

# Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol Newsletter



Our Mission: To serve Florida by performing homeland security and humanitarian missions for our state, develop our state's youth, and educate our citizens on the importance of air and space power.

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## **From Our Commander - Col. Dan Levitch, Commander, FL Wing**

If you did not attend the Florida Wing Conference, you surely missed one of the best attended events that we have had in a long time. I have received many excited, positive comments about it from all over the Wing. We started Friday night with a "Poolside Reception" with carved turkey breast and lots of hors d'ouvres and munchies. A great time was had by all. Saturday morning started with the Group Commanders and CAC Chairs marching in with their Colors. We had great presentations by our National Commander, Maj Gen Tony Pineda, SER Region Commander, Col John Tilton, Executive Director Don Rowland, and our State Director, Jerry Angley. We were honored to have GA Wing Commander Col Willie Heredia, Puerto Rico Wing Commander Col Herman Liboy, Mississippi Wing Commander Col John Wilkes, and Tennessee Wing Commander Col Jim Rushing in attendance. It was unbelievable to see a standing room only audience for the General Session.

We then started with our Seminars, and I was very privileged to help instruct with Col Eileen Parker for the Recruiting and Retention class. I was shocked and amazed to see over 60 people in attendance.....we kept having to bring in more chairs! Every Seminar that I looked in on was standing room only. What a testament to the members of the Florida Wing who supported all of these Seminars with their attendance! I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The excitement continued with the 1:00 PM Awards Ceremony, where we presented many awards. Some of the highlights included presenting 4 Spaatz Awards, 1 Eaker, and 2 Mitchell Awards. Maj General Pineda presented some National Hurricane Awards from Hurricane Katrina. We also recognized some members who gave of their time during the week long "Sun N Fun" Air Show. The highlight for me was to be able to recognize a few of our members who helped one of our own during Sun N Fun when he had to get to the hospital immediately for a personal family emergency. That, for me, is what CAP is all about - being able to help our own as well as our communities.



*Col. Dan Levitch*

To "CAP" the evening off, Col Danny McKnight, US Army Retired, was our Keynote Speaker. A lot of members told me that his speech was inspirational, heart warming and very emotional. He thanked Civil Air Patrol for what we do every day to make America stronger and better. He commented that our very own Color Guard was just as professional as any Military Color Guard he has ever seen. Quite a compliment coming from one who has seen many in his 27 year career. I can personally tell you that the hairs on the back of my neck were standing out, and from my view looking out from the head table, there were not too many dry eyes at the end of his speech. He was very honored to be able to speak to the members of our Wing. I presented him with an "Honorary Florida Wing Member" certificate. He was deeply moved by this recognition, and after the banquet was over, he stayed and signed autographs, answered questions, and posed for pictures.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Maj Sharon Taylor, Col David Mikelson, Col Eileen Parker, Maj Judi Levitch, and newly promoted Lt Col Pat O'Key for their outstanding hard work and support for the success of my first Conference as your Wing Commander. I look forward to seeing even more people next year! Please keep doing what you do for your communities and other people every day!



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## Florida Wing Conference 2006

*Written by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Gail Swanson, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Director of Marketing and Public Relations FL Wing HQ*

The Florida Wing Conference 2006 held in Orlando, FL, May 5-7. Over 475 Civil Air Patrol senior and cadet members attended the conference. The conference was opened with the Presentation of Colors by Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron that had recently won First Place at the Southeast Region Cadet Competition. Colonel Dan Levitch, FL Wing Commander, greeted CAP members describing the many changes in the regulations, technology, personnel and natural disasters. Through it all, members of the Florida Wing have maintained their professionalism and focus on the missions of Civil Air Patrol. You, the members of Florida Wing, make us number one in the nation, and I am honored to be your Wing Commander.

Classes available to members at the conference included: Model Rocketry, Getting into the Air Force Academy, Public Affairs Photo Workshop, Wing update for Emergency Services/Ops, Recruiting and Retention, CAP-USAF meeting, Cadet Officer and Cadet NCO, National Guard DDR Presentation, Aerospace Education, National Headquarter update for Emergency Services/Ops, Cadet Programs, Cadet National Cadet Special Activities, Cadet Teambuilding Interactive, Personnel and Administration, Communication, National Headquarter update for Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education, Safety Briefing, Aircraft Maintenance, IG Seminar, DDR and Schools Program Seminar, Cadet Academic Competition, A Gathering of Eagles Leadership Panel, Planning Unit Meetings for Success, Cadet "Flying Around the World", Finance Seminar, Cadet Academic Competition, Chaplain's Seminar, and Effective Unit Organization for Success.

