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Florida Wing Commander

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Members of the Florida Wing,

I am honored to have been selected to command the Florida Wing. I look forward to building upon the success of my predecessors and leading our wing into the future. I would also like to thank our readers for their continued support of the Florida Wing and Civil Air Patrol.



*Colonel Luis Garcia
Commander, Florida Wing*

During the change of command ceremony and subsequent town hall, I outlined our intent to work across the Florida Wing team of professionals to continue the effectiveness of our cadet programs, aerospace education, and emergency services activities. Across all levels in the wing, we must synchronize our efforts, work as a team, and employ dynamic innovative thinking in order to pursue sustainable solutions.

Since the assumption of command, I have been humbled with the positive emails, phone calls and verbal comments from members across the organization wishing me the best and hoping for a bright future. Over my tenure, I will continue to build the legacy of excellence of service of those who have preceded us, and we will set favorable environment for those who will follow us.

In order to ensure that we all understand where we are headed and how we intend on getting there. I share with you the guiding principles that we will

Continued on page 7 . . .

Florida Wing Volunteers Assist at Sun n Fun 2017

*By Capt. Sybrian Castleman, CAP
FLWG Director of Public Affairs*

Florida Wing volunteers worked at Sun n Fun in Lakeland to once again make this year's event a success. Sun n Fun is the second largest fly-in aviation event in the world. The event includes air shows, industry trade show, aerospace related exhibits and workshops.

This year's event included more than 1,000 aircraft with 130 warbirds, 17 of which were P-51 Mustangs to commemorate the fighter plane's 75th anniversary. Air show exhibitions were by the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels, U.S. Air Force's F-16 demonstration team, Geico Skytypers, Aeroshell Aerobatic Team, and the French Aerobatic Team.

Civil Air Patrol had 152 members from Florida, New York, Minnesota, and Kentucky Wings assisting the Federal Aviation Administration and

Lockheed Martin Flight Services with overdue aircraft and emergency locator transmitter (ELT) searches during the event. During the event, CAP



Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron Honor Guard during Polk Flight to Honor return ceremony. Photo credit Capt. Sybrian Castleman



National Commander Gen. Vazquez visits with FLWG members at the CAP recruiting booth at Sun n Fun 2017. Photo credit Capt. Sybrian Castleman



Cadets crewed for Doug Gantt and "Ham-Let", a pig shaped hot air balloon launched at Sun n Fun. Photo credit Maj. Steve Lampasona

had two "finds", one of which was an overdue aircraft and the other was an ELT which accidentally activated in an aircraft on the ground.

Taxiway safety duty at Sun n Fun is a large part of what CAP volunteers do for Sun n Fun during the event as people are permitted to walk across active taxiways to access static aircraft displays and vendor areas. Civil Air Patrol volunteers also serve in a variety of other functions during the event. Many of these are experiences they might not be able to have anywhere else.

The FLWG Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron Honor Guard was selected as part of the welcome escort for veterans returning on the Polk Flight of Honor. Cadets and Senior members were able to assist with the hot air balloon launch and work as part of the SOCOM flag recovery team as part of the opening ceremonies jump with the American



Friday night meet and greet with the Royal Air Force Cadets at Sun n Fun. Cadets share pizza, stories, and swap keepsake items. Photo credit Capt. Sybrian Castleman



Civil Air Patrol assisted SOCOM in flag recovery during the opening jump and National Anthem. Photo credit Maj. Steve Lampasona

flag. Members were also able to participate in several "meet and greets" with pilots from some of the teams flying in the airshow including the Blue Angels.

One of the highlights for CAP cadets every year is a pizza party on Friday night with the Royal Air Force cadets where they talk about the similarities and differences in their cadet programs, exchange trinkets, and interact in a cultural exchange.

During Sun n Fun, CAP members not only work, but they have the opportunity to attend aviation workshops, visit vendor booths, tour aircraft on display, watch the airshow, and meet people throughout the aviation community.

Civil Air Patrol volunteers are a vital part of the success of Sun n Fun as the second largest airshow in the world, making it a safe and enjoyable experience for guests, vendors, and participating aviators each year. 

Commanders Comments

Cont- from page 1 . . .

follow during my command tenure:

Command Vision

Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol will continue to build the exemplary organization of citizen volunteers performing missions for the communities of Florida

Train for Response,
Succeed in our Response,
Excel in our Service.

Command Mission Statement

To actively and professionally support CAP's missions, our country and state by providing a capable and trained volunteer force and motivating our membership to be strong leaders and better citizens.

Command Objectives

Strengthen our organization through positive and professional interaction
Maximize Florida Wing, Civil Air Patrol support to our local, state, federal and tribal partners, communities and members
Sustain a capable, responsive and accountable organization

Along with our core values, I ask you to bear in mind these guiding principles as we go forward. I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you.

Semper Vigilans,
Col. Luis Garcia, CAP
Florida Wing Commander



Florida Wing Change of Command

Florida Wing Public Affairs

A Change of Command is a time honored ceremony which marks the moment when the responsibility of command is passed from the current commander to the incoming commander. Florida Wing conducted their Change of Command at the Florida Wing Conference Banquet held at the Class B Resort and Spa in Orlando on April 29, 2017. Colonel Barry Melton presided over the ceremony.

Col. Irizarry was presented with the FLWG guidon by Lt. Col. Luis Garcia on behalf of Florida Wing as a token of appreciation for his dedicated service to the Wing over the last three years.

Lt. Col. Luis Garcia was promoted to the temporary grade of colonel as the incoming Wing Commander. His wife, Maj. Charlene Garcia, and Col. Henry Irizarry changed his shoulder boards as part of the promotion ceremony.

