FLORIDA FACTS

Florida Wing News Magazine | Summer 2001 Volume 6 Issue 2

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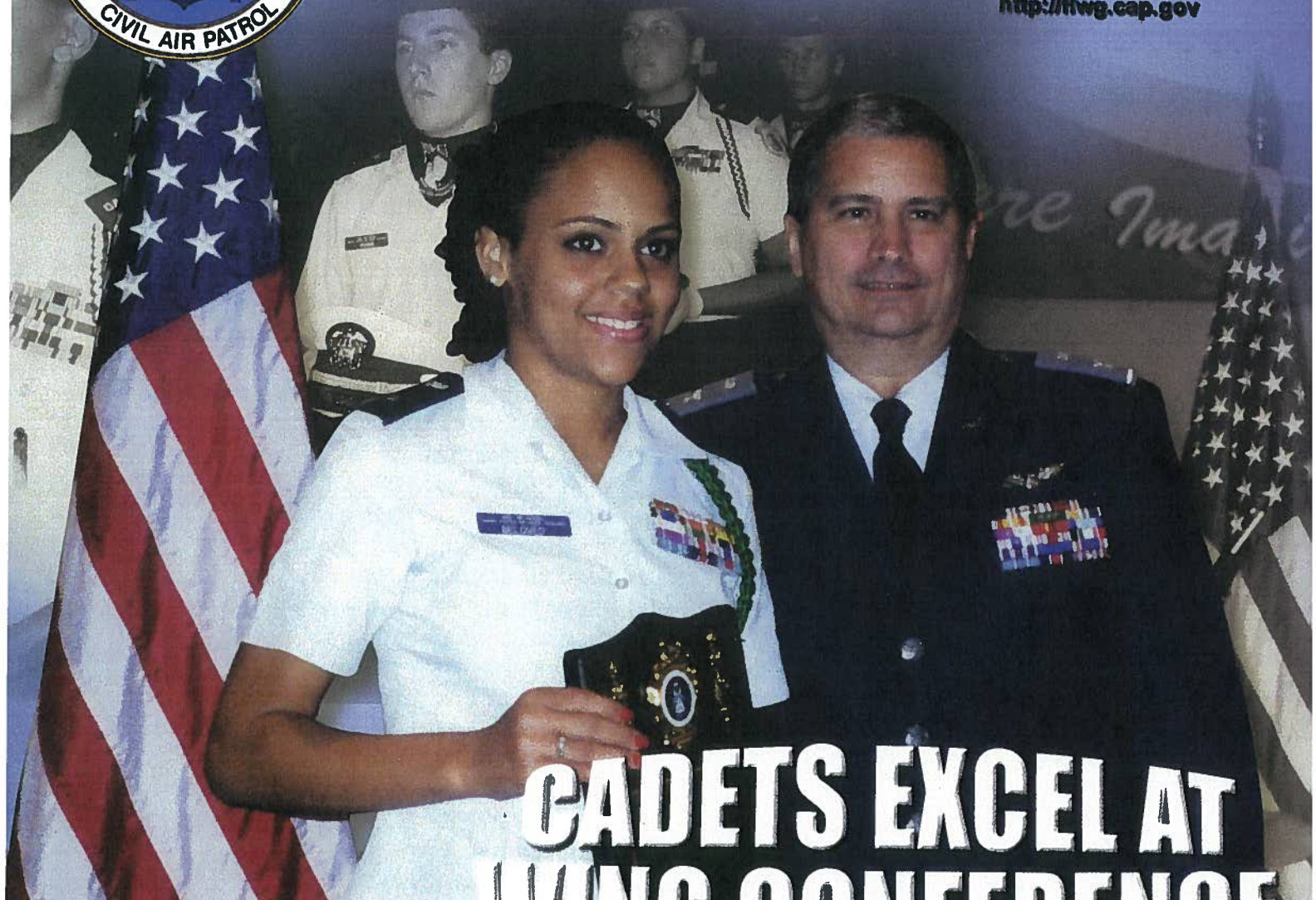

CADETS EXCEL AT WING CONFERENCE

Our Proud Yesterdays

"60 year review - part one"

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

I am still elated by the largest turnout ever for a wing conference which included a significant number of cadets and new members. They are the future of CAP and our wing's future looks particularly bright. I am indebted to Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Matt Sharkey; Vice Chief of Staff, Major Eileen Parker; Finance Officer, Major Bill Ferguson; and Capt. Sharon Taylor for their more than three man/years of planning and arrangements.

COL. ANTONIO PINEDA
Florida Wing Commander

I am doubly elated by the positive recommendations suggested during my Town Hall Meeting. I didn't have to 'field' a single negative question, comment or report. I believe this is a direct result of my pledged goal to improve communications and information flow. The scope and depth of information and recognition of member and unit accomplishments is now maximized with this new FLORIDA FACTS magazine.

Our upgraded and expanded air fleet is another significant achievement. We have added several newer planes, standardized cockpit environments and upgraded communications equipment, several aircraft are equipped with video capability, and more than 75 percent of our aircraft have met each of the quarterly objectives for the past fiscal year. We owe enormous thanks to our aircraft custodians, transport and mission pilots, maintenance personnel and the cooperation of National Headquarters. Our Florida Wing aircraft fleet now exceeds one million dollars in asset value.

We are already well prepared to implement the newly released Emergency Services Regulations. Our mission curriculum, workshops and training instructors have substantially elevated our emergency response capabilities. Our wing continues to respond to an average of one mission every day/night of the year. No other state exceeds our search and rescue response tempo.

Our eight Groups now encompass manageable areas with an improved level of service and oversight and are functioning with excellent leadership command. Let's all welcome and support Lt. Col. Bruce Smith who has accepted command of Group Six and Maj. Joseph Martin Jr., the new commander of Group Seven.

Those who attended the wing conference in Orlando will readily recognize why it will remain one of the highlights of my command. We were honored with the presence of Civil Air Patrol dignitaries from National Headquarters and the Southeast Region Command, representatives from the U.S. Air Force, and State Representative Jim Kallenger, who I was particularly honored to officially welcome as a new member of CAP. Our cadet Color Guard, cadet POW/MIA Team and the Academic Bowl Competition were outstanding and made everyone very proud.

The most rewarding part of the conference is the opportunity it provides for me to recognize the many individuals and units that serve so faithfully. Prime examples of extraordinary service are the Incident Command staff for the 14 day Search and Rescue mission for a missing aircraft in the Winter Haven area, coordinators for huge events like Sun 'n' Fun in Lakeland and AirFest at MacDill Air Force Base, and the Alerting Officers and Incident Commanders who are on emergency standby 24 hours a day/ 7 days per week. In addition are the commanders of the groups and the squadrons who accept leadership responsibilities that allow us to function and thrive as an organization. We must always remember, that without them there would be no Civil Air Patrol. These awards are one of the ways we say, "Thank you for an outstanding job."

To all the members, without hesitation, I say that you are the finest group of individuals in any volunteer organization. I am pleased to serve as your commander and am honored to serve with you in the performance of our missions.

Florida Wing Officers
Commander
Col. Antonio Pineda

Vice-Commander
Lt. Col. Joseph Martin

Chief of Staff
Lt. Col. Mathew Sharkey

Vice Chief of Staff
Maj. Eileen Parker

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

The Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor/publisher and are not necessarily those of either the Civil Air Patrol or the Florida Wing.

All letters and/or articles submitted are the opinions expressed by the author and are not necessarily those of the editor/publisher.

Deadlines for submission are 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 December. Materials submitted are to be sent to:
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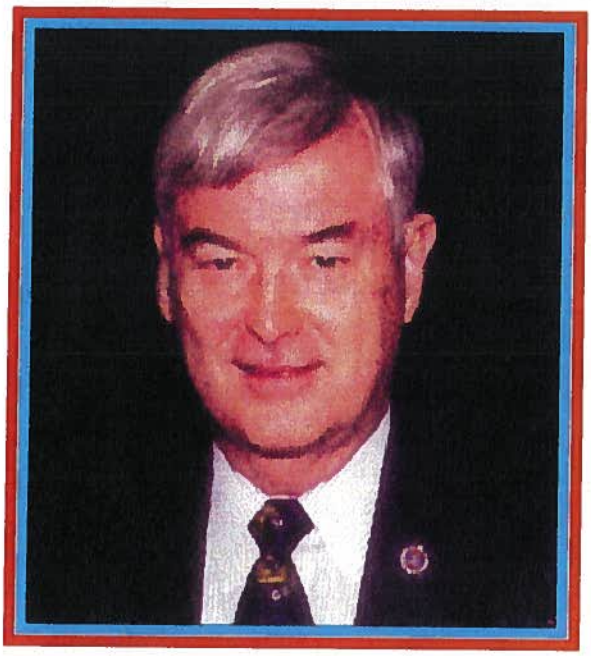


NICHOLAS B. KEHOE
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, USAF (Ret)

Colonel (CAP) Tony Pineda
Commander, Florida Wing
2700 Eagle Staff Court
MacDill AFB, FL 33621-5208

Dear Tony

I just finished reading the Spring edition of "Florida Facts" and would like to commend you and the wing for the wealth of activities you are involved in for your State, the Nation, and America's Air Force. I would also like to commend your "Florida Facts" staff for a top-notch publication. It's great to see so many dedicated, high caliber people doing so much to make a difference. We reap huge dividends on the investment in time and effort by these American patriots and I know that will continue for years to come.

On behalf of the Civil Air Patrol Board of Governors, I extend our heartfelt appreciation for the great work you all are doing...keep it up! Florida, our Air Force and the Nation are depending on you!

Sincerely,
[signed]
NICHOLAS B. KEHOE
Lieutenant General, USAF (Ret)
Chairman
CAP Board of Governors

PROP WASH

LEAVING PILOTS BEHIND! The battlefield of the future may rely on unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAV's. The Predator, one of the promising prototypes of the UAV's will soon be tested in the Nevada desert. An unmanned aircraft, the size of a Cessna, will fire a missile at a tank, launching the Air Force into a future in which some of the most dangerous missions could be carried out by robots. Such drones could knock out enemy air defenses without endangering U.S. pilots - and could prevent situations such as the recent diplomatic breach over the U.S. aircrew that force landed in China.

Cadet Antonio Barroso was proudly presented the Spaatz award by Col. Tony Pineda. This award is the highest that a cadet may earn...and the most difficult to achieve. Florida Wing Commander Pineda stated, " Soon to be leaving the cadet ranks and to becoming a senior member of CAP, Cadet Barroso makes Florida Wing extremely proud."

The **TICO Composite Squadron** recently conducted a change of command. C/2Lt Justin Westerman accepted command as the new Cadet Commander. Retiring Cadet Commander, C/2 Lt Tony Pinto said, "Westerman's selection was based on his achievements and leadership abilities. He will make a good Cadet Commander and will continue a long line of outstanding cadet leaders."

Capt. Robert S. Ward, PAO

A day long set aside for orientation flights was intruded upon by fog and an Emergency Services mission. The **Tallahassee Composite Squadron** had to wait out the lifting of the morning fog before they could begin their heavy schedule of orientation flights. While making his approach to land after completing a flight, one of the pilots received a request from the Panama City Airport Tower operator to check out an Emergency Locator Transmitter alarm signal in their area. The signal source was quickly located to be at a marina and on return to base, the pilot did an overflight of Tyndall Air Force Base. The cadets all commented that their flight was excellent and the pilots were thanked for a most productive day.

Capt. Kevin Vislocky, Operations Officer

Florida's Civil Air Patrol was honored when Jack Howell, Department Chair for Military Science and Aviation at Jean Ribault Senior High School in Jacksonville was inducted, as one of five, into the Crown Circle for Aerospace Education Leadership and was named Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year. CAP National Commander Brig. Gen. James Bobick expressed, "Civil Air Patrol is proud to continue recognizing educators for their crowning achievements. These educators join some of the brightest and best teachers in the history of aerospace education."

Charlotte M. Crowe
CAP NHQ

Columbia Composite Sq. in Columbia, South Carolina read about our Group Six POW/MIA Team in the "CAP *NEWS*" and requested information, assistance and guidance for establishing a similar team in their Group. Capt. Diane Reid, Wing Director of Personnel sent them all the information they requested. Subsequently, an invitation was extended to our POW/MIA Team to visit the South Carolina Wing as honored guests. Florida Wing Vice Commander Joseph Martin expressed pleasure with this type of interactive relationship. He said, "I would hope this wing-to-wing interaction would expand in many other activity areas as well. There is a valuable mutual benefit to be derived."

