

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION



ALTITUDES

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF CIVIL AIR PATROL'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION HEADQUARTERS

Spring 2017



Space Shuttle Discovery Astronaut & RMR Orientation Flight Pilot Remembers John Glenn



RMR Cadets National CyberPatriot Champs... Again!



75th Anniversary Gala at Air & Space Museum

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ON THE COVER: As the main attraction in the James McDonnell Space Hangar, Space Shuttle Discovery attracts a crowd of CAP members and guests at the 75th Gala. Photo by Maj. Mary Cast, COWG Director of AE

Commander's Comments

Col. Thomas Kettell, CAP
Commander, Rocky Mountain Region

Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of the Rocky Mountain Region's *Altitudes* magazine! This is the first issue of *Altitudes* since I took command of the region in January. I am truly privileged to serve you as your Region Commander. Since I took command I have been out to many of the wings and am meeting some really dynamic volunteer professionals. I look forward to working with you and this great organization in serving our communities. Over the next several months I will be attending many of the wing conferences and will be sharing our goals and objectives for the region. Our focus is going to be centered around four strategic areas:



1. Leadership identification and development
2. Membership growth and improving the member experience
3. Financial growth and stability
4. Creating a winning culture by leading the nation in key categories

We have already made an excellent start to goal number four. Recently, a team from the Colorado Wing competed in the CyberPatriot IX National Finals Competition in Baltimore. CyberPatriot is a National Youth Cyber Education Program sponsored by Northrop Grumman and the Air Force Association. 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. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and are tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six hour period. I am pleased to announce that

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Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron Captures 2nd CyberPatriot National Title

First-place Finish is CAP's 3rd in 7 Years

By CAP National Headquarters Public Affairs Newsroom

The Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron is the national CyberPatriot champion again -- the third such title for Civil Air Patrol in seven years.

The Colorado Springs team took the All Service Division crown tonight in the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot IX National Youth Cyber Defense Competition finals in Baltimore for the second time in six years.

Colorado Springs cadets finished third nationally last year. An earlier team from the same unit placed first in CyberPatriot IV in 2012, a year after a team of cadets from the Florida Wing took the overall title.

The Colorado Springs squadron appeared this year in the national finals for an unprecedented seventh straight year. The Illinois Wing's Fox Valley Composite Squadron reached the finals this year for the first time.

The final round of competition in the All Service Division also included three Navy Junior ROTC teams and two teams each from Army, Air Force and Marine Corps Junior ROTC and the Naval Sea Cadets. Another 12 teams from high schools across the U.S. competed in the Open Division finals, as did three teams in the Middle School Division.

This year's Colorado Springs cadet team consisted of:

- Cadet Capts. Taylor Coffee, team captain, and Zach Cramer
- Cadet 1st Lt. Isaac Stone
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Noah Bowe
- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Garrett Jackson

Coffee and Bowe competed on the national stage for the third straight year. Cramer and Stone were second-time finalists, while Jackson was a first-year national finals competitor.



CyberPatriot champions

The Air Force Association's CyberPatriot commissioner, Bernie Skoch (left), and AFA vice president of the board for aerospace education, Dick Bundy, flank the jubilant Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron team members and their mentors -- (from left) 1st Lt. Amy Griswold, team escort; Cadet 2nd Lt. Noah Bowe; Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Garrett Jackson; Cadet Capts. Zach Cramer and Taylor Coffey, team captain; Cadet 1st Lt. Isaac Stone; and Maj. Bill Blatchley, team coach.

Assisting the team members in their preparations were 1st Lt. Amy Griswold and Cadet 2nd Lt. Victor Griswold. The team's coach was Maj. Bill Blatchley, the squadron's aerospace education officer.

The Fox Valley Composite Squadron team consisted of:

- Cadet 2nd Lts. Andrew Stutesman, team captain, and Felix Zheng
- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jessica Melone
- Cadet Master Sgts. Dominic Lorenzo and John Lorenzo

Coaching the team was 1st Lt. Michael Cittadino, emergency services officer for the squadron.

For CyberPatriot IX, CAP once more sent a record number of teams to the All Service Division at the local, state and regional levels -- 528, six more than the previous year. That accounted for 33 percent of

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Brothers Achieve First for CAP Spaatz Award Colo. Wing's Todd Trio Achieves Top Cadet Honor Simultaneously

By I. Suzanne Anderson
CAP Newsroom Contributing Writer



The world has many famous trios — the Three Musketeers, Earth, Wind & Fire, the Bee Gees, the Three Tenors and even Charlie's Angels all come to mind without much thought. And now Civil Air Patrol can claim its own prestigious threesome — the Todd brothers from Lewis, Colorado.

On Jan. 7, the talented trio made history when they passed their Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award examinations and earned CAP's highest cadet honor — all at the same time. Twins Kaleb and Nathaniel, both 19, and brother Brendan, 18, are members of the Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron based in nearby Pleasant View.

But the record almost didn't happen.

"Overall, it took me two attempts to earn the award. I failed my first attempt last August, passing the physical fitness and essay tests but falling just shy of the leadership and aerospace portions," said Nathaniel, Spaatz award recipient No. 2081.

Kaleb, Spaatz recipient No. 2082, also encountered challenges. "On Oct. 1, 2016, I passed the physical fitness and essay portions of the Spaatz exam. I had to wait 60 days to retake the aerospace and leadership sections, so I took it on Jan. 7, 2017, with my brothers."

Even sitting for the exam is a tedious process, said Lt. Col. Debrah Archer, commander of the Mesa Verde squadron.

