



# WINGSPAN

Spring 2012 FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

## ***Florida Wing Receives National Commander's Unit Citation at Annual Awards Banquet***



**Hard Work and Determination Recognized**

# In this edition.....

Commander’s Comments.....3

Wing Conference.....4

Calendar of Events.....5

Spatz Awards.....6

Change.....8

Florida Wing Teacher Wins National Award.....9

Vehicle Maintenance Tips.....10

Gathering Artifacts.....11

Florida Wing Fledglings.....12

Cadet Competition.....13

Aerospace Education Grants.....14

Charter.....15

Winter Encampment.....16

Glider.....17

## WINGSPAN

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### Leadership

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*Cadet Liaison*



It has been almost one year since I became your

Wing Commander. I have to say that it has been a good year with many good things happening. This edition of the newsletter reports many of these. As you read this newsletter take notice of all the varied events and functions that have been accomplished.

Florida Wing finished last year as the #6 wing in aircraft utilization with an average of 260 hours per airplane. This year we are currently #4 with 56 hours per aircraft as of 27 Feb. With the training budget we have available this year FLWG should easily end up as #1.

Last year we ranked 52 out of 52 for Glider utilization. This past fall the members of Group 4 jump started the glider program. We have experienced a lull for the past few weeks but are starting up again in Group 7 and Group 3 this weekend. Currently we are ranked number #3 in the nation with 106 flights.

The FLWG Drill Team and FLWG Color Guard are competing at Maxwell AFB for the Southeast Region honors. I believe that we will be sending both teams to the National Competition in Ohio.

Special Acts completion was stiff this year. We currently have 205 Cadets and 18 Senior Members approved to participate in National Special Activities this year. 23 Cadets and 3 Senior Members have been "Green Lighted" for NCSA.

Wing Conference was a special and very exciting event. Not only was there the opportunity to obtain some very good training but everyone had the chance to meet new friends and renew contact with old friends. Putting a face with a name makes the email a little more personal. We also had the opportunity to recognize those members who have gone above and beyond what is normally expected of the CAP member. My hearty congratulations are again offered to all those who received awards.

We have lost our AE Director and champion. Lt Col Lynn has moved on to Southeast Region

staff. He will be missed but has left FLWG in great shape to take several AE awards in the coming year. Lt Col Lynn accepted last year's National AE Award and Southeast Region AE Award for Florida Wing at our Wing Conference.

Florida Wing is in position to excel and be recognized as the best wing in the nation in the coming year. The contributions that each of you make by giving your time to perform all of our missions and to teach our new or less experienced members are what truly makes us great.

We are entering a very busy time of the year with many activities both scheduled and unscheduled occurring in the coming months. As you participate in these activities, and in your Squadron meetings, remember that no matter how large or how small your part is; it is important. Without you, the members of Florida Wing, we would not be the best Wing in the nation. Because of what you do, I am proud to serve as your Wing Commander.

**Col. Michael Cook**

## Florida Wing awarded National Commander's Unit Citation Award at Annual Banquet

TAMPA- "Training for results" was the theme of the 2012 Florida Wing Conference, and for the 414 cadets and senior members who converged at the Marshall Student Center at the University of South Florida, results were readily apparent in the form of seminars, social activities, and award ceremonies.

With 34 sessions for senior members and 16 for cadets, the 2012 conference provided training opportunities in numerous areas, including Drug Demand Reduction, officer positions, and safety. Cadets were able to take part in activities such as Public Speaking and a Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) luncheon.

The highlight of the day was the annual Awards Banquet.

Following the presentation of the Colors by the Gainesville Composite Squadron Color Guard team, over 60 awards were presented to members, including Lt. Col. James W. Hart Jr., who was awarded a lifetime CAP

membership in recognition of his 50 years of service, C/Col. Tiffany Jakowczuk, who in addition to being Florida's most recent recipient of the Carl A. Spaatz award, earned the Ira C. Eaker Award, and C/A1C Robert Soto, who earned the Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving. At the 2011 Awards Banquet, Florida Wing received the Unit Citation Award and followed up in 2012 with the National Commander's Unit Citation Award. This award is awarded only at the discretion of the National Commander to units "providing services or achievements above and beyond those normally recognized by a Unit Citation Award". Florida Wing was recognized for its services during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010.