With hurricane season upon us, the American Red Cross is making available Disaster Resistant Neighborhood Leaders Kits. E-mail your request to <tallaha@crossnet.org>

SQUADRON CLIPS

Seven U. S. flags were flown over our nation's Capitol Building in honor of seven **SRQ Composite Squadron** cadets that achieved their General Billy Mitchell Awards. 1 Lt. Deb Merrick contacted the office of Congressman Dan Miller and requested a letter of congratulations be written to each cadet for reaching the level of cadet officer in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program. The congressman took the idea one step further and had a flag flown over the Capitol in honor of each cadet. The flags were presented with a certificate and a letter of congratulations from Congressman Miller.

2 Lt. Patrick O'Key, Public Affairs Officer

Photo by Lt. Col. Herb Miller

Group 6 Commander Lt. Col. Bruce Smith [r.] presents the **Boca Raton Composite Squadron** colors to the newly appointed Squadron Commander 1 Lt. William Morden [l.] as C/MSgt. Bill Morden snaps a shot. Lt. Morden and C/MSgt Morden transferred to Boca from the 169th Composite Squadron in Manchester, Connecticut.

DeLand Composite Squadron conducted a frontal assault with no air cover on the DeLand Skate Center. The Skate Party was organized by Cadet/TSgt. Kissam. Nearly every attending cadet brought a prospective member. Though the "IceCapades" troupe has little to worry about, a great time was had by all, in spite of the many falls. The party was a great way to recruit new members.

Capt. David Younce, Commander

Six **Patrick Composite Squadron** cadets and five senior members experienced the joy of soaring. They were able to fly the glider under the guidance of CAP Glider Orientation Pilots from the **Gainesville Composite Squadron,** led by Capt. Russell Blaser. A total of 12 flights were completed and Capt. Blaser said, "The Patrick cadets conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. Their conduct reflects great credit upon themselves, their squadron and the Civil Air Patrol. We look forward to flying with them again." The aerospace education costs for the glider flying were donated by the Air Force Association. Group 4 receives regular donations from the AFA for the furtherance of aerospace education.

Capt. Melissa Campion, Commander

The **Hernando County Composite Squadron** visited the $7 million Florida Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility #2. CAP members were given a tour of the new operations, maintenance and hangar facilities and the 10 acre

tarmac. ANG Chief Warrant II James Mills explained they have two missions. The federal mission is "go to war" where carrying troops, equipment and supplies is their task. The state mission is assisting the Department of Forestry with fire suppression. Each of the eight UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters carries huge Bambi buckets that hold 780 gallons of water. Seeing first hand the army life and operations brought aerospace education closer to reality for each of the cadets.

WING CONFERENCE IS BIGGEST AND BEST EVER.

Is this the same headline that appeared in FLORIDA FACTS in June of 2000? It sure is and it is repeated verbatim because it is totally applicable. Last June 3, the closing day of wing conference 2000, Col. Pineda announced that planning for the Florida Wing Conference 2001 had already begun. Lt. Col. Matt Sharkey, Chief of Staff; Major Eileen Parker, Vice Chief of Staff; Major Bill Ferguson, Finance Officer; and Sharon Taylor, Administrative Assistant had only 369 days remaining to the opening of the conference at the Grosvenor Hotel in Orlando....and they needed every single day.

The achieving of a successful statewide conference is not by happenstance! It requires the completion of hundreds of tasks such as setting a date, selecting a location and negotiating rates with a hotel, menu selection, requesting nominations for awards, selection of guest speakers, determining honored guests list, selecting guest speakers, publicizing the event, design of web page and layout for notice in FLORIDA FACTS, transmitting e-mail announcements, determining seminar sessions/presenters and rooms assignment, setting reservations procedure, printing and mailing invitations to guests, printing of place cards and assignment of table seating, assembling audio/ video/power point equipment for seminars, design and print program, design and order banner, set seating for head table, design and purchase decorations, obtain attendees conference kits/gifts/ door prizes, print tickets and ID tags, arrange for sign-in personnel, work out logistics with hotel banquet managers, arrange for color guard and POW/MIA team, arrange and schedule displays, order trophies and plaques, print award certificates, orchestrate banquet and speeches, purchase flowers for dignitaries wives, arrange hospitality suites, program Commander's Town Meeting, coordinate religious services, confirm adequacy of parking facilities, coordinate communication equipment installation and operation personnel, conduct dry-run for photo ops, select master of ceremonies/ introducer of awards, schedule award presenters, and then address all the hundreds of unanticipated problems and needs that emerge. That's what makes for a great conference. Was this one great? Well it was attended by nearly 475 members and guests. Seminar/workshop rooms were all filled to capacity and there were twenty-one that were conducted.

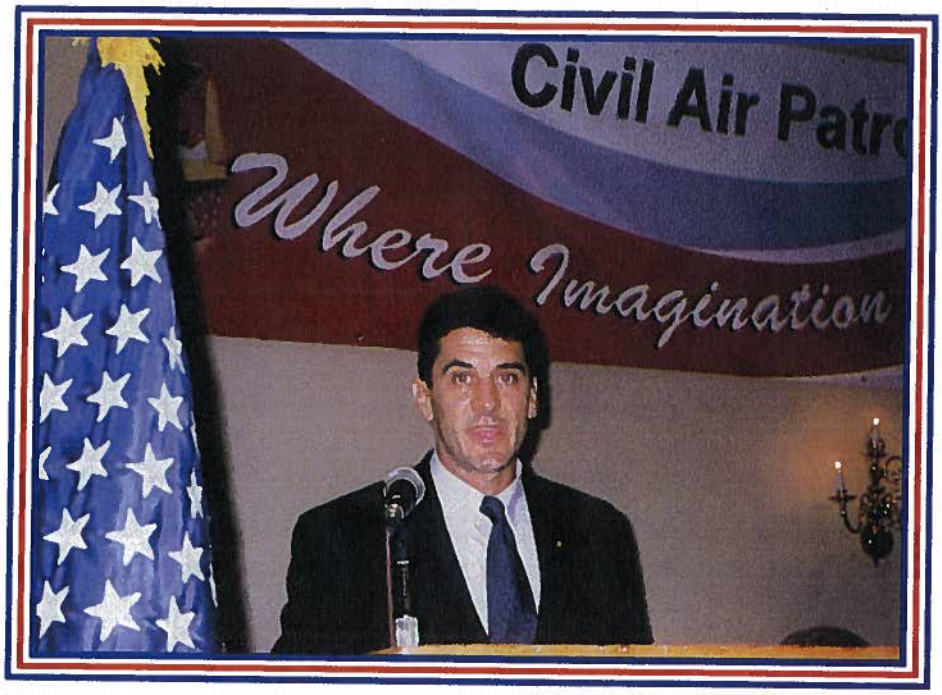
Major Bud Bonar and 1st Lt. Sharon Freeburg, Group Six Staff commented, " One of the best of ten conferences attended. The Emergency Services Seminar was outstanding, materials received were great, and explanations of how we operate, why on-time responses are imperative, and the needs of other units were made crystal clear. Oh yes, the banquet was also outstanding."

C/Airmen Daniel Perez and Leonard Gibbois, Cadet David Rudolfo and Cadet/ SSgt Quintos of the Southridge Cadet Squadron agreed that the conference was terrific. "We met lots of new friends, learned a lot, learned how to make rockets and are glad we came."

Member Terry Inglesias, Hernando County Composite Squadron said, "This was the best of all. Location and hotel were great, learned a lot at the Professional Development and Aerospace Education workshops, but we need more workshops for cadets. Can't hardly wait for the next conference...wouldn't miss it."

STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND CAP MEMBER MAJOR JIM KALLINGER ADDRESSES CONFERENCE

Representative Jim Kallinger addressed the General Assembly on Saturday morning. He expressed his admiration for the very noticeable qualities of leadership and character that he sees in CAP. He emphasized that a sign of a great leader is one who leads, not by command, but by example and character. He encouraged the cadets to continue to serve those in need-leading brother and sister to right choices and friends in the right direction. Representative Kallinger concluded with an assurance to the cadets that if they continue on their course, they will succeed.



Gen.Morrell's Remarks Elicit A Standing Ovation

Maj.Gen.Jimmey R. Morrell, (RET)

Major General Jimmey Morrell was the Guest Speaker at the Conference Grand Banquet.

Gen. Morrell flew more than 100 combat missions in Vietnam and served as Wing Intelligence Officer in the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam.

Following assignments with the Strategic Air Command and as Minuteman Missile Crew Commander, he moved to Washington, D.C. to serve in Space Systems, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and moved up to deputy for national security affairs.

He then transferred to the White House and served as an adviser on national security space programs. Prior to retirement he was the commander of the 9th Space Division, Patrick Air Force Base.

General Morrell emphasized what a great leadership opportunity the Civil Air Patrol represents. He stated that early in his career he learned that an opportunity is never missed, it's simply taken by someone else.

He stressed the opportunity that cadets have in the Civil Air Patrol to learn how to be a good leader. "Leadership is the most satisfying experience in the world. CAP is the place to learn how to be a great leader. You cadets restore my faith in America's youth."

" You senior members also amaze me. You not only train and educate the cadets but you serve as examples for them to follow. As volunteers you provide an invaluable service to our nation. I am proud to have joined with you this evening. I am proud to have been your invited speaker and I am proud to have served my nation as a member of the United States Air Force."

"Never has the relationship of Civil Air Patrol with the Congress, United States Air Force, members and nation ever been better than it is today."

National Commander, Brig. Gen. James C. Bobick

The Florida Wing Conference 2001 unofficially began on 3 June 2000 and after 368 days, it officially opened at the Grosvenor Hotel in Disney "Magic Kingdom" World in Orlando on June 8, 2001. Nearly 475 members and guests were guided by Major Paul Blystone's conference base radio to the hotel where they were greeted at a huge registration table topped by a 30 foot banner. Each registrant received a Conference Kit filled with 'goodies' and the most extensive conference program ever printed.

Friday night kicked off with old friends meeting and new friendships created.The dam of CAP camaraderie and feeling of CAP family truly overflowed. Social interaction with National Commander, Brig. Gen. Jim Bobick; National Deputy Commander, Col. Richard Bowling; Southeast Region Commander, Col. Joseph Meighan Jr.; USAF/CAP Liaison Officer, Col. Jerry Angley; Florida Wing Commander, Col. Tony Pineda; Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Joseph Martin and most wing directors continued long after the Disney Park fireworks ended.

The General Assembly on Saturday morning was greeted by Col. Pineda who announced that this was the largest crowd ever to attend a wing conference. He was particularly gratified with the number of cadets at the conference. He emphasized that the future of CAP is principally dependant on the youth in our organization.

Major Jim Kallinger, newly elected to the State House of Representatives addressed the assembly followed by Gen. Bobick with spirited comments. He assured the membership and guests that "Never has the relationship of CAP with the Congress, US Air Force, members and the nation ever been better than it is today." He stated that CAP is and will remain to be the finest senior and youth organization in the nation. "Teamwork, Caring, Respect is the key to your success," he continued. "Reach for the stars. Never fear failure. Those who never fail, don't do anything."

Col. Pineda expressed his gratitude to all the members of the wing "You are the finest group of dedicated professional volunteers. You have performed as a great team and I have been proud to serve as your commander. It's your efforts that have made this the best wing in the nation."

The Saturday evening Banquet and Awards Presentation was called to order and the colors were presented by the Lantana/Lake Worth Cadet Squadron. The soul stirring and emotional POW/MIA ceremony was presented by the Group Six team and as always there wasn't a dry eye in the banquet hall. Stimulating remarks were offered by Guest Speaker USAF Major General Jimmey Morrell [Ret]. He emphasized that the CAP Mission is a vital support to the overall mission of the United States Air Force. His stirring words received a well deserved standing ovation.

Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Matt Sharkey distinguished himself by graphically describing the achievements of each recipient of an award. Gen Bobick, Col. Meighan and Col. Pineda assisted in the awards presentation.

The evening concluded with the closing POW/MIA ceremony and the retirement of the colors to the playing of Taps and military hymns.

The Wing Commander's Town Hall Meeting was conducted to a packed auditorium. All questions asked by the assemblage were answered specifically and completely by Col. Pineda. It was gratifying to note the number of questions asked and suggestions offered by the cadet contingent.

Following a 'coffee and' break the group reassembled and member recognition awards were presented. Lt. Col. Chester Blucher was recognized as the longest serving member. He joined CAP in 1943 and has accrued 58 years of continuous service.

Once again, Col. Pineda closed the conference with the announcement that the 2002 conference will be in Daytona Beach and the Conference Committee is already operational.

PHOTO MAT

C/Lt. Col. Draupadi Beloved receives the Cadet Member of the Year 2000 plaque. This adds to her Mitchell Award, Wing Commander's Recognition and two Commander's Commendations.

Southeast Region Commander, Col. Joseph Meighan, Jr. presents the Exceptional Service Award to Florida Wing Commander, Col. Antonio Pineda at the wing's Annual Conference.

Florida Wing Finance Officer, Captain William Ferguson is promoted to the rank of Major following his receiving an Exceptional Service Award.