"They must go through a rigorous set of reviews and approvals before they can take the online tests, which must be witnessed by a certified proctor. In addition, they must progressively achieve the credentials in accordance with the superchart and wait eight weeks before attempting the next progression," Archer said.

The twins started the brothers' venture into CAP when they learned about the organization from a relative.



"I was interested in aviation, and he discovered the cadet program and told me about it. I was thrilled to learn there was a local squadron and attended a meeting," Kaleb said.

Brendan, Spaatz recipient No. 2083, added, "I thought it would be fun. I could wear a uniform and would be appreciated for my achievement."

"As a 14-year-old, I was already attracted to airplanes, and the website said that dedicated cadets were given a chance for pilot training. I visited a local squadron and was instantly hooked," Nathaniel said.

The trio's success didn't start with the Spaatz award. Each brother has achieved numerous accolades on the way, which helped him prepare for the cadet program's top award.

"In my home squadron, Mesa Verde Cadet, I have served in the positions of flight sergeant, flight commander, cadet aerospace officer and cadet commander. I currently assist the cadet commander — Brendan — as an adviser in his duties as commander," said Kaleb, a biochemistry major/pre-med major at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

continued ►



◀ *Spatz Trio continued*

Twin Nathaniel, an engineering major at Fort Lewis College, also has a list of impressive credentials.

“I have been a flight sergeant, flight commander, cadet aerospace officer and cadet deputy commander. Even though college and work now take up most of my time, I am still the cadet aerospace officer for my squadron, and I am loving every minute of it.”

A junior at Life Independent School, Brendan also has several cadet accolades.

“I have been guidon bearer, flight sergeant, flight commander, cadet public affairs officer, cadet leadership officer, CAC representative and cadet commander,” he said.

The brothers had many choices to pick from in terms of leadership programs — like the Boy Scouts — but they felt that the CAP cadet program was the complete package.

“Civil Air Patrol is unique in that the cadet program fosters an enthusiasm for aviation among its members. As an aspiring pilot, this really attracted me to the program. Because I was also planning on serving in the military, the cadet program appealed to me, with its Air Force roots in drill, ceremonies

and core values,” Kaleb said.

For Nathaniel, the appeal of promotion through achievement drew him to the CAP cadet program.

“I found out that the higher you achieved, the more opportunities you gained. For instance, if I was graduated from a basic training encampment, then I could become a cadet officer or attend special training camps (National Cadet Special Activities). One of the NCSAs is a flight academy. And, if I made cadet officer, then I could enlist in the Air Force at a higher pay grade. All this stuff kept me in the organization through to the senior cadet ranks,” he said.

Brendan shared a different aspect of the CAP.

“The Civil Air Patrol promotes excellence in the growth of knowledge, and it gave me an introduction to the military. At both basic encampment and NCSAs, I formed friendships and had fun learning. What an adventure it is to fly around the nation and meet other people like me!” he said.

Col. J.D. Ellis, national vice president of the Spatz Association and Spatz recipient No. 661, has met the cadets only once but had high praises for them.

“I spoke with them briefly at a CAP National Command Council meeting, and they are very sharp. They are goal-minded and will continue to do great things,” he said.

Not surprisingly, the brothers have set high goals for their futures.

“In five years, I see myself as a graduate student in aeronautical engineering, working toward my doctorate. I love aircraft! Everything seems magical to me, as it has since my first ride in grandpa’s old Cessna. I plan to spend my future on the edge of aeronautical research design, maybe starting my own aircraft company. Additionally, I want to remain active in the cadet program and do my best to help spread the wonder of flight to America’s youth,” Nathaniel said.

Kaleb added, “I see myself enrolled in a civilian medical school. After graduation from medical school, I will train in a surgical residency and pursue a career as a surgeon in the Air Force.”

Although he will stay in the military, Brendan is choosing a different route: “I see myself as a Marine and a college graduate.” ■

◀ *Commander’s Comments from page 1*

the “Wolfpack” of the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron won the national championship in the All Service Division!!

As we approach the busy summer months, I encourage you to take advantage of all the training events we have planned throughout our region. From encampments to mission training exercises, Region Staff College, and RCLS these training events are a critical component to developing and expanding our skill set to serve our nation.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to each and every member of this great region for your steadfast commitment to the Civil Air Patrol and to the communities we serve. Your dedication to our mission makes a real difference in people’s lives and your contributions have a lasting impact. I look forward to serving with you. ■





WYOMING WING'S FIRST EVER ROCKETRY ENCAMPMENT

By Lt. Col. BJ Carlson, CAP
Photo credits to Capt. Jerry Cowles, CAP

"There is a chain reaction and if you mess things up there will be a domino effect." Cadet Airman Brianna Warner

"Not everything is perfect even though you do it right." Cadet Airman Peter Snyder

"If you build your life incorrectly or use the wrong pieces it will mess up your life." Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Caeden Reeves

"If you mess up you can still make it work." Cadet Senior Airman Dakota Jackson

"It is a lot better to use teamwork because you don't know everything." Cadet Airman Mariah Warner

"It is better to do something right the first time." Cadet Airman 1st Class Alexandria Keesler

"One tiny mistake can ruin a lot of things." Cadet Master Sgt. Briannon Marcus

These insights were shared by cadets who attended the first ever WY Wing rocketry encampment in July. They were asked if they learned something throughout the week which could be applied to their life.

