

Summer 2017

Peaks a d Planes

Official Magazine of the Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol



CSCS Wolf Pack Retakes CyberPatriot National Championship

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**Astronaut Vance Brand Meets
Vance Brand Cadet Squadron**



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Colorado Wing Commander

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ON THE COVER: Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron CyberPatriot Champions. Photo Courtesy Air Force Association.
INSET: Vance Brand Squadron with Astronaut Vance Brand at his book signing. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, RMR Director of Public Affairs.

Commander's Comments

*Col. Celeste Gamache, CAP
Commander, Colorado Wing*

I am writing this column the day after the release of the RMR "Of The Year" Awards. All I can say is WOW! Colorado Wing took 15 of the 20 categories of awards. That is fantastic! These awards reflect the great job these individuals are doing. In addition, they also reflect the great job each and every one of us is doing. If these individuals were not part of outstanding squadrons, they wouldn't have achieved what they did. All of us, as members of



Colorado Wing, can take pride in these awards. While we pat each other on the back, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Unfortunately (or fortunately), our work in and for CAP never stops. By the time this edition comes out, we will be well into the summer and all of the special activities, for both seniors and cadets. These classes and activities allow us to expand our horizons in CAP. I'm sure many of you are like me; you enjoy learning new things and participating in new activities. CAP has many areas in which to broaden your horizons. The better trained you are, the more use to CAP you can be. Take advantage of these opportunities. When you reach a high level of competence, make sure you share your knowledge with other CAP members. We have a shortage of people trained in nearly all aspects of mission base support roles. If you aren't a pilot or observer, this is a great way for you to become involved in our emergency services mission. If you are a pilot or observer, working mission base support roles will make you more competent and aware of what is going on behind the scenes and a better member in times of crisis.

All of us senior members also need to help out in cadet programs. I realize not every senior member wants to be in a cadet or composite squadron. However, your background or

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CSCS Wolf Pack are CyberPatriot National Champs...AGAIN!

*By Lt. Col. Gene Munson, CAP
Assistant Colorado Wing Public Affairs Officer
Photographs courtesy of Capt. Brittany Hardy, Maj. Bill Blatchley,
Lt. Col. Gene Munson, and the Air Force Association.*

Air Force Association's National CyberPatriot IX Championship was held in Gaylord, Maryland, on April 2-6, 2017. Leading up to this final event were several online competitions held at squadron locations around the country culminating in the category round competitions producing the top level teams in the nation for this prestigious competition.

CyberPatriot was started in 2009 by the US Air Force Association to bolster youth involvement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired information technology professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company.

To compete, teams receive a virtual image of a computer system. The teams must then search this virtual computer for security vulnerabilities, ranging from weak passwords to hidden viruses. The teams score points on fixing these vulnerabilities and answering



questions about how they fixed the computer system. The teams must complete all their tasks in a 6-hour period during the competition. Teams compete in two qualifying rounds, and are placed in Platinum, Gold, and Silver tiers, with the top 30%, middle 40%, and bottom 30% respectively. Each tier has their own State round and Category round, with the top two teams from each category and one wild card compete in the National Finals Competition.

Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron Wolfpack Team persevered through tough competition and hours of practice to once again win another National Championship title in the All-Services Division of CyberPatriot. As representing members of the Colorado Wing, Rocky Mountain Region, Civil Air Patrol, Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, they exemplified their level of competence within the cyber security arena. This championship is the Wolfpack Team's second national championship title and have been to the CyberPatriot Finals an unprecedented seven times including a Third Place completion last year. Each team member receives a \$2,000 college scholarship from the Northrop



Grumman Foundation and will likely be sought after for future positions in the cyber security industry.

There were a total of 4,404 teams registered for CyberPatriot IX. Of this number, 1,589 were in the All Services Division, which included 528 CAP teams. Also, there were 598 Middle School Division teams of which many were affiliated with CAP. CAP

Cadet 2nd Lt. Noah Bowe, provided an excellent description of how the competition intensity increases with each round: “In the online category round, the competition is designed to be very difficult, and therefore it taxes the abilities of all the team members. At the national level, the difficulty increases exponentially.”

This competition was different from the first CyberPatriot championship back in 2012, all the team members are different. The team roster is fixed at the beginning of the season and new members cannot be added per the rules. Wolfpack Team member names and ranks are as follows:

Cadet Capt. Taylor Coffey, Team Captain, 3rd year national finalist

Cadet 2nd Lt. Noah Bowe, 3rd year national finalist

Cadet 1st Lt. Isaac Stone, 2nd year national finalist

Cadet Capt. Zach Cramer, 2nd year national finalist

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Garrett Jackson, 1st year national finalist

Maj. Bill Blatchley, coach and mentor

1st Lt. Amy Griswold, team assistant coach



Cadet 2nd Lt. Victor Griswold, team assistant coach

Appreciation

Colorado Governor Hickenlooper invited the team to his office to personally congratulate the Team. But first they were guests of the Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) who were interested in learning more about the level of talent Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and high schools are turning out. Since competition is supported by the Air Force Association, CAP is an obvious example of how youth involvement in cyber security would be interest to the U.S. Air Force and its alumni. One of the Colorado high school teams, Highlands Ranch High School also advanced to the national level in the Open Division, but did not place this year. In the High School Open Division, Highlands Ranch High School’s team was one of 12 Finalists out of the 2,214 Open Division teams to compete. This was their third consecutive trip to the National Finals.

It was great to have two Colorado teams at that level of competition. The OIT director, Debbi Blyth, spoke with the two teams about her information technology specialists’ backgrounds, what projects the State of Colorado was involved with now, and their expectations on the state of the cybersecurity talent needs for the future.

Encouragement

As one of the Team coaches, 1st Lt. Amy Griswold, strongly encourages all squadrons who have cadet interest to compete. “You don’t need to know anything about cyber security in order to learn. CyberPatriot puts out a great package of information and training


Continued . . .



materials for teams that have zero knowledge of computer security or networking. Start with what they give you and slowly build from there. If you don't know the answer work with your team to find it. Coaches, mentors, and team assistants can learn with the team, nothing in the rules says you need to be an expert to compete. Teens love challenges and they have grown up attached to technology. Searching things on the internet is part of what they do every day without thinking too much about it. Harness that love of learning and set them on task to find solutions to expand their cyber security knowledge and you'll be surprised at how far they go."

Some additional advice from Cadet Capt. Taylor Coffey is: "Teamwork, leadership, and technical skills are all needed to be successful in the competition. Without one of those three, a team will not do well." The technical skills are a portion of the competition effort and receives most of the external focus, but teamwork and leadership are also required to ensure the balance of strengths and weaknesses are met within the team. Cadet 2nd Lt. Bowe also provides encouragement to new competitors to jump right in, find other cadets interested, and get a team together. Learn about the cyber security issues by talking with experts and do your best, and have fun!

Opportunities

The CAP STEM program has seven different curriculum, which the cadets can advance in the specific areas of expertise such as robotics and rocketry. Every squadron is eligible to participate in these programs even if you do not want to compete in Cyber Patriot. The training information is located on the National training page of their website. Another Air Force Association sponsored competition for CAP squadrons to consider is StellarXplorers. More information on this program can be found at www.stellarxplorers.org. If you are a cadet who is interested in flying, search and rescue, or cyber security—the Civil Air Patrol has something for you! Visit a squadron near you and become one of Civil Air Patrol's Champions! 