The Change of Command ceremony follows with Col. Henry Irizarry passing the flag to Southeast Region Commander Col. Barry Melton to signify the relinquishing of command. Col. Luis Garcia then accepts the flag from Col. Melton, assuming command of Florida Wing.

Following the ceremony, Col. Henry Irizarry is promoted to the permanent grade of colonel upon completion of assignment as Commander of Florida Wing and is awarded the Distinguished Service Award for his distinguished performance as Commander of Florida Wing.

The next morning at the Wing Commander's Town Hall meeting, Col. Garcia announced his Command Staff: Maj. Rafael Salort, Vice Commander; Maj. Sam Chiodo, Chief of Staff; and SSgt Scott Jung, NCO.

Florida Wing 2017 Conference

*By Lt. Col. Jeffrey Carlson, CAP
FLWG Group 5 Public Affairs Officer*

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. - The 2017 Florida Wing Conference and Awards Banquet was held April 27-30 in Lake Buena Vista, FL. The annual event attracted over 300 Civil Air Patrol members who attended the senior member training, cadet conference, awards banquet, change of command ceremony and enjoyed social opportunities with fellow members.

The schedule included almost 75 hours of pre-conference training that included in-resident courses for CAP Chaplain Corps and character development instructors, unit commanders, leaders of cadets, inspector general and mission radio operators. Additionally, 22 conference breakout sessions provided information covering a wide range of support and operation functions, including communications, government relations, logistics, information technology, aerospace education, public affairs, safety and more.

The Cadet Conference is held during the Florida Wing Conference with the training sessions presented by cadets covering topics such as public speaking, military etiquette, leadership through history, basic officership, and mentorship opportunities. There was session reviewing the National Cadet Special Activities such as the National Blue Beret, Hawk Mountain Ranger School, and the International Air Cadet Exchange program. Maj. Christina English, who was the Officer in Charge of the overall conference said, "The Cadet Conference is one of the premier events each year where cadets have the opportunity to assume leadership roles from planning conference to presenting the sessions."

CAP national commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez, assisted with presenting some of the 85 awards distributed during the day. Vazquez's presentations included two of CAP's most prestigious awards, presenting the Gill Robb Wilson Award to Lt. Col. Ryan Livergood and Maj. Joyce Lampasona and the General Carl A. Spaatz Award to Cadet Col. Viviana Angelini.

According to the Florida Wing Director of Personnel, Capt. Art Stoutenburg, the number of awards was more than double the typical yearly presentation of around 40 awards. The increase was primarily due to end of duty awards from the outgoing commander to his staff for their support and dedication under his command. Stoutenburg said the Unit Citation Award presented to Florida Wing by the national commander was a real highlight of this year's awards because it represented the accomplishments of all members in the Wing.

Southeast Region Commander, Col. Barry Melton, presided over the Change of Command ceremony where the responsibility for leadership of the Wing's more than 3400 members transferred from outgoing commander Col. Henry Irizarry to incoming Commander, Col. Luis Garcia. Melton praised the leadership and membership of "the largest wing" and its success as a "leader in operation tempo".

Col. Michael D. Tynismaa, Commander CAP-USAF, attended the event and thanked the "volunteer airmen" of Florida Wing for the service provided to the Air Force with an active tempo of diverse missions. Col. Tynismaa also recognized the nearly two decades of service by CAP-USAF liaison, Col. Jerry Angley, who retired earlier this year.

Other distinguished guests at the event included Puerto Rico Wing Commander, Col. Carlos Fernandez, and former Georgia Wing Commander, Col. Richard Greenwood.



Florida Wing Members Recognized for Outstanding Service and Contributions

*Compiled by Capt. Sybrian Castleman, CAP
Director of Public Affairs, Florida Wing*

At the 2017 Florida Wing Conference, Civil Air Patrol members from across the state were presented with awards to honor their dedication and service in 2016.

Commander Commendation Award

Outstanding duty performance where achievements and services are clearly and unmistakably exceptional when compared to similar achievements and service of members of like rank and responsibility. In instances where several members are affiliated with an exceptionally successful program, project or mission, the Commander's Commendation Award will be awarded only to those who clearly stand out from the others and who contributed most to the success of the program.

Wing Commander Commendation

Lt. Col. Sonia Soto-Granville

Region Commander Commendations

Capt. Sean Andino
Capt. Sybrian Castleman
Capt. David Collin
Capt. Logan Gallo
1st Lt. Elena Lee
1st Lt. William Leszczynski
Capt. Lora Lewis
Col. Joseph Martin
1st Lt. Jack Payne
Maj. MJ Ricketts
1st Lt. Michael Simon
Maj. Nancy Spieth
Capt. Tran Trung
Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek

National Commander Commendation

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Carlson

Exceptional Service Award

Exceptionally outstanding service to CAP in a duty of great responsibility while serving in any capacity with CAP. However, the duty should carry the ultimate responsibility for the successful operation of a region, wing or major project within the region or wing. The discharge of such duty must involve the acceptance and fulfillment of the obligation so as to greatly benefit the wing or region and CAP.

Lt. Col. Dave Auerbach
Lt. Col. Joanne Carbarana
Lt. Col. Gary Dahlke

Col. Luis Garcia
Lt. Col. Willard Garman
Maj. Iris Molgora

Maj. Rafael Salort
Lt. Col. George Schaefer
Lt. Col. Jim Spieth



Lt. Col. Jeff Carlson receives National Commanders Commendation from Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez. Photo credit Maj. Steve Lampasona

Meritorious Service Award

Outstanding achievement or meritorious service rendered specifically on behalf of CAP. Superior performance of normal duties does not, in itself, constitute automatic justification for the Meritorious Service Award. Awards should be restricted to the recognition of achievements and services which are clearly outstanding and unmistakably exceptional when compared to similar achievements and accomplishments of personnel of like rank and responsibilities. In instances where many individuals are affiliated with an exceptionally successful program, project or mission, the Meritorious Service Award should be awarded to the relatively few individuals whose contributions clearly stand out from the others and who have contributed most to the success of the program.