Eight cadets and 3 senior members arrived at the Griffin Poulson Youth Camp in Sheridan on 10 July to start an adventure for an entire week. Four of the cadets were brand new members from Casper (Airmen Peter and Jeremy Snyder and Brianna and Mariah Warner). The others were veteran members (Cadet Airman 1st Class Alexandra Keesler, Cadet Senior Airman Dakota Jackson and Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Caeden Reeves from Gillette and Cadet Master Sgt. Briannon Marcus from Sheridan). Once signed in, tents were set up before eating a meal prepared by the encampment Commander, Lt. Col. BJ Carlson. In an unusual turn of events this was the last meal prepared by her as the entire group decided on a menu and helped cook and clean for the entire week. Capt. Jerry Cowles from Cody and SM Jessica Meade from Gillette rounded out the rest of the staff.

All three phases of the Model Rocketry program were completed during the week. The non-fuel Redstone phase rockets were built on Sunday evening. There were a variety of Goddard, Junk, Fizzy and bottle rockets that were created and shot off.



As almost everyone had taken the required Phase tests on line very little time was spent on the written material and the cadets started right in on building the Titan Phase rockets. For this phase, they were required to build a simple single stage commercial rocket and one from aerospace history. Everyone got started on a Level 1 Viking rocket for the single stage but the Mercury Redstone from AE history was a Level 3. It was decided to finish the Viking and then go on to the Saturn Phase rockets instead. A Level 2 Loadstar and

continued ➤



◀ *Rocketry continued*

Egg Lifter were the options for this phase.

The Saturn Phase required one of two options – either do a payload rocket that could reach 300 feet or do a two-stage rocket. Cadets were given the choice of the Loadstar, which was a payload and 2 stage rocket or the Egg Lifter which was just a payload. The majority did the Egg Lifter. However, they were “bribed” later with ice cream to build the rocket they did not choose. As it turned out it was good they did as the Egg Lifter could not get to 300’ and the parachute only deployed from one rocket. The Loadstar, however, was successful in firing both stages and parachutes deployed.

Another requirement was to build a static rocket out of AE history so a trip was made to the local library to find pictures and information about various rockets. After obtaining pictures of some rockets the troop made it back to the camp and proceeded to use whatever materials available to create a rocket from history. Towards the end of the week each cadet reported on his/her rocket.

All-in-all it was a successful week and great friendships were made and patience was practiced. The only negative was that Sheridan had a fire ban and we ended up going over the mountain early in the morning on shoot-off day to get to the Wayfaring Traveler Ranch in Burlington – a trip of 3 hours. We packed up tents and gear and camped overnight in Burlington. Luckily, the weather and wind cooperated and we successfully shot off all rockets. Most of the pieces were recovered but they were not always in the original shape. Following a hot dog and marshmallow cookout everyone bunked down for the last night of the camp.

The final morning following breakfast the cadets were asked about their experiences. Most wanted to do the rocketry encampment again and come back as staff. Some of the things that were learned were rocket building, aerodynamics, leadership skills, the importance of instructions, attention to detail, friendships and a lot of patience. Everyone earned the rocketry badge and patch, plus a cool certificate.

Thanks to a **grant** from *Rocky Mountain Region* we were able to provide this experience free of charge to all participants. All they had to bring was an open mind, a willingness to work and to be a team player. All participants displayed these qualities throughout the week. As for me, it was the first cadet activity where I did not have to plan, supervise and do the cooking.

WHAT A WEEK!!! ★



◀ *CyberPatriot continued from page 3*

the overall All Service Division field and 12 percent of a record total field of 4,404 teams nationwide, including 2,217 in the Open Division, 1,589 in the All Service Division and 598 in the Middle School Division.

CAP teams have now recorded three first-place, two second-place and two third-place finishes over the last seven CyberPatriot competitions, along with first place in the inaugural Middle School Competition in CyberPatriot VI. In addition, teams from the South Dakota Wing’s Big Sioux Composite Squadron won CyberPatriot’s networking competition in 2012 and the forensics competition in 2013.

The Air Force Association launched CyberPatriot in 2009 as part of its emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education.

The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired information technology professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. Competing teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems, then tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six-hour period.

Qualifying teams reach the national finals after competing within their state and region. The top finishers received an all-expense-paid trip to Baltimore for the finals.

Northrop Grumman Foundation is CyberPatriot’s presenting sponsor. Other program sponsors include AT&T Federal and the AT&T Foundation, Cisco, Microsoft, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Facebook, Riverside Research, Splunk, Symantec, the Air Force Reserve, American Military University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Leidos and University of Maryland University College. ■





2017 RMR Cadet Competition Winners Announced



By Lt. Col. Alisha Christian, CAP
RMR Chief-of-Staff

Photos by 2nd Lt. Grace Anderson, CAP, UTWG Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron PAO

Congratulations to the winners of the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Competition that was held 12-14MAY at Camp W.G. Williams in Riverton, Utah. First Place was awarded to Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron “The Wolf Pack” and Second Place to Vance Brand Cadet Squadron!!! The teams who placed first and second at the Region Level now move on to represent RMR at the National Cadet Competition July 1-3 in Dayton, Ohio.



RMR Cadet Competition Colorado Wing cadets from the 1st Place Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron and 2nd Place Vance Brand Cadet Squadron holding their trophies with COWG Commander Col. Celeste Gamache.

The competition consisted of eight events, such as a written exam, physical training test, and Drill and Ceremony. The six teams that competed this year represented Utah, Colorado, Idaho, and Montana wings. The Cadet Competition tests the teamwork, knowledge, and skill of each team as they progress through the different events. An outstanding job was done by all who participated and this year’s competition had the highest attendance

at a Cadet Competition in over a decade! This was the second year of the new NCC format and the first year for the elective events in RMR.

Special thanks goes out to our amazing RMR Activities Officer, Lt. Col. Michael Samuel, who did an outstanding job organizing this activity, and

continued ➤



2017 Cadet Competition participants and staff from Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Utah wings.



◀ *continued*

to the Hill AFB Honor Guard and Recruiting Staff who supported us.

