day, we were very excited and congratulated one another. We are looking forward to competing in next year’s event,” said Dovi.

Cadet Airman Isaac Harding added, “We will be invincible.”

Florida Wing congratulates Team Coach Captain Timothy Walker from the Cooper City Composite Squadron and Team Members; C/Amn Isaac Harding of Orlando Cadet Squadron, C/SrA Joshua Dovi of Citrus County Composite Squadron, C/SrA Christian Kearns of Osceola Cadet Squadron and C/CMSgt Charles Walker from Cooper City Composite Squadron on their outstanding accomplishment.

Plans call for the competition to expand next academic year to AFJROTC/CAP units across the country, and the ultimate goal is to be open to all high schools nationally with links to the NCCDC.

ELT Mission a Success: *Trash Reveals Treasure*

Christian F. Moersch, Col., CAP
Commander, Florida Wing

Ormond Beach Senior Squadron, SER-FL-210

With the notification last year that the ELT beacons transmitting on 121.5 MHZ would no longer be monitored via satellites, more and more people are discarding them thinking they are of no further use.

Unfortunately for those of us who do monitor the 121.5 frequency and track down the source of the signal, we are spending a great deal more time at the dump.

The reality of all this, is the fact that the 121.5 MHZ ELT'S are still monitored via Air Traffic Control Towers, Airliners and most all General Aviation aircraft. We fly with one radio tuned to the emergency frequency. Here in the Civil Air Patrol, we begin and end every flight by checking the 121.5 MHZ frequency to make sure there is nothing there.

Although there is newer technology available with the 406 beacons, the 121.5's still serve a purpose and will for some time to come.

If you are going to discard your old and out of date ELT or EPIRP, do so properly. Remove the battery before discarding or call the Civil Air Patrol for assistance.

We recently had to track down a moving target, a garbage truck. Using both an aircraft and Urban Direction Finding Team we determined the target was on the move. We also noticed it was garbage day in the neighborhood we were searching. When we spotted the garbage truck going down the highway we knew we had hit pay dirt. When the truck pulled over we informed the crew what was going on. We then followed them back to the land fill where they emptied out all the contents. Within 15 minutes we had the beacon in hand and silenced. I had a chance to thank the land fill personnel for their assistance in our search and rescue mission. I made the comment, "I guess you never get used to the smell here?" He quickly replied, "what smell"?



Maj. Ted Yeazel and Maj. Roger Helton of the Ormond Beach Senior Squadron find trashed ELT.



A Backward Glance

A look at Florida Wing History

The Miami All Girl Squadron broke away from the Miami Squadron in the fall of 1952

Notice the stripes were worn upside down and were sewn on. Males broke away in 1961 forming the Central Miami Cadet Squadron, which became the largest in the nation.

Osceola Team 1 takes Honors at Group 4 SAR Competition

Photo and story by LtCol Fred Swearingen (456)

HQ Group 4 (Central Florida) recently held a SAR Competition at the Kissimmee Airport and nearby park. Sixty-one members participated in the two-day event, planned by Major John Kachenmeister, Deputy Group Commander and 2Lt Dave Casto, ES Officer of Osceola Cadet Squadron.

Lt Casto, emergency manager for Osceola County, mapped out a course on which Group Teams would be tested. Included in the tests were an ELT search, stretcher exercise, and compass readings. Six teams participated with Osceola Team 1 winning first place honors.

Cadet Commander for the event was C/Captain Rhett Semko, the recently appointed CAC Chairman for Group 4.

Major Scott Martin, Commander of Group 4 said he thought it was an excellent exercise and was happy with the turnout.



Major Walter Scott (Leesburg) gives flight line classes to cadets during overnight bivouac.

Cadet Semko Earns Eagle Scout Award



Photo by SM Sandy McKenzie.

C/1Lt Rhett Semko and Lt Col Eddie Fresneda.

Lt Col Eddie Fresneda, Commander of Osceola Cadet Squadron (456-Gp 4) extends his best wishes to C/1Lt Rhett Semko on his recent award of Eagle Scout, the highest award in Scouting.

Cadet Semko, a three-year member of CAP will also receive his Earhart Award in the near future. He is currently assigned as Cadet Commander of 456.



146 Years and Counting

Three senior senior officers with 146 years of service between the three of them.