Amidst the tradition and formality of the banquet, the atmosphere was relaxed. Between attempts to entertain with jokes, Lt. Col. Stephen Governale handed out raffle prizes, and a pizza was delivered to the head

table. The special guest for the evening was Brigadier General Glenn Bramhal, who recognized Civil Air Patrol for the services it performs for the nation. Bramhall is the Deputy Commander of the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command and has earned numerous awards and decorations for his service. As a token of appreciation, Florida Wing Commander Col. Mike Cook presented Bramhall with a model of a Civil Air Patrol Cessna 182 aircraft.

The conference concluded with a town hall meeting the following morning, during which additional raffle prizes and awards were handed out and two cadet teams competed in a panel quiz, which tests their ability to quickly and accurately answer aerospace related questions.

Pictures from the weekend can be found on the Florida Wing facebook page, located at [www.facebook.com/flwgcap](http://www.facebook.com/flwgcap). ●

## Upcoming Events

March 2-3	Wing SAREVAL	Sebring, FL
March 10-11	RECON Training	Tampa, FL
March 10-11	Unit Commanders Course (UCC)	Homestead ARB, FL
March 16-18	SER Cadet Competition	Maxwell AFB, AL
March 24-April 1	Sun 'n Fun	Lakeland, FL
April 14-15	Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC)	Merritt Island, FL
April 27-29	SER Conference	Peachtree City, GA
May 12	Squadron Leadership School (SLS)	Ocala, FL
May 12-13	Corporate Learning Course (CLC)	Ocala, FL
May 21-24	Florida Hurricane Exercise	TBA
July 8-14	SER Staff College	McGhee-Tyson AFB TN

Submit Activities using the Wing Calendar Submission tool on the Florida Wing website.

<http://www.flwg.us/cap-resources/wing-calendar-submission.aspx>

## Florida Wing Presents 3 Civil Air Patrol Spaatz Awards in 2011



*Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing 2011 Spaatz Cadets – (left to right) Cadet Colonels Joshua Hinson, Tiffany Jakowczuk and Casey Jago*

### **1st Lt. Jackie Stoerzinger-Zarrilli**

In 2011, three of Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing cadets were presented the Spaatz Award and the rank of Cadet Colonel by the Wing Commander. This is the top milestone achievement that a teenager in the United States Air Force Volunteer Auxiliary can earn and demonstrates a commitment and dedication to excellence.

Cadet Programs Director, Lt. Col. Margarita Mesones, said she is very proud of cadets Casey Jago, Joshua Hinson, and Tiffany Jakowczuk. She has known these cadets since they joined they joined the Cadet Program and has worked with them and watched them grow as they have taken on various leadership roles at

encampments, conferences and other CAP activities.

Mesones states, "Florida Wing has just over 2090 cadets and these 3 represent the best of the best. They are outstanding leaders and set the example for both cadets and senior officers alike in their military bearing, respect and integrity."

These cadets have several things in common. They have been members for over four years; have attended numerous encampments and National Special Activities. Hinson, with 11 encampments, serving as Cadet Commander in one, and 5 National Special Activities, takes the trophy for the most, but the others are not far

behind. Jago went to 6 encampments and 4 National Special Activities and Jakowczuk attended 4 encampments and 4 National Special Activities, one as an ambassador on behalf of CAP in Japan as part of the International Air Cadet Exchange.

Cadet Colonel Hinson says, "I had my best leadership experience as the Cadet Commander for the 2010 Summer Encampment. The biggest thing I developed was problem solving skills. As the cadet commander, decisions have to be made on the spot and communicated throughout the cadet staff. Finding the most effective way to do this was a great experience."

*Continued on next page*

## SPAATZ AWARDS

Cadet Colonel Jago agrees and adds, "I love the idea of getting thrown into a real world leadership environment and being forced to work with people you may or may not know. I love building those relationships and using that common core of experience to work together and help more basics make the transition to cadet. Being a part of that made everything I have put into CAP worth it".

All three cadets have served as their Squadron's Cadet Commander. Hinson and Jakowczuk have been members of winning Color Guard and Drill Teams and have earned Cadet of the Year Scholarships. Hinson also earned a CAP Flight Training Scholarship.

Jakowczuk says her favorite CAP activity was Color Guard. "I credit my experience, training and competing in color guard with shaping me into the cadet I am today. Not only was I able to be a part of a national champion team, but I became a much sharper and more knowledgeable cadet, and formed lifelong friendships with my teammates and my coaches."