FINAL RESULTS

Overall First Place - Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron "The Wolf Pack" (Colorado Wing)

Overall Second Place - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

CORE EVENTS-

Indoor Presentation First Place - Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing)

Indoor Presentation Second Place - Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron "The Wolf Pack" (Colorado Wing)

Outdoor Presentation First Place - Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron "The Wolf Pack" (Colorado Wing)

Outdoor Presentation Second Place - Flathead Composite Squadron (Montana Wing)

Inspection First Place - Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing)

Inspection Second Place - Weber Minuteman (Utah Wing)

Physical Fitness First Place - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Physical Fitness Second Place - Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing)

Written Exam First Place - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Written Exam Second Place - Flathead Composite Squadron (Montana Wing)

Team Leadership Problem First Place - Flathead Composite Squadron (Montana Wing)

Team Leadership Problem Second Place - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

ELECTIVE EVENTS-

Newcomer Jeopardy First Place - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Newcomer Jeopardy Second Place - Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

All Ranks Jeopardy First Place - Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

All Ranks Jeopardy Second Place - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Public Speaking First Place - Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Public Speaking Second Place - Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Fleetwood Award - Mile Time

Fastest Female - 6:22; Cadet Hannah Burns, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Fastest Male - 5:19; Cadet Jacob Pitman, Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing)

Highest Written Exam Score at 87, 5% a 4-Way Tie

Cadet Reginald Edward Ash, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Cadet Sawyer White, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Cadet Timothy Stanford, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Cadet Trey Siers, Flathead Composite Squadron (Montana Wing)

Best Extemporaneous Speech

Cadet Ty Miller, Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing)

Best Impromptu Speech

Cadet Caleb Bryant, Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing)

Congratulations to all Cadet and Senior members who participated! Everyone did an outstanding job! ■





2016 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION “OF THE YEAR” AWARDS



These recipients represent the finest members in each category from our five-wing region for their volunteer service during the previous year. Each of these members were selected from submissions sent to the region by each wing and were already selected and honored by their respective wings with a Wing “Of the Year” Award.

Congratulations!

**Tom Kettell, Colonel, CAP
Commander, Rocky Mountain Region**



Col. Tom Kettell presenting an RMR of the Year Award to Maj. Wes Morosco of the JeffCo Senior Squadron of the Colorado Wing.

Squadron of Distinction

- Boise Composite Squadron of Idaho Wing

AFA Cadet of the Year

- Cadet Chad J. Lewis of Colorado Wing

Senior Member of the Year

- Lt. Col. Michael T. McNeely of Colorado Wing

AFSA Cadet NCO of the Year

- Cadet Mackenzie L. Jordak of Colorado Wing

Brewer Award - Category I (Cadet)

- Cadet Stefanne J. Fijalkowski of Colorado Wing

Brewer Award - Senior Member (Category II)

- Maj. Bernard W. Morosco of Colorado Wing

Brewer Award - Category IV (Lifetime Achievement)

- Lt. Col. Robert P. Giese of Wyoming Wing

Cadet Programs Officer of the Year (Sorensen Award)

- 1st Lt. Paul J. Russell of Colorado Wing



Col. Tom Kettell (left) and U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton (right) present the RMR Safety Officer of the Year Award to Capt. Tammy Peeples.

Character Development Instructor (CDI) of the Year

- 1st Lt. Sally K. Williams of Colorado Wing

Communicator (DC) of the Year

- Capt. Ronald W. Goin of Idaho Wing

Director of Finance of the Year Award

- Maj. Kristen M. Nolan of Colorado Wing

Historian (HO) of the Year

- Lt. Col. David L. Ellis of Colorado Wing

Ed Lewis Incident Staff Member of the Year

- Maj. William O'Connor of Colorado Wing

Inspector General of the Year

- Maj. Kevin J. Forbes of Rocky Mountain Region Staff

Maj. Gen. Holm Aerospace Education Officer of the Year

- Maj. Jeremy S. Sing of Colorado Wing

National Squadron Chaplain (HC) of the Year

- Lt. Col. Don L. Henderson of Colorado Wing

Property Manager of the Year

- Capt. Eva M. Hailbronner of Colorado Wing

Safety Officer of the Year

- Capt. Tammy Peeples of Colorado Wing

Norm Edwards Counterdrug Officer of the Year Award

- Maj. Jeffrey S. Heins of Idaho Wing

Professional Development Officer of the Year Award

- Lt. Col. Victor Sabatini of Colorado Wing





Montana Teacher Orientation Flights

*Story and photo by Lt. Col. Kaye Ebel, CAP
RMR Director of Aerospace Education*

Do you remember your first small airplane ride? Thanks to the Montana Civil Air Patrol, members of the Eta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK), in Missoula, Montana, sure do. The ADK is an international honorary organization for women educators. Their mission is to build educational excellence, altruism, and to enrich their lives and the lives of others through community projects.

Coming up with new projects can be somewhat of a challenge. However, as a relatively new ADK member and a member of the Civil Air Patrol, I suggested they become involved in the CAP aerospace education member program (AEM) and go flying. A benefit of becoming a Civil Air Patrol AEM is receiving aerospace education materials and a free orientation flight. The teachers thought this would be a fun project to take on and agreed to join. They were also excited about flying in a small airplane for the first time.

Advanced preparation for their flights included an hour long introduction to flight workshop. My students made some Styrofoam airplanes for the teachers to use during their workshop. The teachers learned about the four forces of flight, three-axes, control surfaces and flight instruments. The workshop addressed the type of airplane they would be flying, how long the flight would be and concluded with a short GoPro video showing what to expect.