(L-R)
Major Mike Weiser (XO 456)
Lt Col Fred Swearingen (DCC-456)
Lt Col David Moseley (CC Lake Comp)

Fatigue In Aviation, It's not Just About Flying Airplanes

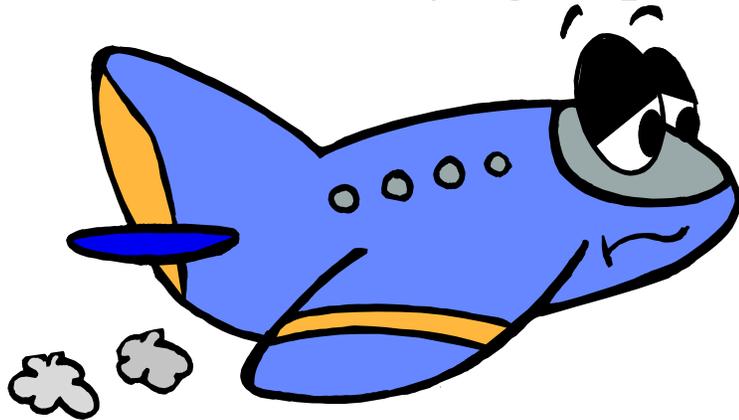
Sergio B. Seoane, M.D., Lt.Col, CAP
Florida Wing Health Service Officer

Fatigue is an expected aspect of our life. For most people there are no significant consequences to fatigue. But for people involved in activities such as operating a motor vehicle, performing surgery or complicated medical procedures or piloting an aircraft, fatigue can have disastrous consequences. Fatigue is real and it does impact on safety. Charles Lindbergh's once said, "nothing that life can attain is quite so desirable as sleep."

Fatigue means being tired. Fatigue "is a condition characterized by increased discomfort with lessened capacity for work, reduced efficiency of a competent, loss of power or capacity to respond to stimulation, and it is usually accompanied by a face beaming a weariness and tiredness."

Fatigue leads to decreased ability to carry out tasks. Studies have demonstrated a significant impairment in an individual's ability to carry out tasks that require manual dexterity, concentration, and higher order intellectual processing. Fatigue can occur in a few hours of significant physical or mental activity. Or it may occur gradually over several days or weeks when an individual does not get sufficient sleep over a prolonged period of time or when someone has ongoing physical or mental activity with insufficient rest.

Fatigued individuals consistently underreport how tired they really are. Individuals that are tired do not realize the extent of the actual impairment they have. Our Civil Air Patrol pilots often fly pilot operations with a high workload. Many of our pilots



and other personnel have full-time jobs which contribute to fatigue.

They're performing their functions in Civil Air Patrol after having worked a full work week. It has been recently pointed out by our Wing Commander and by the national staff that the Civil Air Patrol accident rate is unacceptable. In reviewing the types of accidents that have occurred we often think how could this have happened? One explanation could be fatigue. Individuals were tired, their concentration lapsed and an accident occurred.

There is only one treatment and one option when one is fatigued... Rest. The consumption of caffeinated drinks will not improve your performance if you are fatigued. It will only give you the illusion of improved performance. Performing your duty while fatigued will inevitably diminish your performance and perhaps lead to an accident. In aviation we have several measures of fatigue when it comes to our equipment and technology. Engines are overhauled on a regular basis based on hours of operation, aviation technologically is evaluated on a scheduled basis to make sure it is operating at optimal efficiency. Equipment becomes fatigued and worn-out with use. We

would never think of flying an aircraft or operating a motor vehicle if a key piece of equipment was fatigued and not operating properly.

How often do we drive or operate an aircraft when we are fatigued? As an organization we need to find ways to mitigate fatigue. We must develop protocols and measures to minimize fatigue in our personnel. Although this seems simple, in actuality we have many barriers to recognizing and dealing with fatigue. There is a lack of awareness among individuals with fatigue, in other words, fatigue itself makes individuals less aware of their limitations.

In CAP, we lack the training and awareness among our personnel regarding fatigue, we lack performance-based fatigue measures, we have high operational demands such as whether issues and inadequate staffing which contribute to fatigue in our organization and personnel.

Often our personnel have to drive long distances to arrive at the point where they will perform their duties and many work full time jobs in addition to the volunteer work they do in

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CAP Cadets get Tour and First-Hand Account from WWII Veterans

Jackie Zarrilli, 1Lt, CAP
Florida Wing Cadet Programs
Public Affairs Officer

When the Wings of Freedom with its array of WWII aircraft flew into Boca Raton Airport the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the US Air Force Volunteer Auxiliary, was there as they have been every year when the Collings Foundation brings these “big birds” to town. Cadets and senior members of the Boca Raton Composite Squadron and Crystal Lakes Cadet Squadrons performed community service helping with crowd control and miscellaneous duties. A recruiting tent was set up where visitors also had the opportunity to learn about CAP's three missions of Emergency Service, Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs.

Cadets spoke to youth about CAP's Orientation flights, special summer training academies, leadership opportunities and community service projects. Senior members spoke to adults about various emergency service training and how they can use their skills to give back to the community. Cadets were fortunate to receive a special tour and first-hand account from WWII veterans CAP Major

Bill Bottle, a former pilot in the US Army Air Corps and CAP Captain Ira Lotter, seasoned soldier who fought in most of the major European battles with the Army Tanker Division. They also spoke with Bombardier, ex POW, and Distinguished Flying Cross recipient, Lt Irwin Stovroff whose mission now is to provide special assistance dogs for disabled veterans. The cadets heard how Lt Stovroff was shot down on his last mission over Germany and taken prisoner of war. He spoke about his experiences of living on the edge, as 50 to 60 percent of the Allied aircraft did not return from their missions and his trials as a Prisoner of War.

