CIVIL AIR PATROL

NINER magazine

serving NER's nine wings

WINTER-SPRING 2010

Search-and-Rescue Competition

CAP Provides Support for Air Shows, Including Thunderbirds

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NI**NER** Magazine is a publication of Civil Air Patrol's NorthEast Region (**NER**). It is by, for and about the **nine** wings that the region encompasses: **Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey,** and **Pennsylvania.**

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ON THE COVER

CAP aircraft park in front of a C-5 Galaxy heavy transport aircraft during the NER Search-and-Rescue Competition at Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts.

Photo by Susan Robertson

INSET: ***If there's an airshow, CAP members are usually there helping in a variety of ways – even providing support for top aviators like the Thunderbirds. New York Wing Capt. Paul Zuckerberg guards Thunderbird pilot Maj. John Baum's aircraft. See Page 16.***

6 TEAMS COMPETE AT NER SEARCH-AND-RESCUE COMPETITION

New Hampshire Wing Takes First Place Overall; PA Takes 2nd; NY, 3rd

by Capt. James Ridley

TV news reporter interviews New Hampshire team member at the SARCOMP.

WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, Chicopee, Mass. – Northeast Region hosted a search-and-rescue competition (SARCOMP) at Westover Air Reserve Base over the weekend of May 22-24. It was held with the cooperation of the U.S. Air Force and the Air Reserve Base Command at Westover, home to the 439th Airlift Wing.

Six teams competed against one another representing many of the wings that make up the Northeast Region. Lt. Col. Joe Abegg, incident commander for the exercise, said the SARCOMP featured over 235 Civil Air Patrol (CAP) personnel, more than 30 aircraft and 30 ground vehicles. Competition events, which took place Saturday the 23rd, included air and ground team searches, and inspections. An awards ceremony honoring the competition winners in each event and overall was held on Sunday.

OVERALL WINNERS
- 1st: New Hampshire Wing.
- Second: Pennsylvania Wing.
- 3rd: New York Wing.

INCIDENT COMMAND TEAM
- 1st: New Hampshire Wing.
- 2nd: Pennsylvania Wing.
- 3rd: New Jersey Wing.

AIR EVENTS
- 1st: New Hampshire Wing.
- 2nd: MA/CT Composite Team.
- 3rd: New York Wing.

GROUND EVENTS
- 1st: New Hampshire Wing.
- 2nd: Pennsylvania Wing.
- 3rd: MA/CT Composite Team.

Col. Robert Diduch, then-region commander, bestowed the awards. Lt. Colonel Abegg mentioned that the SARCOMP was being considered a dry run for a possible nation-wide search-and-rescue competition. This was the second Northeast Region SARCOMP to be held at Westover. The first took place place in 2007.

One of CAP's congressionally chartered missions, emergency services (ES), is to save lives and mitigate suffering and loss of property, as well as support other life-saving agencies.

"The purpose of the SARCOMP was to practice and test mobility readiness, foster esprit de corps, and enhance mission skills through open competition," Lt. Colonel Abegg said. "Such exercises motivate participants to train to be the best."

COL. HAYDEN ASSUMES COMMAND OF NORTHEAST REGION

By Capt. James A. Ridley, Sr.

McGUIRE AFB, LAKEHURST, NJ – Outgoing NER Commander Col. Robert Diduch turned over the command of the Northeast Region to Maine Wing Commander Col. Christopher Hayden in August. Col. Hayden turned his wing over to Col. Daniel Leclair.

Colonel Hayden's Civil Air Patrol career began in December 1997 when he joined the 58th Composite Squadron (ME058) in Portland. He has served as PAO, Squadron Commander, Wing Vice Commander and Wing Commander, and counts among his CAP accomplishments his work reporting the progress of the JFK Jr. search and his initiative of the U.S. Navy ship escort duty along the Kennebec River. During this project he worked with U.S.N. security officers to devise the most efficient use of CAP aircraft in support of the Force Protection Team as well as establishing a strong relationship with the Maine National Guard.

Col. Hayden, r, accepts NER guidon during change of command.

A licensed pilot, he has close to 2,000 flying hours, an instrument rating and commercial pilot certificate.

Hayden has earned the Maine Wing Guy P Gannett Award and the Northeast Region Lt Joseph Mixter PAO Award, two Commander's Commendations, the Maine Wing Squadron Commander of the Year Award and the Meritorious Service Award.

BUSY YEAR AHEAD FOR NORTHEAST REGION

Commander's Message by Col. Christopher Hayden

I consider myself fortunate and privileged to have been appointed your Northeast Region Commander. Since taking command in August we have made some adjustments to the region staff, introduced vertical integration between the region and wing staff, and drafted plans for several new and old events for the year ahead.

In October we held our first Wing Commander's Retreat at Lake George, NY where all the wing commanders and I were able to spend an uninterrupted day together to discuss ideas and issues. This was so worthwhile we have all agreed to make this an annual event.

In January we are holding a STRATOPS (operations strategy forum) at Westover ARB. This is for all the wing commanders, directors of operations, emergency service officers, directors of communications and other interested parties. Our guests at this event are John Salvador, NHQ Director of Missions, and Lt Col Lance Jolly, the CAP-USAF NE Liaison Region Commander.

Col. Christopher Hayden

In July we will hold our annual SARCOMP organized by Lt Col Joe Abegg and in November we will hold our traditional Region Conference. Also, our traditional Regional Staff College, Region Inspector General School and Region Cadet Encampment are in the planning stage.

New on the drawing board are plans to create a region ES Training School for those who aspire to be Incident Commanders. The course will provide the higher training requirements for branch directors which will be followed by IC training.

Our region has been recognized for some time as a national leader. This was recently demonstrated by our 99% completion ahead of time of the narrow band communications transition directed by our NER/DC Lt Col Andrew Feldman and the dedicated DCs of our nine wings. For this momentous achievement; I have approved the presentation of the Exceptional Service Award for Lt Col Feldman and the Meritorious Service Award for each of our Wing/DCs.

Throughout the year I will visit each wing so I can get to know as many of you as I can and hear your ideas and discuss any issues.

Please think safety in all you do and thank you for your support of our Civil Air Patrol.

CADETS DELVE INTO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AT NATIONAL ACADEMY

By Sr. Mbr. Donna O'Steen-Mixon

COLORADO – Cadets from around the country, including five from the Northeast, explored the cutting edge of aviation technology from July 18 to 25 at the Advanced Technologies Academy at Peterson Air Force Base.

Five high-tech applications were unveiled to the 26 participating cadets in program activities throughout the week: the Satellite Tool Kit; the Airborne Real-time Cueing Hyper-Spectral Enhanced Reconnaissance, or ARCHER, system; the Satellite Digital Imaging System; and night vision and infrared capabilities.

Through the Satellite Too Kit, cadets learned about satellite missions and how to use the squadron's computer to track satellites, the space shuttle, and the International Space Station in orbit.

ARCHER is "an imaging system capable of seeing a broader spectrum of light wavelengths than the human eye," explained Maj. Jennifer Niswender, the academy's ARCHER operator. "The camera captures and processes images in real time." Students received training on ARCHER before making ARCHER flights in a CAP Gippsland GA-8 Airvan.

With the Satellite Digital Imaging System, cadets learned aerial photography techniques to best capture images of targets of interest. They became skilled at processing and downlinking images via satellite.

Cadets also had hands-on demonstrations of thermal imaging of the infrared camera and night vision goggles.

NER cadets were:

• **New Jersey Wing** -- C/Airman Sergio R. Jimenez, Picatinny Composite Squadron.

• **New York Wing** -- C/Tech. Sgt. John R. Feulner, Schenectady Composite Squadron, and C/Master Sgt. Margaret M. Walter, Rochester Composite Squadron.

• **Pennsylvania Wing** -- C/Master Sgt. Michael S. Brown, Philadelphia Composite Squadron 102, and C/Airman Michael P. Taylor Jr., Bangor Slate Belt Composite Squadron 807.

NER STAFFER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Lt. Col. Joe H. Abegg Sr., director of operations for Northeast Region and incident commander for the NER Search-and-Rescue Competition, has been named national Incident Staff Member of the Year. He received the inaugural "Col. Edwin W. Lewis Jr. Incident Staff Member of the Year" award from CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter during the 2009 National Board and Annual Conference in September.

‘WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA’ REMEMBERS VETS

Maine Wing Kicks Off Observances with Canadian Border Event

By Steve Cox and Kristi Carr, Nat’l Headquarters

(Col. Dan Leclair, Maine Wing commander; Capt. Grace Stapf, professional development officer of Maryland Wing’s Mount Airy Composite Squadron; and 1st Lt. Mary Story, Maine Wing public affairs officer, all contributed to this story)

Cadet Airman Basic Olivia Fowler of the Maine Wing’s 75th Composite Squadron holds the U.S. flag during a wreath exchange ceremony on the U.S.-Canadian border. The HART (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together) ceremony on Dec. 5 was part of national Wreaths Across America observances.

