ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

ALTITUDES

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

Winter 2017-2018

RMR PAO Academy "The Harvard of CAP PAO Academies"

Wreaths Across America

The Berlin Candy Bomber, Col. Gail Halvorsen

rmr.cap.gov

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Rocky Mountain Region Commander
Col. Thomas Kettell, CAP

Director of Public Affairs and Editor-in-Chief
Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP

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ON THE COVER:
-FY18 RMR PAO Academy Graduating Class. Photo by Maj. Trevor Munson, CAP, COWG Valkyrie Cadet Squadron PAO
-Colorado Wing Cadet Lt. Col. Hannah Christian salutes the Colorado Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Michael Loh, USAF at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Ft. Logan National Cemetery. Photo by Robert M. Waples, Colorado Patriot Guard Riders
-The Berlin Candy Bomber, Col. Gail Halvorsen (Center) with Capt. Wayne Manning, CAP (Left) and Capt. Bruce Connelly, CAP (Right). Photo by 2d Lt. Kristine H. Forsythe, CAP UTWG Phantom Composite Squadron

Commander's Comments

Col. Thomas Kettell, CAP
Commander, Rocky Mountain Region

As we begin another action-packed year in Rocky Mountain Region, I'd like to reflect on the prior year and all the outstanding accomplishments and contributions that members of this great region have done. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Our membership grew 4% in 2017 with growth in all five wings.
- The Region Cadet Competition (RCC) had 87 participants representing Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Utah Wings.
- RMR conducted two Region Cadet Leadership Schools (RCLS's) graduating 34 cadets representing all five wings as well as cadets from Northeast, Middle East, and Southeast Regions. The schools were held at the U.S. Air Force Academy and Hill AFB, Utah.
- Region Staff College (RSC) was held at the U.S. Air Force Academy in June with 22 graduates from Utah, Colorado, Idaho, and Montana as well as members from Great Lakes, Middle East, Southwest, and Pacific Regions.
- We achieved one of our region goals and became the first CAP Region to be awarded the CAP Aerospace Excellence Award. Thanks go to Maj. Jeff Rogers and Lt. Col. Alisha Cope and all those who participated in the program.
- The RMR Public Affairs Academy was held in Centennial, CO and produced 62 graduates representing all five RMR wings as well as AR, VA and National Capital wings.

In the coming year, the team is planning for a robust calendar of new events. Some of the highlights include:

- International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) - This summer Rocky Mountain Region will be hosting cadets from other nations as we were selected as the host

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Rocky Mountain Region & Colorado Wing Conference April 27-29

DoubleTree by Hilton Colorado Springs
1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO

The 2018 Rocky Mountain Region and Colorado Wing Conference Registration is now open. Visit the Colorado Wing Conference Webpage, or paste this address into your browser: http://coloradowingcap.org/ColoradoWingCAP/ColoradoWingConference/

We have an exciting lineup for this year's conference including Special Saturday Banquet Keynote Speaker, Maj. Gen. Smith, CAP National Commander. See the web page for details about conference registration, hotel reservations, breakout sessions and much more.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Register by 18 March 2018 to Receive Special Discounted Rates!

AGENDA

FRIDAY - 27 APRIL 2018

TLC Basic Course – 0800 - 1730

Meet & Greet Social – 1900 – 2100
National Commander should be there.

SATURDAY - 28 APRIL 2018

General Session and Award Presentation – 0800 - 1000

Breakout Sessions and Exhibitor Fair 1030 - 1620

CAP STEM Kit Program Display all day Saturday

Lunch & 'Ask the Commanders'
Guest Speaker, Col. Thomas Kettell, RMR Commander
Social – 1800 – 1845

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Banquet – 1900 - 2100
Special Guest, Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith, CAP National Commander

Cadet Ball – 2100 – 2330
Open to all members with paid banquet ticket

SUNDAY - 29 APRIL 2018

Commanders' Call – Region and Wing

Cyber Principles Course – 0800 - 1730

Conference link: http://coloradowingcap.org/ColoradoWingCAP/ColoradoWingConference

Early Bird Registration ends 18 Mar 2018

All Access Conference Package (Meet & Greet, Conference, Banquet & Cadet Ball) - $110
Conference + Banquet Package - $100

Regular Registration – 19 Mar – 22 April 2018

All Access Conference Package (Meet & Greet, Conference, Banquet & Cadet Ball) - $130
Conference + Banquet Package - $120

Board of Governors Meetings are being held on Thursday and Friday

Some of the presenters/events include:

- Ask OPS...All About the Mission – Lt. Col. Bill Waite, Maj. Bill O'Connor, Maj. Von Campbell, COWG Directors OPS/ES
- What's New in Cadet Programs – Lt. Col. John Reutemann, RMR & Lt. Col. Nathan Van Dam, COWG, Directors Cadet Programs
- CAP CyberSecurity Track – Maj. Bill Blatchley, CAPNHQ Cadet Cyber Programs Specialist
- Hurricane Harvey, Lessons Learned – Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk, IC – TXWG Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response
- Eye Witness Attack on Pearl Harbor – Richard Hugen
- What Makes You Tick, and What Ticks You Off – Wayne MacKirdy
- CAP Uniform Wear – Lt. Col. Buddy McCormick, COWG Vice Commander
- Mentoring Future CAP Leaders – Tech. Sgt. Salvatore Chiporo, WYWG Director of Cadet Programs
- Cadet Scale Model Builder Competition
- CAP STEM Kit program display – all day
- IC and PIO Interaction with the Media During Missions – Lt. Col. Steven Solomon, National Public Affairs Training Coordinator
- Additional breakout Sessions from Emergency Services, Operations, Transportation, Safety, IG, Public Affairs, Professional Development, Logistics, Aerospace, Cadet Programs, Character Development, Finance, Administration & Personnel, Critical Incident Stress