The flights were staged at the Museum of Mountain Flying in Missoula, Montana. A museum volunteer agreed to open the door for this event and provided a tour while waiting out some foggy conditions. After a two-hour flight delay, teachers were taken outside and observed how to perform a preflight inspection and were told what to expect



ADK Educators from Missoula, MT.

during taxi, take-off, in flight and landing. Finally, the skies cleared up and the flights were underway. "This opportunity was worth the wait. I have always wanted to do this." said Marilyn Ryan.

Once airborne, the teachers took the controls while the flight instructor prompted them to complete a series of flight maneuvers, such as a shallow turn to the right and left. The flights all took place over Missoula and Bitterroot Valley in western Montana. Six sorties and three hours later the teacher flights came to an end. When all teachers completed their flights, they received a signed certificate.

Flying for the first time can leave a lasting impression. "It was unlike anything I've experienced before in my life!" said Tara Barba. "It was a cold day but so worth it. This was an amazing experience! I am so glad I did this!" said Beth Huguet. "I actually got to fly a plane! This was so great!" said Jane Selvig.

The flights were a huge success due to CAP Capts. Trevor Stene (Missoula, MT) & Grayson Sperry (Bozeman, MT) and Incident Commander/Flight Release Officer Lt. Col. Peter Graf (Missoula, MT) for providing these educators with an experience that will be etched in their minds forever.





A CAC Perspective



*By Cadet Maj. Chad Lewis, CAP
RMR CAC Chair*

One of the concentrations of the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Program has been to promote the importance and helpfulness of the Cadet Advisory Council. This column is a chance for myself, Cadet Maj. Chad Lewis of the Colorado Wing and currently the Rocky Mountain Region CAC Chair, a chance to provide my thoughts about the last few months as the Chair of the Council. However, my perspective as a cadet would seem moot if I did not frame it with some background on who I am and what the program means to me.

Formally, my name is Cadet Maj. Chad Lewis and I am a member of the Mustang Cadet Squadron in the Colorado Wing. I have been in Civil Air Patrol since 2012 when I was in eighth grade and am now a Freshman at the University of Colorado Boulder. I first joined this program unaware of the vast benefits it would bring me in my development as a person and as a leader, and instead joined because I thought I could make friends and have fun. I think it's for that exact reason that I had the ability do everything that I have done in the program. I've been fortunate enough to serve as my squadron's Cadet Commander, the Cadet Commander of the Colorado Wing Encampment, and most recently as the Chair of the Rocky Mountain Region CAC and act as the representative for the region to the National CAC. Civil Air Patrol has given me countless friends and the ability to do anything I set my mind to, that is why I continue to stay in the program, so that I might be able to provide that same drive to a brand new twelve-year-old cadet.

However, this column is supposed to be about who we are as a council and what we do for the region. The Rocky Mountain Region Council currently is fully represented by all the wings, and consists of a core group of cadets dedicated to making actual change in the region for the betterment of the Cadets and the Cadet Program at large. Although I can't list all their names, I would



RMR Commander, Col. Tom Kettell (left) with Cadet Maj. Chad Lewis at CAP 75th Gala.

like to say every member is an essential element to our team and more importantly to our success. As a council, we are actively working on various projects on the region level but also on projects we would like to see sent to the National Council. These projects consist of our review of the Staff Duty Analysis program and its effectiveness in training phase three and four cadets, a review of the Eaker Award and its merit, a project to ensure that every cadet receives their own pair of ABUs within our region, and various other projects. Our team has the ability and willingness to develop comprehensive solutions to real world cadet problems, I can only ask that you support our success so that we can develop the best cadets possible.





PROFILE: CAP-USAF RMLR Commander, Lt. Col. Marty Laye, USAF



*By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
RMR Director of Public Affairs*

Growing up in Colorado Springs, Air Force Lt. Col. Marty Laye remembers many friends with ties to the military. The various Air Force and Army installations across his home town allotted a constant flow of military personnel in and out of his neighborhood. Despite the exposure, Lt. Col. Laye said he never knew much about the military. Ultimately, youth soccer helped bring a career in the Air Force into focus. Beginning at a young age and continuing through high school, Lt. Col. Laye's soccer team was coached by an Air Force Academy instructor. As Lt. Col. Laye was finishing high school, he had no intentions of attending college or joining the military. Fortunately, his soccer coach encouraged him to think about a career in the Air Force... and the rest is history! Lt. Col. Laye ended up attending the Air Force Academy Preparatory School followed by an appointment to the Air Force Academy.

Upon graduation from the Air Force Academy, Lt. Col. Laye's active duty career started with an assignment at Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, United Kingdom. He lived in England for a year before moving to Laughlin AFB, Texas for Undergraduate Pilot Training. After graduating from pilot training, Lt. Col. Laye was assigned to fly the KC-10 "Extender" at Travis AFB in northern California followed by a second tour in the KC-10 at McGuire AFB, New Jersey. His next assignments included a non-flying assignment at Randolph AFB, Texas followed by a year of professional military education at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. In 2015, Lt. Col. Laye moved to Peterson AFB, Colorado for his current assignment in the CAP-USAF Rocky Mountain Liaison Region (RMLR). He started as RMLR Director of Operations and now serves as the RMLR Commander. The liaison region is charged with oversight of day-to-day Air Force assigned missions executed by CAP. Additionally, CAP-USAF is responsible for execution of recurring Compliance Inspections, Operations Evaluations, equipment audits, and other types of inspections and oversight activities. Ultimately, the goal is to determine CAP's ability to maintain safe and compliant operational readiness.

