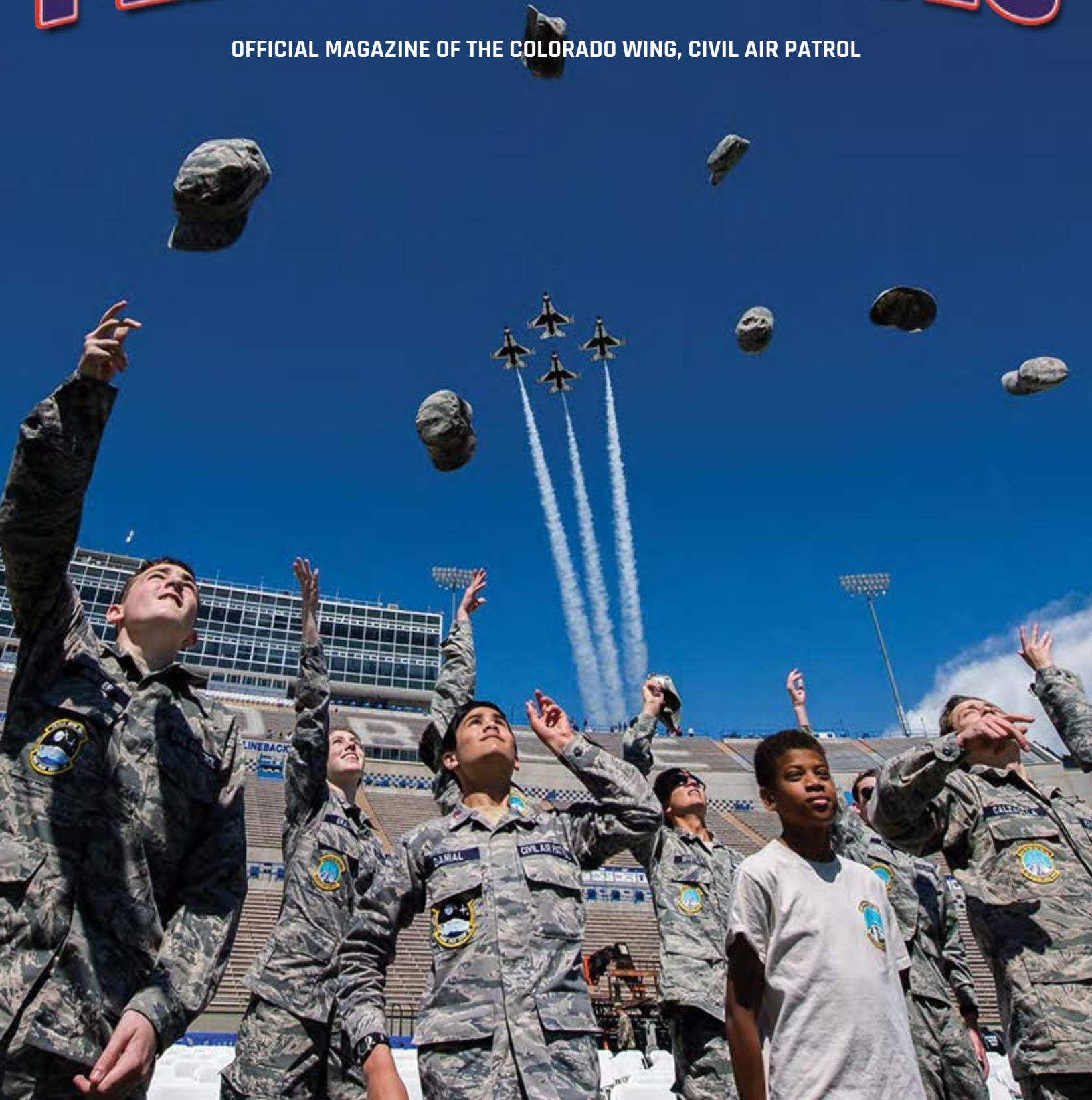




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Colorado Wing Commander

Col. John Rhoades, CAP

Peaks and Planes Editor-In-Chief

Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP

Article submissions are always welcome. Please send them in Microsoft Word format to Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, *Peaks and Planes* at mdaniels@cap.gov. Attach photos (in jpeg format) to your email and make certain to include full caption information for each photo at the end of your article.

Article Submissions- Next Issue Submission Deadline: January 15, 2024

Headquarters

Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol
135 Dover St., Bldg. 350, Suite 2025
Colorado Springs, CO 80914

Phone: 719-556-2327

www.cowg.cap.gov

COVER: Practice fosters excellence. Civil Air Patrol cadets help the U.S. Air Force Academy photographer practice timing of the Air Force Thunderbirds flyover and the academy graduation ceremony hat toss. The CAP cadets involved are from our Colorado Wing's Air Academy Cadet Squadron and Pikes Peak Composite Squadron.

Commander's Comments

*Col. John Rhoades, CAP
Commander, Colorado Wing*



This will be my final time to speak with you as your Wing Commander and I wanted to let you know that it has been an honor and privilege to serve with you over the last four years. To say that the last four years have been challenging is an understatement, but I am very proud of all that we have accomplished.

Three months after taking command, COVID drastically disrupted every aspect of our lives. What originally started as a few weeks to flatten the curve, led to lockdowns, disruptions and worst of all, the loss of those close to us. Throughout the pandemic, the Colorado Wing persevered and our members' innovation was crucial to our continued operation. That operation was necessary when called upon to deliver critical supplies to our rural hospitals resulting in countless lives being saved.

We made dramatic changes in the way we operated as a wing. We onboarded a new wing administrator and reorganized our financial processes. We made drastic changes in operations that focused on aligning with the state and expanding our outreach to SAR organizations. That all paid off just a few weeks ago when an aircrew from the Black Sheep Squadron located three lost campers, earning the wing's first saves in many years.

Our cadet program is running stronger than ever. We have been producing Mitchell, Earhart, Eaker and Spaatz cadets at a record pace. Whether it's chairing the National Cadet Advisory Council, leading National Cadet Special Activities or winning National Cadet of the Year, our cadets are excelling and our cadet program is recognized as one of the top in the country. A special thanks goes out to all our senior members who step up to help with the cadet program. You all create the environment that allows our cadets to thrive.

I am happy that Lt. Col. Mike Fay has been selected to

Continued on page 3 . . .



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Commander's Comments,
Cont. from page 1

succeed me as your next Wing Commander. He has been in the middle of everything over the last four years and has extensive experience that will serve him greatly as he moves into the role. I thank you all for the hard work over the last four years and am excited to see what the wing will accomplish under Lt. Col. Fay's leadership. I wish everyone the best and look forward to getting together at our wing conference next month. 🇺🇸



Next Colorado Wing Commander Selected



AUGUST 13, 2023 - The Rocky Mountain Region Commander, Col. Jason R. Hess has selected Lt. Col. Michael S. Fay as the next Colorado Wing Commander. Col. Fay will assume command on 23 September 2023 with a Change of Command ceremony taking place at the Colorado Wing Conference being held in Thornton, Colorado.