Florida Wing Personnel Officer, 1st Lt. Diane Reid receives Exceptional Service Award and promotion to the rank of Captain. Col Meighan and Col. Pineda change her shoulder epaulets.

Florida Wing Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Mathew Sharkey receives the Florida Wing Commander's Exceptional Service Award.

Col. Pineda presents a Commendation Plaque to Lt. Col. S. Buddy Harris for his services as Editor/Publisher of FLORIDA FACTS and a token of appreciation to his wife, Phyllis for her assistance.

WING'S WORDS OF WISDOM

All personnel are reminded that CAPR 62-2 {E}, Para 5 requires that in the event of a mishap, you must make immediate voice contact with at least one of the following Florida Wing contacts:

Wing Commander
Col. Antonio Pineda

Wing Safety Officer
Lt. Col. David Fuller

Wing Legal Officer
Rafael A. Robles

Wing Headquarters South
Administrative Assistant

USAF Liaison Officer
Col. Jerry Angley

National Safety Officer
Lt. Col. Gary Woodsmall

Southeast Region Commander
Col. Joseph C. Meighan Jr.

SER Safety Officer
Major Lyle Letteer

CAP National Operations Center
24 hours per day/ 7 days per week
888-211-1812 [toll free].

Remember, voice contact is an imperative. Voice mail, tape messages, messages received by non-authorized personnel do not fulfill the requirement of this regulation.

To assure that requests for promotion are processed without delay, be certain that the applicant has completed the Level I/ CPPT Training. A CAP member can not be promoted without it. Further, it is vital to the process that the CPPT Trainer/Instructor transmits the CAPF 11 to National Headquarters. The form can be faxed directly to National Headquarters via 334-953-7771.

Capt. Ray Hayden
Director, Professional Development

The Tallahassee repeater is installed and operational on 143.900/148.150 tone 100 Hz as well as a discreet tone on 141.300. This installation will be an inclusion of our Wing Repeater Plan. Any member passing through the Tallahassee area should try to make contact on this new repeater.

Major Paul Blystone
Director, Communications

In association with the Air Force Surgeon General, Florida CAP is actively implementing the Drug Demand Reduction Program under the direction of Lt. Col. David Mikelson.
The mission is to build a substance abuse free community. The CAP program is designed to reduce the potential for illicit/ illegal drug use by Air Force military members, DoD civilians, family members, retirees, school-age children, and Civil Air Patrol members.
The comprehensive education program promotes CAP as a positive community service lifestyle; encourages youth to remain in school; focuses on drug abuse education, prevention and awareness; and provides positive activities as an alternative to drugs and gang violence.
In response to a recent essay writing contest, 66 cadets have been awarded scholarships to attend the 2001 Summer Encampment at Camp Blanding. Just one of many worthy excerpts from these essays stated, " The best high I get is from knowledge and friendship. Drugs couldn't come close to equaling this experience."

WHAT IS A LEADER?

One who creates confidence, not fear.
One who shows how, not just knows how.
One who breeds enthusiasm, not resentment
One who makes work interesting, not drudgery.
One who says "We" and not "I".
One who relies on cooperation, not authority.
One who fixes mistakes, not blame.
One who leads, not drives.
One who has mental alertness.
One who has a high level of abstract thought.
One who supplies professional knowledge.
One who communicates well.
One who has the ultimate goal to get the job done.
One who has a good reputation.
One who has respect.
One who has awareness.
One who has direction.
One who has structure.
One who is sincere and approachable.

C/Lt. Col. Brian J. Aguila

CADET CAP'ERS

Florida Wing currently has 1,564 cadets in 61 Cadet Squadrons and Composite Squadrons. More than 40% have completed Orientation Flights in either the front seat or the back seat of a CAP airplane or glider. 174 cadets have attended either a summer or winter encampment and 189 have earned a Radio Operator's Authorization or an Emergency Services mission authorization.

Lt. Col. Robert Masiker
Wing Director, Cadet Programs

The 2001 National High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps [JROTC] Drill Team Championship Competition was held at the Daytona Beach High School. Drill teams from 42 states competed as did groups from as far away as Japan and Hawaii. Forest High School, Ocala, took five awards, as follows:

First Place-Best Drill Team Commander John Helms
First Place-Regulation Drill
Fifth Place-Exhibition Drill
Second Place-Uniform Inspection
Second Place-Best Overall in the Nation

CAP C/Ltc. John Helms is the Forest Hills H.S. JROTC Commander; CAP C/Cpt Heather Day and CAP C/Sgt Brad Ohmstead are members of the Forest Hills High School JROTC Drill Team. C/Cpt Heather Day is also currently the Cadet Commander of the **Marion County Composite Squadron** and C/Sgt Brad Ohmstead is also in charge of squadron training of the Drill Team and Color Guard.

Major Larry Wilson

Lake Composite Squadron's cadets sent a shiver up an old soldier's spine during the recent Memorial Day. In a surprise visit to a nursing home rehabilitation unit, the hallways echoed to the sound of the cadet's boots marching though the building.

Heads popped out of doorways, mouths dropped open, looks of wonder and wide smiles followed the cadets as they marched smartly through the facility with Cadet Lt. Mike Bodner calling out cadence.

Unprepared for the visit, a former Paisley VFW Commander whisked down the hallway in his wheelchair and as he rounded a corner, he came to a surprised stop as he stared at the line of blue uniforms. His face broadcast the confusion of emotions he was experiencing when the cadets halted right in front of him.

Captain Meshalko struggled mightily to get out of his wheelchair, sweat popping out on his face from an effort that almost proved too much for him. Assisted by the CAP Commander and the Activities Director of the nursing home, Captain Meshalko got up on his swollen feet, straightened his back and, with a faltering effort, brought his right hand up to sharply salute the young cadets.

"Preeesennnnt ARMS!" commanded Cadet 1st Lt. Michael Bodner and the cadets sharply went to present arms as Bodner and another cadet began a rifle routine of spinning their weapons in unison. Meshalko was speechless, held his salute, then sagged back into his chair.

"You have been at every Memorial Day Service since anybody can remember. We figured since you can't come to it anymore, we would bring it to you," announced CAP Lt. Col. Mosely.

The hallway filled with residents and employees and at the conclusion of the rifle drill, handshakes were exchanged with the young cadets - some of whom were the same age as Capt. Meshalko when he was a young rifleman in the U.S. Army during W.W.II - one age looking at another.

In response to command, the cadets re-formed, and the squadron marched out of the facility accompanied by one proud W.W.II veteran who, following slowly in his wheelchair, stared wistfully as the sight and sound of the marching feet slowly faded away...and tears quietly rolled down his cheeks while his lips broke into a happy smile.

Lt. Col. David Moseley
Commander

FLORIDA WING WELCOMES NEW DEPUTY COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Joseph M. Martin was introduced as the new Deputy Commander of the Florida Wing by Col. Tony Pineda, wing commander, to the nearly 500 members and guests attending the wing's annual conference.

Lt. Col Martin has been a member of the CAP since 1980 and has served many squadron positions including Commander as well as many Group positions including Commander and Inspector General. He has actively participated in the Cadet Special Activities Selection Board and as wing Cadet Programs Development Officer.

Twenty-eight awards and ribbons have been earned by "Joe" Martin and most ribbons have silver stars or bronze clasps. He is also CD mission certified and has earned his Observer's Wings. Lt. Col Martin is a graduate of Squadron Leadership School, Corporate Learning Course, Southeast Region Staff College, Squadron Management School, and Florida Wing Staff School. He also has served as a staff officer at the Florida Wing Encampment Cadet Command and Staff School.

In his private profession. Lt. Col. Martin is a Right-of-Way Administrator for the Florida Department of Transportation in Miami.

FLORIDA WING'S SENIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR TO BE NAMED NATIONAL CAP'S SENIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The esteemed honor of being named the Florida Wing Senior Member of the Year was bestowed upon Lt. Col. David L. Mikelson at the Florida Wing Conference recently held in Orlando. This high honor will now be surpassed by his being named the National Senior Member of the Year at the upcoming National Board meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Col. Robert Brooks', National Headquarters CAP Executive Director, letter reads, "I am happy to inform you of your selection as the 2001 Civil Air Patrol Senior Member of the Year." Mikelson will similarly be honored by the Air Force Association.

Lt. Col. Mikelson's numerous achievements and positions held were responsible for his having been singled out from nearly 45,000 senior members nation-wide.

Lt. Col. Mikelson has served as Squadron Commander, Group Commander, Wing Chief of Staff, and currently is Administrator of the Drug Demand Reduction Program in Florida. He has organized and obtained charters for new squadrons, served as a Mission Coordinator of more than 100 missions, and earned a Search and Rescue "Find" Ribbon.

Lt. Col. Mikelson attended the USAF Officer Candidate School, Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces-National Defense Management Course. He also attended the Weapons Employment Course for Allied Officers with Brig. Gen. William Cass. As former President of South West Florida College and Fire Commissioner of Marco Island, Dave was instrumental in keeping CAP in the forefront with the elected officials.

{Editor's Note: I am very proud to have served as the Chief of Staff of the Marco Island Senior Squadron when LTC. David Mikelson was the Commander]

MISSION MEMOS

MISSING AIRCRAFT ALERT RECEIVES QUICK RESPONSE

The phone rings, an aircraft is missing, and Florida Wing CAP is on a Search and Rescue Mission.

A Cessna 150 pilot had radioed Daytona Beach Air Traffic Control that he was experiencing engine problems and needed a close airport. In frantic communication, the pilot of N590AM could only tell the tower controller that he was south of St. Augustine Airport. The controller attempted to relay vectors to the aircraft that would result in a safe landing when all radio communications were lost.

The following is the mission log:

1841 {6:41 p.m. local time}-Mission Opens

1848 - Air Force Rescue Coordination Center {AFRCC} briefing is completed.

1849-Capt. John Bayne assumes Incident Command duties.

1850-Nextel Direct Connect to Major Frank Haas requesting local alert and opening of Daytona Mission Base.

1852-Capt. Maher and Central Florida aircrew alerted via Nextel Direct Connect. Hasty sortie briefed and tasked as 1-1.

1854-Capt Chip Maher alerts Orlando Area Ground Teams.

1857-1Lt. Loretta Bayne assumes role as Finance/Administration Section Chief. She begins documentation and logs.

1905-1Lt Heather Taracka of DeLand Composite Squadron is contacted and agrees to assume position of Planning Section Chief. Lt. Taracka is briefed and a preliminary Incident Action Plan is assembled and tasking is given to the Planning Section.

1910-Capt. Mike Goblet opens Daytona Beach Composite Squadron and CAP radios are on-line. Capt. Goblet is assigned as Logistics Section Chief. Food and lodging plans for mission personnel are completed.

1913-Daytona Beach Squadron personnel alerted and enroute to mission base.

1915- Major Frank Haas mobilized as Operations Section Chief. Search of aircraft registrations via Internet is completed.

1922-CAP Flight 840 launches with crew of Capt. Nick Spencer and Capt. Chip Maher for route/electronic search between St. Augustine and Daytona Beach.

1930 Orlando Squadron's Ground Teams enroute to search area under command of 1Lt. Marshall Naquin. Lt. Col. Mike Brown alerted by Nex- tel Direct Connect to serve as Ground Branch Director.

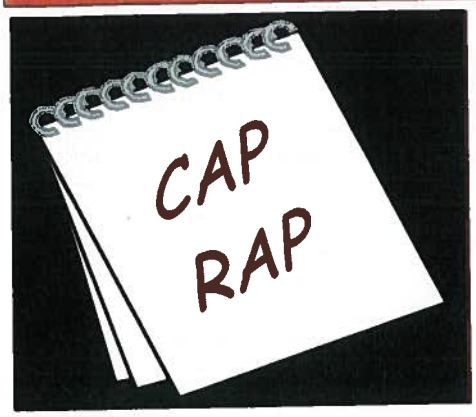
1938-Lt. Col. Brown alerts personnel from local Group 2 units and tasks ramp searches of area airports beginning with St. Augustine.

1945-AFRCC contacts Incident Commander Capt. Bayne and informs him that the missing pilot has been located in Georgia and identification has been confirmed by Macon Flight Service. All CAP units are advised to stand down and return to base.

Another prime example of quick and complete Emergency Services response by highly trained professional volunteers.

REMINDER TO ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL

A mission **cannot be closed** with the Air Force unless information required on CAP Form 122 is reported to the AFRCC by the Incident Commander. As soon as all mission personnel are safely home, the IC must file a CAPF 122 with AFRCC by telephone. If any information is missing, the mission cannot be closed. All personnel-air crews and ground teams-should be thoroughly familiar with the Form 122 and answers to each question should be available and immediately provided to the Incident Commander when debriefing is completed. If your aircraft doesn't have a Hobbs Meter merely take your tach time and multiply it by 1.2.



