



WINGSPAN

SPRING 2011 FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL U.S. Air Force Auxiliary



FOR FLORIDA WING

Col. Michael Cook was pinned with his colonel's eagles April 15, just after accepting command. **List of awards, page 5**

It's official now: Colonel Cook

Commander assumes helm; wing presented Unit Citation

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.: Florida Wing's new commander takes over the wing in the wake of a high-profile national mission, and with a new streamer atop the wing's gray flag.

Col. Michael Cook assumed command April 15 in Lake Buena Vista, at the wing's annual conference.

His predecessor, Col. Chris Moersch, was presented CAP's third-highest decoration, the Distinguished Service Medal, for his service.

And the wing was presented its third Unit Citation Award for its service,

which includes its twin state and federal tasking in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill last spring.

From February 2008 until the conference, Cook was the wing's vice commander. He has been active in Civil Air Patrol for nearly 15 years in operations and emergency services. Among his previous assignments are stints as Florida Wing's deputy director of operations and deputy director of emergency services, and as Group 2's operations officer. He was also the commander at Jacksonville Composite Squadron.

Cook is a graduate of the Search Management Course and Southeast Region Staff College. He is a mission pilot and incident commander.

Cook has worked in private industry since retiring from the U.S. Navy in 1984.

His command section includes Vice Commander Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek, Chief of Staff Maj. David Leach, and deputy chiefs of staff Lt. Col. Mike Harding, Lt. Col. Sonia Soto and Maj. Bruce Sage.

— Staff report

Want to lead? Learn to follow first



A few years ago I had the privilege of forming part of the National Headquarters team that developed the CAP Officer Basic Course, the replacement for the former CAP Senior Officer Course most commonly known as the "ECI 13." Due to my 20 years of active military service and vast experience as a former CAP cadet officer and senior member I was tasked with authoring a specific leadership lesson — followership.

Just like there are traits and characteristics delineated for effective leaders, there are principles and behaviors that make good followers. There are thousands of resources that impart helpful effective leadership practices. However, to my surprise there are far fewer resources that reveal how to be a good follower. Since many of us have already completed the preceding course to the OBC, I would like to share what I learned throughout the years that make effective followers.

Maintain a positive attitude, even in the most challenging times. Not all events or situations in the Civil Air Patrol will go smoothly therefore, remain flexible and offer assistance and solutions to a difficult circumstance instead of adding frustrations.

WORK EFFECTIVELY AS A TEAM MEMBER. CAP is a team and we must work together regardless of differences.

EXHIBIT LOYALTY TO YOUR LEADER AND ORGANIZATION. Loyalty to your commander and the organization is crucial to the success of any organization. This is not an unquestioning loyalty. We also expect you to use your head to be safe, follow core values and the regulations.

VOLUNTEER TO HANDLE TASKS. Offering a hand or two to others in the organization will assist a great deal regardless of how insignificant you may think your assistance is. It also broadens your scope of knowledge, changes acquaintances into comrades and makes lighter work for everyone.

WILLINGLY ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS. Be willing to accept tasks regardless of how challenging they may seem. Concurrently, do not be afraid to ask for help from others. Be willing to accept assignments regardless of how insignificant they seem. While coordinating the audiovisual equipment for a Squadron Leadership School may not seem very important it contributes to the professionalism, effectiveness and enjoyment in numerous ways.

There are traits and characteristics of effective leaders, and there are principles and behaviors of good followers.

OFFER SUGGESTIONS. This is different from complaining. It is identifying a weak spot and suggesting a way to improve. Civil Air Patrol is a dynamic organization that is always seeking ways to improve its practices. The trick I recommend is to start out with a descriptive sentence that starts with "I." Remember; use your chain of command and the processes in place to make suggestions.