See full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=detail&article=298&category=&page=7>

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## CAP National Commander addresses FL Wing Conference

*Written by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gail Swanson, Director of Marketing and Public Relations FL Wing HQ*

Major General Tony Pineda, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) National Commander, addressed the FL Wing Conference. Highlights of his address included comments on:

- hurricane preparedness,
- training on the Satellite Digital Imagery System (SDIS) and ARCHER system,
- motivating past CAP members to rejoin CAP,
- the National Headquarters Recruiting and Retention program giving new members something to do, and
- contributing ideas and suggestions in the comment section for each of the National Headquarters departments.

He announced that "Florida is at the leading edge of Homeland Security." Local, state, and national agencies want MOUs (Memorandums of Understanding) with CAP. "They have invited FL Wing to participate in the State Task Force, and we will be using all of you in your areas," he emphasized.

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## Annual Awards Banquet

*Written by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Gail Swanson, CAP Director of Marketing and Public Relations FL Wing HQ*

The Florida Wing Annual Awards Banquet 2006 was opened with the Presentation of Colors by the Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron color guard. The introduction of Honored Guests was given by emcee Col. Maurice Thomas, Washington D.C. Col. John Tilton, Southeast Region Commander, emphasized, "We are a family. We know how to do the job." State Director Jerry Angley informed members, "The State is excited about all of the CAP support. Keep doing what you are doing. You are doing a fantastic job!" National Executive Director Don Rowland reminded members that "as a Floridian, it's good to be home." CAP National Missions Director John Salvador welcomed all to "come visit us at National Headquarters." Salvador told the audience that the Aerospace Education program "Fly a Teacher" needs more promotion, and \$500 is available for flights.

Florida Cadet Advisory Council Chairman C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Danielle Roth gave a stunning speech on how the cadet program has helped her throughout the years. She told senior members they are a very important factor in the lives of cadets, and she thanked them for it.

Col. Danny McKnight, United States Army, retired, was the honored guest speaker. McKnight is former Army battalion commander, and in October 1993 he was assigned to help capture Somalian warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid in Mogadishu. McKnight is portrayed in the famous movie "Black Hawk Down". McKnight talked about "the sacrifice", then and now, of soldiers fighting for America, and the reason they must do so. Looking straight at CAP members, he said, "I know you get it, you understand it, but many in America do not." McKnight's new mission is to travel across the country to inform others on why we must fight for our freedom.

See the full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=301>

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## Observations from a First-time Conference Attendee

*Written by 1st Lt Gene Floyd, Tallahassee Composite Squadron PAO*

The Tallahassee Composite Squadron was well-represented at the Wing Conference with 6 seniors and 3 cadets in attendance. Friday night's poolside social went off without any visible hitches and for many of us, was our first chance to meet people whom we had previously corresponded with only via mail, email, fax or phone.

Saturday morning brought an unbelievable flurry of activity with more CAP uniforms in one spot than most of us have seen in our lives. The day opened with everyone meeting in the main auditorium before breaking out into individual rooms for various classes and seminars. While it was a bit confusing at first with so many different meeting rooms, we eventually found our ways into the various meeting rooms arranged for the many different educational classes and seminars.



Lt. Col. David Mosley

The Photography class was very interesting although there was so much to cover that cramming it into a 1-hour class really did not do the subject justice. It wasn't that the time was too short as it really was intended to be a basic class, but the subject is so fascinating that it would be hard to fit everything that can be taught into a weekend course. It has sparked a lot of out-of-class discussions that hopefully will lead to an increase in the quality of photographs submitted for publication. Lt Col Buddy Harris and Lt Col David Moseley did an excellent job of fitting two years of professional journalism training into a one-hour class.



Lt. Col. Buddy Harris

Another subject of interest to many was the communications meeting. Col Bruce McConnell, Florida Wing's new Communications Director did an excellent job. There was so much to talk about regarding techniques and equipment that the decision was made to move to an empty meeting room and continue the discussion. Many questions were answered and new technologies discussed that should keep Civil Air Patrol on the cutting edge in the coming years.

The evening banquet was excellent with several hundred members in attendance. It was amazing that so many could be fed with no observable glitches and all within a reasonable amount of time. The highlight of the banquet was a speech by Lt Col (ret USA) Danny McKnight the commander of the task force portrayed in the movie "Blackhawk Down". Perhaps the biggest message he had was the importance of duty and honor as he explained why his team spent 18 hours under enemy fire trying to free a dying comrade from the helicopter crash that the movie was named for; it was simply their duty to stand by him.

