



# THE THOMPSON VALLEY VOICE

Spring 2008

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



## TVCS DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS AFTER LOCAL TORNADO

**Civil Air Patrol members contribute many volunteer hours to help with disaster relief after a tornado causes extensive damage in Windsor, CO.**

### TVCS and COWG Respond

On 22 MAY 2008, numerous areas in Weld County were struck by a powerful tornado. The tornado caused serious damage when it made a direct hit on both the Swift & Co and State Farm offices on the western side of Greeley. One person perished in a campground at Missile Silo Park.

The tornado continued into the Town of Windsor, where it caused heavy damage to residential neighborhoods and business parks. An estimated 500 structures were damaged, 110 of them were deemed destroyed or uninhabitable.

Within 48 hours, CAP sent over 30 ground teams to the stricken area. Our mission was to assist the Salvation Army distribute food and beverages to tornado victims and first responders. CAP volunteers distributed over 1000 CASES of food and water during that time.

Cadets also conducted inventories and ran supplies between field kitchens and supply trailers. Cadets also assembled hundreds of meal kits for the Salvation Army.

The mission continued for several days, with CAP members serving day and night.

### FEMA Takes Notice

A FEMA representative noticed CAP's presence and interviewed a few members, on camera, for a documentary style video on interagency cooperation during disaster responses. Good press for CAP!

### Thanks from a tornado victim:

"If I get called 'ma'am' once more by your cadets I'm going to cry.... they are so professional and courteous, you should be proud of them."

*Source for statistics: COWG press release*



**Top photo:** Cadets from a variety of squadrons unload supplies.

**Bottom photo:** TVCS C/SMSGt Hill passes a case of Gatorade to 1st Lt Schwarm.



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

BY KEN MCNAUGHT

In June, Von Campbell will be taking over the "commander" reigns of Thompson Valley Composite Squadron. After two and a half years, it is time for me to move over and let someone else have the opportunity to lead this great organization. Von and I have been working together to make this transition as seamless as possible so disruptions will be minimized. In addition to all the successes Von has had recently as Communications Officer, he also served several years as Deputy Commander for Cadets as well as Deputy Commander for Seniors. He is obviously very well prepared for the job.

During my tenure, TVCS has enjoyed huge successes as demonstrated by the continued complements, congratulations and thanks of both the Group Commanders and Wing Commanders. We all know that their praise was not for me, but rather it was for the squadron as a whole - both Seniors and Cadets. It is you, the membership, which sets us apart from the average squadron and allows us to be the pacesetters in the Colorado Wing in all CAP missions.

A very wise person and advisor told me when I became Commander that all I needed to be successful was to ensure good people were in key positions, support them and they will make the squadron successful. It is obvious to anyone observing TVCS that the successes we have enjoyed over this time are directly attributable to all of you and the tremendous job you do day to day, every day.

The specific successes are too numerous to detail and if I tried, I would certainly miss

some that should have been mentioned. Instead I just want to mention a few items: **Squadron membership:** TVCS has now grown to 108 members. The fact that our growth includes both Seniors and Cadets is sign of a very healthy organization that is addressing the needs of two very different audiences quite effectively. **Aircraft:** We support not one, but two aircraft and still have better utilization numbers than many other squadrons. The fact that we were chosen as "owners" the new G1000 C182 is a direct tribute to our pilots and entire ES organization. **Cadets:** TVCS Cadets won the Colorado Wing Drill Team competition and represented the Wing at the Region competition. We are at the forefront of Ground Team training in the Wing and have a growing cadre of qualified Ground Team members. Now we just need that van for transport to all the activities. ☺ **SAREXs:** We have hosted numerous SAREXs (more than most squadrons), each seeming to be more successful than the last. This again is directly due to the overall coordination, participation and expertise of TVCS members.

In closing, I just want to thank each one of you for making my job as commander so easy. Without your dedication TVCS would not be where it is today. I know that as Von takes over as commander, he also will find his job made easier by the contributions of each of you. It was a privilege to represent TVCS and I look forward to continuing to serve with you as Von's Deputy Commander.

Ken McNaught  
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## TORNADO RELIEF STATS

COWG CAP supplied approximately 1150 volunteer hours in support of the Salvation Army and distributed over 1000 cases of supplies

CAP members drove approximately 500 unreimbursed miles in their private vehicles in support of this operation

Tornado Damage:  
Over 500 structures damaged,  
approximately 110 destroyed or uninhabitable, 1 fatality



### Windsor Pics

Left: Ken McNaught interviewed by FEMA

Middle: An early start

Right: Tour of AF comm tent

# EMERGENCY SERVICES

BY BILL O'CONNOR, EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICER



**NIMS =  
National Incident  
Management  
System**

## ICS/IS Requirements and Change

The recent change in the ES requirements that added a series of course completions as required items for ES qualifications could be interpreted as just another bureaucratic hurdle in an increasingly complex set of ES requirements. Without background information as to why this was put in place, the bureaucratic interpretation is a valid one. This article is intended to provide some of the background and rationale for the addition of these courses as required prerequisites for the ES qualifications.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was created after the 9/11 incident, and others, as a national standardized system for the management of incidents involving single and multiple agencies. These are not limited to disasters or terrorist activities. The NIMS process grew out of the lessons learned in the 9/11 and Katrina incidents where multiple agencies were involved but could not communicate with each other and used vastly different processes to manage the incidents. In 9/11 the largest police agency in the country was not able to communicate with the largest fire service in the country. There were multiple command posts resulting in duplication of coverage and dangerous activities resulting from the chaos caused by the inability to have reliable interagency communications. The same situation was repeated at Katrina resulting in NIMS.