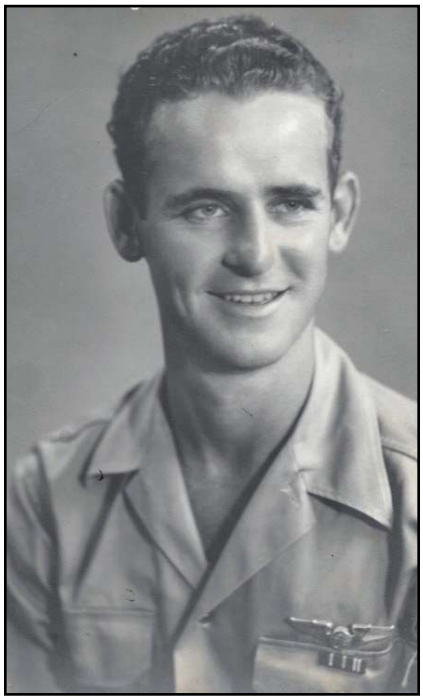
Questions can be directed to:
COWingConference@gmail.com

Gaining Altitude

By 1st Lt. Sean Wardwell, CAP
Utah Wing PAO

The only way to begin this story is to begin with my grandfather, Dan Shults.

Grandpa was many things: a reporter, a golfer, a bad singer of songs and a remarkable storyteller. When I was a kid, he had me convinced – utterly convinced – there was a secret lever in his closet that led to his treasure chamber, complete with booby traps which he described in detail. I must have spent hours after each school day while waiting for my parents to pick me up exploring every last nook and cranny of that closet. He was quite a man.



Technical Sergeant Dan Shults, a flight engineer on C-47s in the 9th Air Force serving in the Middle Eastern and European Theaters of World War II.

But, to me, Grandpa was also something very special. He was Technical Sergeant Dan Shults of the 9th Air Force, who served as a flight engineer on C-47s in North Africa and Europe during World War II. He didn't win any major medals. I'm almost positive he never fired a shot in anger (but he sure had some fired at him). He did a job that was low-profile and wasn't on any of the "sexier" aircraft of the war – just a vitally needed one. He did his duty and never, not once that I can recall, made a big deal out of it. From him, more than any other person, I learned the values of service, of duty and, even though this is a word that has seemed to fall somewhat out of fashion, honor.

You know, every single day I'm grateful to have received the wisdom of what we call "The Greatest Generation." We tend to think that what made them great was going to fight in a war, but what got them to that point? I believe it's because they were true survivors. They survived a great depression. They earned what little keep they could. If they were like Grandpa, and many were, they got up early, did some farm work, went to school, came back for more farm work, slept and started over the next day. They were tough, smart and knew you got out of things what you put into them. This country couldn't have asked for better saviors when the call came.

1st Lt. Sean Wardwell, CAP, Utah Wing Director of Public Affairs

Of course I followed in his footsteps. I eventually became a reporter. I too cannot carry a note in a bucket. I tried golf...once. But I could not enlist in the U.S. Air Force, even though I tried several times. I was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder, and as far as the MEPS station was concerned, that was just that. It broke my heart to know that I couldn't wear the blue suit too, and I told Grandpa as much. His simple reply was that if I wanted it enough, I'd find a way to serve. He was right. I found the Civil

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Air Patrol.

If I can digress for a moment, and because I never miss a chance to do this, I need to describe what Bipolar Disorder is, because there's a lot of confusion about it, as well as mental illness in general. Formerly called "manic depression," this disorder is an emotional one, characterized by alternating depressive episodes and periods of mania. It is far from easy to live with, but with treatment I live a full and rewarding life. Thanks to CAP, I can also live a life of duty and service in accordance with the values Grandpa passed on to me.

Living with a mental illness is lonely. There's a stigma that comes with it, and it is a powerful one. It's a stigma that keeps so many of us in the dark and praying nobody finds out about it. I'd be a liar if I said it didn't affect me, but it does, and far more frequently than I'd like. But, I'm a blessed and lucky man in that I have a support system consisting of family, friends and medical professionals. CAP, as an institution, is absolutely part of that system. When I walk into my squadron's meetings, I feel like I'm really part of something special – a group of people who give their time, their effort, their expertise and their wisdom without the incentive of a paycheck. We do what we do because we love it, and because we know the value and importance of serving our community and country.

To say that service in CAP helps me with my condition would be an understatement on par with saying the C-5 Galaxy is just another aircraft. When I'm feeling low, I look in my closet and see the uniform I never thought I'd be allowed to wear outside of a costume party, thinking to myself, "Grandpa was right. I found a way."

So can you, which is the real point of this story. Picture five of your friends standing in a row. Statistically speaking, one of them will have some form of clinical depression or other mental illness. Picture five people in a row who do have a mental illness. Only one or two of them will be seeking treatment. The other three or four are just trying to "tough it out," battling the stigma that makes them believe they're "weak" or their lives will be over should anyone find out about it.

As aircrew, we look out for each other. If something is unsafe, we say "knock it off." We do this because we know there's no place for ego or hot-dogging in the air. That's something that gets people hurt or killed. As it is in the air, so should it be on the ground. It's time to "knock it off" when it comes to the stigmas surrounding mental illness, because people do get hurt or killed. Ignorance will end you and the ones you care about the same way walking into a spinning prop will. All of us need to educate ourselves on not only what a mental illness really is, but how we can help those with it in our units. The good news is one doesn't need to be a psychotherapist to do this. You just need to care enough to ask someone who looks like they're hurting if they're doing okay. CAP members just need to do what they've always done and always excelled at - care.

Last month, I went on a training sortie to earn my aircrew wings (the same as Grandpa's.) Sitting in the backseat, hugging the Utah mountains in a contour search, I could feel grandpa's presence. Maybe that sounds a bit hokey, but I always feel it when I'm up there. Even though I had been struggling with a depressive episode that day, I felt my heart and spirit lift. Had Grandpa actually been there in something other than spirit, I'd like to think he'd pat me on the shoulder and say, "I told you so, Airman. Well done. Now tell me what else you think you can't do."

And he's right. Today the skies are clear. The wind is calm. It's a great day for flying. So, despite all the obstacles life and biology put in my way, tell me what I can't do, but tell it to me at 1,000 ft. AGL and tell it fast because I've got work to do. I'm gaining altitude, and you had better keep up.

