

# Arkansas Wing Civil Air Patrol Year in Review – 2008

Compiled by Maj. Blake Sasse, Wing Public Affairs Officer & Historian

## CADETS

### Cadet From The 107th Earns Pilots License

By  
Maj. Pete Orlebeke

(January 9) Cadet S/Sgt Colby Harris became the second cadet in the 107th Composite Squadron in Mountain Home to earn his private pilot license while training in a CAP airplane. He follows Cadet 2nd Lt. Justin Matthews, who earned his license in 2006.



Thanks to donations from local business's and civic organizations the squadron is able to award a solo scholarship that allows a cadet to receive instruction in the squadron's aircraft to the point he or she can fly solo. Squadron Commander Bruce Bailey instructed both Harris and Matthews.

Cadet Harris is a graduate of Yellville High School and is the son of Michael and Vicky Harris, of Yellville.

### Wing Receives Air Force Trainer

(February 25) Today Capt. Frank Warner, Wing Aerospace Education Officer, and 1st Lt. Duane Feltemeyer of the 99th Composite Squadron received a T-37 Cockpit Familiarization Trainer from Columbus AFB, MS. The device, which is a static duplicate of the interior of the T-37, is currently being stored at the Commemorative Air Force Hanger in Memphis, TN until such time as a trailer can be obtained for use in making it available to units around the state.



(February 23) The 115th Composite Squadron was the winner of the 2008 Arkansas Wing Color Guard Competition. Cadet Chief Master Sergeants Nathan Hassett, Juliana Lestina, Emily Loewer, and Will Smith will go on to represent the Wing at the Regional competition in Louisiana. The 95th Composite Squadron won second place in the competition.

### 115<sup>th</sup> Wins Southwest Region Color Guard Competition

By  
Lt. Col. Marina Scott

(March 30) Four cadets from the 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron put it all together last weekend to win the Southwest Region Color Guard competition at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana. C/CMSgt's Nathan Hassett, Emily Loewer, Will Smith, and Juli Lestina competed against teams from Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Louisiana to bring home the win.

The 115<sup>th</sup> took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the written exam, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the panel quiz, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the outdoor practical drill, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the in-ranks inspection.

Individual Awards won by Arkansas cadets were: the "Fleet Foot Award (Female)" to C/CMSgt Juli Lestina and "High Score Written Exam" to C/CMSgt Nathan Hassett.

One judge from the Barksdale AFB Honor Guard was so impressed with the cadence used by the 115<sup>th</sup> color guard squad that they said they were going to incorporate that same cadence in their formal ceremonies.

The team now advances to the 2008 National Color Guard Competition in Dayton, Ohio in June.

Pictured l to r: C/CMSgt Juli Lestina, C/CMSgt Will Smith, C/1Lt Calvin Johnson, Cadet Commander of the 115<sup>th</sup>, C/CMSgt Nathan Hassett, and C/CMSgt Emily Loewer.



Thanks to officer members Majors Jeff Smith and Donna Baker whose special dedication and support contributed to the success of the color guard. Numerous hours have been spent by cadets, officer members, and parents preparing for this competition. Now the real work begins.

## 95th Presents Awards

By

**1st Lt. Lisa Worthington**

(March 31) The 95th Composite Squadron held a combined meeting this evening where cadets and officer members came together for an aerospace education session, a safety briefing, and an awards night. Additionally there was a uniform inspection for both cadets and officers and a quiz bowl.



Several first flight certificates were given to cadets completing their first orientation flight. Cadets are allowed five free orientation flights that cover different parts of flying an airplane including take offs, landings, stalls, turns, and inspections before and after flights.

Cadet Airman of the quarter went to C/A1C Vincent Policky. Cadet NCO of the quarter went to C/TSgt Kayla Brown. Overall cadet of the quarter went to C/Amn Jonathan Cameron.

Four of the cadets were promoted to their next rank including the cadet commander, Davyd Fitzhugh, who was promoted to C/Major.

## 120th Cadet Earns Earhart Award

By

**Capt. John Brandon**

(April 7) Cadet Donnie Cox received the Amelia Earhart award in a ceremony at the Jonesboro Airport this evening. Accompanying the award was a promotion to Captain as a member of Cadets in the 120th Composite Squadron.

Capt. Cox has been serving as Cadet Commander for the 120th Composite Squadron since April, 2007, and he is a senior at Paragould High school. He is the son of the late Don & Patty Cox. His parents are Brenda Sue Hill, also a CAP member, and Jim & Donna Parks of Piggott. Capt. Cox also participates in the JROTC program at Paragould High School.



Arkansas State Representative Joan Cash of Jonesboro made the presentation of the Amelia Earhart award to Cox.

## Four 115th Cadets Reach Milestones

By

**Lt. Col. Marina Scott**

(April 15) The 115th Composite Squadron held a milestone ceremony tonight in Rogers to recognize the achievements of four of its cadets. Cadets Austin Pollock, Jeffrey VerHoeven, and Jonathan Weed each received the General Billy Mitchell Award and were promoted to cadet second lieutenant. Jason Finney received the Amelia Earhart Award and was promoted to cadet captain.



Steve Gray, USAF LtCol, Ret. and David Bowman, USAF LtCol, Ret. presented the awards and offered inspiration and advice regarding leadership to the cadets and the family members present.

Gray, Senior Military and Veterans Advisor from U.S. Congressman John Boozman's office and President of the Northwest Arkansas Veteran's Association continued his discussion about the three different aspects of leadership: making tough decisions, fighting through difficult times, and taking care of those who work for you. Gray encouraged cadets to act when necessary and not to be afraid of failure.

David Bowman, Director of the Northwest Arkansas Community College Aviation Program, spoke of the need to master management, leadership, and teamwork as illustrated by the television drama "Band of Brothers". He emphasized the importance of adaptability by reminding the cadets of John Lennon's words, "Life is what happens to you while you are busy making other plans." It is always important to have a plan B while keeping the original objective in focus. He noted that the teamwork and leadership training they were receiving now would serve them well in the future quoting Louis Pasteur's statement that "chance favors the prepared mind." He challenged the cadets, as leaders of their generation, to imagine what could be accomplished in the next 20 to 30 years.

### **95th Cadets Take Advantage of Memphis-area AE trip**

**By**

**1st Lt. Lisa Worthington**

(April 20) Six cadets from the 95th Composite Squadron were chosen to take a special trip to Memphis this weekend. They visited the Air Guard base there and were given a tour of life support, maintenance, the planes, and the simulator. The cadets learned much about the C-5 from the pilots and maintenance crew. The highlight was trying their hand at the C-5 simulator.

The next stop on this trip was a small museum where they saw several planes as well as the T-36 trainer recently obtained by the Wing. The day ended with some famous Memphis barbecue.

Today began at the Memphis Air Traffic Control Tower where the cadets learned about the duties of the air traffic control center at the airport as well as Memphis Center, which controls aircraft over the entire region. Cadets met with the meteorologists, dispatcher, computer tech, and more to see how this system works.

The majority of the day was spent at the Federal Express site where they learned about the maintenance of the air craft, the dispatchers working the schedules for planes around the world, and saw many planes. There was plenty of walking through the different planes including an airbus, 727, and a DC10. The day ended with each cadet trying their hand at the DC10 simulator.

### **Vest Earns Mitchell Award**

**By**

**Lt. Col. Charles Bishop**

(May 20) C/CMSGT Randy A. Vest was presented his Mitchell Award tonight at the 40th Composite Squadron meeting in Hot Springs. Capt. Jean Parmiter, AR Wing Director of Cadet Programs made a short speech about the cadet program and the awards prior to making the presentation. Refreshments were served afterwards. C/2nd Lt. Vest will become the Cadet Commander in a ceremony in June, taking over from C/1st Lt. J.C. Happy. C/2nd Lt. Vest is the first Mitchell award recipient in over 3 years for the 40th Composite Squadron.

### **Cadet Change of Command at the 115th**

**By**

**Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven**

(June 3) The 115th Composite Squadron held a cadet change-of-command ceremony this evening at Rogers' Carter Field as Cadet Capt. Jason Finney assumed command of the squadron's cadets in relief of Cadet 1st Lt. Calvin



Johnson. In what master of ceremonies Capt. David Myers described to the roughly sixty people in attendance as "a time-honored military tradition" symbolizing the transfer of responsibility, the 115th's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Max Gore, presented the squadron colors to Cadet Johnson, who passed them on to Cadet Finney.

In his parting remarks, Cadet Johnson requested that the cadets remember the things he taught them, while Cadet Finney began his command tour by announcing his "high expectations" for the squadron. The cadet squadron performed a traditional "pass-in-review" formation prior to the ceremony, and the squadron's Southwest Region champion color guard posted the U.S. and squadron colors.

Cadet Johnson, a 2008 graduate of Gravette High School, had held the position of cadet commander for one year and is now preparing to join the United States Air Force Academy's Class of 2012 in Colorado Springs, Colo., later this month. Cadet Finney recently completed his junior year at Rogers High School, where he runs cross country and track and serves in the student senate. Cadet Finney also participates in the youth group at St. Vincent de Paul

Church in Rogers and is working toward his private pilot's license.