RESPECTFULLY VOICE DIFFERENCES OF OPINIONS. Voicing opinions are welcomed but always keep in mind; it's not what you say it's how you say it. Starting sentences with "I" is one way to respectfully voice an opinion. Another way might be to ask a question. Questions like, "I don't understand why we?" or "Why don't we?" assumes that there must be a good reason and the word "we" shows that you are part of the team and want to be part of the solution. Questions that start out "Could we?" defers to the leader's experience and knowledge and "we" has the same effect as noted above.

SUPPORT GROUP DECISIONS. Decisions made will not always be the most popular or what you would prefer. In many cases, particularly at this point in your CAP career, you will not have all the facts and the big picture. You have to trust that the decision maker is in a better position to decide. What is important is that, as long as the decision is ethical and legal, you support it and move on without dwelling on what could have been. This ties into the concepts of loyalty and the core value of volunteerism.

We volunteer to join CAP for our own personal reasons and regardless of our backgrounds, experiences and our present position in the organization, we are all followers. It's easy to be a leader, take charge and get things done, but it's not so easy being a good team member and follower. Reflect on these followership characteristics and ask the next person in your chain of command or just yourself — how am I doing as a follower? ✪

Maj. Irizarry commands Florida Wing's Group 7, which includes Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, including the cities of Miami and Key West.

WINGSPAN

Col. Michael Cook
Commander

Maj. Bruce Sage
Deputy Chief of Staff/Support

Maj. Douglas E. Jessmer
Director of Public Affairs and Marketing

Capt. William Weiler
OIC/Emergency Communications

Capt. Matthew Congrove
OIC/Internet

1st Lt. David Bellis
OIC/News Bureau

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PHOTO COURTESY CHIEF MASTER SGT. RICHARD ORTEGA

Florida Wing's Cyberpatriot III team stands with a greeting sign upon their return to Florida. Team members include mentor Gary Palmer, coach Nina Harding and Cadets Josh Dovi, Shawn Wilson, Matt Allen, Michael Hudson, Isaac Harding and Reid Ferguson.

Wing team tops Cyberpatriot III

By Maj. DOUGLAS E. JESSMER
Florida Wing Public Affairs

Six central-Florida cadets took home top honors in a national high-school cyberwarfare competition.

They hoisted the Commander-in-Chief's Cup of the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot III, the nation's largest high-school cyber competition. And shortly thereafter, team members were honored by Civil Air Patrol with the fourth-highest commendation CAP offers — the Exceptional Service Award.

The cadets are members of "Team Wilson," which competed against four other all-service division teams — one each from the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy Junior ROTC — in the national finals. Buena High School Army Junior ROTC in Sierra Vista, Ariz., took second place while last year's CyberPatriot champion, Clearfield (Utah) High School Air Force Junior ROTC, finished third.

The competition is designed to instill the importance of cybersecurity to national needs, and to motivate participants to become cyberdefenders and become part of the nation's digital workforce.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard Ortega, who's the vice president for aerospace education for AFA's Florida region, said a total of 661 teams registered for the competition —

150 from CAP, 202 from Air Force Junior ROTC, 45 from Army Junior ROTC, 37 from Navy Junior ROTC units and 41 from Marine Corps Junior ROTC units. He said the open division, which included public, private and home school students, attracted 186 entries.

"I am so proud of this team," said CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy Courter.

Team captain Cadet Technical Sgt. Isaac Harding of Group 4's Orlando Cadet Squadron said the victory was the result of countless hours of practice over the past year. Joined by Cadet 2nd Lt. Shawn Wilson of Group 4's Seminole Composite Squadron, who served as assistant team captain, Cadet 1st Lt. Josh Dovi of Group 3's Citrus County Composite Squadron and Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Evan Hamrick, Cadet Tech Sgt. Michael Hudson and Cadet Senior Airman Reid Ferguson, all of the Seminole squadron, they logged several practices each week as the team advanced.