If you or a loved one are struggling with depression or mental illness, call the National Alliance on Mental Illness' helpline at 1-800-950-6264 to be connected with resources in your area. ■

The Wall that Heals

By Lt. Col. Robert Schneller, CAP
RMR-MT-053

September 7, 2017 through September 10, 2017 the moving Vietnam Wall was on display in South Kalispell. The Vietnam Veterans of America and many other veteran organizations including Civil Air Patrol Kalispell Squadron participated in the opening ceremonies at 1000 hours on the 7th. The Wall that Heals is an exhibition created by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to travel to communities throughout the United States. Featuring a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Washington, DC, it is also accompanied by a Mobil Education Center that tells the story of the Wall. The exhibition brought the experience of Vietnam to the community and provided an opportunity to gain a heighted awareness of the impact and legacy of the Vietnam War. Of the over 58,000 names on the Wall, 270 were from Montana and 11 from the Flathead Valley.

Kalispell Squadron Color Guard and Cadet

Continued on page 15 . . .

Idaho Wing Assists with the Great American Eclipse

By Col. Mike Vorachek, CAP

The Idaho Wing provided extensive support to the State of Idaho during the Great American Eclipse on August 21st. Operating from five bases under the control of an Incident Command Post in Idaho Falls, the Wing flew missions under the direction of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management.

In the months prior to the eclipse, the Wing Commander and Director of Governmental Relations participated in numerous state level planning meetings, culminating with a formal briefing with the Lieutenant Governor. Immediately following the briefing, the Director of OEM tasked CAP to come up with a plan and cost calculations for various levels of support. The plan was completed, submitted, and approved with the Wing given the green light to begin flights the day before the eclipse. With a potential for hundreds of thousands of visitors coming into Idaho to view the eclipse, there was concern at all levels of government as to the potential impacts on state and local infrastructure. The eclipse was going to occur at the peak of wildland fire season, with several large forest fires already in progress in the state. Traffic impacts upon the highway network and degradation of cellular service were also major concerns.

Using a previously approved US Air Force funded training mission, CAP flew numerous sorties in the weeks leading up to the eclipse, including photographing campgrounds to count vehicles and trailers, observing road intersections to detect traffic jams, and determine optimal locations for positioning High Bird airborne radio relay teams. An Incident Command Post was established and a CAP communications link was established with the Idaho Emergency Operations Center and the Idaho Division of Aeronautics located in Boise as well as the Eastern Idaho Area Command Post in Idaho Falls. The Area Command provided CAP with a Command Net portable radio to be

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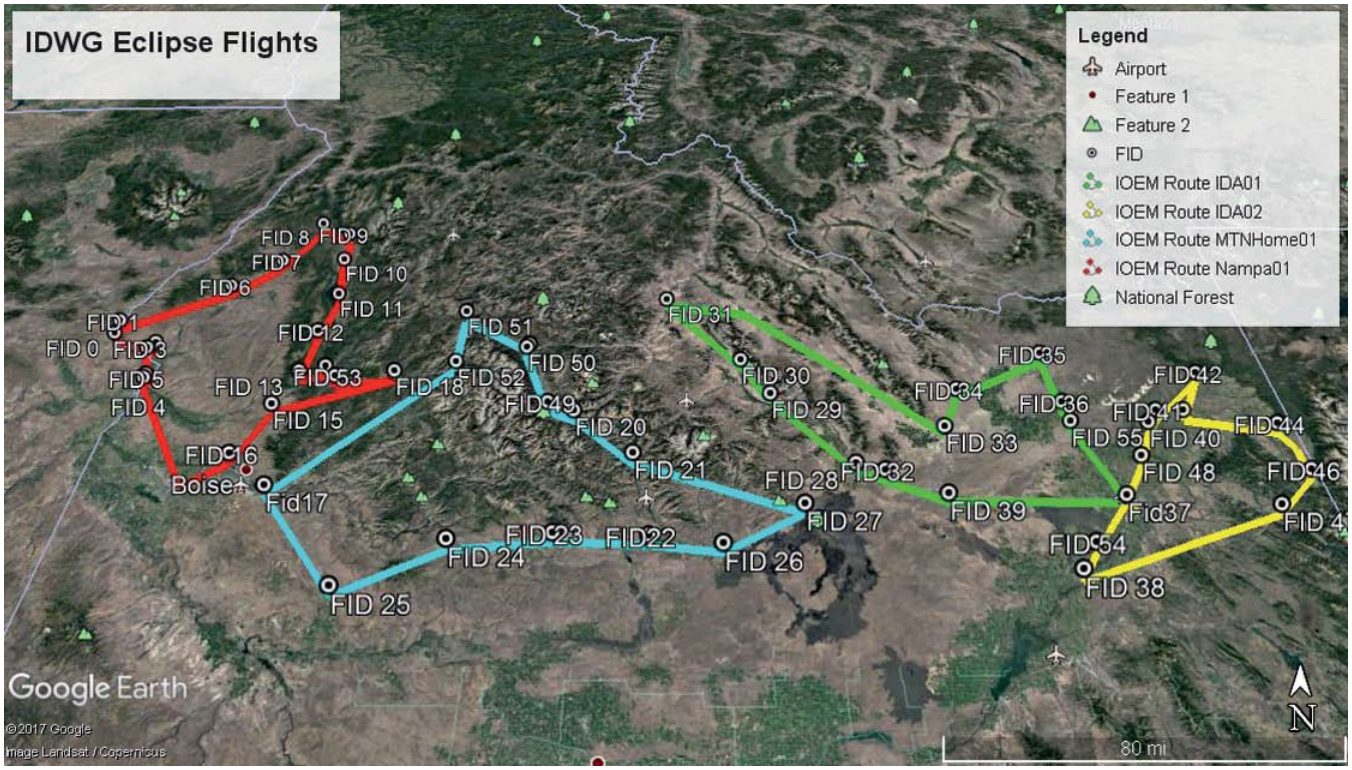

IDWG Preplanned Routes and Key Points of Interest.