### **Arkansas Cadets Earn Academy Appointments and Scholarships**

(June 12) This spring four Arkansas Wing cadets received appointments to the Air Force Academy and one received an Air Force ROTC scholarship. C/Col. Ross Macheak (42nd Composite Squadron), C/ Lt. Col. Clayton Arms (99th Composite Squadron), C/1st Lt. Calvin Johnson (115th Composite Squadron), and C/2nd Lt. Carolyn Batie (42nd Composite Squadron) will enter the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs later this month as part of the class of 2012. C/Capt. Donnie Cox, of the 120th Composite Squadron received an Air Force ROTC scholarship that he will use as a student at the Virginia Military Institute.

C/Col. Macheak, was born at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, while his father was on active duty in the Air Force. Ross said he believes that his dedication to being a member of Civil Air Patrol and JROTC definitely helped him in getting selected for the Air Force Academy. "I knew I wanted to be in the U.S. Air Force because my father was active duty, and he has always been a positive influence and role model in my life, and I wanted to be a pilot from the start, so this is my chance."



C/1st Lt. Johnson decided in a 7th grade job-shadowing program that he would like to shadow an Air Force officer. He was allowed to shadow two officers, half a day each, at Whiteman Air Force base in Missouri. One officer was a graduate of the US Air Force Academy and helped Calvin confirm that the USAFA was the avenue he would pursue. He decided that he really liked the Air Force way of life; the safety, order, respect, and neatness on an Air Force base, and focused his attention on becoming an officer in the Air Force by whichever method he could.



### **99th Visits Air Force Museum** **By**

**Lt. Col. Larry Webster**

(June 14) Cadets from the 99th Composite Squadron took a tour of the Air Force National Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Cadets got the opportunity to see airplanes from the Wright Brothers up to new and current aircraft on display at the museum. In addition to this cadets toured the airplanes used by past presidents and saw many experimental one-of-a-kind airplanes. A trip to Huntsville Space and Rocket Center will be done next year.



### **Nilsen Earns Earhart Award** **By**

**Lt. Col. Larry Webster**

(June) Cadet Captain Tabitha Nilsen was recently presented with the Amelia Earhart Award by Arkansas Wing Commander, Colonel Bucky Britton. C/Capt Nilsen has been a member of the 99th Composite Squadron in West Memphis since 2005 and during that time she has been assigned as a flight sergeant, color guard commander and is currently serving as the flight commander. She has received the Red Service Ribbon for 2 years continuous time in CAP, a Find Ribbon for a find during an actual search and rescue mission and the unit's Above and Beyond Award for her hard work with the color guard. She has attended the national Color Guard Academy and the Arkansas Wing Encampment.



### **2008 Arkansas Wing Encampment** **Blog**

**C/2nd Lt. Kyler Selleck**

**Day 1**

**Saturday, June 21**

The cadets' first day of encampment began with in-processing. While they were waiting to check in they got their first taste of encampment life, standing at attention while waiting in line. After they finished with in-processing they moved their gear into their respective barracks and met their flights. They had a few minutes to socialize with their new teammates and then fell in for the welcome formation. Next came flight time. Flight time is for the flights to work on marching and memory work and lasted until

everyone's favorite event of the day, chow. After they ate the cadets had PT and began winding down for the night. Although the cadets went to sleep at 10:00 it wasn't long before the staff staged an 11:30 PM fire drill, in which the cadets performed very well. Once this event ended the cadets finally went to bed for the night.

### **Day 2 Sunday, June 22**

Today the cadets day began at 5:30 AM with a wake-up call, shortly there after they fell-in for their first morning formation. Although most of the cadets where still tired, they the started the day with CPFT, cadet physical fitness testing. CPFT involves four things, sit-ups, sit-and-reach , and mile run. After it was finished everyone returned to the barracks for flight time before brunch. After brunch the cadets planning to attend the Catholic service got into their blues. After the cadets from the Catholic service returned those attending the Protestant service left. After all the cadets returned they had flight time until supper. After supper everyone had a good time playing volley-ball.

### **Day 3 Monday, June 23**

As always the day began at 5:30 AM with PT. After PT they quickly changed into BDUs for posting of the colors before breakfast. When breakfast was finished we made a short hike to the weapons school for an orientation on the base's mission, that was followed by a tour of the base's command post, which was a restricted area so no cameras, cell phones, or ISRs (inter-squad radios) were allowed. Next everyone went to a welcome briefing from the deputy commander of the base, Col. Mark G. Vlahos. From there everyone went to the community center for a boxed lunch followed by leadership classes given by Captain Adams. When the classes where finished we had a flight to flight volleyball competition. Quickly followed by lights-out.

### **Day 4 Tuesday, June 24**

After wake up, morning formation, and PT everyone loaded into the vans to go eat breakfast and then walked across the road to see the pressure chamber. The pressure chamber is used to train pilots in high altitude emergency procedures and familiarize them with the signs of hypoxia. After which we saw a demonstration of the Air Force security forces dog teams. These dogs are very remarkable and highly trained and never attack unless handler orders them to. After the demonstration one of our own Cadet Finney put on the protective gear and find out what it

feels like to be attacked by a dog. After lunch, there was an aerospace career education class followed by flight time and an ultimate Frisbee competition for evening PT.

### **Day 5 Wednesday, June 25**

"The BIG day" -- Today we did what we've all been looking forward to doing --- rides in a C-130 cargo plane. It stated just like the other days with a wake-up call at 5:30 AM but there was no morning PT. We went straight to the vans so we could get to chow as soon as possible. From breakfast we went to the building where the drop bundles and parachutes for the planes are packed. While there we received our safety briefings and went in two groups to get our flights. While the first group was flying the second toured the facilities where the bundles are prepared to drop out of the planes and where the parachutes are stored and packed. After the first group finished flying the groups switched places. Everyone had a great time on the flights and surprisingly nobody got sick.

### **Day 6 Thursday, June 26**

The highlight of today was a tour of the base fire department where we observed a demonstration on two of the fire trucks. After this we split into two groups. The first group toured the control tower where they were able to watch while everyone did their jobs and got to go out on the catwalk around the tower. The second group went to the parachute simulator and got to try their hands at a virtual reality parachute jump. A third group went into a dark room and got to use military night vision goggles. For evening PT we had another volleyball competition.

### **Day 7 Friday, June 27**

Today is everyone's last full day. Getting up this morning was harder for everyone, but we managed. While most of the day was spent in classes after some flight time we went to the base intelligence building for a retirement ceremony for one of CAP's officers. That was followed by a radio operator course so the cadets could earn their ROA certification. When the ROA was finished the Chaplain led a moral leadership exercise. The rest of our day was spent on the drill pad practicing for the next day's graduation pass and review. For Evening PT we all went for a run.

## Day 8 Saturday, June 28

This morning we all got to sleep until 6:00 AM. Everyone got up and started preparing their blues. When the time came we put on our dress uniforms and headed for the drill field to start the pass and review which was followed by the graduation ceremony. When the ceremony was finished everyone was happy about graduating but saddened to leave their flight mates with whom you can develop a very close relationship in just a week. After sign-out there were hugs all around and even a few tears as friends and flight mates left for home.

### Macheak Earns Spaatz Award

(June 17) Cadet Col. Ross Macheak is Arkansas Wing's newest recipient of the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, CAP's highest achievement for cadets. Governor Mike Beebe presented C/Col. Macheak with the award during a ceremony at the Governor's office on June 17th. C/Col. Macheak is a member of the 42nd Composite Squadron and recently began attending the U.S. Air Force Academy.



C/Col. Macheak was also presented with the General Ira C. Eaker Award by Arkansas Air National Guard Chief of Staff Brigadier General Dwight Balch the previous evening at a special meeting of the 42nd Composite Squadron held at Wing Headquarters.

Established in 1964, the award honors the late General Carl A. Spaatz, who became the first Air Force Chief of Staff on September 26, 1947. When Congress designated the Civil Air Patrol as the official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force on May 26, 1948, General Spaatz was appointed CAP's first National Board chairman. He held this position until April 27, 1959.

A cadet earns the Spaatz award after completing all 16 achievements in the program and passing a rigorous four-part examination consisting of written exams in aerospace education and leadership, a written essay, and a physical fitness test. The Spaatz examination is very difficult and demanding. It is earned by less than 1 percent of all CAP cadets who enter the program. To further highlight the difficulty in achieving this goal, less than 1,800 cadets have earned the Spaatz award since its inception in 1964 with only 17 being earned by Arkansas Wing cadets.

## 115th Color Guard Competes at Nationals

By

### Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven

(July 9) The color guard of the Civil Air Patrol's 115th Composite Squadron based in Rogers competed in the National Color Guard Competition in Dayton, Ohio, June 27-29. Cadet Chief Master Sgts. Nathan Hassett, William Smith, Emily Loewer, and Juliann Lestina represented the Southwest Region, which includes Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Cadet Airman 1st Class Austin Lowery of Austin, Texas, participated as an alternate.