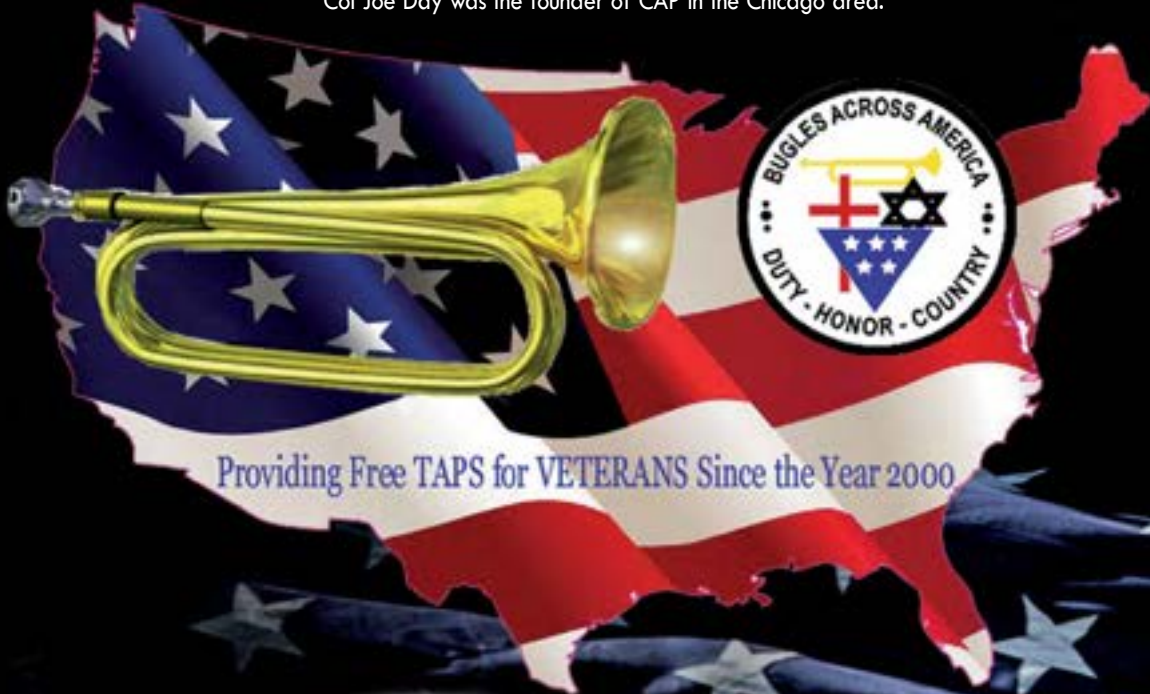
Col. Fay has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol since 2006 where he has served in numerous capacities at the squadron, group, and wing levels to include Commander and Deputy Commander, Safety Officer, Education and Training Officer, Aerospace Education Officer, and most recently the Colorado Wing Chief of Staff and Director of Cadet Programs. Professionally, Col. Fay is an engineer contracted to Northrop Grumman, working on various defense department projects as well as a local golf coach. Col. Fay is a well-known champion of the Cadet Program within the Colorado Wing.

Col. Fay will be replacing Col. John Rhoades, who has been serving as Commander since October 2019. We thank Col. Rhoades for his excellent service and leadership these past four years, creating numerous successes as well as maintaining high level of operational success during the challenging pandemic.

Congratulations Col. Fay and best of luck in your new Command!

Bugles Across America

The founder of Bugles Across America has been in CAP most of his life. He is Tom Day and was in DC to get the Congressional Gold Medal with many CAP members. Tom's dad Col Joe Day was the founder of CAP in the Chicago area.



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The 2023 COWG Conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Thornton at I-25 and 120th at 83 East 120th Ave., Thornton, CO.

TICKET PRICING:

Full Conference including all Sessions, Workshops, Banquet & Cadet Dance with Event Brite fee: **\$172.57**

Conference Sessions and Workshops Only with Event Brite fee: **\$135.23**

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../2023-colorado-wing...>

COWG has arranged for a block of rooms at a discounted rate for Sept 22-24.

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COWG Supports Colorado Air National Guard's 100th Anniversary

*Photos by Maj. Jen Knellinger, CAP, RMR XO and
Capt. Elaine Stewart, CAP, Mile Hi Squadron Commander*

On Saturday, May 7th, COWG's Mile High Cadet Squadron members manned a Colorado Civil Air Patrol Info and recruiting booth and the COWG had a static display of a CAP Cessna 206 aircraft on the tarmac at the 140th Wing Colorado Air National Guard's 100th Anniversary Celebration of Colorado Military Aviation event at Buckley Space Force Base. As attendees visited the CAP aircraft static display, Maj. Rob Yusko, COWG Director of Operations and CAP Mission Pilot and Maj. Jen Knellinger, CAP Mission Observer and Aerial Photographer answered questions about the aircraft and what we do when we fly missions.



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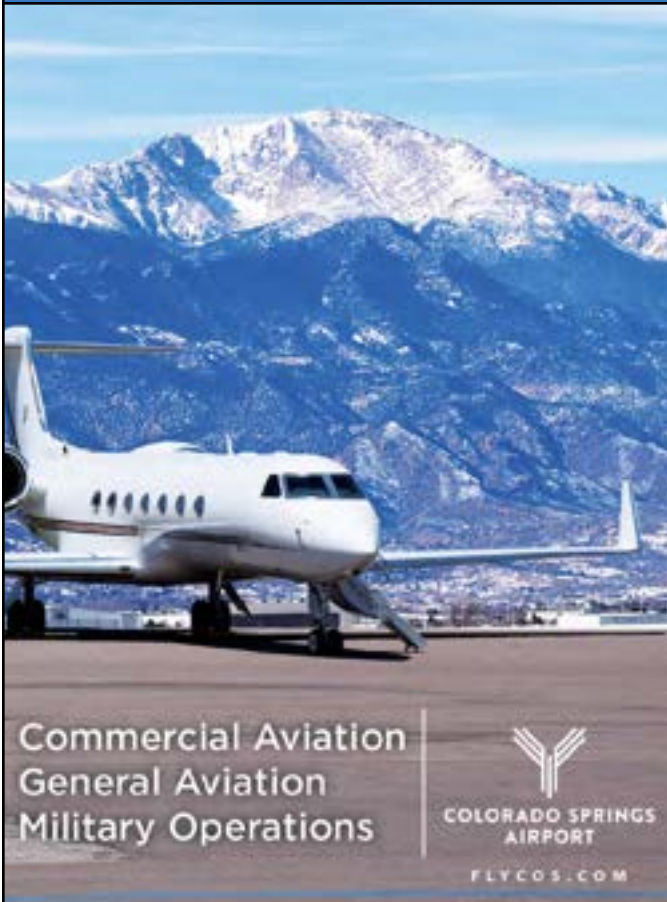


Cadet Colonel Jenna Jones
CAP 2022 National Cadet of the Year



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Broomfield Composite Squadron Represents RMR at NCC



Congratulations to the amazing COWG and RMR champion Broomfield Composite Squadron Cadet Competition Team and though they didn't come away with a national cadet competition trophy, they proudly represented the Rocky Mountain Region and Colorado Wing. Special shout out to Cadet Technical Sgt. Sadie Schwartz for being a top finisher in the individual category for the Cadet Physical Fitness Test at the NCC.

The RMR COWG Broomfield Composite Squadron's NCC team photo of members taken aboard the USAF C-17 that transported the team to Ohio for the competition (left to right) are:

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kaia Pope, Cadet Master Sgt. Abigail Barreaux, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Mateo Pope, 2nd Lt. Sarah Marble, Cadet Technical Sgt. Sadie Schwartz, 1st Lt. Roger Stafford, Cadet 2nd Lt. Gavin Carter and Cadet Capt. Micah Jungling.



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COWG Members Visit Air Force Special Ops Aircrew and Tour MC-130



48 COWG members from 14 squadrons located throughout Colorado had the opportunity to explore and learn about the AFSOC MC-130 aircraft that were temporarily at Peterson SFB on Saturday, July 15th thanks to the efforts of USAFA ALO Maj Adam Teach who reached out to the COWG extending an offer to come out to Peterson SFB to visit the aircraft and meet the aircrew.