Cadet Lt Colonel Zarrilli, visibly moved, said, “It is amazing to talk with these veterans and to hear their stories. It really hit me hard to learn what Lt Stovroff went through. He

was not much older than I am when he went to war and was captured.” Learning first hand about the toll of war, the CAP teens heard first hand stories of veterans harrowing experiences. “These big planes are intimidating and noisy. They are very barren and uncomfortable. This has given me a real appreciation for what these veterans went through,” said 14-year-old Airman Brianna Mossbrooks who had the unique opportunity to take a flight at the end of the day in the B-17 Bomber. The Collings Foundation



CAP cadets get first-hand stories from a WWII veteran at Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom.

Fatigue

Continued from Page 8

CAP. We lack tools to capture fatigue as a contributing factor in our accidents and mishaps. There are some things that as an organization we can do to mitigate fatigue. We need to provide human factors awareness training and our organization must promote a culture where reports of fatigue will not result in peer pressure to continue to perform. Our organizational culture is one in which the “can do” and “will do” attitude could be detrimental recognizing fatigue in our personnel.

We need to discuss fatigue inducing events in our recurrent training. We need to establish personal minimums regarding maximum work hours. We have to share information and perspectives regarding fatigue management and discuss fatigue mitigation concepts and best practices. We need to develop countermeasures to fatigue that take into account the individual and the organizational goals. We need to develop the ability to recognize fatigue in ourselves and our fellow CAP officers and we must encourage wellness and nutrition programs for our members.

CAP and Military Personnel Attend Ceremony for the Late Captain Douglas M. Russell, Jr., CAP

Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida - Officers and cadets of Florida Wing's Group I of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), along with representatives from the U.S. Army and Air Force, attended a grave side memorial ceremony with family and friends for the late Captain Douglas M. Russell, Jr., CAP, on Tuesday, 4 February, 2009 at the Fort Barrancas Military Cemetery, Pensacola Naval Air Station. Captain Russell's CAP service, which began in 1973 when he joined as a cadet earning the Mitchell Award in the Virginia Wing, was exemplary and reflected a level of dedication few have matched.

He was a leader and mentor with the Roanoke Composite Squadron from 1979 to 1981 where he served as the Deputy Commander for Cadets. In that capacity, he was instrumental in the development of future civic and military leaders through his high level of professionalism in the Aerospace, Emergency Services and Leadership realms. Recently he served as a communications officer with Florida Wing's Group I. Captain Russell's service, both as a CAP Officer and United States Air Force veteran, exemplified the standards of a CAP member who was passionate about service to others, his love of country, and the field of aviation. Among those who sent condolences to the Russell family was Past National Commander Brigadier General Richard L. Anderson.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Larry S. Vickrey

Air Force Honor Guard members fold the flag at the funeral for Captain Douglas M. Russell, Jr., CAP as family members and friends look on.

1Lt Benjamin Simpson dies in plane crash

Florida Wing is saddened by the loss of one its members in a recent plane crash. 1Lt Benjamin Simpson, 74, was killed when the rental plane he was flying crashed near Marco Island Wednesday, 17 December 2008. Lt Simpson was a member of the Naples Senior Squadron in southwest Florida.

According to ILT Gail Swanson, a close friend, Lt Simpson, whose wife died just last year, lived alone. Authorities found his CAP ID card among his personal effects and used Lt Simpson's CAP contact information to locate his son. Lt Simpson was not an active CAP pilot and was not flying a corporate aircraft at the time of the accident. He was doing some proficiency flying at the time of the crash. The cause of the crash is still under investigation and has not been determined.

Lt Simpson had once been a guitarist for country singer Patsy Cline, and had appeared on the country TV show "Hee Haw" on several occasions. Lt Simpson joined CAP in 2001.

A Backward Glance

A look at Florida Wing History



Photo taken 23 April 42 - the beginning of CAP Operations in Florida.

Note "Intelligence" on front desk. Officers all wearing hats inside and look how neat the board is.



A Family Affair

Four Generations of the same family are members of Osceola Cadet SQ 456

(L-R)

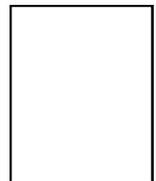
Lt Col Kay Cunningham, Great-grand mother

Lt Col Carol Fresneda, Grandmother

2Lt Debbie McAvoy, Mother

Cadet Jason Warren, son, grandson and great grandson

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- **Submit articles** and information for publication in the newsletter and/or the Florida Wing website as a news item to FLCAPArticles@flwg.us or submit them to the squadron or group Public Affairs Officer.
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Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 57,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 90 lives in fiscal year 2008. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 67 years.

Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond

Florida Wing
<http://new.flwg.gov>

Southeast Region
<http://ser.cap.gov>

National CAP
<http://gocivilairpatrol.com>