The team fell short in its bid to win the overall competition but did place first in the Inspection event and finished second in the Indoor Practical Drill event, while Lestina claimed the female "Fleet Foot Award" by winning the mile run. The Florida Wing's Southeast Region color guard took the overall title. After returning to Rogers the Arkansas team received a Commander's Commendation Award from the 115th's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Max Gore. The team was the first from Arkansas to ever attend the national competition and earned the trip after winning the Arkansas Wing competition at Camp Robinson in February and the Southwest Region competition at Barksdale AFB, La., in March.

## 99th Visits World War II Collection

By

### Lt. Col. Larry Webster

(July 14) Members of the 99th Composite Squadron got a history lesson from an individual who is part of group of people who recreate World War II battles. Many of the items, helmets, hats and uniforms were actually from that era and some were replicas. The individual talked about how these battles were recreated and how a person can get involved in the group. The squadron was invited to attend one of the battles in November as special guest.



## **Rogers Cadet Earns Earhart**

**By**

**Cadet 1st Lt. Jeffrey VerHoeven**

(July 22) This evening Cadet Jessica Baker of the 115th Composite Squadron received her Amelia Earhart Award and was promoted to the rank of Cadet Captain. Baker's award was presented by State Sen.-elect Cecile Bledsoe, who told the audience how she appreciated the fact that the Civil Air Patrol cadet program teaches young people leadership qualities. After Sen. Bledsoe spoke, Capt. David Myers, the squadron's deputy commander for cadets, closed with words of encouragement to the younger cadets telling them to keep working to achieve their own milestones. Jessica is the daughter of James and Donna Baker. She has been a member in the Civil Air Patrol since August 2002 and will be a senior at Rogers High School this fall and plans to eventually attend medical school and become a pediatrician.

## **Jonesboro Cadets Visit Capitol**

**By**

**Maj. John Brandon**

(August 8) Cadets from the 120th Composite Squadron took a field trip today to the state capitol in Little Rock. A special visit was arranged with Governor Beebe in which the commander of the 120th, Capt. David Wilkins, presented Governor Beebe with the Blackhawk Squadron patch that is similar to the patch worn on each squadron members uniform. The Governor was informed that cadets from the squadron had designed the patch, which represents their creativity, dedication and excellence to the squadron. The governor learned of the squadron's commitment and desire to provide assistance to the state and community, such as aerial photography missions over flooded or storm-damaged areas. "It's what we train for, and we want to help", Capt. Wilkins, one of the squadron mission pilots, said about the all-volunteer organization.

## **Cadet Change of Command at the 97th**

**By**

**2nd Lt. Michael Young**

The 97th Composite Squadron recently bid farewell to its cadet commander and cadet deputy commander. Cadet Capt. Laura Mansfield of Locust Grove and Cadet 1st Lt. Tara Hackworth of Newark each relinquished their post as they enter their freshman year of college.

Mansfield is majoring in political science at Lyon College in Batesville. She joined CAP when she was in ninth grade.

She started "because my dad told me to try it out," Mansfield said. "I began to love going to the meetings on Monday nights and now it's hard to picture not going." Mansfield's father is the former commander of the squadron and is currently deployed to Iraq with an Army National Guard unit which he also commands.



Hackworth, on the other hand, will stay in Jonesboro and focus her attention on a psychology major at Arkansas State University. "I want to work at a hospital or set up my own practice some day. I would also like to teach," Hackworth said.

She joined the Civil Air Patrol when she was 12. "I read about it in the paper, and the aerospace aspect interested me. I joined and learned that there was much more to it than that. I stayed because I got really involved and made so many friends, and wanted to get as far as I could," Hackworth said.



Both said the lessons learned in Civil Air Patrol have prepared them for the life in which they are now embarking. "I am better prepared for a college life because I can stand up for my morals, step up and be a good leader, and respect others around me," Mansfield said. Hackworth added, "It made me a more capable and successful leader and person in general. I am confident that I can go out and achieve whatever I set out to do."

"We are really going to miss having these two cadets in the squadron. Their leadership is unparalleled and something you can't teach," said 2nd Lt. Michael Young, the squadron's deputy commander of cadets.

## **Arkansas Wing Begins Glider Orientation Flights**

(August 31) Today four cadets took soared through the skies over Cherry Valley in eastern Arkansas in tandem seat Blanik L23 gliders pilots by SM Brian Smith, of the 120th Composite Squadron, and Bob Smiley, of the Mississippi Wing.



Cadet Thomas Morris, of the 99th Composite Squadron, Cadet Randy Vest of the 40th Composite

Squadron, Cadet Crystal Pitts of the 42nd Composite Squadron, and Cadet Derek Connolly of the 120th Composite Squadron each completed one flight lasting from 40-60 minutes.

The flights were courtesy of the Memphis Soaring Society and were arranged with the assistance of Maj. Gary Angelo, of the 113th Composite Squadron. Six additional cadets can expect to receive this rare chance to experience glider flight.



### **Arkansas Wing Forms Partnership with the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium**

(October 12) The Arkansas Wing recently reached an agreement with the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium to partner with them in a variety of aerospace education projects. Capt. Frank Warner, Wing Aerospace Education Officer, led the effort that will open up many exciting opportunities for Wing members.

The ASGC is comprised of several dozen Arkansas universities, agencies, and businesses and was formed to actively promote the involvement of Arkansas in NASA programs while promoting an interest in space in among the state's youth.

One of the projects in which CAP is likely to be involved is the launching of high altitude balloons containing scientific research instruments that can travel up to 90,000' in altitude. Besides participating in the launch, CAP will be tasked with retrieving the balloons, which will be fitted with a practice emergency beacon. At that point, a unique aerospace education opportunity will transform into an emergency services training exercise as locating the balloon will be no different than trying to find ELTs or EPIRBs.

The ASGC also funds space research projects at colleges around the state and cadets will probably have the opportunity to take field trips to those research sites. Also under consideration is participation in a rocketry program using models capable of flight up to a mile in altitude.

Discussions between the Wing and the ASGC about the implementation of these projects are ongoing and more information will be released as available.

### **Jonesboro Cadet Earns Mitchell**

(October 27) As the order "Ah -ten-chun!" was given, those in the room stood upright as the cadet Color Guard made up of cadets from the 120th Composite Squadron marched into the room and brought the US flag to the front. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Edward Tanner, commander of the Westside AFJROTC program, and an Air Force Academy graduate, came forward. After a few introductory remarks about the importance of leadership and core values within the Air Force, Col. Tanner presented Cadet 2nd/Lt. Graham Austin Bozarth with the Mitchell award.

The Mitchell award marks a milestone in a cadet's progress in Civil Air Patrol. It is the transition from the NCO ranks to officership within the cadet corps. Capt. Frank Warner, Director of Aerospace Education for the Arkansas Wing then presented a short program discussing the value and opportunities for Aerospace Education for cadets and teachers involved with CAP. The group learned of an example of those opportunities when C/2Lt. Davis L. Spurlock and C/2Lt. Graham A. Bozarth was asked to stand and describe their experiences in attending the National Flight Academy. The academy is open to cadets in CAP and allows for "hands on" flight training leading to obtaining a pilot license.



Following the ceremony, refreshments were served and those in attendance had a chance to offer congratulations to cadet 2Lt. Bozarth.

### **It's a Bird it's a Plane**

**By**

#### **Cadet 2nd Lt. Randy Vest**

(November 1) No, but it's a little of both, Today members of three Arkansas Wing squadrons went to Camp Robinson for orientation rides in the Arkansas National Guard's UH-60's (Blackhawk's). Cadets and senior members from the 40th, 67th, and 102nd Composite Squadrons participated in the event. During the flights, which lasted from 45 minutes to an hour, members observed basic helicopter flights techniques such as low-level maneuvers and hovering, and afterwards visited the workshops where they learned more about the workings of helicopter engines.



## 99th Presents Awards

By

**Lt. Col. Larry Webster**

(December 21st) The 99th Composite Squadron held its' annual end of year banquet to celebrate 67 years of the Civil Air Patrol and to recognize the outstanding cadets in the unit for the fourth quarter of 2008 and for the year. Parents and members attended this banquet to close out the year for the squadron.

For the fourth quarter of 2008 C/TSgt Ashley Foster was awarded the "Best" Aerospace Test Score and C/A1C Matt Brooks received the award for the "Best" Leadership Test Score. These are based on an average of testing for the quarter. In addition three cadets were awarded the 100% Club Member certificates for attending all meetings and wearing of proper uniform. Each quarter a cadet is selected as the Cadet of the Quarter based on attendance, testing, activity attendance and other factors and C/SMS Desiree Feltmeyer was selected as the Cadet of the Fourth Quarter 2008.

The yearly awards include the "Best" Aerospace Test Score which was awarded to C/A1C Matt Brooks and the "Best" Leadership Test Score went to C/SMSgt Desiree Feltmeyer. Desiree was also promoted to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and was appointed as the Cadet Commander for the 99th Composite Squadron. She is also the unit Cadet Advisory Council representative and has been awarded the Commander's Commendation Award for outstanding duty performance and the Red Service Ribbon for 2 years of continuous membership in Civil Air Patrol.

