

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION



# ALTIITUDES

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

2019 RMR Cadet Competition Reaches New Heights

Spring 2019



**COWG Pikes Peak Squadron Helps Scouts Earn Aviation Merit Badge**



**RMR Announces SPC Ryan N. Kettell, USA, Memorial Scholarship**

**In This Issue:**

- ▶ RMR "Of the Year" Awards
- ▶ New CAP-USAF Commander Col. Mark A. "Woot" Wootan
- ▶ Cadets Visit United Airlines Training Facility
- ▶ HART 2018 Honoring Allies Remembering Together



rmr.cap.gov

Civil Air Patrol is the civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. *Altitudes* is the official publication of the Rocky Mountain Region of the Civil Air Patrol.

It is published two times a year with content supplied by the Rocky Mountain Region Public Affairs Staff.

*Altitudes* is published by a private firm which is not associated with the Department of the Air Force or the Civil Air Patrol Corporation. The appearance of advertisements for products and services, as well as supplements and inserts found in this magazine, does not constitute endorsement by the United States Air Force or the Civil Air Patrol Corporation.

**Rocky Mountain Region Commander**

Col. Thomas Kettell, CAP

**Editor-in-Chief**

Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP

Content is supplied by Rocky Mountain Region staff and articles reprinted from the Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Wyoming Wings' magazines. Pre-approved article submissions are welcome. Please send requests for article submissions to Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, Editor-in-Chief, *Altitudes* at mdaniels@cap.gov. Once an article is approved send it in Microsoft Word format and attach photos (in jpeg format) to your email making certain to include photo caption information at the end of the article.

**Headquarters**

Rocky Mountain Region, Civil Air Patrol  
640 North 2360 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-2956  
Phone: 303-674-7070

**ON THE COVER:**

*Cadets participating at the 2019 Region Cadet Competition at Hill AFB (Top); Utah show off their hard-earned 'hardware'. The top two teams representing RMR at the National Cadet Competition in Dayton, Ohio (Center) will be 1st Place UTWG Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron and 2nd Place IDWG Boise Composite Squadron. With two teams eligible to participate from each of our 5 wings, we had 9 teams from all five of our Wings. Photo Credit: Lt. Mike Smith, Pocatello Composite Squadron, IDWG*

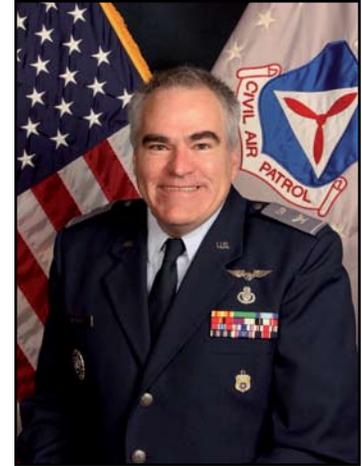
# Commander's Comments

*Col. Thomas Kettell, CAP*

*Commander, Rocky Mountain Region*

## *Airmen of Rocky Mountain Region*

The summer of 2019 will be another busy one in Rocky Mountain Region. We have a great deal of activities in our region and in our wings. From wing encampments to SAR schools, IACE to University of Rocky Mountain Region, this summer has an action-packed schedule.



Here are just a few of the highlights for this summer:

- In June we once again will be hosting the University of Rocky Mountain Region (URMR). URMR is the first of its kind “university” style training program in Civil Air Patrol. As with last year’s school, URMR will encompass a revamped Region Staff College (RSC), Region Cadet Leadership School (RCLS), Chaplain Corps Region Chaplains College (CCRSC) and Honor Guard Academy (HGA). New for this year will be the addition of an advanced HGA and the addition of the Robotics National Cadet Special Activity, E-Tech Robotics. All five of these schools will run concurrently in mid-June at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Our featured facility will consist of Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz, USAF (Ret) - Former Commander - Air Education and Training Command (AETC), CMSgt Bob Vásquez, USAF (Ret) Course Director USAF Academy Center for Character Development, Maj. Gen. Amy Courter, CAP National Commander – Civil Air Patrol 2007 – 2011, Col. Jack Fischer, USAF NASA flight engineer for Expedition 51/52, and Col Jason Alteri, USA former chair of the Civil Air Patrol Board of Governors.
- At the end of June, a team from the Weber Minuteman Squadron of the Utah Wing and a team from the Boise Composite Squadron of the Idaho Wing will represent RMR at the National Cadet Competition in Dayton Ohio. These two teams finished at the top of the RMR Cadet Competition held at Hill AFB, Utah in April. This year’s region cadet competition boasted one of the largest cadet

*continued on page 7* ➤



*Join Us...*

August 8-10, 2019

# National Conference

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront ■ Baltimore, Maryland

[www.gocivilairpatrol.com/conference](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/conference)





# 2019 Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Competition

*By Lt. Col. Michael Samuel, CAP  
RMR Cadet Activities Officer*

The Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Competition was held on April 13th at Hill AFB in Clearfield, Utah. The competition consisted of eight events, such as a written exam, uniform inspection, and standard drill. The competition tested the teamwork, knowledge, and skill of each team as they competed in each of the events. Nine teams participated this year, representing all five wings. All of the teams did an outstanding job and this year's competition tied for the highest attendance at a



Region Cadet Competition! Each team placed in the top three in at least one event. First Place overall was awarded to Utah Wing's Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron and Second Place overall went to Idaho Wing's Boise Composite Squadron! Those teams now move on to represent RMR at the National Cadet Competition June 29 - July 1 in Dayton, Ohio. Special thanks to the amazing senior members and Hill AFB Airmen who volunteered to support the event and did an outstanding job executing this activity.