Command of the Tallahassee Composite Squadron has transferred from Capt. Christie Mathision to Lt. Col. Richard Thornburg. Capt. Mathision is moving up to Deputy Commander of Group One.

Amendments to the CAP Constitution and Bylaws will be presented to the National Board at its annual meeting in August.

An Administrator of Philanthropy and Endowment has begun working at CAP/NHQ. George Freeman was responsible for raising $200 million for Auburn University during his eight years in development. In accepting the position he stated, "The Civil Air Patrol enjoys a distinguished history and reputation for excellence as it celebrates 60 years of service to the United States. I am most honored to have the opportunity to become a part of such an organization... The next several years will be challenging and rewarding as we develop the infrastructure and agenda necessary to have an effective program." We in Florida can expect a call from Mr. Freeman as he will undoubtedly want to meet with one of us prior to his composing a Strategic Development Plan.

Ch. Lt. Col. Robert Hicks of the Florida Air National Guard has been selected as the Civil Air Patrol's first Executive Administrator of the Chaplain Service. He has over thirty years of ministry experience and 22 years of Air Guard Chaplain service. He has nine books in print and the tenth in the works. Lt.Col. Hicks is an active private pilot and he will report to work at CAP HQ on 1 September. He will attend the CAP annual conference in August to meet with our chaplains and national leadership.

The Civil Air Patrol web site has been selected as a "Best Bet" on the USA TODAY Education Web site from June 26 to July 1. Each week the USA TODAY Education online staff selects three "Best Bet" sites they feel would be of educational value to their audience of subscribers and guests. These sites are listed on the USA TODAY Education Home Page with a brief description and a link to the site. Fewer than 150 sites are selected each year as "BEST BETS" . Be sure to let your community know of this honor and provide them with the address of our CAP Web site.

Lt. Howard Stoker, Commander of the Seminole Cadet Squadron was selected as the "Squadron Commander of the Year for Florida Wing". Additionally, his squadron was recognized as the "Cadet Squadron of Merit for Florida Wing". This double honor makes all the members of Group Four extremely proud since the efforts of the Seminole Cadet Squadron certainly contributed to Group Four being selected as "Florida Wing Group of the Year." These honors were presented by Florida Wing Commander Tony Pineda to the honorees at the Florida Wing Annual Conference.

Lt. Col. Bruce Smith accepted command of Group Six from retiring Major Gary Owen at a "Change of Command" ceremony officiated over by Florida Wing Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Joseph Martin. The transition was attended by all Group Six staff officers, squadron commanders and members of their staff and members of the Cadet Advisory Council. Following the ceremony at the Lantana Airport CAP HQ building, refreshments were served to guests and attendees.

Public Affairs Officer 2nd Lt. Richard Gerhardt, reported that Florida Wing Director of Operations, Lt. Col. David Lehtonen was the inducting officer at the Change of Command for Central Brevard Senior Squadron, Unit 122. Capt. Harold O'Dell proudly accepted the turn-over of command from Capt. Bryan Brotheridge.

From The MAILBAG

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

In the 50 years plus that I have been in the Civil Air Patrol this is the first Wing publication I would call outstanding. If all of CAP was at this quality level there would be no second place.

Lt. Col. N. Brittingham

• • • •

Saying "thank you" just doesn't seem good enough to express how we feel about your wonderful generosity, at the Challenge Air's Fourth Annual "Fly Day".Fifteen pilots flew 125 specially challenged children and their families for a total of 272 passengers. The help your 64 senior and cadet members of Group 6 provided enabled the special kids of Challenge Air to enjoy the fantastic freedom of flight that many only dream about.

Lonna Harris, Executive Director
Theron K. Wright, Chief Pilot

• • • • •

Thank you Florida Wing for a tremendous "Florida Facts".

Lt. Col. Lynn Puglise

• • • • •

Thank you so much for renewing our issues of Florida Facts. I did not realize how much we missed it until I read this one.

Capt. Deborah Merrick

• • • • •

The FLORIDA FACTS magazine is first class.

Lt. Col. Charles D. Svoboda

• • • • •

Congratulations to Editor Harris and his staff for an outstanding publication that's as good as any high priced, commercial magazine. It should win the Publication of the Year Award hands down for a Civil Air Patrol Wing publication. It is professionally done by dedicated volunteers and it is hard to comprehend the amount of time that must have been required to produce this issue.

Lt. Col. Howard Gelbman

• • • •

...it's an impressive, most informative publication and kudos to all who did the fine work.

Major George A. Abrams

• • • •

I couldn't believe the FLORIDA FACTS was the same publication. It was a real pleasure to read. You did a great job putting this issue together.

1 Lt. Ron Gordon

• • • •

A GREAT job done by all.....

Capt. Ray Spengler

• • • •

Excellent publication. Florida Wing should be proud to share our full color publication with anyone. This elevates us to the top. I am proud to submit and read articles about my squadron in the Florida Facts.

1 Lt. Patrick O'Key, SRQ Squadron

• • • •

Just got my FLORIDA FACTS. WOW!!

Lt. Col. Kay Cunningham

• • • •

Florida Facts couldn't have been more professional than this last issue.

Maj. Paul Blystone

• • • •

I received my copy of FLORIDA FACTS yesterday. Congratulations on a GREAT issue. You've been doing phenomenal work with FLORIDA FACTS. Keep up the great work!

Maj. Jan Ferguson

• • • •

It's an outstanding document. Congrats on a great job.

2 Lt. Bryan Ambrosio

• • • •

WOW! What a publication. Keep it up.

Capt. Bob Becka

• • • •

...enjoy reading FLORIDA FACTS. It's a very well done newsletter.

Capt. DeWayne Carver

• • • •

The Lantana Squadron Cadets, who appear on the front cover of the Spring Issue of FLORIDA FACTS, would like to have a few extra copies. They are very proud.

Capt. Gary Swigert

• • • •

I am a member of the Kansas Wing, but winter and try to take part in the Florida CAP activities in the winter months. Please continue to send me your wonderful newsletter.

Lt. Col. E. Blaine Schoolcraft

• • • •

Once again you have gone out of your way to provide Florida Wing with a premier newsletter! The current issue, in full color, is outstanding. I know it took a lot of time and effort. Thanks to the staff for their dedication and commitment to Civil Air Patrol and Florida Wing.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Ralph E. Rivers

HONORS and AWARDS

OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Senior Member of the Year-Ltc. David Mikelson
Cadet Member of the Year-C/Ltc. Draupadi Beloved
Outstanding Mission Coordinator-Maj. David Horowitz
Communicator of the Year-CH. William Cureton
Public Affairs Officer of the Year-ILt. Patrick O'Key
Safety Officer of the Year-Maj. Tom Inglima
Florida Wing Staff Officer of the Year:
Capt. Ray Hayden
Capt. Steve Drew
Chaplain of the Year-CH. Roy Snidow
Sedita Award-1Lt. Nancy Hart
Col. Bob Owens Leadership-C/Ltc. Draupadi Beloved
Phase III Cadet of the Year-Joshua Nemser
Commander's FLORIDA FACTS Plaque-Ltc. S. Buddy Harris
Token of Appreciation-Phyllis Harris
SER/FLWG Brewer-C/2Lt. Jared P. Baxley
SER/FLWG Brewer-Homestead Middle School
FLWG Brewer-1Lt Linda Trimpey

DISTINCTION AWARDS

Cadet Squadron of the Year-Coral Springs Cadet Sq.
Composite Squadron of the Year-Daytona Composite Sq.
Senior Squadron of the Year-Fernandina Senior Sq.
Group of the Year-Group Seven
Squadron Commander-Major Bill Brockman
Squadron Commander of Merit-Capt. Howard Stroker

MERIT AWARDS

Cadet Squadron of the Year-Pasco Cadet Sq.
Composite Squadron of the Yr-SRQ Composite Sq.
Senior Squadron of the Year-Pinellas Senior Sq.
Southeast Reg. Unit of Merit-Seminole Cadet Sq.
Group of the Year-Group Four
Group Commander of the Year-Maj. Bill Lynch
Most Improved Unit-Sweetwater Cadet Sq.
Outstanding ROTC Unit-Florida State University
Wing Academic Competition:
Winner-Lantana/Lake Worth Cadet Sq.
First Runner-up-Central Florida Composite Sq.
Second Runner-up-Miami Springs Optimist Sq.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Gill Robb Wilson-Ltc. Sally Fitzgerald, Ltc. Jay Jeffries, Maj. Jan Ferguson, Maj. Ed Wasserman
Certificate of Proficiency-1Lt. Vicki Myers
Mitchell Award-Cadet Enrique Mertins
Cadet Evin Safdia
Spaatz Award-Antonio Barroso
Memorial Aerospace-C/2Lt. Jared Baxley
Life Saving-Denise Lifkin

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Col. Antonio Pineda
Lt. Col. Mathew Sharkey
Major Bill Lynch
Captain Diane Reid
Lt. Col. Valerie Brown
Major Steve Bell
Lt. Col. Mike Brown
Lt. Col. Evelyn Holdren
Major Bill Ferguson
CH. Lt. Col. Ralph Rivers
Lt. Col. David Lehtonen
Lt. Col. Don Wood

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Ray Hayden
Ray Spengler
Steve Drew
Bill Morden
Dan Thompson
Russ Reichmann
Dave Mitchell

COMMANDER'S COMMENDATION

Al Ferraro
Bob Lynch
Bob Schultz
Norma Wendt
Christine Ferry
Gary Owen
Maragret Nulph
James Goblet
Deborah Esposito
Tiffany Knight
Donna Morris
Patricia Turner
Antonio Barroso
Robert Bayless
Aaron Gapasen
Frances Gloecker
John Moore
Armanda Morris
Marshall Naquin
Arnold Noorlander
Paul Siglock
Shane Turner
David Younce
Raymond Meyers

PHOTO MAT II

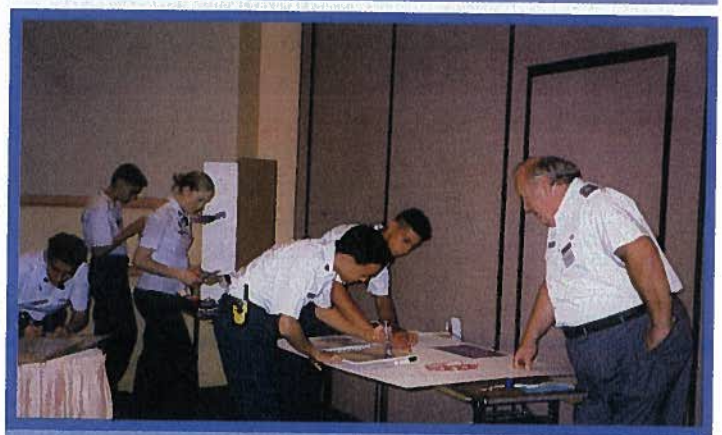
Presentation of the colors by the Lantana-Lake Worth Cadet Squadron at the opening of the Florida Wing Annual Conference.

POW/MIA Presentation by the Group Six Ceremonial Team was soul stirring and emotional. Hardly an eye was dry.

National Commander, Brig. Gen. James C. Bobick addresses the Florida Wing Conference General Assembly.

Florida Wing Aerospace Education Director, Major John Lynn shows Gen. Bobick his large scale model of a CAP Cessna 172 used for flight training and demonstration.

1st Lt. Robert Colbert operates PowerPoint presentation to the standing room only Communications Workshop audience instructed by Wing Communication Officer, Maj. Paul Blystone.



Lt. Col. David Mikelson overviews one of the the cadet team's design and production of a Drug Demand Reduction Poster as part of a Drug Demand Reduction Workshop.

E-MAIL EMISSIONS

There is a new web site specifically for cadets. It's chock full of various information that would be most beneficial to cadets of any rank. The address is http://www.cadetstuff.org/home.htm

Lt. Col. Matthew Sharkey,
Florida Wing Chief of Staff

Here's an opportunity for you to expand your knowledge base into areas that would be useful and of benefit in the fulfillment of your missions...and best of all it's FREE. The Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], Emergency Management Institute, National Emergency Training Center, 16825 South Seton Ave, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 offers an Independent Study Program at <http://www.fema.gov/emi/ishome.htm>. Students can register on-line and either view or download the course material or request a hard copy be mailed. Each of the courses can be completed over a few evenings. When finished the open-book completion quiz can be taken on-line or mailed back. If satisfactorily done, a completion certificate is mailed directly to you. The following courses are available and are recognized by local, state and federal emergency managers:

IS-1 Emergency Program Managers
IS-2 Emergency Preparedness, USA
IS-288 Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Mgt.
IS-324 Community Hurricane Preparedness
IS-275 EOC's Role in the Community
IS-120 Orientation to Community Disaster Exercises
IS-10 Animals in Disaster
IS-195 Basic Incident Command System
IS-5 Hazardous Materials: A Citizen's Orientation
IS-301 Radiological Emergency Response
There are many additional courses available than these listed.