Photo by Capt. Raymond Hanson, Maine Wing

While Wreaths Across America observations were being held at state capitols across the nation Dec. 8, special attention was given at the west steps of the U.S. Capitol, overlooking the Washington Mall.

There a wreath was placed and guarded for four hours by the Civil Air Patrol’s Middle East Region Honor Guard. The pomp and circumstance drew a crowd as many Capitol employees came to pay their respects to the message the wreath signified: Remember the sacrifice of veterans.

The ceremony at the Capitol was one of the national Wreaths Across America observances, beginning with a new event — the HART (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together) ceremony at the U.S.-Canadian border Dec. 5.

The HART observance honored the service and sacrifice of military veterans from the U.S. and Canada. A centerpiece of the ceremony was a wreath exchange on Ferry Point Bridge, which spans the St. Croix River and connects Calais, Maine, with St. Stephen, New Brunswick.

“Our mission is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom,” said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. Worcester and her husband, Morrill, are the owners of Worcester Wreath Co. in Harrington, Maine, and the founders of Wreaths Across America.

The HART ceremony was organized to recognize all veterans, including young men and women from Canada who are serving or served in the U.S. military. Participants included America’s Gold Star Mothers, Civil Air Patrol, Air Cadets of Canada and dignitaries representing both nations.

After a parade, CAP cadets escorted the Gold Star Mothers to the center of the bridge, where they were met by the Air Cadets of Canada Band, which performed both countries’ national anthems. Following a round of speeches, the Gold Star Mothers presented a wreath to the Canadian cadets to be placed nearby at the war memorial in St. Stephen.

“It was a great way to recognize and remember all young men and women from Canada who are serving or served in the U.S. military and to teach our younger generation about the sacrifices these individuals make for our freedom,” said Col. Dan Leclair, commander of the Maine Wing, which is actively involved with Wreaths Across America. “It was an afternoon all of us will remember.”

The ceremony opened a full week of activity for Wreaths Across America, which provides remembrance wreaths for wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 400 veterans cemeteries and memorials nationwide and 24 other national cemeteries abroad. In all, more than 150,000 wreaths were placed.

Wreaths Across America began in 2006 as an offshoot of Arlington National Cemetery wreath project, which began in 1992 with the annual placement of wreaths donated by Worcester Wreath.

The national Wreaths Across America observance at Arlington on Dec. 12 featured 16,000 wreaths donated by Worcester Wreath, Wal-Mart, the USO and other corporate sponsors.

The wreaths were transported in seven tractor-trailers on a 750-mile journey from Harrington, Maine, after a sendoff ceremony Dec. 6

The route to Arlington is one the longest annual veterans’ celebrations as patriotic Americans, veterans groups and other local organizations show their support for the project with parades and ceremonies at more than 20 stops along the way. Motorcyclists from the Patriot Guard Riders, accompanied the trucks to Arlington.

'WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA' IN NEW YORK

Long Island Squadrons Place 1,500 Wreaths at Calverton

By 2d Lt. Robert Calviello

CALVERTON, NY – Over twenty members from Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10 and Long Island Senior Squadron met at Calverton National Cemetery on Saturday December 12 to pay tribute to our country's servicemen and women. The group represented the Civil Air Patrol in just one of the more than 400 national and overseas memorial ceremonies organized as part of the Wreaths Across America program.

Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10's honor guard presented the colors as cadets laid wreaths at memorials for each of the services -- Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. A special presentation was also made in honor of POW-MIAs.

The Honorable Marc S. Alessi, State Assemblyman (D-NY 1st AD) joined Messrs. Edward M. Lee and Joseph Themann Jr., executive board members of Calverton's Support Committee, in brief remarks to the audience. Each speaker stressed the need to remember, honor and teach about the courage and sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

At the conclusion of the public ceremony, volunteers from the Patriot Guard, Gold Star Families and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs joined CAP members as they placed 1500 wreaths upon nearby grave sites.

Some of the 1,500 wreaths at Caverton National Cemetery.

Long Island cadest salute after laying wreaths at Caverton National Cemetery.

Photos by 2nd Lt. Rob Calviello

CONNECTICUT AIRCREWS ASSESS TORNADO DAMAGE

Aerial Photos Provided to State Emergency Management

By 2nd Lt. Robert Johnson

CONNECTICUT – Connecticut Wing aircrews made two flights June 27 to verify, assess damage from and provide aerial photography of a possible tornado strike the previous evening.

The state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security requested the missions after a line of extremely strong thunderstorms caused damage across a large part of Connecticut.

Maj. Keith Neilson of the Thames River Composite Squadron piloted the first mission, carrying two observers from the National Weather Service office in Upton, NY, Ross Dickman and Gary Conte

The second flight -- crewed by 1st Lt. Lenny Kimball, mission pilot, Capt. Kevin Shea, observer and 2nd Lt. Joseph Kurcaba, mission scanner, all from the Royal Charter Composite Squadron -- provided high-resolution, low-level, aerial digital imaging for the state agency.

Capt. Thomas Litwinczyk of the 186th Composite Squadron served as mission radio communication operator. Mission incident commander was Maj. Jack Shapiro, Connecticut Wing emergency services training officer.

After viewing wind damage in Litchfield, Hartford and New London counties, authorities determined that an extremely strong storm cell, causing damage from Farmington eastward, touched down as a tornado in Wethersfield.

Lasting about three minutes and registering on the Fujita scale as an EF1 tornado, it packed winds from 80 to 100 mph. No lives were lost, and one person was injured.

Considerable property damage was reported. One home was virtually split in two by a falling tree, a store's windows were blown out and a kayak was found in the middle of a major street.

On a larger scale, a significant number of downed trees blocked many of Wethersfield's streets and caused localized power outages through the weekend. Because of pre-existing, abnormally wet conditions, local flooding occurred in both business and homes without electricity to power basement water pumps.

At the conclusion of the Civil Air Patrol flights, the weather service's Dickman issued the following commendation:

"In particular, please extend my thanks in coordinating the availability of CAP Flight 640 for our office. The pilot was extremely experienced and professional. Procedurally, the timeliness and ability to get up over the state was more efficient than would otherwise have been possible."

NANCY HOPKINS TIER WAS QUITE AN ACE, FLEW COASTAL PATROL

CONNECTICUT -- The Meriden Record-Journal did a feature tribute Nov. 1 to aviatrix Nancy Hopkins Tier, who flew for the Civil Air Patrol in World War II and who was a friend of Amelia Earhart.

Born in 1909 in Washington, D.C., to an illustrious family that included her aunt Lady Astor and uncle artist Charles Dana Gibson, creator of the "Gibson Girl," Tier lived in Cheshire for 23 years after she and her husband Irving Tier bought the first house by Weeks Pond on Castle Glenn in 1931, wrote reporter Jesse Buchanan. She flew out of the private strip across the pond from her house and sometimes kept her plane in the barn.

Like Earhart, Tier made many contributions during the early days of aviation. A testament to her skill as a pilot, she was the only woman flier on the 1930 Ford Reliability Race, a cross-country aviation competition designed to demonstrate the efficiency and practicality of air travel.

Tier had her first flying lesson at age 17 and earned her pilot's license, signed by Orville Wright, two years later. She became a saleswoman for Kittyhawk planes and the Viking Flying Boat Co. at Roosevelt Field on Long Island, N.Y. in 1929.

During World War II, Tier joined the Civil Air Patrol and flew out of Meriden-Markham Airport. Her duties included patrolling the coast of Maine in search of German U-boats as well as guarding Meriden's airport.

Nancy Hopkins Tier

She stayed in the Civil Air Patrol until 1950, and was the first woman to rise to the rank of wing commander and colonel. She helped found the International Women's Air and Space Museum in Cleveland, Ohio and continued to fly into her 80s, a member of the United Flying Octogenarians. She died in 1996.

MASS. MEMBERS TRAIN ON PREFLIGHT INSPECTIONS, COMMUNCIATIONS

By 2nd Lt. Reid J. Leonard

Capt. Steve Goldman leads a presentation on preflight checks for Hanscom Composite Squadron cadets.

MASSACHUSETTS -- Cadet and Senior members gathered this past fall on the Civil Air Patrol ramp at Hanscom Air Force Base for an evening of recurrent training and aircraft familiarization.

Six Hanscom cadets and prospective cadets learned first-hand the basics of preflight aircraft inspection in a session led by a pair of mission pilots, Capts. Steve Goldman and Steve Hood. After a safety briefing, the cadets conducted a full preflight inspection of a Cessna 172, using the approved checklist.

