



PEAKS & PLANES

Official Magazine of the Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol



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Commander's Comments

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

When I sat down a month ago to write my original column, I was looking forward to a busy summer full of CAP activities. Now, a few short weeks later, we are in the midst of a global pandemic that has drastically changed all aspects of our life. As difficult as things are now, I am optimistic that things will return to normal and your wing staff is working hard to be ready to hit the ground running as soon as possible.



We have been very successful in moving meetings and training to a virtual format. Last week we had 8 members complete our first Unit Commander's Course in a virtual format and have a number of other classes scheduled. While our ability to meet in person is restricted, please take advantage of these opportunities to accomplish any training you might need. Cancelling encampment was one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as a commander but rest assured that we are working as hard as possible to come up with alternatives in order to provide opportunities for cadets to receive encampment credit. I appreciate all of the hard work and ingenuity that the membership has shown in adapting under difficult circumstances.

On the positive side, our membership numbers are continuing to grow. We have now had seven straight months of membership growth and I'm hopeful that will continue. Our cadet's response to my call for Cadet Wing's applications was overwhelming. We had 13 cadets that were selected to receive funding towards their private pilot's license, one of the top wings. Our pilots are also doing an outstanding job of meeting our flight time goals and we peaked at 11th place nationwide in flight time per aircraft prior to the cessation of flying. All of these outstanding metrics are a testament to your dedication and hard work.

Continued on page 17 . . .

Winter 2019-2020

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Colorado Wing Commander

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Article submissions are always welcome. Please send them in Microsoft Word format to Capt. Lyn Parker, *Peaks and Planes* at lynparker.cap@gmail.com. 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.

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COVER: The COWG was well represented in Washington D.C. for CAP Legislative Day in late February by (L-R) C/Col Victoria Schmidt and C/2d Lt James West of the Mustang Cadet Squadron and C/Maj Anaiya Harris, of the Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron, COWG Commander, Col. John Rhoades, COWG Director of Cadet Programs, Lt. Col. Mike Fay and C/Lt Col Isaac Stone of the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron.

Gold Star Families Reception

*Story and photos by Maj Mary Cast, CAP
COWG Asst. DAE
Foothills Cadet Squadron, Public Affairs Officer*

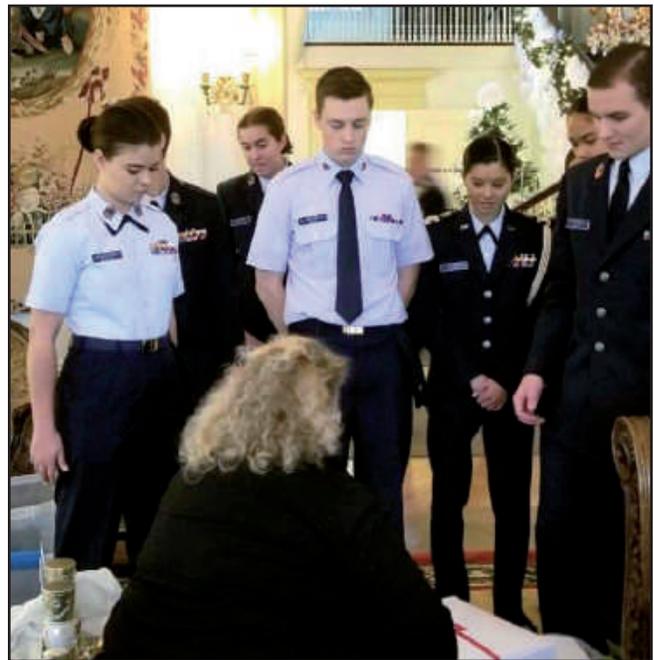
Gold Star families are special – they gave one of their own in service to our country. The holiday season can be especially difficult as it is a time for families to gather and to celebrate together. Colorado’s governors have tried to ease some of that pain by hosting a holiday reception for these families at the Governor’s Mansion. COWG members were honored to be asked to help with this event through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and coordinated by Ms. Janelle Darnell, DMVA, project officer Lt. Col. Thom Scheffel and Col. Gary Tobey, COWG’s Government Relations Advisors. CAP members came a few hours early to help decorate, set up activity stations, bring in food and drink, and make sure everything was ready before the families arrived.