Major David Younce
DeLand Composite Squadron, Group 4

Civil Air Patrol's National Headquarters has partnered with the publishers of *Who's Who Among American High School Students* to provide an outstanding opportunity for CAP's cadets. CAP cadets selected for inclusion by National Headquarters are eligible for additional college scholarships not available to other youth groups. Moreover, many of our CAP cadets have been able to proudly enhance their resumes and applications for college admission [as well as our national activities applications] by being selected into this outstanding publication.

Nominations for listing are submitted by National Headquarters and are followed up by a letter from *Who's Who*. Only high school students with a grade point average of "B" or better are considered.

For additional information, contact the Cadet Programs Directorate at CAP National Headquarters, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

The National Weather Association has begun a series of free interactive lessons called "Thunderstorms and Flying".

Florida Wing experiences the highest number of thunderstorm days of nearly any other part of the United States. Our air crews often fly in and around these storms and have a particular need to know as much as possible about thunderstorm characteristics to insure maximum safety of operation.

The National Weather Association offers a six week course that provides a solid understanding of such storms and their hazards. All aviators and others interested in learning more about thunderstorms should consider taking this on-line program. Information can be found at <http://avweb.com/n/?14a> This is the AVWeb site which contains the hyperlink to this on-line course.

Major Frank N. Haas
Aviation Safety Counselor,
FAA Orlando FSDO-15

Semper Vigilans and Florida Summers

Florida is one of the most active wings in the nation. We accomplish more in one month than some wings do in an entire year. Now that we have entered the summer months even more activities are planned. This is particularly true for our cadets. With school being out, summer is an ideal time for encampments, orientation flights and bivouacs. Summer in Florida also means hot, humid days and heat and humidity add certain risks to our activities, particularly if they are outdoors.

Col. Jerry Angley
USAF/CAP Liaison Officer

Dehydration is always a threat. Dehydration means the body is suffering from lack of water. Some of the initial symptoms include thirst, lack of energy, weak irregular heartbeat, and rapid breathing. Quite often we don't realize we are becoming dehydrated until it's too late. Don't wait until you become thirsty. Drink plenty of fluids. Water is your best source of fluid. Avoid drinks containing caffeine. Caffeine is a diuretic and can actually increase fluid loss. Stay hydrated. Your body will thank you for it.

Fatigue is another by-product of a hot, humid climate. The body tires faster under these conditions. As our muscles tire we become less coordinated and more prone to accidents. Be careful not to push yourself. Take frequent breaks and drink lots of water. As fatigue sets in our mental ability and judgement deteriorates which compounds the problem. We are unable to recognize the added risks associated with being physically exhausted or we simply choose to ignore them.

Hot, humid conditions generate more thunderstorms and thunderstorms pose another threat to summer activities. Encounters with thunderstorms can be deadly especially for aircraft. Most pilots treat thunderstorms with the utmost respect and avoid them altogether. This is the smartest thing to do. Thunderstorms can produce wind shear and turbulence severe enough to destroy any aircraft. Keep a safe distance. Your airplane and crew will thank you for it.

Thunderstorms also produce lightning and with Florida being the lightning capital of the world, we get more than our fair share.The best advice is to seek shelter. Don't stay outdoors during a thunderstorm. It's just not worth the risk.

Hot, humid conditions can also bring about changes in attitude. We feel that the faster we can finish the job, the faster we can get out of the heat. The pilot doesn't do a thorough pre-flight in order to get the airplane off the ground and into cooler air sooner. The driver doesn't take the time to inspect the van because it's too hot and it's more important to get the air conditioner going. This may be one way to beat the heat but it's also a sure way to get into trouble. The pilot may have missed the fact that the oil filler cap was not secure. The driver of the van did not know that the tread was starting to separate from the right rear tire.

The CAP motto "Semper Vigilans" or "Always Vigilant" has served us well for almost six decades It's more than a slogan from the past. Semper Vigilans is a great attitude when it comes to safety. Safety is something that needs constant attention. Be ever watchful. Don't let the lazy, hazy days of summer make you complacent.

FROM PULPIT TO PEN

LT. COL. RALPH E RIVERS
FLORIDA WING CHAPLAIN

The past two months have been very unusual for me and for my family. Personally, I moved to a new appointment. In my faith tradition, the United Methodist Church, ministers are assigned by the Bishop. The normal appointment is for one year with reappointment or a new appointment at the Annual Conference. My wife and I now live in North Ft. Myers. The folks have received us with excitement and I'm ready for the new opportunities and challenges.

In May, the Southeast Region Chaplain Service Staff College was held at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Florida Wing Chaplain Service personnel again were the largest number in attendance. I was proud of each Chaplain and Moral Leadership officer who took a week out of busy schedules to attend. The core seminar focused on Suicide Intervention. The seminars which the annual Staff College provides give training which is useful in the CAP environment, but also in other areas of professional life. Florida Wing is so fortunate to have so many of it's members willing to attend the various professional educational opportunities that Civil Air Patrol provides, including the Chaplain Service Staff College.

In June, the Florida Wing Conference convened in Orlando. By every measure of success, the conference was an excellent example of the growing professionalism and camaraderie of Florida Wing members. The conference staff did an excellent job of preparing the many details and making sure that things went smoothly. It was one of the finest conferences I have attended and look forward to the future of good information, good fellowship, and good food at Florida Wing Conferences.

There's a lot going on in Florida Wing. Hardly a day goes by when the e-mail does not carry an announcement of future educational opportunity, a department issuing directives, mission progress, and staffing requests for encampments or other training events.

The challenging good news is that everything gets done by the volunteers who make up Florida Wing CAP. These are the good guys and gals who invest their personal resources in CAP's missions: Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs and Emergency Services. I believe that is one of the best investments we will ever make. From what I've seen lately, we will continue to put our resources of time, money, and expertise on the line for our neighbors, communities, state, and nation. Why? Because a lot of us have decided that being part of CAP is an excellent way to be there when the need arises.

Take care and have a safe and pleasant summer.

NEWS FLASH

Former Cadet Commander David Weaver, Jr., of the McCoy Cadet Squadron and Chairman of the Group 6 Cadet Advisory Council has recently been commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Kudos for Command One [see "Command One Is Operational", pg. 25, FLORIDA FACTS, Spring Issue} are also due to Apollo Cadet Squadron cadets who sanded and stripped the original decals off the ambulance and taped the vehicle for priming and painting. Major Westcott is certainly deserving of thanks for persevering through the tedious processing procedure and obtaining the necessary approvals from the City of Tampa.

Thanks to all from Department of Defense, U. S. Air Force, CAP National Headquarters Staff, other wings throughout the nation, various government officials, government agency personnel, and the many members of Florida Wing who sent glowing remarks about the new FLORIDA FACTS magazine. Those that are excerpted on Page 25 were logged in prior to others received. All your comments made the enormous efforts of Capt. Dan Thompson, 1Lt. Bill Morden. Lt. Col. Valerie Brown, Lee Taylor and Lori Gotschall more than worth while.

At the CAP National Conference in August, Brig. Gen. James C. Bobick, CAP's National Commander, and Florida Wing Commander Col. Antonio Pineda will retire from their current duties. CAP Regulations, as presently adopted, establish limits to their terms of service.

The significant efforts and energies they contributed and the accomplishments they each attained make a mere 'thanks' wholly inadequate.

CAP's 60 year history supports the broadest recognition that this is the best volunteer organization in the nation. Gen. Bobick and Col. Pineda have significantly elevated CAP to where it is professionally able to better respond to our nation's needs in the 21st century.

Each year National Headquarters submits recommendations to the U. S. Air Force Academy for one cadet to attend the United States Air Force Academy's Preparatory School - a one year program valued at over $32,500. This attendance increases a student's potential for admission to the Academy and for successful completion of the Academy curriculum. Applications for consideration are submitted to CAP/CPR on CAP Form 95 and must be postmarked no later than 30 November of each year.

While most teens are looking forward to a summer vacation, a special group of young people will be taking care of serious business. One-hundred, sixty-eight Civil Air Patrol Cadets will vie for honors in academic, leadership, and physical fitness as part of the National Cadet Competition, at the U. S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Each of CAP's eight regions will sponsor teams to compete in two competitions...the National Drill and the National Color Guard Competitions. The Miami Springs Optimist Cadet Squadron has earned the right to represent Florida Wing in this year's Drill Competition. Col. Pineda expressed his best wishes and said, "I have the highest hopes that this team will bring home the first place award to Florida."

NEW SQUADRON JOINS FLORIDA WING- GROUP 8

Florida Wing has a new squadron in Group 8 - Northside Christian School Cadet Squadron. This is the first chartered private school squadron in the state. A school unit has certain advantages including convenient meeting once a month for Club Day, once a week for lunch, and after school twice a week for PT testing and color guard training.

The school has donated the library and the grounds including the track for squadron activities. For a new squadron, NCS has really been busy...two bivouacs, visit to Fantasy of Flight, Museum of Science and Industry for the simulation "Voyage to Mars", and Tampa Airport. The color guard has participated at a football game, in school, at a special patriotic church service, and at a Devil Rays' baseball game.

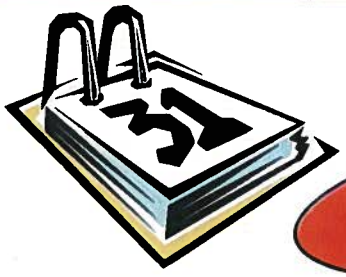
Capt. Carol Baker, Squadron Commander

Capt. Pam Guilford is the new Director of Cadet Programs in Group 4.

A Group Drill Team demonstration was recently held and Central Florida Composite Squadron performed superbly.

C/LTC Michael Tier, chairman of the Group 4 Cadet Advisory Council reports that all participants in the Aerospace Quiz Bowl did extremely well.

Group 6 cadets from seven squadrons visited Charleston, S.C. via a C-17 from Homestead AFB. Two vans from the S.C. Wing drove them to their hotel. The cadets toured the Yorktown Aircraft Carrier, a destroyer, a Coast Guard cutter and the Submarine Clamagore. The cadets also took a tour boat to Ft. Sumter, where the first shots rang out and the Civil War began. The trip was topped off by a visit to the South Carolina Sea Aquarium and the return flight on a C-17 Globemaster.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Submitted by Lt. Col. Matt Sharkey
Florida Wing Chief of Staff

4 July	INDEPENDENCE DAY
7-8 July	Commander's Course, SRQ Squadron
13-14 July	Blue Angels, Pensacola Beach
21 July	Florida Wing Headquarters Staff Meeting, FLWG South HQ.
4-5 August	Cadet Leaders Course
16-18 August	National Board Meeting, Cincinnati
1 September	FLORIDA FACTS deadline
15 September	Florida Wing Headquarters Staff meeting, MacDill AFB
15 September	Counter Drug Orientation
29-30 September	Wing-level Corporate Learning Course
12-14 October	Emergency Services Competition
20 October	Florida Wing Headquarters Staff meeting, MacDill AFB
26-28 October	Check Pilot's School
3-4 November	Blue Angels, Jacksonville Beach
3-4 November	Aerospace Education Workshop
9-10 November	Blue Angels, NAS Pensacola
8-10 November	AOPA Conference, Ft. Lauderdale
10-11 November	Thunderbirds, Daytona Beach
17 November	Florida Wing Headquarters Staff meeting, MacDill AFB
1 December	FLORIDA FACTS deadline
1-2 December	CAP Weekend
8-9 December	Incident Commander School
15 December	Florida Wing Headquarters Staff meeting, MacDill AFB

Note: Frequently check the Florida Wing Webpage for additions/modifications to the above schedule of events.

CAP'S FUTURE IS EXTREMELY BRIGHT

"I'm so disappointed that I can't join and be like you," were the words expressed to 1st Lt. Diane Reid when she completed a Career Week talk to the 4th graders at the Crestview Elementary School in Dade County. These 9 to 10 year old students intently listened and learned about the 60 year history of the Civil Air Patrol and the Cadet Program. Following the presentation, their teacher asked each student to write a thank you letter to Lt. Reid. The following are excerpts from a few:

"I want to be trained and save people and be a hero like you."

"I would like to be in the Civil Air Patrol when I get 12 or in the sixth grade, but not if I am still scared to go in the everglades with the wild life animals."

"I didn't hear all the things you talked about. I fell asleep but when I was up, I liked what you talked about."

"I like the uniform and I like the high heels and symbol in your hat."

"I think the man did not crash, I think he just stopped by an old friend's house to chit chat with him."

"I want to be a Civil Air Patrol and I'll call myself Lt. Reed."