They learned how to assess the proper condition and function of each item, such as the propeller, flaps, aerodynamic control surfaces and fuel tanks. They were also encouraged to discuss the reasons behind each step in the inspection, including potential risks to safe aircraft operation and factors critical to successful completion of a mission.

After the preflight inspection, each cadet climbed into the cockpit to enjoy the view from the pilot or co-pilot's seat. They were encouraged to learn much more about CAP aircraft through the cadet orientation program.

At the same time the cadets were enjoying some hands-on time with the Cessna 172, instructors from the squadron were delivering scenario-based communications proficiency training in a Cessna 182 to mission observers from the Hanscom and Mount Wachussett Senior squadrons.

The Hanscom unit's communications officer, 1st Lt. David Kent, and Capt. Jim Rottman, mission pilot, led a 45-minute classroom refresher on CAP aircraft communications equipment. Topics included hardware differences among Massachusetts Wing aircraft, recent updates to CAP communications channels, proper phraseology and best practices for cockpit coordination among mission pilots, mission observers and mission scanners.

Then the trainees were paired up in a G1000-equipped Cessna 182 with Lt Col. Bill Schillhammer, who acted as mission pilot for a simulated night mission. After the preflight communications check, the crew "ground-flew" a complete mission, using the aircraft radios to communicate with 1st Lt. Steve Cavanaugh, acting as mission base.

The aircraft and base crews practiced standard radio calls for navigation, tasking and emergency locator transmitter detection, with an emphasis on proper phraseology.

During the debriefing, all agreed that scenario-based training is a valuable tool to maintain mission readiness.

"Ground-bound simulations allow the crew to focus on specific training tasks using real-world equipment, without the stress of managing an actual flight," said Lt. Col. Bill Duffey, Hanscom commander.

James Lorditch, a cadet 2nd Lieutenant with Squadron 902 (PA), was presented the Good Citizenship award by the Union League of Philadelphia this past fall. Photo by 1st Lt Tracey J. Axelrod.

NH SQUADRON BOASTS 4 CADETS AT AIR FORCE ACADEMY

By Maj. Penny H. Hardy

L-R: C1C Christopher Giacomo; C4C William Shaw; C4C William Smedley; C1C John Rebolledo

NEW HAMPSHIRE -- What are the odds of having four former CAP cadets from the same squadron attending the US Air Force Academy?

As of June there are four former cadets from the Monadnock Composite Squadron in Keene, NH attending the USAF Academy.

Former C/Ltc William Smedley and C/TSgt William Shaw who arrived in June have passed Basic Cadet Training (BCT) and are now C4Cs or Cadets Fourth Class.

Former C/Capt Christopher Giacomo and C/2Lt John Rebolledo are now C1Cs or Cadet First Class and expect to graduate in 2010.

Giacomo is now a squadron commander and majoring in aeronautical engineering. He is also just finishing up his CFI-Glider license and hopes to do glider rides back in NH over the upcoming summer break before he reports to his assignment as an Air Force officer.

Cadet Smedley was awarded his Eaker just prior to leaving for the academy. All four former CAP cadets were very active with the Monadnock Squadron for the three or four years before reporting to the academy.

NH'S SEACOAST SQUADRON CADET EARNS EARHART AWARD

By Maj. Penny H. Hardy

PORTSMOUTH, NH -- At Seacoast Composite Squadron's monthly awards and promotions night in August, Cadet Captain Alecia Hagman received her Amelia Earhart Award. This award was presented by Col. Gretchen Dunkelberger of the NH Air National Guard's 157th Medical Group.

Alecia is the daughter of Eric and Elizabeth Hagman of Dover, NH. Cadet Captain Hagman is a senior at Dover High School where she is ranked fourth in her class of four hundred. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is very active in the Community Service Club, Math Team and Latin Club. She is also on the varsity tennis team and plays the flute. She has received the following honors including: National Merit Scholar, Scholar Athlete Award and Wellesley College Book Award. In addition Cadet Hagman volunteers with the YMCA after school program, at "My Friend's Place" and as a dietary aide at Watson Fields Assisted Living facility.

In Civil Air Patrol Cadet Hagman is the Cadet Commander of the Seacoast Composite Squadron's corps of 41 cadets. She was recently named "Top Speaker" and received the top academic award at the Cadet Officer's School at Maxwell AFB, AL this past summer. She was chosen Honor Cadet at the 2007 Cadet encampment, and received the Cadet Leadership Award at the recent NH Wing Conference held in Manchester, NH.

Photo by Maj. Jason Smith

Cadet Capt. Alecia Hagman receives the Earhart Award from NHANG Col. Gretchen Dunkelberger

In addition Cadet Hagman attended Civil Air Patrol's Powered Flight Academy in 2008 and this year received a $1200 flight scholarship to pursue obtaining her solo wings.

CONN. WING CONDUCTS SEARCH-AND-RESCUE EXERCISE

Staff from Rhode Island Wing Join in the Training Missions

By Robert Johnson

CONNECTICUT--The Connecticut Wing, combined with staff from the Rhode Island Wing, conducted a graded, multi-incident simulated training exercise weekend of Nov. 7-8. Under the watchful eyes of United States Air Force Evaluation Judges, they successfully located and secured a simulated aircraft crash site and treated its victims, as well as conducted a simulated missing person search in a Connecticut State Park.

Cadets were integrated into the training exercise.

They also were tasked with other unexpected and operational emergencies. They air lifted emergency medications, secured the command facility from a potential outside threat, adapted to power and communications breakdowns, treated a senior team member's heart attack, located and inspected a potential hazardous waste dump and provided updated multi-media information to the press, public and State agencies throughout the exercise. These tasks required the detailed coordination of the highly trained, unpaid, volunteer members located all throughout the state.

To simulate the severity of real life emergencies, all of the missions were crammed into a very tight time period involving five aircraft and over a hundred team members. They included base staff, pilots, observers, mission scanners, photographers and many senior members and cadets in the field. Brainard Airport in Hartford was established as the Base of Operations. Mission flights were launched from Brainard and other Connecticut airfields. Ground teams were deployed from throughout the state as well.

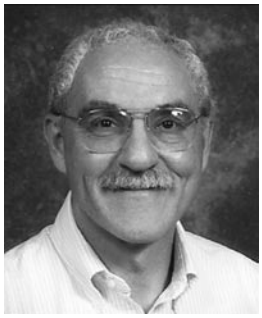
The senior members served on the command staff, aircraft and on the ground teams. They flew a number of different search missions, ferried packages and conducted advanced photographic and surveillance technology missions. The cadets served as both mission base security and staff assistants and made up a large share of the ground team force deploying in Civil Air Patrol vans to search their assigned areas on foot and with the aid of electronic tracking devices.

AEROSPACE EDUCATOR OF YEAR FROM CONN. WING

CONNECTICUT -- Stuart J. Sharack, an innovative Aerospace Education Member affiliated with Connecticut Wing, has been named national Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year.

A public school teacher for nearly 40 years, Sharack is widely known in aerospace education circles as the mentor of a popular after-school program for students in grades 4-6, "The Aerospace Adventurer Club." Students participating in the club have chosen to be known as "Aerospace Adventurers." They meet twice a month plus some weekends. Many NASA and Civil Air Patrol resources are incorporated into the student projects. Contemporary issues are explored as well. Models are made and tested, data are collected and illustrations are created. These simulations provide experiential learning with an aerospace theme.

Of special note is his emphasis on drawing entire families into his programs, thus further disseminating the concepts of aerospace science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



Stuart Sharack

Sharack is an adviser to the Thames River Composite Squadron, which has initiated programs at two other elementary schools.

FINAL SALUTE

• **Col. David Belcher**, former Massachusetts Wing commander, died in October.

• **Lt. Col. John O'Grady**, 78, of Piscataway, NJ, passed away October 10, 2009. He had been a NER staffer, mission pilot, ground team leader.

• **Maj. Dennis Murray** of Maine died Sept. 4. He was co-director of CAP's National Campaign with Wreaths Across America.

WESTOVER TEAM IS MASS. COLOR GUARD CHAMPION

By 1st Lt. Lawrence Scherpa

MASSACHUSETTS -- Months of hard work paid off when the Westover Composite Squadron team won the Massachusetts Wing Color Guard Competition at the Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee last May.

The Westover team includes cadets Joshua Perreault, team commander, and Joseph Goodreau, Jillian O'Brien, Ryan Royer and Brandon Wheeler.

In addition to defeating rival color guards from the Brockton Composite and Goddard Cadet squadrons, the Westover team also accounted for several individual awards.