Eclipse

Continued from page 13 . . .

able to communicate directly with the county and city Emergency Operations Centers and Incident Command Posts established for the event.

On the Sunday before the eclipse the Wing began flight operations funded by Idaho OEM. The preplanned routes and points of interest were surveilled and photographed during ten sorties. The images were uploaded to a web site provided by Idaho OEM and made available to state and local agencies. On Monday before and after the passage of the eclipse from west to east across the entire state, the Wing flew 10 additional sorties. Idaho Wing had 32 personnel participate and flew 60.5 hours during the 20 sorties. Col. Jim Haldy, Vice Wing Commander, served as the Incident Commander for the mission.

During one of the final sorties of the mission the Idaho Region 3 Incident Management and Support Team asked Idaho OEM to task CAP to fly several roadways that were experiencing substantial backups in traffic as people tried to leave the Zone of Totality in eastern Idaho. Using a CAP VHF FM radio, the CAP aircrew provided the Area Command Post with a commentary on traffic on the roadways and at key intersections.

At one point there was a 10 mile long traffic jam on one of the major routes out of the viewing area. Trips between towns that normally took 20 minutes lasted over 3 hours in an area where an estimated 300,000 visitors had come to experience the totality. To compound the assessment problems, the traffic cameras normally operated by the Idaho Transportation Department became unavailable, depriving state and local decision makers of valuable information.

According to Col. Mike Vorachek, Idaho Wing Director of Emergency Services, who was serving as Logistics Section Chief in the Area Command Post, "there was a tremendous appreciation for CAP's support of one of the largest events to ever occur in Idaho. For those of us in the Area Command Post, we found the information provided by CAP to be invaluable in maintaining situational awareness of the unpreceded road and venue traffic that we were experiencing". ★

The Wall that Heals

Continued from page 11 . . .

Flight led off the ceremony with the posting of our Nations Colors, Canadian Flag, POW Flag, Montana State Flag and the Vietnam Veterans Flag. After the colors were posted, Brig. General Retired Tip Clark led the nearly 500+ audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the National Anthem, and a Prayer by the Kalispell Police Department Chaplin. The first speaker was Cindy Postinoff – Military Aims Canada followed by Marine Ret. Captain Jack McEnroe. Captain McEnroe flew over 325 missions over Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. Captain McEnroe was shot down 3 times over the 325 missions and related his story of rescue and return to duty.

Two Kalispell Cadets laid a Red, White and Blue Flower Wreath at the Wall in honor of the US Air Force and Civil Air Patrol.

After opening ceremonies, Squadron Cadets and the many school children who attended were asked to lay an American Flag at the Memorial by each of the 270 hero's from Montana who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. ★

CAP Key Player in State's Vital Connection Interagency Exercise

By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
RMR Director of Public Affairs
Photos by 2nd Lt. Tami Clements,
Highlander Composite Squadron PAO

Colorado Civil Air Patrol was well represented at the 2017 Vital Connection Exercise which provided training for interagency communication and tested interoperability with an ICP at the Highlands Ranch Law Enforcement Training Center in Littleton, CO on August 22nd. COWG Ground Teams, Aircrews and ICP Staff representing Groups 1, 3 and 4 supported the state led exercise. Kudos to Maj. Eric Schwarm, RMR Asst. Director of Comm & COWG Asst. DC for taking the lead with the state to ensure Civil Air Patrol was a key player as he recruited some of the best ES personnel in the COWG to participate.

Cadet 1st Lt. Clements and Maj. Stacey Roestel USAF Challenge Coin Presentation.

Maj. Stacey Roestel, USAF Cybersecurity Specialist presented Cadet 1st Lt. Alexis Clements, with COWG's Highlander Composite Squadron a challenge coin during her participation at the state led Vital Connection interagency exercise. During the exercise, Cadet Clements had the opportunity to participate in a mock cybersecurity simulation defending a health care system from an attack. Cadet Clements participates in CyberPatriot training and recently attended the Cyber Defense Academy in Albuquerque, NM. Having an opportunity to participate in another agency's simulation allowed her to utilize other cyber security tools and see how they compared to her previous cyber defense experiences.

Cadet 1st Lt. Alexis Clements Participating in Cyber Training with CONG.

CAP Vital Connection Exercise 2017. Some of the participating Comm Units.

The Candy Bomber's Hangar

By Lt. Col. James R. Stewart, CAP
UTWG Phantom Composite Squadron

Stories, and the lessons that they bring, are the glue that holds any organization, and culture, together.

Seventy years ago, in post-WWII Berlin, devastation was everywhere. The once proud capitol of the Third Reich lay in ruins, its building and monuments had been reduced to rubble by American and British bombers coming from the west, and Soviet artillery coming from the east. Broad boulevards became dumping grounds for broken masonry and other fractured building materials as Berliners tried to clear some of the wreckage to find some shelter.

The people of Berlin were in dire straits as well, having to rely on the goodwill of the victorious Allies who were occupying their capitol: Americans, British, and French to the west, and Soviets to the east. Food, clothing, and fuel all had to be brought in from either direction to support this city of over 2 million people. Supplies- especially food- were scarce, and closely rationed.

The city itself was divided asunder: West and East. East Berlin was administered by the Soviet Army, while West Berlin- sitting as an island of freedom deep within the Soviet controlled East Germany- was administered by the American Army. The contrasts were sharp: free to the west, oppression to the east.

In violation of treaties, the Soviets closed off all surface transportation routes to West Berlin on June 26, 1948 to starve the people there into submission and force the western allies out of Berlin. In response, The US Air Force and the Royal Air Force initiated the Berlin Airlift- codenamed "Operation Vittles". A vast aerial armada congregated on airfields in West Germany- but this time instead of delivering destruction, they were determined to bring food and hope.