Lt Col Neil Jesse, USAFR, US Air Force Academy Admissions Liaison Officer Outreach Flight Lead, said, "It was absolutely our pleasure to host, and major kudos go to Maj Teach for envisioning, coordinating and orchestrating this event! Special shout out to the AFSOC folks that took the time out of their busy day to talk to us all in the auditorium. The excellent discussions and amazing videos really "put us in the cockpit" of their mission. After the weather cleared up, the detailed walk through of the aircraft was an extra special treat. Glad to have these brave men and women performing this service to our country 24/7!"

Maj Adam Teach, a USAFA ALO, is an Air Force pilot and is connected to the 15th Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, FL. The 15th SOS crew was in the central Colorado area for training and support events and Maj Teach identified a potential opportunity for any interested audiences to have a tour of their MC-130's and hear from them face-to-face about their mission. The members of the Colorado Wing Civil Air Patrol immediately came to mind and the activity was scheduled, planned and coordinated.



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CAP Day at The Capitol

*By Col. Gary Tobey, CAP
COWG Govt. Relations Advisor*

COWG was well represented at the Colorado State Capitol Building on Thursday, February 16, 2023, for CAP Day at the Capitol. Cadet 1st Lt. Augustus Joshua from the Valkyrie Cadet Squadron led the Pledge of Allegiance in the House Chamber.

There was a Color Guard from the Colorado Military Academy Cadet Squadron including Cadet Officer in Charge Capt. Felisha Jimenez and the Color Guard members Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Lenyce Hanson, Cadet Master Sgt. Stefania Nesmith, Cadet Master Sgt. Idalis Suraj Persad, Cadet Senior Airman Samantha Lopez and Cadet Senior Airman Amarriah Sims as well as Cadet Public Affairs Officer Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aloena Magat.

COWG Senior Member Officers seated on the House Floor on behalf of Colorado Wing Commander, Col. John Rhoades, included Col. John Buschmann, former COWG Commander, Lt. Col. Nicole Roberts, Commander of the Colorado Military Academy Cadet Squadron, and Lt. Col. Chuck Sellers, COWG Grp 4 Commander.



COWG Color Guard that presented the colors in the House of Representatives included (left to right) Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Lenyce Hanson, Cadet Master Sgt. Stefania Nesmith, Cadet Senior Airman Samantha Lopez, Cadet Senior Airman Amarriah Sims. Photo by Lt. Col. Nicole Roberts. CAP, Colorado Military Academy Commander

COWG Senior Member Officers seated on the Senate Floor on behalf of COWG Commander Col. John Rhoades, included Col. Gary Tobey, COWG Govt. Relations Advisor & former COWG and RMR Commander, Lt. Col. Thom Scheffel, COWG Asst. Govt. Relations Advisor and Maj. Helen Gray, Mustang Cadet Squadron.

As the Senate session opened, Senator, Maj. Kevin Van Winkle, CAP, Deputy Commander of the Colorado Legislative Squadron made this comment on the floor of the Colorado Senate: "And to put a human face on what Civil Air Patrol does, I recognize Maj. Helen Gray, seated right over here. She is the proud mother of Major Byron Gray of the United States Air Force. Byron was a CAP cadet in the Mustang Cadet Squadron just a few years ago. Now, if you will remember the chaotic exodus from Kabul, Afghanistan, and the massive C-17 transport planes saving people—and that aircraft which took off with people falling off the landing gear. Byron was the pilot of the C-17 that followed that aircraft in Kabul. These cadets and Major Helen Gray continue to serve."



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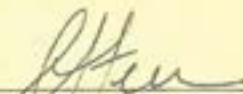
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The members of the Colorado Senate are proud to extend commendation to Colorado Wing Civil Air Patrol. Civil Air Patrol is the Congressionally chartered US Air Force Auxiliary, and the Colorado Wing has served Colorado since 1942. Today, it has 889 unpaid adult volunteers and 1,112 cadets serving the state in various programs.

Recently, the Colorado Wing has served in providing COVID relief, and assisting FEMA, state and local agencies during floods and wildfires with aerial photography and assistance in damage assessment. It stands ready to support citizens. In 2022 CAP participated in search operations resulting in 9 lives saved, 21 successful finds, and 2 air defense intercept and evaluation missions. The Colorado Senate would like to express deep gratitude to the members of the Colorado Wing of CAP for their service to the people of Colorado and the nation.

*On request of Senator Kevin Van Winkle
Given this 16th Day of February 2023
State Capitol, Denver, Colorado*



*Steve Fenberg
President of the Senate*



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Colorado Wing of Civil Air Patrol

Civil Air Patrol is the Congressionally chartered Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The Colorado Wing of Civil Air Patrol has served the citizens of the state since 1942 and today has nearly 900 unpaid adult volunteers and over 1000 cadets serving the state in emergency services, cadet programs, aerospace education, cyber defense, disaster relief, and homeland security. In recent years, the Colorado Wing has served prominently in providing COVID Pandemic relief and in assisting FEMA and state and local agencies during Colorado floods and wildfires with aerial photography and assistance in damage assessment. Members of the Colorado Wing have refined under analysis and cell phone forensics to greatly enhance search and rescue of downed aircraft and lost persons across the nation. The Colorado Wing stands ready to support citizens in emergency situations and in 2022 participated in search operations resulting in 9 lives saved and 21 successful finds, and 2 air defense intercept and evaluation missions. Colorado Cadet Squadrons continue to win honors in cyber defense competitions at the national level. Cadet Colonel Jenna Jones, captain of her cyber team, is CAP's 2022 National Cadet of the Year. Cadets provide color guards for events across the state and provide cadet volunteers to support community events. CAP provides free flight instruction to qualified cadets to earn their private pilot certificates in high school. The CAP's Aerospace Education Program teaches an increasing number of students in schools across Colorado by emphasizing the aviation and space connection in science, technology, math, government, and economics. The Colorado General Assembly expresses deep gratitude to the members of the Colorado Wing of Civil Air Patrol for their service to the people of Colorado and the nation.

On request of Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Senator Kevin Van Winkle

Given this 16th day of February, 2023 State Capitol, Denver, Colorado

Stephen Jenet, President of the Senate

Julie McCluskie, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Colorado CAP Assists Division of Aeronautics with Airport Directory

In early February, Lt. Col. Chad Grondahl, Pikes Peak Squadron Commander and Lt. Col. John Baker, RMLR CAP-USAF Commander stopped by the offices of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics at Colorado Air and Space Port to pick up boxes of the Division's Colorado Airport Directory and Aeronautical Chart in the wing's Gippsland GA-8 Airvan. Colorado CAP was instrumental in helping Shahn Sederberg of the Division of Aeronautics finish the aerial photos for the Division's airport directory.



Colorado Cadet Chooses Air Force Academy from 3 Appointments

CAP.news

Cadet 2nd Lt. William H. Chen's academic achievements left him with even more potential paths to choose from than most graduating high school seniors face as they head into the summer.



The Colorado Wing cadet, after all, had to choose from appointments to the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Military, and U.S. Navy academies as well as acceptances to study biology at UCLA and at Texas A&M and

biomedical engineering at Northwestern University, along with full-ride scholarships from Air Force ROTC and Navy ROTC.



Cadet 2nd Lt. William H. Chen



Chen wound up going with the Air Force Academy. During cadet basic training he served as guidon bearer for the Flying Tigers Squadron's Charlie Flight.

Chen has been a Civil Air Patrol member since November 2016, when he joined the Mustang Cadet Squadron less than a month after turning 12.



Leading the way
Cadet 2nd Lt. William H. Chen serves as guidon bearer for the Flying Tigers Squadron's Charlie Flight during cadet basic training at the Air Force Academy.

In addition to his nearly seven years in CAP, Chen was involved with 4-H Shooting Sports, the Boy Scouts of America (STEM Scouts, Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts), and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and was also a NRA Distinguished Expert in Rifle, NRA Expert in Pistol, and Sea Cadet petty officer second class.

