



## CIVIL AIR PATROL/CONNECTICUT WING

# 399<sup>th</sup> COMPOSITE SQUADRON NEWS



**YANKEE HATTERS**

**DECEMBER 2014**



### Commander's Comments *Major Jim Vigar, Commander/CT-042*



**W**e have begun Emergency Services training with a great start during the last SAREX. With the help of Captain Joe Bisnov, First Lieutenant Jeffrey Jenkins, Second Lieutenant Brian Waldron, Cadets Captain Kevin Jenkins, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Waldron, Liam Waldron and Senior Airman Jimmy Vigar, we have been able to get our VHF and HF radio systems up and running for the SAREX. The cost was about \$1,200. I hope



**Captain John Freeman goes over the pre-flight checklist with cadet Liam Waldron in preparation for his first orientation flight during the November 15 SAREX. Both are members of the 399th Composite Squadron. (Photo: Major Peter Milano)**

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now you can see why it is important to help during fund raising activities. Lt. Jenkins and I will be putting a plan together for classes on how to operate and converse the proper way on the radio. I expect all seniors and cadets to attend the class and qualify as a mission radio operator. This will give us the flexibility to move members

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around different jobs during a SAREX.



We also have been asked to attend shelter operations training with the Red Cross, more on this in the coming weeks. There will be a group SAREX on December 13. We will continue with UDF and GTM3 training. I have been tasked to teach a Ground Team Leadership (GTL) school that weekend and am incorporating our training with this class, it should be a fun and productive weekend. We will also be honing our fire starting and water purification skills. Being able to start a fire with just a striker flint or one match is a life saving skill, especially when the weather is cold like it is now. Likewise being able to have clean water is a must anytime of the year.

Restating the squadrons Cold Weather Rules.

- You will wear a warm jacket to meetings
  - You will wear a warm, over your ear's hat
  - You will have or wear gloves
  - Scarves are recommended for around your neck area
  - You do not need military style jackets, anything that will keep you warm is fine
- Failure to have any of the above gear will cause you to be sent home.

*On behalf of the 399th, I  
wish everyone a happy  
and safe holiday season!*

*Major Jim Vigar*  
**399TH COMMANDER**

Regarding meetings cancellations due to inclement weather, we err on the side of being SAFE. There is no meeting as follows:

- If the School systems are closed or dismissed early for the day
- If we are in a snow storm warning
- If it is snowing and the roads are covered

Make sure your e-mail and contact information are up to date.

We will be using the phone tree notification system to practice meeting cancellations.



**Keep up the good work!**





## Chaplain's Corner

*Captain James A. Solomon, Chaplain/CT-042*

**D**uring the hustle and bustle of this Holiday Season, it's easy to be so side-tracked by outward chaos that we have no inward contentment. As I happen to be a Christian, I have learned the lesson of needing to focus less on the consumerism of Christmas and more on the Christ of Christmas who said "Come to me, you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28)." That rest to which Jesus refers is a peace that exists inwardly regardless of what one experiences outwardly, knowing your life is in Good Hands if you entrust it to an authority and a power much high-



Senior Member Christina Posca (l) leads a character development class during the Nov. 4 meeting. 399th Chaplain, Captain Jim Solomon, observes (back row in white uniform).

(Photo: Major Peter Milano)

er than your own. In my faith, we believe that authority figure is also one who is more loving than any others, having put aside all the authority in the universe to serve, rather than to be served, and to give his life as a ransom for others who would trust in him paying a debt he did not owe as we owed a debt we could not pay (Matthew 20:28; John 1:14, John 3:16-17). He is the Christ of Christmas.

My prayer for each of us this season, regardless of our respective religions, is that we would each have more of the inward peace that comes from enjoying the most powerful relationship, our relationships with God. The more we do, the more we will have true "peace on earth, goodwill to man (and woman)" as there will be more peace IN us that we can share as a true gift TO others this season and throughout the new year. May God bless you and may God bless America!