Col. David Belcher, Massachusetts Wing commander, leads the applause for the Westover Composite Squadron Color Guard – cadets Brandon Wheeler, Joseph Goodreau, Ryan Royer, Joshua Perreault and Jillian O'Brien, who holds the team mascot.

O'Brien won the Fleet Foot award with an adjusted time of 6:31 in the mile run, while Perreault was named outstanding team commander. O'Brien and Perreault also tied for highest test score.

Capt. Claire Belden, the Westover squadron's deputy commander for cadets, served as adviser for the team.

MASS. CADETS PLACE 1ST IN SAFETY DISPLAY CONTEST

By Sr. Mbr. Sarah Morse

MASSACHSUETTS -- The Franklin County Cadet Squadron left the 2009 Massachusetts Wing Conference with the first-place trophy in the wing's Safety Display Competition.

The competition's theme was "How Safe is Safe Enough?" Each participating squadron had to create a display or poster providing information on why safety is important to Civil Air Patrol and giving examples of how to be safe in certain situations.

The Franklin County cadets chose to devote their project to illustrating hypothermia. They had other members stick their hands in a bucket of ice water to grab coins while blindfolded. The participants were instructed to grab as many coins as they could, but after only a few minutes they were no longer able to pick up any -- a safe but effective way to show the risks of letting their body temperature dip to a certain point.

After months of teamwork, research and proper safety instruction, the cadets' hard work was rewarded with a trophy that now sits in the office of Maj. Gary Longley, squadron commander.

Cadets participating were Erin Williams, cadet commander, and Benjamin Bricker, Jason Jarvis, Kyle Muka and Milton Rock.

AIR VICTORY SQUADRON TAKES NJ COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

NEW JERSEY -- Lt Col Michael Sperry, NJ Wing director of cadet programs, has announced the winner of the NJ Wing Color Guard Competition, held Dec. 13 at McGuire AFB. And the winner is: Air Victory Composite Squadron, from Lumberton, NJ.

Cadets from the Air Victory and Atlantic County Composite Squadron competed in seven events for the chance to represent New Jersey Wing at the 2010 Northeast Region Cadet Competition.

The events included: uniform inspection, standard drill, indoor practical, outdoor practical, a written exam, a panel-style aerospace quiz and a mile run.

Atlantic County took first place in the indoor and outdoor practicals while Air Victory took first place in remaining events. All of the cadets did an excellent job during the course of the day and several of the events were very close, he said.

Lt. Col. Sperry offered congratulations to both teams for putting the time, effort, and energy into this competition.

Air Victory Composite Squadron will represent New Jersey at the North-East Region competition on Memorial Day weekend at Westover ARB in Massachusetts.

MASS. MEMBERS TRAIN IN RADIO PROFICIENCY

HANSCOM SQUADRON USES 2 PLANES FOR 'MISSION'

(Top) ***Cessna 182T operates on auxiliary shore power to serve as a teaching platform.***
(Center) ***The NAV-III "glass" avionics suite.***
(Bottom) ***Sr. Mbr. Don Calnan and 1st Lt. Steve Cavanaugh operate mission base radio.***

By 1st Lt. Chad Murphy

BEDFORD, MA – The Hanscom Composite Squadron reaffirmed its commitment to aircrew training and proficiency last summer with the first of several planned aircraft radio familiarization and exercise training sessions.

Spearheading the session at Hanscom Air Force Base was the squadron's communications officer, 1st Lt. David Kent, in conjunction with Maj. Pavlik Mintz, emergency services officer.

Kent was motivated, he said, by "feedback from recent search and rescue exercises (that) indicated that our mission observers and scanners are not as proficient in operation of the aircraft CAP radios as they could be."

Kent, along with Capt. Steve Goldman, 1st Lt. Steve Cavanaugh and Sr. Mbr. Don Calnan, coordinated with Mintz to create a hands-on scenario-based training program to improve aircrew members' proficiency with the CAP radios.

The night kicked off at the squadron's headquarters building with classroom presentations that featured interactive slide shows detailing the two different types of radios found in CAP aircraft. Also reviewed were the crafts' audio panels and rear seat control switches, along with radio technique from CAP Basic Communications User Training and mission observer disciplines.

After the classroom briefings, the participants moved to the squadron's aircraft ramp. There, the unit's Cessna 182T NAV-III glass cockpit and Cessna172 were used in a hands-on simulated mission on the ground.

Accompanied by a mission pilot in each plane's left seat, the trainees sat in the right front and both rear seats. A mission base radio was set up in a nearby truck and manned for the aircraft to communicate with. The trainees were provided with a timed script simulating a typical mission, though at a much faster pace, requiring communication with mission base of all mandatory radio calls.

The participants also trained in sending and receiving latitude and longitude coordinates, operating CAP's special audio control panels and switching radio microphone control to the scanner in the rear.

"This would also be a great training experience for [ground-based] mission radio operators," Kent said. "The fast pace of the script and two aircraft really kept Don [Calnan] hopping as the 'mission base' radio operator."

An additional benefit from the radio exercise was the crew resource management practice and aircrew familiarization. Crew resource management is a vital aspect of safe flying, ensuring that all members of an aircrew are briefed on and proficient in their delegated and team responsibilities in flight.

"Since we had actual mission pilots in the left seat, this was hands-on experience with crew resource management," Kent said. "The trainee mission observers actually got to 'fly' with a mission pilot they may not have flown with before."

He concluded, "The weather was great, and from the feedback I got everyone thought the training was very useful and they had a good time. I know I certainly learned a lot about the CAP aircraft radios, and I wasn't even being trained."

MASS. SQUADRON FORMS CADET AEROSPACE GROUP

CADETS TEACH CUB SCOUTS HOW TO MAKE ROCKETS

By 2nd Lt. Lee Whitney

Cub Scouts follow along as Cadet Staff Sgt. Nicholas Choiniere demonstrates a step.

Cadet Master Sgt. Ralph Melanson gives a Cub Scout some hands-on guidance.

MASSACHUSETTS -- Goddard Cadet Squadron members have ushered in the beginning of enhanced aerospace education opportunities with the formation of the Aerospace Special Interest Group.

The group was created to allow cadets with a special interest in aerospace to meet and share their passion through cadet-driven activities. The ASIG's focus is twofold -- internal and external.

Internal activities consist of hands-on exercises, including pursuing model rocketry, constructing aerospace projects such as a wind tunnel and a hovercraft, mentoring other cadets in aerospace and model rocketry, and taking field trips.

External activities are intended to provide aerospace education to schools and communities, including setting up aerospace displays at appropriate events to promote aerospace and CAP.

The first external activity occurred during the summer when the squadron was asked to provide Cub Scout Pack 53 of Auburn with an aerospace activity at the Scouts' open house.

Cadet Master Sgt. Ralph Melanson and Cadet Staff Sgt. Nicholas Choiniere volunteered stepped up and oversaw the evening's project – the construction and launching of foam Goddard rockets.

Armed with duct tape and other components, after being introduced to the open house audience the two cadets were quickly overrun by an excited mass to 7- to 11-year-old boys in blue uniforms.

Without hesitation Melanson and Choiniere took control, and before long all of the Scouts were launching their rockets throughout the meeting hall. At the end of the exercise, they determined that 35 rockets had been constructed within 30 minutes.

The evening proved so successful that not only were the pair showered with accolades and thanks, but the Goddard squadron was asked to return to organize another activity.

NEW JERSEY CADET TAKES FLIGHT TRAINING AT NATIONAL ACADEMY

By 1st Lt. Terese Barta

WISCONSIN – Fourteen Civil Air Patrol cadets underwent flight training at Wittman Field in Oshkosh at the regional National Flight Academy for powered aircraft, held June 13-22 at Wittman Field. The students included New Jersey Wing's Cadet Lt. Col. Nicholas Longhi of Picatinny Composite Squadron.

Cadets received 10 hours of dual instruction in addition to 10-20 hours of ground instruction. Flight instruction also counts towards the training needed to obtain a Federal Aviation Administration private pilot certificate.

During the academy, seven cadets became proficient enough to solo during the activity, and seven were able to complete a pre-solo flight. Solo flight entails at least one takeoff and landing at an airport without an instructor aboard. A pre-solo flight involves making a takeoff and landing without any assistance from the on-board instructor.

In addition to the flying experiences they received, cadets had the opportunity to add a special signature to their logbook -- that of Lt. Col. Julius Jackson, who made an unannounced visit at the Oshkosh CAP Training Center to meet the cadets. Jackson was one of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, the first blacks Americans to be trained as World War II military pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Jackson was a member of the 302nd Fighter Squadron, part of the 332nd Fighter Group. During World War II, the group's squadrons accompanied bombers in their P-51 Mustangs, known as Red Tails.