### FINAL RESULTS

Overall First Place - Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron (Utah Wing)

Overall Second Place - Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing)

Overall Third Place - Thunderbird Cadet Squadron (Utah Wing)

### TEAM EVENTS

Inspection: First Place - Thunderbird Cadet Squadron (Utah Wing); Second Place - Malmstrom Composite Squadron (Montana Wing); Third Place - Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron (Utah Wing)

Mile Run: First Place - Pocatello Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing); Second Place - Banning Lewis Ranch Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing); Third Place - Flathead Composite Squadron (Montana Wing)



Written Exam: First Place - Pocatello Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing); Second Place - Thunderbird Cadet Squadron (Utah Wing); Third Place - Air Academy Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Team Leadership Problem: First Place - Flathead Composite Squadron (Montana Wing); Second Place - Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron (Utah Wing); Third Place - Casper/Cheyenne Composite Squadrons (Wyoming Wing)

Panel Quiz: First Place - Thunderbird Cadet Squadron (Utah Wing); Second Place - Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron (Utah Wing); Third Place - Air Academy Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Standard Drill: First Place - Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing); Second Place - Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron (Utah Wing); Third Place - Flathead Composite Squadron (Montana Wing)

Indoor Presentation: First Place - Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing); Second Place - Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron (Utah Wing); Third Place (tie) - Air Academy Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing); Banning Lewis Ranch Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing)

Outdoor Presentation: First Place - Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing); Second Place - Air Academy Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing); Third Place - Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron (Utah Wing)

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Fleetwood Award: Mile Time Fastest Female - Cadet Shihara Fernando, Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing); Fastest Male - Cadet Lee Grant, Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron (Utah Wing)  
Highest Written Exam Score (tie): Cadet Dylan Weatherly, Banning Lewis Ranch Cadet Squadron (Colorado Wing); Cadet Caleb Bryant, Boise Composite Squadron (Idaho Wing) ■



◀ *Commander's Comments*  
*continued from page 1*

competitions in the nation with nine teams and all five wings represented.

- In July, RMR will once again host the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE). Twenty-one Cadets and four escorts from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Netherlands and the United Kingdom come to the Rocky Mountain Region for a comprehensive tour that will include visits to all five wings and cover over 1,500 miles. New this year we will introduce a Cadet Ambassador Program which will allow each wing commander in RMR to pick two cadets who will join the IACE group from start to finish. The cadet ambassador program will provide a unique opportunity for RMR cadets to have the IACE experience at home.
- And mid-November cadets and seniors at RMR will once again cross the border to join the Royal Canadian Air Cadets at Vimy Ridge Armory, Lethbridge, Alberta to participated in HART, Honoring Allies and Remembering

Together. HART is an annual event where we come together with our Canadian counterparts to honor the fallen for our countries.

In addition to the activities this summer I would ask each wing to place a renewed emphasis on aircraft utilization. RMR consistently places toward the bottom in aircraft utilization. The summer is our peak flying time and I ask each wing to look at ways they can get our aircraft in the air. We have been given a great responsibility to perform our mission for our states and communities and we must strive for excellence. Utilizing our assets and honing our skills by training and preparation is vital to our success.

We have a great deal going on this summer, let's enjoy ourselves and conduct our activities with an eye toward safety and professionalism. I would like to thank you for all you do for this great organization and the communities we serve and look forward to seeing you out and about this summer at these wonderful activities. ■

# Civil Air Patrol Aircrew Helps Scouts Earn Aviation Merit Badge

By Capt. Jen Knellinger, CAP  
Commander, Pikes Peak Senior Squadron & Group III PAO, COWG

With a national mission priority of partnering with other likeminded organizations, Rocky Mountain Region's Colorado Wing accepted an opportunity to support the Boy Scouts of America on April 27th by providing an aircraft and aircrew to fly in to Kit Carson Airport to help educate about 30 Scouts working toward their Aviation Merit Badge while participating at the High Plains Camporee in Burlington, CO.

By request, John Stewart with the Scouts High Plains Camporee sought the assistance of the Colorado Civil Air Patrol to help a small subset of the over 500 scouts attending the annual Camporee held near Burlington, Colorado who were interested in earning the Aviation Merit Badge. With Pikes Peak Senior Squadron close by in Colorado Springs, the mission was approved. Two experienced aviators, Lt. Col. Dave Micheletti and Capt. Terry Rohr and COWG's Group III PAO, Capt. Jen Knellinger, all well-equipped with CAP history and Air Force connections, flew out the squadron's CAP painted Cessna T182T to Kit Carson Airport near Burlington and presented a program sharing aviation basics, aircraft design, navigation technology and CAP history. The Kit Carson County airport, FBO owner, Camporee legends, leaders and scouts were wonderful hosts.

John Stewart's love of both aviation and the



Scouts comes from a long family history. His father was a Civil Air Patrol pilot in the 1940's and shared his passion for flying with his son. To this date, John continues to support both the Scouts and CAP and flies his own aircraft. He credits the Scouts and aviation experience for his personal life success.

Not surprisingly, several of the older scouts, (one Eagle Scout), shared they have friends in Civil Air Patrol squadrons across the Colorado Springs area. With like minds around achievement, service and excellence, the scouts and CAP cadets have a lot in common. Each scout was given a small CAP/Air Force related patch or token and sent information about CAP.