Harding's mother, Nina Harding, who's also a member of the Orlando squadron, served as primary coach for the team, assisted by 1st Lt. Mark Strobridge, the Seminole squadron's deputy commander, as secondary coach. Gary Palmer of MITRE Corp. served as the team's information technologies mentor.

Isaac Harding credited Palmer and MITRE with playing a vital role in Team Wilson's success.

Why 'Team Wilson'?

Different cadets have different stories, but they all agree they originally got their name from the volleyball they painted up like Wilson from the movie *Cast Away*. It became their mascot and some cadets liked to have it represent Civil Air Patrol founder and aviation journalist Gill Robb Wilson, and others liked the fact that Lt. Gen. James Wilson was an early officer at Maxwell Air Force Base during the founding days of Air University, the parent to CAP — and few people knew who Gen. Wilson was.

— Capt. Bill Weiler,
Florida Wing Public
Affairs

OPERATIONS

Training allows interchangeability

Standardization allows ‘plug and play’ capability across CAP

By Capt. MICHAEL CROTEAU
Treasure Coast Composite Squadron

MERRITT ISLAND, FLA.: Civil Air Patrol aircraft and ground personnel located an activated emergency beacon and secured it May 11.

Routine, right?

Rarely does it happen with no two members logged into the mission from the same home unit.

The eight members who participated were all from different units spanning two groups in Florida Wing. Yet this diverse team functioned together and completed the mission, demonstrating how CAP training is successful at developing a diverse and robust emergency response capability.

“It is the goal of our emergency services training in Group 4 to have people from different units be able to come together at a moment’s notice and conduct a mission,” Group 4 Deputy Commander Capt. Bill Weiler said. “Saturday was a testimony to how our training enables us to work together as a team no matter what squadron the members come from.”

It all started when the members were assembled at the Merritt Island Airport to help the Experimental Aircraft Association put on a Young Eagles event. While the Young Eagles event was winding down, aircraft near Melbourne heard an emergency beacon signal and reported it to the FAA. The FAA in turn notified the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, near Panama City, and CAP was called to initiate a search mission. The phones of the four qualified incident commanders at the Young Eagles event then started ringing.

Capt. Keith Humphrey took charge of the mission, and soon a Cessna 172 was airborne, searching for the signal. Two aircraft, one normally based in Fort Pierce and another

based in Orlando, looked for the beacon. The aircraft directed a ground team to within a quarter-mile of an active emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB), located at a residence in Satellite Beach. A person found the EPIRB in some discards and brought it home, where it was accidentally activated.

EPIRBs transmit on an emergency frequency also used by downed aircraft, so silencing false alarms is critical to keeping the radio channel clear for actual emergency signals. Older emergency locator transmitters – which are still used by most small aircraft – and EPIRBs are no longer tracked automatically by satellite, like newer beacons, but instead are located the same way as the activated beacon was found.

The homeowner gave the EPIRB to the CAP ground team for proper disposal.

Participants were:

- Maj. Mike Weiser, mission scanner, Merritt Island Senior Squadron.
- Capt. Keith Humphrey, incident commander, South Brevard Cadet Squadron.
- Capt. Bill Weiler, mission pilot and urban direction finding team, Headquarters Florida Wing Group 4.
- Capt. Mike Croteau, urban direction finding trainee and public information officer, Treasure Coast Composite Squadron.
- 1st Lt. Aaron Fleming, mission pilot, Eagle Aerospace Academy Composite Squadron.
- 2nd Lt. Jorge Garcia, mission observer trainee, Central Florida Composite Squadron.
- Staff Sgt. Richard Besaw, mission observer, Headquarters Florida Wing Group 6.
- Cadet Maj. Nick Palczer, urban direction finding team, Stuart Composite Squadron. ✪

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Lawmakers pass resolutions honoring CAP

By Florida Wing Public Affairs

CLEARWATER, FLA.: State legislators will recognize two days as “Civil Air Patrol Day” in Tallahassee – April 20 in the House, and April 27 in the Senate.

