

# 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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## FL Wing Change of Command



Col Dan Levitch (left) passed the flag of command to Lt Col Patrick O'Key (right) at the Professional Development Weekend in Boca Raton on 14 October 2006. This was followed by Lt Col O'Key's promotion to Colonel. Col Levitch assumed the position of Commander of the Southeast Region at a separate ceremony. Col O'Key appointed Maj John Varsames to fill his previous position as FL Wing Chief of Staff.

## Commander's Message

*By: Col Patrick O'Key, Commander, FL Wing*

Fellow members of the Florida Wing, I would like to share with all of you what an honor it is to be chosen as your next commander. As the former Chief of Staff, I have been involved in the day to day operations of the wing for the past 12 months, and I have a solid understanding of where we are as a wing. With the help and guidance of Col Eileen Parker, Wing Vice Commander, and Maj John Varsames, Wing Chief of Staff, we will do our best to accomplish the goals of the Florida Wing.

There will be some personnel changes in the command staff as well as your support staff to help facilitate positive growth and participation across the wing. We need to refocus some of our priorities to encompass the other 2 missions of CAP, Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs. Emergency Services and Operations get the most exposure, but as a wing of almost 4000 members, over half of them are cadets.

Maj Margarita Mesones is the new Director of Cadet Programs and will bring that program to the next level. She has a wealth of experience, and I am confident this will thrive.

Aerospace Education is one of the most overlooked missions in the wing. Florida Wing has placed among the top wings in the nation thanks to the efforts of Lt Col John Lynn. He has tirelessly supported and promoted this area, and we as a wing need to step up to the plate and participate.

My personal goal for the wing is to increase participation across the board from mission response to cadet activities. It has only been a little over 30 days since I took command, so this message is a little short in details. I will be keeping you all up to date in the positive changes in the wing and of all the accomplishments we have reached as a wing in future columns, as well as communication through your Group Commanders.

***We are the largest wing in the country and need to show the rest of the nation that we are "second to none".***



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## CAP Salutes MacDill AFB

*By: Capt Terrance Power*

Florida Wing Chief of Staff Lt Col Patrick O'Key presented MacDill Air Force Base Deputy Commander Col Tim Smith, USAF, with a plaque on behalf of the Florida Wing and Wing Commander Daniel Levitch for their outstanding support of the 2006 Cadet Week Program. The 2006 Cadet Week program, coordinated by MacDill AFB Liaison Officer Captain Lee Vogt, CAP, provided scores of cadets in Groups 3, 5, and 8 the opportunity to experience the many outstanding features of MacDill AFB in July 2006, including a ride in a KC-135 refueling tanker for a crew of very happy cadet and senior members!



Col Smith, accepting the award on behalf of Base Commander Col Margaret Woodward, USAF, cited the valuable resource that Civil Air Patrol has become for the US Air Force with our ability to assist the military in many important tasks. He cited the support of another Wing in assisting the USAF in confirming heights of certain structures in training flight paths of jets in the western part of the country. He also took time to acknowledge the dedication and support of all the members of Civil Air Patrol in helping to shape the future leaders of our country through our Cadet Programs.

See the full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=403>

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## Wreaths Across America

*By: Maj Wayne Merritt and Maj Dennis Murray, ME Wing Co-directors of Wreaths Across America*

2006 will mark the 15th anniversary of holiday wreaths being sent from the State of Maine to Arlington National Cemetery. Each year, the folks at Worcester Wreath Company, along with many volunteers, make and decorate the wreaths that will adorn the headstones of over 5,000 grave markers of our nation's fallen heroes. If you have ever seen the photos of row after row of bleached white stones with evergreen wreaths and red bows, you know it is a stirring image to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice for this great country.

Spurred by a tremendous outpouring of support and to celebrate the 15 years of giving, Worcester Wreath and Civil Air Patrol would like to expand the reaches of the wreath-laying program by the placing of memorial wreaths at each of the over 270 state and national cemeteries and monuments across the country.

The wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery and across the nation will take place in synchronization at noon (EST) on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006. Please help us expand the recognition of those who have served our country, both past and present, as well as their families who deserve our support. Without the sacrifices of our veterans, there would be no opportunity to enjoy the freedoms available today in this great country. Contact your Squadron Commander or Public Affairs Officer for information on ceremonies near you.

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## Celebrate CAP's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Each year on Dec. 1, Civil Air Patrol celebrates its anniversary on that date. However, in 2006, CAP will commemorate its 65th anniversary all year long through gatherings of national significance and locally focused events. The theme of the 65th anniversary is "A legacy of service ... Poised for the future."

The celebration provides a unique opportunity to elevate public awareness of CAP with potential benefits. It provides increased visibility for your CAP squadron and will help foster community support and goodwill for CAP as a whole. It is critical for a nonprofit organization performing a public service to have community support and acceptance if it is to thrive. By exposing the public to CAP's grand history, its vital public service mission and your squadron's activities, you foster public support.

The increased publicity and visibility surrounding CAP's 65th anniversary can be a golden opportunity for new member recruitment. New members and new ideas are the lifeblood of a volunteer, nonprofit organization. The increased visibility and public awareness can generate alternative sources of funding for local squadrons. Individuals, businesses and corporations are more likely to support organizations with which they are familiar.

See the **65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Guide** at <http://flwg.us/65thAnniversaryPlanningGuide-Sep2006.pdf>

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## Two Members Complete Highest FEMA Classes

**By: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Gail Swanson**

Chaplain (Capt) Larry Wade of Tyndall Composite Squadron and 1st Lt Gene Floyd of Tallahassee Composite Squadron recently completed the highest Incident Command System (ICS) classes available through Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). FEMA teaches ICS in 6 distinct classes, four of which are taken online. Many are familiar with the first class; the second half of the Civil Air Patrol General Emergency Services test is virtually identical to the FEMA "Introduction to Incident Command" online course final exam.



Lt Floyd was invited to attend the classroom classes after inquiring about educational opportunities for volunteer disaster and SAR workers. He received permission to inform other Civil Air Patrol volunteers of this training event. Chaplain Wade needed to finish ICS400 and the invitation was extended to him as well. Recognizing the difficulty of obtaining such rare invitations, Chaplain Wade and Lt Floyd both dove at the opportunity.

With this level of education, Lt Floyd and Chaplain Wade are now considered qualified by FEMA to potentially have lead roles within a major incident mission base. They both plan to use this training to bring more ICS training opportunities to Civil Air Patrol volunteers.

See the full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=405>

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## Recruiting and Retention In FL Wing

**By: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Heidi Varsames, FL Wing Director of Recruiting and Retention**

As I write this, our current combined Officer and Cadet membership is 3,997. We are just 3 members short of 4000! The goal of The Florida Wing is to assist you to attract members to squadrons and groups and also to enhance the CAP learning experience and growth opportunities for existing members. Gator Capers is a wonderful tool to share recruiting and retention ideas with you; some of which will be taken from our National Website. These electronic means of communications open the CAP knowledge base to all of our members, especially our new members, and thereby enhance the CAP experience.

Squadron Greeters make prospective members feel welcome: nothing beats a big smile, a hand shake and an introduction coupled with a hearty welcome. Information is power, and being able to hand the prospective member literature, a calendar of events and access to our electronic means of communication on the web are critical to a positive first impression. Mentors are the best way we have to make the new membership experience most fruitful. Commanders, give some solid thought to whom you appoint as a mentor – someone who will be compatible, will stay in touch and assist the member to become acclimated to the squadron and the larger organization.

Responsibility for continuing to build our volunteer engine in the Florida Wing requires a commitment from all of us—from individual members to the Squadron, Group and the Wing levels. We need members in order to accomplish our CAP Mission goals and objectives to serve our Missions for America.