Sincere thanks to both Capt. Terry Rohr and Lt. Col. Dave Micheletti of Pikes Peak Senior Squadron for their excellent, hands-on, active presentations of the aircraft and for fielding numerous questions from the scouts. We greatly appreciate the opportunity that John Stewart brought to Civil Air Patrol for us to share our expertise and explain CAP's missions with the scouts. As the PPSS crew took off to fly home they could see John and his pilot and scout buddies at the Scouts' Camporee site with a myriad of tents and support vehicles. The mission was a success in many ways and helped to develop CAP's relationship with the Scouts while inspiring young aviation enthusiasts and perhaps recruiting some new CAP cadets.





# 2018 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION “OF THE YEAR” AWARDS



*Col. Thomas R. Kettell, CAP  
Commander, RMR*

It is with great pleasure that I announce the winners of the 2018 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.



These members were selected from submissions presented from each wing/region and were already honored by their home wings for the work that they do.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Please join me in congratulating the following award winners:

**Squadron of Distinction**

- **Malmstrom AFB Composite Squadron of Montana Wing**

**Cadet of the Year**

- **Cadet Jett Hawk of Idaho Wing**

**Senior Member of the Year**

- **Lt. Col. John Reutemann of Rocky Mountain Region Staff**

**AFSA Cadet NCO of the Year**

- **Cadet Ivy Denen of Idaho Wing**

**Brewer Award - Organizational (Category IV)**

- **Utah Department of Aeronautics of Utah Wing**

**Cadet Programs Officer of the Year (Sorensen Award)**

- **Lt. Col. Scott Carlisi of Utah Wing**

**Character Development Instructor (CDI) of the Year**

- **Maj. Laura Furniss of Montana Wing**

**Col. (Bud) Payton PAO of the Year Award**

- **1st Lt. Sean Wardwell of Utah Wing**

**Communicator of the Year**

- **Capt. Mark Sheets of Colorado Wing**

**Director of Finance of the Year Award**

- **Lt. Col. Kent Wright of Utah Wing**

**Historian (HO) of the Year**

- **Lt. Col. Michael Knutson of Utah Wing**

**Ed Lewis Incident Staff Member of the Year**

- **Capt. Robert McKinney of Wyoming Wing**

**Inspector General of the Year**

- **Lt. Col. John Burkett of Wyoming Wing**

**Maj. Gen. Holm Aerospace Education Officer of the Year**

- **Maj. Carlos Mena of Colorado Wing**

**Professional Development Officer of the Year Award**

- **Maj. Harlan Ribnik of Wyoming Wing**

**Squadron Chaplain of the Year**

- **Capt. David Knight of Montana Wing**

**Property Manager of the Year**

- **1st Lt. Meredith Lyons of Colorado Wing**

**Safety Officer of the Year**

- **2nd Lt. Richard Couch of Colorado Wing**

# Civil Air Patrol Cadets Visit United Airlines Training Facility

By 1st Lt. Stephen Schermerhorn, CAP  
Commander, Mile High Cadet Squadron, COWG

On Tuesday, April 16, ten Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets from the Mile High Cadet Squadron took some of their first steps toward learning to fly. The cadets, ages 12 to 18, received instruction from United Airlines Pilots on what to expect from the experience, and then sat in the pilot and co-pilot seats in United Airlines' full-motion flight simulators. United's Mary Smith, Scott Drinkard, Patrick Downey and John Rhoades provided flight instruction. The young men and women were excited about the opportunity to conduct takeoffs and landings in the simulator operating the same instruments and flight controls airlines use to fly commercial aircraft.

Mary Smith, who is a United Airlines Boeing 787 Training Program Manager and serves as the Vice Chief of Staff for the Rocky Mountain Region, coordinated the visit for the Mile High Squadron. The cadets took a tour around United Airlines Flight Training Center, they learned how United Airlines trains all of its personnel at this singular facility located in Denver. Considering that all UA's 13,000 pilots come through the building every 9 months, this is no small feat. The full motion flight simulators are in constant demand and require careful coordination

to achieve all of the required training. Mary showed how United manages these challenges. There were various types of classrooms and simulators located around the facility. Some simulators only replicated the seating and flight instrument positions, pilots use these to go-through-the-motions with checklists which helps lessen the demand on the costlier full-motion flight simulators. Cadets

*continued* ►





◀ *Cadets Visit Training Facility*  
continued from page

met with pilots that were on break during their own training, many of them recalled that they too, were at one time a cadet with CAP.

The cadets all got a chance to fly as pilot and co-pilot in a simulated Boeing 737-800 and Boeing 767. Scott Drinkard and John Rhoades instructed the cadets on takeoffs, landings, and included high crosswind conditions. They also had a chance to try emergency procedures like righting the aircraft after being turned upside-down. Everyone in the simulator had to fasten their seatbelts and put their seats in the upright position as the simulators rotated, banked, pointed nearly straight up and down during the different phases of the flight. Vomit bags were placed in close proximity, the simulators are so realistic that they are well known to even replicate motion sickness. Fortunately, none of the cadets needed to use them.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the cadets to get an up-close look at what daily life is like for a pilot, and they liked it. Becoming a pilot takes life planning, comprehensive training but most importantly, perseverance. A hard work ethic, and the decisions to take more challenging classes are developed during middle and high school. When the cadets get such a tangible experience, it reminds them that this is something they can achieve if they continue to work hard in school. ■

# Rocky Mountain Region Announces SPC Ryan N. Kettell, USA Memorial Scholarship

Attention Seniors and Cadets! The Rocky Mountain Region has established a needs-based scholarship which will be made available to our Airmen (Seniors) and Cadets to attend special activities both in and out of our region. These special activities include but are not limited to:

University of Rocky Mountain Region – which includes **Region Staff College, Region Cadet Leadership School, Honor Guard Academy, Robotics Academy, Chaplain Corps Region Staff College, and E-Tech Robotics** and is held at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado;

**Rocky Mountain Region Flight Academy** – Salt Lake City, UT;

**International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE)** – for RMR cadets who would like to participate the 10 session with 25 cadets from 5 different countries;

**Cadet Officer School** – Maxwell AFB, Alabama;

**Squadron Leadership School** – Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming;

**Cadet Encampment** – Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming;

**Unit Commanders Course** – Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming;

**National Command and Staff College** – Maxwell AFB, Alabama;

**National Cadet Special Activities** – Nationwide.

For scholarship consideration, you may apply at any time by completing an application. Application instructions may be found on the second page of the application form.