One of the cadets was presented with an additional high honor. Cadet Colonel Jago received Civil Air Patrol's Life Saving Award.

Another thing these cadets have in common is academic success. They are all in Florida universities studying everything from physics

and mathematics to business administration. Tiffany Jakowczuk is fully dual enrolled and is both a high school senior and a college sophomore. Sophomore Joshua Hinson has a full AFROTC scholarship.

All three Cadet Colonels credit the leadership and communication skills they acquired from their Civil Air Patrol experiences for having opened doors for them in career and college opportunities.

They offer the following advice to their colleagues: Passionately pursue excellence in everything you do. Your commitment and involvement to CAP will take you far outside of the program. Lastly, apply yourself. The more you put into CAP, the more you get out of it. ●

# Florida Wing Snapshot

As of 27FEB2012

- **2147 Cadet Members**
- **2102 Senior Members**
- **28 Planes**
- **2 Gliders**
- **30 Motor Vehicles**
- **127 Mission Pilots**
- **31 Chaplains**
- **86 Squadrons**
- **7 Groups**

## HOW TO CHANGE WHEN CHANGE IS HARD

**Lt. Col. David Leach**

How often do we attempt to make a change and fall back to old habits and the comfortable existence of how it has always been done? In the book written by Chip Heath and Dan Heath, *SWITCH: How To Change Things When Change is Hard*, the authors explain the simple reason most efforts to change fail is because our brains do not contain a single, general-purpose decision-making unit.

The basic problem: "The brain has two independent systems at work at all times," they explain.

"First, there's what we call the emotional side. It's the part of you that is instinctive, that feels pain and pleasure. Second, there's the rational side, also known as the reflective or conscious system. It's the part of you that deliberates and analyzes and looks into the future."

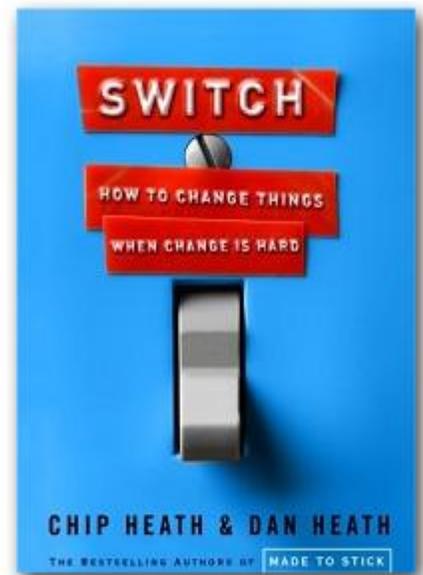
In essence, the rational mind wants change. The emotional mind wants comfort. We have to satisfy

both if we want long-lasting change to happen.

*"When change works, it tends to follow a pattern. The people who change have clear direction, ample motivation and a supportive environment"*

To get things done, the Heaths offer a three-part framework that can guide you in any situation where you need to change behavior. You will need to get the book to appreciate and understand the reference to the "Rider" and the "Elephant" below:

- **Direct the Rider.** Provide clear direction for the rational side of the decision-making unit. What looks like resistance to change is often a lack of clarity. Don't think big picture. Specify manageable immediate steps in the right direction. Point to the destination and explain where you're going and why it's worth it.



- **Motivate the Elephant.** Connect on an emotional level, to keep the Elephant moving forward. Find the feeling. Cultivate an identity. We can't simply think our way into a new behavior. Shrink the change, so it doesn't spook the Elephant.
- **Shape the path.** If you want people to change, make the process easier.

I would like our members to think about this throughout the year and *Make the Future Happen* (Florida Wing's 4<sup>th</sup> PRECEPT.) This simple explanation makes perfect sense. Appealing to the emotional side is more effective than appealing to the logical and the mind is designed to use logic as a tool for supporting our beliefs rather than changing them. ●

## Florida Wing Teacher Wins National Award



*Megan Tucker, Kenwood Elementary, has been named the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year. Pictured (l to r) are Maj. Pam Becker, Col. Phil Zedonek, Megan Tucker, Yvonne Michna, and Dr. Alexis Tibbetts.*

### **Article Courtesy of Okaloosa County School District**

Megan Tucker, Kenwood Elementary School, has been named the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year.