Jackson's advice to the cadets was a simple but powerful: "Believe in yourself."

C/Lt. Col. Nicholas Longhi poses with Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Julius Jackson.

NJ WING TRAINS IN SETTING UP EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Red Cross Training Prepares for Handling Disaster Evacuees

By 1st Lt. Mark Swanson

New Jersey Wing members pass cots up a line during Red Cross shelter training.

NEW JERSEY – With the rampant flooding in North and South Dakota and Minnesota on their minds, New Jersey Wing and Community Emergency Response Teams volunteers took part March 28 in a shelter training exercise at the New Jersey National Guard Armory in Freehold.

The 50 Civil Air Patrol and CERT volunteers spent the day learning how to operate a Red Cross emergency shelter from instructor Leo Pratte of the Red Cross' Jersey Coast Chapter.

The New Jersey Wing members came from across the state to participate.

Capt. Patrick Rutherford of Group 224 Headquarters, who organized the training exercise with the Red Cross, said it's no coincidence that New Jersey Wing members were training for shelter operations as flood operations were being carried out in CAP's North Central Region. Should volunteers in that area be needed later, Rutherford said, they would likely be called on for just this kind of work.

After a morning of classroom instruction, Pratte assigned the group leaders to an emergency shelter started in the armory's large drill room. He posed a simulated scenario common to Red Cross operations – sheltering more 100 evacuees after an apartment fire in the area.

Following the Red Cross instructions, the volunteers set up stations for evacuee registration, feeding and, of course, sleeping arrangements. In about an hour, the volunteers had about 100 cots set up.

They had to take it all down again afterward, packing everything up into a Red Cross trailer.

The volunteers, Pratte said, got an "A" for their efforts in the training exercise.

PA MEMBERS ASSIST AIR SHOW

By 1st Lt. Bea Gernert

PENNSYLVANIA – Lebanon VFW Composite Squadron 307 members assisted with parking and other responsibilities at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's 19th Annual World War II Weekend on June 6-7 at Reading Regional Airport.

Between duties, the cadets and senior members took the opportunity to see all the planes, shows and different encampments on the airport grounds.

Participants were: Maj. Warren Parks, 2nd Lt. Vincent Stankovich, Cadet Staff Sgts. Alex Dishong and Skylar Scherer, Cadet Airman 1st Class Jordan Hollinger.

Pennsylvania's Color Guard Champs are cadets from the Nittany Composite Squadron. They placed third in the Northeast Region competiton. From left: Quinton Piper, John Knisely, Kevin Weaver, Ashley Musser, and Benjamin Capozzi.

NEW JERSEY SIBLINGS EARN SPAATZ AWARDS

Stephen & Stasia Rogacki Are from Curtiss-Wright Composite Squadron

By 1st Lt. Mark Swanson

Maj. Paul Smolen, CAP, presents the Rogackis with letters of congratulations from The Spaatz Association's president, Brig. Gen. Richard Anderson.

NEW JERSEY -- A brother and sister pair from North Caldwell, NJ, recently received the Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor, the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award.

Cadets Stephen and Stasia Rogacki received the rank of cadet colonel along with the award, presented by Maj. Gen. Tom Garrett, US Army, Ret., on Nov. 28. Ceremonies were held at a meeting of the Curtiss-Wright Composite Squadron in North Caldwell.

They are the son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rogacki, of North Caldwell. Stanley Rogacki is a captain in CAP and commands the local squadron.

For cadet Stephen Rogacki, the ceremonies were a weekend away from duties at the US Military Academy at West Point, where he is a first-year 'plebe' student. The elder Rogacki completed the requirements toward the award last summer, just before reporting to West Point. He waited to receive the honors until he could have time off from the academy to enjoy ceremonies with his sister, who earned the Spaatz Award in August.

Maj. Gen. Garrett said he was tremendously pleased with the Rogackis for earning CAP's highest cadet honor. He added that the local squadron and New Jersey Wing should be proud of them.

Although they could not make the Saturday evening gathering, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Curtiss-Wright Corporation's director of human services, Kenneth Lewis, and chairman Martin Bernante sent letters expressing their best wishes for continued success. The corporation provides support to the local squadron.

Maj Paul Smolen, CAP, presented letters from Brig. Gen. Richard Anderson, president of The Spaatz Association and a past commander of CAP, welcoming them to the organization. Smolen is a CAP member from New Jersey who also received the Spaatz Award in the 1960s.

The award honors General Carl A. Spaatz, who was the first chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force and the second national commander of the Civil Air Patrol.

In the last five years, the two Rogackis have compiled impressive records in CAP, their schools and communities.

Stephen Rogacki is a 2009 graduate of Seton Hall Prep. In high school, he played varsity soccer and earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He completed the Boy Scout program as well, earning the grade of Eagle Scout.

In CAP, Stephen Rogacki took part in multiple airshows and encampments and participated in the 2008 Civic Leadership Academy. He attended a CAP Honor Guard Academy and also represented the United States in Great Britain in the International Air Cadet Exchange. After receiving CAP training in a powered aircraft at the Falcon Flight Academy at Lakehurst NAES, he earned a private pilot's license in 2009.

Stasia Rogacki is a senior at Mount Saint Dominic Academy. In school, she is a member of the lacrosse, cross-country and winter track teams.

In CAP, Stasia Rogacki has compiled a record as enviable as her older brother's. She has also worked at multiple cadet encampments and academies and in 2008, she was the cadet commander of the NJ Wing Eagle Flight Encampment. She attended the CAP Civic Leadership Academy and National Honor Guard Academy in 2009.

New Jersey Wing commander Col. David Mull congratulated the pair on their newest achievement, the first Spaatz Awards in the state since he took command in August.

"The Spaatz cadets represent the best we have to offer in the CAP Cadet Program, and we are proud to congratulate Stephen and Stasia Rogacki ," said Mull. "They are models for other cadets, for their schools and for our communities."

LENDING A HAND TO THE NATION'S BEST PILOTS

CAP Members Assist Thunderbirds at New York's Big Air Show

By 1st Lt. William J. McGee

Thunderbirds on tarmac on Long Island.

For so many members of the Civil Air Patrol, the desire to serve often starts with a young person's desire to fly. It turns out this is as true for some of the very best fighter pilots in the country as it is for CAP cadets.

Over Memorial Day weekend, nearly half a million visitors attended the 2009 Bethpage Federal Credit Union New York Air Show at Jones Beach on Long Island. The performers included the New York Air National Guard Search and Rescue Team, the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. But there's no question the highlight was the Thunderbirds, known officially as the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron.

As the crowds scanned the skies, the Thunderbirds' red-white-and-blue Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jets engaged in such acrobatic displays as the Delta Roll, the Arrowhead Loop, the Opposing Knife Edge, and their signature Bomb Burst. But what very few of those air show attendees knew was that — once again — members of the Long Island Senior Squadron (NY-207) were unobtrusively providing security and logistical assistance behind the scenes.

Quiet but Critical Support

Since 2004, both the Thunderbirds and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels have participated on an alternating basis in the New York Air Show, which routinely draws 400,000 people or more. And for the fourth consecutive year, the Long Island Senior Squadron participated as well, by providing quiet but critical security and support for aircraft and personnel staging at nearby Republic Airport, the facility that serves as the squadron's home base in Farmingdale.

This year, more than 20 members of the Long Island Senior Squadron reported for duty, including 1st. Lt. Bill Dreschler, who has been serving his country since he enlisted during World War II and spent several years with the 78th Fighter Group in Europe. Members of other squadrons in Long Island Group joined them, swelling the ranks to 48 seniors and 21 cadets.

For the CAP personnel, this mission was comprised of a variety of tasks, ranging from flightline support to crowd control, as well as security both inside and outside the terminal and hangar facilities and along the airport's perimeter. In fact, CAP assisted with directing visitors, escorting VIPs, briefing journalists on media tours, and even providing bottled water for the Thunderbirds. In total, CAP provided 552 hours of service. Along the way, Long Island Senior Squadron members distributed pilots' wings to children and answered the questions of potential recruits.

Laying the groundwork for such an operation requires months of interaction with a host of federal, state, local, and airport authorities, including representatives from the Air Force and FEMA. Over time, however, the role of the Long Island Senior Squadron became clearly defined.

"This is one of the highlights of our year," said Capt. Joseph Pizzo, Squadron Commander. "We're a busy squadron and we perform a lot of missions, but working with the Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels is something pretty special. I'm really proud of how our members always step up and do such a good job. The proof is in how we keep getting invited back, year after year."

