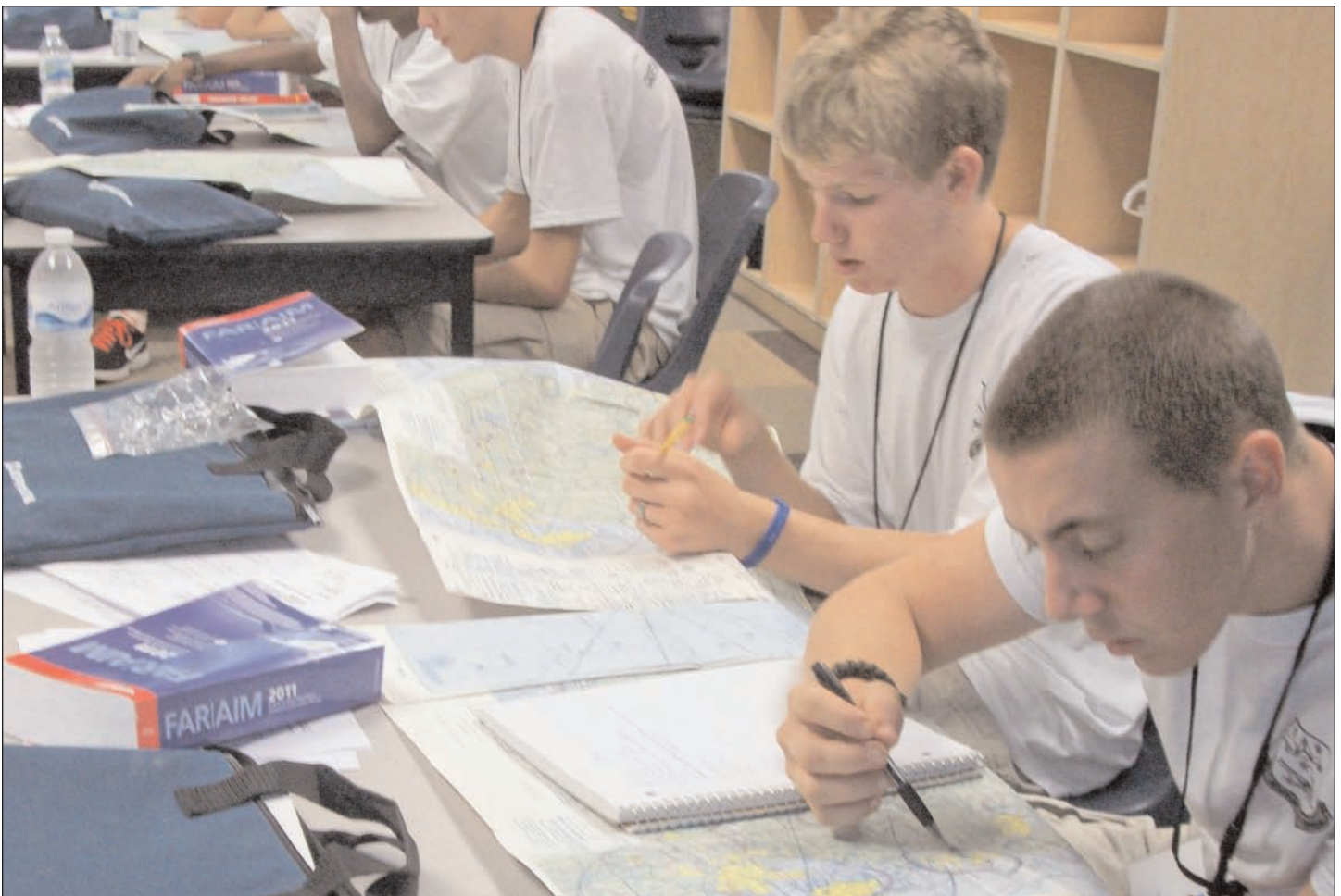




WINGSPAN

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



CAPT. JENNIFER RICHARDS

Cadet pilot candidates study navigation charts to prepare for their FAA private pilot exam during Group 5's aviation ground school.