The banquet was an experience, especially for those who had never been to one before. The camaraderie alone was worth it, but with the network and educational opportunities as bonuses, it was well worth the (greatly reduced from normal) price.

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## USAF Reserve members meet with CAP at FLWG 2006 Conference

*Written By: 1st Lt Gail Swanson, Director of Marketing/PR, FL Wing HQ*

USAF Reserve members (L-R) Lt. Col. Bill Martin, USAF, Maj. Mary Spence, USAF, Lt. Col. Toney Fender, USAF, Lt. Col. Joe Widmayer, USAF, attended the FL Wing Civil Air Patrol Conference 2006 held in Orlando, FL, on May 5-7. The USAF members were at the conference to represent CAP Wings in the Southeast Region. "We are here to develop plans to better assist CAP during Disaster Relief Operations," said Lt. Col. Fender. The focus was on always being prepared for hurricanes. "They will go back and train reservists on how we can better interface with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP)," said Jerry Angley, CAP State Director.



See full article at

<http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=297>





## Award Presentations at the FL Wing Conference

<b>Ashlei Hamada</b>	Timber Creek Comp	Spaatz
<b>Quinton Fenley</b>	North Tampa Cadet	Spaatz
<b>Andrew Anderson</b>	Seminole Cadet	Spaatz
<b>Timothy Medeiros</b>	Group 8 HQ	Spaatz
<b>Marissa Streifel</b>	Wellington Cadet	Eaker
<b>George Sterner</b>	Wellington Cadet	Mitchell
<b>David Wilkinson</b>	Jacksonville Comp	Loening
<b>Donald Albanese</b>	Hernando County Comp	Loening
<b>Thomas M Baldwin</b>	Group 11 HQ	Loening
<b>David Sweeney</b>	Group 3 HQ	Loening
<b>Leslie Ballard</b>	Gainesville Comp	Loening
<b>Crist Fellman</b>	Northside Christian Ac	Garber
<b>Steven Schultz</b>	Summerlin Academy	Garber
<b>Jay Davis</b>	Group 9 HQ	Garber
<b>Ray Hall</b>		Wilson
<b>Matt Ferris</b>	Group 2 HQ	Exceptional
<b>Russell Loomis</b>	Marion County Comp	Meritorious
<b>Robert Atchley</b>	Florida Wing	Meritorious
<b>Linda Pugsley</b>	Group 3 HQ	Meritorious
<b>Cynthia Downing</b>	Palm Harbor Cadet	Meritorious
<b>Kiernan Osborne</b>	Naples Cadet	Meritorious
<b>Jim Bendickson</b>	Hillsborough Senior	Commander's Commendation
<b>Leonard Goellner</b>	Hillsborough Senior	Commander's Commendation
<b>Crist Fellman</b>	Northside Christian Ac	Commander's Commendation
<b>Tom Carson</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>Luis Garcia</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>C/Curtis Hightower</b>	Crystal Lake Middle	Commander's Commendation
<b>Glenn Powers</b>	Group 9 HQ	Commander's Commendation
<b>Robin Estes</b>	Tyndall Panama Comp	Commander's Commendation
<b>Craig Winkelman</b>	Group 6 HQ	Commander's Commendation
<b>Corrine DeGiacomo</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>David DeGiacomo</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>Pamela Becker</b>	Emerald Coast Senior	Commander's Commendation
<b>Lee Vogt</b>	Group 8 HQ	Commander's Commendation
<b>Walt Pleasants</b>	Group 8 HQ	Commander's Commendation
<b>Mac McConnell</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>Robert Gibson</b>	Polk County Comp	Commander's Commendation
<b>David Uzzle</b>	Pasco County Cadet	Commander's Commendation
<b>Luther Floyd</b>	Tallahassee Comp	Commander's Commendation
<b>David Abrams</b>	Tallahassee Comp	Commander's Commendation
<b>Arnold Glauser</b>	Hillsborough Senior	Commander's Commendation
<b>Luis Garcia</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>Russell Reichmann</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>Mike Marino</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>Nick Simoncini</b>	Florida Wing	Commander's Commendation
<b>Russell Loomis</b>	Marion County Comp	Commander's Commendation
<b>Leonard Goellner</b>	Hillsborough Senior	Commander's Commendation
<b>Eugene Dernbach</b>	Central FL Comp	Commander's Commendation
<b>David Uzzle</b>	Pasco County Cadet	Commander's Commendation
<b>Russell Jacobsma</b>	Pasco County Cadet	Commander's Commendation
<b>Chaplain Linda Pugsley</b>	Group 3 HQ	Commander's Commendation
<b>Joseph Perez</b>	Central FL Comp	Commander's Commendation
<b>Wynn Watson</b>	Summerlin Academy	Commander's Commendation