When asked about CAP, Lt. Col. Laye explained that prior to his current job he had no knowledge of CAP. He said his preparation level for the Air Force Academy as well as many aspects of his active duty Air Force career would have been significantly bolstered if he'd had CAP experience as a youth. "The typical CAP cadet's understanding of the Air Force, and military in general, is phenomenal and I walk away impressed after every interaction I have with the cadets," explained Lt. Col. Laye. "CAP is providing the cadets with life lessons that will really pay dividends whether they choose to enter the military or elect to enter the civilian work force."

Lt. Col. Laye also thinks highly of the senior CAP members. His first week in the Rocky Mountain Liaison Region started by attending the Colorado Wing Compliance Inspection followed by the Idaho Wing Operations Evaluation. "Within my first ten days in CAP-USAF, I was shocked at the expertise and motivation I saw from a group of volunteers in two different wings." The trend he noticed was validated by many more events in Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. "The dedication and selflessness seen amongst the personnel in our region is simply amazing. I always feel like I'm dealing with true professionals and I consider myself lucky to be associated with such a tremendously skilled organization." Lt. Col. Laye ended by saying, "the Air Force is lucky to have such a dedicated partnership with CAP and I'm extremely grateful to be in a position to interact so frequently with so many talented individuals in Civil Air Patrol."





The HART Ceremony 2016

Cadet Senior Airman Jeremy Snyder, CAP

The HART (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together) Ceremony is a way to honor the people who have given their lives to keep the world free. Five cadets from my squadron were part of the 200 cadets from the Rocky Mountain Region in the US and from Alberta, Canada to participate in the 2016 Lethbridge Ceremony. It was a great opportunity to meet cadets from another country and learn a thing or two about them.

The HART Ceremony for me was an amazing experience. I made new friends while getting to know a lot more about Canada. The night we got to Lethbridge, Alberta, we had a chance to get to know some of the Canadian Cadets.

We had a lot more questions for them than they did for us and most of them were about stereotypes.

The next day we had the HART Ceremony. There was a lot of pressure on me because I was part of the wreath party. As a new Cadet, keeping in step, saying the right things, and saluting at the right time were the hardest parts of the ceremony for me. After the ceremony we had even more questions, most of them about their uniforms. We played a lot of volleyball during the afternoon. If you plan on going, practice up on your volleyball skills, because they get serious about it. All in all, I had a terrific experience, and I definitely plan on going again next year.

Attendees from Wyoming:

Cadet Master Sgt. Adam Carey, Cadet Senior Airman Peter Snyder, Cadet Senior Airman Jeremy Snyder, Cadet Senior Airman Mariah Warner, Cadet Senior Airman Brianna Warner, Senior Members Calvin Carey & Katrina Snyder.





Cadet Senior Airman Danica Nichols is recognized by Maj. Chuck Brudtkuhl (NHQ/DOKO) as Maj. Kristin Freeman and CAP/USAF LO Joe Macklin look on.



Maj. Bob Wheelock receives a CAP 75th Anniversary challenge coin from Maj. Kristin Freeman, in recognition for his assistance as an instructor.

Gem State Communicators Shine at RMR Communications Conference



*By Maj. Kristin Freeman, CAP
RMR Director of Communications*

On 8 October 2016, Rocky Mountain Region held a communications conference at Ft. Harrison, MT. Forty people attended the conference from Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Nobody in attendance could remember when RMR last had a communications conference.

The guest speaker was Maj. Chuck Brudtkuhl. Most Idaho Wing HF operators know his call sign well, but he is also NHQ/DOKO. He used his own funds to come to RMR to speak to communicators here. He is impressed by the dedication of Idaho Wing communicators. He spoke about the importance of establishing and maintaining radio paths from NHQ to unit and wing commanders, going from HF to VHF for the “last mile”.

Idaho Wing was well-represented at the conference. Twelve Idaho Wing members were there, including DC Eric Freeman, three other Idaho senior members, and eight cadets.

Two Idaho senior members, Maj. Eric Freeman and Maj. Robert Wheelock, were instructors. Maj. Freeman taught a class on formal message traffic, and Maj. Freeman and Maj. Wheelock assisted with hands-on ALE training.

2nd Lt. Marlene Moore supervised the female cadets in the barracks, helped coordinate transportation for meals, and helped organize the Communications Unit Leader training group in the afternoon.

Two Idaho cadets received special recognition. The first, Cadet Senior Airman Danica Nichols of Coeur d’Alene, was recognized for her regular presence on the National Traffic Net, where she represents Idaho Wing very capably. She has taken Priority Whiskey Tango traffic for the wing, and has sent Routine Wing Message Initiative traffic. Her call sign is known all over the country because she is on the air so regularly. No other cadet in the country has done what she has done.



Cadet Staff Sgt. Coralina Elhart (left) and Cadet Senior Airman Danica Nichols (right) stand together after being recognized for their achievements.

The second cadet was Cadet Staff Sgt. Coralina Elhart of Nampa. On 15 August 2016, she operated as a national net control station operator at a key national station, and called a session of the National Traffic Net during a Department of Defense no-notice exercise. No cadet had ever called a national net before or used the national call sign. A photograph of Sgt. Elhart was used by Mr. Malcolm Kyser in his briefing to the CAP national commander about the exercise. This attracted positive national notice for Idaho Wing.

Idaho is a national leader in CAP HF communications. The recognition of Idaho Wing talent at the RMR communications conference reflects that leadership. Idaho’s strength in HF is partly the result of a few very reliable station operators who check in on almost every session of the NTN, and partly the result of many other people who check in when they can. A strong communications team is always a work in progress, and is never a completed task. Despite its strength in HF communications, Idaho has room for more HF communicators to join the team, and a need for more regular VHF nets.