If you would like to request an application, please contact the RMR Finance Officer, Lt. Col. Robin Vest, [rvest@cap.gov](mailto:rvest@cap.gov)



# Southern Arch Encampment has another successful year

*By 1st Lt. Grace Anderson, CAP  
Assistant Director of Public Affairs, UTWG*

Civil Air Patrol's Utah Wing hosted their second annual winter encampment called Southern Arch from Dec. 26 and ending Dec. 31 at the Rising Star Sports Ranch in Mesquite, Nev. The week long training activity is meant to lay the groundwork of creating strong leaders and to inspire a passion for aerospace.

An encampment can be compared loosely to a military basic training, in the fact that the students are trained through military discipline and bearing. The students are divided into flights that are led by a flight staff made up of a cadet officer and cadet sergeant. The cadets are all trained by a cadet at a higher level through to the cadet commander. This training at all levels creates the framework that cadets can then take back to their home squadrons to help develop the other cadets.

This encampment started at 12 p.m. for in

processing and flight assignments. This is where the cadets got the chance to meet their flight teams and other flight members. From that point onwards the students were expected to work side by side within their flights to make their way from one activity such as leadership classes, physical fitness training, or aerospace classes.

Cadets spent much of the encampment in classroom training with either another cadet or an adult member teacher. Even with all this classroom time, the students still spent a lot of their time learning about each other and how to work as a team through leadership reaction courses and playing team sports such as soccer.

The encampment is held just outside of Utah at the Rising Star Sports Ranch. One of the bigger questions regarding this encampment is why it is held outside of Utah if it is hosted by the



RMR Commander Col. Thomas Kettell addresses cadets.



**Cadets line up at winter encampment.**

Utah Wing.

“We are one CAP, whether the encampment is in Utah or Nevada. It is evidenced by having ten wings represented at our winter encampment over the last two years. Our established partnership with the Rising Star has opened the door for other wings to utilize the facility should the need arise,” said CAP Capt. Alice Wadley, Southern Arch Encampment Commander, “One of the reasons Mesquite was selected was the weather. Other options in Utah were explored, but none were immediately available that would fit our needs. The previous St. George squadron commander let us know about the Rising Star and we are grateful she did. No location offered what the Rising Star gives us for the cost. It’s a unique place that fits our needs for the winter encampment. This keeps our logistics needs low.”

Due to the setup of the resort the students and staff had space for physical fitness training, barracks like sleeping space, classroom areas, and a dining facility. The availability of these facilities made it so that the staff was able to complete the necessary training for the students that attended.

All of this training cumulates in the student’s

graduation that includes a military-style pass in review. To make it to graduation the students had to pass a knowledge based test, room inspections, and a drill test. When it came time to start the pass in review the reviewing party, made up of members including the encampment commander and wing commander, reviewed the students and their staff members as they complete the last act of drill before they return home.

“It was an honor to watch and develop all the cadets to be respectful, efficient and successful in the cadet program. I hope with the completion of this year’s encampment the students are all able to leave with a better understanding of the program, have the skills to succeed, and a new aspiration towards striving for excellence. Many of the cadets inspired me through their perseverance and the camaraderie this week. Never have I seen an encampment laugh and work as a team as ours has. Thank you all for helping me to have an inspiring and successful encampment. I wish the students and my staff all the best of luck in their future endeavors and hope to see their future success within the program,” said CAP Cadet 1st Lt. Faith Christiansen, Southern Arch Cadet Encampment Commander. ★



# Gillette CAP cadet promoted to highest rank in Wyoming

By KATHY BROWN News Record Senior Writer kbrown@gillettenewsrecord.net

Jan 25, 2019—Alice Wood was 12 when she became involved with the Civil Air Patrol’s cadet program while growing up in Gillette. On Monday, Sarah “Alice” Wood was promoted from major to lieutenant colonel — the highest ranked cadet in Wyoming and among the few in the Rocky Mountain region — in a ceremony at the National Guard Armory.

Wood took a break from her classes at the University of Wyoming in Laramie to participate in the Powder River Composite Squadron promotion ceremony with her parents. Wyoming Wing Commander Col. Jeff Johnson presented the cadet with her Eaker Achievement. That made the promotion to cadet lieutenant colonel — one of the highest ranks a Civil Air Patrol cadet can achieve — even more special, Wood said.

Also promoted in the local ceremony were Noah Harlie Connelly, to his second level, a cadet airman, and Joshua Z. Morbeto to cadet sergeant major, just below officer level. Connelly, a seventh-grader, is the youngest of



News-Record Photographer, August Frank

the 14-cadet squadron, Wood said.

It was what Wood had aimed for when she joined the squadron because her father was a pilot and a member of the Civil Air Patrol, she said. She’s worked for six years to accomplish the feat. The work included active participation, passing leadership, aerospace and physical fitness tests, as well as participating in character development forums and demonstrating leadership and maturity qualities.