Watch Your Six

By 1st Lt. Tammy Peeples, CAP
COWG Assistant Dir. of Safety

Entering an initial mishaps notification into SIRS in eServices is not as hard as you think if you use this easy to remember method. The first thing you should do immediately is to call the Wing Director of Safety to report the mishap. Do not wait. The contact information for the Director is listed on the COWG website. You should have this phone number stored in your cellphone. You should do this prior to filing your mishap in eServices to obtain guidance from the director on how it should be filed.

When Filing the mishap online there are two steps to complete; the initial notification, part 1, and the data/information entry in part 2. I want to talk about the first part of filing. When entering the information in step 1 you **should not** write the entire description of what happened in the "Brief description" area. You will enter that information in step 2. Instead you should enter just enough information to let the directors know what the mishap was. Use the brief who what when where how and why. Think of it as how you would write a newspaper headline. Just enough information to let the reader know what to expect when they read the content. An example would be *Cadet twisted ankle during the squadron meeting outside in the PT area when cadet stepped in a hole in the ground. It could not be seen due to grass covering it.* The who: cadet. The what: twisted ankle. The When: during the squadron meeting. The Where: Outside in the PT area. The how: stepped in a hole. The why: because it was covered by grass.

The next part of filing a mishap is part 2. And that is where you will enter the more detailed information of the mishap. For further information on filing mishaps consult CAPR 62-2. Still have questions on proper filing that you can't find the answers for in the regs? You can do several things to become more knowledgeable in filing mishaps; redo the *How to file a mishap* modules in eServices, consult with your Squadron Commander and group Safety Officer. If you still have questions your group safety officer can help get questions answered by the Wing Director of Safety. Remember to try and get your questions resolved as the lowest level first. 

NORAD General Presents Eaker Award to COWG Cadet

By Cadet 1st Lt. Ian Engebrecht, CAP
Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron

The CAP cadet program offers cadets the opportunity to learn discipline, leadership and dedication, and get rewarded for it by earning awards and promotions. The promotions start at cadet airman basic, and go up to cadet colonel, each rank getting harder and harder to achieve. This is all too familiar to Anthony Zuniga from Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron, who just earned the General Ira C. Eaker Award along with his new rank of cadet lieutenant colonel. An estimated 2% of cadets in the program achieve this award, and it is the 20th achievement out of the total 21 in the cadet program (making it the second-highest rank one can possibly achieve).

“I’ve learned that more than scientists, engineers, and lawyers the world needs leaders.”

–Cadet Lt. Col. Anthony Zuniga

In addition to working towards the second highest rank in the cadet program, he has also shown himself to be an upstanding cadet in other ways. Namely: being one of two cadets in his wing to be selected for the Florida Wing Honor Society, first to be accepted into the Wing’s Honor Society of Distinction, attending numerous NCSA’s, and



Brig. Gen. Thomas Owens, Deputy Director of NORAD Operations, presenting the General Ira C. Eaker Award to Cadet Lt. Col. Anthony Zuniga. Photo by Samantha Zuniga

serving in countless staff roles during his career in the Civil Air Patrol.

With all this experience under his belt, he urges young cadets to find rewarding opportunities by participation in activities ranging from weekly meetings to squadron activities and even NCSA’s or other extra-squadron academies. He says that more than anything, CAP has taught him leadership skills and the importance of leadership, and he urges new members to get this same skillset out of the program. 🇺🇸

COMMANDER’S CORNER cont. from page 1

knowledge may allow you to help out in some way – teach a class, help on an activity, be an orientation pilot (and actually fly cadets). Our great cadets deserve our time and assistance.

Finally, I want to encourage those of you who have the time and resources to attend the National Conference, 31 Aug – 2 Sep, at the Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio, Texas. At a National Conference, you will see how the management of

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CAP works, you can attend many breakout sessions on nearly every topic related to CAP, and you’ll meet the people from National HQ who keep CAP running day in and day out. I’ve attended many National Conferences (and National Board Meetings) and find them very interesting and enjoyable.

Congratulations again to our award winners. I’m very proud of you and this Wing. Thank you all for your contributions to this great organization. 🇺🇸

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Wing Conference Spotlights Awards & Accomplishments CGM Presented to Eugene Cousineau

*Maj. Mike Fassi, CAP
CO Wing, Director of Public Affairs*

Saturday 29 April was filled with anticipation as CAP members and guests along with dignitaries from around the State and Region descended on Grand Junction for the annual Wing Conference. Mother Nature made the travel interesting as a late spring storm threatened the travelers. Fortunately, everyone arrived safely and the Conference began on time.

Registration began at 0730 and opening ceremonies commenced promptly at 0830. Col. Tobey did an outstanding job as MC. Col. Gamache welcomed everyone and addressed some of the Wings major challenges:


- A. Budget issues and dealing with the ongoing uncertainty of Continuing Resolutions from Washington.
- B. Recruiting and Retention of new members. (10% net increase)
- C. Next Year's Wing Conference will be held in Colorado Springs and will be a joint effort with Region.

Col. Kettell Rocky Mountain Regional Commander was introduced and discussed many of the Wings challenges and goals including:

- A. The need to increase the number of leaders and keep them in CAP
- B. Membership growth and retention
- C. Specifics tactics to achieve these goals
- D. Financial growth of the organization
- E. Lead the Nation in a category ie. Cyber Patriots

The day was filled with informative and entertaining seminars ranging from Aero Space Education, OPS, Cadet Programs and Public Affairs. The cadets were challenged with the Marine Corps Fitness Test. Congratulations to all the cadets that participated and I'm sure they are looking forward to competing next year.

The highlight of the day was the awards presentations. Congressman Scott Tipton attended and presented numerous awards. The Congressional Gold Medal presented to former CAP Cadet during WWII Sergeant Major Eugene Cousineau by Congressman Tipton was moving and emotional. As Mr. Cousineau accepted the award he thanked CAP for instilling in him the ideals that made him the man he has become. It was fitting that he was surrounded by four of the wing's four newest Spaatz cadets. Cadet Colornels Nathaniel, Brenden, and Kaleb Todd from Cortez along with Cadet Col. Matt Lajoy from Montrose all received their Spaatz award from Congressman Tipton. Capt. Guy Loughridge received a Congressional Tribute for his work in creating software that tracks the location of downed aircraft. His work has been credited with saving numerous lives over the past few years. There were many, many more awards presented to deserving Wing members.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend a Wing Conference I encourage you to plan now for next years' meeting which will be a Regional Conference held in Colorado Springs. 



Sergeant Major Eugene Cousineau, USA Ret. (center) was presented with a Congressional Gold Medal by U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton (right) for his CAP service as a cadet during WWII.



CGM recipient Sergeant Major Eugene Cousineau, USA Ret. flanked by four recently minted Spaatz cadet colonels Nathaniel, Brenden and Kaleb Todd and Matt Lajoy.



Jeffco Senior Squadron Commander, Maj. Wes Morosco received the COWG and Rocky Mountain Region "of the Year" Award for Brewer Senior Member (Category II) from RMR Commander, Col. Tom Kettell (left) and COWG Commander, Col. Celeste Gamache.



Capt. Guy Loughridge (left center) was presented with a Congressional Tribute by U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton (right) as well as a Distinguished Service Award by RMR Commander, Col. Tom Kettell for his outstanding work developing software to track the location of downed aircraft that has helped the CAP NRAT team save numerous lives over the past few years. Also pictured are Lt. Col. Mark Young (left) and Lt. Col. John Henderson (right center) who are also members of the National Radar Analysis Team.