The Governor’s Mansion was beautifully decorated



The cadet team.

Peaks and Planes



“Ma’am, what do you need us to do?” Cadets gather around Ms Janelle Darnell, DMVA as she tasks them with various assignments.



Governor Polis greets a Gold Star family. The governor thanked each family for their sacrifice and asked about their person.

Winter 2019-2020



*Santa reads a special edition of *The Night Before Christmas* to the children and parents.*

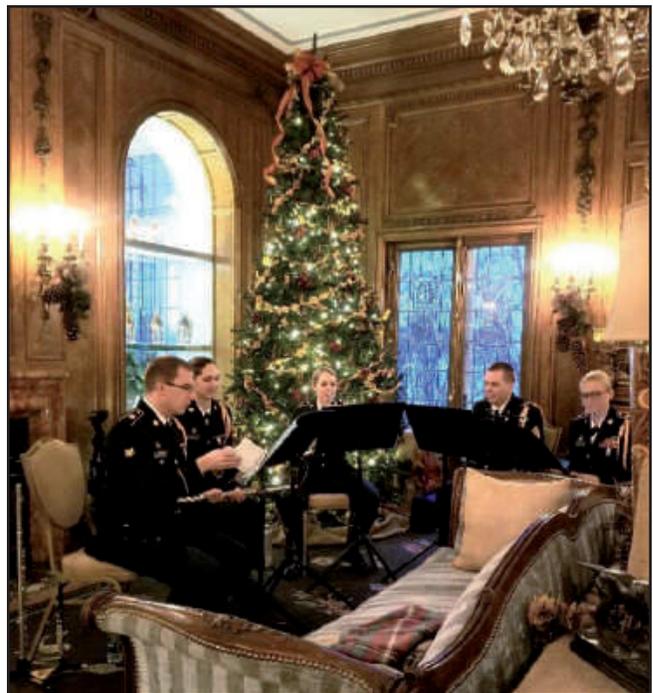
for the holidays. Dominating the scene was the Colorado Tree of Honor. Each fallen service member from Colorado since September 11, 2001 was represented by an ornament on the tree. Although the mansion was already decorated for the holidays, Ms. Darnell put us to work adding special touches and getting the main floor ready for the visitors. Cadets were put to work, adding a few small trees and other seasonal décor throughout the rooms, bringing up chairs from storage, setting out trays of food, getting activity tables ready, preparing special goodie bags for the families, and making sure everything was ready for the honored guests. After the work

was done, cadets and senior members relaxed for a few minutes; however, soon senior members of the Colorado National Guard and various representatives of the armed services began to arrive. Next to appear was the musical entertainment for the evening, a U.S. Army wind quintet. Their beautiful music added a perfect touch to the party.

Governor Jared Polis arrived shortly before the honored families began to come in. As families came in the front door, they were greeted by volunteers, then each Gold Star family went through a reception line. There was no rush to get through the receiving line as the governor thanked each family for the sacrifice

of their loved one and listened to what each family had to say before passing them on to the general and the rest of the reception line. Each person added their heartfelt thanks for the families sacrifices. After the receiving line concluded and Governor Polis said a few words, it was time for some socializing – and eating!! The DMVA provided a lovely cold buffet and children took the opportunity to do a few crafts or write a letter to Santa at the activity table.

Suddenly there was quite a commotion in the main reception room as someone pushed his way into the crowd with some cheery and loud “Ho, Ho, Ho’s.” Making his way through the room, he gathered the children around and led them into the front parlor for some quality Santa time (parents and grandparents were invited, too). Elf Woods and Elf Abby were waiting for him next to a perfect reading chair and before we knew it, Santa was reading a very special edition of *The Night Before Christmas*. He held the children and their parents spellbound as he read about Santa having his troubles getting ready for his flight from the North Pole, and needing all the different US military branches to come to his aid to make sure boys and girls all over the world got their gifts in time for Christmas. As a matter of fact, Santa needed one special military elf that very evening as his Santa hat kept slipping off and Elf Woods had to keep putting it back on his head!