He served as a flight commander for the Mustang squadron and was a member of the team that competed in the 2022 National Cadet Competition after winning performances at the Colorado Wing and Rocky Mountain Region levels.

As a student at Cherry Creek High School, he competed on the football, swim, volleyball, and track and field teams.

Chen graduated with a grade-point average of 4.474 after taking a dozen Advanced Placement courses. He also attended summer seminars at the Naval, Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard academies.

Outgoing 1st Air Force Commander Flies with CAP

[CAP.NEWS](#)



After a distinguished 35-year career in the U.S. Air Force, the first 1st Air Force commander to officially fly with Civil Air Patrol is retiring.

Lt. Gen. Kirk Pierce will step down March 31 from his post as commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, 1st Air Force (Air Forces Northern and Air Forces Space), in a change of command with his successor.

Pierce retires with more than 5,000 flight hours in a variety of Air Force aircraft, along with Civil Air Patrol's Cessna 182T at Tyndall Air Base, Florida, and Cessna 206 at Maxwell Air Force Base. Tyndall is home to First Air Force and Maxwell to CAP National Headquarters.

Flying with CAP began nearly two years ago, and he has already accumulated about 140 hours of flight time in the Air Force auxiliary's Cessnas.

"It gives me a great opportunity to get out and fly," Pierce said. "I went out and flew with the Civil Air Patrol [CAP-USAF] team in Colorado Springs, which was awesome! It's a big part of our command, and I'm really excited about doing it."

Like the true leader he is, Pierce didn't skip any steps despite his rank.

"I went through all the training, took a check ride, and did a mission check in it, so I'm no different than anybody else," he said, describing the opportunity as "a side benefit" of commanding First Air Force, which oversees Civil Air Patrol.

"We have three aircraft out in front of our headquarters — a CAP 182, an F-15, and an F-16 — and as far as I can tell I'm the only one that has had a mission check in all three of those aircraft," he said.

Even though the aircraft Pierce has flown in the Air Force, primarily trainers and fighters, and CAP planes are quite different, "flying is flying," Pierce said.

"It's having a crosscheck and thinking ahead of the plane, watching the weather and watching things that change," he explained. "Every time you get complacent, that's when something changes significantly, especially on the ground like a taxiway, or weather happens. Whatever, it's the same skillset, just different speeds."

What is the significance of the general's time in CAP aircraft?



*Pilot preparations
Pierce checks out the CAP aircraft's cockpit before takeoff.*

Harriet Alexander Field

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Cessna 182T at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama,
home of CAP National Headquarters.*

“I think it’s a couple of things,” Pierce said. “One, I get to understand better. If you’re flying the aircraft and you’re hanging out with them, both on the CAP-USAF, the active-duty side with the reservists and Civil Air Patrol, all the great volunteers here in America that are doing that job, it lets me have more than just an affinity for it.

“That I can actually go fly and see what they go through, see what aircraft the Air Force helps provides for them, what upgrades are done, like the avionics are great and all these details. It helps me see the maintenance and how well the aircraft are kept up or not kept up. In our case, they’re kept up great so it’s a good news story.”

And the other side of flying with CAP?


“It does afford me the opportunity to get out and show the Civil Air Patrol brand to everybody and help the CAP national commander, Maj. Gen. Edward D. Phelka, as he continues the campaign to gain awareness and help people understand all the great things that CAP does.

“I’ll show up somewhere with a small runway, FBO (fixed-base operator), drop in like Calhoun County and pump my own gas and they’re like, ‘Oh, you’re a three-star and you’re here by yourself. What are you doing, what’s CAP, what does Civil Air Patrol do?’ It helps facilitate telling the story in a lot of ways. I think it’s awesome.”

Sharing the Civil Air Patrol story will continue for Pierce when he retires from the Air Force, as he intends to fly with CAP’s Colorado Wing as a civilian.

“As the First Air Force commander, CAP is one of our key mission enablers with them being one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 540 planes available, plus 54 gliders. In the past year, they flew more than 70,000 hours in Air Force-assigned missions for us as the official U.S. Air Force auxiliary,” he said.



“To have an opportunity to continue to serve with CAP, but now as a volunteer CAP pilot in the future, means I would have the honor of continuing to take part in CAP’s remarkable contributions.” 



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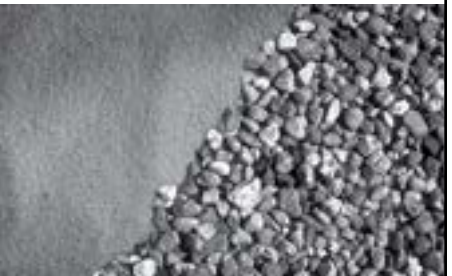
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Mile Hi Squadron Members Represent CAP at EAA Young Eagles Rally

*By Capt. Elaine Stewart, CAP
Mile Hi Squadron Commander*

COWG and Civil Air Patrol was well represented by members of the Mile Hi Cadet Squadron who were asked to be a part of the EAA Young Eagles Rally held at the Colorado Air & Space Port on Wednesday, July 19th.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Shawn Nelson, Cadet Senior Airman Alani Grissop, Cadet Master Sgt. Madison Mayer, Cadet Airman Isaiah Khelik, Senior Member Lynn Blach, 1st Lt. Isaac Blach and Capt. Elaine Stewart (Squadron Commander) arrived 0645 to help set up the classroom area with chairs and a CAP recruiting table along with the Colorado 99s and EAA Chapter 301 members.



Pictured with the CAP Cessna 182 on static display at the EAA Young Eagles Rally are Mile Hi Cadet Squadron members (Left to right): Cadet 2nd Lt. Shawn Nelson (Cadet Commander), Cadet Senior Airman Alani Grissop, Cadet Master Sgt. Madison Mayer, Cadet Airman Isaiah Khelik, 1st Lt. Isaac Blach and Capt. Elaine Stewart (Squadron Commander). Photo by RMR Asst. External AEO Capt. Blanche Cohen



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When the Colorado ACE Academy students arrived, MHCS Cadets took the time to get to know the students and share their own stories and experiences about CAP. They handed out balsa wood airplanes to put together. MHCS members talked with parents and their children about Civil Air Patrol and aviation. Thanks to the assistance of COWG Director of Operations, Maj. Rob Yusko, the Civil Air Patrol Cessna 182 aircraft on static display was a big hit. Cadet 2nd Lt. Shawn Nelson and Cadet Master Sgt. Madison Mayer spent time demonstrating the fundamental concepts of the aircraft to the young men and women who attended. It was an all-around wonderful experience and our COWG MHCS CAP Cadets had an opportunity to share

with their peers the enthusiasm they have for flying and their desire to become pilots. Many thanks to the MHCS members who supported the event and volunteered for this important recruiting opportunity. Kudos to MHCS Commander, Capt. Stewart who coordinated with RMR Asst. External AEO, Capt. Blanche Cohen who is also with EAA to help make this happen.



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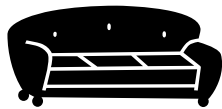
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*Thanks And Keep Up
The Good Work!*

Colorado Wing's 2023 "Ghostrider" Encampment



Photo by Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kaylin Sittenfeld

By Cadet Master Sgt. Erin Bolus, CAP
2023 COWG Encampment Public Affairs NCO

On Friday, 9 June at 0900, cadets from nineteen different states, including Colorado, arrived for in-processing at the USAFA Preparatory School for the 2023 COWG Summer Encampment. The Encampment was dubbed the "Ghostrider" Encampment by Cadet Commander Cadet Lt. Col. Asher Stone in honor of the AC-130J "Ghostrider".

This encampment was filled with physical training, aerospace education, character development, special speakers, a USAFA tour, a challenge run, and a friendly flight competition. Encampment went from June 9 through June 16, with Cadre arriving four days earlier on June 5 for 'PIPER', the staff training for the encampment.