At times we are taking on more than three hundred new members per month, and that is a credit to your individual efforts and our programs for recruiting. We unfortunately lose many members for a variety of reasons. We want to abate and address this fall-out by making an active effort to track the progress of members from the time they join. We need to ensure that they are finding their way through the progression of Level One to promotion to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt, choosing their specialty track and getting certified.

Each member should feel that his or her talents are being utilized and that they are fulfilled in their roles. Open communication with the mentor and the squadron commander is essential to optimize the new member's initial experience and longevity within the organization.

To that end, stay tuned for recruiting and retention ideas that will help us to maintain our successful and vibrant Florida Wing. Please keep up the great recruiting work, and thank you for your attention to retaining the current membership.

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## Photography Skills Class

On Saturday, January 20th, Col David Moseley, FL Wing Photography Editor, will be conducting a photography class hosted by Lake City Cadet Squadron in Lake City. The class is a one-day class and will last approximately 6 to 8 hours. The focus will be on digital photography and geared towards public affairs, but the class will be open to all CAP members. There is no fee for the class, but lunch may be purchased. If you would like to attend, send an e-mail with your name, rank (including cadet or officer) and squadron to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Mark Sweitzer, Group 2 Public Affairs Officer, at <mailto:msweitzercap@hotmail.com>. Space is limited and registration may be closed.



## CAP Training Captures Alligator Festival Crowd

By: *Capt Rick Peters, Lake City Cadet Squadron Commander*



*Cadet McGinnis directs aircraft traffic as Instructor Lt. Kong and Cadet Duemmel watch.*

and at night, Canine Search Team Scenarios, Radio Communication Exercises and even an overnight search and rescue mission for a downed aircraft (with an all girl team).

Civil Air Patrol also manned a Recruiting Booth along with several interactive Aerospace Education activities for the public, such as an aircraft landing flight simulator and a simulation of trying to work with nuts & bolts in outer space. Several Cadets were also treated to tours of the Timco Aviation Maintenance Facility and the Trauma One Air Ambulance Helicopter.

Yet with all of this activity, the Cadets maintained focus on their original goal of assisting the organizers of the Alligator Festival. These activities ranged from parking and attendance counts to providing crowd control during the skirmishes.

When asked how the weekend went, Cadet Senior Airman Yavonne McGinnis, of the Jacksonville Composite Squadron, replied "I thought that the activity was one of the best I've been to and enjoyed it a lot!"

See additional article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=419&category=>

Ninety-five Civil Air Patrol members from North Florida, Central Florida, and South Georgia came together for a weekend of community service, public relations, flight activities, field training, fellowship and FUN! Attendees came from as far away as Deland, Daytona, Ocala, Gainesville, Madison, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach and Valdosta, GA. Participants consisted of 55 cadets, 19 adults, 13 parent volunteers, and 8 pilots.

This was the first event of its kind for the Lake City Cadet Squadron. Planning for this event began as a community service project to assist the organizers of the Alligator Festival. However, with the Festival being held at the Lake City Community College and its close proximity to the Lake City Municipal Airport and the Osceola National Forest, Cadet Commander Lt. Matthew Peters had a vision that would encompass multiple training opportunities while still meeting the needs of the Festival organizers.

Cadet Peters' vision was to break tradition and pack several activities into a 3-day weekend rather than just focusing on one area of training. Thanks to proper planning, good communication and teamwork, the weekend was quite successful. Some of the activities accomplished include... 34 "Front-Seat" Cadet Orientation Flights with 4 planes, Flight-Line Marshalling, Multiple Lost Child / Missing Persons Search Scenarios, Land Navigation Courses in daylight



*Cadet Miller points out the direction of the new compass heading as Cadet Duemmel plots a new azimuth. Cadet Johnston looks on awaiting orders.*

## North Florida Ranger School – First Session

By: *1<sup>st</sup> Lt Eileen Tonkinson, Editor Gator CAPers and 1st Lt Gene Floyd, North FL Ranger*

The first session of the North Florida Ranger School will be held 12 Jan through 15 Jan, 2007 at the Fort McGee Ranger Training Area in Woodville, Florida. This school is patterned after the Pennsylvania Wing Hawk Mountain Ranger Program, and Maj Herb Cahalen, the Hawk Mountain Commander, and members of his team provided counseling and instruction to the Florida team led by Capt Randall Cason.