COWG and Jeffco Senior Squadron PDO, Lt. Col. Victor Sabatini received the COWG and Rocky Mountain Region "of the Year" Award for Professional Development Officer from RMR Commander, Col. Tom Kettell (left) and COWG Commander, Col. Celeste Gamache.



Vance Brand Cadet Squadron Commander, Capt. Tammy Peoples received the COWG and Rocky Mountain Region "Of the Year" Award for Safety Officer from RMR Commander Col. Tom Kettell (left) and U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton.



2016 Colorado Wing “Of the Year” Awards



Congratulations to our winners:

Senior Member of the Year – Lt. Col. Michael T. McNeely, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron

Cadet of the Year – Cadet Col. Chad L. Lewis, Mustang Cadet Squadron

AFSA Cadet NCO of the Year – Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Mackenzie L. Jordak, Air Academy Cadet Squadron

Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award, Category I, Cadet – Cadet 2nd Lt. Stephanie J. Fijalkowski, Parker Cadet Squadron

Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award, Category II, Senior – Maj. Wes Morosco, Jefferson County Senior Squadron

Holms Aerospace Education Officer of the Year – Capt. Jeremy S. Sing, Jefferson County Senior Squadron

Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year – 2nd Lt. Paul J. Russell, Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron

Communicator of the Year – Capt. Laurence B. Gillam, Pikes Peak Senior Squadron

Director of Finance of the Year – Maj. Kristen M. Nolan, HQ Colorado Wing

Historian of the Year – Lt. Col. David L. Ellis, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron

Ed Lewis Incident Staff Member of the Year – Maj. William J. O’Connor, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron

Property Management Officer of the Year – Capt. Eva M. Hailbrunner, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron

Professional Development Officer of the Year – Lt. Col. Victor R. Sabatini, Jefferson County Senior Squadron

Safety Officer of the Year – 1st Lt. Tammy R. Peeples, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron

Squadron Chaplain of the Year – Lt. Col. Don L. Henderson, Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron

Character Development Officer of the Year – 1st Lt. Sally K. Williams, Broomfield Composite Squadron

Colorado Wing specific awards:

William F. Hines Air Crew Member of the Year – Capt. Martin J. Kelly, Jefferson County Senior Squadron



Chaplain's Corner


Greetings everyone! I just wanted to spend a few paragraphs to introduce myself and to share some of my insights with all of you. My name is Ch. Philip Vogels (Capt.) and I am honored to be serving as your new Colorado Wing Chaplain. I know I have some big shoes to fill following Ch. Jeff Williams (Lt. Col.) who previously held this position, but with his and your help, I am confident that we will do some amazing things together.

In my day job I am a United Methodist pastor serving the towns of Akron and Brush out on the north-western plains of Colorado. Although I am fairly far away from most of you, using cell phones and programs like Skype allows us to keep in communication so feel free to drop me an email or call me anytime. I have been in the Civil Air Patrol for around 7 years and I am a believer in our mission to our communities as well as our cadets and senior members.

As a member of the Chaplains Corps I have the unique opportunity to serve others through a ministry of presence. Meaning, as a Chaplain, I get to just sit down, talk to people, and build relationships. Of course, being a Chaplain is much more than that. Chaplains are present to help all of you when you are going through a tough time and are facing challenges in your life, no matter if they are CAP related or not. We are here to answer questions revolving around your spiritual end emotion lives as well. In short, Chaplains are here to serve you in whatever capacity we can.

Our mission would not be complete without Character Development Instructors because one of their roles is to help us understand our Core Values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect. These values give us a high standard to live up to in our daily lives and in our CAP duties. When we follow these values, we live into the ideals set forth through these same Core Values.

I have a great admiration and respect for all members of the Civil Air Patrol because of the dedication of time and energy you all give to each other and our communities. When a plane goes missing, CAP is there to help. When a disaster occurs, CAP is there to lend a hand. Through our cadet programs, aerospace education, and senior member programs, we help each other grow so that we can help those who we have never met.

Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve as your Wing Chaplain and if there is anything I can personally do to help you in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know. Or feel free to contact a local member of the Chaplain Corps and please remember: "We are here to serve." 

State, nation, world honor Colorado Adjutant General for half a century of military service

By Lt. Col. Elena O'Bryan, CONG
Colorado National Guard Public Affairs

U.S. and Allied military members and civilians crowded into a packed Colorado Air National Guard hangar at Buckley Air Force Base, Aurora, April 2, to watch the retirement of the 42nd Adjutant General of Colorado U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper proclaimed the date as "General Mike Edwards Day."

"For the past 43 years, our entire nation has benefited from the distinguished and noble service of General Edwards," Hickenlooper said. "Coloradans will remember him as one of the most accomplished adjutants general in our state's history. Veterans across our state will long benefit from his tireless efforts to serve those who have served. General Edwards represents the best of our nation's military, and we are forever grateful for his service to Colorado and our country."



The 42nd Adjutant General of Colorado U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards retired April 2, 2017, after 43 years of military service including 36 years in the Colorado Air National Guard. Mrs. Laury Edwards accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Air Force. Gen. Edwards referred to her as "Colorado's First Lady of the Guard." (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech Sgt. Nicole Manzanares)



The Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol presented Gen. Edwards with a framed portrait print of a CAP Cessna aircraft training with a National Guard F-16.

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The Chief, National Guard Bureau, Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel presented Edwards the Distinguished Service Medal. "Mike Edwards was a leader among the 54 adjutants general," he said. "No one's better at building partnerships. That's the way you get things done."

Gen. Edwards graduated from the United States Air Force Academy, which commissioned him as a second lieutenant June 6, 1973. Retired General Norton A. Schwartz, the 19th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, said, "Mike Edwards is the last man standing from the class of 1973 at the Air Force Academy." Edwards has 43 years of military service, including 36 years in the Colorado Air National Guard. A command pilot with more than 4,600 military flight hours, including 135 combat hours, Edwards flew A-7, AT-38, C-21, F-4, F-16, T-37 and T-38 military aircraft. He is also a civilian pilot.

Former Governor Bill Ritter appointed Edwards

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adjutant general in 2007. A member of the governor's cabinet, Edwards simultaneously served as Executive Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, which provides guidance and support to its three divisions: Veterans Affairs; National Guard; Civil Air Patrol.



Gen. Edwards was presented with a "Ten Gallon" white cowboy hat for being one of the "good guys" who helped protect the west.

The adjutant general has administrative control of more than 5,300 Colorado Army and Air National Guard members conducting both state and federal missions. The National Guard is the first military responder during domestic emergencies and, as the U.S. Army's and U.S. Air Force's combat reserve, deploys overseas in support of the war fight.

During his tenure as Adjutant General, more than 6,000

CONG Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen mobilized in support of overseas contingency operations. He also oversaw the CONG's record-setting response to some of the worst natural disasters impacting Colorado, including the High Park Fire and the Waldo Canyon Fire during 2012, followed by the Black Forest Fire and historic flooding along the Colorado Front Range in 2013. Additionally, Edwards attracted a new National Guard cyber protection team to Colorado, bolstering the state's military cyber defenses.

Under Edwards' leadership, the Civil Air Patrol's Colorado Wing, with its 1,600 volunteers, took on a bigger role in state response, flying wildfire watch and conducting flood damage surveys. Colorado's CAP was first to fly support of the U.S. Army's on-base unmanned aerial systems operations.