Home is the Fighter Pilot

The Thunderbirds refer to themselves as "America's Ambassadors in Blue," and like most diplomats, they spend much of their time away from home. In its 56th year, the Air Demonstration Squadron is an Air Combat Command unit composed of 12 officers and 120 enlisted personnel performing in more than 30 career specialties; in 2009, the team welcomed its first pilots from the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard. The schedule for 2009 called for performances at more than 73 shows: They

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NY WING MEMBERS ASSIST THUNDERBIRDS

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launched back in February with Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa, and after a Far East Tour in September and October, they finish the following month with a finale at their home at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

A key member of the team is Maj. John Baum, who has flown the No. 2 jet as the Left Wing since January 2009. For those attending the Memorial Day show, seeing him perform in the skies over Jones Beach signified a reunion of sorts: Baum is a Long Island native who grew up in nearby Lake Ronkonkoma, just a few aerial Diamond Rolls from the air show site. Among the distinctive achievements in his 14-year service career are serving as an F-16 instructor at the USAF Weapons School, logging more than 1,750 hours as an Air Force pilot, and compiling 265 hours of combat experience.

Before the first air show performance on Saturday morning, Baum hosted more than 30 local relatives and friends, and in a touching but private ceremony, the other Thunderbirds lined up on the flightline for greetings, photos, and autographs with all those in Baum's party. "Every show is a thrill," said Baum, whose call sign is Slick. "But to have everyone come out here at home is very special."

Chief among the visitors was John Baum Sr., the pilot's father, who said, "How do you put it into words? He grew up here and went to school here and learned to fly here…I couldn't be prouder. I'm blessed to have him." That pride has been

Long Island Sr. Squadron Commander Joseph Pizzo

evident all year, as the elder Baum has traveled to various air shows—"as many as I can afford"—to cheer on his son. He laughed and said, "I am THE Thunderbirds groupie. They call me 'Papa Slick' now."

Interestingly, the 33-year-old pilot entered the Air Force as an enlisted member in 1993 at age 17, before earning his commission from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1999. Baum acknowledged that it's rare these days for a senior officer to have served in the enlisted ranks: "I took advantage of the benefits of the G.I. Bill. I started at Embry-Riddle on active duty and then took a 16-month break from service in the inactive reserves."

Those four and a half years Baum spent as an enlisted man are not lost on the Thunderbirds team, which is comprised of ten enlisted members for every one officer. When asked about Baum's service record, one non-commissioned officer working the flightline at Republic Airport smiled and said, "He was one of us first."

However, his rapid career ascent began quite literally back on Long Island, when his father provided his first flight lesson on the boy's 16th birthday. The Thunderbird smiled when he recalled going up in a Cessna 152 at Long Island's MacArthur Airport, where CAP's Long Island Group is headquartered. For someone who always wanted to be a pilot, it's clear that Baum relishes serving in the Thunderbirds. "It's just neat," he said. "One of our missions is to represent all the men and women of the United States Air Force. Many of these people who come to see us have children or grandchildren serving overseas and they never get to see them do their jobs. So we give them some sense of what they do."

CAP 1st Lt. Linda Law on the Thunderbird flight line.

Thunderbirds Tip Their Caps to CAP

Like other members of the Thunderbirds, Baum expressed thankfulness to CAP and the Long Island Senior Squadron, and said, "We appreciate all your assistance."

Baum was not alone. Throughout the extended weekend, personnel from the Air Force, Republic Airport, and the New York State Department of Parks (which sponsors the air show) praised CAP. Long Island Senior Squadron members even received kudos from the bystanders who came to watch the Thunderbirds depart from Farmingdale for test runs, media flights, and the show itself.

Upon the conclusion of the mission, Pizzo reflected on how well the Long Island Senior Squadron performed. He noted, "Several of the Thunderbirds thanked me personally for our efforts.

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THUNDERBIRDS

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By the fourth day, the NCOs were palling around with our guys like they were in the same squadron. Maj. Baum said it really would not be possible without us. I know they sincerely appreciated our presence."

The air show itself took place on Saturday and Sunday, but Thunderbirds personnel were at Republic Airport for nearly a week, and CAP members were on hand for several days as well. For 1st. Lt. Linda Law of the Long Island Senior Squadron, the mission involved several consecutive days of performing the critical -- yet tedious and sometimes downright boring -- task of providing a security detail outside the Thunderbirds' briefing room and lounge in the airport's main terminal. But that job was made much easier for her just prior to the first air show performance, when the departing officers went out of their way to personally offer expressions of gratitude.

Lt. Col. Derek Routt, the No. 7 pilot, introduced himself and told Law to contact him if she needed anything. Then Baum came over and thanked her profusely for volunteering, to which she responded, "No, thank YOU for joining." Later, Law recounted her reaction to the unexpected display of appreciation: "It just felt great to have them recognize us."

After the Thunderbirds departed, Pizzo offered thanks to his troops as well: "I don't take this lightly, because I know what a sacrifice this is on a holiday weekend. The most valuable thing you can give anyone is your time, because you only have just so much of it."

Then he added, "One cannot even fully determine the fruit that will be borne from a successful performance like this. Perhaps this will help our recruiting, or maybe someone in the crowd will secure us a larger role in the Emergency Services world. I don't think I've ever been more proud of this squadron."

Maj Tom Vreeland demonstrates the capabilities of the Wing Operations Center for New York Wing Staff.

NY LAUNCHES OPS CENTER

By Capt James Ridley

NEW YORK - Prior to the quarterly wing staff meeting in October and accompanied by the watchful eyes of numerous wing staff, New York Wing Commander Col. Ken Andreu cut the ribbon to the entrance of the wing's newest asset, a state-of-the-art Wing Operations Center.

"It's all about how we bring what's going on out there, in here," said Maj Tom Vreeland, the wing's director of information technology and the center's chief architect.

The Operations Center is based at wing headquarters at Westchester County Airport (HPN).

In dedicating the new center, Andreu commented that, following 9/11/01, New York Wing ran daily sorties out of Westchester County Airport in support of the New York City DEP/CAP program. The airport "was the perfect location as it was just outside of the affected area of New York City, but close enough to easily and quickly launch aerial surveillance flights," he said.

Colonel Andreu believes that wing headquarters is in an ideal location to support operations on Long Island if there is significant coastal hurricane or flood damage, or at Indian Point Nuclear Reactor Facility in case of a radiological event. It is the "ideal Area Command Center to coordinate wing-wide efforts in the event of a significant New York State event," he said. "It is only the beginning in what we envision as the state of the art in centralized command."

The Wing Operations Center, or WOC, will provide operational space and situational awareness for between 7 and 20 mission staff personnel and will function as the Wing Academy for advanced technology training, simulations, tabletop exercises and other training when not in use for missions and operations. The WOC boasts advanced communications components as well as geographical information systems and weather information systems, and high speed internet access for the purpose of accessing WMIRS and other CAP resource data.

NEW YORK WING EARNS NATIONAL HONORS

Color Guard Team Places 1st, Counter Drug Program Recognized

By Capt James Ridley

NEW HORK -- Though they had been awarded a month earlier at the CAP National Boards, New York Wing Commander Col. Kenneth Andreu took the opportunity during a quarterly wing staff meeting in October for a little ceremony and formally presented the awards to his staff.

The awards honored the New York Wing's achievements in two areas, cadet programs and counter drug missions.

The wing has long been the guardian of a strong cadet program and recently added among its achievements a national color guard championship. In 2009 the New York Wing and Northeast Region championship color guard team earned first place honors at the CAP national competition. "We are really proud of our cadets in the wing," said Andreu. In addition to an outstanding color guard, "this past year we had two cadets earn their Spaatz achievements and several others have taken or are preparing to take the exam soon."

Due to the efforts of dedicated members, the wing was credited with taking a significant amount of illegal substances, predominantly marihuana plants, out of the drug trade. Both the Sherriff's department of Tompkins County and the New York State Department of Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) have written letters of appreciation for the wing's contribution's in the fight on illegal drugs. A ranking CNET officer extended his thanks and stated: "The work the Civil Air Patrol does toward the eradication of marihuana in New York State is to be commended. The Civil Air Patrol mission is an extremely important component of the effort to keep drugs off the streets in New York State."

NY STATE SENATOR CHALLENGES CADETS TO EXCEL

By Capt. Carolynn H. Fillgrove

NEW YORK – "The next time you see me, I want a progress report on how you're doing," New York State Sen. Catharine M. Young (R,C,I-Olean), challenged Civil Air Patrol cadets.

Senator Young was guest speaker at the annual Jamestown Composite Squadron (NER-NY-402) awards banquet on October 29, 2009 at Jamestown Airport.

Senator Young reminded the cadets about the importance of the CAP's three missions and how they should strive to excel in all their endeavors and as good citizens.