"When I get twelve I am going to talk to you and get into Civil Air Patrol, because it sounds interesting to me."

"I learned about the big air force plane that could give all the other planes fuel by a hose."

"I would like to be a Civil Patrol but I would like to be a kid one."

"I want to look for missing people who fall in the water and sink."

"Thank you for telling us about the civil flying thing. When I get home I'm going to ask my mom."

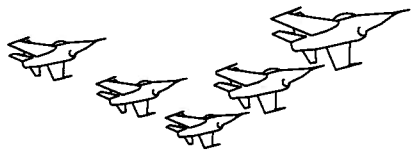
LANTANA-LAKE WORTH CADET SQUADRON'S EFFORTS REALLY PAY OFF

The Lantana-Lake Worth Cadet Squadron ended the 2001 competition season with nearly a clean sweep. Florida Wing named C/MSgt Jennifer Obranic as Phase II Cadet of the Year. The wing Special Activities Selection boards awarded slots to cadets for the National Glider Encampment [Alabama], Air Force Weather School and National Ground Search and Rescue School. At the Florida Wing Cadet Competition, of the nine teams that competed, the color guard team placed 1st in Standard Drill, In-Ranks Inspection, Outdoor Presentation of Colors, and Written Tests. For the third consecutive year, the color guard team placed 1st overall in the Color Guard portion of the competition. In the Southeast Region Cadet Competition, with six states represented by Color Guard Teams, Lantana-Lake Worth won 1st place in the Indoor Presentation of Colors, Outdoor Presentation of Colors, Written Tests and Mile Run. As a close of the season, the Color Guard Team performed at the Florida Wing Conference by presenting and retrieving the colors at the Conference Banquet. Preparations for the 2002 season are already underway and the Color Guard Team will compete at the Florida Wing Cadet Competition.

2 Lt David C. Leali

SIXTY NEEDY FAMILIES TO BENEFIT FROM SPECIAL ACTIVITY

Florida Wing Commander, Col. Tony Pineda has pledged that Florida CAP will paint 60 houses for needy persons in our state as a celebration activity of CAP's 60th Anniversary - 1 December 2001. All paint and supplies will be provided by Home Depot Inc. and all labor will be provided by Civil Air Patrol members.. This major event will have National Television coverage. Each Group Commander is requested to submit to wing the names of those needy homeowners in their community that have a critical necessity for this improvement.



FINAL FLIGHT

Lt. Col. "Chic" Cosby
Former Florida Wing Commander
Major Donald C. Hendrix
Clearwater Composite Squadron
Major Thomas T. Ward
Highlands County Composite Squadron
1st Lt. Victor D. Popoff
Marco Island Senior Squadron

These members, each in his or her own way made a difference in their families, their communities and in the causes they supported. Each will be missed by those who knew them and those who benefited from their work.

We thank God for each of them and offer our prayers for their families, their friends, and for all who inherited their legacy of hard work, joy in fellowship, and collegial support.

Lt. Col. Ralph Rivers,
Florida Wing Chaplain

MEMORIAL

From wooded Appalachian trails
to freezing Valley Forge
From Gettysburg to Antietam in the Civil War
Moving to Guantánamo and on to San Juan Hill
Across the ocean to trenches' poison gas that kills
Coming back from depression when the bells ring
Fighting Hitler and the Nazis with a twisted sting
From the bombing of Pearl Harbor out to Normandy
Landing behind the Atlantic Wall almost easily
Dying on the Korean Peninsula to protect the South
Fighting hard in Southeast Asia hating life itself
Halfway across the globe they fought in Kuwait, too
Every battle ever fought since then, they died for you
Today, we thank you formally for all you've done
But every day we're grateful for a country of one
Without you we would have all been lost
We never can pay you for the cost
I thank you all, dead and alive, for what you did for me
Although you did not know me at the time I was born free
Because of you and your sacrifice.

C/MSgt William James Morden
Boca Raton Composite Squadron

Crippled Plane's Pilot Hailed As Hero

Excerpt from Washington Post, April 13, 2001. Staff Writer Edward Walsh

When Shane Osborn was in high school he was intensely interested in aviation. Osborn peppered his football coach, who had been in the Air Force, with questions about how he joined and what it was like.

Osborn didn't know it then, but his coach Dan MacLaughlin, had regularly flown aboard Air Force surveillance aircraft in the Middle East in the 1970's.

Now, Osborn, 26, is at the center of international attention over U.S. surveillance flights. The Navy Lieutenant was the pilot of the EP-3E Aries II turboprop plane that collided with a Chinese jet over the South China Sea on April 1, resulting in the loss of the Chinese aircraft and its pilot.

Osborn managed to nurse his crippled aircraft about 70 miles to an emergency landing on Hainan Island. He landed without permission-though he broadcast a "Mayday"- starting an 11-day standoff between the United States and China. He also saved the lives of 24 U.S. military personnel aboard the plane.

Osborn grew up in Norfolk, Virginia under the watchful eye of his divorced mother, a nurse who usually worked.two jobs. At Norfolk High School, Osborn was popular with classmates and graduated in the top ten of his class. Osborn's strongest interests were science, mathematics and flying.

He joined the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary organization of the Air Force that introduces young people to aviation. When he joined, said Sharon Sanford, who was Administrative Officer of the local Civil Air Patrol unit, Osborn was a typical long-haired teenager who often did not bother to wear his uniform. But soon enough, she said, he had his hair cut short and became meticulous about his appearance. [*Emphasis by the Editor*]

Osborn graduated from college and was commissioned in the Navy in 1996. After flight training, he joined his first Navy squadron two years later. Chad Gillespie, a boyhood friend, said he was not surprised that Osborn had fulfilled the dream of the 3-year-old who first took to the sky with a farmer-pilot.

Editor's Note: After considerable international diplomatic negotiations, the Chinese Government agreed to release the EP-3E turboprop plane for return to the United States. However the Chinese refused to permit the plane to be flown out. The Air Force flew it out in sections.

COMMUNICATIONS

Capt Paul Blystone
FLWG Director Communications

Our first Sunset Date, December 31, 2001 is just a bit over six months away. This is the time that all VHF/FM equipment that is not **WIDEBAND** compliant will have to be removed from service. Any HF radio that does not meet NTIA standards will also have to be removed from service. It is required that individuals and units have compliant radio equipment in order to retain their radio call signs.

For anyone who does not have compliant radio equipment after December 31, 2001, their call sign will be suspended until March 31, 2002 - giving them an additional 90 days to obtain compliant radio equipment.

Following that period, we are considering taking time to issue new call signs to those whose call signs are not in keeping with the original plan of group call signs in the one hundred series for their respective Groups, i.e. Group One, Florida CAP 100 through 199, Group Two, Florida CAP 200 through 299, etc.

We now have two new Repeater sites in Florida Wing - Tallahassee, 143.900/148.150 MHz, tone 141.3 Hz and Lake Placid, 143.750/148.125 MHz, tone 88.5 Hz, each also having the 100 Hz roam tone. When you pass through these areas you are welcome to make contact.

Wing Licensing Officer, 1 Lt. Bob Colbert has been doing a great job. He has issued 121 new Radio Operator Authorization [ROA] cards and 15 new Radio Station Authorizations [RSA's] during the first quarter of this year. He has attended some of our most major training exercises, such as the Communication Weekend at MacDill Air Force Base and plans to be at the Professional Development Weekend at Patrick Air Force Base in September to issue ROA cards on the spot to those members that complete their training at that time.

We introduced all of our new radio equipment at a workshop session at the wing annual conference in Orlando. Included were our new mobile and base VHF/FM radios, the E.F. Johnsons and the TAIT T-2020's. Also displayed and demonstrated were the new aircraft CAP radio, NAT NPX-138's, as well as the new Control Panels and Global Positioning Satellite [GPS] equipment currently being installed in all CAP aircraft.

Transitions are often times slow and difficult. As we transition from Wideband to Narrowband during the next five years, all CAP radio equipment will be replaced with new equipment that meets the new Narrowband Standards. This is a major task for the Civil Air Patrol and will cost millions of dollars. We are already making progress. Florida Wing has received 34 Micom HF radios, 95 VHF/FM radios and 4 new repeaters. We are expecting to receive some additional new equipment this year.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM NOW OFFICIAL

by Lt Col Donald Wood
FLWG Director, Emergency Services

The new regulations are released and the Emergency Services Program has taken on some new aspects with the release of new regulations. The much awaited CAPR 60-3, -4, and -5 have now been published and should have arrived to each unit in the July mail-out from CAPNHQ. Take some time to review and compare the new material with the old. Some of the regulations have remained essentially the same as the old CAPR 55-1 and 50-15. Other areas have changed dramatically. Gone is the section on Counter-Narcotics operations. The term Emergency Locator Transmitter [ELT] has been dropped and replaced with Distress Beacon [DB]. To maintain currency in the Emergency Services field you will need to do more than work one mission every two years.

While these changes may seem to be without rhyme or reason, they will serve to bring Civil Air Patrol Emergency Services in line with the many other agencies that we interact with during a time of disaster. The terms for our various specialty ratings will now come in line with the Incident Commander System [ICS]. Our Mission Coordinator will now be known as an Incident Commander. This and other terms will enable the agencies that we work with to better integrate our special skills into the mix of other agencies. We on the other hand will become used to the way that other emergency management agencies operate and will better be able to adapt to working with others. In addition, these changes also involve some modifications to the forms that we utilize. The familiar sign-in form [CAPF-103] is now officially rescinded. This form is used for other check-in purposes as well so I expect it will still be seen for awhile. The CAPF-114 is a record of a member's ES training and participation. ICS forms are available from several different sources, including the Internet. The CAPR 60-4 [which actually consists of three parts] will explain the various forms and their purpose. Lastly, the way we qualify for advanced specialties has changed. Training requirements will be better defined and trainers will be trained in order to teach properly and effectively. In addition, CAPF 100, 101 and 101T will change. Actually, there will be a CAPF 101T for each advanced specialty. From this date forward, please use only new forms. An old copy of CAPF 100 will not be accepted after the new form is official.

To learn about the ICS, the Emergency Management Institute, a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has an introductory course on the use of the Incident Command System available for free download. Point your browser to www.fema.gov/emi/crslist to download the IS-195 course. While there, browse around to see what other courses might interest you. Those who wish to download the ICS forms should go to www.nwcg.gov/pms/forms/icsforms.

Florida Wing continues as one of the [if not the] busiest CAP wings in the nation. ELT missions continue at about 1 per day and seem to hit in various areas in clusters. In the first week of July, Group One had seven missions. Other missions come in and range from missing/overdue aircraft to missing people. Hurricane season will come into full stride during August and September which will precipitate other missions.

Safety and rapid response are the guidelines we must adhere to. It certainly is not too premature to prepare your level of readiness. Do you have your uniform ready to go? Is your equipment put together and ready for use? There is plenty of work for each of us to do but we need to have qualified, at-the-ready people to do it.

SAFETY FIRST

Storm season is here again. In the summer and early autumn, Florida is subject to tropical storms, thunder and lightning storms, tornadoes and hurricanes, as well as the continual threat of wildfires. Many of these can cause short and long term flooding problems. Are you prepared for these probable occurrences or are you like the many who wait until the threat is imminent before you think preparedness?

Fortunately we get advance warning about tropical storms and hurricanes, but the warning period for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms is much shorter. Some of the preparation to prevent damage and to recover from damage of these phenomena is similar. The most important thing to do is to have a plan. Remember the six "P's - ***Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance.***

While having a plan is the most important thing to do, knowing how to communicate with family members is one of the most critical things for which to plan ahead. Often family members are separated from one another during natural disasters. Parents may be at work and children at school. It is critical that your plan includes a way to reunite your family. One idea is to have a family member or friend in another state to volunteer to be the family contact. It is often easier to make long distance calls than local calls in an emergency. Remember, during some emergencies cell-phone towers may be damaged and service will be limited. If this is the plan you adopt, make sure the phone numbers to be called are memorized by children and adults alike.

Public water supplies are often compromised during even minor flooding. Be prepared for this eventuality by stocking several gallons of water. Officials recommend one gallon per person, per day for seven days for drinking and personal hygiene. Another item that may be necessary in the event of high water is either bleach or water purification pills. If you opt for bleach, be sure it is without lemon or additives. A tablespoon of bleach will purify a gallon of water.

All CAP members should maintain a first aid kit which contains sterile bandages and gauze pads, adhesive tape, scissors, tweezers, antiseptic, topical cream, generic pain relievers, and anti-diarrhea medication. If possible, all family members should have a similar first aid kit. Insect repellent and sun screen are also necessary items to have on hand in sufficient quantities to last for days. Don't forget prescribed medications plus copies of the prescription itself. If you have infants, a supply of diapers and baby supplies, formula and food should be stored.