Gov. Hickenlooper appointed U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael A. Loh as Colorado's newest Adjutant General and Executive Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs with an effective date of April 10. Loh graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1984. A command pilot with over 3,200 flight hours including 2,900 hours and 128 combat flight hours in the F-16 fighter jet, Loh has served in the Colorado Air National Guard since 1991. 🇺🇸

Destination United States Air Force Academy: One Cadet's Journey

*By Cadet Capt. Jeffrey A. Ditlevson, CAP
Evergreen Cadet Squadron*

The journey that carried me to my appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy culminated with my membership in Civil Air Patrol. Prior to joining in 2011, little thought of military service in general ever struck my thoughts of my future image. My family contains relatively little military background. Put simply, war stories or an affinity to the military as a child did not instigate thoughts of a USAFA future but rather the exposure I experienced through CAP.

As a basic for the 2012 COWG encampment, the Academy intrigued me with its facilities and lifestyle. Little thought about college went through my seventh-grade mind at the time, but sights such as the chapel, terrazzo, and the overall experience while at the Prep School reverberated in me for a few years.


I would return later to serve in the 2015, 2016, and currently 2017 COWG encampments. Each year the dream of going as a fourth-class cadet rather than a CAP affiliate to the Academy germinating. The idea became concrete last summer as I filled out the initial stages of the application. My long, eight-month journey had begun and would soon function to qualify tools I had gained over my years of service in CAP.

Over the summer I reinforced my desire, staffing the 2016 "Phantom" Encampment; Through attendance in the 2016 Cadet Officer School at Maxwell AFB exposure to the philosophies of Air Force officers, fighter pilots, and every one of our extraordinary speakers inspired me to seek a similar path of excellence all had pursued throughout their lives; USAFA represented the one congruity between myself and most of the individuals, showing the possibility of this being a reality. I flew home late July and began to work enthusiastically on the application.

The overall process was not particularly hard but detailed and comprehensive as one would expect. I completed the application packet for the Academy in early November. A day later I would receive a call from the Honorable Doug Lamborn, my Congressional representative, and receive my nomination to the Academy. I would then wait anxiously and slightly apprehensively as the Academy reviewed my application until March 15th when I received and accepted my appointment to USAFA.

Other than initially constructing thoughts of becoming an Academy cadet, CAP aided immensely in applying. Attending COS and numerous encampments as well



as the leadership opportunities at my home unit and throughout the wing granted me concrete items that justified my desire to serve and provided legitimate merit for attending the Academy to the admissions board and interviewers for Congressman Lamborn. More importantly, however, the non-concrete experience, philosophies, and knowledge I cannot quantify that I gained from CAP allows me to look at the Academy now as a perpetuation of the lifestyle that CAP exposed me too. Despite the voluminous change, I enthusiastically countdown the days until June 29th--the culmination of my efforts and experiences of the past five years. 

2017 Colorado Wing Cadet Competition

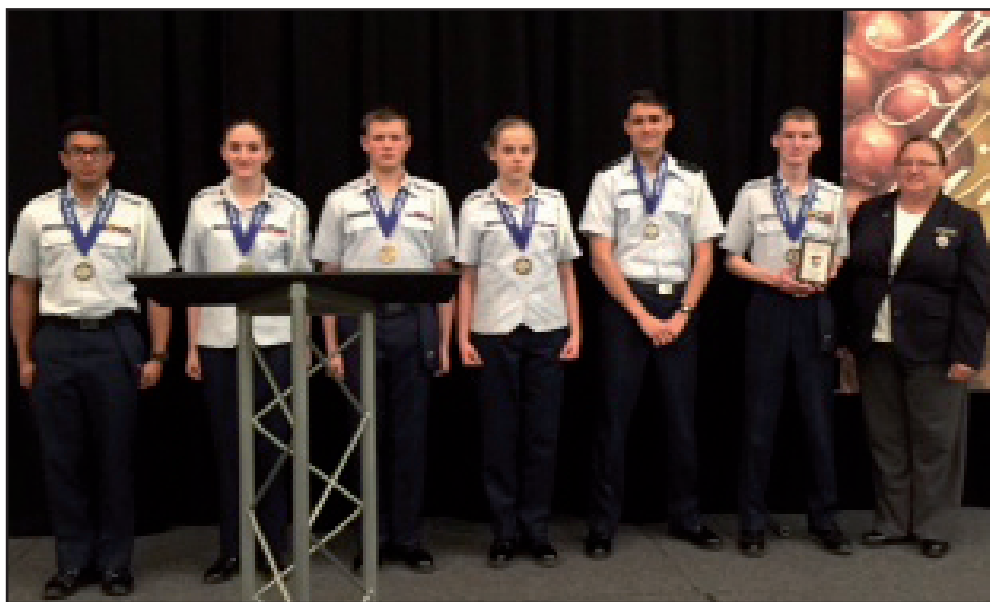
Story and Photos by Capt. Brittany Hardy, CAP
CSCS Public Affairs Officer

Broomfield, Co. - After months of training, it all came down to one competition. The stakes were high, because the top two teams in the Colorado Wing Cadet Competition would advance to the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Competition in Utah and hopefully the National Cadet Competition in Ohio.

The competition drew teams from the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron (CSCS), Vance Brand Cadet Squadron (VBCS), Broomfield Composite Squadron (BCS), Mustang Cadet Squadron (MCS), and Douglas Cadet Squadron (DCS). Not



Cadets from the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron from left to right: Cadet Senior Airman Natasha Geissler and Cadet Staff Sgt. Emily Hardy



Cadets from the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron and Col. Gamache from left to right: Cadet Master Sgt. Eliasam Sosa, Cadet Staff Sgt. Emily Hardy, Cadet Staff Sgt. Reginald Ash IV, Cadet Senior Airman Natasha Geissler, Cadet Lt. Col. Anthony Zuniga, Cadet Staff Sgt. Jared Kinard, and Col. Gamache

only do these teams train for the Wing Cadet Competition, they are active in their communities by participating in various activities throughout the year. These activities range from posting of the colors for retirement ceremonies and baseball games to marching in

Veteran's Day Parades.

The cadets began the day with a written exam in leadership and aerospace. After the exam, the teams gathered together to perform Indoor and Outdoor Posting of the Colors. The afternoon brought more opportunities for leadership and teamwork as the teams participated in Uniform Inspections, Uniform Preparation Scenarios, and a Team Leadership Challenge. According to Cadet 2nd Lt. Thomas of the VBCS, "You quickly figure out how each team member thinks and you adapt to the skills of the cadets you are working with."

For the last activity of the day, some of the cadets participated in an individual speech competition. During his speech about conveying emotion in leadership, Cadet Master Sgt. Eliasam Sosa from CSCS said that true leaders learn how to put all of the pieces of the puzzle together to have an effective team. He also stated that true leaders must be able to convey emotion and purpose.

As the cadets waited eagerly to see which two teams would take the top spots and advance to the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Competition, Col. Gamache, Colorado Wing Commander said, "Teamwork will win the day." She also stated that the cadets are learning to work with others to get the job done and promote healthy competition for the Colorado Wing.

Taking first place in the Colorado Wing Cadet Competition and advancing to the Regional Cadet Competition was the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron. Their team includes the following cadets: Cadet Staff Sgt. Jared Kinard (team captain), Cadet Lt. Col. Anthony Zuniga (team co-captain), Cadet Staff Sgt. Reginald Ash IV, Cadet Senior Airman Natasha Geissler, Cadet Staff Sgt. Emily Hardy, and Cadet Master Sgt. Eliasam Sosa. The coaches for CSCS are Capt. Daniel A. Cochran and SM Lucas D. Polley.