## *MISSIONS*

### **Arkansas Wing Responds to Tornado Outbreak**

(February 9) Members of the Arkansas Wing actively assisted in the response to the devastating tornados that struck northern Arkansas on the evening of February 6th by performing 18 air sorties on behalf of state and federal agencies.

The 107th Composite Squadron was activated Thursday and performed 4 flights in IZARD County. The crew, consisting of Maj. Bruce Bailey and 2nd Lt. Byron McDaniel, took photographs of storm damage in Guion, Melbourne, and Zion and later

took IZARD County Judge Rayburn Finley and IZARD County Emergency Management Director Dennis Williams, on flights over the affected areas to give them a first-hand view of the situation.



An aircrew from the 115th Composite Squadron, which was in the area on another mission Thursday, took photos of Gassville, three-quarters of which had been destroyed by the storm.

On Thursday, the 1st Air Force tasked the Arkansas Wing with performing damage assessment flights over 60 targets across the state any observed damage. In response to this request aircrews from Rogers, Mountain Home, Monticello, Little Rock, and Russellville launched on Friday and Saturday and photographed damage at numerous sites including Atkins and Cleveland as well as Little Rock Air Force Base.



While this disaster relief mission was ongoing, on Friday the 67th Composite Squadron was activated to find and silence a non-distress ELT in Warren.

On Saturday, Lt. Col. Terry Thompson, of the 40th Composite Squadron, flew two National Weather Service scientists over the track of the major tornado which stretched 123 miles from Yell to Sharp county, the longest tornado track in Arkansas since 1950.



The Wing itself was also hit due to the storm on the 6th; the small pavilion in the parking lot at Wing headquarters was blown down and severely damaged, requiring extensive repair. The shelter was built in 1995 as an Army Community of Excellence project by the former tenants of the building, the 176th Public Affairs Detachment, 106th Army Band, and 204th Dental Detachment of the Arkansas National Guard.

### **107th Searches for Missing Boater**

(April 2) An aircraft from the 107th Composite Squadron joined in the search Wednesday afternoon on the Black River for an 18-year old man who went missing after the boat in which he and another were traveling capsized on Tuesday.

Maj. Bruce Bailey, Lt. Col. Gary Smith, and Maj. Pete Orlebeke flew over the muddy brown waters four to six miles south of the Pochontas airport for 2.6 hours but saw nothing other than debris.

## Arkansas Wing Responds to Tornado and Floods

(April 5) This morning Arkansas Wing members from across the state gathered in Little Rock to conduct a large-scale exercise when they were tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center with a mission in response the tornados that ripped through central Arkansas on Thursday evening.



The storm caused extensive damage at the North Little Rock airport and resulted in the activation of the emergency beacons on many of the planes based at the field. While many of these had been shut off by one of the airport businesses, several were still transmitting signals that were picked up by satellites being monitored by the Air Force.



The Wing dispatched a ground team made up of members from units in Little Rock, Russellville, and Texarkana to the airport where they found 3 active emergency beacons amongst the wrecked planes and deactivated them. A fourth beacon was determined to be in a plane that had been crushed by its hanger and which was not reachable.



Also, this afternoon the Wing took Mr. John Moren, of Governor Beebe's staff, on a flight to survey damage to levees and other infrastructure affected by the floods in eastern Arkansas and as well as the destruction caused to the Hurricane Lake mobile home park in Saline County by one of Thursday's tornados.

## ELT in West Memphis

(June 14) This morning Maj. Tom Rea activated the 120th Composite Squadron to respond to an ELT activation in West Memphis. The ELT was located and disarmed at 0730 with the assistance of an aircrew from the 120th consisting of Captains John Brandon and David Wilkins, and Capt. Frank Warner, of Wing staff. The 99th Composite Squadron was out of town on a field trip.

## 115th Looks for Missing Boat

(June 20) This evening the Arkansas Wing received a request to assist in the search for a boat containing a church group that was missing on the Arkansas River. An aircrew from the 115th Composite Squadron including Lt. Col. Tom Eastman, Capt. John McDaniels, and 1st Lt. Sharon Gempler took off from Rogers at 7:26 and flew over the river from Lee Creek to Dam #13 and were returning in the opposite direction when they were informed that the vessel had been found near the Oklahoma line.

## Blackhawks Assist Person in Distress

(June 30) That hot summer last day of June resulted in an opportunity for Chaplain (Major) Peter and 1st Lt. Sharon Connolly to live up to the Civil Air Patrol motto *Semper Vigilans*.

They were on their way to the squadron in Jonesboro when they noticed a man that appeared to be overheated walking across an overpass. They quickly turned around and pulled their vehicle up in front of him. Lt. Connolly went back to check on him and he told her that life wasn't worth living and that he was going to commit suicide. She spoke with him for several minutes and then let Chaplain Connolly know what was happening who then went to continue support for the individual while Lt. Connolly called authorities.

As Chaplain Connolly came around his vehicle, he saw that the man's leg was on the railing and he quickly started speaking with them until the police arrived whereupon he was placed in protective custody by Officer J. McGee.

## Target: Pond Scum

(July 10) As part of their efforts to improve Lake Conway, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has been working to eradicate various noxious weeds such as alligator grass, from this large state-owned lake northwest of Little Rock. In support of these efforts, the Arkansas Wing took over 100 aerial photographs of vegetative cover on the lake. Maj. Joel Buckner piloted the flight while 1st Lt. Ron Wingfield took photographs of sites as directed by AGFC Lake Manager, Matt Horton.



## Arkansas Wing Prepared For Gustav's Aftermath

(September 1) As Hurricane Gustav moves north after making landfall today, Arkansas Wing members in are prepared to respond to requests for assistance. On Friday CAP's National Operations Center issued an alert order for wings in the organization's Southeast and Southwest regions, including Arkansas, to update resource lists, aircraft lists and alert rosters, initiate communications checks and test specialized assets.

After Hurricane Katrina CAP members from Arkansas spent nearly a month conducting aerial reconnaissance and damage photography missions in Louisiana and sent ground teams to assist in relief efforts in Mississippi. Local CAP units have been conducting intensive training for such assignments and in the last two months have performed nearly 80 training flights.

Should a major CAP response be needed to Gustav, it is possible that CAP's Southwest Region Crisis and Command Control Center, which is housed at CAP headquarters in Little Rock, may be activated to assist in coordinating movement of CAP aircrews and ground teams from around the country towards the disaster zone.

### They're Not Always Airplanes...

(September 2) For the second time in the last few weeks the Arkansas Wing was activated to locate what turned out to be a signals from EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) which are normally utilized by sea-going boats.

On August 18th, a ground team from the 99th Composite Squadron and an aircrew from the 67th Composite Squadron worked together to locate a signal in eastern Arkansas was alerted to respond to an ELT mission which apparently originated from a barge on the Mississippi River.

Late yesterday evening, Maj. Tom Rea was called by the AFRCC to look for an emergency signal in northwest Arkansas. Lt. Col. Max Gore and Lt. Col. Tom Eastman, of the 115th Composite Squadron, took off from Rogers at about 2AM and very quickly determined that the signal was coming from the vicinity of a marina on Beaver Lake. After returning from Rogers they determined that it would be quicker to deactivate the beacon themselves rather than trying to put together a ground team at 3AM, so after gather

gear they drove to the marina, but had to wait for over an hour for someone to let them inside. They eventually found the source of the signal in a 30' sailboat in the middle of 79 other vessels at the marina and were able to turn off the EPIRB after spending some time inside the boat trying to find it.

While ELT missions are regular occurrences in Arkansas, EPIRB activations are rare since recreational boats are not required to have them on board. CAP members should be aware that the Coast Guard has provided EPIRBs to members of their Auxiliary who use their boats for Coast Guard operations and that they may also be present at Coast Guard facilities.

## Arkansas Wing Members Return from Hurricane Ike Deployment

(September 25) Today two Arkansas Wing aircraft and aircrews returned from a 4-day deployment to Houston, Texas as part of the response to Hurricane Ike.

The mission was quite different from that experienced by Arkansas crews in the past. Rather than taking photos of specific targets, the crew flew straight legs taking photographs every 30 seconds in order to obtain full coverage of all damage in the area. The camera was linked to a handheld GPS unit so that photo coordinates were recorded automatically.



Approximately 12-14 aircrews worked out of the base at the West Houston airport. Arkansas crews slept on cots in an air-conditioned room off of one of the hangars. Breakfast consisted of doughnuts and coffee; lunch was sandwiches and fruit, and crews drove into town to eat at a restaurant for dinner.

Capt. John McDaniel, from the 115th Composite Squadron, and 1st Lt. Walter Glosenger and 2nd Lt. Kim Reitz from the 83rd Composite Squadron were in a C-182 from Fort Smith and Captains Andy Berkemeyer and Ronnie Sexton, of the 102nd Composite Squadron, were in the C-182 from Russellville.



This was the first CAP mission for Capt. McDaniel and Lt. Glosenger and both commented on the professionalism demonstrated by everyone that took part.