17 cadets a step closer to their wings

Group 5 holds its annual cadet aviation ground school | Page 6

GROUP 7



PHOTO COURTESY MAJ. HENRY IRIZARRY/GROUP 7 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Southernmost unit in U.S. chartered

Maj. John DiRenzo, left, accepts the unit charter certificate for the new Key West Composite Squadron — the southernmost squadron in the continental United States — in June from Group 7 Commander Maj. Henry Irizarry. The unit started with 11 senior members and eight cadets, and Irizarry said the unit is rapidly growing. Offers of support from local businesses and organizations have come to the unit, which celebrated its new charter with a cadet orientation flight day.

GROUP 6

Coral Springs volunteers presented awards

By Maj. RICK STRUL
Coral Springs Cadet Squadron

CORAL SPRINGS, FLA.: Several members of Coral Springs Cadet Squadron were presented awards in late June.

Cadet Lt. Col. Casey Martin was presented the Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award, the second-highest cadet milestone award.

Lt. Col. Norman Kaplan was present-

ed with two professional development awards — the Paul E. Garber Award and the Grover Loening Aerospace Award.

Capt. Keith Wall was also presented with the Garber award, as was Maj. Rick Strul, the squadron's commander, who also was presented his A. Scott Crossfield and Gen. Chuck Yeager Aerospace Education awards.

Cadet Airman First Class Jonathan

Levin was promoted and received the Gen. H.H. "Hap" Arnold achievement ribbon.

Nearly 50 members of the squadron were presented ribbons representing Florida Wing's recent Unit Citation Award.

State Representative Ari Porth presented all of the awards and a Resolution making April 28 Civil Air Patrol Day in the state. ✪

WINGSPAN

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Cadet achieves summit award

The award is the first for a member of his squadron.

BY CAPT. JEFF CARLSON
Florida Wing Group 5 Public Affairs

SARASOTA, FLA.: Cadet Col. Casey Jago is the SRQ Composite Squadron's first-ever recipient of Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor, the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award.

Jago received the award from Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley of U.S. Central Command, along with the accompanying promotion to cadet colonel, in a ceremony in Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport's McClure Auditorium. More than 50 guests attended, including CENTCOM representatives, members of Jago's family, friends, mentors and fellow squadron members. CENTCOM is headquartered at nearby MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

Harley told the audience he couldn't resist "the opportunity to recognize a young man who possesses great distinction and great future." He thanked Jago for his volunteer service to his community and country, calling it a good example of "people helping people by doing the right thing."

In addressing the cadets present, Harley recalled key events in military history that changed the future. "Events don't just happen," he said, and people make history through the decisions they make.

"People grow up and make a decision to stand on the wrong side or the right side based on what they have been taught," he added, lauding CAP's cadet program for instilling the values of respect, integrity, excellence and volunteer service in future leaders.

"It's taken a lot of time and energy to reach this point," Jago said. "I've given up my summers, my weekends, but in the end it pays out because it is all worth something. You reach a moment like this and look back to see not only how much you've given but how much



CAPT. JEFF CARLSON/FLORIDA WING GROUP 5 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley presents Cadet Col. Casey Jago with the General Carl A. Spaatz Award in a presentation at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport.

you've received in return. This program is all about how much you put in."

"If you put in a lot of time and effort, you will get a lot out of it," he said, adding that "the goal is obtainable and I encourage you to go for it. It does take time and it does take commitment."

Lt. Col. Fran Gleockler, Florida Wing's Group 5's commander, noted that the earning the Spaatz Award is "a rough road that few cadets achieve" – less than one-half of 1 percent. "We're all so very proud of his accomplishments,"

she said. Earlier this year, Jago received CAP's Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving and the Presidential Volunteer Service award. A graduate of Palmetto High School, he will begin his undergraduate studies this fall at the University of South Florida main campus in Tampa, where he will be in Air Force ROTC.

His goal is to attend the Air Force Judge Advocate General School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., also the site of Civil Air Patrol's headquarters. ✪

Ground school graduates 17 cadets

By Capt. JEFF CARLSON

Florida Wing Group 5 Public Affairs

SARASOTA, FLA.: Seventeen logbooks endorsed. Seventeen ready to take their FAA private pilot written test.

Seventeen cadets graduated from Florida Wing Group 5's fourth annual aviation ground school June 19-25 at Sarasota Military Academy.

The weeklong program includes a comprehensive study of airplane systems, aerodynamic principles, flight operations, Federal Aviation Regulations, airplane performance, navigation, interpreting weather data, and cross-country flight planning. The school is designed to prepare qualified cadets to pass the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test.