Taking second place and also advancing to the Regional Cadet Competition was Vance Brand Cadet Squadron. The team includes Cadet 2nd Lt. Sawyer White (team captain), Cadet 2nd Lt. Tanner White, Cadet 2nd Lt. Memphis Thomas, Cadet 2nd Lt. Tyler Ellis, Cadet Staff Sgt. Timothy Stanford, and Cadet Airman First Class Emma Jenkins. The coach for Vance Brand is 1st Lt. Tammy Peeples. She left much



Cadets from Douglas Cadet Squadron from left to right: Cadet Maj. Victoria Bernabei, Cadet 2nd Lt. Noah Taht, Cadet Airman First Class Joshua Kulish, Cadet Airman First Class Anjolee Powell, Cadet Staff Sgt. Mason Kranz, and Cadet Senior Airman Daniel Watling

of the coaching to volunteers from the Colorado Army National Guard for this competition so that she could fulfill the role of Competition Director.

In her role as the competition director, 1st Lt. Peeples had this to say about the cadets who competed at this year's competition, "I am very proud of all of the cadets who made the dedication to their teams, their squadrons, and the Colorado Wing. This competition is tough and all of the teams looked great. The scoring was extremely tight with differences of only a few points in several of the categories. Out of the twenty seven cadet and composite squadrons in our Wing, these cadets were the ones who accepted the challenge and stepped up to the plate to represent their squadrons and competed for the opportunity to represent the CO Wing at the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Competition in May. Just by making that commitment, they have proven they are the best of the best."

This competition would not have been a success without the support of our judges and volunteers. Our judges were from CAP (including two Spaatz cadet alumni), AFROTC from detachment 90 and detachment 105, and the Air National Guard. The judges did a fantastic job and we are grateful that the cadets had such high quality, professional judges.

The judges were as follows:

From Civil Air Patrol

Lead Judge 1: Capt. Cynthia Smith – RMR
Professional Development Officer


Lead Judge 2: Lt. Col. Harvey Siegal – COWG
Inspector General

Lt. Col. Buddy McCormick – COWG Vice



Cadets from the Vance Brand Cadet Squadron and Col. Gamache: Cadet Airman First Class Emma Jenkins, Cadet 2nd Lt. Sawyer White, Cadet Staff Sgt. Timothy Stanford, Cadet 2nd Lt. Memphis Thomas, Cadet 2nd Lt. Tyler Ellis, Cadet 2nd Lt. Tanner White, and Col. Gamache

Commander
 Maj. Jeff Caldwell – Deputy Commander Valkyrie Cadet Sqdn
 Maj. Kristen Nolan – COWG Director of Finance
 Capt. Cody Draeger – Commander Dakota Ridge Composite Sqdn and Spaatz Cadet Alumni
 Capt. Ammon Hoover – COWG Recruiting and Retention officer and Spaatz Cadet Alumni From Air National Guard
 Maj. Joseph Friel (also a CAP Major) From AFROTC Detachment 105 Honor Guard
 C/3C Andrea Houston (former CAP cadet)
 C/Capt Christopher Vigil, HG Sqdn Deputy Commander
 From AFROTC detachment 90 Drill Team
 C/Capt Mason Gore – Drill Team Commander
 C/4C Brennan Burke – Drill Team
 C/3C Logan Ash – Drill Team
 C/3C Stephan Haag – Drill Team
 Our competition volunteers were as follows:
 1st Lt. Tammy Peeples – Competition Director
 Lt. Col. Buddy McCormick – Safety Officer
 SM Tammy White – meals coordinator and competition assistant
 SM Dawn Schiers – Administration and competition assistant
 Capt. Brittany Hardy – Public Affairs Officer
 LuAnn Billings – Competition assistant
 Sharon Peeples – competition preparation assistant
 Cadet 2nd Lt. Taylor Billings – Judges assistant
 Cadet Airman Nolan Mims – Judges Assistant
 Cadet Jadin Schiers – Competition assistant and photographer
 We wish the teams well in Utah and hope to see them both in Ohio for the 2017 National Cadet Competition this summer.
 Other Competition Information:
 Third Place Team:
 Mustang Cadet Squadron
 coaches: Maj. Helen Gray, 1st Lt. Joseph Leavitt, Maj. Ralph Jacobs
 Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Isaac Gilliam - team captain
 Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Avery
 Cadet Master Sgt. Ryan McGuffin
 Cadet Airman Evan Pierce
 Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Tristen Freehling
 Cadet Master Sgt. James West

Team Category Awards:
 Indoor Posting of the Colors – Mustang Cadet Squadron
 Outdoor Posting of the Colors - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
 Cadet Physical Fitness - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
 Aerospace & Leadership written exams – Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
 Uniform Inspections - Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
 Team Leadership Challenge – Broomfield Composite Squadron
 Uniform Preparation Scenario Challenge – Mustang Cadet Squadron
 Most Outstanding Cadet of the Competition:
 Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Isaac Gilliam
 Most Outstanding Cadet of each category:
 Indoor posting – Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Isaac Gilliam
 Outdoor Posting – Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Isaac Gilliam
 Cadet Physical Fitness - Male: Cadet 1st Lt. Stephen Christian
 Female: Cadet Staff Sgt. Emily Hardy
 Aerospace & Leadership written exam – Cadet 1st Lt. Stephen Christian
 Uniform Inspection – Cadet Lt. Col. Anthony Zuniga
 Uniform Preparation Challenge – Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Isaac Gilliam
 Other Team Participants:
 Douglas Cadet Squadron
 coaches: 2nd Lt. Daniel Bernabei, 1st Lt. Meredith Motley
 Cadet Maj. Victoria Bernabei - team captain
 Cadet 2nd Lt. Noah Taht
 Cadet Staff Sgt. Mason Kranz
 Cadet Senior Airman Daniel Watling
 Cadet Airman First Class Joshua Kulish
 Cadet Airman First Class Anjolee Powell
 Broomfield Composite Squadron
 coaches: Maj Nathan Van Dam, Maj Kith Christian
 Cadet 1st Lt. Stephen Christian - team captain
 Cadet Staff Sgt. Abigail Stertz
 Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Lincoln Roch
 Cadet 1st Lt. Jonathan Rozendaal
 Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Jackson Matthews 

WWII Parachutists of the Civil Air Patrol

By Eugene G. Cousineau
SMG USA ret. & WWII era CAP Cadet

One of the most interesting and least known United States Military parachutist wings was authorized during World War II. In the early 1940's the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was created by the Office of Civilian Defense to assist the Army Air Force with five basic missions:



Coastal Patrol – Anti-Submarine warfare
Forest Patrol – Early fire reporting
Border patrol
Air Search and Rescue
Courier Service – Carrying vital defense production parts and ferrying aircraft
In 1943, CAP National Headquarters decided that a parachute unit was needed to better assist in the rescue

of downed pilots, and the CAP Michigan wing was tasked to organize and train such a unit. Thus, Group 639 was formed (63 being the designator for Michigan and 9, the group designator) with four squadrons, two of which were parachute squadrons. With this action the CAP parachute badge was created.

The squadrons were called parachute squadrons and not airborne squadrons. Each parachute squadron consisted of approximately fifty male and female senior and cadet members including some pilots with about thirty qualified parachutists. Squadron 639-1 conducted all parachute training which included male and female students.