A US Army quintet provided seasonal music which added beautifully to the evening.

After the story then it was time for some very special one-on-one time with Santa for each child. Some gave him a letter, others just told him a few secrets, and a few did both. Everyone got a chance to talk to Santa and get a little gift from Elf Abby.

All too soon, Santa had to leave. With a few last “Ho, Ho, Ho’s, Season’s Greetings, and Merry Christmas es” Santa carefully tucked away the children’s letters, shouldered his bag, and jingled his way out of the Governor’s Mansion. As if Santa’s departure sent a signal to everyone, the honored families began to leave. When the last guest left, CAP members helped clean up the party area, packed away the decorations and food brought in by the DMVA, and made sure that Ms. Darnell had no further instructions for them to carry out before departing the mansion for home. As we said our goodbyes, we could almost hear Santa’s voice calling “Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.” 🇺🇸



CAP cadets and senior members gather near the front stairway. CAP members from around the state worked together to make sure the event went off well. Maj. J. Pershing, Col. G Tobey, Capt. P. Dunn and cadets wait for their next assignment.

Young Awarded Silver Medal of Valor for Colorado Rescue

*Article and Photos by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP
COWG Director of Public Affairs*

Lt. Col. Mark D. Young was honored with Civil Air Patrol's top award, the Silver Medal of Valor, for actions he took Feb. 17, 2005, in locating a downed aircraft and helping rescue the sole survivor in very rough terrain.

Young received the award in June 2019 at the University of Rocky Mountain Region Graduation Banquet at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The medal recognized his actions in contacting the Montrose County Sheriff's Office to report the downed plane and then leading sheriff's ground teams into the area at their request amid freezing weather, deep snow, the threat of avalanches and steep, uneven terrain as darkness approached.



The final 600 feet proved inaccessible with either snowmobile or snowcat, so Young and three search team members used ropes, climbing gear and handmade snowshoes to extricate the hypothermic and dehydrated pilot at more than 10,000 feet in altitude.

Now commander of CAP's National Radar Analysis Team, Young received the award from Col. Tom Kettell, Rocky Mountain Region Commander, and Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, former CAP National Commander.

Colorado Wing Conference and Change of Command Ceremony

*Story and photos by Capt. Jen Knellinger, CAP
Pikes Peak Senior Squadron, Commander & PAO/PIO*

On a crisp weekend in October, Colorado Wing held its annual conference and ushered in new leadership with a change of command ceremony. Col. John Rhoades took command of the Colorado Wing in traditional style and formality as Col. Celeste Gamache ended her four-year command with congratulatory awards, thanks and hugs from staff. The Emcee, Col. Gary Tobey was assisted by his adult daughter, Julia Tobey, who opened the evening with a beautiful rendition of the national anthem. In addition to his brief on the Rocky Mountain Region and his Lessons on Leadership, Col. Thomas Kettell, CAP Rocky Mountain Region Commander, conducted the change of command with both warmth and sincerity



expressing great thanks to Col. Gamache and inspiration for Col. Rhoades as he took the helm. John M. Rhoades became the new Colorado Wing Commander with his wife and daughter attending.

Not surprisingly, Col. Rhoades, a former cadet commander throughout his youth, aspired to be a Wing Commander. Following his acceptance of command, he spoke eloquently by highlighting inclusivity and innovation from all members, reflecting the values and vision of CAP's National Commander/CEO, Maj. Gen. Mark Smith. Col. Rhoades became a pilot and CFI while a cadet, consequently, he embraces the national priority to get CAP's talented youth into cadet flight training by also building the team of CFIs and senior staff/pilots to support the program.



Another top priority of his is to better integrate CAP's training, SAR skills and air resources with local and regional search and rescue organizations; leveraging CAP air and their ground expertise to most effectively save lives. Col. Rhodes is also working to bring the breadth of courses offered by NESA (National Emergency Services Academy), routinely only held summers in the southeast, to Colorado in different formats to accommodate availability of volunteers and offer western topography for specialized mountain and plains Emergency Services training.