The school is conducted in the wilderness without electricity and modern conveniences. The rewards from participating in the school are countless and last a lifetime. The experience and lessons learned include search and rescue, disaster mitigation and relief, medical operations, and personal awareness and assurance. Opportunities are available for officers as well as cadets.

The next school is being planned for April. For more information, see <http://www.flrangers.com> or contact 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Gene Floyd, Project Officer of North FL Ranger School, (850)284-3677

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## Cadet Earns Silver Medal of Valor

**By: Lt Col BILLY WESTCOTT, Commander Group III HQ, FL Wing**

At the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting, Cadet Michael Daggett of North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron was honored by the National Commander and awarded CAP's Silver Medal of Valor. This decoration is the highest and most prestigious award any of our members could receive. It is awarded to those members whom have acted in "distinguished and conspicuous heroic action, at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of normal duty."

In November 2003, Cadet Daggett risked his own life to save that of another. He witnessed a vehicle drive off of I-75. The vehicle struck a pole and then burst into flames thus threatening the life of the adult occupant. Turning to the values and skills he learned in CAP, and without hesitation, Cadet Daggett immediately called Florida Highway Patrol with the exact location of the accident, grabbed the first aid kit and ran toward the burning vehicle. He moved the victim to a safe distance from the scene. When FHP arrived Cadet Daggett identified himself as a member of CAP and offered to further assist by directing traffic. While the victim was treated by other emergency responders, Cadet Daggett calmed the other witnesses of the accident. It is because of his heroic actions that Cadet Daggett has been recognized.

See the full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=426&category=>.

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## Cadet Awards

The following cadets have earned an award May through August 2006:

### **Gen Ira A Eaker Award**

Daniel P. Daley  
Charles F. Rivenbark  
Stephanie M. Ruiz

### **Amelia Earhart Award**

Troy A. Odierno  
Alex J. Sage

### **Gen Billy Mitchell Award**

Adrian Amadiz  
Julian L. Branch  
Christian A. Chung  
Paul A. Crutchfield  
Christopher Curtis  
Lawrence Drucker  
Daniel J. Farrell  
Brandon C. Flood

### **Gen Billy Mitchell Award, cont.**

Robert Geier  
David S. Glidden II  
Ross Kaplan  
Humberto J. Leon  
Michael E. McClure  
Benjamin H. Newell  
Michael A. Thompson  
Sara Umana

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## Officer Awards

The following officers have earned an award May through August 2006:

### **Gill Robb Wilson Award**

Maj Manuel A. Alfaro  
Maj Deborah L. Grimes  
Maj David J. Sweeney

### **Paul E Garber Award**

Lt Col Arnold F. Glauser  
Maj Raymond A. Meyers  
Maj William R. Rogerson

### **Grover Loening Award**

Capt David I. DeGiacomo  
Lt Col Arnold F. Glauser  
Capt Ralph Kugel  
Capt Dennis M. Lecik  
Maj George R. McCord  
Maj Linda J. Pugsley  
Capt Bruce S. Sage

### **Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Award**

Capt David I. DeGiacomo  
1st Lt Mitchell J. Drucker  
Lt Col George E. Erkes  
Capt Danny W. Erwin  
Lt Col Arnold F. Glauser  
Capt Brooks F. Jones  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt David A. Typinski

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## In Memoriam

The Florida Wing pays respect to the following members and former members who have passed away:

**Lt. Col. Jaime Rojas**  
Headquarters Group 7

**Cadet Christopher P. Westfield**  
Lantana Cadet Squadron

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## Cadet Receives Congressional Award Gold Medal

Cadet Master Sergeant Matt Danza of the North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Squadron has received the Congressional Award Gold Medal, the highest award Congress can bestow on youth. Over the course of three years at Land O'Lakes High School, he has volunteered 400 hours, learned to fly airplanes and gliders and has become a Cadet Master Sergeant with the Civil Air Patrol.