Peaks and Planes



An eight-month course for student parachutists was conducted once per year from September to May and consisted of Land survival/navigation, Communications, Advanced first aid, Map reading, Parachute packing and simulated missions. To qualify for parachute training, a member had to be physically fit and at least sixteen years of age with parental permission.

Jump training was conducted by civilian parachutists during World War II and later by airborne veterans. One jump was required to qualify, which included satisfactory exit from an aircraft. Jumps were usually

Continued . . .

Summer 2017

WWII Parachutists, cont.



CAP mass jump exercise conducted from an Air Force C-47 aircraft at Selfridge AFB in 1948

made from an altitude of 2,000 to 2,500 feet from PT-17 or L-4 aircraft.

When a prospective parachutist entered training, he was issued a small cloth parachute patch with a CAP emblem inserted to wear on the upper right arm of the uniform (item 1). On graduation, the parachute qualified member was presented a certificate of completion and cloth parachutist wings (item 2) which replaced the small parachute patch on the right arm.

This unique CAP parachute unit was discontinued in late 1949 after the Air Force (a separate service since 1947) established the current Air-Sea Rescue Service.

The brief historical information for this article was provided by Eugene G. Cousineau SMG USA ret. who was a member of the Michigan CAP parachute squadron 639-4 from 1949 to 1950. 🇺🇸



Peaks and Planes

Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron Cadet Joins U.S. Air Force

By 1st Lt. Paul Russell, CAP
Deputy Commander of Cadets, Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron



Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Echols looks forward to his future in the U.S. Air Force.

After five years as a member of the Civil Air Patrol, Cadet Aaron Echols has enlisted into the United States Air Force. In April, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Echols will begin his military career in Texas where he will complete seven weeks of Basic Military Training. Upon completion of BMT, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Echols will pursue a career in Avionics Systems Maintenance in bombers. He says he is excited about his future and plans on taking things as they come.

Echols has been a valuable part of Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron where he served as First Sergeant for the past few years. Echols has attended two encampments, one as a basic cadet and one as staff in logistics. He earned his Community Service Ribbon, Rocketry Badge, was part of our CyberPatriot team for two years in a row, and he has held every position from element leader to First Sergeant. His outgoing and approachable personality made him a valuable asset to our squadron.

TMCS would like to wish Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Echols well in his future endeavors, and we would like to thank him for his many years of service and leadership in TMCS. 🇺🇸

Summer 2017

Air Force Association Recognizes Colorado CyberPatriot Award Winners

*By Maj. Bill Blatchley, CAP
Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron*

On a bright spring-like day, the Lance P. Sijan Chapter of the Air Force Association presented awards to Colorado teams who placed in their respective divisions and tiers at the Peterson Air Force Base auditorium. Civil Air Patrol teams, Junior ROTC teams, Open Division, and Middle School teams from across Colorado gathered to be recognized for their outstanding performance during the CyberPatriot IX season.

The event started with MSgt Tim Tichawa, AFA chapter Vice President for Aerospace Education and active duty Air Force member, describing the divisions and tiers within the CyberPatriot program. As there were many parents and supporters in attendance, it was important for everyone to understand the structure of the



Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron (L-R) Linda Aldrich, Colorado AFA President, Maj. Bill Blatchley, Team Coach & Mentor, Cadet Capt. Taylor Coffey, Team Captain, Cadet 1st Lt. Isaac Stone, Cadet 2nd Lt. Noah Bowe, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Garrett Jackson

competition. High School students are in the Open Division unless they are affiliated with CAP or JROTC teams in which case they are in the All Service Division. Middle School teams are in the Middle School Division. High School teams are further divided into tiers, Silver, Gold and Platinum, based on their overall scores in the first two qualification rounds. This gives newer and less experienced teams the opportunity to compete at their own level while more advanced teams are competing at a higher level with a chance to go to Baltimore for the National Finals Competition.

Linda Aldrich, Col. USAF Ret and Colorado AFA president gave the keynote address. She



CyberDogs I, Mile High Cadet Squadron (L-R) Linda Aldrich, Colorado AFA President, 1st Lt. Kurt Carlson, Team Coach & Mentor, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Zachary Gamble, Team Captain, Cadet Capt. Miguel Kepler, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Sarah Stewart, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Robert Schermerhorn, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Ronan A. Pelz

said that every day, she thinks of these cadets and students as her future protectors. “This is a war that cannot be won in a day, week, or year. This is why we need you as cyber warriors.” She further went on to say that CyberPatriot is not a game. Rather, it is preparation for life. She asked each person to think about their country and what they can do.

Aldrich also mentioned the StellarXplorers competition, which is now concluding its third year. This is another opportunity for CAP squadrons to compete in technology events. This competition is based around the use of the Satellite/Systems Tool Kit. CAP has excellent training material that has been developed by Lt. Col. Mike McNeely that can help teams learn about STK and compete in StellarXplorers.

Awards were then presented to each team that placed first, second, or third in Colorado in their respective division and tier. The CyberDogs II team from Mile High Cadet Squadron coached by 1st Lt. Kurt Carlson placed third in Colorado in the Gold Tier of the All Service Division. The CyberDogs I team also from Mile High placed second in Colorado in the Platinum Tier of the All Service Division.

After the State round that produced the Colorado winners, there was a category round where platinum Civil Air Patrol teams competed to see who would go to the National Finals competition. The CyberDogs I team finished third among all CAP teams nationwide. Since only two CAP teams go to the national finals (plus one potential wild card), the CyberDogs missed out on the national finals by just 20 points out of 430 possible points. This was the CyberDogs’ best performance yet in the CyberPatriot competition.

The Wolfpack from the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron took first place in the All Service Platinum tier in Colorado as well as first place in the CAP category round. As such, they are headed to the National Finals competition in April.

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Stewart of the Mile High Cadet Squadron said that cyber security is a career field she wishes to pursue. Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Schermerhorn indicated that the CyberDogs are “one as a team now”. CyberPatriot is a team sport and it takes all members of the team working together to achieve the goal. Cadet Capt. Miguel Kepler also



CyberDogs II, Mile High Cadet Squadron (L-R) Linda Aldrich, Colorado AFA President, 1st Lt. Kurt Carlson, Team Coach & Mentor, Cadet Senior Airman Madeleine Williams, Cadet Airman Francisco Guerrero, Cadet Technical Sgt. Emma Carlson, Not Pictured- Cadet Staff Sgt. Austin Frericks, Team Captain, Not Pictured- SponTeam Mentor

of MHCS said that CyberPatriot has caused him to be “overprotective of his computer”. MHCS Squadron Commander, Capt. DuQuesne Kepler indicated that the CyberDogs not only worked hard for CyberPatriot, they worked very hard in their squadron duties.

Echoing the thoughts of Capt. Kepler, Cadet Capt. Zach Cramer of the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron said, “The most important thing I have learned through the CyberPatriot program is teamwork. Sure, you need to know how to secure a computer with standards held by CyberPatriot and how to setup a working network via Cisco, but it all really comes down to how well you compete as a team.”

For the CyberPatriot X season, third year national finalist, Cadet 2nd Lt. Noah Bowe wants squadrons to “dive right in. Get a team and a coach and get registered. Find a mentor and start learning.”