NIMS is based on the Incident Command System (ICS) that has been used for years by various emergency services in the country, and the US Coast Guard, to manage major incidents. The Fire Service in CA was the largest agency using ICS up to that point.

In recent years, emergency service agencies across the country have adopted ICS as the standard incident management system. CAP has its own version through Emergency Services but it does not quite mesh with the ICS system and is intended for use with a single agency, namely CAP.

CAP's mission is changing to a more interagency support and cooperation model where CAP supports other agencies on incidents, and other agencies support CAP. The difference between these two is who initiated the incident management. In order to participate in this model CAP has to bring its ES personnel and systems into compliance with the ICS system to be able to operate seamlessly on incidents. The agencies have to have a common communication platform for use in the interagency model or the chaos that is described in the reports of 9/11 and Katrina will happen again.

NIMS has developed a series of courses that describe the command structure, the process, and the communication tools for managing single and multi-agency incident management. The key is that the system is scalable; that is it can expand or contract as the incident dictates. CAP has now mandated that its ES personnel take these courses and be certified as having completed them through the course exams and certificates. The goal is to have all CAP members who hold ES qualifications certified by the end of 2008. If you do not meet the requirements for ICS by that time, current ES specialty qualifications will revert to a trainee status or disappear.

The eventual goal of NIMS is to establish a data base of ES/ICS qualified managers and commanders that can be called on to staff command posts for emergency incidents that are regional or national in scope. The most recent one was the Steve Fossett search in Nevada that involved CAP in a multi-agency incident. These will increase in the future as CAP comes in line with NIMS baseline requirements of its members.

That is the rationale behind the latest ES requirement for certification. CAP is changing and we must change with it to support the mission. I hope this will make the process of going through the various IS and ICS course a bit easier to accept.

**MAY 26, 2008 WAS THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CIVIL AIR PATROL'S STATUS AS THE AUXILIARY OF THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**



# TVCS DRILL TEAM COMPETITION

BY C/2ND LT ANDREW HARRISON, CADET COMMANDER

The Eagle flew high over the Rocky Mountain Region this April. Thompson Valley's Drill Team traveled to the Rocky Mountain Regional Cadet Competition held in Salt Lake City, Utah. A drill team composed of fourteen motivated cadets and four dedicated senior staff members brought honor and a reputation to the squadron.

Cadet Competition is a yearly event in which cadets either form color guards or drill teams to compete with other cadets around the country. Starting off at the lowest part of the chain of command, wing level, cadets advance onto the next competition by taking first place amongst all other competing teams. TVCS advanced onto Regional Cadet Competition but did not go onto the national level.

The Eagles Drill Team, headed by Cadet Captain Bob Kent, won six out of seven total events at Colorado Wing Cadet Competition. Thompson Valley, formed from a single squadron, took on a drill team composed of Group 1 cadets from numerous locations. Taking all events but volleyball, the team earned their RCC ribbons as well as their temporary shoulder cords for wear on the dress blues uniform. The events were long and rigorous at Wing Competition, but even more rigorous and longer events lay ahead of the team in Utah.

Setting out on Friday morning, many cadets had to take leave from their schools in order to attend the RCC. The convoy of Eagle 1 and 2 departed for Utah at 0730. However, due to high winds on Interstate 80, the team was forced to turn south and take the long route to their destination, tacking on another hour of travel in an 8 hour car ride. From such bonding events and experiences, cadets learned much about each other-in many cases a bit too much.

One member of the team, however, flew with the Eagles in a different way. C/SSgt Michael MacVean was hospitalized after wing competition and was unable to personally attend RCC. After Cadet Schneider answered the call for the missing essential, MacVean went with the team through a cherished mascot; Wilson, a volleyball signed and loved by all members of the team, carrying the memory of their teammate back home through the whole trip. Throughout the trip, Wilson was photographed in various locations with diverse people.

Upon arrival in Utah, the Eagles immediately jumped to action with the written test. The Cadet Team Commander, Captain Bob Kent, accomplished the highest score in the competition, giving a one-up to Thompson Valley. TVCS provided a formidable opponent to the Utah Drill Team in the mile run following the test. Later on, the team enjoyed a feast from Caesar's Pizza and returned to their barracks, mentally preparing themselves for the next day of competition!

The Eagle met the Titan head-on that Sunday morning in the panel quiz. Although turning out to be close but un-victorious, aggression spurred within cadets that would be let loose in the sandpits of the volleyball event! After some dispute over game rules by the Titans, or what some believe to be known as stalling, the Eagle proved to be the victor by a landslide as cadets bumped, set and spiked just as their coach, 1st Lt Brenda Kononen, had trained them to do.