***Congratulations, Cadet Danza!!!***

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## Cadets Assist in 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force Change of Command

***By: Capt Robin Estes Maanao, Commander of Tyndall Panama Composite Squadron***

It was a historic day, 1 Nov 06, for the Tyndall Panama Composite Squadron, when it received one of its highest recognitions to assist the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force with the change of command ceremony at Tyndall Air Force Base, where Maj Gen Henry Morrow succeeded Maj Gen M. Scott Mayes. Ten selected cadets, accompanied by their cadet commander and squadron commander, were proud to be on hand to distribute the change of command programs as well as to meet and greet dignitaries.

The cadets witnessed firsthand the inspection of the troops by Maj Gen Mayes, retiring commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force and commander of the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region. Words of wisdom were also heard from Adm Timothy J. Keating and Gen Ronald E. Keys during special presentations to Mayes. Topping the day's event for the squadron was Mayes' personal presentation of a prestigious 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force medallion to each CAP cadet and the squadron commander..

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## Drug Demand Reduction Poster Contest

The theme for the poster must be one of the following:

- Aerospace Education and Drug Awareness
- CAP: Fighting the War on Drugs
- CAP: Making a Difference in Drug Prevention
- Community Service in Drug Prevention
- Partnering with USAF and DDR

There are two designated winners. Winners will receive an expense paid trip to the 2007 National Board, 9-12 August 2007, in Atlanta where the winning posters will be part of the DDR exhibit. The winners' poster will be published as one of the CAP-DDR posters in October 2007. The winner's picture, name and unit information will be on the poster when it's produced.

Submit the poster in any format, including computer generated. The final poster size will be 11 x 17 inches. The cadet's full name, unit number, home address, phone number, and date of birth, must be included with the submission as well as the theme of the poster. *ALL WORK SUBMITTED MUST BE 100% ORIGINAL.*

Send posters via regular mail, postmarked no later than 31 Jan 07, to: CAP/NHQ, ATTN: DDR, 105 S. Hansell Street, Maxwell AFB, AL 36112, or electronically, no later than 11:59PM (Central Time), 31 Jan 07, to <mailto:ddr@capnhq.gov>. Winners will be announced approximately 2 April 2007. Decision of the judges is final.



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## Air Education Training Command Familiarization Course MS

***By: Maj Margarita Mesones-Mori, Director of FL Wing Cadet Programs***

The Air Education Training Command Familiarization Course MS is a National Cadet Activity to be held at Columbus AFB, MS on 7-14 July and 14-21 July 2007. Columbus trains USAF pilots in a 52 week program. This activity will put you through simulated pilot training in one week. Cadets will simulate many of the training events that a real USAF student goes through. Aerospace physiology, aircraft system classes, memorization of emergency procedures, and simulators. One day is devoted to reporting with a USAF pilot training flight where you will be quizzed on emergency procedure memory items and then shadow a UPT student for part of a day.

AETCCFC is also supported by CAP Senior Members. During the week these Senior Members will act as your flight Element Leaders or assist in other support positions for approx 7-10 cadets. Very similar to TAC's at an encampment.

For more information about the program go to <http://www.suptfc.com>

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## Cadet Competition a Success

*By: Maj Margarita Mesones-Mori, FL Wing Director of Cadet Programs*

Thanks to all that participated in the Cadet Competition the weekend of 17 Nov at Patrick Air Force Base. There were 12 Color Guards, 2 Drill Teams and 7 Alternates who participated. Everyone did an outstanding job in all areas, and all teams and staff provided assistance toward the success of the event.