All cadets received a certificate of completion, and cadets who passed the final exam received an endorsement in their logbook which allows them to take the FAA exam.

The top graduates were Cadet Capt. Jacob Kaufman of Cecil Field Cadet Squadron, who received a \$1,000 flight-training scholarship to be used in CAP aircraft with CAP flight instructors, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Scott Younger of Lee County Cadet Squadron, who received a \$500 flight-training scholarship.

Cadets accepted to attend the in-residence program must demonstrate a commitment to pursuing private pilot training. They must also maintain academic rigor while fulfilling their assigned squadron duties. Successful completion of the ground school portion of pilot training represents a significant step of progress, whether the students aim for a military or commercial academy.

This year the cadets came from all across Florida, representing five of Florida Wing's seven groups. They came from squadrons in Sarasota, Miami, Palm Beach, Punta Gorda, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Naples, Marco Island, and Winter Haven.

Lt. Col. Richard Petrucci of SRQ Composite Squadron in Sarasota was the chief instructor for the course. Guest instructors included retired U.S. Navy Capt. Phil "Rowdy" Yates, a former F-14 pilot and test pilot on the Joint Strike Fighter program, and Ed Barros, the chief flight instructor for Cirrus Aviation. This year, Maj. Jerry Lewis of Charlotte County Composite Squadron joined the instruction staff.

The daily routine started at 6:45 a.m. with a morning formation. The 40 hours of class time is balanced with periods of physical fitness activity. Evening hours are spent studying for the progress checks that lead up to the final exam. The demanding curriculum fosters a cooperative learning environment where cadets tutor each other and leadership skills are exercised.

The esprit de corps which forms to bond the pilot candidates is an important element to the program. This year, enthusiasm emerged unexpectedly in the form of singing during mess. By midweek, the ritual had driven school staff to a psychological tipping point. A surprise late evening visit by a local barbershop quartet gave the cadets a chance to learn



CAPT. JENNIFER RICHARDS

Retired navy Capt. Phil "Rowdy" Yates, a former F-14 pilot and test pilot, discusses flight performance with cadets.

about vocal harmony. By week's end, the graduating class was ready for their debut performance by singing The U.S. Air Force as part of the graduation ceremony.

In addition to Kaufman and Younger, participants included Cadet Chief Master Sgts. Karl Y. Hachmann, Jeremy A. King, Matthew Milligan and Timothy Thompson Cadet Senior Master Sgts. Caleb Q. Gonzales and George S. Sherman, Cadet Master Sgt. Sebastian Ramirez, Cadet Technical Sgts. James M. Lanza and Justin A. Maloney, Cadet Airman First Class William H. Miller, and Cadet Airmen Franklin S. Cosio, Brandon J. Gamboa, Frederick J. Skinner and Marc A. Purvis.

Former Florida Wing Commander Col. Christian Moersch returned this year to bivouac with the cadets and participate in other ground school activities. Other visitors included Southeast Region Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Wes Hannah, Florida Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek; Sarasota Military Academy Headmaster Dan Kennedy; and Cirrus Aviation's administrative director, Nayda Cattin.

The school was directed by Group 5 Commander Lt. Col. Fran Gleockler, who was assisted by Lt. Col. Lea Ann Curry, Group 5's aerospace education officer, Capt. Jennifer Richards of Polk County Composite Squadron and 1st Lt. Tom Downs, SRQ Composite Squadron's deputy commander for cadets.

"The school would not be possible without the annual fundraising efforts by Lt. Col. Virginia Cullity and access to the Sarasota Military Academy's wonderful facilities provided by Headmaster Dan Kennedy," Gleockler said.

The ground school brings "a unique opportunity to youth, feeds their interest in aviation, and helps them to recognize that aeronautics is a realistic goal to pursue," Gleockler said. "The in-residence format of the school is a cost-effective way to bring this type of opportunity within reach of cadets who, for economic reasons, might not find other aviation programs accessible to them." ✪

GROUP 1

Keeping the wings in the family, Group 1 boss pins grandson

The 1958 'heritage' pilot wings are initialed, dated

By Florida Wing Public Affairs

CLEARWATER, FLA.: Group 1's commander found a new use for his first set of Air Force pilot's wings — on his grandson's blues.

Porter pinned his original 1957 wings on Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Correll during a pinning ceremony May 6 for new pilots at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. Correll's wife, Samantha, assisted in the pinning of what's now considered "heritage wings."