Registration for CyberPatriot X opens in April. 🇺🇸





PROFILE: CAP-USA F RMLR Commander, Lt. Col. Marty Laye, USAF




*By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
RMR Director of Public Affairs*

Growing up in Colorado Springs, Air Force Lt. Col. Marty Laye remembers many friends with ties to the military. The various Air Force and Army installations across his home town allotted a constant flow of military personnel in and out of his neighborhood. Despite the exposure, Lt. Col. Laye said he never knew much about the military. Ultimately, youth soccer helped bring a career in the Air Force into focus. Beginning at a young age and continuing through high school, Lt. Col. Laye's soccer team was coached by an Air Force Academy instructor. As Lt. Col. Laye was finishing high school, he had no intentions of attending college or joining the military. Fortunately, his soccer coach encouraged him to think about a career in the Air Force... and the rest is history! Lt. Col. Laye ended up attending the Air Force Academy Preparatory School followed by an appointment to the Air Force Academy.

Upon graduation from the Air Force Academy, Lt. Col. Laye's active duty career started with an assignment at Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, United Kingdom. He lived in England for a year before moving to Laughlin AFB, Texas for Undergraduate Pilot Training. After graduating from pilot training, Lt. Col. Laye was assigned to fly the KC-10 "Extender" at Travis AFB in northern California followed by a second tour in the KC-10 at McGuire AFB, New Jersey. His next assignments included a non-flying assignment at Randolph AFB, Texas followed by a year of professional military education at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. In 2015, Lt. Col. Laye moved to Peterson AFB, Colorado for his current assignment in the CAP-USA F Rocky Mountain Liaison Region (RMLR). He started as RMLR Director of Operations and now serves as the RMLR Commander. The liaison region is charged with oversight of day-to-day Air Force assigned missions executed by CAP. Additionally, CAP-USA F is responsible for execution of recurring Compliance Inspections, Operations Evaluations, equipment audits, and other types of inspections and oversight activities. Ultimately, the goal is to determine CAP's ability to maintain safe and compliant operational readiness.

When asked about CAP, Lt. Col. Laye explained that prior to his current job he had no knowledge of CAP. He said his preparation level for the Air Force Academy as well as many aspects of his active duty Air Force career would have been significantly bolstered if he'd had CAP experience as a youth. "The typical CAP cadet's understanding of the Air Force, and military in general, is phenomenal and I walk away impressed after every interaction I have with the cadets," explained Lt. Col. Laye. "CAP is providing the cadets with life lessons that will really pay dividends whether they choose to enter the military or elect to enter the civilian work force."

Lt. Col. Laye also thinks highly of the senior CAP members. His first week in the Rocky Mountain Liaison Region started by attending the Colorado Wing Compliance Inspection followed by the Idaho Wing Operations Evaluation. "Within my first ten days in CAP-USA F, I was shocked at the expertise and motivation I saw from a group of volunteers in two different wings." The trend he noticed was validated by many more events in Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. "The dedication and selflessness seen amongst the personnel in our region is simply amazing. I always feel like I'm dealing with true professionals and I consider myself lucky to be associated with such a tremendously skilled organization." Lt. Col. Laye ended by saying, "the Air Force is lucky to have such a dedicated partnership with CAP and I'm extremely grateful to be in a position to interact so frequently with so many talented individuals in Civil Air Patrol." 

Todd Brothers Achieve Spaatz Journey

By Lt. Col. Gene Munson, CAP

Assistant Colorado Wing Public Affairs Officer

Photos & Information provided by the Todd Brothers and others as identified

Brendan, Kaleb, and Nathaniel Todd earned their Carl A. Spaatz Awards in January, 2017. The three brothers are members of the Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron, CO-189, located in Delores, Colorado. They attended Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Legislative Day at the United States Capitol in March, where they were able to meet and speak with members of Congress and CAP leaders.

The General Carl A. Spaatz Award is Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor. It is presented to cadets who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace education. Cadets qualify for this prestigious award after devoting an average of five years of progress through sixteen achievements in the CAP Cadet Program. Along the way, they develop self-discipline, a strong sense of personal responsibility, the ability to lead and persuade, and the foundations necessary for pursuing a career in aviation, space, or technology.

After finding out about CAP from a relative, each brother found it to be an answer to their interests: aviation and the U.S. military. The opportunities they found in the Cadet Program were being able



(L-R) Cadet Cols. Nathaniel Todd, Brendan Todd, Kaleb Todd. Photo courtesy Cadet Col. Kaleb Todd



(L-R) Cadet Col. Nathaniel Todd, Maj. Gen. Joseph Vasquez, CAP, Congressman Scott Tipton, Cadet Col. Brendan Todd, Cadet Col. Kaleb Todd, Colorado Wing Commander Col. Celeste Gamache, CAP. Photo courtesy Susan Schneider

to advance their goal to become a pilot, while learning how to become an officer in the U.S. military. The drill and ceremonies was important to Kaleb, however Nathaniel was attracted to the system of promotions. Brendan enjoyed forming new friendships and had fun learning with others like himself. Brendan is the youngest brother, and he stated a profound message:

"I believe the greatest impact CAP has had comes in the form of tomorrow's leaders. Compared to other youth programs CAP is unique in that it fosters an enthusiasm for aviation among members."

The Todd brothers all found that the opportunities increased with rank and participation. They have enjoyed these through their Wing encampments and National Cadet Special Activities (NCSA) courses. Each of them have a list of their own that

supports their individual future desires. Kaleb’s interest is in becoming a physician. He has served as a Cadet Health Services Officer at the Kansas Wing Encampment. Nathaniel’s interest is in pilot training; his NCSA courses at Flight Academy and Space Command supports his ambition. Brendan’s interest in the U.S. military can be observed in his participation in Blue Beret and the Civil Engineering Academy. Nathaniel and Kaleb have graduated from the Pararescue and Survival Orientation Course (PJOC) and Brendan has his sights on completing it also.



(L-R) Cadet Col. Brendan Todd, Cadet Col. Kaleb Todd, Lt. Gen. Ted Bowlds, USAF (ret.), Cadet Col. Nathaniel Todd. Photo courtesy Cadet Col. Kaleb Todd

The 3 things they want to say to first year cadets is to: “Believe in yourself and be proud of your achievements: Rank up! Develop a weekly routine for fitness and studying aerospace and leadership. Attend all the encampments and NCSA courses you can; you never stop learning!”

Currently, Brendan is the Cadet Commander of the Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron. Kaleb and Nathaniel have also served as squadron leaders, Cadet Commander and Deputy Cadet Commander, respectively. They both support Brendan’s leadership and have praised the efforts of the senior members, their parents, and have vowed to continue to be life-long members of CAP. While Brendan continues to lead cadets and finish high school, Kaleb and Nathaniel are pursuing their undergraduate programs at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, CO, in biochemistry and aeronautical engineering, respectively. 🇺🇸



(L-R) Cadet Col. Brendan Todd, Cadet Col. Nathaniel Todd, Cadet Col. Kaleb Todd. Photo courtesy Susan Schneider



(L-R) Cadet Cols. Kaleb Todd, Nathaniel Todd, Brendan Todd. Photo courtesy Cadet Col. Kaleb Todd

Achievements

Congratulations to the Cadets and Senior Members listed below. The Colorado Wing is proud to acknowledge the dedication, determination and hard work these individuals demonstrate by earning these important milestones in the spirit Civil Air Patrol seeks in each of its members.



Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award

C/Col. Nathaniel Todd, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron
 C/Col. Kaleb Todd, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron
 C/Col. Brendan Todd, Mesa Verde Cadet Squadron
 C/Col. Matthew LaJoy, Montrose Composite Squadron



Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award

C/Lt Col Chad Lewis, Mustang Cadet Squadron
 C/Lt Col Michael Melton, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron
 C/Lt Col Anthony Zuniga, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron



Amelia Earhart Award

C/Capt Christopher Franklin, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
 C/Capt Gage Salyer, Broomfield Composite Squadron
 C/Capt Ian Engebrecht, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
 C/Capt Ezra Russell, Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron
 C/Capt Taylor Coffey, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
 C/Capt Zachary Cramer, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
 C/Capt Niall Fowler, Air Academy Cadet Squadron



Gen. Billy Mitchell Award

C/2nd Lt. Jack Jones, Delta County Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Riley Aiken, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Trisitan Hanley, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Caleb Seeley, Mustang Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. David Turner, Montrose Composite Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Charless Ross, North Valley Composite Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Connor Campbell, Banning Lewis Ranch Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Nathan Moore, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Jack Heath, Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Zachary Gaylor, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Mateo Norbut, Boulder Composite Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Joshua Braun, Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Memphis Thomas, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Taylor Billings, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Anna Stoltz, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Amilia Knight, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Noah Taht, Douglas Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Alena Wroe, Air Academy Cadet Squadron

C/2nd Lt. Bethani Hartman, North Valley Composite Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Joshua Newton, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Tanner White, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
 C/2nd Lt. Sawyer White, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron



Paul E. Garber Award

Lt Col Gail Jergensen, Boulder Composite Squadron
 Lt Col Lynn Newman, Jefferson County Senior Squadron



Grover Loening Award

Maj Edward Harshaw, Boulder Composite Squadron
 Maj Jeremy Sing, Jefferson County Senior Squadron
 Maj John Mitchell, Group 4 Headquarters
 Maj Robert Yusko, Black Sheep Senior Squadron
 Capt Vincent lee, Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron
 Capt Micah Chapman, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
 Capt Michael Fournier, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
 Maj Ammon Hoover, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron
 Maj Trevor Munson, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron
 Maj Bruce Wirght, North Valley Composite Squadron
 Capt Laurence Gilliam, Group 3 Headquarters
 1st Lt Stephen Denning, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
 1st Lt Amy Griswold, Colorado Springs Cadet
 Capt DuQuesne Kepler, Mile High Cadet Squadron
 Capt Christopher Melton, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron



Gill Robb Wilson Award

Maj Bernard Morosco, Jefferson County Senior Squadron



Specialty Track Master Rating

Lt Col Lynn Newman, Communications,
 Jefferson County Senior Squadron
 Lt Col John Rhoades, Personnel, Group 3 Headquarters
 1st Lt Erin Borland, Professional Development,
 Thompson Valley Composite Squadron

COVER TO COVER

Flying Higher and Faster

Vance Brand Squadron Meets Astronaut Vance Brand

On May 17th, Group 1 PAO and Vance Brand Cadet Squadron member, Capt. Lyn Parker, and other members of VBCS had the pleasure of attending an event in Longmont in which former astronaut, Vance Brand, gave a presentation and book signing for his newest book. Brand is a Longmont native and was welcomed to the Longmont Museum's Stewart Auditorium to a sold-out crowd.

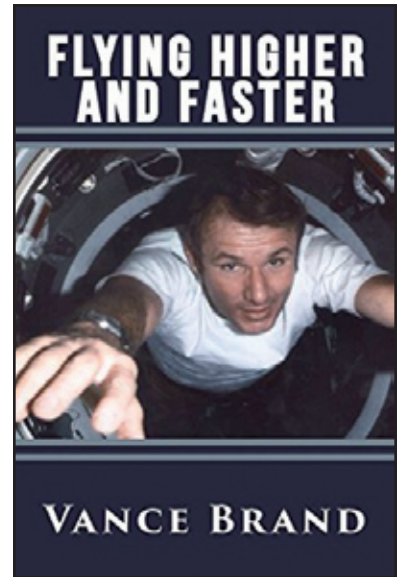
A Glimpse into the Possibilities of Space Travel

in Flying Higher and Faster by Vance Brand

On July 15, 1975, Vance Brand made his first flight into space on the historic Apollo/Soyuz missions. This widely publicized international linkup on orbit conducted at the height of the Cold War, set the stage for other international cooperative flights into space such as the flights on MIR and the International Space Station.

Flying Higher and Faster provides accounts of Brand's Apollo/Soyuz flight and the three Space Shuttle flights that he later commanded; the latter were STS-5, STS-41b, and STS-35. He also describes some events in his life leading up to the space flight including military flying, employment as a test pilot with the Lockheed-California Company, and early NASA experiences.

Brand looks to the future in the field of aeronautics and human space flight. The book conveys the lure of airplane flying and spaceflight. It expresses opinions on where the nation's aeronautics research and human spaceflight should be headed. 🇺🇸



Former astronaut, Vance Brand, gives a presentation on the future of space travel. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, RMR Director of Public Affairs



Vance Brand signs a book for the cadets of his namesake unit. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, RMR Director of Public Affairs



Vance Brand with Vance Brand Cadet Squadron members. Photo by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, RMR Director of Public Affairs

Banning Lewis Academy Cadet Squadron Community Service Work

*Story and Photos By 1st Lt. Greg Schmitz, CAP
Banning Lewis Academy Cadet Squadron PAO*

The Banning Lewis Academy Cadet squadron (RMR-CO-190) has been very busy performing community service work this year. They started in February with the decision to clean up their secondary meeting place at the airport association building at Meadow Lake Airport (KFLY). The exterior of the building has been neglected over the past years so the cadets established a cleanup weekend February 18th and 19th camping at the airport as part of the cleanup process. They mowed, trimmed weeds and plants, rebuilt a brick walk-way replacing and re-organizing loose brick pavers. They also removed excess trash from the grounds around the building. During the cleanup, the cadets took a short break for some Orientation rides. On Sunday morning the cadets learned to setup and take down a hot air balloon as part of a ground crew as they will be asked to do this again in April. For all of their hard work they were rewarded with a tethered hot air balloon flight rising over the airport to an altitude of approximately 100 feet. All in all a very active weekend for the cadets.

On March 11th the cadets went to Woodland Park to the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center



Peaks and Planes



in support of Scout Day at the Resource Center. Scout day is open to all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Adventure Scouts in Colorado as a learning opportunity about dinosaurs and other resources including CAP and rocketry with Colorado Springs Rocket Society (COSROCS). The cadets used the time to explain to the scouts and their parents what Civil Air Patrol is all about including our mission, uniforms, and ranks generating scout interest in the program. A number of the scouts were from the Denver area and will look for cadet programs in their area.

The scouts were very interested in aviation, and the cadets were more than happy to share and demonstrate their knowledge of aviation. The cadets taught the scouts about paper airplanes, rockets, and aircraft flight controls. They showed the scouts how to use a compass with an aviation map along with reading the symbols on the maps. There even was the ability to receive some flight time on a flight simulator! All of these activities helped a number of the Boy Scouts check off some of their requirements for their Aviation Merit Badge and cemented the cadets as excellent educators to the scouts and parents.

Not willing to slow down as spring approaches the Banning Lewis Academy Cadets are looking forward to the Warrior Weekend at Meadow Lake airport in April to fine tune their emergency services skills. Along with another recruiting event at the Colorado Springs school district which includes the setup of a hot air balloon. 🇺🇸