(Continued)

## Award Presentations at the FL Wing Conference (continued)

<b>Joseph Leonard</b>	Polk County Comp	50 Year Member
<b>William LaFazia</b>	Polk County Comp	50 Year Member
<b>Robert Masiker</b>	Lantana Cadet	Cadet Circle of Excellence
<b>Margarita Mesones</b>	Homestead ARB Cadet	Cadet Circle of Excellence
<b>Alina Garcia-Barbon</b>	Tamiami Comp	Cadet Circle of Excellence
<b>Virginia Knudsen</b>	Aspira Cadet	Cadet Circle of Excellence
<b>Kevin McSparron</b>	South Brevard Comp.	Cadet Circle of Excellence
<b>Leslie Ballard</b>	Gainesville Comp	Cadet Circle of Excellence
<b>Rick Peters</b>	Lake City Cadet	Cadet Circle of Excellence
<b>Steve Governale</b>	A F R A O	Cadet Circle of Excellence
<b>Lloyd Wheeler</b>	Tallahassee Comp	Circle of Excellence
<b>Mitchell Drucker</b>	Coral Springs Cadet	Circle of Excellence
<b>David Typinski</b>	Gainesville Comp	Circle of Excellence
<b>Luis Garcia</b>	Florida Wing	National Exceptional
<b>Mike Brown</b>	Florida Wing	National Meritorious
<b>Collin Haines</b>	Florida Wing	National Meritorious
<b>Guy Herlihy</b>	Florida Wing	National Meritorious
<b>Bud Borner</b>	Florida Wing	National Meritorious
<b>John Lawler</b>	Florida Wing	National Meritorious
<b>Charlene Tyler</b>	Florida Wing	National Meritorious
<b>Al Bedgood</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Sharon Borner</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>David Horowitz</b>	Tamiami Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Russ Reichmann</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Diane Reid</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Bruce Smith</b>	Group 6 HQ	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Manny Alfaro</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Robert Allison</b>		National Commander's Commendation
<b>George McCord</b>	Group 11 HQ	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Ray Meyers</b>	Highlands Cty Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Herman Steele</b>	Jacksonville Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Van Vredenburgh</b>	Group 9 HQ	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Randall Cason</b>	Miami Enterprise Cadet	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Herman Slapo</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Linus Gomez</b>	Miami Beach Cadet	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Lewis McMullen</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Joseph Perez</b>	Central Fla Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Jon Petersen</b>	Polk County Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Art Rubin</b>	Group 6 HQ	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Antonin Ciotta</b>	Jacksonville Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>David DeGiacomo</b>	West Broward Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Martin Jamison</b>	Central Fla Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Ralph Long</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Todd Wean</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Daniel Woods</b>	Jacksonville Comp	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Ryan McCord</b>	Weston Cadet	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Eileen Parker</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation
<b>Dan Levitch</b>	Florida Wing	National Commander's Commendation

# CONGRATULATIONS to ALL !!!

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## FL Wing Academic Competition Results

*Written by Maj. David Leali, Director of Cadet Programs Florida Wing*

The 7th Annual Florida Wing Academic Competition was held May 6th at the Florida Wing Cadet Conference. Fifty-four cadets formed eighteen teams to compete for the Lt Col Tom Welch Academic Trophy. The academic competition format was a single-elimination panel quiz tournament. Teams were quizzed on aerospace, leadership, chain-of-command and general knowledge questions.

The tournament's winners were Cadets **Marissa Streifel, Celeste Brewer** and **John Samones** as team "UF." Teams from Coral Springs Cadet Squadron placed both 1st and 2nd and 3rd in the tournament. Several teams were comprised from units that were experiencing the "WAC" for the first time. Congratulations to all the participants on a well played tournament.

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## Homestead Color Guard Wins SER Competition

*Written By: Lt Col Pat O'Key*

The Color Guard from the Florida Wing has won 1st Place at the Southeast Region (SER) Cadet Competition held this weekend at Ft. Benning, Georgia. They will advance to the National Cadet Competition in July to be held in Washington DC. Please congratulate Major Margarita Mesones-Mori and her team from the Homestead Air Reserve Base Cadet Squadron for a job well done.