# ***COMMUNITY SERVICE & RELATIONS***

## **CAP Chaplain Conducts Service at Military Funeral**

(February 15) Today Chaplain (Capt.) Don Seaman, of the 115th Composite Squadron, conducted the funeral service and internment ceremony in Springdale for U.S. Navy Master Chief (retired) Jerrold Dean Kiser, who passed away on February 10th.

The service for this former SEAL was held with full military honors including an Honor Guard from Little Rock Air Force Base, a rifle squad, a bugler, and a contingent of three Navy sailors to handle the Presentation of the Flag at the conclusion of the service at the National Cemetery in Fayetteville.

A CAP Chaplain was requested by the Air Force to conduct the ceremony in place of a military chaplain as none were available on this day. Many of the active duty services as well as the National Guard and Reserves are suffering a shortage of chaplains and the Civil Air Patrol has increasingly been assisting in filling the gaps when needed.

Chaplain Seaman noted, "The experience is one I will not forget and I believe it opened some doors in my life that will require additional service on my part," and that "It is times like this that I am pleased to be able to say I am a member."

## **Arkansas Wing Participate in EAA's Young Eagle Program**

**By**

**Capt. Betty Evans**

(April 12) Cadet and senior members from five Arkansas Civil Air Patrol squadrons participated in an Experimental Aircraft Association sponsored event today in Pine Bluff that brought more than 100 youth together for a day of flying and learning about aviation.

Shane Free of the Razorback EAA Chapter 1388 invited the CAP to attend to give area students an introduction to Civil Air Patrol's programs and activities. 1st Lt. Lee Nelson helped to coordinate CAP activities with EAA. Twenty-two cadets and 17 senior members attended from Wing headquarters

and the 40th, 42nd, 67th, 99th, and 102nd Composite Squadrons. Ten EAA pilots and two CAP pilots, Lt. Col. Robert Penton and Lt. Col. Horace Furlough, provided flights in their personal aircraft for students attending the event. Also assisting with the event were Lt. Col. Bob Betzold, CAP-USAF liaison; Maj Doug Wood, Wing Administrator; Lt. Col. Chuck Bishop, Communications Officer and Capt. Sharon Parrett, DDR Officer; Capt. Frank Warner, Aerospace Education Officer from Arkansas Wing Headquarters in Little Rock; and Chaplain Ben Findley from Russellville.



Junior and high school aged students from the Pine Bluff area were treated to free EAA sponsored flights in an effort to show the variety of programs offered by EAA that focus on information about making flying safer and more fun. Many of the students were members of school sponsored ROTC programs and indicated interest in futures in aviation related military careers. Most experienced their very first flights, while others were treated to their first general aviation flight in a small airplane.



During rotations of groups of students, CAP officers and cadets ran a series of demonstrations relating to emergency services, honor guard and the Wing's new T-37 cockpit trainer was on hand to give kids the feel of being in a military jet cockpit. CAP cadets served as wing walkers on the flight line and escorted groups to the different displays and demonstrations.



Flights were cancelled for the afternoon due to an increase in wind gusts. EAA member pilots determined that conditions were too dangerous to continue flying. Students that were not able to get their flights in were invited back by the Razorback EAA group to enable them to have their first flights.

## **115th Participates in Fayetteville Memorial Day Events**

**By**

**Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven**

(May 26) Cadet and officer members of the Civil Air Patrol's 115th Composite Squadron based in Rogers took part in two Memorial Day ceremonies in

Fayetteville Monday. The squadron's Southwest Region champion color guard presented the colors at the Fayetteville National Cemetery's annual ceremony before moving to Drake Field for the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad's Troop Train event. Other cadets and officers also attended the ceremonies, including deputy commander for cadets Capt. Dave Myers, who accepted on behalf of the squadron a certificate of appreciation from national cemetery director Tommy G. Monk and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The color guard made its first presentation along with an Army National Guard honor guard and firing team just minutes after a steady rain ceased and gave way to sunshine for the balance of the ceremony. Mr. Monk led the attendees in a moment of remembrance for the late Bucky Crouch, who had been the master of ceremonies for the past twenty-five events, before Brig. Gen. H.D. McCarty, USAFR (ret.), took the podium to deliver the keynote address. General McCarty encouraged those present to develop more than emotional gratitude for the service of America's veterans and to identify fully with the cause for which they have fought. "We're here to find the truth about our country," McCarty said.

At Drake Field, the 115th's color guard presented for the Troop Train, which transported active and retired military personnel on an excursion from Springdale to Chester and back. The riders decorated a military gravesite in Chester and stopped at Drake Field for lunch on the return trip. Other 115th cadets assisted in serving the meal and cleaning up afterward.

## **95th Active in Community Services**

**By**

**1st Lt. Lisa Worthington**

(June 2) In recent weeks, the 95th Composite Squadron has been tasked with several activities supporting local community events and organizations. Additionally, two cadet officers received promotions, C/Maj. Davyd Fitzhugh and C/1st Lt. Kendall Worthington.

On May 25th, a joint color guard consisting of members of the 95th and a local JROTC detachment posted the colors at the beginning of a game played by the local professional baseball team, the Texarkana Gunslingers of the Continental Baseball League.

On Memorial Day the squadron raised and half-masted the flag to begin the American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony at the Miller County Court House. After the ceremony, the 6 color guard led a parade to the Korean/Vietnam Memorial.

On the 30th, C/Maj. Davyd Fitzhugh, C/1st Lt. Kendall Worthington, and C/CMSgt Wesley Woods helped create a navigation course at Shepherd's Pasture, a non-profit facility used by veterans and their families. The cadets put up waypoints around the property and recorded their locations using a handheld GPS system. The course will first be used as part of a GPS Scavenger Hunt at an upcoming camp to be held for children of Air Force Reservists. Mr. Romey Kilgore, director of Shepherd's Pasture said, "You guys are my heroes for doing this. I don't know what I would have done without you."

## **115th Color Guard Presents at Naturals-Travelers Game**

**By**

**Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven**

(June 6) The 115th Composite Squadron's Southwest Region Color Guard presented the U.S. and Arkansas flags during the singing of the National Anthem prior to tonight's contest between the Northwest Arkansas Naturals and the Arkansas Travelers at Arvest Ballpark in Springdale.

The color guard's participation was part of the Naturals' "Salute to First Responders," which recognized the Civil Air Patrol along with fire, police, and emergency medical personnel. The game was the color guard's first professional sporting event and last public appearance prior the National Color Guard Competition later this month at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The 5,578 fans in attendance Friday comprised the largest audience the color guard has ever faced.



After the stress of the presentation passed the color guard and other CAP members present relaxed and enjoyed the game between the in-state rivals. Three home runs propelled North Little Rock's Travelers to a 4-2 win over the Naturals, the Double-A affiliate of the Kansas City Royals. The Travelers are affiliated with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Both teams play in the North Division of the Texas League

and are locked in a three-way battle for first place with the Springfield Cardinals.

## **95th Participates in Flying Club Open House**

**By**

**1st Lt. Lisa Worthington**

(August 9) The 95th Composite Squadron volunteered to help the Flying Club at the Texarkana Airport in manning an open house today from 9:00-2:00. The event gave the general public a chance to look at many different planes from around the area including a Blackhawk helicopter from Camp Robinson, retired Army planes used by CAP, the CAP aircraft, a personal helicopter and two bi-planes. Cadets from the 95th helped monitor the area and answered questions at the front gate.

## **40th Participates in Recovery Walk Event**

(September 20) The 40th Composite Squadron participated in the second annual Recovery Walk in Garland County. The Walk and associated events are focused on removing the stigma of recovering from addiction. Lt. Col. Chuck Bishop, Capt. Bob Byrne, and Cadets Broderick and Vest participated.

## **67th Wins Award for Parade Float**

**By**

**Capt. Betty Evans**

(September 23) The 67th Composite Squadron participated in the Drew County Parade in Monticello today and won the 1st place award for their CAP float in the community organization category, earning them a \$50 check. Participants included Cadets Michael Knight, Timothy Hannah, Kolby Deaton, and Kris Hudson.



## **95th Holds Open House**

**By**

**1st Lt. Lisa Worthington**

(September 29) Tonight the 95th Composite Squadron held its second annual open house with a standing-room only crowd. The event was the culmination of a recruiting drive based on participation in the Four-States Fair. There were short movie clips highlighting CAP's three primary missions followed by short presentations by officers

and cadets about specific opportunities available to CAP members, followed by refreshments and socializing.

## **115<sup>th</sup> Assists in VFW Flag Retirement Ceremony**

**By**

**Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven**

(September 30) Four cadets and two officers of the 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron recently participated in a flag retirement ceremony at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3031 in Rogers. Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Emily Loewer, Cadet Staff Sgt. Joseph Allen, Cadet Staff Sgt. Malachi Eliassen, and Cadet Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Paden Adams helped incinerate several hundred worn, soiled, torn, or faded U.S. flags. Lt. Col. Max Gore and Capt. Evelyn Allen also participated in the three-hour ceremony along with several non-CAP family members of the cadets.