***Happy Holidays!***





## Connecticut Wing Trains for Proficiency

*Major Peter Milano, Connecticut Wing Public Affairs*



DANBURY, Connecticut – November 15, 2014 – Civil Air Patrol's Connecticut Wing conducted a day long, state-wide search and rescue exercise designed to enhance the proficiency of its cadets and senior members. Hartford-Brainard Airport served as the primary mission base with Meriden-Markham Municipal Airport and Danbury Municipal Airport serving as sub-bases for additional operations.

Major Jim Vigar, Commander of the 399th Danbury Composite Squadron, held an early morning safety briefing at Danbury Mission Base and outlined the training format of the day which included familiarization and preparatory work, then advanced training in the field. Cadet training focused on ground operations, which are critical to CAP's search and rescue mission, and included radio operator, direction finding, compass skills and map work.



**Major Jim Vigar (l), 399th Danbury Composite Squadron Commander, checks cadet Senior Master Sergeant Brandon Gasperino's (c) map work as cadet Major Connor Guzda observes. Both cadets are members of the 801st Cadet Squadron based in New Fairfield, Connecticut.**

(Photo: Major Peter Milano)

The first three cadet ground teams in Danbury moved out mid-morning after preparing individual field equipment and conducting gear inspections. The objective for cadets was to track and locate an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) which was sending out a simulated aircraft emergency signal. Cadets used direction finding equipment to track the signal from various locations, plotted their findings on maps, and by triangulation effectively located and silenced the ELT which was on an aircraft at Danbury Municipal Airport.

Ongoing training operations continued throughout the day and included additional air and

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ground team exercises. The second sortie of cadet ground teams set out early afternoon, coordinating their efforts with Civil Air Patrol aircraft to locate another distress beacon. With Captain John Freeman piloting the aircraft and Captain Johnny Burke serving as Mission Observer (both from the 399th Danbury Composite Squadron) the ELT was located in the hills of Redding, Connecticut. The aircrew then successfully directed the cadet ground teams in to silence the ELT.



**Cadet Second Lieutenant Matthew DiBlanda (foreground) and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Waldron conduct radio operations during the training exercise at Danbury Municipal Airport. Both cadets are members of the 399th Composite Squadron based out of Danbury, Connecticut.**

(Photo: Major Peter Milano)

Participants at Danbury Mission Base came from Connecticut Wing's *Western Connecticut Group* and included members of the 399th Composite Squadron (Danbury), 801st Cadet Squadron (New Fairfield), Stratford Eagles Squadron, and the 143rd Composite Squadron (Waterbury). Danbury Mission Base provided training to 22 cadets with 12 senior members providing support, training and aircrew.



**Cadet Airman Paul Flayhan (399th Composite Squadron) uses a hand held airband radio to determine the direction of an ELT signal during the November 15, SAREX in Danbury, Conn. (Photo: Major Peter Milano)**

Connecticut Wing Emergency Services Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Heath, serving as overall mission commander at Hartford Mission Base said, "We had a good day of training out of three operational areas. Lieutenant Colonel John deAndrade (Thames River Composite Squadron) did an excellent job as Planning Section Chief and many members across the wing renewed or received new qualifications."



## SCHEDULE & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### National Special Activities (NSA) Open Registration for Summer Activities

December 1, 2014 - January 15, 2015

<http://www.ncsas.com/>

Meriden Airport, Meriden, CT

### Wreaths Across America

December 13, 2014: 11 a.m.

Old Wooster Cemetery, Danbury, CT

### Cadet Leadership/NCO School

December 27, 2014 - January 3, 2015

### Squadron Leadership School

January 10 - 11, 2015

Meriden Airport, Meriden, CT

see page 9 for additional information

### Mandatory DCC Meeting

January 21, 2015

Middletown, CT

### Cadet Competition

March 28, 2015 (tentative)

- location to be determined -

### Howard E. Palmer Cadet Ball

September 12, 2015

U.S. Coast Guard Academy



For Squadron Pictures Visit  
[Squadron Picasa Web Albums](#)

And on Facebook

[399th Danbury Composite Squadron](#)



Lt. Col. Joe Palys (Western Connecticut Group Commander) presents Major Jim Vigar (399th Composite Squadron Commander) with an achievement award for outstanding performance during the November 15, 2014 SAREX.