Growing the Wing, encouraging new ideas, learning from failure, John's easy to remember mantra is Safe, Standardized and Simple – not to make things more difficult than they need to be by promoting continuous evaluation and giving all volunteers a chance to train, be mentored and serve wherever they are most interested.

The annual Wing Conference held a number of



sessions with multiple interests over the two days, and included both seniors and cadets. Col. Tobey shared his experiences in North Vietnam, Eric Schwarm shared his Communications expertise and the national direction for integrated COM, and Matt Flanders reviewed how the Wing manages to keep the fleet flying. Many member's achievements and contributions were recognized with Wing and Region awards.

The 2020 conference will be in the Fall, planned for the Doubletree, Tech Center, October 8-11th and tentatively will include Professional Development courses and ES training for qualifications in early sessions. Over 200 members attended the conference this past year in an excellent venue, but organizers need a larger venue such as the Doubletree to accommodate an anticipated broader turnout. You won't want to miss the next Colorado Wing Conference which will again be run by a Wing-wide group of dedicated COWG CAP volunteers led by Lt. Christina Jones. 🇺🇸



Peaks and Planes



Winter 2019-2020

Vance Brand Cadet Squadron Cadet Accepted into Cadet Wings Program

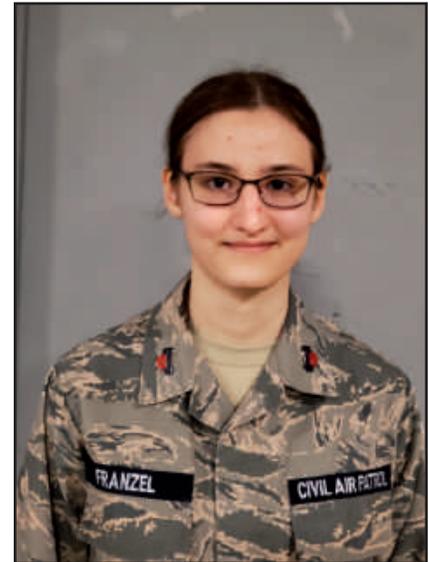
*Story and photo by Capt. Lyn Parker, CAP
Vance Brand Cadet Squadron, Commander & PAO*

Cadet Wings Program is a part of Civil Air Patrol's Youth Aviation Initiative. According to the Cadet Wings Student Guide, "The goal of Cadet Wings is to assist cadets in obtaining their Private Pilot Certificate, recognized by industry as the first milestone for those who have a serious desire to pursue a flying career." With pilot shortages in the military and in commercial aviation, "the Air Force has allocated Civil Air Patrol (CAP) funds for CAP cadet flight training with the goal of fulfilling its mission of developing tomorrow's aerospace leaders."

Cadet Kate Franzel, of the Vance Brand Cadet Squadron in Longmont, was chosen this year from Colorado Wing, and she is one of 10 cadets selected nationwide. Cadet Franzel said, "Learning to fly is a very expensive process, and the full ride [scholarship] that Cadet Wings offered was the fastest way to my goals. I knew I would aim to apply as soon as I knew about the possibility, and my mentors both inside and outside of CAP encouraged me all the way. I applied to several flight scholarships through CAP and am honored to have been accepted into the Cadet Wings Program."

Cadet Franzel said that while the application process itself was not difficult, the preparation was. She began the application process in November, which, she said, was right in the middle of her midterm exams. Cadet Franzel said, "My goal in the Cadet Wings Program is to go back to school in the fall with my private pilot's license. It's a big goal and one that I wouldn't dream of without all the support I've gotten, but I've been granted a path to it that I intend to make full use of. I joined the Civil Air Patrol in hopes of learning to fly, and I hope to pay it back to CAP by continuing to an active member and pursuing my ambition of becoming a pilot in the Air Force."

When asked what advice she might give to cadets who were interested in applying to the Cadet Wings Program, Cadet Franzel said, "My advice would be to start early. Especially if cost is an issue, try getting in some flight hours by taking advantage of CAP's O-flights and organizations like EAA's Young Eagles. Focus on school—grades and classes are a large part of the application for Cadet Wings—but make time for preparing and planning for your application so you



Cadet Senior Airman Kate Franzel

don't end up rushing and stressed as the deadline draws nearer. If flying is what you want to do, the Cadet Wings Program is the best path to it."