She joked with the cadets about her own experience flying to Greenland with the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing. The ski-equipped C-130 she was on, had to orbit the Greenland base for several hours due to bad weather. The crew was surprised at how well she and the other state lawmakers handled the delay. To them it was just something they had to do.

She also spoke to the cadets about service to their nation and local communities. Senator Young encouraged them to be involved and to help others.

The Senator presented an Amelia Earhart Award to C/Capt. Rachel Campbell of Russell, PA and a Billy Mitchell Award to C/2Lt. Bronson E. McGee of Angola, NY.

The Senator also joined Maj. Larry Skerker, Western New York Group commander, with the presentation of model rocketry badges and patches to 22 cadets representing the Jamestown and TAK Composite Squadrons.

The Squadron's 2009 Model Rocketry Class represented the third mass graduation of cadets in ten years in a program taught by Lt. Col. George Fillgrove, NY Wing Assistant Director of Aerospace Education. Col. Fillgrove was joined this year by James Cole, a CAP Aerospace Education member, who serves as the squadron AEO for cadets.

Senator Young, a former Cattaraugus County legislator was elected to the NY State Senate in 2005 after serving three terms as a State Assemblywoman.

She is a member of New York Wing's Legislative Squadron and holds the rank of major.

NY State Sen. Catherine Young (center rear) with Jamestown Composite Squadron.

NEW YORK CADET AIMS TO BE MISSIONARY PILOT

Lydia Fairchild Solos in Alaska, Flies Beyond Artic Circle

By 1st Lt. Richard Fairchild

NEW YORK – Learning to fly is quite a feat in itself. For Cadet Master Sgt. Lydia Fairchild, though, flying is only the beginning, thanks to her ultimate goal – becoming a missionary pilot.

For the second summer in a row, Fairchild spent 10 weeks at a missionary air base, Kingdom Air Corps, in Sutton, Alaska, northeast of Anchorage. In addition to learning how to become a pilot, she grappled with the sort of work it takes to become a missionary -- from chopping down trees to create a runway to mowing grass landing strips, cooking meals for 40 people, preparing teaching materials and so much more.

The 16-year-old Owego Composite Squadron member also learned to maintain aircraft in the field, where repair facilities may not exist. She also learned to take apart and put a plane back together, then have it fly.

Lydia Fairchild, left, received this challenge coin commemorating her first solo flight.

All those lessons were put into practice by flying more than 500 miles due north and spending two weeks above the Arctic Circle working with Eskimo children.

On June 26, Fairchild, the only teen pilot at Kingdom Air Corps, took to the sky in a Cessna 152 all alone. It was her first solo flight.

FAA regulations allow pilots to fly a plane at any age. At 16 they are allowed to fly by themselves, though they must be at least 17 and have accumulated a minimum of 40 hours of flight instruction to obtain a recreational pilot's certificate or a private pilot's certificate.

The past school year, Fairchild worked very hard to complete ground school with the help of her flight instructor, Neil Lawton. She also managed some local flying out of Tri-Cities Airport in Broome County.

Not only did she complete the ground training before leaving for Alaska, but she passed her FAA written exam, underwent her FAA medical exam and received her student pilot's license.

It's all quite a lot for a 16-year-old to take on, but she is well on her way to realizing her dream, and the rare population of certified teenage – and missionary – pilots appears destined to increase by one.

CANADIAN CADETS JOIN IN NEW YORK ELT SEARCH

By 1st Lt. Doug Justham

JAMESTOWN – Even though it isn't a meaningful occurrence in their own country, which observes its own Remembrance Day every Nov. 11, May's Memorial Day weekends in the U.S. have become special for the Royal Canadian Air Cadets of Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario.

For the last 10 years, the cadets have traveled south to New York to march in the Lakewood Memorial Day Parade. This year, though, the visit proved even more significant.

Maj. Ellen Maternowski, commander of the New York Wing's Jamestown Composite Squadron, was asked to host an electronic locator transmitter search for the visitors. Such exercises are routine for Civil Air Patrol members, but not for their Canadian counterparts.

Maternowski asked 1st Lt. Tom Joneson, the Jamestown squadron's communications officer, and Capt. Marvin Hillicker, emergency services officer and ground team leader, if they would be willing to arrange an ELT search with a combined team of Canadian and CAP cadets. Jumping at the chance, Joneson conducted a one-hour training session on the reasons and methods for an ELT search.

Then, about 30 Canadian Air Cadets and their senior mentors headed out on the search, along with 10 Jamestown cadets and senior members. The practice ELT was located within 90 minutes and silenced, as required.

The squadron's public affairs officer and safety officer, 1st Lt. Doug Justham, helped to train the cadets on types of equipment used to track ELTs.

"We use a wide variety of tracking units, from very expensive Doppler mini-trackers to homemade Yagi antenna units attached to scanners and amateur radio handheld units," Justham said.

The squadron "has close to a 100 percent success rate within 60 minutes of beginning the search," he added. "But today is more education than it is practice, so we are not worried about the amount of time it takes as long as the cadets get a good feel for what we do."

Afterward, Maternowski pronounced the weekend "a great international success, as the two groups got along well and enjoyed searching, marching and just getting to know each other."

CAP PARTNERS WITH LONG ISLAND MARITIME MUSEUM

New Exhibit Features Civil Air Patrol's World War II Role

By Capt. James Ridley, Sr.

NEW YORK – On August 15, New York State Senator Brian Foley cut the ribbon on the Long Island Maritime museum's latest exhibit, entitled *"The History of Civil Air Patrol During World War II"*.

The display is in honor of CAP's Coastal Patrol Base 17, which was located in the town of Riverhead, NY from 1942 to 1943. The exhibit features several vintage CAP uniforms, one of which was worn by one of the base's pilots during the war. There are also numerous CAP insignia, patches and manuals as well as photographs of CAP members, aircraft and activities conducted during the war – such as patrolling the waters off Long Island searching for German submarines and ships in distress.

The grand opening event began with the presentation of the Colors by the Col Francis S. Gabreski Squadron's Color Guard followed by speeches made by the Gabreski Squadron's Commander, Maj Lou Fenech, the Long Island Group Commander, Lt Col Jack Ozer, the museum's Director, Natasha Alexenko, its Registrar Arlene Balcewicz and finally Senator Foley. Afterwards the senator cut the ceremonial ribbon and opened the display to the CAP members, distinguished guests and museum patrons.

NY State Sen. Brian Foley cuts ribbon for CAP exhibit at Maritime Museum.

Ms. Alexenko spoke about the common interests shared by the museum and CAP regarding volunteerism and nautical history and was very pleased in having CAP history as part of the museum's collection. "We are very glad to partner with the Civil Air Patrol," she said, "and I'm impressed with the cadets in the program," a sentiment echoed by Ms. Balcewicz, who was the museum's lead in establishing the display. "This was really serendipity," she said. "It is a wonderful relationship we now have with CAP and I want to thank the cadets here and all the senior members who made today a reality."

"We're here to celebrate the new partnership between the museum and the Civil Air Patrol," Senator Foley said, "and to honor those who have served and sacrificed for their fellow citizens; our waters and air space are much safer because of them and all of you."

After viewing the display, Senator Foley took the time to talk with the cadets and take a few photographs with them and the exhibit's creators. On hand was CAP's National Historian, Col. Leonard A. Blascovich, who assisted with assembling the collection of

NY State Senator Brian Foley poses with Cadets of Col. Francis S. Gabreski Squadron.

FORMER SHUTTLE PILOT VISITS PA SQUADRON

By Capt. Mary Ellen Stanley

PENNSYLVANIA – Members of Beaver County Composite Squadron 704 heard from former space shuttle pilot and retired Navy Cmdr. William "Billy O" Oefelein, who spoke to the unit with his fiancée, retired Air Force Capt. Colleen Shipman, this past summer.

Shipman, originally from neighboring Center Township and a graduate of Penn State, where she participated in ROTC, wanted to surprise her nephew, Cadet Airman Basic David Shipman. She and Oefelein met at NASA, where he was training for a shuttle flight and she was involved in launching satellites.

Oefelein, who joined Civil Air Patrol in 1977 as a cadet in the Alaska Wing and soloed at that wing's glider encampment at age 14, piloted Space Shuttle Discovery on its mission from Dec. 6 to Dec. 22, 2006.

His presentation to the squadron included a video narrated by different crew members from the mission. The video took viewers through the shuttle from launch, then into the International Space Station and finally on the trip back to Earth, including the landing.

Oefelein answered such questions as, "What scared you the most?" and "What was the coolest thing?" He replied that he wasn't scared but was nervous, since he had to "choreograph" the mission's extravehicular activity – the EVA, or spacewalks -- and didn't want to make any mistakes.