Please congratulate the winners of each competition:

- **FLWG Drill Team Competition 1st Place: Group 9 Drill Team**
- **FLWG Color Guard Competition 1st Place: South Brevard Cadet Squadron Color Guard**
- **FLWG Alternate Competition 1st Place: Cadet Kevin Siggins**

Wish them their best as they represent Florida Wing at the South East Region Competition!

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## CAP "A Hit" at NASA Open House

*By: FO Matthew Congrove, Public Affairs Officer, Central Brevard Senior Squadron*

Although the flight line included a NASA UH-1 Huey, a Gulfstream II Shuttle Training Aircraft, and two T-38 Talons, most attendees of the NASA Open House were surrounding a Civil Air Patrol Cessna 172. The all-day event, which is an annual gathering, allows NASA employees and their family members to tour parts of the Kennedy Space Center that are normally inaccessible.

CAP 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Terry Andrews, who landed the Cessna at the SLF earlier in the day, was shocked at the response from the crowd. "The turnout was absolutely remarkable," he said. "We had to have at least 300 kids in the seats of the aircraft through the course of the day, and at times there were 30 in line waiting for their turn." The reaction of the attendees was a bit overwhelming at times, especially around the lunch hour. "I couldn't deal with the thought of having one kid miss his or her chance to sit in the cockpit," said Andrews.

The NASA employees at the Shuttle Landing Facility gave the aircrew the royal treatment, including flight crew credentials, a courtesy car, and the chance of a lifetime. "Just before we were about to pack up and head back to Merritt Island, we took a moment to thank the SLF employees for all of their help during the day," said Captain Rob Horning, Pilot-in-Command of the CAP aircraft for the day. "While we were inside saying our goodbyes, we had the pleasure of bumping into a few of NASA's finest." Four astronauts, including space veterans Colonel Pamela Melroy and Doctor Michael Gernhardt, were preparing



for their trip back to Houston in the T-38s parked on the ramp.

A request was put in to the SLF Tower and Cape Control for a short sight-seeing tour, which was granted, allowing the flight crew a rare glimpse of Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station from the air. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Terry Andrews, Captain Rob Horning and Flight Officer Matthew Congrove were all able to log a take-off or landing at the SLF, a rare and prized experience among pilots around the world. Captain Gary Dahlke, NASA employee and Commander of the Ti-Co Composite Squadron, was also on hand to assist with recruiting.

*Photo: (L to R) Flight Officer Matthew Congrove, Captain Rob Horning, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Terry Andrews, USAF Colonel Pamela Melroy, Doctor Michael Gernhardt, and Captain Gary Dahlke pose in front of a CAP Cessna 172.*

See the full article at <http://www.flwg.us/database/database/news.asp?action=print&article=427&category=>

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## CAP Member Relief Fund

The Bradenton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post is managing a relief fund dedicated to Civil Air Patrol members and their families. There are several members who are faced with major financial losses due to illness or other unfortunate circumstances beyond their control. A committee will be formed consisting of both CAP members and VFW members to review each request for assistance. Donations to the fund are voluntary and are tax deductible. The VFW will not charge any administrative fees nor keep any of the donations. Anyone interested in making a donation, please make the check payable to VFW #10141. Put "**CAP FUND**" in the check memo box to insure it goes to the correct account, and mail it to VFW Post 10141, 420 67th Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209 Attn: Commander. Your cancelled check will be your receipt for tax purposes.

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## Help Support the Troops

*By: Chaplain Lt Col Dewey Painter, FL Wing Chaplain*

Supporting the troops is a responsible act of every citizen of the USA. Your opinion of the troops being there does not matter, they are still our troops. They are our sons and daughters of America. They are your loved ones, friends, family of friends or loved ones of friends, they are our GIs and deserve our moral support.