Former Florida Wing Commander Col. Chris Moersch told key wing personnel Tuesday of the resolution on the

House floor and pending in the Senate.

HR 9089 was slated for its first reading today, proclaiming today as the special day. SR 2192 is the Senate resolution. The House resolution specifically enumerates Florida Wing’s more than 7,000 hours of flight time in support of the Deepwater Horizon incident in the spring and summer of 2010 as well as

Air Force-tasks and other missions benefiting Floridians.

Rep. Ari Abraham Porth, D-Coral Springs, introduced the resolution in the House; Sen. Jeremy Ring, D-Margate, is sponsoring the Senate legislation. The resolutions are similar to those passed at about the same time last year. ✪

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Awards and decorations given

Here is a list of awards and decorations given to members at Florida Wing's annual conference, as reported by the conference staff.

CAP decorations

Distinguished Service Medal: Col. Christian Moersch

Exceptional Service Award: Lt. Col. (Chaplain) Marcus Taylor, Maj. Willard Garman, Capt. Robert Little, Capt. Douglas Butler, 1st Lt. Mark Strobbridge, Nina Harding, Cadets Isaac Harding, Josh Dovi, Evan Hamrick, Shawn Wilson, Michael Hudson, Reid Ferguson

Meritorious Service Award: Col. Michael Murrell, Lt. Col. Joe Wisnewski (two awards), Lt. Col. Mac McConnell, Lt. Col. Burleigh Putnam, Lt. Col. Rogers Porter, Maj. Glenn Powers, Maj. Willard Garman, Maj. Roger Helton, Capt. Bob Little, Capt. Doug Butler, Capt. Bill Weiler, Capt. Sandra Steffensen

Commander's Commendation (region commander): Capt. Bill Weiler, Capt. Sandra Steffensen

Unit Citation Award: Florida Wing

Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving: Cadets Casey Jago, Owen Jago, Jonathan Fischer and Richard Crews

Gill Robb Wilson Award: Lt. Col. Joseph M. Martin, Lt. Col. Trevor Stewart, Lt. Col. George McCord, Maj. Rick Strul

Gen. Carl A. Spatz Award: Cadet Jenna McCord

Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award: Cadet Adam Melendez

Wing awards

Lifetime Achievement Award: Col. Jerry Angley, USAF Retired, Lt. Col. Valerie Brown

Senior Member of the Year: Maj. Milton R. Kaletta

Ted Yeazel New Senior Member of the Year: Capt. Michael Benoit

Cadet of the Year: Cadet Tiffany Jakowczuk

Col. Edwin Lewis Jr. Incident Staff Member of the Year: Lt. Col. Steve Schack

Chaplain of the Year: Maj. (Chaplain) Joseph Molden

Eileen Tonkinson Public Affairs Officer of the Year: Capt. Jeffrey Carlson

Col. Henri Casenove Communicator of the Year: Maj. Jeri Webster

Norm Edwards Counterdrug Officer of the Year: Capt. John Lawler

Safety Officer of the Year: Maj. Ramon Nunez

Aerospace Education Officer of the Year: Maj. Pamela Becker

Senior Squadron of the Year: Miami Senior Squadron 1

Senior Squadron Commander of the Year:

Maj. Caesar Carvana

Jack Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year: Lt. Col. Trevor Stewart

Frank Brewer Aerospace Education Cadet of the Year: Cadet Patrick Good

Frank Brewer Aerospace Education Senior Member of the Year: Maj. Pamela Becker

Character Development Officer of the Year: 1st Lt. Joseph Wingo

Group of the Year: Group 4

Composite Squadron of the Year: Charlotte County Composite Squadron

Cadet Squadron of the Year (Squadron of Merit): Miami Enterprise Cadet Squadron

Group Commander of the Year: Maj. Henry Irizarry, Group 7

Composite Squadron Commander of the Year: Maj. Milton R. Kaletta

Cadet Squadron Commander of the Year: 1st Lt. Michael Santana

Operations/Emergency Services Circle of Excellence: Lt. Col. Charles Clement, Capt. Robert Little, Capt. Richard Davis, Capt. Michael Benoit, Maj. George Schaefer, Capt. William Weiler