Among the throngs of airmen deployed to Germany was a young pilot from Garland, Utah: Lieutenant Gail Halvorsen. Hal, as his friends called him, grew up on a farm. He hoed sugar beets while watching airplanes flying overhead that were traveling to exotic places only imaginable in the mind of a young boy. Hal was smart and lucky- he won one of the few slots in a local Civilian Pilot Training Program school. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he joined the newly formed Civil Air Patrol in Utah to gain valuable flight experience prior to entering the US Army Air Corps.

(L-R) Capt. Wayne Manning (Outgoing Phantom Composite Squadron Commander), Ret. Col. Gail S. Halvorsen (the Berlin Candy Bomber), Capt. Bruce Connelly (Incoming Phantom Composite Commander) at the Brigham Young University ROTC Bldg. Photo by 2d Lt. Kristine H. Forsythe CAP, UTWG, Phantom Composite Squadron

Hal and his crew immediately began flying up to three missions per day, carrying up to 10 tons of supplies to Berlin Templehof Airport in his Douglas C-54 Skymaster. During one such mission, Hal encountered a small group of children who impressed him with their desire to remain free. Taking personal initiative, Hal devised a plan to use his candy ration to give hope to destitute children and make friends of former enemies. Candy tied to small parachutes fashioned from handkerchiefs began floating down onto waiting crowds below soon became a symbol of American goodness and charity. Thus began the career of the

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1st Lt. Gail S. Halvorsen, the Berlin Cany Bomber, WWII Berlin.

The Foundation's new 8,000-square-foot facility will be located at the Spanish Fork-Springville Airport. It will include meeting space for the Foundation, memorabilia from Gail's life and will serve as a local operating location for the Civil Air Patrol. Image courtesy Gail S. Halvorsen Aviation Education Foundation

Berlin Candy Bomber.

Halvorsen returned to the states to earn a master's degree in Aeronautical Engineering, and was involved with the USAF space program. Halvorsen's Air Force career was capped when he was assigned to be the Commander of the USAF presence in Berlin. During that final posting, he continued to be an ambassador of goodwill by connecting with many of the now-grown children who were on the receiving end of his candy drops. Former commander of US Air Forces Europe, General Robert Oaks said of Halvorsen's service, "Hal developed a relationship with the people of Berlin that belied the animosity that existed just a few years before. That friendship continues to this day."

After retiring from the USAF he returned to Utah, purchasing a farm near the city of Spanish Fork. He was an assistant dean of student life at a local university, and is still a popular fixture on campus. Due to his deep love of aviation, he purchased a Cessna Skymaster to take his family on trips in the region. Halvorsen renewed his earlier connection with Civil Air Patrol, and is the subject of an Aerospace Education module for K-6 graders. The Candy Bomber was one of the few living CAP members in Utah that received the Congressional Gold Medal commemorating his early wartime service in CAP. Over the years, Halvorsen continued to maintain close ties to the people of Berlin. He participated in many humanitarian airlift operations- and continues to do so now at 97 years old.

To preserve the legacy of the Berlin Candy Bomber, a small group of CAP members and community members organized the Gail S. Halvorsen Aviation Education Foundation as a 501c3 charitable education organization in 2016. The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage schoolchildren enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) topics by offering educational enhancement opportunities. The Foundation is partnering with the Phantom Composite Squadron to promote CAP and its programs.

In commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift the Foundation is raising $1.5 million through donations and corporate sponsorship to erect a 10,000 square foot facility at the Spanish Fork Airport. This modern facility will serve as the platform for Foundation educational activities, community gatherings, and CAP operations. One feature of the building will be a memorial plaza where donors can help with the project by the purchase of an inscribed brick to be placed in the plaza (to purchase a brick go to this website: www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/thecandybomber). The Foundation website is www.thecandybomber.org and has further information and videos about the project and its progress.

This exciting project brings the Candy Bomber story to full circle: youth looking to the skies of Utah and dreaming of the future.

Join us, won't you? ■

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

By Lt. Col. Gene Munson, CAP
COWG Asst. PAO

Cadets from the Broomfield Composite Squadron with (L-R) Ch. Lt. Col. Jeff Williams, RMR Chaplain, Col. Gary Tobey, COWG Govt. Relations Officer, Col. Celeste Gamache, COWG Commander and Lt. Col. Buddy McCormick, COWG Vice Commander participated in the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Capitol. Photo by Lt. Col. Gene Munson, COWG Asst. PAO

A boyhood visit to Arlington National Cemetery left a big impression on Morrill Worcester—one he never forgot. Decades later, in 1992, his company's surplus of 5,000 wreaths and his desire to have them placed at Arlington kicked off an annual tribute that went on quietly for over ten years. With national interest in the project having grown so greatly, in 2007 a dedicated group of volunteers formed Wreaths Across America as a non-profit 501(c)(3) to continue and expand the mission to ***Remember, Honor, and Teach***.

The national theme for 2017 is: ***I'm an American. Yes, I am.***

Each December, on National Wreaths Across America Day wreath-laying ceremonies are held at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,200 additional locations across the country and abroad. Worcester Wreath Company (the wreath company that provides holiday greenery for L.L. Bean) makes and decorates holiday wreaths and places them on headstones as a tribute and remembrance to American heroes. Coordinated with the Cemetery Administration and the Maine State Society, adorns the white tombstones with evergreen wreaths and red bows to recognize sacrifices our Veterans and their families have made for our country.

Due to interest in this project from around the nation, the Arlington Wreath Project now includes over 1,100 participating locations in all 50 states, and 24 national veteran cemeteries abroad. Each year, Wreaths Across America and a national network of volunteers lay over 540,000 memorial wreaths at 545 locations. A Moment of Silence will be held at ALL locations on December 16 at Noon EST. To learn more about ceremonies, at locations around the country, see the official website: http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

To honor our fallen heroes at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, the Civil Air Patrol held a kickoff event at the State Capital including speakers from the Gold Star Wives and Volunteer Coordinator for Wreaths Across America. The event included: a Color Guard of cadets from the Air Academy Squadron in Colorado Springs, CO, singing of the National Anthem, moment of silence for the fallen heroes, and a symbolic wreath laying, which will be placed on Saturday December 16th during the actual wreath laying event at Ft. Logan. Volunteers will begin laying wreaths at 10 a.m. and will continue until all wreaths are placed.