You can help support the troops in the follow ways:

1. If you know someone deployed who needs more than your personal support, then send their military name and address to us. If you have an email address, you may ask them to contact us directly so we can verify their address and get permission to send packages.
2. Your unit can adopt a unit. Contact us, and we will assign a unit and give you details.
3. Network with Mission Harvest America (MHA), our corporate network partner for Deployed Military Support Program (DMSP). They will prepare packages, address them and put the customs forms on the boxes for delivery to your unit to mail. You can pick them in up in Jacksonville, or if you are requesting quantities of 100 or more, they will deliver them to your unit. You take the boxes to the post office and mail them at \$8.10 per box.
4. Sponsor mailing of boxes with a tax deductible donation to MHA. The suggested donation is \$10 per box to cover postage and packing costs. Mail your donations to MHA, 69 Copeland Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204. If you want telephone a credit card donation, call MHA at 904-356-9006 ext 95.

Whatever method you use, please support the troops. Our goal is to send 1000 packages by Christmas with a cutoff of December 15th. Group Three is doing 150, how many can you do?

To help, contact either Maj David Crockwell, Moral Leadership Officer, at <mailto:dcrockwell@comcast.net>, or Chaplain Lt Col Dewey Painter at [Mailto:DPainter@flwg.us](mailto:DPainter@flwg.us).

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## Safety Update

*By: Maj Bill Woody, FL Wing Director of Safety*

The November issue of *The Sentinel*, CAP's Official Safety Newsletter, is available at <http://level2.cap.gov/visitors/programs/safety/newsletters/2006/>. It's the first one published under the direction of Col John Titon, CAP National Safety Officer. Pilots, check out "Self Medicated Flying". It brings up some issues and asks some questions. Good stuff to talk about and add to our personal check list.

Safe driving is an integral part of almost all of our CAP operations. Ground transportation is potentially the most dangerous thing we engage in. The "Leading Cause of Death" article points out that vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death in America for people age 4 to 34. This deserves our attention and action.

What do you think about the summary of recent CAPF 78s? Trends are important to study for accident prevention. Notice two out of the four reports are about ground aircraft mishaps. Putting our birds away should not mean damaging them. We need to work on and reverse this trend. Florida wing has had a few incidents like these in the recent past.

Pilots, I know many of you are already registered on FAA SPANS, but if you're not, go online and register. You will be notified by email when FAA Safety Seminars and Wings Programs are available in your area. The FAA paper notifications are history. See the article on page 3.

"Holiday Safety" and "Safety in the New Fiscal Year" round out this issue. I hope you'll read all of *The Sentinel* for November. Seems to me it's getting better and better. You can help spread Safety by sending your ideas through the CAPSAFE Program.



***Safety means reducing the risk...in everything we do.***

# Bloodborne Pathogens

*By: Sergio B. Seoane, M.D., Florida Wing Medical Officer*

Bloodborne Pathogens are micro-organisms in the bloodstream. These micro-organisms cause diseases such as hepatitis, syphilis, malaria, and human immunodeficiency virus. The three most significant blood borne pathogens are: HBV - Hepatitis-B virus, HCV - Hepatitis-C virus and HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

To transmit bloodborne pathogens you must make contact with contaminated fluids and permit them a way to enter your body. Body fluids carrying these viruses include:

- Blood
- Internal body fluids, and other body fluids tinged with blood
- Sexual fluids (except for Hepatitis-C which has not been consistently found in these fluids)
- Unfixed tissue or organs, such as blood transfusions, artificial insemination; organ transplants, bone marrow transplants, or stem cell transplants
- Placenta transmission - mother to child during pregnancy and birth and breast milk

Bloodborne pathogens may enter your body in various ways. Although each virus is different, they generally enter the body through similar methods.

- Direct blood inoculation – placenta, transfusion, blood products
- Accidental injury which pierces, punctures or cuts your skin
- Non-sterile technique when **tattooing, body piercing**, sharing injections
- Open cuts, nicks, and skin abrasions, even dermatitis and **acne**
- Mucous membranes i.e., mouth, eyes (contact lenses), nose
- Sexual intercourse (oral, vaginal, anal)
- Indirect transmission - touching something that is contaminated and then touching an opening in your skin

Some Bloodborne pathogens are able to survive outside the body for a considerable amount of time. HIV - can survive only a short time outside the body, HBV - can survive up to a week outside the body at room temperature and HCV - can survive for an unknown period of time.