“It was super special,” she said. While most cadets end their service by age 18, some who qualify can extend it to age 21, which is what

*continued on page 21* ➤





# Col. Wootan Assumes CAP- USAF Command



*RMR welcomes the new CAP-USAFAF commander Col. Mark A. “Woot” Wootan and extends a warm thank you to Col. Mike Tynnismaa for his years of service to our organization.*

Col. Mark A. “Woot” Wootan officially became the 31st commander of Civil Air Patrol-U.S. Air Force (CAP-USAFAF).

In a ceremony in the main hangar at Maxwell Air Force Base, Wootan assumed command from Col. Michael D. Tynnismaa, who has led CAP-USAFAF since August 2014 and is retiring from active duty.

“I am truly humbled with this command,” Wootan said. “Col. Tynnismaa built a great team and, as importantly, strengthened an already strong CAP, CAP-USAFAF relationship. I am eager to get started and help CAP grow and flourish.”

As CAP-USAFAF commander, Wootan is responsible for ensuring CAP — the Air Force auxiliary — is organized, trained and equipped to fulfill Air Force-assigned missions. CAP-USAFAF provides day-to-day support, advice and liaison to CAP’s more than 60,000 members and provides oversight for CAP programs, with emphasis on safety and program requirements. CAP-USAFAF personnel are also the primary function interface between other federal agencies and CAP.

CAP-USAFAF is staffed with about 200 active-duty, reservist and civilian airmen at CAP National Headquarters at Maxwell AFB and locations in New Jersey, Maryland, Ohio, Georgia, Minnesota, Texas, Colorado, California and Florida, as well as in Puerto Rico and at several overseas Air Force installations.

“We welcome Col. Wootan to this new command post and look forward to his leadership,” said CAP National Commander/CEO Maj. Gen. Mark Smith. “He brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to CAP-USAFAF. This experience is certain to help shape our organization moving forward.”

Wootan, with 30-plus years of active-duty Air Force service in international relations, military operations, command and defense, has served with Tynnismaa as national vice commander of CAP-



U.S. Air Force Col. Mark Wootan (center) receives the CAP-USAFAF guidon, emblematic of command, from Lt. Gen. R. Scott Williams, commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region –1st Air Force (Air Forces Northern). At their left is Wootan’s predecessor as CAP-USAFAF commander, Col. Michael Tynnismaa.

Photo by Susan Schneider, CAP National Headquarters

USAFAF since July 2018.

“In my nearly nine months as Col. T’s vice commander, I’ve had the opportunity to attend many exercises, operation evaluations and conferences,” Wootan said. “I remain amazed by the efforts, energy and professionalism of CAP members and staff. This is going to be a lot of fun.”

Before his CAP-USAFAF assignment, Wootan was an Air Force foreign affairs officer, serving for three years as the senior defense official and defense attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic, and nearly two years as the defense and air attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.

In addition to that duty, he has commanded a  
*continued on page 21* ►



◀ *Wootan CAP-USAF continued from page 19*

300-member Air Force squadron and is certified in multiple airframes. An Air Force command pilot, he has been an instructor pilot in C-130 and T-34 military aircraft and has been responsible for teaching all facets of airdrop, airland, tactics, instrument and formation training. He has also served as an Air Force exchange officer to the U.S. Navy as a naval flight instructor.

Wootan has more than 3,400 flying hours in the C-130 and T-34 as well as KC-135 and C-12 aircraft. His flight service includes 500 hours of combat and combat support in operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Anvil, Joint Task Force Horn of Africa and Northern Watch.

He also led the Defense Intelligence Agency's sole combat aircraft program in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

His major awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the U.S. Navy/U.S. Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, U.S. Navy/U.S. Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal. In addition, he was the KC-135 Combat Crew Training School Distinguished Graduate as well as the Training Wing Five and City of Milton, Florida, Navy Flight Instructor of the Year.

Wootan's non-Air Force and foreign awards include the Czech Republic Army's Merit of Order (Legion of Merit), Nebraska Air National Guard's Legion of Merit, Czech Republic Military Police's Commendation Medal and Pakistan Air Force Command Pilot wings.

He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1991 and a master's degree in aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1994. Later, he earned two other master's degrees — one focused in air power from the Air Force's School of Advanced Air and Space Studies at Maxwell AFB and one in national security from the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

Wootan and his wife, Diane, have two grown children, Katie and Jackson, and one grandchild. ■

◀ *Cadet Promoted*

*continued from page 18*

Wood chose to do.

Fewer than 1 percent of cadets in the region and 3 percent nationwide become lieutenant colonels.

But Wood said she has even higher aspirations. She hopes to be promoted to a cadet colonel within four months. That will mean passing leadership, aerospace and fitness tests in a daylong event.

"I was lucky I started so young because it's made it so much easier," Wood said.

Each cadet receives five free orientation rides in an airplane and can earn Civil Air Patrol scholarships to help earn a pilot's license. That's something Wood also wants to do. "I think that will be awesome," she said.

Wood said she didn't think about joining the Air Force Academy until after her senior year in high school. But she's still considering doing so, if the academy accepts student transfers.

Now she's majoring in mechanical engineering with minors in music and Chinese.

She also can decide to join the Air Force ROTC at the university.

Wood estimated Colorado, part of the Rocky Mountain region of Civil Air Patrol, has 10 lieutenant colonels and colonels as cadets. Utah, another state in the region, has fewer than that.