Maj. Keith Barry
Maj. Marie Berninger
Maj. Sam Chiodo
Lt. Col. Jim Clark
Lt. Col. John Clark
Maj. Eric Cooter
Lt. Col. Adrian Cuarta

Maj. Christina English
Lt. Col. Larry Fernald
Maj. Charlene Garcia
Lt. Col. Michael Godwin
Maj. Bill Hansen
Maj. Cory Hewitt
SMSgt. Scott Jung

Lt. Col. Ralph Kugel
Maj. Thomas Miller
Maj. Marian Motyl-Szary
Lt. Col. Russ Reichman
Col. Sergio Seoane
Capt. Art Stoutenburg
1st Lt. Todd Wean

Bronze Medal of Valor – Maj. Randall Diaz

Awarded in recognition for distinguished and conspicuous heroic action where danger to self is probable and known.

Gill Robb Wilson Award

The Gill Robb Wilson Award is the highest level of achievement for senior members who successfully complete all five levels of training, including attending Regional and National Staff Colleges.

Lt. Col. Ryan Livergood
Maj. Joyce Lampasona
Lt. Col. Dawn Lynch

General Carl A. Spaatz Award – Cadet Col. Viviana Angelini

The Gen Carl A. Spaatz Award is Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor. It is presented to cadets who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace education. Cadets qualify for this prestigious award after devoting an average of five years to progress through sixteen achievements in the CAP Cadet Program.

Senior Member of the Year – Maj. Sam Chiodo

An annual award established to recognize the senior member in all of CAP who has contributed most to the success of CAP's mission. The selection is based on the member's life-time contributions to CAP, not just the member's accomplishments during the year of nomination.

New Senior Member of the Year – 2nd Lt. Cesar Alayon

Squadron Commander of the Year – Maj. Keith Barry

Col. Edwin W. Lewis, Jr. Incident Staff Member of the Year Award – 1st Lt. William Conley

An annual award established to recognize active cadet or senior members in all of CAP who have contributed significantly to the success of CAP's emergency services and operational mission on the incident staff level. The selection is based on the member's life-time contributions to CAP, not just the member's accomplishments during the year of nomination, but nominations should focus on recent participation and

current benefits.

Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Awards

The Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Awards recognize those individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions, out of selfless devotion, to the advancement of youth in aerospace activities.

Organization – The Student Leadership Academy, Venice, FL

Senior Member – 1st Lt. Steve Rosier

Col. Dion E. DeCamp Ground Team of the Year Award – Pensacola Composite Squadron

An annual award established to recognize active ground teams, urban direction finding teams or other ground operations resources that may be developed in the future from throughout CAP who have contributed significantly to the success of CAP's emergency services and operational mission. The selection is based on the team's overall contributions to CAP, not just the accomplishments during the year of nomination, but nominations should focus on recent participation and current benefits.

Aerospace Education Officer of the Year – Maj. Donald Scantlan

Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year – Capt. Traci Cohen

Professional Development Officer of the Year – 2nd Lt. William Diaz

Cadet Program Officer of the Year – Lt. Col. Virginia Kurasch

Drug Demand Reduction – Member of the Year – Capt. John Franco

Public Affairs Officer of the Year – Maj. Marian Motyl-Szary

Communications Officer of the Year – Maj. Fred Edwards

Finance Officer of the Year – Maj. Armando Villasana

Distinguished Aviator of the Year – Capt. John Franco

Inspector General of the Year – Maj. Sam Chiodo

Logistics Officer of the Year – Maj. James Hobbs

Senior Chaplain of the Year – Lt. Col. Robert Atchley

Squadron Chaplain of the Year – Capt. Frank Gough

Property Manager of the Year – Maj. Marie Berninger

Character Development Officer of the Year – Maj. Tanya Milhomme-Simmons

Orientation Pilot of the Year – Capt. Enrique Mertins

Personnel Officer of the Year – Capt. Art Stoutenburg

Information Technology Officer of the Year – Maj. Marian Motyl-Szary

Safety Officer of the Year – Maj. John Carlson

Phase 1 Cadet of the Year – Cadet Senior Airman Emily Balling

Phase 2 Cadet of the Year – Cadet Master Sgt. Andrew Alayon

Phase 3 Cadet of the Year – Cadet 1st Lt. Zachariah Prescott

Phase 4 Cadet of the Year – Cadet Maj. Austen King

Cadet Programs Circle of Excellence

Capt. Sean Andino

Maj. Keith Barry

Maj. Christina English

Maj. Cory Hewitt

Capt. Michael Simon

Capt. Tran Trung

Award criteria and descriptions from Civil Air Patrol Regulation 39-3,
AWARD OF CAP MEDALS, RIBBONS AND
CERTIFICATES

Award list provided by Capt. Art Stoutenburg,
Florida Wing Personnel Officer

For additional award and Conference photos,
please visit our facebook page at:

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



Florida Wing Receives National Commander's Unit Citation

*Compiled by FLWG Public Affairs
Photo credits Maj. Steve Lampasona*

Maj. Gen. Joseph Vasquez, the Civil Air Patrol National Commander, presented Col. Henry Irizarry with the Unit Citation Award for Florida Wing at the 2017 FLWG Conference held at the B Resort and Spa in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

The Unit Citation Award is awarded for exceptionally meritorious service or exceptionally outstanding achievement which clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units. Recognition of meritorious service should cover a period of at least 12 months in order to permit the recommending authority to consider simultaneously units with related missions, compare all the units within their wing or region, and select the truly outstanding unit meriting the award.