Col. Dan Levitch, Florida Wing Commander, Col. Eileen Parker, Florida Wing Vice Commander, and Capt. David Leali, Director of Cadet Programs Florida Wing, were at the event to support and watch the Color Guard win the competition. Cadets Hamilton, Mite, Brizuela, Rodriguez, and Romero from the Homestead Cadet Squadron placed first in 6 of 7 events this weekend at the SER Color Guard Competition. The Puerto Rico Drill Team won first place in the drill competition. Cadets Mite and Brizuela tied for top honors on the written test.

**Congratulations to the team and to the Homestead Cadet Squadron!**



*(L-R) Cadet Mite, Cadet Hamilton, FL Wing commander Col Dan Levitch, Col Tilton, Cadet Romero, Cadet Brizuela, Cadet Rodriguez. (Photo by Col Eileen Parker, Vice Commander, FL Wing)*

See full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=261>

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## Gainesville cadet wins Grand Prize in History Channel Essay contest

*Written By: 1st Lt David Typinski, AEO, Gainesville Composite Squadron*



**Cadet Airman Daniel Cook** won the Grand Prize in a nationwide essay contest sponsored by The History Channel. Cook, a 12-year-old member of the Gainesville Composite Squadron and homeschool student from Keystone Heights, addressed the question, "Which event in American space history do you think is most important and why?"

Cook wrote an essay, due one month from the contest announcement, explaining why Dr. Robert Goddard's invention of the liquid fueled rocket engine takes top honors in the history of space exploration. Along with two other Grand Prize winners, Cook earned himself and three guests a four day trip to Kennedy Space Center, including admission to the Astronaut Training Experience, travel, and lodging. Cook is very enthusiastic about everything related

to aerospace and is the Cadet Assistant Aerospace Education Officer with the Gainesville squadron. See the national CAP publication "The Volunteer" to read about his prize to attend Space Camp.

See full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=236>

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## Hawk Mountain Search & Rescue School

**Location: Kempton, PA Date: 8-16 July 2006 Fee: \$125.00**

Hawk Mountain SAR School has a proud history of providing outstanding emergency services training. The school is conducted in the mountains of Pennsylvania under field conditions and is physically demanding. The school is open to both cadets and seniors. For specific information, visit the Hawk web site at <http://pawg.cap.gov/hawk/>. Hands on field experience of SAR, Leadership & Survival, not in a dormitory... You & your team, against the elements.



For all Cadets and Senior members applying to Hawk Mountain SAR School you will need to submit a

- Send applications to Capt Randy Cason, <mailto:rcarson@bellsouth.net>. Do **not** send to NHQ.
- Visit the Hawk Mt Ranger School web site for detailed instructions before completing your CAPF 31.
- Do **not** apply for any other activity on the same form 31 that you send to PA wing for Hawk.
- [Application Deadline is June 10, 2006.](#)

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## Recon Teams Defined

*Written by Capt. Joseph L. Perez, Deputy Commander, Central Florida Composite Squadron*

### What are RECON Teams, and what do they do?

RECON Teams consist of 4 to 6 members that deploy together in two vehicles. The teams are intended to pre deploy outside the projected impact area of a storm immediately before landfall to be ready to enter specific assigned areas within the impact area as soon as the all clear is issued. Taskings are issued by the State Emergency Operations Center. Once in their assigned area, the two vehicles in the team will work together to document the nature and extent of damage through photographs and reports that will be filed from the scene using a variety of means. RECON Teams under certain circumstances may have to coordinate with CAP air assets. It is anticipated that the maximum time a team will be deployed is 72 hours. The teams will go in prepared to be self sufficient with sufficient MRE's and water for the length of the deployment. Billeting will be determined as available in the area, and may include National Guard Armories, shelters, airplane hangars, FBO's, fire stations - whatever may be available. Team members will supply their own sleeping bags and cots. Ideally each team will have 6 members to increase the likelihood that at least 4 members will be available when called upon.

### What do RECON Teams NOT do?

RECON Teams do not self deploy. They do not operate on foot, enter damaged buildings, conduct personnel rescues, or provide direct assistance to disaster victims. They conduct all operations from their vehicles.

### How are teams deployed?

The state has been divided into four CAP operational areas. The State EOC will determine which of the four operational areas are likely to be impacted by the event. No teams will be deployed from the impacted areas. Each of the four areas has a CAP individual designated to head it up. The State EOC will inform the head of each area that is activated as to how many teams will be needed and where and when they need to pre-deploy. He or she will contact teams from the Groups within their area to determine their availability. The objective is for each Group to have two operational RECON Teams. Based on the response and resources available he or she will determine how best to respond to the request from the State EOC.