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region for International Air Cadet Exchange. We have an action-packed IACE agenda which will include activities in all five Rocky Mountain Region wings.

- This year we will be offering an exciting new training initiative. A "university" style training program is being introduced that will encompass a revamped Region Staff College (RSC), Region Cadet Leadership School (RCLS), Region Chaplains College (RCC) which is the first one in RMR in decades, and our first Region Honor Guard Academy. All four of these schools will run concurrently the last week of July at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.
- We are also planning to conduct our first Cyber Academy in the region.

As we look to the challenges of the new year, I would personally like to thank you for all you do for this great organization and the communities we serve. I am truly humbled to be serving alongside the most dedicated volunteer professionals in the nation. 2017 was a banner year for Rocky Mountain Region and 2018 is shaping up to be even better. ■

The Harvard of CAP PAO Academies

Rocky Mountain Region Hosts Annual PAO Academy

By Tech. Sgt. Salvatore R. Chiporo, CAP
Wyoming Wing, Cheyenne Composite Squadron, Public Affairs Officer

On December 9-10, 2017, the Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) hosted their annual Public Affairs (PAO) Academy at the South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) Headquarters in Centennial, Colorado. The event brought together 62 PAOs, Recruitment and Retention Officers (RRO), and Commanders from three Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Regions, eight Wings, and numerous Squadrons from across the United States. In a pre-Academy communication, Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, the RMR's Director of Public Affairs and PAO Academy Director, stated that the number of presenters and attendees was "perhaps the largest class ever for a CAP PAO Academy."

The purpose of this annually required comprehensive training opportunity is to bring together the Region's PAOs, RROs, and Commanders to offer "everything a PAO needs to know to successfully perform their role and fulfill training and unit requirements." As Lt. Col. Daniels likes to say, the RMR's version of the annual event is becoming known as "the Harvard of CAP PAO Academies" due to its comprehensive nature, outstanding attendance, and the quality of the Region's PAO contributors. The purpose of this training is to "hone our collective talents and learn from one another's successes and failures" suggested one attendee. Presentation by the Academy's ten outstanding instructors included: CAP PAO regulations and training; web design, content, and hosting; Subordinate Unit Inspections (SUI); writing and releasing news releases; the RRO/PAO

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FY2018 RMR PAO Academy Graduation Class and Instructor Corps. Photo by Maj. Trevor Munson, CAP, COWG, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron, PAO

working relationship; and Public Information Officer (PIO) qualifications and training.

The RMR had the amazing opportunity to invite one of CAP's most knowledgeable public affairs experts, Lt. Col. Paul Cianciolo, CAP's National Marketing and Social Media Manager and Vice Commander of the National Capital Wing, as the keynote speaker and presenter for the Academy. Lt. Col. Cianciolo communicated CAP's new branding initiatives and marketing direction. In addition, he joined in on another very well received presentation by Lt. Col. Al Nash, RMR Chief-of-Staff and a longtime PAO and PIO, on how to effectively use video in CAP presentations and social media.

(L-R) SM Laurie Scott of the WYWG, and 2nd Lt. Janelle Doole, Capt. Tammy Peeples, 1st Lt. Jen Knellinger and Capt. Brittany Hardy of the COWG receive computers for CAP's CyberPatriot team members and squadron members with need from Rose Keating of *Denver Tech for All (center with arm sling)*. Photo by Lt. Michael Herrera, CAP, COWG, Air Academy Cadet Squadron, ES Officer

One of the highlights of the Academy was Rose Keating's presentation on *Denver Tech for All* and her crusade to deliver free computers and technology into the hands of "anyone who can't afford one," including CAP Cadets, home schooled children, and even CAP's CyberPatriot team members. Rose Keating's efforts have delivered "over 10,000" reconditioned computers to children across the Denver Metro Area and Colorado that she hopes will now expand across the RMR. PAOs will help facilitate the distribution of computers to their squadron's members and their respective family members in need. It's a win-win to help enhance CAP member communication and access to the internet for training and advance computer literacy.

Lt. Col. Paul Cianciolo, CAP National Social Media and Marketing Manager and Vice Commander of the National Capitol Wing presented several well received sessions on Social Media, Marketing and Branding usage and best practices to over 60 PAOs, RROs, Commanders, senior members and cadets, from 8 wings at the RMR PAO Academy. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP, RMR Director of Public Affairs

Another special guest speaker was seasoned PIO, Ronda Scholting, the Public Information Officer for West Metro Fire Rescue (WMFR) in Lakewood, Colorado. In addition to working as the PIO for WMFR, Scholting is a wildland fire PIO and was a TV news reporter for several network affiliate stations. Her presentation covered media relations and the need for PAOs/PIOs to know how to maintain good media relations within their communities.

Throughout the weekend Lt. Col. Daniels asked every presenter to ask questions of the students and for giving correct answers the students received a prize. The students of the PAO Academy earned over 50 prizes and went home with the knowledge needed to be successful and professional PAOs, PIOs, and RROs. The weekend was a rousing success. ■

Rocky Mountain Rescue Dog FTX

By 1st Lt. TeriLee Hammond, CAP

This past September, sixteen Phantom and Raptor cadets got together to participate in an FTX with the Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs in the Goblin Valley State Park. A few years ago, the Phantom Squadron joined with Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs or RMRD to give their search dogs some extra practice with fresh targets. RMRD is an all-volunteer, non-profit canine search and rescue organization that employs teams which consist of a handler and their dog that is trained to locate human targets in the event of a missing person or fatal injury in the wilderness. The dogs are specially trained to locate human targets from miles away, even in adverse weather or challenging terrain. The activity was a practice SAR designed to give their incident commanders an opportunity to dispatch up to 8 teams to locate victims in a desert setting.

During the three-day activity, the cadets worked on their radio communications and learned how to use GPS handheld units. Each cadet was assigned to one of three CAP teams, led by Cadet 2nd Lt. Robert Hammond, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Taylor Maki and Cadet Technical Sgt. Hayden Maki, which were then assigned an area in Goblin Valley State Park so the cadets could hide among the hoodoos to wait out the night until a rescue dog found them.