Some of the most exciting activities that occurred during the encampment were the high ropes course, airfield tour, USAFA tour, the knowledge bowl, volleyball competition, and the challenge run. At the high ropes course, cadets tested their courage at the 'Leap of Faith' or at the tower with the obstacle courses hanging high in the air. The cadets who went to the airfield experienced skydiving in the virtual world through VR goggles.



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The friendly competition sparked to life with the knowledge bowl and volleyball competitions. Cadets put their skills to the test during the volleyball competition; they motivated each other and spurred each other on to be better. The knowledge bowl kept everyone on the edge of their seats as they watched their fellow flight members answer aerospace questions to earn points. Congratulations to Bravo Flight who won both the volleyball competition and the knowledge bowl!

At the end of the encampment, everyone celebrated their victories and friendships at the Dining In Banquet. Awards were handed out to the most outstanding flights and most outstanding staff members. It's safe to say that the cadet students and cadre strengthened their sense of discipline, teamwork, and understanding of cadet life. Many didn't want to go home, and many students were inspired to deepen their cadet experience by being the next to staff another amazing encampment.



AC-130J "Ghostrider" Encampment Squadron One at the High Ropes Course. Photo by Cadet Master Sgt. Erin Bolus

Congratulations to all who received awards:

- Honor Flight: Alpha
- Rally Flight: Foxtrot
- Spirit Flight: Bravo
- Shark Flight: Alpha
- Volleyball Champions: Bravo Flight
- Drill Champions: Bravo Flight
- Knowledge Bowl Champions: Bravo Flight
- Top Inspection: Delta Flight
- Honor Cadet: C/TSgt. Labass
- Honor Flight Commander: C/1st Lt. Zach Davis
- Honor Flight Sergeant: C/CMSgt Konnor Kuzanek
- Honor Training Officer: Lt. Nancy Ashmore
- Outstanding Support Cadre: C/SMSgt S. Lashley



AC-130J "Ghostrider" Encampment congratulations to Alpha Flight for winning Honor Flight of Encampment. Photo by Cadet 2nd Lt. Cole Griffith

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4-Day O-Ride Rally a Great Aviation Experience for COWG Cadets

*By Lt. Col. Chad Grondahl, CAP
Pikes Peak Composite Squadron Commander*



In early February over a 4-day cadet orientation flight rally, the Pikes Peak Composite Squadron pilots flew more than 50 cadet orientation flights supporting all the CAP COWG Group III and Group 8 cadet squadrons in southern Colorado!



Day 1 was a beautiful day and sharing the ramp with our CAP Cessna T182T Skylane TC, Cessna T206H Turbo Station air, Cessna 172S Skyhawk, Cessna 182R Skylane II, and Gippsland GA8 Airvan that were flying that weekend were USAF T-38s from Whiteman Air Force Base and USN F/A-18 Super Hornets, which made for an excellent flight experience for our CAP cadets! And at 1300 on Day 1 there were 4 USAF F-35 Lightning II fighters conducting a flyover of the noon meal formation at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Just your typical day at the Colorado Springs Airport and Peterson Space Force Base!



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PPCS pilots were up before dawn getting ready for Day 2, but it was well worth seeing America's Mountain (Pike's Peak) in all its purple mountain majesty! Five pilots, five airplanes, and 25 cadets were flying cadet orientation flights on Day 2 sharing the pattern with US Army UH-60 Blackhawks, USMC CH-53E Super Stallions and a kettle of USAF F-22 Raptors that were expected to make their way to Peterson Space Force Base that day.

Day 3, or as we like to call it -- Super-o-ride Sunday, provided more beautiful weather to fly. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to pull off a 4-day cadet orientation flight rally, but the Pikes Peak Composite Squadron operations team and pilots made it look so easy! On Day 4 the final 10 sorties were flown for the weekend. Four straight days of Colorado blue skies, no wind, and highs in the 50s made for a perfect experience for our Group 3 and Group 8 cadets. Finally, a huge thank you to the Colorado Jet Center line staff and front desk personnel for the fantastic support they always offer to CAP operations. 🇺🇸



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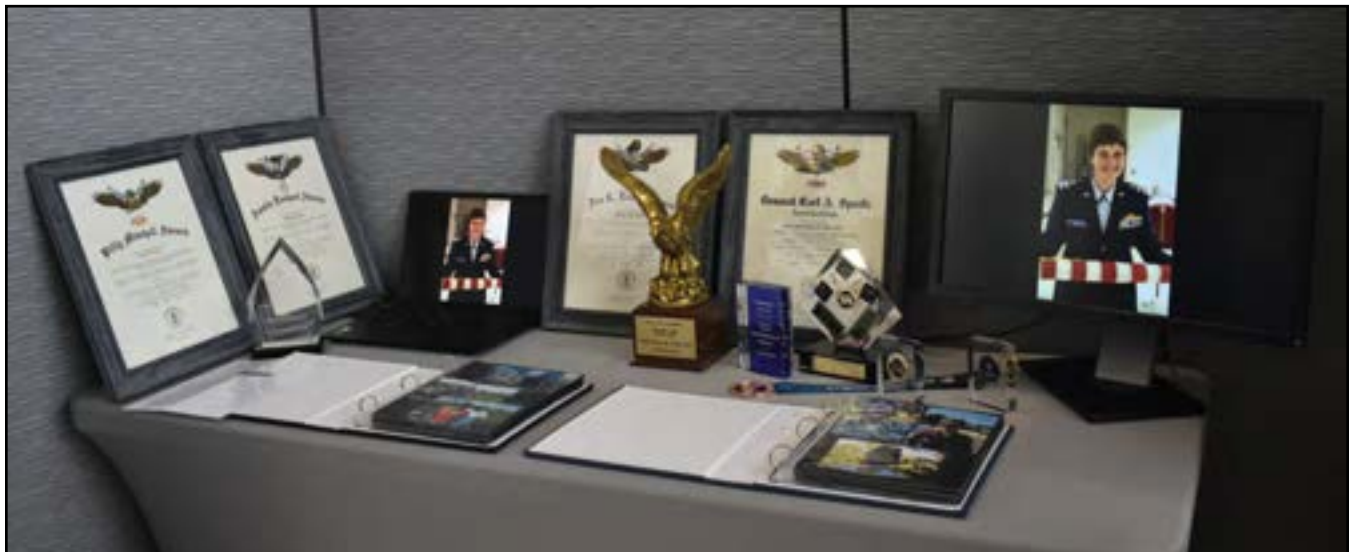
Spatz Award Formally Presented to Cadet Col. Jenna Jones

*By Maj. Jen Knellinger, CAP
RMR Asst. Director of Public Affairs*

On Saturday, May 13th, Cadet Col. Jenna Jones was formally presented with her Spatz Award from National Vice Commander, Brig General Regena Aye. In a well-executed event, Master of Ceremony, Col. Gary Tobey presided over a meticulous presentation of the colors, multiple excellent readers and speakers, (including Cadet Col. Jones) with not



only words of praise but sincere words of thanks for the support, mentorship and opportunities along the demanding path to Cadet Colonel and the Spatz. For those in attendance at the event and at the reception, it was obvious that the support of family, friends, her cadet colleagues and senior member leaders and mentors





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were a part of her success. A former cadet, General Aye knew well the challenges and enjoyed sitting down with the Air Academy Squadron cadets at the reception for great conversation and laughter. Congratulations Cadet Col. Jones on your Spatz Award and other recognition and all the best as you continue in college at Norwich University in Vermont studying Cybersecurity and Network Assurance. 🇺🇸



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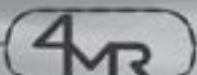
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Black Sheep Squadron Aircrew Finds Lost Campers

By Lt. Col. Mike Fassi and Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
Mission PIOs

Kudos to the Colorado Wing's Black Sheep Squadron aircrew who was credited by the AFRCC with three finds and three saves for locating three missing campers in Larimer County after being requested to assist the Larimer County Sheriff's Office with an aerial search on July 30th. The Black Sheep Squadron aircrew remained above the site to direct a Lifeline helicopter to the rescue landing zone. The official news release follows:



Larimer County, Colorado (July 31, 2023) — An aircrew with Civil Air Patrol's Colorado Wing located three missing campers and guided ground searchers to the trio July 30, the day after they were reported missing from a group of five camping in the Tom Bennet Campground area near Pingree Park. The wing was assigned to participate in the mission after the Larimer County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center for an aerial search. After the three wandered from their campsite area the evening of July 29, the two remaining campers were unable to get in contact with them with darkness approaching. The Colorado Wing received the assignment at 11 p.m. The aircrew launched at first light the next morning.