While serving as the coordinator for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) at Kenwood Elementary School, Tucker used incentives and fun, hands-on activities, including those from CAP's Aerospace Connections in Education program, to motivate her fourth grade students as well as fellow teachers

“Megan has been a leader for STEM across the county through the Engineers For America (EFA)

program and has been an inspiration to the teachers,” said Superintendent Dr. Alexis Tibbetts. “She is very deserving of this award and we are so grateful to her for her leadership and how she has brought the teachers together to work as a team at Kenwood Elementary.”

This national level award was established to recognize and reward any Civil Air Patrol member who is a certified teacher for outstanding accomplishments in Aerospace Education and for possessing the honorable attributes expected from American teachers.

The nominees for this award must meet the criteria below in order to qualify for this award:

1. Be a Civil Air Patrol Member;
2. Be a certified classroom teacher from grades K-12 in any public, private, or parochial school;
3. Must either teach aerospace education as a subject or use aerospace education to enrich the teaching of traditional subjects;
4. Set high standards for students and demand excellence in student performance;
5. Strive to improve personal academic competence and teaching ability;
6. Demonstrate creativity in developing and utilizing materials to enhance the teaching of aerospace;
7. Maximize student involvement and classroom activities to improve student learning or create and develop a one-time project or program of such significance that it has a major impact on the teaching of aerospace education.

“Inspired by Mrs. Tucker, all of the fourth-grade classes at Kenwood Elementary embraced the Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) curriculum which led to Mrs. Tucker being named the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year and her school the ACE School of the Year,” said Col. Phil Zedonek, Florida Wing Vice Commander. “Mrs. Tucker developed an Aerospace Engineering theme for the entire school, incorporating it at every opportunity, along with related lessons in leadership and teamwork. Her tenacity in exposing students to aerospace education is impressive.”

“Megan has not only been an inspiration to the students, but also to the teachers,” said Yvonne Michna, Kenwood Elementary School Principal. “She is responsible for bringing the Civil Air Patrol program to Kenwood and we have a lot of support behind her.”

For more information on the ACE program, please visit CAP Aerospace Education at

<http://www.capmembers.com/ae>. ●

## Vehicle Maintenance Tips

*To help reduce dry rot all vehicle custodians are urged to drive their assigned vehicles no less than 1 mile if the vehicle has not been moved during the month. This may help reduce dry rot and prevent flat spots from developing on the tire. In addition, this will be a good time to check the mechanical functioning of the vehicle.*



### Tire Dry Rot

Dry rot in tires is caused by intense exposure to sunlight and often occurs when an automobile sits for long periods of time, since part of the tire is constantly exposed. Rot, however, can occur in vehicles that are used every day as well. When trying to determine whether it is time for new tires, look at more than how much tread remains; also check for signs of dry rot.

The most common sign of dry rot in tires is cracking along the sides, since the sides of the tires have the most sun exposure. If there are cracks on the side walls, change your tires immediately.

Dry rot can also cause splitting between the tire treads. Tiny cracks in the treads may or may not be a sign of dry rot, and could just be the result of normal wear and tear. Small imperfections may not be a risk; however, if there is significant cracking, you should replace the tire.

Browning or yellowing of the tire is a sign of advanced dry rot. These tires are in no way safe. Do not attempt to drive on discolored tires.

Read more: [Signs of Dry-Rotted Tires | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/list_7243840_signs-dry_rotted-tires.html#ixzz1eYxOxN7F)  
[http://www.ehow.com/list\\_7243840\\_signs-dry\\_rotted-tires.html#ixzz1eYxOxN7F](http://www.ehow.com/list_7243840_signs-dry_rotted-tires.html#ixzz1eYxOxN7F)

Please check your vehicles and trailers for signs of tire dry rot. This is to be done during your monthly safety checks and any time that you or any driver is conducting a pre-use inspection. Make sure trailer tires are checked, if applicable. When you have a service done on your vehicle, make sure that a safety check is included. This **must** include checking for dry rot.

Your life and your passenger's lives ride on safe tires. ●

**Florida Wing Awarded The National Commander's Unit Citation Award**  
 Effective August 20, 2011, Florida Wing was awarded the National Commander's Unit Citation Award for outstanding achievement, exceptional service, and a high degree of performance, during the award period April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011. All members of the Florida Wing that were members during the award period are eligible to wear the National Commander's Unit Citation Award Ribbon.

## Gathering Artifacts

### 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ernest Lee

As this is a first sojourn in the wing news letter as an editor, I found that there was a need to review the on-line archives of the Florida Wing. The first wing newsletter, dated December 1943 was titled the Barracuda Bucket. The next available in the archive is from May 1944. These are wonderful insights to the goings-on within Florida Wing over 6 decades ago.