(Photo: Major Peter Milano)



First Lieutenant George Garofalo (L) (143rd Composite Squadron) and Major Glen Dains (r) (399th Composite Squadron) check direction finding data provided by Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Brandon Gasperino (c) (801st Cadet Squadron).

(Photo: Major Peter Milano)



399th Deputy Commander for Cadets, Captain Greg Sweeney (l), instructs cadet Senior Airman Adam Woodbyrne (399th Composite Squadron) how to direction find an ELT signal using a hand held aviation radio. (Photo: Major Peter Milano)





## Sterile Cockpit Procedures

Captain Johnny Burke  
Stan/Eval Officer/CT-042

FLY SAFE

**F**or new cadets and senior members that may fly in Civil Air Patrol aircraft, and are not familiar with the CAP Sterile Cockpit Procedures, here is guidance from the Civil Air Patrol Pilots Page.

### CAPR 60-1 Supporting Information for Paragraph 2-1.m.

**Sterile Cockpit Procedures.** “The sterile cockpit concept recognizes that flight operations other than routine cruise flight are intrinsically more hazardous and require the undivided and vigilant attention of all crewmembers. The Pilot in Command (PIC) is responsible to ensure that non-essential conversations, activities, and otherwise distracting actions do not occur during critical portions of flight. Critical portions of flight are taxi, takeoff, climb, descent, landing, and operations in high-density traffic areas or heavy ATC periods.”

*a. The PIC will ensure that all crewmembers and passengers are aware of this requirement by conducting a crew and passenger briefing prior to boarding the aircraft or prior to engine start. The “Sterile Cockpit” brief can be as simple as a general statement by the PIC indicating that an announcement will be made when the flight is in a critical phase of flight, or possibly, a detailed briefing of the various phases of flight that are considered busiest and critical for the crewmembers to avoid distractions.*

*b. The PIC will include in the “Sterile Cockpit” brief a statement that safety of flight items are always appropriate to be brought to the immediate attention of the PIC. Safety concerns would be such items as potentially conflicting traffic, potential mechanical problems with the aircraft, i.e., electrical smoke or smoke of an unknown origin, leaking fuel, etc.*

*c. Instructors will conduct training in this procedure as part of any initial or recurring flight training. Check pilots will ensure that all pilots, as part of their mission pilot and normal proficiency flight checks, complete a “Sterile Cockpit” briefing. This will be evaluated as part of “Cockpit Management” under “Ground Operations” on the CAPF 5 and as part of “Cockpit Resource Management” under “Safety Awareness” on the CAPF 91. CAP NHQ/DOV 3 May 14*

***All crewmembers and passengers can contribute to the safe operation of our aircraft by being familiar with “Sterile Cockpit Procedures”***



## Heads Up! for December 2014

*Bob Kelly*

*EPA Meteorologist*



If you work in Manhattan, look for Sunrise around December 5. Manhattan's alignment of rising Sun with its cross-town streets happens then. If you miss it then, look again in early January. On December 21, at 6:03 p.m. EST, the solstice marks the Sun's furthest south location in the sky. Can you tell that the earliest sunset is during first week of December, not at the date of the solstice? If you know all this, you know enough information to set up your own Stonehenge.

After Christmas, users of new (or trusty old) telescopes will have the beautiful winter stars and clusters to look at while anxiously waiting for jumbo Jupiter to rise after 8 p.m. Jupiter is large for a planet as seen from Earth, but only the size of a largish lunar crater. Visions of Jupiter's moons will dance in astronomers' heads of all ages. The four Galilean moons cast their shadows on Jupiter, sometimes two at a time, like on the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>. Filters, or even sunglasses, can reduce the bright glare of the giant planet, and make it easier to pick out Jupiter's bands and markings.