"I want Wyoming to be proud of what we do and I think people are," she said. "I've always tried my best to do my best." Wood hopes her achievements help promote the squadron and opportunities for cadets through the high-quality local program. "Every time we wear our uniforms in school it helps because (other students) can see what we do," she said. ★





# Idaho Wing Conference and Change of Command



*By Capt. Mitzi Breshears, CAP  
Idaho Wing PAO*

On Sept 29, 2018 Idaho Wing held their annual conference on Gowen Field, in Boise Idaho. Col. Dave Guzman and Lt. Col. Just Bekker were the primary organizers for the event and it was a great success. The event is always fun for seniors and cadets to get together to have some fun and also join CAP educational classes. This year was slightly different as it included Idaho Wing Change of Command. Col. George Breshears served the Idaho Wing diligently as Commander for 4 years and it was time to pass on the legacy to Col. Robert Bost.

The day started out with a briefing from Civil Air Patrol Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Edward Phelka, an RMR Briefing by Col. Tom Kettell, followed by Col. George Breshears giving an update on the “state of the Wing”. The day continued with learning labs and cadet activities for all to enjoy.



**Brig. Gen. Edward Phelka addresses the Idaho Wing to start off the day.**

The end of the evening concluded with the banquet and change of command ceremony. Emcee for the event was the always gracious and humorous Capt. Joseph Jamison. Once dinner was served, it was time to present the annual Idaho Wing Awards. Awards included several members being recognized for their involvement in the Gunfighter exercise, Outstanding Service Awards – Col. Haldy, Lt. Col. Justin Bekker, Squadron of



**Col. Breshears grins as he reads the inscription on his sword. The sword was gift from Idaho Wing and Squadron members.**



**RMR Commander Col. Kettell read the Command Oath while Col. Bost recites it aloud.**





**Mike Pape, Idaho Division of Aeronautics, presents a letter of appreciation from Governor Butch Otter and the State of Idaho to Col. Breshears for outstanding service.**



**Brigadier General Brad Richy, Idaho Office of Emergency Management Director and Director of the Joint Staff, presents Col. George Breshears with State of Idaho Meritorious Service Award.**

Merit – Boise Squadron, Senior Member of the Year – Lt. Mike Smith (Pocatello Squadron), Cadet of the Year – Cadet Maj. Caleb Bryant (Boise Squadron), 50 year award to Col. Mike Voracheck and Lt. Col. Pete Andersen, Meritorious Service Awarded to Capt. Joe Jamison. With the National Vice Commander being present, it was a great opportunity for several cadets to be presented their recognition and awards as well. After the Wing awards were presented it was time to present Col. Breshears with some honors from his superiors, subordinates, and peers for his faithful service to Idaho Wing, Civil Air Patrol, and the State of Idaho.

Col. Breshears received a letter of appreciation from Governor Butch Otter and the State of Idaho presented by Mike Pape (Idaho Division of Aeronautics), Civil Air Patrol Distinguished Service Award presented by Col. Tom Kettell (RMR Commander), a plaque from Civil Air Patrol National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith for Distinguished Service, Meritorious Service Award from the Idaho Division of Military Services presented by Brigadier General Brad Richy (Idaho Office of Emergency Management Director and Director of the Joint Staff). Wing and Squadron members wanted to give Col. Breshears something special as well for his service. He was presented



**Brig. Gen. Phelka and Col. Breshears stand in front of the Idaho Potato! This is the famous potato that tours the United States.**

with an engraved Civil Air Patrol Sword and an Idaho Wing conference/change of command commemorative coin as a gift. It was a night of celebration and memories. Col. Breshears stated he was “extremely honored and humbled” by the awards and events of the evening as well as “being able to serve such a great Wing”. ★

## Montana Wing at State Capitol



Montana Wing was well represented at the state capitol in Helena for their CAP at the Capitol Day. Each year state legislatures designate a day for Civil Air Patrol to be recognized and supported by the state's legislature. Montana is unique in that its legislature meets every two years instead of annually.

---

## Annual Spaatz Association Dinner, Washington D.C.



## RMR Peak Performing Staff at UTWG Conference



Just some of the amazing women of the “peak” performing staff of the Rocky Mountain Region celebrating Women's History Month at the Utah Wing Conference include (L-R) Capt. Mary Smith, Vice Chief of Staff, Capt. Erin Borland, DCS Director of Professional Development and Lt. Col. Alisha Cope, Chief of Staff.

---

LEFT: Colorado Cadets Issac Stone and Jacob Olson along with RMR Commander Col. Kettell, pose with Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General David Goldfein in Washington D.C. at the annual Spaatz Association Dinner.





# Alaska Communications Up and Running Thanks to CAP Volunteers from Idaho and Texas

*Maj. Bryan Emerson, CAP  
Director of Public Affairs, AKWG*

In 2015, no Alaska squadron had any volunteers participating in CAP's national communications network. In 2018, 8 squadrons had active representation. What happened? The answer is individual initiative and the generous aid of three leaders in CAP communication, all of whom live thousands of miles from Alaska:

- \* Maj. Kristin Freeman is the national Voice Operations Manager, Rocky Mountain Region DCS-Communications, and has been an instructor at NESAs, the National Emergency Services Academy.
- \* Maj. Eric Freeman is the Idaho Director of Communications and on the National Headquarters staff for Communications Engineering.
- \* Lt. Col. Henry Howe, Texas Wing Director of Communications, coordinates the one week LESA (Lone Star Emergency Services Academy) Communications School for CAP seniors and cadets each year in East Texas. Maj. Bryan Emerson, current Alaska Director of Communications, was a graduate of the 2011 School.