### What qualifications do members need to participate?

Team members must be current CAP members. The teams will not be conducting UDFT or traditional GTM operations, therefore members do not have to have current UDFT or GTM qualifications. They do have to have GES and at least a B-Cut. Each team may include no more than one cadet, who must be at least 17 years of age.



*Cadet Airman Basic Riley LaBoy (L), Cadet Staff Sergeant Jon Grace (R) and Cadet Airman Basic Robert Vahey (B) attempt to pinpoint their exact location on a map of the Tiger Bay State Preserve. Map reading and land navigation were important parts of training at the recent Emergency Services FTX hosted by the DeLand Squadron.*

## 2005 Conference Awards

Communications Officer of the Year	1Lt Gene Smith	Composite Squadron of Distinction	Stuart Composite Squadron Capt Gregory Thompson
Safety Officer of the Year	Maj Crist Fellman	Group Commander of Distinction	Lt Col Pat O'Key Group 5
Wing Staff Officer of the Year	Lt Col Joseph Martin	Squadron Commander of Merit	Maj James Goblet 8049th Composite Squadron
Historian of the Year	Lt Col Vivian Olson	Senior Squadron of Merit	Naples Senior Squadron Maj John Varsames
Logistician of the Year	Capt David DeGiacomo and 1Lt Corrine DeGiacomo	Cadet Squadron of Merit	Coral Springs Cadet Squadron 1Lt Bruce Sage
Aerospace Education Officer of the Year	1Lt John Edwards	Composite Squadron of Merit	Lake Composite Squadron Lt Col David Mosely
Aerospace Education Squadron of the Year	Coral Springs Cadet Squadron 1Lt Bruce Sage	Group Commander of Merit	Lt Col Gary Owen - Group 4
Cadet of the Year	C/Lt Col Celeste Brewer	The Sedita Award	Capt Edith Miller
Group of the Year	Group 5 - Lt Col Pat O'Key	Col Bob Owens Leadership	C/1Lt Danielle Roth
Squadron Commander of Distinction	Maj George McCord Westin Cadet Squadron	Parent Support Award	2Lt Cynthia Sweitzer
Senior Squadron of Distinction	Ormond Beach Senior Squadron Lt Col Joseph Wisniewski	Staff Member of January	Maj Robert Sims
Cadet Squadron of Distinction	Weston Cadet Squadron Maj George McCord	Staff Member of February	Capt David Leali
		Staff Member of March	Maj Sharon Taylor
		Staff Member of April	Maj Deborah Grimes

## Promotions

Albero, Lisa	1st Lieutenant	Miami Senior Squadron One
Bowman, Samuel	Captain	Group 800 Staff
Chung, Suzanne	Captain	Weston Cadet Squadron
Fellman, Crist	Major	Northside Christian Cadet Squadron
Grimes, Deborah	Major	Headquarters Group 9
Kachenmeister, John	Major	Headquarters Group 4
Leali, David	Major	Wing Staff
Lovarco, Patricia	Captain	Ft Lauderdale Composite Squadron
Lynch, Sarah	Captain	Hillsborough One Senior Squadron
McNeal, Denis	Captain	Group 800 Staff
O'Key, Patrick	Lt Colonel	Wing Staff
Ramsaran, Eileen	Captain	Venice Cadet Squadron
Shultz, Steve	Lt Colonel	Group 800 Staff
Voelker, Edward	Lt Colonel	Citrus County Cadet Squadron
Werner, David	Captain	Group 800 Staff

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL!!!

## In Memoriam

Anderson, Doris	20-Jun-05	Group 5
Brittingham, N	22-Feb-06	Skyline Senior Squadron
Clarkson, Scott	1-Sep-05	
Metz, George	18-05-May	Group 9
Modansky, Aaron	05-Jan-06	Boca Raton Composite Squadron
Raines, Hugh L	14-Feb-06	Fernandina Senior Squadron
Sicklesteel, Donald E	12-Jan-06	Highlands County Composite Squadron
Wilson, Larry W	24-Apr-06	Gainesville Composite Squadron

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## CAP Steps Up to Sun 'n Fun

*Written By: Capt Scott Cochran, PAO, Hillsborough One Senior Squadron*



2 Lt Len Goellner

**2nd Lt. Len Goellner** took on the daunting task of Incident Commander at the air show. Along with **Lt. Col Bruce McConnell**, Lt. Goellner led a team which tracked and located arriving flights throughout the week.