The archive jumps forward to November 1954, skips to November 1960, and so on until letters are archived on almost a monthly basis in the late 1990's. It was at this point I realized that much of Florida Wing history has been written down, probably on or near a monthly basis, in these past years, but is probably now lost to time.

Because newsletters were aimed at a small audience, original copies are rare. However, local newspapers have a better chance of surviving the years due to being targeted at a larger readership. With the advent of computers and advanced methods of copying documents, many electronic archives exist on the World Wide Web.

Tracking down this history is a large undertaking, and cannot be done alone. So my request to members of Florida Wing is to use the internet to search information about your squadrons and CAP accomplishments through local newspaper electronic archives located in various universities and historic societies within the state.

As an example of history lurking in news archives is The Boca Raton

News from January 10, 1965. Page 3 talks about the first meeting to organize a new CAP squadron in the area. Another Boca Raton article from September 1952 reports on CAP testing experimental parachutes at a local airport! This is the site of the Boca Raton Historical society: <http://173.12.11.246/Search.htm>

Another site that covers statewide newspapers is <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/fdn11>

As mentioned, this is a big undertaking. I hope squadron historians and other CAP members interested in cataloging the history of the Florida Wing will contact me at [elee@flwg.us](mailto:elee@flwg.us) to organize a plan for cataloging this information. Please include the words "History Research" in the subject line. ●

## Florida Wing Facebook Page

Check out the Florida Wing Facebook Page! Be sure to click "Like" to stay up-to-date on news and events from around the wing.

<http://www.facebook.com/flwgcap>

## FLWG Fledglings

### 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ernest Lee

**Fledgling:** A young bird developing feathers and learning to fly. Also, Fledgling is the name of a 1920's Curtis Aircraft flight trainer, the N2C.

Whether receiving training in CAP corporate aircraft, or from an FBO, this column is to mark, on a quarterly basis, the accomplishments of students achieving solo flight and obtaining the goal of receiving their pilot's license.

This quarter we have student pilot achievement information from Groups 3, 4 and 5

**Group 4** student pilots that have achieved their first powered solo flight are Jesse Wurle from Central Florida Composite Squadron FL-259 and

C/SrA Andrew Atehortua from Osceola Cadet Squadron FL-456.

From South Brevard Cadet Squadron FL-123 C/2dLt Andrew Cannon, C/SSgt Mitchell Roy and C/SSgt Gabriel Rouzer have all achieved powered solo flight in their training.

C/2dLt Jeffrey Wood from Patrick Composite Squadron FL-293 has earned his private pilot's license in October training in a CAP aircraft.

For glider flight the following cadets have achieved their first solo flight:

C/Amn Chris Boughton, C/1stLt Gibson Eads, C/2dLt Doug Ward, C/1stLt Sam Porter, C/SMSgt Cristina Myers, C/MSgt Nick Owen. All of the cadets are from the Seminole Composite Squadron FL-116

From Patrick Composite Squadron FL-293, Maegen Mannis has achieved first glider solo flight, as well as

C/2dLt Patrick Good from Ti-Co Composite Squadron FL-267,

From **Group 3**, achieving first solo powered flight, is C/ Capt Melanie Lee from Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron FL-458

Accomplishments from **Group 5** student pilots: C/SrA Anthony Randazzo has earned his private pilot's license, and C/1st Lt Johnathan Fischer has achieved his solo flight. These pilots are from the Charlotte County Composite Squadron FL-051

For first solo flight and pilot's license milestones for CAP student pilots, please forward information to [elee@flwg.us](mailto:elee@flwg.us). The next column will include last quarter 2011 achievements, and first quarter 2012 milestones. ●

**WingSpan Needs Your Help!**

**Submit articles for consideration to**

**[news@flwg.us](mailto:news@flwg.us)**

**The deadline for the Summer, 2012 edition  
is June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

# Best of the Best - Cadets Compete at the 2012 Florida Wing Cadet Competition

**C/Capt. Michael Simon and 1st Lt. William McCombie**



**Patrick AFB, FL** - Eighty four cadets participated in this year's Florida Wing Cadet Competition held at Patrick AFB, FL. These cadets were members of nine color guards and 3 drill teams, an outstanding amount of participants, competing to bring home the First Place trophies.