When Maj. Emerson learned that all have adult children living in Alaska, he asked them if, on a future visit, they could lend some of their time and considerable talents to resuscitating the state's moribund communications program. They quickly agreed.

Alaska's communications program is important not only to Alaska, but to the rest of the U.S. as well because, perhaps counter-intuitively, of its distance to the Lower 48. High Frequency (HF) radio waves travel three ways: One is by line of sight, which is limited by the curvature of the earth. The second is by ground wave which is limited by the contours of the earth, and the third is by bouncing transmissions off the ionosphere, which facilitates long distance, even intercontinental communication. Because of the angles involved, Alaska can hear and receive messages from CAP stations throughout the country when even adjacent operators cannot, without near vertical incidence skywave antennae (NVIS), which are rarely used in CAP.

In 2017 and 2018, the Freemans and Howe visited, by CAP plane and car, all of the Alaska squadrons that expressed interest in enhancing their communications programs. They assessed inventory lists, installed and repaired old radios and antennae, and trained three dozen CAP volunteers in the communications protocols and equipment. In addition, they drafted a detailed memo for CAP National Headquarters, outlining recommendations for new equipment purchases, including a powerful Log Periodic antenna, which Hawaii also has, for ensuring crisp and clear radio transmissions to and from the other 48 states.

Today, CAP volunteers at eight squadrons participate in CAP's daily communications network, prepared to transmit information in any emergencies.

"Everyone in CAP communications is excited that Alaska is up and running again. I was so relieved to hear Kodiak loud and clear the day of the state's 7.1 earthquake," says Maj. K. Freeman, who flew out to that island to help them get online. "And the powerful Log Periodic antenna in Alaska is a great asset to CAP squadrons throughout the country almost every weekday, because it relays messages that some of us cannot hear; it is "in the skip" for nearer stations. Perhaps most important, Alaska's distance means that it is likely to be unaffected by major disasters, like a New Madrid earthquake or power grid disruption, which could cripple large swaths of the Lower 48. In my view, any Alaska squadron with a CAP HF radio and a willing volunteer, is a valued resource for every other CAP installation."

For their time, talent, and generosity, Alaska sends out a hearty THANK YOU to the Majors Freeman and Col. Howe.



# National Cadet Advisory Council in Washington D.C.



RMR CAC National Representative, Cadet Lt. Col. Jett Hawk (Idaho Wing), sitting with RMR Commander Col. Tom Kettell (left) and CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith (right) at the National Cadet Advisory Council Meeting in Washington D.C.

# Winter Command Council in Washington D.C



RMR Vice Commander, Col. Jon Niedfeldt, presenting at the Winter Command Council in Washington D.C.

# Utah Wing's New Squadron Patches

Here's a look at the Utah Wing's new squadron patches shared at the UTWG Conference. All of the squadrons' patches were tweaked to be in compliance with the USAF heraldry regs. Note that each patch has a circular main design with upper and lower "rockers" that include the squadrons' names, nicknames and mottos. All RMR wings have been given a directive to ensure their subordinate units redesign their patches/emblems to be in compliance. Utah Wing's squadrons did a great job and their patches look quite distinctive.





## RMR's Wyoming Wing Participates in Honoring Allies and Remembering Together (HART)

*By Capt. Jerry Cowles, CAP  
Wyoming Wing PAO*



Wyoming Wing squadrons converged upon Lethbridge Alberta, Canada for a two-day ceremony dedicated to honoring the fallen and the Silver Cross Moms (surviving parents, siblings or spouses of the fallen) in an exchange of wreaths to adorn their grave sites between The Air Cadets League of Canada and the participating squadrons from the five region wings gathered at the Viny Armory of Lethbridge.

Cadets from both countries practiced on Friday the 16th November 2018 in their respective formations with Honor Guards representing their respective region or Canadian cadet branches met in the center with flags flying and the most senior cadet of each country met in the middle of the armory hall to exchange salutes and a firm handshake. The rest of the 200 cadets stood at attention watching the pomp and circumstance listening to the Air Cadet Band from Lethbridge. Naturally God save the Queen and the American National Anthem were heard along with Taps.

The ceremony only lasted 1 ½ hours but the afterward mingling of cadets from both countries began exchanging souvenirs such as patches or pins. Senior members were not exempt from swamping items of interest. A group photograph was called for and the 300 collectives of ambassadors either sat or stood in the center of the armory hall and reeled from the flashbulbs of cameras capturing this golden moment. Groups separated for photos of wings, leagues or squadrons shortly thereafter.

Lunch was displayed upon tables according to sub sandwich makings, chips or drinks. Everyone was fed according to their desire and needs. The armory bustled with the sound of multitude of voices and swapping of stories. Then the next event was arranged and out came the volley ball nets and referees. It was so relaxing to see cadets of two countries intermixed into teams vie for the crown of victory. Then came dinner, all 80 pizzas of various configurations. Need, I say there were no crumbs left.

Once again, the floor was cleared for games and marching competition. Two hours later we heard the recruiting process of each country's cadet core where power points with speakers abounded and then the awards were presented.

Lodging consisted of hotel rooms of 4 cadets (gender specific) per room and seniors accommodated themselves for two nights. Breakfast was served for cadets by coupons and seniors paid for their own. The reality of departing reared its head as new-found friends said their goodbyes as well as email or twitter addresses and the long journey home of 10 hours began once again passing through the border and driving through Montana to each wings state and separating by squadrons as destination became closer.