The COWG Black Sheep Squadron Aircrew credited with three finds & three saves were (L-R) Capt. Sanjay Tyagi Mission Pilot, 1st Lt. Tim Eunice - Mission Observer and 1st Lt. Douglas Payne - Mission Scanner. (Photo by Capt. Mike Schulte, Black Sheep Squadron Commander)

The aircrew spotted one of the missing campers shortly after 9 a.m. and provided coordinates to sheriff's office searchers on the ground. About 10:30 a.m. the aircrew located the other two missing campers and directed Larimer County Search and Rescue ground team to the site. One of the three was able to hike out without assistance. The other two were transported over the steep, rough terrain in a LifeLine helicopter directed to the landing zone by the Colorado Wing aircrew. "The Colorado Wing continues to put practice to good use coordinating closely with local authorities who serve and protect to save those in distress," said Lt. Col. Hank Eng, Civil Air Patrol mission incident commander and the wing's emergency services officer. "CAP is proud to partner with first responders wherever and whatever the need. "

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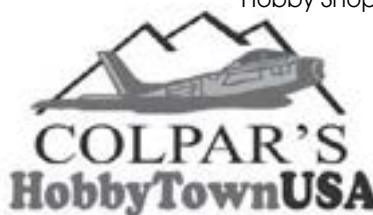


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On Wings Like Eagles....

By Maj. Jen Knellinger, CAP
RMR XO and Asst. Director of Public Affairs

With only one CAP Glider in the Colorado Wing, an experienced team of 3 CAP Glider pilots and two volunteer tow pilots from close by Black Forest Soaring Club, accomplished an incredible number of sorties (flights) in just 2 days. Using the Air Force Academy's Davis Field in Colorado Springs, thirty-five sorties, (3 were check/training rides, 32 were Cadet Orientation flights.) were flown on a beautiful weekend in mid-May. But the logistics were months in the making.

With invaluable support from the 306th Flight Training Group at USAFA, the team was able to use the airfield for the entire two days of flying. It was the first time in decades a CAP aircraft had flown out of USAFA. (WWII photo) Davis Airfield offers three runways – making an efficient operation for both the glider and tow pilots for take-offs, landings and the USAFA Aero Club, which operated off the East runway. Tow pilots included John Gillis (shown in photograph with Glider pilot Lt. Col. Dick Eason and PPCS Ops Officer, Capt. Owen Andrusiak) and Bill Gerblich, flying a Piper Pawnee PA-25.



Glider pilots for the weekend included Lt. Col. Dick Eason, 2nd Lt. John Norton and Lt. Col. Patrick Moylan – half of the wing's glider team with Program Officer, Maj. Dan Kubitckek, Lt. Col. Jer Eberhard and Capt. Bob Lynn.

While the glider program is logistically complex (tow aircraft and pilot required), **flying gliders teaches the fundamentals of flying.** The principal difference between an airplane and a glider is **its power source.** Whereas an airplane has an internal combustion engine that generates the power to propel it forward and to generate lift, a glider has no engine, and requires a tow aircraft to get to altitude.

The glider program offers the best opportunity for cadets and pilots to be introduced to the purest form of flight – all air, wind, and weather creating lift. With a focus on stick and rudder skills, eye/hand coordination and aviation weather – a person is learning mother nature's air flow.

Speaking with CAP pilot Lt. Col. Dick Eason, a retired Navy pilot, with years of experienced in powered aircraft and helicopters, he recalled using knowledge about aviation weather learned in gliders in a trip to Lake Tahoe in a Piper Dakota. A high-density altitude environment with mountain ridges, the Tahoe airport sits in a valley. Often powered aircraft must circle over a nearby golf course repeatedly to gain altitude. However, with the wind out of the west, Dick was able to climb straight out, at about 1000 ft/min, knowing the environment and using ridge lift, outclimbing aircraft that had taken off prior and were still circling to climb.

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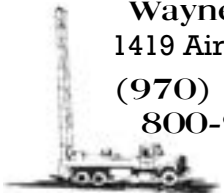
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must understand any aircraft's glide ratio, L/D (lift over drag), for landing and even more so for choosing potential emergency landing opportunities. In comparison, Dick shared at 1 mile up, the helicopter has about a 1 to 2 miles (can't glide very far!). Our CAP 182's can glide about 6 to 8 miles. The glider, which has the highest glide ratio can glide for up to 36 miles!

The distance a glider can fly is limited by the available lift along an intended course. Training flights usually occur near the airport and often do not exceed 5-15 miles and are very safe. Per Wikipedia, "If you could extrapolate single mode pilot certificate counts to a common usage basis, **flying a glider is 2.5x safer than flying an airplane**, but of course you can't. However, the NTSB accident count for 2017 shows 56x more airplane accidents and 90x more fatal airplane accidents than glider accidents".

Dick referenced one of his most memorable glider flights flying in a Wyoming Wing event. Two ASKs were up flying in a thermal and were joined by a Red-Tailed hawk – flying the same thermal! A glider flight is an experience not to be missed. Cadets and seniors can learn stick and rudder skills and a tremendous amount about aviation weather. In a glider, having wings like eagles (or a hawk) is a wonderfully quiet, exhilarating experience and great fun.

Thanks to CAP glider pilots Lt. Col. Dick Eason and Lt. Col. Patrick Moylan for their input to this story. ■



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In Memoriam

The COWG bid farewell to Lt. Col. Gene Munson who passed unexpectedly on July 5th. Col. Munson was one of the wing's beloved longtime members and a dear friend and colleague to many.

Lt. Col. Munson was a decorated Vietnam era Air Force veteran and having served in Civil Air Patrol since 2002, held technician, senior and master ratings in multiple CAP specialty tracks, received numerous service awards. Over his 21-year tenure in CAP he was appointed to various leadership and staff positions at the squadron, group, wing and region levels. He was also a valued member of the COWG Public Affairs team and regularly contributed articles to *Peaks & Planes* magazine. In fact, there's an article by him in this issue that he submitted this past spring.

Dr. Gene Munson volunteered to serve in the United States Air Force immediately after High School and spent time in Laos & Cambodia during the Vietnam War. He was an intelligence specialist, and plotted targets for B-52s in the Linebacker II campaign. After his tour of duty was complete, Gene received an honorable discharge while serving in the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, the most decorated unit during the war.

Chasing and accumulating knowledge was always a passion of his and he obtained a Doctoral Degree in Leadership from Regent University in 2004. That same year, he also retired from working with the federal government as a GS-13 after 25 years of service. Dr. Munson was an accomplished writer and authored several books.

Many members of the Colorado Wing paid tribute to Lt. Col. Munson and attended a memorial service at Fort Logan National Cemetery and a celebration of life afterwards at Three Trees Chapel in Littleton on Thursday, August 10th.