During the period 15 March 2014 to 28 April



Florida Wing Commander Col. Irizarry receives the Unit Citation Award from Maj. Gen. Vasquez at the Florida Wing Conference.

2017, the Florida Wing distinguished itself through exceptionally meritorious service and outstanding achievements in the execution of its missions.

During this period, the Florida Wing flew over 16,000 flight hours in support of real world missions, training and over 2,700 cadet orientation flights in both powered and gliders.

The Florida Wing was activated for numerous named storms including Hurricane Matthew. During Hurricane Matthew, Florida Wing managed four mission bases, manned the State Emergency Operations Center, and provided over 20,000 aerial images to Florida Department of Emergency Management and FEMA. The 11 day mission encompassed units from across the wing and two regions.



Attaching the Unit Citation Award to the FLWG Civil Air Patrol flag pole.

The members of the Florida Wing worked diligently during their 2015 Compliance Inspection to culminate in a Highly Successful grade. The wing Subordinate Unit Inspection program was completely revamped by expanding the pool of qualified Inspectors and Augmentees to ensure timely compliance with the SUI program. Additionally, the Florida Wing transitioned in an exemplary manner from the THIRTY SIX month inspection cycle to the 24 month inspection cycle, well before the mandatory date.

The wing improved its financial posture and established financial processes to include online banking and bill paying system. The new processes eliminated the mailing of checks and reduced the processing time from 14 days to just 5 days. The Florida Wing implemented a virtual cloud repository that allowed unit finance officers to quickly and efficiently access their monthly and quarterly reports, thus reducing the dissemination of 78 individual monthly reports to one notification of report availability.

During this period, the Florida Wing also excelled in the Cadet Program with securing the winner and runner up positions of the 2015 National Cadet Competition. Most recently, the Florida Wing team won the 2017 Southeast Region Cadet Competition, and will be participating in the National Cadet Competition once again.

Additionally, the wing conducted five encampments with over 1,600 participants from 18 wings. The accomplishments and achievements of the Florida Wing during this period clearly sets the wing above and apart from similar units. They reflect great credit upon themselves, the Southeast Region, and the Civil Air Patrol.

Florida Wing Members are awarded the Unit

Citation ribbon if they were members of the unit during the time period for which the citation is awarded.

Unit Citation Awards in Florida Wing

Squadrons within Florida Wing presented with the Unit Citation Award at the Conference by Col. Irizarry were the Coral Springs Cadet Squadron and the Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron

CAP Squadron of Distinction Program

The Civil Air Patrol Squadron of Distinction Program is an annual program established to recognize the top CAP composite or cadet squadron regionally and nationally for distinctive accomplishments in the cadet program during the preceding calendar year. Region commanders will determine a Squadron of Distinction for each of the eight CAP regions. This year, the General “Chuck” Yeager Cadet Squadron received this award.

Squadron of Merit

The General “Chuck” Yeager Cadet Squadron also received the Squadron of Merit Award which is an annual award established to recognize the top cadet squadron or composite squadron in each wing. The same criteria used to select the Squadron of Distinction is used to determine Squadrons of Merit.

Gen “Chuck” Yeager Cadet Squadron

Other notable unit awards:

Composite Squadron of the Year – Stuart

Composite Squadron

Senior Squadron of the Year – Emerald Coast

Senior Squadron

Group of the Year – Group 5

Information for this article was supplied by Maj. Keith Barry, MC for the 2017 Florida Wing Conference and Annual Awards Banquet.

Award criteria and descriptions from Civil Air Patrol Regulation 39-3, AWARD OF CAP MEDALS, RIBBONS AND CERTIFICATES

For additional award and Conference photos, please visit our facebook page at:

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

CADET ANGELINI'S ADVENTURES IN CAP: SPAATZ AND BEYOND

*By Maj. Yvonne Rodriguez, CAP
Clearwater Composite Squadron*

Aerospace, aviation, and adventure! Viviana Angelini was excited to join Civil Air Patrol (CAP) at the earliest possible date, the morning of her 12th birthday. From this beginning, Cadet Angelini embarked on a journey culminating in the Spaatz Award—earned in fewer than five years, at the extraordinary age of 16.

A commitment to excellence marks Cadet Angelini's time in CAP (recognized by awards such as FLWG Honor Society, with Distinction, and Southeast Region Cadet of the Year, Phase II). She exemplifies outstanding service, from squadron to national level. Expertise in public affairs and emergency services (GTM 1/UDF) allows her to serve in live search and rescue missions, multiple FLWG Winter Encampments (PAO), and consecutive MacDill AirFests (PAO OIC and Deputy Commander), as well as publish articles in WingSpan. She has served in numerous leadership roles as Cadet Commander of Clearwater Composite Squadron (FL-447), Vice-Chair of Group 3 Cadet Advisory Committee, Team Commander at Hawk Mountain Ranger School, and Flight Commander at National Blue Beret (upcoming in July). Through CAP, Cadet Angelini has honed skills, earned qualifications, and developed leadership capabilities.

Yet, for Cadet Angelini the most meaningful part of CAP is its honoring of past service members and patriotic values. She has provided color guards at numerous veteran and 9/11 memorial events and stood guard for WWII Honor Flights. She gladly served as Master of Ceremonies at a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony honoring WWII CAP veterans. Most recently, she proudly laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. Cadet Angelini resonates strongly with CAP's commitment to our nation's traditions.