Every year thousands of aircraft descend on the Lakeland airport for the annual Sun-n-Fun fly-in. This year's event was held between April 4 and April 10, but the planning and organizing had been going on for a long time. With so many airplanes, helicopters, and other types of aircraft in one place, keeping track of who is coming and going is no easy matter. Making sure that arrivals and departures are tracked, and that overdue aircraft are found, is the job of the Civil Air Patrol.

Calls came in every day reporting incidents of "overdue aircraft". These were usually flights into Lakeland which had filed a flight plan and then neglected to close the flight plan upon arrival. The result is that the aircraft is considered missing until it is physically located and confirmed.

The volume of activity kept the entire team very busy each day. In the first three days of the air show, the CAP team logged 982 aircraft arrivals, worked 11 overdue aircraft for the FAA FSS. In one morning alone, 5 missing aircraft reports were received and acted upon before noon.

See full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=288>

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## CAP Takes Care of Its Own

*Written By: 1st Lt Gene Floyd, Deputy PAO, Tallahassee Composite Squadron*

It was supposed to be an easy trip for 1st Lt. Rick Peters, squadron commander of Lake City Cadet Squadron; meet up with the Tallahassee Composite Squadron and drive seven cadets and their gear to Lakeland Linder Airport, spend four days working at the Sun n Fun Fly-In, and return home. A piece of cake he thought. However, the afternoon before the trip was to begin, his wife, SM Sherry Peters was admitted to the hospital and scheduled for emergency surgery the very next morning. Knowing that he could not let the cadets down at the last minute, he changed his plans to include a few hours sleep in his van before heading back up I-75 to be at his wife's side before she went under. His van had other ideas.

Shortly after the convoy of two vehicles from the Tallahassee Composite Squadron and Lt. Peters' minivan passed the turnoff to the Florida Turnpike on I-75, the lead driver noticed that he was no longer being followed by anyone. A quick radio call confirmed that the Lake City van had indeed broken down on the side of the road, but was slowly limping up to the other two vehicles' positions. Phone calls were made, and it was determined that there were no vehicles available at the mission base big enough to come get them. Adhering to vehicle passenger allowance, cadets piled into the two remaining vehicles, while Lt. Peters and the other cadets settled down for a long wait with the disabled minivan.

By the time the Tallahassee van had dropped off its load of cadets and gear and returned, Lt. Peters had managed to nurse his wounded van off the interstate and into a deserted

parking lot. It was 5:00 AM before everyone made it safely into the base camp at Sun n Fun and found a place to sleep.

Daylight came a couple hours later, and an exhausted Lt. Peters began searching for a way home for his wife's surgery. He was being driven out to a borrowed car a few miles distant when one of the other senior members had the idea of inquiring about the possibility of an airlift. When Mission Base was contacted with the request, the FL Wing Commander, Col. Dan Levitch, broke in asking for more details. When given the details, he then promised to set the wheels in motion. Capt. David Tucker of Northside Christian School Cadet Squadron quickly agreed to scramble and a volunteer was found to drive Lt. Peters to Vandenberg Airport in nearby Tampa.

Within a couple of hours, Lt. Peters was by his wife's side in the hospital room; she had refused to go into surgery until he was with her, but is now recovering peacefully at home. Without the encumbrance of a borrowed compact car, Lt. Peters was able to bring his family's other van back down to recover his cadets at the end of the Fly-In.

Even while taking care of others - Civil Air Patrol takes care of its own.

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## Supplies to Afghanistan

*Written by Chaplain Lt.Col. Dewey Painter CAP, Director of Special Projects SER Chaplain Service*

The following message has been received from Captain Roderick McLeod, the Commanding Officer of the 53rd unit service in Afghanistan. The 53rd is a unit out of Lakeland Florida. The shipment was a full container to support the troops. At their request, almost half of it was school supplies to give to the Afghan children at the schools they are helping to restore.

The cost of the shipment would have exceed \$73,000.00 in Parcel Post postage. However, by sending it in a 40 foot overseas container (over 30,000 pounds), it cost of \$9700 which included shipping and processing. Mission Harvest America contributed \$4100 towards the cost in hopes that future donations would come in to replenish their funds. Anyone wanting to help can send a donation to:

**Mission Harvest America, 69 South Copeland Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204.**

We still have care packages for mailing. If your group wants to receive 100 packages or more at a time, like Group 8 is doing, then please contact Ch Painter. We make up the packages, complete with customs forms and mailing labels. All you have to do is ask your units to take some of the boxes to the post office and mail them at \$8.30 per box for postage. Mission Harvest does the packaging and asks that you mail back the customs receipt to them for their audit.