Running and standing water are dangerous. Remember the water has driven animals from their habitats. Snakes, alligators, and other wildlife are no longer able to avoid humans, as most tend to do naturally. Avoid being in the water as much as possible. Have plenty anti-bacterial soap to wash with after exposure to the water. Never attempt to cross running water. The speed of water is deceptive and you never know, for sure, how deep it is. Washouts are not visible from the surface and previously level ground may have become eroded leaving dangerous holes.

Canned food is the easiest to use during emergencies. but only if you remember where the can opener is located. Don't forget this vital piece of hardware. They are inexpensive and an extra should be purchased and kept with the emergency supplies. Just about every type of food can be found in cans, i.e. meats, fowl, fish, soups, vegetables, fruits, and juice. Most are pre-cooked and can be eaten right out of the can in the event warming is not possible. High energy foods such as peanut butter, crackers, granola bars, and dried fruits and nuts are desirable items as well. Some foods when taken in moderate amounts, tend to reduce stress and provide some comfort. These include cookies, chocolate, instant coffee and soft drinks.

Mass media, radio and television, remain the best source for obtaining information about the incident as it occurs. However, every government entity has telephone hot-lines that can provide the most current information available. Take time in your planning process to determine those phone numbers and post them in an easily accessible place for future use. Avoid calling 911 except for bonafide emergencies. Remember the emergency response folks are busy during any incident.

During an emergency situation, after you have secured yourself and your family, or if you need assistance, call your unit alert officer or commander and report your status. As CAP members in Emergency Services we can only assist others if our personal and family needs are cared for first.

Remember: ***Think Safety, Act Safely, Be Safe.***

OUR PROUD YESTERDAYS

The Civil Air Patrol celebrates its Diamond Anniversary - 60 years of service on 1 December 2001. In honor of CAP's proud yesterdays, this issue features the first of a two part series. Florida Wing Historian, Lt. Colonel Roger Thomas expended many research hours in Florida Wing's historical archives. His compendium of Florida Civil Air Patrol activities during World War II has never before been assembled and it will appear as Part Two of the series.
Major Virginia Montalvo has generously loaned her photo album from the 1940's for this series. Materials obtained from the Library of Congress, CAP National Headquarters, CAP/USAF manuscripts, Florida Aviation Historical Society, and the Editor's personal experiences are the basis for Part One in this series.

Lt. Col. S. Buddy Harris
Editor-Publisher

BIRTH OF CAP

The Civil Air Patrol was conceived in the late 1930's by legendary New Jersey aviation advocate Gill Robb Wilson, who foresaw aviation's role in war and general aviation's potential to supplement America's unprepared military. Wilson, then aviation editor of the "New York Herald Tribune" convinced N.Y. Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, who also was the chief of National Civil Defense, of the need for a civilian air defense organization. President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civil Air Patrol on 1 December 1941 - six days before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Civil Defense Director Fiorello La-Guardia founded the Civil Air Patrol six days before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941.

In the early days of W.W.II, gasoline, oil and other vital war supplies for our European and Russian allies were nearly choked off as Nazis submarines operated on the east coast with impunity-often within sight of the beaches. It was not unusual to see tankers and freighters blowing up and burning with their crew leaping into the flaming waters as residents along the New York and New Jersey shorelines watched helplessly. Subs would torpedo their prey at night as targets were silhouetted against still brightly lit coastal resorts. One sub surfaced and actually motored into New York Harbor on January 15.

CAP rapidly became a vital part of America's defense, patrolling 1200 miles of coastline from Halifax, Nova Scotia to the Florida Keys searching for German submarines and saboteurs coming ashore at isolated locations. The first Air Medals of W.W.II were presented personally by President Roosevelt to CAP pilots Eddie Edwards and Hugh Sharp for saving two CAP pilots who were forced to ditch their aircraft into the Atlantic Ocean in bitter cold weather. Edwards had to perch on the Widgeon's wing

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OUR PROUD YESTERDAYS

to counterbalance the loss of the opposite pontoon which was ripped away in the rescuer's landing. A half-frozen Edwards clung to that wing for 11 hours as the unflyable Widgeon water-taxied to shore.

CAP planes were rigged with bombs and depth charges after a crew watched a grounded enemy sub off Cape Canaveral, Florida escape before the military arrived.

CAP Coastal Patrol flew 24 million miles, found 173 subs, attacked 57, hit 10 and sank two. By Presidential Executive Order the CAP became an Auxiliary of the Army Air Forces on 29 April 1943. Twenty-one CAP Coastal Patrol Bases from Maine to Texas had soon deterred close-in submarine operations. A German submarine captain confirmed that Coastal U-boat and wolf-pack operations were withdrawn "because of those damned little red and yellow planes."

By August 1943, CAP's Coastal Patrol submarine activities were ordered to 'stand-down'. CAP was then assigned to target towing for the training of anti-aircraft gunners and searchlight crews, courier services for the Army, liaison and cargo flights between war plants, beach and border patrols against enemy infiltrators and air and ground search and rescue.

OTHER WARTIME MISSIONS

In less than one year from date of creation, the CAP membership exceeded 150,000 men and women who contributed not only their time and talent but their privately owned aircraft which composed the fleet of CAP planes.

By directive of Air Force General "Hap" Arnold, all aviation cadets had to have had their eighteenth birthday prior to beginning pilot training. Those cadets who had volunteered at the age of 17 and had been ordered to report for active duty were accepted for air cadet service but were assigned to the Civil Air Patrol until they became 18 years old. Many were licensed pilots and were immediately assigned to mission-active CAP squadrons.

Non-flying CAP members served as ground support personnel and guarded airfields, other military resources and trained a rapidly growing corps of CAP cadets. Cadets were taught Morse Code, key operated communication, radio communication, aircraft identification, military customs and courtesy, and numerous other capabilities.

CAP aircrews and ground teams searched for many military planes that had gone down on training or ferry missions around the United States. After a B-24 crash landed one winter atop Mount Baldy near Taos, New Mexico, a CAP Taylorcraft made six successful landings at 12,800 feet to deliver survival rations and recover crucial equipment important to the war effort.

Nevada CAP actually had its own cavalry of sorts, conducting ground rescue operations in rough territory on horseback. They had 24 mounts that were transferred from the Army's then obsolete Cavalry at Ft. Riley, Kansas.

CAP's operations in the Rockies actually pioneered many routes and mountain flying concepts still in use today. Colorado based courier pilots operated 100 scheduled flights per day over 50 routes, carrying 3.5 million pounds of cargo to military bases in seventeen states. Seven courier pilots died in the mountains of the West with a like number perishing in the East on flights between war plants.

During this formative period, women were actively recruited by CAP. In addition to support duties at Coastal Patrol Bases, women pilots flew inland liaison missions, forest fire patrol missions and courier missions. By war's end, women made up 20 percent of the Civil Air Patrol membership. These women were not immune to the hazards of duty and their lives were also sacrificed for the war effort.

With the dramatic increase in squadrons of fighter planes and pilots, the Army Air Forces assigned target practice towing missions to CAP. The Army equipped the CAP planes with reels to wind and unwind the cables attached to the target sleeves, many of which were decorated with caricatures of Hitler and Tojo. It took nerves of steel for the CAP pilots to keep their light planes steady and on course while student fighter

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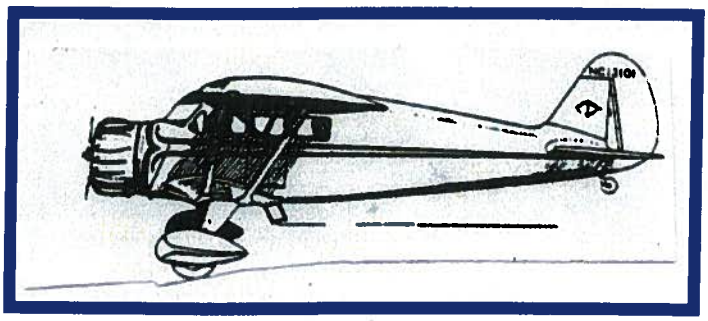
OUR PROUD YESTERDAYS

pilots roared around them with guns blazing practicing air-to-air gunnery techniques. Ninety aircraft went down with 26 fatalities and seven serious injuries. One hundred and twelve CAP pilots were inducted into the "Duck Club" for surviving ditching in the 'drink'. Walt Disney designed the emblem for this so-called "Donald Duck Navy".

OTHER WARTIME ACHIEVEMENTS

CAP was additionally assigned to provide air warning service to the Third Fighter Command. They also flew aircraft radio calibration flights, transportation of Chemical Warfare officers observing the effectiveness of smoke screens and of Engineer Corps officers inspecting camouflage installations.



The Stinson Reliant [above] and the Stinson Voyager were the backbone of the Civil Air Patrol air fleet.

By mid-war, the CAP had a membership of about 75,000 men and women and units in over 1,000 communities. In December 1943, the Army Air Forces placed 288 L-4 aircraft on loan to CAP to be used in the aviation cadet recruiting program. In 1944, 78,000 cadets and prospective recruits had flown in these planes.

During 18 months of courier flying from late 1942 to early 1944, CAP pilots moved over 3.5 million pounds of mail and cargo for the Air Forces. CAP's performance in all assigned missions was so outstanding that they were asked to fly anti-sabotage patrol of power lines, pipelines, and aqueducts, forest patrol, and transportation of urgently needed aircraft repair parts.

Civil Air Patrol coastal patrol began with two bases. At the time it was discontinued, it was operating from a total of 21 bases located along the coastlines of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It had flown 86,685 missions for a total of 244,600 hours, the equivalent of 24,000,000 miles over coastal waters. The CAP coastal patrol summoned help by radio for 363 survivors of submarine attacks, reported sightings of 17 floating mines, and at the request of the Navy, flew 5,684 special convoy missions. Additionally it transported hundreds of military high priority passengers throughout the United States

Personnel hold a 100 lb. demolition bomb carried by Civil Air Patrol Coastal Patrol aircraft.

CAP also performed war effort activities which included blood bank mercy missions to assist the American Red Cross, mock raid missions to test local blackout practices and air raid warning systems, sparking bond drives, and assisting in critical materials salvage collection drives.

No accurate record was kept of the number of aircraft or survivors found during thousands of search and rescue missions. The highlight probably occurred in February 1945 when Civil Air Patrol aircrews found the wreckage of seven missing Army and Navy planes in a single week.

CAP's role after the war was very much in question, and it was widely expected to fade away along with most other wartime agencies and institutions. But military and political leaders rose to praise CAP's unusual commitment, service and accomplishments. At a special dinner in Washington, D.C. in March 1946, President Harry Truman, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn and no less than 50 Army Air Forces generals gathered to praise its work.

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OUR PROUD YESTERDAYS

Because of their valiant efforts during the war, a thankful nation recognized the vital role CAP played and recognized the organization could continue to provide invaluable help to both local and national agencies. On 1 July, 1946 President Harry Truman signed a law that incorporated CAP as a benevolent non-profit organization.

After the creation of the United States Air Force in 1947, Congress passed a law on 26 May, 1948,which permanently established Civil Air Patrol as the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The Congress also mandated the three missions CAP was to perform - Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs.

Flight Officer S. Buddy Harris performs pre-flight check for Coastal Patrol mission.

New York Wing CAP squadron's pilots. Note: Member lower left is wearing the squadron white sweater with squadron insignia-black cat on red background. This insignia plus all 1943 issue CAP badges and pins were contributed by Lt. Col. S. Buddy Harris (standing third from left) in 1990 to Lt. Col. Libby Sedita, Florida Wing Historian.

Flight Officer Harris returns to base. Increasing snowfalls, caused all Piper Cub J-3's to be equipped with skis.

PHOTO LEFT: Major Virginia Montalvo, currently Commander, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Squadron in her suntan uniform -

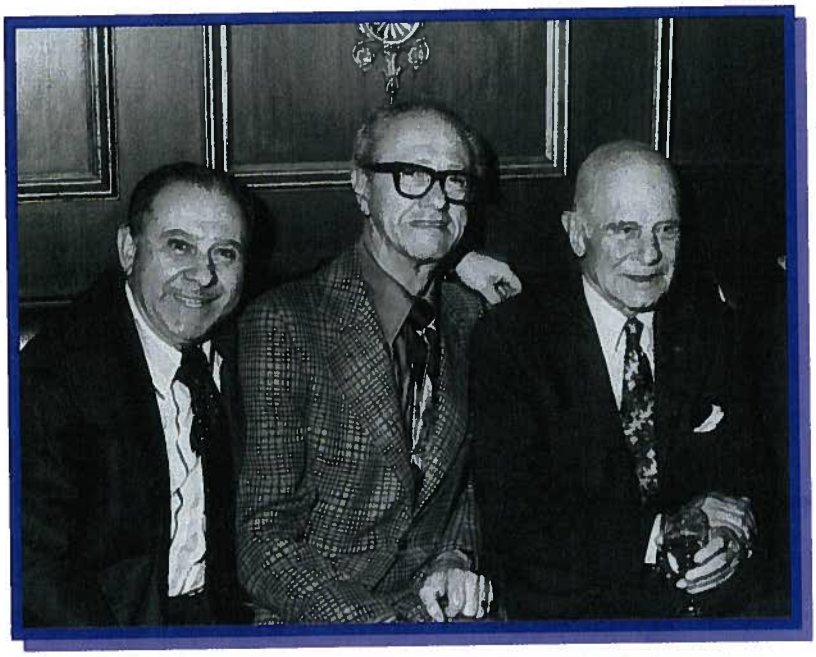

PHOTO RIGHT: Former Civil Air Patrol members meet with General James "Jimmy" Doolittle at a meeting in New York City - March 2, 1977.