Saturday morning, the cadets headed into the park to find and then mark hiding spots on the GPS before heading back to camp to get some lunch and rest up for the adventure that night. Once dusk was upon us, the cadets headed back to Goblin Valley to get into their hiding holes for the long night and then the waiting began for them. Meanwhile, RMRD prepared to deploy search dogs, equipped with GPS collars, and their handlers into an assigned area to 'find the lost hikers'.

Incident Command was set up at the pavilion in the park where Courtney Lawrence, a member of RMRD, could see on her laptop where each of the cadets were hiding and was able to watch in real time the dogs GPS as they searched and honed in on their targets. Throughout the night each cadet had to radio their team leader every 30 minutes for a comms check and then the team leaders would radio into IC at the top of each hour and report to 1st Lt. Kris Nelson that all was well.

As the night went along cadets were found by the various teams with Cadet Airman 1st Class Khyber Lee from Richfield being the last find early Sunday morning around 0200. Everyone then headed back to camp to get some well-deserved rest before heading home later that day.

HART - Honoring Allies and Remembering Together

Capt. Jerry Cowles, CAP
Yellowstone Regional Composite Squadron Unit Commander

Yellowstone Regional Composite Squadron (Master Sgt. Talon Heatley, Tech. Sgt. Rebekah Pelfrey, Airman 1st Class Bryan Hetler with Capt. Jerry Cowles) recently participated in 2017 Honoring Allies and Remembering Together Ceremony (HART) in Lethbridge, Alberta Canada 18 November 2017.

The ceremony was performed at the Vimy Ridge Armoury in Lethbridge on Saturday at 1030 with a meeting of top ranking cadets at center court shaking hands with a backdrop of National, state, Civil Air Patrol and Provincial flags being viewed by rows of cadets in formation and honored guests including Gold Star Moms (Moms' organization to aid families of deceased veterans) as well as Memorial Cross Families and Families of the Fallen (parents/siblings of recently deceased loved ones) whom received wreaths from representative cadets. Canadian cadet musicians played both national anthems, taps, bagpipes, and God Save the Queen.

Cadets numbered approximately 200 from both countries with senior members acting as chaperones. Following the brief ceremony cadets participated in recreational volleyball and drill exercises to the awe of spectators. RMR won the drill contest. One of two banners for HART 2017 will be hung at RMR HQ as a gift from Brian Lewis-APC PR Director.

Wyoming squadrons also included Powder River Composite Squadron, 492 Emergency Composite Squadron and Cloud Peak Composite Squadron. RMR wings sent squadrons from Idaho (Coeur d' Alene Composite and Jack Layton Composite) Montana (Butte Composite and Flathead Composite), Colorado (Air force Composite, Foothills cadet, Parker Composite Cadet, Thompson Valley Composite, Broomfield Composite Mesa, Highlander Composite Valkyrie, Pueblo Eagles Composite, Douglas Cadet, Mustang Cadet) and Utah (Blackhawk, Sevier Valley Cadet, Phantom Cadet, Thunderbird Composite, Phoenix Cadet, Weber Minuteman Composite) with representation from Colorado Wing Commander Col. Celeste Gamache, RMR Vice Commander Col. Jon Niedfeldt and RMR Commander Col. Thomas Kettell. Lt. Col. Nathan VanDam was the commander of RMR delegation. Canadian squadrons numbered 14 Air Cadet (7 Penhold, 65 Ponoka, 187 Foothills, 533 St. Albert, 903 Strathmore, 11 Lethbridge, 83 Juno beach, 225 Taber, 699 Jasper Place, 952 Westjet, 15 Medicine Hat, 88 Airdrie, 239 Brooks and 781 Calgary RCACS), 1 Sea Cadet 34 Chinook RCSCC Lethbridge, and 2 Army Cadet (2296 RCACC Lethbridge and 1955 RCACC Svs Bn).

Canadian dignitaries included Mr. Tom Sand (President, Alberta Provincial Committee Air Cadet League of Canada), BGEN (Ret'd) Jim Hunter (National Vice President, Air Cadet League of Canada), Mr. Keith Mann (National Governor, Air Cadet League of Canada).

Housing for cadets and senior members varied from Fritz Sick Senior Center (cadets from US and Canada shared floor space) to various hotel/motels. Transportation was furnished via RMR corporate owned vehicles from various squadrons and buses for Canadian squadrons. Breakfast was furnished at the Senior Center while lunch and dinner was provided at the Armoury included Sunday breakfast for early morning travelers on the return trips home.

CAPabilities and Aircraft

Introduction

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is the Air Force Auxiliary and a national community service organization made up of professionally trained civilian volunteers. CAP has a modern, well-equipped fleet of aircraft, vehicles and equipment that is exercised and utilized daily. CAP is a locally-available talent and asset pool for federal, state and local government entities.

CAP's Benefits

◆ Professionally trained National Incident Management System (NIMS) qualified personnel ◆ Rapid response ◆ Low cost ◆ Located in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia

CAP's Customers

◆ DoD ◆ FEMA ◆ USCG ◆ CBP ◆ USFS ◆ USGS ◆ EPA ◆ DEA ◆ BLM ◆ NOAA ◆ NWS ◆ NGA ◆ plus hundreds of state and local agencies

CAP Assets/Resources Available

◆ 31,000 trained volunteers ◆ 550 aircraft and over 900 vehicles owned by CAP ◆ Over 10,000 VHF-FM and HF interoperable radios ◆ Fixed digital nationwide radio network with over 500 repeaters ◆ 133 tactical (portable) repeaters ◆ 900 ground teams ◆ Over 500 chaplains

CAP Mission Types

◆ Search and Rescue ◆ Disaster Response ◆ Drug Interdiction ◆ Law Enforcement Support ◆ Homeland Security ◆ Environmental Monitoring and Response ◆ Air Intercept and Radar Evaluation Targets ◆ Low-Level Route Surveys ◆ Fire Spotting ◆ Traffic Monitoring ◆ Ground and Aerial Digital Imaging & Reconnaissance ◆ Hyperspectral Imaging ◆ Endangered Species Tracking ◆ Air and Ground Communications Support