Remembering John Glenn

Hero and Friend

*By Steve Lindsey, Col., USAF (ret)
Pilot, STS-95
COWG JeffCo Squadron Cadet Orientation Flight Pilot*

I had the great privilege and honor of flying with John Glenn on Space Shuttle Mission STS-95. Through the course of training, flying, and post-flight activities, I got to know both John and his beautiful wife Annie very well. As a kid growing up during the Apollo era, John was a childhood hero of mine, but I never imagined that someday I might actually meet him let alone get to fly with him. What I learned about John through that experience is that he was authentic, every bit the hero the world and our nation holds him to be. John was, at his core, a man of integrity, humility, and kindness -- someone who put others ahead of himself, a team player and someone you could always count on. The greatest compliment I can give John and Annie is that they are the family you want to have as your next door neighbors.

After having the opportunity to get to know John and then fly a mission with him, he remains very much a hero to me, not just because of his accomplishments or his service to our Nation throughout his amazing



Col. Lindsey and John Glenn aboard Space Shuttle *Discovery* for mission STS-95 in 1998.



CAP Member Steve Lindsey, Col, USAF (ret) with fellow astronaut, John Glenn, and the crew of STS-95.

life. John has redefined what a hero is to me because of who he was as a person, which in the end, is far more important. I will miss you John; and Annie you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. 🇺🇸





Unmanned Aerial Vehicle National Flight Academy Held in Kalispell

*By Lt. Col. Bob Schneller, CAP
Flathead Composite Squadron Commander*



Cadets pose for a class photo with one of the unmanned fixed-wing aircraft flown at the UAS Cadet Training Academy in Kalispell.

Civil Air Patrol held its Second Annual Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS) Cadet Training Academy in Kalispell July 17th – 23rd at Sands Concepts UAS Facility southeast of Kalispell.

Twelve cadets from eleven states – including two from Montana - were chosen from 156 applicants.

The participants flew into Glacier Park International Airport July 17th and were transported to the Easthaven Baptist Church where they were billeted. They were greeted by Col. Dan Leclair, Activity Director and Northeast Region Commander.

Ground school and flight training on various UAS aircraft and systems were provided to the CAP cadets by SUAT (Sands Unmanned Aviation Training, LLC) USI (Unmanned Systems, Inc.) of

Montana and Nevada.

Justin Sands and Hovig Yaralian of SUAT and USI provided training on three types of unmanned fixed-wing aircraft and two types of unmanned helicopters for the week-long academy. Ground School training included the Federal Aviation Administration's most current regulations and guidelines for operations of UAS aircraft and activities.

During the week tours of the Control Tower at KGPI, Glacier National Park, and Lone Pine State Park where the cadets were treated to a BBQ hosted by Kalispell Squadron 53.

Flight Certificates were presented to each cadet at their Graduation Ceremony held on Friday night July 16th followed by a banquet attended by the newly minted UAS Pilots, their families and staff.





Civil Air Patrol National 75th Anniversary Gala

By Maj. Mary Cast, CAP

COWG Director of Aerospace Education & Foothills Cadet Squadron, Commander & PAO

Beginning with a kick-off party in Washington, D.C. in late February, 2016 has been a year of celebration for the Civil Air Patrol as it marks its 75th anniversary. Throughout the year, wings and squadrons have commemorated the anniversary with special events. The national celebration culminated in a black-tie affair at the 75th Anniversary Gala held at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center December 1. Several COWG and RMR members, including Col. Celeste Gamache, COWG commander, and Col. Robert Bost, RMR commander, were there to represent our Wing and the Region.

What a place to hold the Gala! Imagine stepping from the 21st century into aviation history. Two joined hangar-style buildings house a huge variety of air-and spacecraft. The first aircraft to “greet us” after passing under the Pitts acrobatic flyer, “Little Stinker” and a Cessna 150 in the entryway were the famed WWII fighters, a Corsair and a P-40, both in postures of attack. Aircraft hung from the ceiling in every possible attitude, climbing, rolling, diving, inverted – all beautifully presented in the light and spacious Boeing Aviation Hangar. Floor displays highlighted other aircraft. At least three viewing

levels were open for us to walk through and we took full advantage of that opportunity. Dominating the World War II display was the famed B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay*. An elegant Air France Concorde, the Boeing Dash-80, and a graceful Super Constellation in USAF livery anchored the post-WWII displays. Sleek, menacing, and utterly beautiful, the ultimate speedster, Lockheed’s SR-71 Blackbird, drew everyone’s eyes. Bathed in blue lights for the evening’s festivities, this dynamic masterpiece of aerospace engineering and craft served as the backdrop for the Gala.



Former Colorado Wing Commander and current Great Lakes Region Commander, Col. Ed Phelka (right) meets with one of his former COWG cadets now a newly minted CAP captain, Capt. Charles Blome, who received his Spaatz Award in September.



Glowing in the blue light, the SR-71 made an impressive backdrop for the Gala. Photo by Maj. Mary Cast, COWG DAE



Beyond the Blackbird, *Discovery*, the most “accomplished of the shuttle fleet, commanded pride of place in the James McDonnell Space Hangar. As companions, and glowing against a dark backdrop, satellites hung from the ceiling. The huge rocket/space-ship *Discovery*



What a setting for a CAP Gala! The ultra-sleek and speedy SR-71 takes center stage near the banquet tables. Photo by Capt. Charles Blome, RMR Director of Administration

dwarfed her human admirers and served as a backdrop for many a CAP picture. Various missiles, exploration vehicles, and space-related exhibits occupied the perimeter of the hangar and scale model rockets stood at one corner.