# Mission Staff Assistants NEEDED!

*By Cadet Staff Sgt. Olivia Elenbaas, CAP  
Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron, MTWG*

MSA. Mission Staff Assistant. Many people don't realize how important this unassuming job is to the mission. MSAs are often overlooked and many think that other cadets can do it. However, in fact, being a Mission Staff Assistant is one of the vital jobs in the mission. Cadets can do things that often only senior members are normally allowed to do.

The job of these individuals is just like its name. They help assist the staff and get the paperwork or whatever they need. As one Senior Member recalled, one cadet MSA once got so good at it, he earned recognition from the Air Force during a graded SAREX. He proudly earned the nickname, "Radar", because he was able to anticipate what the Senior Member needed before he even spoke it.

At the first two Montana Wing SAREXs, 19-20 January and 16-17 February, trainees learned how to escort distraught family members or the media to the appropriate people, fill out Specialty Qualification Training Records (SQTRs), read maps, update status boards, and many other valuable skills. Former Wing Commander, Col. Carl Koeber, spearheaded the training, which was very good due to his thorough preparation.



**Mission Staff Assistant training led by former Wing Commander, Col. Carl Koeber (center with laptop). Units represented in the photo include: MT008 (Billings), MT012 (Great Falls), MT018 (Missoula), and MT060 (Helena).**

One reason a person must be an MSA before you can train to be a drone pilot or drone technician is because you must be experienced in the MSA skills before you move on to other jobs. So you can see that this job is more important than you might think. As an MSA trainee myself, I've learned many valuable skills that have made me more ready for a real mission.

An MSA must be quick, yet efficient in the performance of their duties, to help the mission go more smoothly and run

efficiently. From signing in participants to finding paperwork to assisting persons staffing command and general staff positions needing support – MSAs are on it!

Because this job is so overlooked, those performing it are decreasing in numbers. Montana Wing needs more MSAs. It will be worth your time and you will meet fellow cadets and senior members from other squadrons while developing friendships you wouldn't have made otherwise.



# Jack Swigert Aerospace Academy Program

*By Capt. Jen Knellinger, CAP  
Commander, Pikes Peak Senior Squadron and Group III PAO, COWG  
Photos by Christopher Lucca*

In 2016, I received a phone call from a middle school science teacher regarding assistance with aviation education. As a PAO and Deputy Commander, I thought this slightly out of my realm but took the opportunity to share CAP with the community.

Jack Swigert Aerospace Academy is a District 11 school opened in 2009 in collaboration with the Space Foundation. It was named after Colorado native and astronaut, John L. "Jack" Swigert who served on Nasa's Apollo 7 and Apollo 13 missions. With incredible community and industry support, the school's focus is on improving students' proficiency in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM).

One of the buildings on the school campus houses the Space Foundation's Discovery Institute where 4 working flight simulators, a wind tunnel, and other



Earl Goecker and JSAA students examine an experimental's engine.

ancillary equipment serve to teach selected and interested students about aviation and aerospace. The dilemma, I discovered upon my visit with science teacher Leif Anderson, was their general science



JSAA Students and PPSS members take a final pic with the planes.

teachers lacked the experience and background to teach more targeted lessons on flight training, aircraft, navigation, airports and communication. Hence, the request for Civil Air Patrol assistance.

After almost a year of phone calls, approvals, curriculum discussions, and agreement on what Pikes Peak Senior Squadron could realistically offer the school in time, skill sets and experience, our Aerospace officer, Maj. Carlos Mena picked up the mantle. Carlos led and continues to lead a team of pilots and AE instructors to teach 4 -6 classes per week for 2 weeks in both the Fall and Spring at the school. The students are a select group of 7th and 8th graders chosen to work in teams or pairs in a simulator cockpit running various scenarios and speaking to “tower” with the tools provided.

The PPSS pilots have brought in all types of tools and hands-on technology to share the less theoretical and more operational aspects of flight training, planning and communications with the students. The program has been a great collaboration and even more fun for our participating members. Last Spring Pikes Peak Senior Squadron worked for months with local FAA staff to provide an opportunity to share the local FAA’s ATC with the D11 students. It was a huge success. For the FAA staff who toured, talked and shared their roles, the students – many of whom have never been to or seen an airport and PPSS seniors Carlos Mena, Stephen Fontenot and Jen Knellinger had a fantastic time seeing the inner workings and coordination of the FAA team at work.

This past December, the two weeks of teaching culminated in yet another big event – The Airplane Day at the Jet Center. In addition to the two aircraft which PPSS uses, a GA8 Gypsum and a 182T Turbo, G1000, Carlos and our maintenance team of Jon Bucher and Earl Goecker arranged for three other aircraft to be open and shared with the students.



Leif Anderson’s class at JSAA. Thanks for a great year!

The students, teachers and CAP staff also had a unique opportunity to see a giant Russian cargo plane with a truck parked inside its hull. It was a huge hit. And for some students and many of us, a “wow” moment to see something that large.

In addition to viewing the planes with knowledgeable pilots and crew, the students were treated to a presentation of career opportunities for both men and women in aviation. Two pilots with long and very different career paths shared their flight training and career experiences. The best was yet to come—as the finale of the day was a big pizza lunch sponsored by PPSS before students and teachers headed back to school.

The partnership between PPSS and JSAA is an incredible model for a realistic and award winning AE External Program. It’s a win/win for all and a great demonstration of CAP in the Community sharing their commitment to service, excellence and volunteerism. The thank you notes from the students with both their candor and excitement over having a special day to be in 5 different airplanes and stare into the hull of something so large were both gratifying and priceless. We are grateful to both the Jet Center’s support and our JSAA partners for the opportunity. 🇺🇸