



THE THOMPSON VALLEY VOICE

August 2008

The official newsletter of the Thompson Valley Composite Squadron of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol.



CHANGE OF COMMAND AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Ken McNaught transfers command to Von Campbell after a very successful term as TVCS squadron commander

Change of Command

On Thursday, 7 AUGUST 2008, command of the Thompson Valley Composite Squadron transferred from Major Ken McNaught to Captain Von Campbell.

The change of command ceremony was held at The Ranch after the close of a business meeting. Group 2 Commander, Major Ryan Lord presided over the ceremony. Major Lord shared some history regarding the change of command ceremony protocol before the transition took place.

After two and a half years leading Thompson Valley, Major McNaught relinquished command of the squadron to Major Lord. After a few moments Captain

Campbell assumed command from Major Lord. Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Cody Hill participated in the ceremony as the flag bearer.

Later in the evening, Captain Campbell recognized Major McNaught with a Certificate of Appreciation for his hard work and many achievements during his time as squadron commander. During his time as commander, Thompson Valley grew to become the largest squadron in Colorado Wing and one of the most active.

The evening also included over forty awards and promotions for both senior members and cadets (refer to page 4). The evenings events were followed by refreshments and a cake.



Top photo: Maj Ken McNaught, Capt Von Campbell, Maj Ryan Lord Group 2 CC, C/2nd Lt Hill.

Bottom photo: Capt Campbell presents Maj McNaught with a certificate of appreciation.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

BY VON CAMPBELL



My first Commander's Corner comes barely a week after taking over the reins of the Thompson Valley Composite Squadron so the bloom (or panic) of the new role is still on. As I look to guiding the squadron forward I also look to the past. I'm very thankful for all the work Ken McNaught has done over the last two and a half years, leading the development of the squadron to its current state. Our squadron is not only the largest in the Colorado Wing but may also be the most active squadron in the Wing.

My key goals are to maintain our squadron's position as the dependable "go to" group and making sure we meet the evolving needs of our missions. Our

squadron is widely recognized for its large contribution of staff and resources to SAREX's, REDCAPS, lost person searches, Cadet and ROTC O-rides, and countless other tasks. This is a tradition I would like to continue. To support this, I plan to continue our operating model of training and qualifying as many of our members as possible in roles they enjoy and letting them "own" them.

In fact, looking at our staff roster is almost like looking at our membership roster. We have active and broad participation, for which I'm grateful.

In closing out my inaugural Commander's Corner, I want to thank everyone for all their hard work and commitment. I look forward to working with all of you as we move into the future. My "door" is always open and I'm interested in your thoughts, ideas, wishes, and yes, even complaints. I hope that, together, we can build on our tradition to carry TVCS successfully in the future.

Von Campbell
von@nighthawknest.com

SAREX SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

BY ERIC SCHWARM, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Group 2 is planning a SAREX to be held on 18 OCT 08 at Greeley Airport.

The SAREX is currently in the planning stages. I am seeking qualified volunteers for several staff positions, including Safety, Finance, Ground Branch Director, Briefing Officer, and Ground Team Leaders.

Volunteers and trainees for other positions will be requested at a later date.

The SAREX will focus on the usual aircrew, ground team, and mission base

staff training, with additional focus on coordination between certain mission base jobs.

Harris Aviation is again allowing us to use their facilities at GXY.

A request for funding has been submitted.

The Project Officer is Eric Schwarm. John Owen is graciously mentoring the fledgling project officer. Information requests or suggestions may be sent to eric@schwarm.us

SENIOR PROMOTIONS



Top: Scott Fardulis promoted to 1st Lieutenant

Middle: Liz Caldwell promoted to Captain

Bottom: Jenny Niswender promoted to Major

Not pictured: Mark Williams promoted to 2nd Lieutenant



PERSONNEL NEWS

BY TERRY THOMPSON, PERSONNEL OFFICER

An item appeared on my SUI form, which reminded me that I should mention this issue to the squadron again, especially for the newer members.

The CAP Form 60 is an Emergency Notification / Medical Data form. This form is used at functions away from our home base by personnel at SAREX's, etc. Consider this scenario – you are found unconscious on the flight line. Emergency personnel arrive. Who is the family doctor who might have your medical history? Do you have any medical allergies/conditions the emergency personnel should know about? (Keep in mind, you're still unconscious). Do you have any family members who should be notified to come pay your medical bills?