This two-day event consisted of two separate competitions. The Drill Team competition, composed of 12 in-flight cadets and the team commander, and the Color Guard competition, composed of 4 cadets. Both compete in 7 challenging events ranging from physical and mental endurance to precision in drill.

The Color Guard teams demonstrate mastery of the Colors in various areas, while also executing precise rifle movements. The Drill Teams

showcase their drill movements in creative ways and are put to the test when given a list of commands to execute with only 30 seconds to review – all out of the Drill and Ceremonies Manual. Both sets of competitors are then tested on their knowledge in the Written Test and Panel Quiz events. Finally, physical fitness is their last challenge with the Mile Run for the 84 competitors and the Volleyball event for the Drill Teams

C/1st Lt. Porter from Seminole Composite Squadron said "This was an awesome learning experience and we hope to come next year and win".

The competition was fierce with returning drill champion Miami Springs Optimism Cadet Squadron and the drill team that called

themselves "Group 13" consisting of cadets, including two Spaatz recipients, mostly from groups 6 and 7.

For the first time in over six years, the Drill Team competition had a third competitor. Seminole County Composite Squadron competed for the first time and was a formidable opponent – watch out for them next year!

As for the color guard competition, nine teams competing definitely raises the bar – excelling in all we do! Four of the nine teams at the competition are graduates of the Florida Wing Color Guard academy, giving them an "upper hand".

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Present this year was Florida Wing's Commander, Col. Mike Cook, Director of Cadet Programs, Lt. Col. Margarita Mesones and project officer Capt. Tommy Miller who planned and organized the competition. Judging was conducted by Embry-Riddle Air Force ROTC officers, several Air Force Liaison officers, cadet programs officers Capt. Troy Odierno, Capt. Edith Miller, 1st Lt. Trung Tran, Spaatz recipient C/Col Casey Jago, and Major Kevin McSparron. Scoring

was conducted by Capt. Heather McSparron and C/1st Lt Burr.

The overall results for Color Guard Competition were Cecil Field Cadet Squadron in 3rd place, Tamiami Composite Squadron in 2nd place, and Gainesville Composite Squadron taking home the First Place title. The Drill Team Competition placing was Seminole Composite in 3rd, Miami Springs

Optimist Cadet in 2nd, and "Group 13" taking home the First Place title. The mile "fleet foot", fastest cadets were Isaac Redmond, Christina Myers, Yaremi Quintana, and Manyoni Dominquez. The "highest written test" scores were attained by C/Col Tiffany Jakowczuk and Kevin Chason

The two winning teams now move on to represent Florida Wing at the Southeast Region Cadet Competition in the spring. ●

## AEROSPACE EDUCATION GRANT RECIPIENTS & DEADLINES

Congratulations to the AFA/CAP AE Grant Winners for Fall Cycle of 2011! Four of the twenty-two recipients were from Florida.

1. Teri Boxberger, Walker Elementary, Crestview, FL – Science Fair Program
2. Scott Erickson, Milton High School, Milton, FL – PASCO Passport Sound Level Sensors
3. Lori Loadholtz, San Jose Catholic School, Jacksonville, FL – After-school Robotics Program for Middle School
4. Laura Pink, Antioch Elementary, Crestview, FL—School-wide Teacher/Student Rocketry Program

Don't forget the AEM Deadlines to submit for a [\\$250 AFA educator grant applications](#) is no later than March 31 (spring cycle). ●

## OPA LOCKA CADET SQUADRON RECEIVES OFFICIAL CHARTER AT FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY CEREMONY



*Group 7 Commander, Maj. Henry Irizarry (left) presents the chartering certificate to Capt. Mark Nelson (center) and Dr Makola Abdullah (right)*

### ***Maj. Henry Irizarry***

**MIAMI** – On Saturday, January 21, 2012, the Opa Locka Cadet Squadron was officially chartered in a special ceremony, presided over by Master of Ceremonies, Major Joanne Carbana, CAP, of the Miami Senior One Squadron, and held in the Lehman Aviation Auditorium of the Florida Memorial University (FMU) in the city of Miami Gardens.