Thank you to the many that took part in outfitting the commands in Afghanistan, and the thousands of school children that will benefit from the school supplies.

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## Chaplains and MLOs Attend SER Chaplains Service College

*By Chaplain Major Tom Carson*

The Southeast Region Chaplain Staff College was held 1-4 May at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, GA. Approximately 40 chaplains and MLOs from all over the Southeast Region attended the College. Included was an Aerospace Education component consisting of a tour of the Air Museum at the base. The main topic for the week was a basic Critical Incident Stress Management Course taught by Lt Col Sherry Jones who is the Director of the CISM Program.

Chaplain Oscar Cope, SER HC, and his staff provided a wonderful setting for learning and fellowship. The eleven attendees from the Florida Wing were Ch. Lewis McMullin, Anton Kurth, Ch. George Ramsaran, Ch. Tom Carson, Ch. Larry Wade, Ch. Terry Jordan, Michael Warwicke, Ch. John Hendricks, Ch. Joseph Jones, Liz Mathis and Ch. Jon Stewart.

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## Naples Squadron Produces Local TV Program

*Written By: SM Jeff Maturo, PAO, Naples Senior Squadron*



Collier County viewers viewed "We serve to Save" the week of May 15th 2006. Hosted by Senior Member Jeffrey Maturo, the program underscores the core mission and values of the Civil Air Patrol which include Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs and Operations. This entertaining and informative first episode of "We Serve to Save" starts with the beginning of aviation, reliving the rich history behind the Wright Brothers and their creation, the Wright Flyer. In addition, viewers were treated to a brief history of the Civil Air Patrol and get to see our Homeland Security capabilities first hand.

In the photo, host Senior Member Jeffrey Maturo with NBC-2 Weather Anchor Jim Syoen on set. See the full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=296>.

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## Information in "The Sentinel"

*Written by Capt Bill Woody, Florida Wing Director of Safety*

See the May issue of *The Sentinel*, particularly the article on Safety Culture. There are lots of points made about living safely and how to implement the concept. The second page is right in the face of Sunshine Staters...let's get the message about the sun and ways we can protect ourselves. Share *The Sentinel* with others. It's easy to print a few copies to take to work or school and, of course, it's a great source of information for safety briefings! So, let's have a safe May. Keep your focus on living safely and you'll find it works!

Find the issue at <http://level2.cap.gov/visitors/programs/safety/newsletters/2006>

## Calendar

See Complete FL Wing Calendar at <http://flwg.us/database/calendar.asp>

10-11 Jun-06	Critical Incident Stress Management Class
17-18 Jun-06	FL Wing Ranger School
18-23 Jun-06	Encampment Staff School
24-Jun - 1-Jul-06	Summer Encampment
24-25 Jun-06	CD Photo Training
6-Jul-06	National Cadet Competition
8-16 Jul-06	Hawk Mountain Ranger School
8-16 Jul-06	National Staff College
22-19 Jul-06	Regional Staff College
17-Jul 2-Aug-06	Florida International Air Cadet Exchange
19-20 Aug-06	FL Wing Ranger School
26-27 Aug-06	Color Guard Academy

### Reports Due from Squadrons:

Aerospace Education Excellence - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Counterdrug Activity - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Flight Release Log - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Operations Activity - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Professional Development - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Public Affairs - 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct  
Safety - 10<sup>th</sup>  
Senior Training - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Vehicle - 5<sup>th</sup>

Florida Wing Web  
<http://flwg.us>  
Southeast Region Web  
<http://ser.cap.gov>  
National Web  
<http://cap.gov>

**Gator CAPers** is published bi-monthly and distributed electronically to members of the Florida Wing Civil Air Patrol and to others upon request. Squadron Commanders should print at least one copy to have it available for members who do not receive it electronically. Find this and previous newsletters, and subscribe to the Florida Wing e-Group on the Florida Wing website at <http://flwg.us>.

Please send comments about the newsletter and requests to be added to the distribution list to the Editor, 1Lt Eileen Tonkinson at <mailto:GatorCAPers@flwg.cap.gov>. Please submit articles and information for publication in the newsletter and/or the web site to <mailto:GailSwansonFL@aol.com> or submit them to your Public Affairs Officer.

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