Sure, this scenario is tongue-in-cheek, but emergencies happen. The folks at the

SAREX should be able to go online and print out your CAPF-60 with all the pertinent info on it – that is, if you've kept it up to date. The cadets use these forms regularly. Go online on WMU and go to the "Emergency Contact Info" section, and make sure the data there is what you would want people to know. Occasionally you will be asked to print and bring your CAPF-60 to an activity. Hopefully you'll never need it.

One more item. When you complete any sort of online training please send me an electronic copy of your certificate, or a link to where it can be found. I will print off a copy and include it in your personnel file.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

BY ERIC SCHWARM, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER



What is a Public Affairs Crisis Plan and why do we need one?

Several years ago a local newspaper reported that Colorado CAP grounded their fleet due to safety concerns stemming from mishaps. I don't know if the report was accurate, but the words mishap and aircraft simply didn't add up a positive feel. Years later I remember little but the negative perception the article created.

Some of the things we do in CAP involve some level of risk. Mishaps aren't a certainty, but are a possibility. Even a minor situation has the potential to cast CAP in a negative light. Being unprepared for subsequent media coverage can damage our image even more. Having a plan will help ensure we are able to tell our story in an organized and complete manner, even in the face of unfortunate circumstances.

CAP currently requires squadrons to establish and maintain a Public Affairs Crisis Plan. Creating a plan for TVCS has made it to the top of the PAO "to-do" list. Some of you may be asked to play a role in our crisis plan. Roles may vary from advising others to acting as the public face of TVCS if needed. The plan will identify those roles, with backups, and will include media contact information, locations for last minute meetings, press conferences, etc.

Our crisis plan will also be useful to qualified Mission Information Officers and Incident Commanders if a local search or disaster relief effort garners media attention.

I hope there is never a need to use the plan, but if a need arises CAP and TVCS will be represented in the best light possible.

CADET PROMOTIONS



AJ Johnson promoted



Andrew Constant promoted to C/ 2nd Lt.



Cody Hill promoted to C/ 2nd Lt.



Andrew Harrison promoted to C/ 1st Lt.

DID YOU KNOW...

NUTS

These are one of our earliest consumed foods and ultra-compatible with survival.

Recent Harvard University research found that eating more than 5 ounces of nuts a week cut heart attack deaths in women by over 40% and helped prevent deadly irregular heartbeats in men. Almonds and walnuts lower blood cholesterol. Nuts are high in fat, but most is good-type monounsaturated and/or omega-3 fatty acids.

Raw nuts are the best kind because they contain enzymes and about 4 times the B vitamins. Roasted nuts will still be of value for the fat, protein and carbohydrate, and some vitamin content.

Maj. Ed Carr DC
Thompson Valley Composite Sq.
Health Services Officer
970-690-9084



RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE

BY TERRY THOMPSON, PERSONNEL OFFICER

Disaster Relief Ribbon for Windsor Tornado Relief

Senior Members:

Bruno Krioussis
Aaron Miller
Ken McNaught
John F Owen
Sue Wolber
Ken Anderson
Troy Mellon
Jenny Niswender
Gary Oplinger
Roy Schutt
Terry Thompson
Sean Blake
Liz Caldwell
Dick Hamilton
Jeff Housden
Brenda Konnonen
Jim Schinnerer
Steve Schneider
Eric Schwarm
Von Campbell

Cadets:

Skylar Caldwell
Alex Collins
Kyle Dietz
Christian Fahrenbruck



Justin Felix
Jordan Fisher
Roderick Harder
Andrew Harrison
Cody Hill
Cody Lloyd
Michael MacVean
Nicholas Pollock
Callum Schneider
Josiah Stephens
Tyler Watterson

Ribbons

Red Service Ribbon - Russ Reed, 5 yrs
Red Service Ribbon - Von Campbell, 30 years
Red Service Ribbon - Ken Anderson, 30 years
Air Search & Rescue Ribbon - Jenny Niswender
Membership Ribbon - Joel Smith

Achievement Awards

Benjamin Davis Award (Level 2) - Liz Caldwell

**THOMPSON VALLEY
COMPOSITE SQUADRON
PO BOX 270885
FT. COLLINS, CO 80527**

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Civil Air Patrol, the official U. S. Air Force Auxiliary, is a civilian, volunteer, nonprofit, service organization. Its unpaid members perform more than 80 percent of inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and conduct one of America's finest youth programs, the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program.