The flags had been collected at the VFW post in the preceding weeks, and post commander Gary Wellesley had requested the 115<sup>th</sup>'s assistance in the ceremony in late August. The 115<sup>th</sup> has supported numerous past events at Post 3031, including the 2006 visit of The Moving Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica.

## **Arkansas Wing at the Airshow**

(October 18) Over 70 members of the Arkansas Wing spent this weekend at the biennial Little Rock Air Force Base airshow in central Arkansas. Representatives of almost every unit in the state helped staff the Wing's static display of a C-182 and C-172 aircraft and assisted in tasks requested by the Air Force including conducting Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Walks in the morning and afternoons, handing out airshow flyers, and helping at the display of Warbirds. Many members spent Saturday night at the Camp Warlord facility on the base.

## **CAP Member Speaks to Teachers**

(October 18) Today Captain Dennis Kern, 95th Composite Squadron, was an invited speaker at the Fall Meeting of the Red River Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Capt. Kern spoke about the use of a free software package called Geogebra to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics. As one of the examples of using the software, he presented a website which contains an interactive flight computer

designed to aid in the study of the effects of wind on flight. His presentation also included a section showcasing the benefits of Aerospace Education membership in CAP for the mathematics teachers.



The 95th Composite Squadron Color Guard participated in the Texarkana Veteran's Day Parade on November 11th. Members included Cadets Youngblood, Policky, Paap, and Woods with Capt. John Gender, Deputy Commander for Cadets.

## Arkansas Wing Honors Veterans with Wreaths Ceremony

By  
**Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven and  
 Maj. Blake Sasse**

(December 13) The 3rd Annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at Fayetteville National Cemetery on Saturday was one the largest in the nation. More than 200 people attended the 11:00 a.m. event, which was organized by the 115th Composite Squadron and occurred simultaneously with 350 other events nationwide, including a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Walmart purchased and delivered more than 6,300 wreaths for the Fayetteville cemetery making it the only one in the

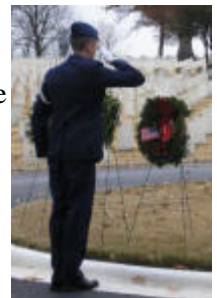


nation, including Arlington, to have enough wreaths for each grave. Attendance rivaled this year's Memorial Day ceremony, and local Wreaths Across America organizers hope the December event will gain recognition comparable to Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Capt. David Myers of the Civil Air Patrol acted as the master of ceremonies for the 20-minute program, which featured the cadet honor guard of the 115th Composite Squadron and the Arkansas National Guard's 142nd Fires Brigade Honor Guard along with active-duty representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Each active-duty member teamed with a Civil Air Patrol cadet to lay a single wreath representing that serviceman's branch. Additional wreaths were laid recognizing the Merchant Marine as well as prisoners of war and missing servicemen. The Honorable George Westmoreland, Aide to the Secretary of the Army for the State of Arkansas, offered remarks before the 142nd's honor guard closed the ceremony with a rifle salute and the playing of "Taps." Attendees, including members of local veterans groups, then fanned out across the cemetery to lay the remaining wreaths.



In central Arkansas, the 42nd and 40th Composite Squadrons and over 40 others gathered at the Little Rock National Cemetery for the placement of seven wreaths representing the Armed Forces, the Merchant Marine, and POW/MIAs. Capt. Ron Wingfield, commander of the 42nd spoke at the ceremony while cadets from the 40th and 42nd placed the wreaths with the assistance of U.S. Coast Guard Captain Chuck Polk. Mr. Robert Augustyn, of the Buglers Across America organization, played taps.



Wreaths Across America began in 2006 as an expansion of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine, started that annual tradition in 1992 with donations of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery every Christmas season. Wreaths Across America uses private and corporate donations to purchase wreaths from Worcester Wreath. Its mission is to "Remember; Honor; and Teach." Civil Air Patrol has partnered with Wreaths Across America to organize approximately half of each year's events.

## ***OUR PEOPLE***

### **102nd Holds Awards Banquet**

By

**1st Lt. Jennifer Richardson**

(January 8) The 102nd Composite Squadron recently held their annual banquet and awards ceremony in Russellville. Cadet T/Sgt Justin Moore earned the Cadet of the Year Award. Cadet Sr/Amn Rebekah Powell was named the Cadet Airman of the Year and Cadet S/Sgt Eric Whitbey received the Cadet Ground Team Member of the Year Award. Cadet Seth Masters received the Mitchell Award and was promoted to the rank of Cadet 2nd Lt.



Five officers were presented with Commanders Commendations: Maj. Steve Green, Maj. Earnest Standridge, Capt. Marchelle Jones, Capt. Tommy Littleton, and 1st Lt. Lee Nelson.

### **New CAP Services Coordinator Hired**

(January 19) The Arkansas Wing is happy to announce that the state military department's CAP Services Coordinator position has been filled by Mr. Robert Loeber and that he started this past week. Mr. Loeber is a 26 year veteran of the Air Force who retired in 2004 at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base. He spent most of his career working with C-130s and was intimately involved with the transition to the C-130J aircraft.



### **Squadron Leadership School Completed**

(March 30) This weekend twenty-one senior members from 9 squadrons and Wing staff completed the 1.5 day Squadron held at Wing Headquarters in Little Rock.

This course, held under the direction of Capt. Frank Warner, provides CAP's adult members with a basic understanding of operations at the squadron level and how they affect CAP's national missions. Additionally, members learn more about CAP customs, core values, and communications.



### **107th Members Attend SLS**

By

**Maj. Pete Orlebeke**

(April 10) 1st Lt. Richard Hatten and 2nd Lt. David Freeland of the 107th Composite Squadron recently completed a Squadron Leadership School held at St. George, MO. and were awarded their completion certificates at the end of the two day course.



The 107th also welcomes new members Keith Collard, Byron Mckinley, Sharon Hatten and David Freeland.

### **107th Couple Retire After 40 Years of CAP Service**

By

**Maj. Pete Orlebeke**

(May 1) After forty years of service in the Civil Air Patrol Major Beverly Christ and Captain Richard Christ of the 107th Composite Squadron have retired and received Certificates of Appreciation from CAP national headquarters.

Both began their CAP careers in Saint Cloud, MN, and after moving to the Twin Cities Area, and finding no CAP squadrons, organized one that grew to 80 members. and for some time Dick served as squadron commander. Recently Beverly has served as squadron secretary and Dick as supply officer in the 107th.



At a recent dinner held in their honor Dick recalled some of the early days when the CAP was flying fabric covered planes and some of the many search and rescue missions they participated in, and the kidding he takes about Beverly out-ranking him. Beverly and Dick live at the Valley Airport in Cotter where they keep their modified Cessna 150.

## **115th Member Named Regional Soldier of the Year**

By

### **Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven**

(May 6) The U.S. Army National Guard Bureau announced Sunday that Spc. Sean Walters of Bentonville won the 2008 Region 5 Soldier of the Year competition in Camp Swift, Texas. Walters, who was named Arkansas Soldier of the Year on April 6, competed against three other National Guardsmen from Texas, Louisiana, and Missouri in a physical fitness test, six-mile road march, day-and-night land navigation exercise, weapons qualification, "common task testing," writing assignment, obstacle course, and board appearance during the three-day competition that began last Thursday. Walters now advances to the National Guard Bureau's national competition to be held at Fort Benning, Ga., in late August. A win there will allow him to compete against active-duty and reserve soldiers in the Department of the Army Soldier of the Year competition in the fall.

Walters, also a staff sergeant in the 115th Composite Squadron, is a Bentonville native and a 2004 graduate of Bentonville High School. He has been the manager of Summit Aviation at Bentonville's Louise Thaden Field since January of this year. He joined Battery A, 1st Battalion, 142d Field Artillery of the National Guard in 2004 and served in the unit's deployment to Kosovo in 2005 and 2006.

He has been a member of the 115th Composite Squadron based since 1998. Sean spent seven years in the CAP cadet program during which time he earned the Eaker Award, spent time in Turkey with the IACE (International Air Cadet Exchange Program), was awarded an Order of Dadaelian scholarship for pilot training, obtained his private pilot's license, earned his First Responder, EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and Ground Team certifications, and participated in numerous Search and Rescue operations. Sean now has his instrument rating and is currently working on his commercial pilot's license. Walters is the son of Laura Perkins and the late Monroe Walters of Bentonville.

### **Change of Command in Monticello**

(July 7) Maj. Craig Kaminicki relinquished command of the 67th Composite Squadron, a position he held since founding the squadron in 2006. Arkansas Wing Commander Col. Bucky

Britton has asked Maj. Kaminicki to serve as a special advisor on financial issues as a member of Wing staff.

Capt. Lee Nelson has been named to replace Maj. Kaminicki. Capt. Nelson joined CAP in 2005 as a member of the 102nd Composite Squadron and has also been serving as Wing Deputy Director of Personnel.