Cadet Angelini's future plans are taking her outside Florida. During Civic Leadership Academy last February, she met with Congressman Bilirakis



Cadet Col. Angelini is awarded the Spaatz Award certificate at the FLWG Banquet from Gen. Vasquez (April 2017). Photo credit Maj. Steve Lampasona

to present CAP's ongoing mission and thank him for continued support as part of National Legislative Day. Congressman Bilirakis recognized Cadet Angelini from her U.S. Government class at SPC (taught by his father) and unexpectedly offered her an internship! Eager to take advantage of this unique opportunity, Cadet Angelini spent the month of May working as an intern in the Washington, D.C., Office of Congressman Bilirakis. In the fall, Cadet Angelini plans on attending the University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC), having been selected as a Sondheim Scholar for Public Policy. She is thinking of pursuing a degree in Global Studies, with a minor in music (piano performance emphasis). She expects to continue her CAP involvement by joining a squadron near UMBC, and hopes to represent CAP overseas through IACE in the future. The adventure continues!

Florida Wing Members Receive the Gill Robb Wilson Award

*By 2nd Lt. James Chamberland, CAP
Public Affairs Officer Florida Wing Group 3*



National Commander Maj. Gen. Vasquez presents Maj. Joyce Lampasona with the Gill Robb Wilson Award. Photo credit Maj. Steve Lampasona



National Commander Maj. Gen. Vasquez presents Lt. Col. Ryan Livergood with the Gill Robb Wilson Award. Photo credit Maj. Steve Lampasona

The **Gill Robb Wilson Award** is Civil Air Patrol's highest award for Senior Member professional development. It recognizes Senior Members who have dedicated themselves to leadership and personal development, successfully completing the Level V training requirements. Gill Robb Wilson is regarded as the founder of Civil Air Patrol, and served as the first executive officer. This award named in his honor, was first given in 1964. As Civil Air Patrol's premiere award for professional development, individuals must direct the training of fellow members in a variety of courses. They must also have served in command or leadership positions for at least three years. Finally, they must have completed CAP's capstone course, the National Staff College, or approved equivalent.

At the 2017 Florida Wing Conference and Awards Banquet, held April 27-30 in Lake Buena Vista, FL three Senior Members from Florida were honored with this award, Lt. Col. Dawn Lynch (FL-025), Lt. Col. Ryan Livergood (FL-423) and



Maj. Joyce Lampasona (FL-032).

Typically, The Gill Robb Wilson Award is presented by an Air Force/Civil Air Patrol General Officer or other distinguished person. CAP National Commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Vazquez was present at this year's meeting to personally congratulate the recipients and present the award. Lt. Col. Livergood commented, "Anytime you get a flag officer to be in person and present an individual with accolades, it is an honor..." Maj. Joyce Lampasona had a similar sentiment, "Frankly, I am surprised by how much it meant to me having this award presented by Maj. Gen. Vazquez. For me, it acknowledged all the dedication and commitment to CAP since the day I joined 11 years ago. We do so much in CAP without expectation of recognition, so this was very, very special."

Lt. Col. Dawn Lynch joined Civil Air Patrol seven years ago to support her husband, chartering a new unit in Montana. 7 years later, she

Continued . . .

Gill Robb Wilson Awards *Continued . . .*

continues to support the organization as the Health Service Officer for Florida Wing's Group 2. Unfortunately, commitments at work prevented her from receiving her award in person at the conference. Lt. Col. Lynch is excited to be invited to serve in a support role at the 2017 National Staff College this May.

Completing Civil Air Patrol's senior member professional development program requires a tremendous amount of time and personal commitment, however most find the journey extremely rewarding and seek opportunities to share the knowledge gained throughout the 5 phases. Lt. Col. Livergood believes mentoring is one of the most important functions he can provide the organization. He joined CAP as a cadet in 1999, and reached the cadet program's pinnacle as a Spaatz Award winner, before becoming a Senior Member or what he refers to as "the Dark Side". Now, completing the equivalent in the senior program, he's able to provide others a very unique perspective very few people in the organization possess. *"As a Senior Member..., I've been able to give back to the organization that has given me so much growth and opportunities, to be mentored by some very key folks that have helped me become the leader I am today."*

Please congratulate these dedicated individuals on this tremendous honor. 

Cadet Advisory Council

*By Cadet Lt. Col. Joshua Sonderegger, CAP
FLWG Group 3 CAC Chair
Cadet Commander, Oakhurst Cadet Squadron*

If you talk to new and invigorated Civil Air Patrol cadets they will tell you their aspirations and interests in life. If you talk to older and experienced cadets they will regale you with stories of how those far off dreams are tangible. Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program is unique in that it gives aspiring teenagers a chance to expand upon their interests. Furthermore, the Cadet Program allows experienced cadets to use their knowledge to impact the next cadet generation through a program called the Cadet Advisory Council (CAC).

In the Cadet Advisory Council, cadets can influence the Cadet Program by planning and scheduling events on a local group level to a national level. They function as problem-solvers to better improve the program based on direct feedback from the cadets, for whom the program was created. Serving on the Cadet Advisory Council isn't a dream most people have. However, being a part of this council better prepares cadets to accomplish their dreams by growing and expanding their interests — a dream many leaders do have.

The Cadet Advisory Council serves on different levels. Individual squadrons can have one cadet serving as the CAC representative. These squadron representatives work together in a group council that covers a few counties. Multiple groups are joined together by a wing council, covering a state. Wing councils are joined together by regional councils covering multiple states, and regional councils are joined together by a national council. Through these levels, the CAC can have an impact from a single squadron to the whole of Civil Air Patrol.

Throughout our Florida Wing, the Cadet Advisory Council is active in the cadet community. For instance, Group 1 CAC has been visiting squadrons and helping plan a group banquet. Group 2 CAC is planning an astronomy event. Group 5 CAC is helping squadrons host open houses, Group 6 CAC is planning a Cadet Fest, and Group 7 CAC planned a rocketry camp. In Group 3, my team and I have been actively involved in visiting squadrons and planning a group picnic/field day in June. To find where these groups are located in Florida, please refer to the gocivilairpatrol.com website.