The colors were posted by the unit's color guard under the command of Cadet Commander Miguel Cruz, and the invocation was delivered by Group 7 Chaplain, Lt. Col. Joseph Moldon. After delivering the welcome, Major Henry Irizarry, Group 7 Commander, presented the charter to Opa Locka Cadet Squadron Commander, Captain Mark Nelson, and Dr. Makola Abdullah, Provost and Vice President, FMU. In his brief

address, Major Irizarry recounted the short history of the unit, expressed his appreciation to FMU for hosting the site for unit meetings and acknowledged the contributions made by Lt. Col. Trevor Stewart, Group 7 Cadet Programs Officer, and 1st Lt. Rosy Delgado, Squadron Deputy Commander, to the establishment of a cadet unit in the northwest corridor of Miami-Dade County.

Dr. Makola Abdullah was presented with a special plaque by Major Irizarry in recognition for the university's contribution to the success of the unit, while Mr. Carl Perez of Perez Trading Company was specially recognized for his company's generous donation of color guard equipment. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Captain Tolbert, Mr. Randle, and

Mr. Rinkins of FMU, Dr. Soffian of Lake Stevens Middle School; and Dr. Galligan and Mr. Perez of George T. Baker Aviation School who all supported the Open House on September 12, 2011, and the subsequent launch and continued operation of the unit.

During the ceremony, Cadet 2nd Lt. Ari B. Nelson, the unit cadet deputy commander, was presented with his Billy Mitchell Award, and was recognized for assisting in mentoring the 36 new cadets of the young squadron. Following this, 2nd Lt. Catheline Ahmed, the unit's newly appointed Aerospace Education Officer, was promoted to Captain, and was commended for her rapid advancement within in the program and her contribution to the progress of cadets. ●

## Florida Wing Winter Encampment Trains Over 200 Cadets



*Basic cadets in evening formation awaiting orders from the cadet staff*

### **C/2nd Lt. Zackery Macdonald**

**TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, FL.** – Civil Air Patrol cadets have recently graduated Florida Wing’s Winter Encampment Training held December 27<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup> at Silver Flag training facility, Tyndall Air Force Base. With over two hundred basic cadets and staff representing the states of Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and others, the encampment was a major success.

The staff was led by Encampment Commander Major Justin R. McElvaney and Cadet Commander C/Maj. Christopher M. Jamerson. Major David M. Hyden served as Deputy Commander while C/Lt. Col. Timothy J. Pollock served as

Cadet Deputy Commander. The staff was also mentored by Commandant of Cadets, Colonel Austyn W. Granville, Jr. Col. Granville stated that he “wants the basics to walk away understanding what it means to be a cadet.”

During this seven day training event, basic Cadets were exposed to the fundamentals of the cadet program and shown career opportunities in the Air Force. Cadets also trained in drill and ceremonies, and physical fitness. In addition to the excellent Cadet and Senior member staff on site for cadet training, the Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) cadre was available for

instruction and support of the encampment.

Cadets experienced the careers available in the Air Force by touring Air Operations Center (AOC) on Tyndall AFB. They were escorted by Air Force officers to several areas of the compound, including a 9/11 memorial and a room with large radar displays. Cadets also took part in tours of the aircraft accident response firefighters and the Tyndall Air Force Base control tower.

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Cadets also took part in a tour of the many RED HORSE careers and opportunities, and learned about the bomb disposal, fire fighting, mobile aircraft arresting, and reverse osmosis water purification systems. All of the career educations lead up to a

Cadet favorite, the obstacle course. Cadets were brought together as a team in order to complete the impending challenge. The teamwork and motivation seen at the course was a sight to behold.

The week came to a close with a pass in review parade where cadets

showed off their skills taught to them by the cadet and senior staff. It was evident that after the week-long encampment came to a close, the basic cadets learned the true value of teamwork, motivation, and success. ●

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## Glider Operations Soaring!

**Capt. William Weiler**



*C/2dLt Abigail Hewitt flying with SM Bob Gaertner on the first day of operations at Valkaria Airport.*

The Florida Wing glider operations is off to a great start this Fiscal Year flying over 150 Cadet Orientation Rides and self-funded training flights at multiple locations around the state. The wing now has two Super Blanik L-23 gliders and two tow planes operational with one pair in the southern part of the state at Homestead, and one pair in the northern area currently at Valkaria.

Unlike powered orientation flights, glider flying days are more like a mission with many cadets and senior members coming together as a team for a full day of education, fun, and flying. Besides the tow and glider pilots, there is a need for Mission Staff Assistants, Safety Officers, Flight Line Marshals, Wing Runners, and many other opportunities for anyone to be part of the glider team.

Contact your Group Glider Coordinator for more information about participating in the FLWG glider operations.



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