Aerospace Education Circle of Excellence: Capt. Joseph Papasso, 1st Lt. Scott Brown, 1st Lt. Robb Haskins

Cadet Programs Circle of Excellence: Maj. Edward Villalba, Capt. Corey Hamilton, 2nd Lt. Donald Tuttle, Robin Gwynn

Wing Commander's Command Service Award: Lt. Col. Steve Governale, USAF, Lt. Col. Chris Sabo, USAF, Lt. Col. Lee Barnett, Lt. Col. Philip Zedonek, Lt. Col. Sergio Seoane

Col. Bob Owen Award: Cadet Tran Trung

Col. Ross and Elizabeth Sedita Award: Capt. Robin Sheaks

50 Year Service: Col. Henri Casenove

Cyber Patriot Recognition: Gary Palmer

Presidential Volunteer Service Award: Cadet Casey Jago

(NOTE: This list is also at www.flwg.us; if you have any corrections, please contact the conference staff, not Florida Wing Public Affairs.)

BRIEFLY

Appointments made to wing staff

Col. Michael Cook, the commander of Florida Wing, announced two changes to the wing staff, effective May 2. Lt. Col. Dave Auerbach is assigned as the director of finance. Capt. Darlene Ferris is assigned as the director of personnel.

Miami Beach unit redesignated

Miami Beach Flight was redesignated as the Miami Beach Cadet Squadron, Group 7 Commander Maj. Henry Irizarry announced. "Maj. Kevin Simon and Capt. Linus Osorio have done an outstanding job in reestablishing the CAP presence in Miami Beach and growing the unit from seven members to 27 members in just one year," Irizarry said. "I thank you both for your hard work and dedication which I assure you does not go unnoticed."

Summer encampment applications sought

The application process has begun for the Florida Wing summer encampment at camp Blanding, near Starke, encampment commander and cadet commander Capt. Steve Lampasona and Cadet Matt Campbell announced. Senior and cadet staff applications are due by May 18. The staff selection weekend will be at the end of May, at a location to be announced. The operations order, forms, position descriptions, and all instructions are located at <http://www.flcadet.com/summerencampment.aspx>. E-mail any questions to fsummerencampment@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

Lt. Col. Robert Gray

Lt. Col. Robert Gray died Feb. 26 in a Panama City hospital. A 26-year member of Civil Air Patrol, he participated along with his wife and two sons for many years.

He served as the wing's vice commander and chief of staff, as well as several stints as a group and squadron commander. He chartered the Marianna Composite Squadron.

Gray's memorial service became a reunion as CAP members past and present reunited to say goodbye. Cadets of Tyndall-Panama Composite Squadron provided the silent honor guard.

"He taught me I'm worth more to the world, than just to myself, and no matter what, I'm needed by more than I know," former cadet Shannon Xedis said.

Seniors remembered Gray for his commitment.

"Back in the '90s, Bob, Lt. Col George Williams and I guarded a downed aircraft on the Eglin bombing Range by ourselves for over 4 hours waiting for the county coroner and the USAF to get people out there to take care of the remains. The rest of the mission staff, well over 100, had dinner at a local restaurant to celebrate our 'find.' But that was the type of officer Bob Gray was." Lt. Col. Fred Swearingen said.

Lt. Col. Gary Swigert

Lt. Col. Gary Swigert died May 11 in Jupiter.

He joined CAP in 1996; he was promoted to his final grade in 2004. He held a master rating in aerospace education and a technician rating in cadet programs.

Services will be at 11 a.m. May 21 at First United Methodist Church of Jupiter Tequesta, 815 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. Edgley Cremation Service of West Palm Beach made arrangements.