Teenagers join the Civil Air Patrol to gain experience. Cadets join the Cadet Advisory Council to use those experiences to help others. The Cadet Advisory Council plans to stay actively involved in the cadet community to help improve the cadet experience.

FLWG Contingent Attends Annual DC Legislative Day

By Lt. Col. Joyce Nader, CAP

Members of a delegation from Florida Wing (FLWG), led by Wing Commander Col. Henry Irizarry, attended the Annual Legislative Day held by Civil Air Patrol (CAP) on March 2-3, 2017.

The purpose of the annual Legislative Day is to meet with members of Congress or their staffers from the respective Wings to introduce them to the organization, secure appropriations, and invite them to become members of the Congressional Squadron. Typically, cadets also attend as the “face” of CAP.

Col. Irizarry was accompanied by incoming commander, Lt. Col. Luis Garcia, Maj. Charlene Garcia, Col. Sergio Seones, Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek, Lt. Col. Adrian Cuarta, Lt. Col. Joyce Nader, and 3 cadets, Cadet Col. Viviana Angelini, Cadet Lt. Col. Alyx Swanson, and Cadet Maj. Mark Lyford.

As part of the Legislative Day events, Col. Robert Kharton, Deputy Chief of the CAP Legal Corps and former Illinois Wing commander,



(L-R) Maj. Charlene Garcia, Congressman Daniel Webster, Incoming FLWG Commander Lt. Col. Luis Garcia, Cadet Col. Viviana Angelini. Photo Credit Congressman Webster's staff

also arranged to have six members of the CAP legal corps from various wings be admitted to the US Supreme Court. After a qualification process that typically takes about six months, the qualifying members gather at the US Supreme Court with an invited guest.

The six CAP members were sworn in by the Chief Justice, John Roberts, and became members of the U.S. Supreme Court bar (Scotus), which means they are officers of the highest court in the land, and may argue cases there. It is a high honor for any admitted lawyer. This year, Lt. Col. Joyce Nader was admitted as part of the Scotus 2017 contingent.



CAP Legal Corps members admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court include FLWG member Lt. Col. Joyce Nader (5th from the left) and their guests. Photo credit Col. Robert Kharton (ILWG)

Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron Color Guard Cadets Win at Southeast Region Cadet Competition

*By 2nd Lt. Christine Lambert, CAP
Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron*

The cadets of the Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron earned the honor of competing in the Southeast Region Cadet Competition by taking First Place at the Florida Wing level. They won First Place at the Southeast Region Cadet Competition against other Wing Civil Air Patrol Squadrons from Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Puerto Rico.

The competition includes testing of physical fitness, formal presentation of the colors in indoor and outdoor environments, uniform inspections, team problem solving, written testing and knowledge in Aerospace, Team leadership, uniform and rank information and related materials. Competition rules are set at the National Level.

The team will now head to National Color Guard Competition in Dayton, OH in June 2017 to represent Southeast Region. The competition at National level showcases the



The Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron Color Guard team includes; front row: Cadet 1st Lt. Conrad Awve, Cadet Technical Sgt. Diego Ochoa. Back row: Cadet Senior Airman Crystal Giron, Color Guard Commander Cadet 2nd Lt. Jason Cain, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Michael Lambert, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Adam Cohen, and Cadet Master Sgt. Kyle Metts.

full range of challenges in cadet life experienced at the squadron level and new areas of learning that are important to America.



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Marion County Composite Squadron Finishes First in State CyberPatriot

*By Capt. Karl Adriaenssens, CAP
Public Affairs Officer, FL-361*



Team 1 – (L-R) Coach 2nd Lt. Dale Katz, Asst. Coach Capt. Robert Reynolds Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jonathan Allison, Cadet Airman Kristopher Scheuren, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Reynolds, Cadet Technical Sgt. Brandi Yager, Team Captain Cadet Capt. Christopher Katz, Cadet Technical Sgt. David Beckwith and Assistant Coach Capt. Robert Reynolds.



Team 2 – (L-R) Coach 2nd Lt. Dale Katz, Team Captain Cadet Airman 1st Class Josiah Morales, Cadet Ian Price, Cadet Nikolas Scheuren, Cadet Airman Seth Thibodeaux, Cadet Master Sgt. Donaven Raulerson and Assistant Coach Capt. Robert Reynolds.

The Marion County Composite Squadron FL-361 recently completed its second season in the CyberPatriot cyber defense competition. The squadron entered the competition with two cadet teams, which finished in first and fourth place in the State out of 40 registered CAP CyberPatriot teams in Florida. One of the teams advanced to the regional rounds, where they valiantly took fifth place in a field of 528 registered CAP CyberPatriot teams in the nation.

During the competition the cadets are tasked with finding cyber security vulnerabilities within computer operating systems while maintaining critical computer services. The competition is conducted on-line and the teams are given a six-hour window in which to perform the assigned tasks. The clock starts when the team logs-in.

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created to motivate students towards careers in cybersecurity and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. There are three main programs within CyberPatriot: the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, AFA CyberCamps and the

Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative. CyberPatriot was introduced by the Air Force Association to help students move toward careers in science as well as cybersecurity disciplines critical to our future.

At the center of CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. During several rounds of competition, the teams are tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities and hardening the system while maintaining critical services. Teams compete for the top placement within their state, then region, and finally the top teams move to the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarships.

The first CyberPatriot competition was organized in 2009, and the program has grown at incredible rates year over year. The last round, CyberPatriot IX, was completed early April 2017 and had more than 4,400 teams competing.