### **Maj. Bud Welch Says Goodbye to CAP**

(July 18) Due to a variety of personal reasons, Maj. Charles B. Welch, of Wing Headquarters, has decided to leave the Civil Air Patrol. Maj. Welch wrote to Col. Britton, "I did not, however, want to just disappear from the scene without expressing my gratitude for the seven year relationship I had with you and the members of the Arkansas Wing. I have never in my aviation career been associated with a finer group of men and women." Col. Britton expressed his appreciation for all his efforts in service to the Civil Air Patrol.

Maj. Welch, a resident of Arkadelphia, served in the Air Force and the Arkansas Air National Guard. His civilian career was as a commercial airline pilot with Braniff and U.S. Airways from which he retired in 2000. He joined the Civil Air Patrol in 2001 and served as commander of the Hot Springs squadron and in 2003 became the Arkansas Wing Standards and Evaluation Officer in which position he served until early 2007.

### **Chitwood Elected National Vice Commander**

(August 7) Today Brig. Gen.-elect Reggie Chitwood of Van Buren, Ark., was elected national vice commander by vote of the National Board, CAP's governing body.

The election took place during the 2008 Civil Air Patrol National Board and Annual Conference being held in Kissimmee, Fla. The vice commander-elect will be promoted Aug. 9.



Chitwood is CAP's sitting national chief of staff, responsible for directing and overseeing the organization's national staff and advisers. He previously served as commander of CAP's Southwest Region and Arkansas Wing.

As wing commander, he was instrumental in getting state legislation passed to allow CAP members up to 15 days off from their employment to assist in training or actual missions. In addition, he has served as a mission pilot, mission observer, incident commander and Federal Aviation Administration aviation safety counselor.

A member since 1991, Chitwood's background also includes service on the CAP National Finance, Constitution and By-Laws and Posse Comitatus committees.

An Arkansas native, Chitwood graduated from Westark Community College — now the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith — with an associate degree in criminal justice. He has completed U.S. Air Force Squadron Officer's School, CAP's Region Staff and National Staff colleges and all levels of the CAP Professional Development Program.

His honors and achievements include the Gill Robb Wilson Award; Distinguished Service Award, both as wing and region commander; Grover Loening Award; Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award; and several Meritorious Service awards and Commander's commendations

Chitwood retired after 28 years as a sergeant with the Arkansas Highway Police, where he was responsible for supervising officers patrolling six counties on the Arkansas-Oklahoma border.

His civic and community service includes positions as director on the Fort Smith River Festival Board and the Fort Smith Trolley Museum Board and working as a project officer for Special Olympics of Arkansas.

## **Smith Earns Meritorious Service Award**

**By**

**Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven**

(September 13) Major Jeff Smith of the Civil Air Patrol's 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron in Rogers received a Meritorious Service Award at the Southwest Region Conference recently in Midwest City, Okla. National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy Courter, National Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Reggie Chitwood of Van Buren, and Southwest Region Commander Col. Joseph Jensen of



Little Rock presented Major Smith with the award for his service as leader of the 2008 Southwest Region Color Guard.

The color guard, formed with cadets of the 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron under Major Smith's leadership, won the Arkansas Wing Color Guard Competition in February before securing the Southwest Region title the following month. The color guard then traveled to Dayton, Ohio, in June for the National Color Guard Competition and placed first in the in-rank inspection event and second in the indoor standard drill event. One team member also won the female Fleet Foot Award for turning in the fastest time in the mile run.

The team trained in drill and flag presentations, inspections, written testing, verbal quizzing, and mile runs two to three times per week for nine months. The 115<sup>th</sup>'s commanding officer, Lt. Col. Max Gore, says of Major Smith, "He took four young cadets and molded them into an awesome and precise color guard team, worthy at any level of competition. His efforts exemplify the highest tradition of teamwork."

## **Awards Announced at the 2008 Wing Conference**

**Squadron of the Year** -- 115th Composite Squadron  
**Squadron Commander of the Year** - 1st Lt. Ron Wingfield

**Ground Team Member of the Year** - Capt. Evelyn Allen

**Commander's Award for Excellence in Flight Training** -- Major Steve Green

**Robert L. Penton Aircrew Excellence Award** -- Lt. Col. Max Gore

**James C. Stevens Support Award** - CMSgt Robert Loeber

**Arkansas Wing Outstanding Family of the Year** -- Peter and Sharon Connolly

**Communicator of the Year** -- Major Charles Russell

**Senior Member of the Year** - Capt. Lee Nelson

**Cadet of the Year** - C/Col Ross Macheak

**Cadet NCO of the Year** - C/CMSgt. Emily Loewer

**Cadet Junior Officer of the Year** - C/2Lt. Carolyn Batie

**Cadet Senior Officer of the Year** - C/Maj. Davyd Fitzhugh

**Aircrew of the Year** - Lt. Col. Loren Ainsworth & Major Leonard Russell

**Lifesaving Award:** Major and Lt Connolly

**Paul E. Garber Award:** Capt Larry Killian  
**Grover Loening Award:** Capt. Geneva Jones, Capt. Frank Warner, Capt. David Wilkins, Maj. Chuck Henninger, Maj. Craig Young

**Commanders Commendations:**

Wing Staff: Lt. Col. Jim Gilbert Capt Frank Warner  
Majors Joel Buckner Major Reba Wingfield

115th Composite Squadron: Major Jeffery Smith, Major Donna Baker, Major Craig Young, Capt. Michael Hassett, Capt. Donald Seaman, C/Capt. Anthony White, C/CMSgt Emily Loewer, C/CMSgt. Juliann Lestina, C/CMSgt. Nathan Hassett, C/CMSgt. William Smith, and C/A1C Austin Lowery.

102nd Composite Squadron: Maj. Mark Evans, Maj. Vernon Harden, Capt. Ronnie Sexton, Capt. Carl Sigler and 1Lt. Jennifer Richardson.

99th Composite Squadron: C/TSgt. Desiree Feltmeyer

42nd Composite Squadron: Major Chuck Henninger, Capt Terry Bradshaw, Capt Aaron Boyd, and Capt Morris Middleton.

67th Composite Squadron: Major Alan Wilson, Captain Betty Evans, C/CMSgt. Terry Montgomery and C/CMSgt Kolby Deaton.

**Find Award:** C/Maj. Davyd Fitzhugh, c/A1C Vincent Policky, and C/2Lt Kendall Worthington

## 107th Pilot Earns Commercial Rating By

### Maj. Pete Orlebeke

(October 17) 1st Lt. Justin Matthews of the 107th Composite Squadron recently passed his commercial pilot test, and is a first for Arkansas as most of Justin's training was done in the CAP aircraft with Maj Bruce Bailey as his instructor. As a cadet Lt. Matthews soloed in June of 2006 and obtained his private pilot's license the following August. He continued his training with Maj. Bailey and in July of this year earned his instrument rating,.

To obtain a commercial rating it is required to have experience in a complex aircraft, one with an adjustable pitch propeller and with retractable landing gear and be able to do maneuvers not required for private pilots.

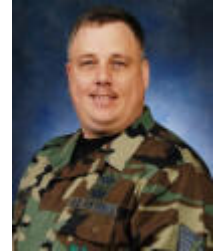


Lt. Matthews spent a week in Fayetteville training in a complex aircraft, and on September 26th passed his commercial flight test. Having a commercial rating means the pilot has an advanced knowledge of

aircraft not required for private pilots, and can charge a fee for air travel. Lt. Matthews is now a senior member and is looking forward to more opportunities in his flying career, including becoming a mission pilot in the CAP

## Macheak Named the 189th Airlift Wing's NCO of the Year

(November 30) Tech. Sgt. Samuel Macheak, of the Arkansas Air National Guard's 154th Training Squadron, and a member of the Arkansas Wing's CAP-USAF detachment, was recently named as the NCO of the Year for the 189th Airlift Wing.



Macheak, who is also a CAP Patron Member, is his section's information technology expert, and helped resolve network connectivity issues with the Aricrew Life Support Management System database, which increased data entry and retrieval capabilities.

During exercises and real-world emergencies, he's a member of the unit control center, ensuring compliance with exercise directives and force protection condition changes.

Sergeant Macheak serves as the unit's Self Aid and Buddy Care instructor, ensuring members are trained as needed to meet mission requirements and is also a certified first responder.

## 107th Holds Banquet By

### Maj. Pete Orlebeke

(December 15th) Recently the 107th Composite Squadron held it's annual awards dinner and at the same time celebrated the 67th birthday of the CAP. Squadron Commander Major Bruce Bailey awarded Certificates of Appreciation to senior members holding staff positions in 2008. Cadets receiving awards were Robert Lowrey for best uniform, Luke Smith for best test performance, Robert Armstrong for leadership, Brandon Sirois for best attendance, and Justin Matthews, cadet of the year. Special certificates were given by the squadron to Maj. Bruce Bailey for his dedication to teaching cadets to fly and solo, and in some cases to obtain their pilot licenses, in the



squadron's aircraft, and to Maj. E. R. Johnson for the many years he has served as Deputy Commander for Cadets.