Fair skies and tailwinds, Lt. Col. Gene Munson. You will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences to Maj. Trevor Munson and all of Gene's family.

STEM and Model Rocketry Event Held at Gateway High School, CO

By Lt. Col. Gene Munson, CAP

Public Affairs Officer, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron

(Additional notes by Capt. Elaine Stewart, Mile High Cadet Squadron)

Photographs by Lt. Col. Gene Munson, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron, and 1st Lt. Tami Clements, Highlander Composite Squadron



Civil Air Patrol (CAP), an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, held a STEM event on March 11, 2023 at Gateway High School in Aurora, CO. It was sponsored by three squadrons from the Colorado Wing: Mile-Hi Cadet, Parker Composite, and Valkyrie Cadet. Our Colorado Wing Group 4 attendees shared an atmosphere of teamwork, mutual respect, and service to the community. We had a great turnout of enthusiastic STEM students.

CAP extends their gratitude for efforts of The Colorado Rocketry Association of Space Hobbyists (C.R.A.S.H.). It was a great day for launching and 175 launches were made by the community of Aurora, family and friends. Special thanks to the CRASH Crew: Tim, Jim, John, Dave, Benjamin, Chris, Brian, Matt and Bob who weathered the long day helping with set up and take down, fixing rockets on the fly, and helping load the pads. CAP Cadets had the opportunity to build and launch rockets too.

Special Thanks to Mr. Tom Neff, Drone Pilot and Instructor for Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. Colorado Wing Group 4: Lt. Col. Charles Sellers, Commander and Maj. Joseph Visalli,




Internal AEO whom brought various drones for prospective members to train with including DGI Phantom Vision 2+ drones.

The Rocketry and Recruiting Event was designed for Elementary, Middle, and High school students who were interested in STEM fields and looking for a fun and educational way to explore their interests. CAP Cadets and Senior Members assisted and answered questions during the event opening conversation to talk about Civil Air Patrol. During the event, they had the opportunity to:

- Learn how to build and launch a model rocket!
- Build and launch a rocket made from pop-bottles.
- Play with our Sphero robots and learn how they work.
- Make and experiment with straw sphere and balsa wood planes.
- Experience flying through our flight simulators.
- Get a demonstration of our drones and learn how to fly them!
- Learn about all the aerospace experiences available through Civil Air Patrol that can provide growth to elevate their future.

CAP is a fantastic organization that offers a wide range of educational opportunities for children interested in aerospace. Through various programs and initiatives, CAP teaches them about aviation, aerospace, and STEM-related fields. Some of those opportunities for CAP members are free orientation flights, an advanced model rocketry course, drone pilot programs, and an in-depth aerospace education.



Additional information may be found at: gocivilairpatrol.com 

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COWG Assists at State of Colorado Partnership with Republic of Slovenia 30th Anniversary Event

*By Lt. Col. Thom Scheffel, CAP
COWG Asst. Government Relations Advisor
Photos by Maj. Trevor Munson, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron Commander*

In response to a request from the Governor, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) sought the assistance of the Colorado Civil Air Patrol (CAP) for the "30th Anniversary Ceremony in honor of the State Partnership Program between the Colorado National Guard and The Republic of Slovenia." The COWG CAP eagerly embraced this opportunity, recognizing the significance of the event and its role in fostering strong ties between the two nations. The commemorative ceremony took place on Saturday, July 15th, 2023, commencing at 1:00pm and concluding at 7:30.



A remarkable show of commitment was exhibited with 17 dedicated CAP cadets and 9 esteemed senior members volunteering their services. All participated in this meaningful occasion. Some of the key COWG staff participating and representing the Colorado Wing were Col. Gary Tobey, Government Relations Advisor, Lt. Col. Mike Fay, Wing Director of Cadet Programs, and Lt. Col. Thom Scheffel, Assistant Government Relations Advisor and Project Officer for the event.

An impressive display of unity was seen, with 11 COWG squadrons coming together to lend their support. The participating squadrons included the Air Academy Cadet Squadron, Dakota Ridge Squadron, Highlander Composite Squadron, Jefferson County Senior Squadron, Mustang Cadet Squadron, North Valley Squadron, Parker Composite Squadron, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron, Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron, and Vance Brand Cadet Squadron.

To ensure the smooth and effective execution of tasks, cadets were assigned to different groups based on seniority, each accompanied by a designated "battle buddy" to ensure safety and efficiency. Additionally, a senior member was assigned to each group to provide guidance and assistance in fulfilling their



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responsibilities. The assigned tasks ranged from formally greeting distinguished guests and distributing programs to maintaining a ceremonial presence and carrying out other duties as needed.



The event boasted an esteemed guest list, including the Governor, Jared Polis, the Slovenian Minister of Defense, Marjan Sarec, the Colorado Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan and other high-ranking military officials. Prior to their involvement, the cadets and senior members were thoroughly briefed on the event's significance, ensuring they upheld military bearing and customs and courtesies in an exemplary manner. Their conduct and dedication reflected highly upon the Civil Air Patrol, effectively embodying the spirit of the Cadet Oath to serve their community, state, and nation.

In conclusion, the CAP's involvement in the "30th Anniversary Ceremony" was a resounding success, exemplifying unity, dedication, and commitment to service. Many thanks to all involved in making this event a memorable and honorable occasion. 🇺🇸

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COWG Members Participate in General Rose Statue Ceremony

COWG cadets and senior members participated in the General Maurice Rose statue dedication ceremony in Denver on the grounds of the state capitol on April 16th.

Major General Maurice Rose is the most decorated battle tank commander in American history and the highest ranking Jewish soldier in World War II. He grew up in Denver in a prominent Jewish family and dropped out of high school to join the military. Rose served with valor in both World Wars, killed in action while leading his men from the front in 1945. He was the highest-ranking officer to be killed in Europe in World War II.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower said that "Rose was not only one of our bravest and best, but was a leader who inspired his men to speedy accomplishment of tasks that to a lesser man would have seemed impossible."

The General Rose Monument, created by renowned Colorado sculptor George Lundeen, honors a Colorado hero that the entire nation can look to as a point of pride and inspiration.

Photos of cadets from the Thompson Valley Composite Squadron at the General Maurice Rose statue dedication Ceremony.



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COWG 2023 Emergency Services Warrior Weekend

*By 1st Lt. Tami Clements, CAP
Highlander Composite Squadron PAO*

This year's COWG ES Warrior Weekend took place May 6-7 and members worked on Ground Team, sUAS, and Mission Base positions like Mission Radio Operator (MRO) and Mission Staff Assistant (MSA) qualifications. In addition, there were 12 Orientation flights completed on day one. The MSA's had the opportunity to greet, escort, and introduce a dignitary, Lt. Col. Jon Slottje, CAP USAF, to members at Mission Base and show him around. Many cadets had a great start on their qualifications or finished up qualifications over the weekend.



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On Sunday, members were up early again for reveille at 0630, breakfast, formation, and then off to the last of the 3 blocks of training. 6 more cadets participated in Orientation flights. Many others worked on completing as many tasks as possible to become qualified in their respective tracks. Capt. Andrusiak led the sUAS training where 11 of the 14 cadets received their basic pilot wings on Sunday afternoon which was great!

The wind picked up again by late Sunday afternoon and made packing up a bit more challenging, but the teamwork between all members made the task possible.



We hope everyone had a great weekend, learned a lot, and accomplished many tasks for sign off's, even if members didn't completely finish their qualifications.