CAP Mission Details

◆ Airborne reconnaissance of border and coastal areas, ports and harbors, and critical infrastructure as "presence" missions; impact and damage assessment and recovery support for disaster areas

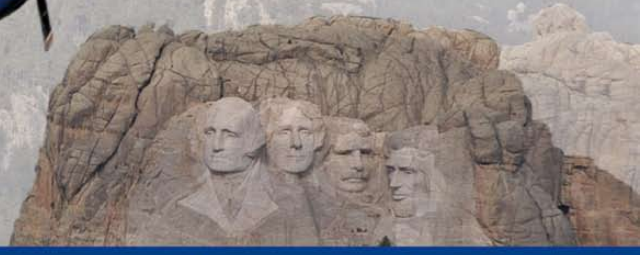
◆ Damage assessment and disaster recovery with trained ground teams able to augment civil and military authorities

◆ Aerial transportation of personnel, equipment, blood, tissue, organs and various customer-supplied sensor packages (subject to FAA reimbursement rules)

◆ Communications support, nationwide VHF-FM and HF capability to include fixed site and tactical (ground and air) repeaters

◆ CAP has ICS/NIMS trained emergency services personnel available to serve at all levels in the Incident Command System mission organization

◆ Chaplain and critical incident stress management support



Gippsland GA-8 (16)

Cruise speed 110-135 kts

Range 520-730 NM

Cessna 206 (22)

Cessna 182 (285)

Can operate with 2500' runway
VHF AM and FM radio
100 aircraft have satellite phones

Cessna 172 (195)

Citizens Serving Communities
Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs & Emergency Services

Have you ever wanted to serve your country, but weren't sure how?

In Civil Air Patrol, a humanitarian and educational nonprofit organization, you CAN serve the United States as a civilian volunteer of the Air Force's auxiliary. Join more than 54,000 members who expand and share their expertise with CAP in a wide variety of fields.

Cadet Programs
Youth 12 to 18 years old can develop leadership and technical skills, learn about aviation and enjoy training in search and rescue, model rocketry, physical fitness, sports, advanced technologies and much more.

Officer Program
Adult members are part of a team of volunteers from all walks of life. And, regardless of your background, you can choose to train in any CAP position. Opportunities are available in writing, flying, radio operations, teaching, emergency services, finance, law, and much, much more.

Civil Air Patrol….Citizens Serving Communities
United States Air Force Auxiliary

For more information go to www.gocivilairpatrol.com

PROFILE: CAP-USAF RMLR Director of Operations, Lt. Col. Scott Snyder, USAF

Lt. Col. Scott Snyder, CAP-USAF RMLR Dir. of Ops

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

Lieutenant Colonel Scott Snyder is an Air Force Pilot with more than 3200 hours flying various airplanes. He was born and raised in Chicago Illinois and after graduating from high school he enlisted in the Air Force in 1993. Upon graduation from basic training he attended specialized training to become a Cable and Antenna Journeyman and was sent to Keesler AFB MS for his first duty station. After completion of his tour at Keesler, Lt. Col. Snyder was sent to Naples, Italy to work for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). During his time in Italy, he was forwarded deployed to Sarajevo to set up communications for NATO HQ in support of Operation Joint Endeavour.

Following his tour in Italy, Lt. Col. Snyder cross-trained into the Air Traffic Control career field and was sent to Whiteman AFB, Missouri. This is where his love for aviation began. After a short stint as an air traffic controller, he was selected for an AFROTC scholarship and attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale where he completed his Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Management. Upon graduation, he attended pilot training at Columbus AFB, Mississippi and was assigned to Grand Forks AFB North Dakota to fly the KC-135 Stratotanker. After two tours flying the KC-135 at Grand Forks and MacDill AFB, he was assigned to a staff position at Randolph AFB, Texas. Following the staff assignment, he was sent to Hickam AFB, Hawaii to fly the Gulfstream V. According to Lt. Col. Snyder, Hickam AFB has been the highlight of his career.

Prior to working for CAP-USAF, Lt. Col. Snyder had very little exposure to the Civil Air Patrol. "I heard about the organization, but before coming to work for CAP-USAF I couldn't tell you exactly what the CAP's mission was. Now, after working with the CAP for the last year and a half, I truly appreciate what they do, not only for their individual states, but for the country as a whole. You can see clear evidence of their impact when you look at the efforts they put forth during the rescue operations for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria. It's truly remarkable that even though they are a mostly volunteer organization, they execute their missions with a high degree of professionalism. I've been extremely impressed!"

Lt. Col. Snyder is also extremely impressed with the Cadet Corp and what they provide to the CAP mission. "First of all, the Cadet Corp is an excellent recruiting tool for not only the CAP, but also for the Air Force. The amount of experience and discipline that is gained by going through the cadet program gives them a leg up on the average civilian joining the military. In addition, I've been to several Ops Evals where Cadets played a significant role in the success of the Wing. Whether they were assisting on ground teams, relaying communication messages, or ensuring administration duties were accomplished accurately, they've played an important role in the mission's success. Gaining that kind of experience at a young age is hard to come by and I think it will benefit them greatly as they grow older." Lt. Col. Snyder sees a bright future for the Civil Air Patrol. "CAP already does a number of missions well and continues to seek out new mission sets. I believe the professional volunteers who make up the senior members, along with the highly dedicated Cadet Corp will ensure the future success and expansion of the Civil Air Patrol."

Lt. Col. Snyder is currently stationed at Peterson AFB, CO as the Rocky Mountain Liaison Region Director of Operations (DO) and has served in the Air Force for 22+ years. He lives in Colorado Springs with his wife of 7 years, Monica, and his two boys, Shane, 6 and Casey, 4. You may have an opportunity to meet him at an RMR Wing SAV or Ops Eval and if so, let him know you read his profile!