Lee County Cadets Take To The Road to Learn About Aviation

*By SM Ruth Byron, Public Affairs Officer, CAP, Lee County Schools Cadet Squadron FL816
Contribution by Capt. Johnathan Abraham, CAP, Deputy Commander FL816*

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. - Civil Air Patrol cadets from Lee County Schools Cadet Squadron attended the National Tour of Historic WWII Aircraft organized by the Commemorative Air Force at the Punta Gorda Airport. The cadets were hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 565 to assist with safety and security around the static aircraft displays from the largest flying museum in the world.

“Unfortunately the majority of the planes were “weathered in” at a Texas airport and could not make the flight in time,” said Lt. Col. Jim Kaletta, Group 5 Commander. “With only a few aircraft on the tarmac, the cadets had time on their hands. EAA members treated the cadets to an all you can eat pancake breakfast.”

After breakfast, the cadets received a private tour of the airport control tower. The tower operators explained how they were controlling both air and ground traffic operations in the area around the tower.

“This takes the learning experience beyond the books,” said Kaletta. “The cadets could see firsthand what a flight control operation does and the people involved. They saw PGD’s new radar. It helps them learn about career opportunities.”

The cadets then visited the airport fire department and watched the firemen complete daily test with the equipment. A popular piece of equipment



is the 78,000-pound fire rescue truck with its impressive size, speed, and the ability to shoot tons of water a great distance. After the demonstration, then the cadets were able to closely inspect the vehicle from inside, on top, and anywhere on the vehicle followed by a tour of the firehouse.

The cadets returned to the air show and toured the flight line to check out the airplanes. Each pilot spoke with cadets about their aircraft, its performance capabilities and its history.

By this time, the cadets were ready for a lunch hosted by the EAA chapter.

Cadet Master Sargent Bella R. Viator said, “Best day ever!”

Lee County School’s Cadet Squadron would like to thank EAA Chapter 565 for their endless hospitality and food. We would also like to thank Group 5 Commander. Lt. Col. Jim Kaletta, and Cadet Capt. Mikehla Hicks, Charlotte County Composite Squadron’s cadet commander, for making this a special activity.”

Other FL-816 cadets attending the Punta Gorda event were Cadet Airman Cooper J. Bisbe; Cadet Airman Kyle C. Brady; Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ethan Paul Cummings; Cadet Senior Airman Joseph A. Gingras; Cadet Staff Sgt. Katherine J. Grier; Cadet Senior Airman Sabrina M. Reading; and Cadet Master Sgt. Bella R. Viator. Photos by Capt. J. Abraham, CAP.



Florida Wing- National Check Pilot Standardization Course

*By 2nd Lt. James W. Chamberland, Sr., CAP
Public Affairs Officer, Group 3*

On a warm, sunny, February weekend in Central Florida this year, over 35 highly experienced Civil Air Patrol pilots and staff gathered at Lakeland Linder Airport. The annual Florida Wing National Check Pilot Standardization Course, coordinated by Lt. Col. George Schaefer, the Wing's Director of Flight Operations is the practical application of the currency requirement. Initially, the National Check Pilot Standardization Course (NCPSC) began as a ground school based program, then transition to online training modules. This comprehensive multi-media program fulfills the Civil Air Patrols current four- year requirement. However, the Florida Wing requires their check pilots to also attend a "live" two-day seminar, in addition to the online courses.

Lt. Col. Schaefer explains the importance of this annual meeting; "As our CAP pilots conduct missions across the Nation, it is critically important we follow one set of standards for safety & consistency. This hands-on approach helps to reinforce the online courses each pilot is required to take."

Civil Air Patrol Check Pilots are some of the most highly experienced pilots, having flown at least 25 missions for CAP. Check Pilots are fully qualified CFI pilots; providing instruction in all areas of flying, conducting Mission Pilot check rides, flight reviews, emergency services training and proficiency training to other qualified CAP pilots.



Participants of FLWG 2017 National Check Pilot Standardization Course. Photo credit Maj. Steve Lampasona

SRQ Composite Squadron Welcomes the Historic Ford Tri-Motor Airplane to Sarasota

*By 1st Lt. Christopher Carroll, CAP
Public Affairs Officer, SRQ Composite Squadron*

When one of the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Ford Tri-Motor airplanes made a tour stop in Sarasota, Florida, members of the SRQ Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) seized the opportunity to help out and to promote CAP to the visiting public.

On 4-5 February 2017, seven senior members and two cadets showed up at the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport to assist with the display of the historical Ford Tri-Motor airplane and to show off the squadron's Cessna 182 aircraft while answering questions about CAP.

According to John Maxfield, the pilot of the Ford Tri-Motor while in Sarasota, "The plane began its tour at AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, will tour the country for twelve months, and will return to AirVenture in July."

The Ford Tri-Motor, nicknamed the "Tin Goose," became one of the world's first mass-produced airliners. The 1929 model on display, NC8407, saw service on the east coast of the United States; Havana, Cuba, where it provided the first passenger and mail service for the island; and the Dominican Republic. In addition to providing public transportation, the plane also doubled as



(L-R) Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Colt Abrham Burch, Ford Tri-Motor pilot John Maxfield, and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Ian Spirduso in front of NC8407. Photo Credit 1st Lt. Christopher Carroll, CAP

a training aircraft for the Curtiss flight school in Havana, a military plane for the Dominican Air Force, and a barnstormer upon its return to the U.S. in 1949.

1st Lt. Peter Leckband, Commander of the SRQ Composite Squadron, said, "Events like this give our members a chance to be a part of aviation history and to reach out to the public to share the Civil Air Patrol story."

From Sarasota, the Tri-Motor Ford will travel to Miami, Marathon, Naples, Vero Beach and Pompano Beach before leaving the state.