Mars is low to the southwest in the evening; it's been there so long it practically owns the place. Late in December, Venus brilliantly, but cautiously, approaches well to the lower right of Mars, with Mercury tagging along below, deep in twilight, with the two inner planets setting about an hour apart. Mars waits and sets at 8 p.m. local time - all month. A faint, thin Moon lines up alongside Venus on December 22 and hangs over it on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mars continues to shrink, as seen by telescope users on Earth. Even Uranus and Neptune aren't much smaller. Get a chart for these outer planets and note how they compare to nearby stars in the telescope. What color are they? Does it change with changing magnification?

Saturn rises into the early morning sky by mid-month. Its breathtaking rings are tilted wide enough so they are seen almost all the way around the planet. A skinny Moon points to Saturn on December 19.

Meteors spout from the heads of Gemini, best anytime after the Twins levitate well above the horizon - after 10 p.m. best on the nights of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. After midnight, the number of meteors increase, but the last quarter Moon makes it harder to see fainter meteors.

The Moon can help you find Uranus, nearby on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. A nearly full Moon splits

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the V-shaped Hyades star cluster on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The cluster may be hard to see without a telescope with the dazzling Moon in front of them. Mars is to the Moon's left on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the Moon is a fascinating object for many days afterwards as the Sun rises over the craggy lunar surface.

Mars and Venus are still moving away from Earth, so Mercury continues to be the closest planet to Earth this month, and the first quarter of 2015, despite being the innermost planet.

The International Space Station is an evening delight, arching over us in the evening twilight from December 5 through 29.



The squadrons Aerospace Education meeting was held at Western Connecticut State University on November 21. Cadets, seniors and parents enjoyed a lecture delivered by Professor Albert Owino, PhD., Director of Meteorological Studies and Weather Center at WCSU. (Photo: Major Peter Milano)



Second Lieutenant Brian Waldron (CT-042) listens as Professor Albert Owino, PhD., answers questions relating to data retrieved from the squadron's weather balloon launch on September 13, 2014. (Photo: Major Peter Milano)

**399<sup>th</sup> Staff**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Commander                | Major James Vigar                      |
| Advisor to Commander     | Lt. Col. Peter Sanderson               |
| Chaplain                 | Captain James Solomon                  |
| Administration           | SM Christina Posca                     |
| Aerospace Education      | Capt. Ralph Langham                    |
| Communications           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffrey Jenkins    |
| Deputy Commander         | Capt. Joseph Bisnov                    |
| Deputy Cmdr. Cadets      | Capt. Greg Sweeney                     |
| Drug Demand Reduction    | 2d Lt. Andrew Luckey                   |
| Emergency Services       | Capt. Greg Sweeney                     |
| Finance                  | Capt. Joseph Bisnov                    |
| Maintenance/Operations   | Capt. John Freeman                     |
| Professional Development | Major Glen Dains                       |
| Public Affairs/Editor    | Major Peter Milano                     |
| Recruiting/Retention     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. MaryEllen Trohalis |
| Safety                   | Capt. James McLaughlin                 |
| Supply Officer           | 2d Lt. Gabriel Florio                  |
| Standardization/Eval     | Capt. Johnny Burke                     |
| Transportation           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffrey Jenkins    |



## CIVIL AIR PATROL NEWS

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### 399<sup>th</sup> COMPOSITE SQUADRON, CONNECTICUT WING

21 Miry Brook Road, Danbury, Connecticut 06810

## Civil Air Patrol to Honor Veterans with Wreaths Across America™ Ceremony

*Major Peter Milano, Public Affairs/CT-042*

DANBURY, Connecticut – Civil Air Patrol's 399<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron has once again volunteered to conduct a Wreaths Across America™ ceremony this year at Old Kenosia Cemetery on Saturday December 13, starting at 11:00 a.m. Ceremonial wreaths will be placed to remember those who served, honor their sacrifices, and teach our younger generations about the high cost of our freedoms.