Since January 2019, the Cadet Wings Program has graduated 44 cadets. Application deadlines are December 31, and more information can be found at the Cadet Wings website: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/cadetinvest/youth-aviation-initiative>

Black Sheep Senior Squadron Does Its Part on the National Pilot Shortage

By 1st Lt Thomas Welle, CAP
Black Sheep Senior Squadron, PAO

The Colorado Wing is doing its part to help with the current pilot shortage by training the next generation of military and civilian pilots through the Cadet Pilot Training Program. The Black Sheep Senior Squadron (BSSS), based in Centennial, Colorado has initiated a Private Pilot Ground School for eight Cadets from squadrons throughout the Denver Metro Area.

Nationally, CAP has made this type of training a priority as it uses its wealth of experience and considerable assets to help Cadets train for a future in aviation.

The ground school is being held at the Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight campus on the south side of the Centennial Airport (KAPA).

A cadre of six experienced pilots from BSSS will conduct the 10 week ground school on consecutive Sunday afternoons.

Each of the cadets has his or her own reasons why they are taking on the extra work on top of high school courses and their CAP activities. All wish to contribute in some way to the future of aviation and are willing to work hard to get there.

Cadet Senior Airman Elizabeth Mazzarello hails from the Parker Cadet Squadron and attends Legend High School. Completing



(L to R) Cadet 2nd Lt. Smith, Cadet Airman Basic Anselmi, Cadet Technical Sgt. Becker, Cadet 1st Lt. Borchelt, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Stratford, Cadet Technical Sgt. Campbell, Cadet Senior Airman Mazzarello (missing- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Mormon). Photo credit: 1st Lt. Thomas Welle

pilot training will help her towards getting an Aerospace Engineering degree and she hopes to do AFROTC at Embry Riddle University.

Wayon Becker is a Cadet Technical Sgt., also with the Parker Cadet Squadron and is gaining his pilot training to further his aspirations to be a military pilot after attending the U.S. Air Force Academy or the U.S. Naval Academy after he graduates from Chaparral High School.

Home schooled Cadet Airman Basic Tom Anselmi is a member

of the Foothills Cadet Squadron and wants to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and become a military aviator.

Highlander Cadet Squadron has three members in this training. Cadet 1st Lt. Jack Borchelt attends Chatfield High School and working towards an appointment to the USAFA and to become a USAF pilot.

Ethan Campell, Cadet Technical Sgt. from Chatfield as well, wants to go to Metro State University after graduation and fly for the airlines.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Brennan Smith is at the STEM High School in Highlands Ranch and hopes the pilot training will help him with his interest in Software Engineering at either the USAFA or Embry Riddle University.

Columbine High School's Caydon Stratford is a Cadet Chief Master Sgt. at Dakota Ridge Squadron and has a general interest in flying but has not decided on college at this time.

Foothills Squadron Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jack Mormon attends Evergreen High School and hopes to have an aviation industry career, even if not as a pilot. His college aspirations may include Embry Riddle, USFA, or Colorado School of Mines.

Various news sources have stressed the critical nature of the national shortage of pilots. The Air Force at one point was short nearly 1,300 pilots in just the active duty force alone. However, Chief of Staff Gen David Goldfein believes that the shortage may start to level off due to better retention of current pilots and better recruiting for the future.

The Air Force is making it priority one to get pilots into the pipeline and to continue the supply for the future. CAP is part of this solution set by training Cadets to achieve their Private Pilot License before they enter college. According to CAP NHQ, approximately 44 Cadets have earned their licenses through this CAP program.

With airline travel expected to double in the next few years and a projected record number of pilots retiring, the airlines will also be in a critical state to keep planes in the air.

So whether they want to fly for the military or the airlines, these Cadets have a bright future in front of them and they are getting a head start on that future, with CAP. 

During this trying time, like many times before, CAP has always been ready to answer the call to serve our community and country. Colorado was one of the first wings to open an Air Force assigned mission to support state agencies and we are in regular contact with state authorities offering our assistance.