"The presentation of heritage wings is a tradition at the Navy/Air Force Corpus Christi ceremony," Porter said, "and announced at the time of the pinning."

Correll, an Air Force Academy graduate, is now assigned to a C-130J squadron at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., and was promoted to first lieutenant May 30.

Porter, a retired Air Force colonel, said Correll did his initial pilot training in the T-6 at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and advanced training with the Navy.

"I prepared Jason for the Air Force flight screening program by giving him dual instruction prior to his reporting for the Air Force screening," Porter said. "We have a very strong bond between us, sharing the adventure and joy of flight. The wings I gave to him were engraved with my date and initials and his date and initials, and we both experienced a very emotional feeling of closeness and shared elation when I presented with the heritage wings."

Flight training has changed since Porter's early Air Force days. "In my day, it was not called Undergraduate



PHOTO COURTESY LT. COL. ROGERS A. PORTER/GROUP 1 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Florida Wing Group 1 Commander Lt. Col. Rogers Porter, a retired Air Force colonel, pins his heritage 1957 Air Force pilot wings on his grandson, Air Force 1st Lt. Jason Correll, at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. Correll's wife, Samantha, looks on.

Pilot Training, but rather primary and basic," he said. "I flew T-34s and T-28s in primary at Bainbridge, Ga., then went to basic at Greenville, Miss., flying the T-33. (I) was commissioned and rated at Greenville July 30, 1957, then it was off to advanced training in the F-84F at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and F-100A at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev."

He flew L-20s, C-47s, C-135s, C-141s and C-12s — "the C-12 was interesting in that I was factory-trained at Beechcraft and flew my aircraft east to

the Phillipines from Kansas," he said.

In addition to being the Group 1 commander, Porter is a CAP check pilot and check pilot examiner.

"What did I do after I retired from the Air Force went to my joy — flying at every chance I could get," Porter said. As for his grandson, the colonel made a strong commendation.

"Jason, first and foremost, is a professional military officer serving our country," he said, "a family tradition on both sides of the family tree." 🌟

Eglin training develops group readiness

By 1st Lt. CHARLES WALKER
Tyndall-Panama Composite Squadron

PANAMA CITY, FLA.: Members from across Florida's panhandle gathered at Eglin Air Force Base for a Memorial Day weekend of training.

With Eglin Composite Squadron as the host, the training for members of Group 1 allowed members both air and ground team training.

"This is where you get to hone your skills," Maj. Pam Becker said, "and if

you don't practice, you lose those skills."

For some cadets, the training was a good base to start working in emergency services.

"I didn't really have to rough it that much," Cadet Staff Sgt. Hunter Ward said, "and it's a good introduction to search and rescue. When I have to go to the wilderness for an FTX, for instance, I'm somewhat comfortable with the idea of an emergency services activity."

Lt. Col. Carole Jewett of Pensacola Senior Squadron said she was impressed with the value she saw in the training.

"This type of training provides a controlled environment where the mistakes can happen," she said, "thus preventing and/or mitigating them in a real-life scenario."

With Eglin's facilities and the preparation, planning and coordination by activity leaders, members were confident in their readiness. ✪

Two Jacksonville-area squadrons hold June exercise

By TYLER S. LAHNEN
Jacksonville Composite Squadron

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.: Members from the Jacksonville and St. Augustine Composite Squadrons participated in a ground team training exercise in late June.

The combined cadet and senior member teams conducted ramp checks and electronic searches for emergency locator transmitter practice beacons, placed by event organizers around Craig Airport.

In one scenario, the beacon was placed inside a backpack within the Jacksonville squadron's building on the airport grounds. After staging a half-mile away, a ground team used electronic direction finding equipment to weave their way around buildings and hangars, which can distort the signal

received by the sensing equipment. Inside the building, the team was not allowed to conduct a visual search, and their skills using the sensors were put to the test. The team found the beacon quickly.

In support of the deployed ground team, a fully functional mission base was fielded where members trained to be mission staff assistants, mission radio operators, ground branch directors, operation section chiefs, and mission safety officers. Two new members pursuing the mission pilot rating completed the classroom portion of mission scanner training and will soon conduct sorties to complete the training.

This training is just the latest of squadrons around Group 2 as the group continues to expand its ability to field fully functional teams at any time. ✪



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