Because of our emergency services and disaster services missions, CAP personnel are potentially exposed to bloodborne pathogens, and First Aid responders are often exposed to blood. When you arrive at a scene, you need to ask the following question: Is there blood or other potentially infectious materials present? Examples include cuts or abrasions; nosebleeds; amniotic fluid; syringe or diabetic blood testing equipment; blood or body fluid spill; dried blood on a surface; bloody waste material in a garbage can, i.e. broken glass.

Universal Precautions is the term used when handling all blood or other potentially infectious material as if it were, in fact, infectious. Since there is no way you can know if an injured person is infected, you should in **ALL** cases use the following universal precautions when exposed to body fluids of another person:

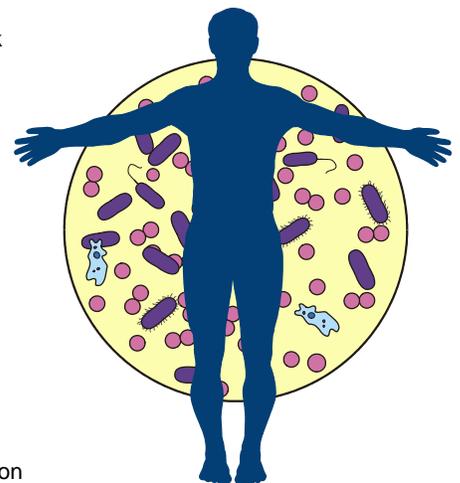
- Wash your hands
- Wear gloves (wash hands after glove removal; discard gloves immediately; remove gloves by grasping the cuff and turning glove inside out so as to contain contamination within).
- Wear impervious apron when splashing is possible
- Wear mask and eye protection and discard immediately after completion of task
- Handle sharp objects carefully and dispose properly
- Dispose of all spills properly

If you come in contact with blood do the following immediately.

- Wash needlesticks and cuts with soap and water
- Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water
- Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigants
- Report the Exposure

Hand washing is the **single** most important means of preventing the spread of infection.

- Wash hands with soap and running water and rinse hands under running water
- Dry hands well with paper towel and use a paper towel to turn off faucet
- Use waterless soap and/or wipes when soap & water are not available
- When disposing of single use towels, treat them as biohazards
- Launder & disinfect cloth towels
- Apply hand cream after frequent washing to prevent skin breakdown and infection



There is no scientific evidence that using antiseptics or squeezing the wound will reduce the risk of transmission of a bloodborne pathogen. Using a caustic agent such as bleach is not recommended.

You are individuals who have chosen to serve others without compensation and often without recognition. You donate your time, money and energy to assist those who need help. Please, before doing anything else, protect yourself first...so you can continue to serve others in the selfless way our members always have.

## Calendar

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

- 1 Dec 06 CAP's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Begins
- 1-3 Dec 06 Florida Wing Model and Water Bottle Rocketry Competition and Aerospace Education Forum
- 1-3 Dec 06 Puerto Rico Wing Conference
- 26-31 Dec 06 SE Region Cadet Leadership School, Tullahoma, TN
- 28 Dec 06 - 4 Jan 07 SE Region Winter Encampment, Ft Benning, GA
- 12-15 Jan 07 North FL Ranger School, Ft McGee, Woodville, FL
- 13-15 Jan 07 FL Wing Compliance Inspection
- 20 Jan 07 Photography Class, Lake City, FL
- 18-20 May 07 FL Wing Conference, Orlando, FL

### 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>
- Safety - 10<sup>th</sup>
- Officer 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>

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Please send comments about the newsletter and requests to be added to the distribution list to the Editor at <mailto:GatorCAPers@flwg.us>. Please submit articles and information for publication in the newsletter to <mailto:MClancy@flwg.us> or submit them to your Public Affairs Officer.

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