The ES Warrior Weekend was a big success and has surely prepared many of our members for the next Search and Rescue competition. 🇺🇸



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13 February 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR COLORADO WING

FROM: VICE COMMANDER

SUBJECT: COLORADO WING ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

1. On behalf of Colonel John Rhoades, COWG Commander, it is with great pleasure that I announce the recipients of Colorado Wing's 2022 wing-only "of the year" Awards.
2. The recipients on the list below are recognized only at the wing level and will not compete at Rocky Mountain Region for additional recognition.
3. Please join me in congratulating the following Colorado Wing members:

Cadet Commander of the Year

- **C/Lt Col Makenna Dinkins – Highlander Composite Squadron**

Cadet Junior Officer of the Year

- **C/2d Lt Brylon Broughton – Air Academy Cadet Squadron**

Cadet Staff Officer of the Year of the Year

- **C/Maj Alex Wilson – Colorado Military Academy Cadet Squadron**

Cadet NCO of the Year

- **C/CMSgt Alexandria Johnson – Air Academy Cadet Squadron**

Squadron Commander of the Year

- **2d Lt Kirsten Turner – Parker Composite Squadron**

Squadron Staff Officer of the Year

- **Lt Col Lee Thomson – Air Academy Cadet Squadron**

//SIGNED//
FLOYD B MCCORMICK, Lt Col, CAP
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13 February 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR COLORADO WING

FROM: VICE COMMANDER

SUBJECT: COLORADO WING ANNUAL AWARD NOMINEES

1. It is with great pleasure that I announce Colorado Wing's nominees for the 2022 "of the year" Awards.

2. These nominations recognize the finest members in each category from Colorado Wing for their volunteer service during 2022. They have been submitted to Rocky Mountain Region for consideration as region level nominees. Rocky Mountain Region nominees will be considered for Civil Air Patrol National Level "of the year" Awards.

3. Please join me in congratulating all these Colorado Wing members.

Cadet of the Year

- **Cadet Colonel Ryan Miscio – Broomfield Composite Squadron**

Senior Member of the Year

- **Captain Owen Andrusiak – Pikes Peak Composite Squadron**

Air Force Sergeant's Association Cadet NCO of the Year

- **Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Nelson– Mile High Cadet Squadron**

Col David Kantor Operations Staff Officer of the Year

- **Major Rob Yusko – Colorado Wing**

Col Dion DeCamp Ground Team of the Year

- **Captain Daniel Cochran – Colorado Wing**

Communicator of the Year

- **Major Chip Ferron – Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron**

Director of Finance of the Year Award

- **Lieutenant Colonel Kristen M Nolan – Colorado Wing**

Jack Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year

- **Captain Chris Peck – Eagle County Composite Squadron**

Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award – Cadet Category

- **Cadet Second Lieutenant Brylon Broughton – Air Academy Cadet Squadron**

Air Force Association Cadet Aerospace Officer of the Year

- **Cadet Colonel Ryan Miscio – Broomfield Composite Squadron**

Inspector General of the Year

- **Colonel Glenn A Kavich – Colorado Wing**

George Texido Legislative Officer of the Year

- **Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Scheffel – Valkyrie Cadet Squadron**

Lt Col T. Keith Riddle Aircrew Member of the Year

- **Captain Steven Balsom – Pikes Peak Composite Squadron**

Professional Development Officer of the Year

- **First Lieutenant Kenneth Ducote – Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron**

Major General Jeanne M. Holme Aerospace Education Officer of the Year

- **Captain Lori Fussell – Pikes Peak Composite Squadron**

Property Manager of the Year

- **Captain Vicki Olesky – Valkyrie Cadet Squadron**

Safety Officer of the Year

- **First Lieutenant Keith Robinson – Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron**

Character Development Officer of the Year

- **Lieutenant Colonel Marc Peterson – Air Academy Cadet Squadron**

Historian of the Year

- **Second Lieutenant John Huggard – Black Sheep Senior Squadron**

//SIGNED//
FLOYD B MCCORMICK, Lt Col, CAP
Vice Commander
Awards Board Chairman



CAP Cadet Becomes Air Force Trailblazer Then Returns to CAP



As a teenager in the Parker Cadet Squadron, then-Cadet 1st Lt. Rochelle Ng-A-Qui (later Kimbrell) poses for a photo with her mother (right) and then later in front of her F-16 as an Air Force fighter pilot.

Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Rochelle Kimbrell got her start as a Civil Air Patrol cadet in the Colorado Wing's Parker Composite Squadron. She received an appointment to the Air Force Academy and upon graduation proceeded to become the first female Black fighter pilot in the Air Force, serving as a trailblazer for generations to come. She retired after 22 years and then rejoined the Colorado Wing as a senior member. As a CAP lieutenant colonel and cadet flight orientation pilot she encourages

young men and women of all backgrounds to embrace aviation.

Kimbrell is an inspiration to many of all ages and continues to make a difference in others' lives. She especially enjoys speaking with young people who may not realize the sky's the limit until they meet her. She said, "I literally see the lights turn on in kids' eyes when I talk to them as they realize that someone like me can do something as cool as being a fighter pilot. They come to see that they can go out and do whatever they want to

do. That's what I focus on and what I think is really important. CAP can help achieve dreams."

Recently, Kimbrell was asked to take part in a Discovery Channel CuriosityStream documentary on Bessie Coleman, the first Black woman to earn a pilot's license. Kimbrell had a chance to talk about her early interest in aviation and the opportunities provided to her as a CAP cadet. There's also footage of her piloting an orientation flight with a female Colorado Wing cadet.

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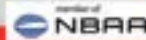
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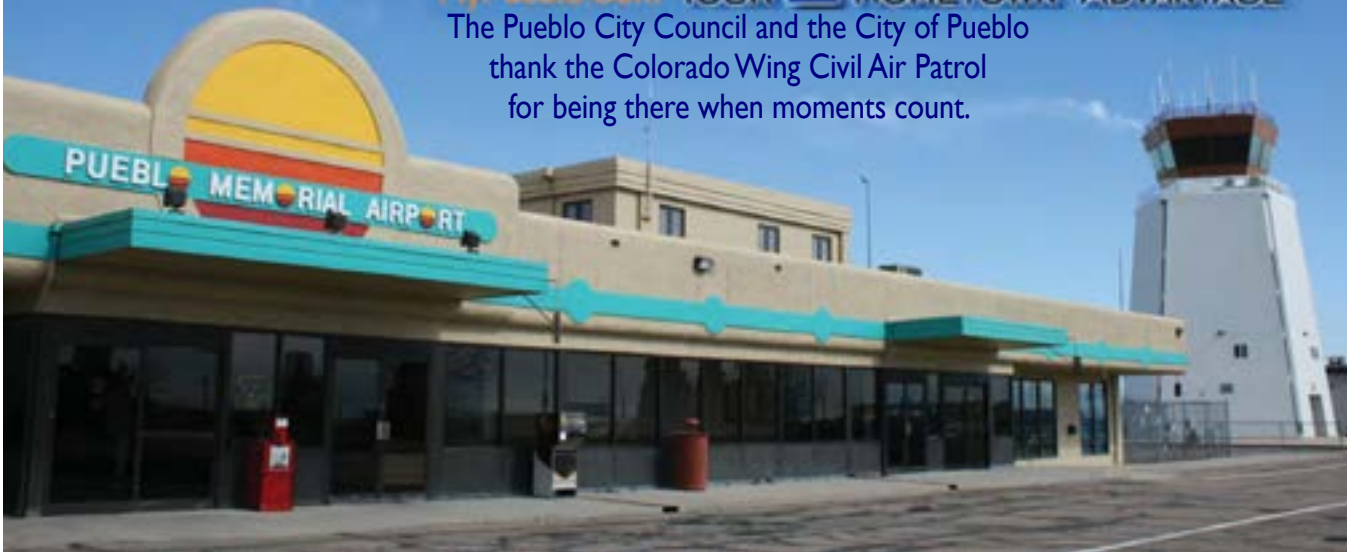
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