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Naples Cadets Train for Missions with Collier County Emergency Services Agencies

*By 1st Lt. Donald Binner, CAP
Public Affairs Officer, Naples Senior Squadron*

Civil Air Patrol Cadets from the Naples Cadet Squadron joined with North Naples EMS, Collier County Sheriff's Department, Collier County EMS, and the Collier County Emergency Services Med-Flight 1 for a joint Search and Rescue Training Exercise (SAREX) at the Pepper Ranch in Immokalee City, FL. The Peace River Canine Search and Rescue Team also participated in the exercise led by Lt. Mike Hadsell. The training was broken down into three blocks.

The scenario for the first block was to conduct a "downed aircraft search with no emergency location transmission (ELT) signal and to locate a



(L-R) 2nd Lt. David Stevens, Cadet Staff Sgt. Connor McIntire, Cadet Senior Airman Christopher Phelps, Cadet Airman Collin Duke, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Steven Havens, Maj. Dirk DeVille, 1st Lt. Myrianette DeVille. Front: Cadet Airman GianCarlo Roggiero. Photo credit 1st Lt. Donald Binner



(L-R) Rear: Cadet Tech. Sgt. Stephen Havens, Cadet Airman GianCarlo Roggiero, Cadet Senior Airman Christopher Phelps. Front: Cadet Airman Collin Duke, Cadet Airman 1st Class Caleb Zeitler, Cadet Airman 1st Class Colton Zeitler, Cadet Staff Sgt. Connor McIntire. Photo credit 1st Lt. Donald Binner

possible missing pilot", as stated by Lt. Harraden from the Collier County EMS Team. The teams were instructed to navigate to a given GPS point utilizing a handheld Garmin equipped with GPS and two-way radio feature. The teams would use the GPS to locate the site and then being a "victim" search. This was to train the cadets in the use of pre-programmed data log waypoints and to navigate in unfamiliar terrain.

Block two of the training involved canine retrieval of a missing person. Civil Air Patrol members must receive training in working with canine units for part of their Urban Direction Finder Level 3 (UDF3) qualification ratings. The training scenarios for this portion of the SAREX was in two parts. Part one is what is known as "pre-scenting" where the canine is given a specific scent to follow. The second part was "live

Continued . . .

Cadets train

Continued . . .

find, non-discriminating” which is where the canine acquires and then follows the strongest human scent.

Block three was comprised of bringing the training together from the first two blocks to conduct a multi-team search with the GPS ground teams and canine units. Coordinating with MedFlight 1 and establishing of a remote landing zone for their helicopter for an airlift was the added component to block three.

Captain Walter Reed, commander of the Collier County MedFlight 1, gave the Civil Air Patrol cadets the task of setting up the landing zone with specific instructions as to how to handle the set up and guiding the helicopter to land at the site. The cadets performed their tasks well and Capt. Reed said he enjoyed working with the cadets and hoped to work with them again in the future.

At the conclusion of the SAREX. Major Deville said, “This SAREX was a success in that the cadets were able to partner with multiple Collier County EMS teams. We were able to further CAP Emergency Service goals by contributing to the community and county government agencies.” Lt. Harraden said, “The other agencies reported the cadets were well behaved and respectful to all the county ES crews,” and that “Civil Air Patrol will be considered for a future SAREX”. 

Chaplain Pugsley Speaks at Purple Heart Ceremony

By Maj. Steve Lampasona, CAP

Group 3 Commander

Photo credit Maj. Steve Lampasona



Chaplain Lt. Col. Linda Pugsley, CAP was the keynote speaker at the 12th Annual Purple Heart Ceremony hosted by the Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the Citrus County Auditorium at the county fairgrounds in Inverness, FL.

Her story as a 2 Tour Vietnam Flight Nurse and now Ordained Pastor, Civil Air Patrol Chaplain, and Army National Guard Volunteer Chaplain, is nothing short of amazing. She is referred to as an “Angel” and it is easy to see why.

In attendance from Civil Air Patrol was Group 3 CC, Maj. Steve Lampasona, Group 3 Cadet Programs and Professional Development Officer, Maj. Joyce Lampasona, and retired Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Clarence Helms.

There were also many attendees from local, state, and Federal Government including Senator Bill Nelsons Office, all of the Citrus County Commissioners, all of the Citrus County school board members, and Mayors and City Mangers from local communities. The Patriot Guard Riders were there in force, as were the Young Marines and JROTC Units from Citrus High School.

Wesley Chapel and Yeager Cadet Squadrons Visit Kennedy Space Center

*By 2nd Lt. Barbara Rich, CAP
Public Affairs Officer
Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron, FL-458
Photo Credit 2nd Lt. Barbara Rich*



On March 18 2017, the Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron and General “Chuck” Yeager Cadet Squadron joined forces for an experience out of this world. Almost fifty Civil Air Patrol members departed from Tampa to the east coast to the John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Thirty-five cadets divided into four flights to explore the vast wonders of the Space Center.

Throughout the day cadets explored the learning center of the space program. They were able to take steps into history, be inspired by NASA’s Mercury, Gemini and Apollo displays, see the Saturn V Rocket, the space shuttle Atlantis, and meet an astronaut.

During one part of the tour, after a short video on the history of Saturn V, the cadets were able to listen to actual mission control recordings of the 1968 launch of Apollo 8. Cadet Tech. Sgt. Julliano Rich said, “It felt so real when the windows started shaking I actually forgot where I was for a minute.”

When asked what her favorite experience was at KSC, Cadet Master Sgt. Elicia Smith simply answered, “The Hall of Heroes, I liked it because it was quite an experience that they show you of these past heroes, and what they accomplished, but in a way that is very realistic and make you feel that you were there.”

Overall Wesley Chapel and Yeager Cadet Squadrons had an unforgettable experience at the Kennedy Space Center.