Most enjoyable, he said, was being in the pilot seat during launch. The view was spectacular, and he kept trying to describe it to his crew mates, who did not have a "window seat," Oefelein said.

Asked what the food was like, he described the fare as "pretty good." From a culinary standpoint, Oefelein said, "being in space is like a camping trip."

To the query, "What was harder -- adjusting to weightlessness or readjusting to gravity?" he answered by choosing the latter. "It's so easy to move things in space that I forgot a few times" back on Earth, Oefelein said. "It was a shock to have to pick up a bag and hand it over, instead of giving it a little tap."

During his talk Oefelein stressed teamwork. The space program is not just astronauts or crew for the space station, he noted -- there are also mission control staff, engineers, mechanics and a wide variety of support personnel.

Everybody has a job to do, he said, and on board the shuttle the crew members were trained in several jobs, noting that he fulfilled the roles of pilot, medical officer, electrician and EVA coordinator.

Along with Oefelein's account of his career before and during his stint in NASA, Shipman spoke of the many jobs in the space agency that might interest cadets.

A REAL LIFE MORAL LEADERSHIP LESSON

From leff: SM Silassy, 1st Lt Hobgood, PA State Trooper, Cadet Morgan, 1st Lt Shaw. (Not pictured: 1st Lt Porter).

By 1st Lt. David Shaw

PENNSYLVANIA -- The Washington Composite Squadron 601 was heading to the World War II Reading Air Show to assist Squadron 811. After a pit stop on the PA Turnpike, the squadron van was pulling out on to the highway when money was flying in the air and hitting the windshield of the squadron van. After pulling off the the side, three of the senior members retrieved the money, credit cards and even the wallet of the person who had left it on the roof of his vehicle.

After calling the PA Turnpike assistance number, the Squadron went to the next Pennsylvania State Police Barracks and turned over the wallet to a Pennsylvania State Trooper.

AFA HONORS PA CADET

By 1st Lt. Patrick Kon

PENNSYLVANIA – C/2nd Lt. Ashley M. Weathers, cadet commander of Rostraver Eagle Composite Squadron 605, has been recognized as the unit's Cadet of the Year by the Air Force Association.

Two AFA members – James Cain, president of AFA's Monongahela Valley Chapter 388, and Bill Worthington, former vice president of the state AFA – presented the award, a silver medal with a sky-blue ribbon, during a visit Aug. 13 to promote aerospace education.

The pair made the presentation on the Rostraver Airport tarmac in Monongahela.

PAPER PROFILES PA CADET OF YEAR

C/Lt. Col. Lauren Hartman

PENNSYLVANIA -- C/Lt. Col. Lauren E. Hartman is only 18, but she has accomplished a lot in her young life. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, the Lower Heidelberg Township resident is trained in ground search-and-rescue missions, and she has earned solo wings for flying, the Reading Eagle reported in its Dec. 27th edition.

In October, the Pennsylvania Wing selected Lauren Cadet of the Year. The award goes to a cadet who demonstrates a high rank and outstanding leadership qualities, wrote reporter Greta Cuyler.

"Lauren was the exact picture of what a Civil Air cadet should be," said CAP Capt. Maria T. Kantner, of Mohnton, commander of Reading Composite Squadron 811, which is based at Reading Regional Airport.

Lauren, daughter of Michael and Deborah Hartman, was just 13 when she joined the Civil Air Patrol.

In February 2009, the paper reported, Lauren earned expert ranger status at the national Hawk Mountain Ranger School.

She's now enrolled in the Reading Hospital School of Nursing.

First responders in protective gear come to the aid of "victims" in a terrorist attack exercise at Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA. Photos by CAP 1st Lt. Wilson Ballester.

PA MEMBERS IN ANTI-TERRORISM EXERCISE

By 1st Lt. Bea Gernert

PENNSYLVANIA -- Two members of Lebanon VFW Cadet Squadron 307 participated in the Red Rose 1V counter-terrorism exercise held Aug. 27 at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

Maj. Warren Parks, deputy commander, volunteered to be a wounded victim in the simulated attack, and 1st Lt. Wilson Ballester was invited to be an official photographer.

The exercise scenario incuded an explosion in a clandestine bomb-making facility, with resultant damage and contamination too much for local first responders to handle and necessitating the call-up of a National Guard enhanced response force trained in chemical, biological, radiological and high-yield explosive response. The exercised tested such areas as initial response, search and rescue, evacuation, crime-scene preservation and mass decontamination.

It involved 190 National Guard soldiers and airmen, a contingent of soldiers from Lithuania, Emergency Management officials, and personnel from local, state and federal agencies.

Rhode Island Wing contingent near KC-10 tanker.

RI MEMBERS SEE KC-10 TANKER IN ACTION

By Col. Anthony Gagliardi

RHODE ISLAND – A full complement of Rhode Island Wing members -- 21 cadets and 11 senior members -- got a feel for flight in a KC-10 via an incentive ride Nov. 6 aboard a tanker from the 305th Air Mobility Wing at McGuire Air Force Base, NJ.

The trip was planned for three months through the McGuire public affairs office. In addition to the ride, the cadets received a tour of the 305th Aerial Port Squadron freight and passenger terminals and a tour of a C-17.

The cadets were able to watch actual refueling training from both the flight deck and the refueling station. Clear weather and light winds helped make the flight even more memorable.

Transportation from Rhode Island was provided by Rhode Island Air National Guard's 143rd Tactical Airlift Wing.

Lodging was at the All American Inn at McGuire, and the Army Dining Facility at Fort Dix provided meals.

VT MEMBER SHOWERS TROOPS WITH GRATITUDE

By Jennifer S. Kornegay
CAP Volunteer Now

Senior Member Cindy Osuna greets a married troop couple.

VERMONT -- "The hugs are the best," Senior Member Cindy Osuna said as she tried to put into words the impetus that moved her to drive over 150 miles each way to wait, sometimes for hours, in an airport lobby just to say "welcome home" or "thank you" to service members on their way to or from deployment.

"Until you've been there, you can't explain it," said Osuna, a member of the Springfield Composite Squadron. "It's a long trip, and it is tiring, but I try to fit it in because it is worth it.

"Once you go and see what an important role you play, you want to go every time you can make it."

As part of a group known as the Pease Greeters, Osuna and her fellow greeters offer support to complete strangers at a critical time. "Especially for those that are leaving home, heading overseas, they get boosted morale," she said. "They're just stopping to refuel, and then they are greeted by all these cheering people. It touches them."

Sometimes even the greeters don't really know each other, but that all changes after a few moments together. "When I walk in I get an immediate response from other greeters, whether I know them or not," Osuna said. "It's like a family."

Pease Greeters was started in 2005. The group consists of volunteer veterans and civilians who travel to Portsmouth International Airport in Pease, N.H., every time a plane carrying troops either leaves for deployment or returns home.

The greeters give the troops drinks, snacks and a heartfelt show of support. The group just recently celebrated greeting its 300th flight.

Osuna joined the Springfield squadron in 2009. Her reasons for joining Civil Air Patrol further illustrate her giving nature.

"I really have a lot on my plate," she said. "I am the program associate for health services and counseling at Landmark College, and I'm also the commander of the Springfield Veterans of Foreign Wars as well as state director of VFW Youth Activities. I went to a CAP meeting to form a relationship between CAP and VFW."

She got a little more than she bargained for -- she got recruited.

"At that meeting they told me that they really needed a female senior officer so female cadets could attend encampments," Osuna said. "I hated to think about a female cadet missing out because there weren't enough senior female officers, so that's the main reason I joined.

"When I was in the Air Force, there were fewer opportunities for women, so I know what it's like. I wanted to do whatever I could to help other females get as much as they can out of organizations like CAP."

Ozona's squadron commander, Lt. Col. David Michelson, is thrilled to have her. "We approached Cindy and said we needed a female senior officer; she said, 'Sure,'" Michelson said.

"It means so much to those girls who've been able to attend an encampment because of her. She's also going to be our public affairs officer once she finishes the training. We see her as a real catch, a great addition."

Osuna met her first flight with the Pease Greeters in January, joining 200 others to offer a pat on the back and words of encouragement to troops.

"There are no dues, no meetings, but once you've greeted one flight, you're a part of the group," she said. "I do it because I want our military men and women to know there are people back home supporting them."

The entire experience is rewarding for greeted and greeters alike, as Osuna explained. "It motivates them to know that we're supportive, that we understand. They send us e-mails and tell us how we impact them," she said. "And for the greeters, we get the camaraderie, the friendships."

And the memories.

"Every time is different, and I remember each one," Osuna said. "I remember this National Guardsman who gave me the patch off his shoulder to give to my granddad, who was 1st Calvary in World War II and the Korean War. Now my granddad has a 1st Calvary patch from Iraq."