## **TRAINING**

### **Southwest Region G-1000 Training**

(January 20) Over 60 Civil Air Patrol pilots from 6 southwestern states converged on Little Rock, Arkansas this weekend, to learn about the new Cessna 182s with Garmin G-1000 "glass cockpit" instrument panels that are gradually becoming the standard aircraft in CAP's fleet. While CAP has primarily flown a mixture of C-172 and C-182 aircraft a decision was made several years ago to transition to the new C-182s in order to take advantage of the most advanced general aviation instrument panel available. As CAP operates the largest fleet of single-engine aircraft in the world, the transition to the new aircraft will be slow; 30 new aircraft were added in 2007.



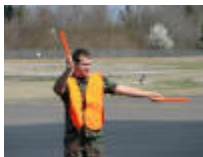
Due to the complex nature of the equipment, CAP pilots have to undergo additional training and supervised flight time prior to being certified in the aircraft. The session in Little Rock, conducted at Arkansas Wing Headquarters, provided a ground school to pilots new to this version of the airplane as well as a ground school and airborne training for the CAP flight instructors who will be charged with ensuring that other CAP pilots are proficient in this model.

### **95th Conducts Flightline Training**

**By**

**1st Lt. Lisa Worthington**

(March 15) Today the 95th Composite Squadron held a flightline training class that was attended by 8 cadets and 4 officers. After completing classroom work the group moved on to "marshalling" two cars in the parking lot which was then followed by doing the real thing with a CAP plane that was taking cadets on orientation rides that afternoon. The long day was concluded with a bar-b-que.



### **Arkansas Wing Completes Air Force Mission Evaluation**

(May 3) The Arkansas Wing completed a two-day mission evaluation conducted by the CAP-USAF Southwest Region Liaison Region today. Conducted every two years, these evaluations are meant to test the Wing's ability to respond to search and rescue, disaster relief, and homeland security missions.

The complex exercise scenario began Friday with aircrews photographing locks and dams along Arkansas waterways in response to a simulated potential terrorist threat that came to pass Saturday morning with explosions at two locks on the Arkansas River. The Wing was tasked to photograph the locks for damage assessment purposes. The Wing was then asked to provide a fly the Governor over these sites and then had to implement emergency procedures when the flight did not return on time.

Meanwhile back at Wing Headquarters there was a simulated bomb threat that caused the building to be evacuated and a "kidnapping" of a cadet.

A missing airplane search was begun in the morning for a plane that supposedly disappeared while on a flight from Texarkana to West Memphis, which was eventually located in Lonoke county by a ground team comprised of members from several squadrons and Wing headquarters. A second airplane search was begun later in the day for a plane that was lost after taking off from Gurdon.

High winds kept aircrews from launching early from Fort Smith and Rogers, but they died down enough so that they could join in later. An aircrew and two ground teams from the 115th located practice beacons near Gravette and an aircrew from the 83rd participated in the main mission based in Little Rock.

The overall grade for the evaluation was "Successful" with two members of the mission staff, Capt. Reba Wingfield (Liaison Officer) and Maj. Blake Sasse (Information Officer) were recognized as Outstanding Performers and were given CAP-USAF Southwest Liaison Region coins.

## **95th Participates in Falcon Virgo Exercise**

**By**  
**Capt. Arthur E. Woodgate and**  
**Maj. Blake Sasse**

(8 July) During the period 29 June through 6 July, 2008, Lt. Col. Loren Ainsworth and Maj. Leonard Russell, of the 95th Composite Squadron participated in Exercise Falcon Virgo alongside active and reserve/National Guard military, and several federal and DHS agencies.

Designed to test America's ability to operate as part of a larger mission known as Noble Eagle, a variety of situations and surprise activities tested communications, decision-making, target analysis, and targeting capabilities of several agencies at many levels. Smooth operations required interfacing of military and civilian organizations that in a real-world emergency would need to coordinate their efforts. Their capabilities and level of training were put to the test during this round-the-clock exercise.

The aircraft from the 95th entered controlled airspace, presenting elusive targets designed to tax detection capability, prompt and effective communications, accurate command decisions, quick response in appropriate targeting, and successful discrimination between normal air traffic and threat flights.

Although the CAP airplanes are relatively small and slow, and cannot carry a heavy load, similar aircraft - in the wrong hands - could be used to disrupt normal operations in a variety of ways. Identifying which airplanes are to be targeted and which pose no danger, securing authorization to interdict, and targeting the correct aircraft at the right time before they have reached their "target area" were the perplexing task presented to the multi-agency "defenders."

The primary mission of Falcon Virgo at the El Paso location was the training and certification of Army Air Defense missile crews, part of a National Guard contingent that is scheduled to relieve the units that currently provide this coverage in the Washington Capital area.

## **115<sup>th</sup> Ground Team Members Complete CERT Training**

**By**  
**Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven**

(September 10) Seven members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron's ground team added to their credentials this August by completing Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT) training. Capt. John McDaniel, Capt. Jonathan VerHoeven, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stuart Allen, Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffrey VerHoeven,



Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Nathan Hassett, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Emily Loewer, and Cadet Staff Sgt. Joseph Allen completed the course, which included classroom and hands-on studies of disaster medical operations, light search-and-rescue, fire suppression, disaster psychology, and other related topics.

Capt. Evelyn Allen and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jacob Allen conducted the course under the auspices of the Bentonville Fire Department Benton County Department of Emergency Management over two weekends, the second of which ended with a disaster exercise featuring volunteer victims from the 115<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron and the Benton County CERT leadership. The training provides the 115<sup>th</sup> with an additional mission capability in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack in Benton County and Northwest Arkansas.

CERT originated in Los Angeles County, Calif., following the 1994 Northridge earthquake and is intended to aid municipal fire, police, and ambulance services initially overwhelmed by disasters. CERT teams, many of which are neighborhood-based, can perform basic search-and-rescue, medical, and fire suppression tasks that major emergency response agencies would be too busy to handle.

## **120th Participates in Missouri SAREX**

**By**  
**2nd Lt. Gerald Lange, Jr. (Missouri Wing)**  
(November 1) Training to meet the mission is what Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is all about and training for ground teams and aircrews was the order of the day for adult and cadet members from a two-state area who gathered at the former Malden Air Base for the second weekend in a row.

Pilots, scanners, and observers along with CAP C-172 and C-182 aircraft from as far away as St. Louis

and Kansas City, Missouri and Jonesboro, Arkansas came together to train with teams on foot in various search and rescue scenarios throughout the day.

Capt. Tommy Shepard, Commander of the Bootheel Composite Squadron who hosted the training stated, "Camaraderie between multiple regions and wings of our organization is paramount. Working together is simply great!"

Specifically, multi-wing personnel were involved in training which covered pilot check-rides, along with ground team and incident command training. The CAP cadets received instruction in aircraft flightline marshalling. Lt. Col. Randy Fuller, exercise incident commander said the purpose of the training was "to practice for when the actual event occurs." A very fitting task for an organization whose motto is "Semper Vigilans" (Always Vigilant).



Mission staff from Missouri Wing ran scenarios for Arkansas Wing pilots including controlling scenario tasking, jointly assigning various training sorties, and working with other state, local, and federal agencies. The fully operational Incident Command Post (operating under ICS protocol) also demonstrated the abilities of the organizations large radio communications network which was often manned by Civil Air Patrol cadets.

Sorties flown in the scenarios included an overdue aircraft, a school bus reported off the road, and damage assessment for downed power lines due to an ice storm. There was also a scenario to locate an access route to a local hospital due to a simulated bridge outage from flooding and earthquakes, a very possible reality for this portion of the country.



Jim Kaltenbrenner, Emergency Management Director for the City of Malden, was in attendance at the training today and expressed appreciation for CAP and its missions.

Cadets had their hand in the training too, learning flight line marshalling skills. Directing aircraft on the ground is an important task at uncontrolled fields where large numbers of aircraft may congregate at large mission bases.

Capt. David Wilkins, commander of the 120th Composite Squadron in the Arkansas Wing, was a mission pilot in the training and said "This has been a good experience for us. Working with dedicated people in Missouri has led to us gaining some exponential knowledge."

"It's inevitable that if we have a large scale disaster, our wings will have to work together and the more we train together the easier it will be to work during missions. Everything is going smoothly, and I'm very impressed," Lt. Col. Robert W. Betzold, USAF (Ret.) the State Director of the Arkansas Wing.

Maj. Carl Cope, Group IV Commander concurred by noting "We're looking forward to getting other wings involved in future trainings this summer."

Overall, 25 adult members and three cadets from the Missouri Wing, along with seven members from the Arkansas Wing, and two visitors attended the training event. A total of 320 man-hours and 25 flight hours were volunteered on 13 sorties in fulfillment of this training mission.

## Wing Holds Statewide SAREX

(November 22) Arkansas Wing held it's first statewide SAREX of the 2008-2009 fiscal year yesterday and today. Despite the unusually cool weather, a total of 34 air and 7 ground sorties were conducted, focusing on exercising our search and rescue capabilities.

Additionally, Col. Robert Fortney (USAF, ret.), a veteran of World War II and Korea, and Fred Mullen of the Franklin Co. Office of Emergency Services were taken on orientation flights in order to better understand CAP's abilities to respond to mission taskings.