December 13 will mark the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Maine wreaths being donated to be placed on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. 2014 is also the seventh year of the national wreath sponsorship campaign under the guidance of the non-profit [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org) that will bring the same remembrance wreaths to National and State Veterans cemeteries, monuments, and community centers across the Nation.

In addition to these ceremonial wreaths, a number of civic groups around the Country have joined with Wreaths Across America™ to promote sponsored wreaths to be placed on veterans' graves in participating cemeteries across the United States. Officers and cadets from nearly 400 Civil Air Patrol squadrons, including the 399<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron, will participate.

In 2014 it is projected more than 100,000 volunteers nationwide will take part in the Wreaths Across America™ mission to Remember; Honor; and Teach. In 2008 and 2009 The United States Congress unanimously decreed the second Saturday of December as National Wreaths Across America™ Day.

For information visit

[www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)





### Important Facts

- Dates: 10-11 January 2015
- Cost: **FREE**
- Location: Meriden Airport, 213 Evansville Ave. Meriden, CT 06451
- Required for completion of Level II of the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program.
- Every Senior Member needs an SLS and CLC to advance in the CAP senior member program.
- Classes taught by experienced CAP officers, and command staff.

### Contact

Major Roger Malagutti  
SLS Director  
(203) 597-7106  
rmalagutti@aol.com  
Fax (203) 574-0405



## Welcome to the Winter 2015 Squadron Leadership School

### Purpose of the School

Squadron Leadership School (SLS) provides Civil Air Patrol's adult members with a basic understanding of CAP operations at the squadron level and how those operations affect CAP's national missions. Additionally, members learn more about CAP customs, core values and communications. Case studies, discussion and group assignments are integral facets of the SLS program. Squadron Leadership Schools are administered at group or wing level and last from 12 to 16 class room hours. Students completing SLS are awarded a certificate of completion and the training is noted on their permanent record.

### SLS is open to all seniors in CTWG and Northeast Region

#### What courses are being taught?

- Officership & The Public Trust
- Introduction to Professional Development
- Squadron Staff Officer
- Squadrons: The Heart of CAP
- Introduction to Leadership
- The Staff Officer as a Communicator
- Creative Thinking and Problem Solving
- Best Practices
- Learn How to Become a Good Squadron Officer

### Requirements

- Be a CAP Senior Member in good standing
- Completion of Level 1
- Be motivated!
- Completed and signed CAPF17 mailed to CTWG HQ .
- UOD: AF Blues or corporate.
- Cut off: 1 Jan 2015

- Register on the Connecticut Wing Professional Development Webpage -  
<http://ctwg.cap.gov/professional-development.html>



**DECEMBER 2014 CALENDAR**

12/02	Squadron Meeting	BDUs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
12/09	Squadron Meeting	PTs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
12/13	Wreaths Across America Ceremony	TBD	Old Kenosia Cemetery	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12/16	Squadron Meeting	Blues	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
12/23	Squadron Meeting	BDUs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



**399<sup>th</sup> Contact Information**

Civil Air Patrol  
399<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron  
21 Miry Brook Road  
Danbury, CT 06810



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/399DanburyCAP>

**Website:** <http://399cap.org/> **E-mail:** [pao@399cap.org](mailto:pao@399cap.org)

**Submission Guidelines**

Send submissions in Microsoft Word format or in the body of your email.

Edit copy according to Associated Press Style.

Photos should be sent as attachments in JPG format and must meet uniform compliance.

Identify all persons in photo's and include credits.

**Deadline for the January 2015 issue is 31 December**

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 60,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Its unpaid professionals also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 25,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. Performing missions for America for over 70 years, CAP will receive the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans.

[www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com) [www.capvolunteernow.com](http://www.capvolunteernow.com) [www.capgoldmedal.com](http://www.capgoldmedal.com)

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