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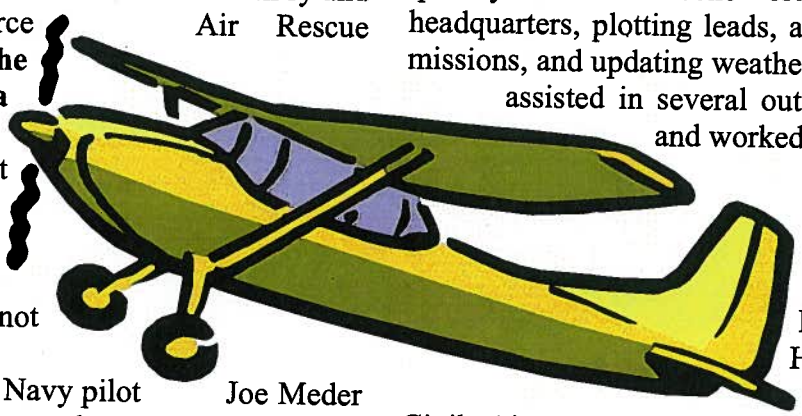
OUR PROUD YESTERDAYS

THE PEACETIME CAP

Since air search and rescue had been one of CAP's primary missions during the war, it was obvious there was no other organization with the equipment, training and experience to continue this vital job in the post-war years. Even though there were plenty of military aircraft available, they cost far too much to operate and flew too fast for accurate spotting of downed planes and personnel. Military pilots were expensive to train and mission requirements limited their availability for search and rescue. Civil Air Patrol with its proven record of volunteer service using light aircraft was immediately put to work.

By 1954, CAP was flying over 50 percent of the search and rescue hours flown in the country and according to the Air Force Air Rescue Service, **was saving the country $46 million a year** - the cost equal to the military and flight pay of the 12,000 fliers who would have been needed to fly the missions, had CAP not been available.



In October 1954, Navy pilot Joe Meder became one of the many crash survivors who owe their lives to CAP. Flying at night at 40,000 feet in stormy skies, he was forced to eject from his burning Banshee jet fighter. Falling almost 30,000 feet as he wrestled with his ejection seat, he was finally able to separate himself from it and get his parachute open, only to have it rip and begin to lose air. He slammed into the ground breaking both ankles and numerous other bones, and puncturing a lung. He crawled 150 feet before collapsing in a rain drenched bean field. Nearing death, Meder was spotted at first light by CAP pilots Vince Causmaker and John Zonge who were part of a two-state air and ground search team.

When floods ravaged Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia in 1957, CAP ground, air and radio teams swung into action. CAP planes flew vital serums and vaccines to forward areas unreachable by heavier military aircraft. Ground teams helped in the evacuation of cities and towns. In Kentucky, the CAP radio net handled most of the traffic for the emergency agencies, coordinated the activities of Army rescue helicopters, controlled CAP activities in the area, and broadcast weather advisories from the U. S. Weather Bureau.

By the 1960's, CAP was logging over 75 percent of the search and rescue hours flown each year. When an F-111 fighter-bomber went down in the Southwest, the Air Force called upon CAP members from six states in a 15-day search and rescue operation. CAP aircrews flew over 80 percent of the 1,400 sorties flown.

On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens in Washington exploded, devastating approximately 150 square miles and triggering massive mud flows, floods, and ashfalls. When the county Sheriff asked the Civil Air Patrol for help, CAP members were quickly on the scene establishing a 24 hour headquarters, plotting leads, aiding search and rescue missions, and updating weather advisories. CAP teams assisted in several outlying command centers and worked in ash cleanup crews.

During the 1990 San Francisco earthquake, Civil Air Patrol was there. During 1992's Hurricane Andrew in South Florida, Civil Air Patrol was there. In the 1993 Midwest floods, Civil Air Patrol was there, During 1994's Hurricane Erin in Central and West Florida, Civil Air Patrol was there. In the 1995 terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Civil Air Patrol was there. During the 1996 floods in South Dakota, Civil Air Patrol was there. During the 1997 search for a missing USAF A-10 Thunderbolt in Colorado, Civil Air Patrol was there and found the crashed aircraft. In the aftermath of the tornadoes that devastated Central Florida in 1998, Civil Air Patrol was there. In 1999 when the Coast Guard, and Navy was searching for John Kennedy's overdue aircraft enroute to Martha's Vineyard, the Civil Air Patrol from four states was there.The Civil Air Patrol is an integral part of the U.S. Air Force's 'Total Force".

See Part Two in the Fall Issue.

AROUND THE WING

conference planning team - 2000

The "Faithful Four" displayed pleasurable and well deserved relief when they saw all their efforts over approximately 3/man years bear 'fruits of success'.

By any standard, the Florida Wing Conference-2000 in Orlando, was far better than any previous conference.

All arrangements came off as planned, all workshops were heavily attended, all communication equipment functioned, all visual aids and equipment worked as intended, and all registration information and records were correct.

The banquet room decor was brilliant, the layout totally functional, the menu and food were different and of gourmet quality, the guest speakers were outstanding, and all awards were engraved correctly.

Florida Wing owes [l. to r.] Lt. Col. Matt Sharkey, Major Eileen Parker, Capt. Sharon Taylor and Major Bill Ferguson a huge ***'thank you'***.

If you would like your name to go to Mars on the next Rover 2003 mission, Lt. Col. Henri Casenove advises that you go to http://spacekids.hq.nasa.gov/2003/ .and enter your name for inclusion on a compact disc that will fly on this next mission. You can also print out the Certificate which is quite nice.

Steve Drew with help from Ben Coleman, Arnold Noorlander, Rodney Noren and Matt Sharkey made the C-172 based in Orlando airworthy. It was then ferried to Amarillo, TX where it was turned in for use as parts. Steve returned with a Kansas Wing C-172P that has now been assigned to Florida.

Col. Pineda advises, The Miami Springs Optimist Cadet Squadron placed fourth overall in the National Cadet Competition. "Great job team....you make Florida proud."

Nineteen year old Cadet Major Chris Tolia has been licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration as an Airframe and Powerplant Technician. C/Major Tolia is also serving as Cadet Commander of the Tallahassee Composite Squadron. Chris has been accepted to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona where he intends to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Maintenance Management, while receiving a commission in the United States Air Force through the university's ROTC program.
Great plan with a great future!

HORNET BREAKS THE SOUND BARRIER

At 1000 feet, the pilot dives the F/A-18C Hornet to increase his speed to 750 mph. 200 yards from the carrier and 75 feet below the flight deck Ensign John Gay hears an explosion and snaps his camera shutter once. "I clicked the same time I heard the boom, and I knew I had it," Gay said. What he had was a technically meticulous depiction of the sound barrier being broken on July 7, 1999, on the Pacific somewhere between Hawaii and Japan. "Everything on July 7 was perfect," Gay said. "You see this vapor flicker around the plane that gets bigger and bigger. You then get this loud boom, and it's instantaneous. The vapor cloud is there and then its not there. It's the coolest thing you have ever seen."

Major David Younce, DeLand Composite

CAP CADETS HELP ARMY RESERVE TRAINING.

Cadets from the Ft. Lauderdale Squadron, Group Six, participated in an Army Reserve Training Exercise. Squadron seniors acted as observers while the cadets acting as enemy prisoners-of-war enabled the Army Reservists of the 27th Military Police Battalion to practice their Detainee Processing Procedures.

Shown in photo taken by S/M Timothy Ward is U.S. Army S/Sgt. Harris briefing the cadets around a mock-up of the maneuver area while pointing out the different stations of operation. "The wholehearted cooperation provided by the Civil Air Patrol made this exercise outstandingly realistic," said Sgt. Harris.

Maj. Virginia Montalvo, PAO

CAP CADETS SOAR INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER

A long dreamed about experience was finally realized by Patrick Composite Squadron Cadets who went soaring in gliders on their Aerospace Education Orientation Flight. Capt. Russ Blaser also flew cadets in the squadron's Cessna 172.

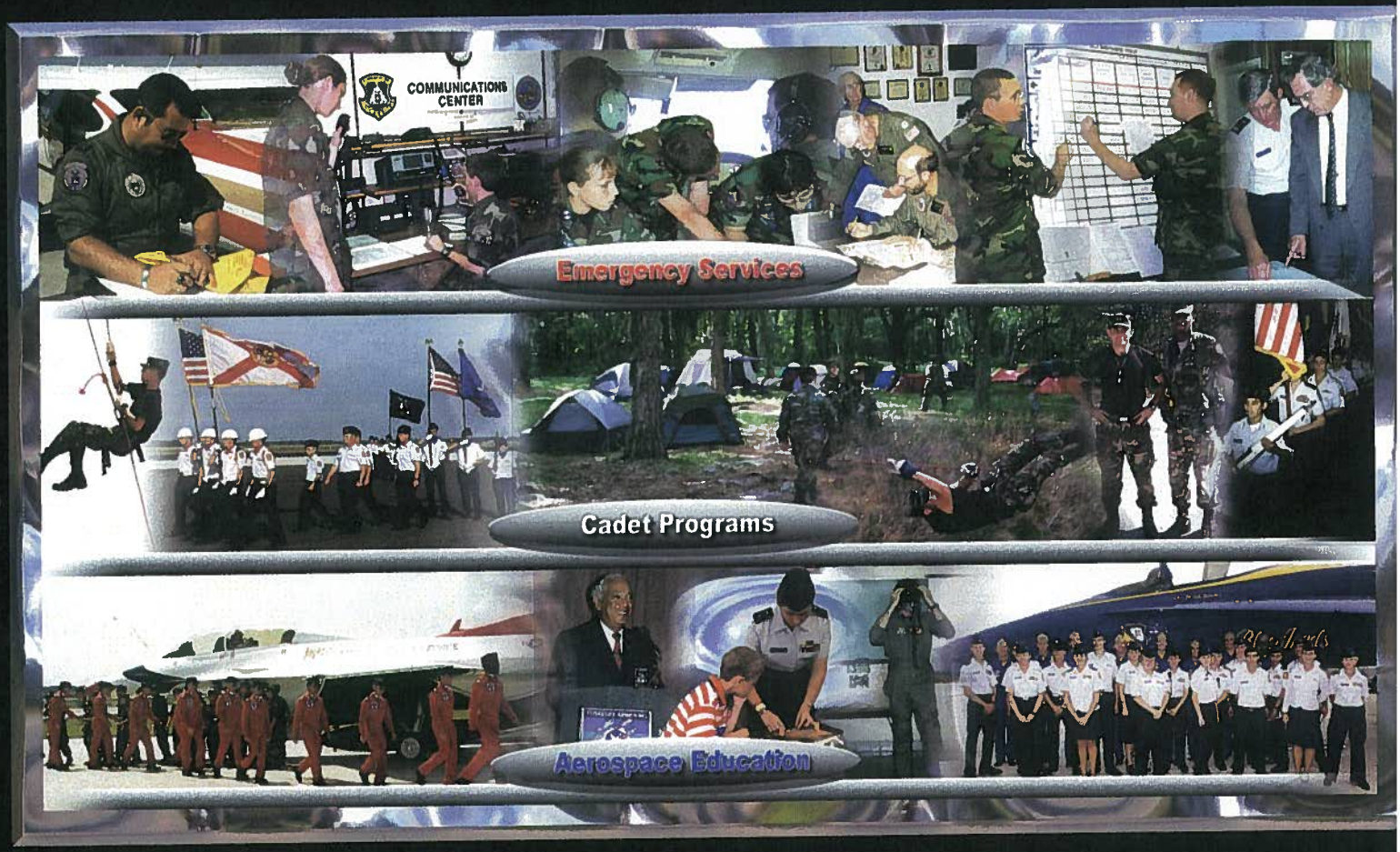
Cadet Stephen Campion preparing for his initial glider flight.

CAP Glider L-23 approaching Keystone Heights Airport to land.

FLORIDA WING

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Where imagination takes FLIGHT



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