After exploring the Center for about an hour, the evening festivities got underway. After brief greetings from the Master of Ceremonies, retired Air Force Col. Ken Goss, introduction of honored guests, and opening ceremonies, the banquet began. The food was wonderful, the company even better. Between courses, there was opportunity to visit friends at other tables and look at many of the displays that were near the banquet area – including one that featured the Congressional Gold Medal awarded in honor of CAP.

The culmination of the evening began with a brief video on CAP through the years and then all of the original CAP members present at the Gala were recognized for their service. The National Commander, Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez, presented CAP Congressional Gold Medal replicas to two retired U.S. Army Generals, Gen. Julius Becton Jr. and Gen. Barbara O’Malley. Also recognized for their organizations’ support of CAP were representatives from the National Air and Space Museum, Textron, supplier of the single-engine Cessna aircraft, CITGO Corporation, the major sponsor of

both the Congressional Gold Medal and the 75th Anniversary galas, and the Air Force Association. Representatives each spoke for a few minutes about their organization’s history and involvement with CAP. In appreciation, they received framed copies of the *Total Force Partners* painting, specially commissioned for the 75th Anniversary. Another guest of honor and a long-time passionate supporter of CAP, retired Senator Tom Harkin (Iowa), also received special recognition.

Our keynote speaker, the current Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, then spoke. She praised the organization’s performance over the decades. Ms. James made it very clear how much the Air Force depended on CAP as a force multiplier and how important a role it fulfills as the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. She emphasized how vital CAP remains for homeland defense, search and rescue, innovation, and training of future leaders. After her inspiring speech, Gen. Vazquez presented Ms. James with the framed cover of the issue of the *Civil Air Patrol Volunteer*, which featured her recent visit to CAP National Headquarters. A few final remarks from the National Commander, our MC and the wonderful 75th Gala concluded. We bid adieu to new and old friends and departed.

A special thanks to Col. Gamache for bringing a COWG member as her guest to the event. 🇺🇸





UTWG Joint SAREX/COMEX With 211th Aviation Group, Utah Army National Guard 17 November, 2016

By 2nd Lt. Jenifer Marzo, CAP (adapted from the AAR from Maj. Mike Collett)

Twice a year the Utah Wing conducts joint communications exercises with the 211th Aviation Group of the Utah Army National Guard. This year's fall/winter event was a combined COMEX and SAREX wrapped into the annual "overdue aircraft" scenario practiced by the UTARNG.

The scenario was an overdue AH-64 Apache helicopter which was last reported in the foothills of southeast Tooele County, Utah. The target aircraft was landed and hidden in the shadows of a ravine several miles from the CAP Fairfield Mission Base. Everyone was amazed at how the pilot was able to tuck that big Apache in this little ravine surrounded by trees and bush. So well imperceptible in place, ground teams had to use signal mirrors for air crews to get visual on their location.



The objectives for this exercise were to deploy an advance search base comprised of two ground SAR teams and two ground comm teams. A linked communications bridge was established between the Army's SINCGARS radios and CAP VHF-FM radios. This allowed for the CAP ground teams, air teams and comm teams to communicate directly with the Apache in the air conducting air search. A coordinated air search between Army rotary-wing and CAP fixed-wing aircraft exercise ensured airspace de-confliction between aircraft.

The preparation to conduct this exercise was very extensive. CAP Comms and National Guard teams had put in many hours working on the Raytheon portable interconnect bridge connecting CAP radios to Army SINCGARS for seamless communications in emergencies which worked flawlessly. SAR Ground Teams, including several cadets, have many classes to keep their training sharp and emergency gear ready so that if they are called on a true downed aircraft, or other emergency, they are prepared. This preparation was evident as everyone arrived with proper task and safety gear.

At this exercise was the newly refurbished Comm Van which served as the field base structure for the field teams at Five Mile Pass, "Fairfield Mission Base", which stayed in constant communication with IC at Mission Base, Salt Lake City. Ground teams gathered to conduct safety briefings and mission details. While awaiting the Army AH-64 search aircraft, cadets conducted some field training with ELT D-F equipment for the newer cadets.

It wasn't long before the AH-64 search Apache was heard over the CAP radios and within seconds buzzed over mission base jumping everyone into action. Two ground teams loaded up and were directed toward the "downed" aircraft by the Apache. The Apache led them within about 100 yards from the downed aircraft. From there they went in by foot to locate the target.

The purpose of these exercises is to simulate a real life mission for training and learn what improvements can be made to increase the success in a real life scenario. As the teams headed toward the target they had traveled over several ridges which interfered with line of site communications to mission base. That included the comm bridge to the Apache, which was connected to the Comm Van at Fairfield Base. The Apache pilot flew around to the side of a field team pick-up, approximately 100 feet above ground, and the cadet in the passenger seat recognized the pilot was giving them hand signals from the Apache. This successfully directed them to the target. Although this was an exemplary show of how well the air and ground teams work together, plans to prevent the loss of communications are being conceived for future use. The CAP Communications team also used this opportunity to take a vehicle equipped with HF radios to the ground team location and use the backup HF communications systems.

Cadets and senior members of CAP, from every department of the operations, are a diverse group with many backgrounds and experiences. From the most senior leader to the newest cadet, we witnessed a team come together and teach each other, no matter age or rank, without bias. Their comradery, not only to each other, but how well they worked with and respected the collaboration with the Utah Army National Guard is a reflection of what CAP stands for. The remarkable pilots of the Apache showed their appreciation by taking time to demonstrate some of what they do, showed our ground teams around their AH-64 Apache and posed with them for pictures. Truly an experience that won't soon be forgotten!