Cadets moved onto inspection, where it was an unknown score until the very end of the competition. Although the team did not win in the innovative drill, crowds at the competition experienced shock and awe as the team executed a 3 minute and 45 second routine perfectly, with numerous difficult, complex, and ornate moves integrated into it.

At banquet, the Eagles took home trophies in the volleyball tournament as well as Captain Kent's highest score for the written test. Although saddened by the results, Baskin Robbins always makes any cadet (or senior member) smile.

All in all, Regional Cadet Competition was a life experience for Thompson Valley's Eagles. TVCS formed a drill team that would not only represent its squadron, but the entire state of Colorado with elegance and superiority.

# COLORADO WING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

BY ERIC SCHWARM, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

## TVCS members receive awards and training

Congratulations to Bill O'Connor and Jenny Niswender; both received awards at the Colorado Wing Conference held in April. O'Connor was recognized as "Communicator of the Year" for Colorado Wing, and again for the Rocky Mountain Region. Niswender was awarded a "Commander's Commendation" for her leadership in growing the TVCS cadet program.

The conference offered many interesting and useful seminars. Topics included emergency preparedness, a NIMS/ICS overview, operations updates, radio communications briefings, an intro to the COWG glider program, how to run a professional development course, and many more.

Activities concluded with a formal banquet with awards presentations and inspiring speakers. The theme for the conference was mentoring, capped by a powerful speech by Lt. Col. Dixon, Canadian Forces (Ret), who is alive today thanks to a US Army aviator who was inspired to fly because of his experience as a Colorado Wing cadet. Lt. Col. Dixon encouraged all of us to help our cadets whenever possible, reminding us we may become the one person who makes all the difference in a young person's life.

## PERSONNEL NEWS

BY TERRY THOMPSON, PERSONNEL OFFICER

Uniforms - ya gotta love 'em (tongue planted firmly in cheek). Well, the official word is out, and as we've all heard the old nametapes on BDUs are still in, and the old CAP Command patch on flight suits is out. You've got until Mar 2010 to switch out, so no big rush. The blue boonie hat is in for the blue BDU uniform, only when "authorized by the activity director". All the nametags stay like they used to be before the upheaval.

Activities like the upcoming SLS point out the need to have some uniform to wear other than the blue polo shirt. The white Aviator shirt/grey slacks combo is the simplest and easiest alternative, I think. Ribbons are optional on this combo, and there are no weight or grooming standards to worry about. If you need more info email me.

One other subject I would like to mention is the need for each CAP member to have his or her own personal personnel file at home. You should have a copy of all your CAP promotion, ribbon, and award records. You should have some sort of record of things like wing conferences, SLS, CLC, FEMA courses, etc. We all

know (or should know) that electronic databases are not indestructible. I keep a paper file on each of you, but sometimes you get awards and promotions that I don't get copies of. Also, if my house goes up in smoke (God forbid) your records go up with it. Could you rebuild your CAP career if some catastrophe happened? My advice - keep a copy of every official piece of paper you get. It's cheap insurance.

Terry Thompson  
Personnel Officer



New CAP Command Patch

## THE BANQUET



Jenny Niswender



Bill O'Connor



Color Guard

Top: Capt. Jenny Niswender receives Commander's Commendation

Middle: Capt. Bill O'Connor receives Communicator of the Year award

Bottom: TVCS Color Guard posts the colors

# TVCS CADETS ON TARGET

BY LIZ CALDWELL AND ED O'BRIEN

On Saturday March 29th four cadets of the Civil Air Patrol Thompson Valley Composite Squadron (Ft Collins-Loveland) were sponsored by Black Sheep Squadron (Denver) for a day of shooting as guests of the Colorado Rifle Club. The cadets participated in the first CMP-Garand Match of the season. In these NRA-sanctioned matches, competitors shoot rifles that were once used in WWI and WWII. The competitions are therefore part skill and part history lesson. Each cadet shot a 30-round course of fire using an M1 Garand or M1 Carbine. Both of these rifles were battle-tested in WWII and reflect an ageless grace and competitive enjoyment even today. More than 50 Colorado Rifle Club members also took part in the match.

The weather was fine, the instruction excellent, the shooting was great too, as:

1. C/SSgt Tyler Watterson shot a score of 246
2. C/2d Lt Skylar Caldwell shot a score of 208
3. C/Amn Justin Felix shot a score of 178
4. C/A1C Nick Pollock shot a score of 174

Both the Colorado Rifle Club and the Civil Air Patrol stress safety in events such as these and to prove it cadets attended a one hour seminar covering scoring, mechanical issues regarding firearms, and most of all range safety. Thompson Valley Squadron 1st Lt. Liz Caldwell and Black Sheep Squadron 1st Lt. Ed O'Brien also attended and appreciate the assistance provided by Colorado Rifle Club members who donated time, equipment, and instruction during this fun day of shooting.



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## 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.