Please make sure you are taking care of your health and the health of your family. We have numerous outlets available should you feel the need to talk. Your chaplains have established hotlines that are available 24/7 and commanders are available to talk anytime as well. CAP is, and always will be a family and we must make sure we are taking care of our own. Please stay strong and we will get through this together and hopefully look back on this as a time where we all came together to support each other and our community. 



Vance Brand Cadet Squadron Winter SAREX

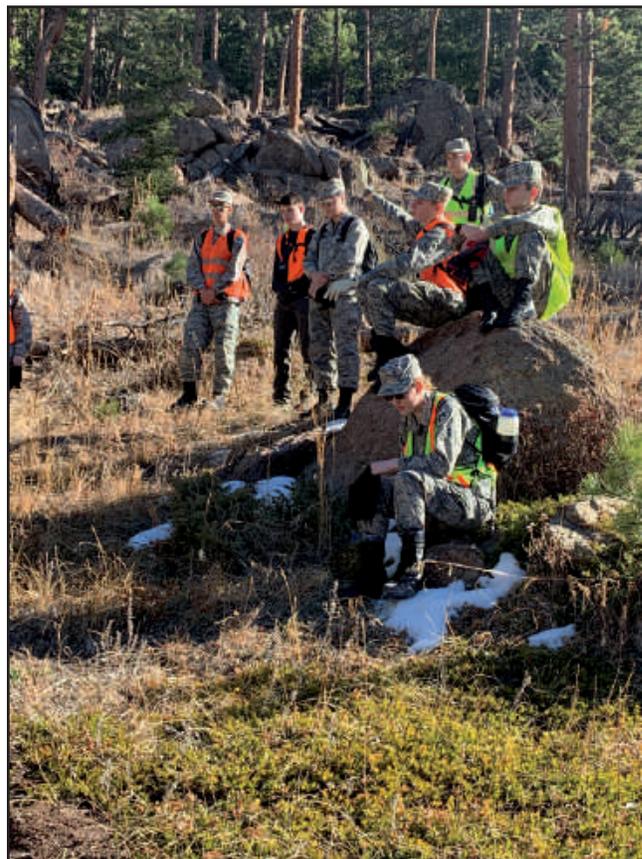
*By Capt. Lyn Parker, CAP
Vance Brand Cadet Squadron, Commander
Photos by Maj. Greg Deemer, North Valley Composite Squadron*

One of the missions of Civil Air Patrol is Emergency Services. Within the scope of this mission is communications utilizing ISR radios, geocaching and map reading, and knowledge and understanding of potential environmental conditions that could threaten search and rescue and those the ground teams are searching for. In order to prepare our members, we hold Search and Rescue Exercises, or SAREXs.

In early November, the Vance Brand Cadet Squadron along with North Valley Composite Squadron held a one-day exercise at Big Elk Meadows near Lyons, Colorado. The classes included: ICUT hands on evaluation, Winter Survival Training, First Aid, Fire Safety/Fire Building Class, and a Scavenger Hunt/Geocaching.



Cadets navigate the rocky terrain as they use their skills in geocaching and compass reading.



Cadets take a break while listening to instructions on the next task they will complete.

The activity was organized by Cadet 2nd Lt. Emma Jenkins who coordinated classes with Maj. Glen Smith, 2nd Lt. Dana Kephart, and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bruce Wright to ensure progress and success in the important emergency services tasks while making the event fun for everyone. Cadets brought their own lunches, and they were treated to hot chocolate as the afternoon brought cooler temperatures. The evening activities concluded with cadets returning to the rendezvous location and being picked up by parents or leaving in their own vehicles.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Jenkins said that her overall goals for the event were to “have every cadet who

attends [the SAREX] certified in ICUT by the end of the activity, provide leadership and mentoring opportunities, open up ES opportunities to new cadets, and promote a safe and fun educational experience for cadets and senior members.”

Cadet Jenkins plans to organize more Emergency Services activities, such as hikes, a bivouac, and outdoor survival training. She said, “I wanted to do this activity because it helps expose cadets to Emergency Services, and it is the first step to prepare our cadets to help with ES missions.” She also said all of her personal goals for this activity were met, and “it was a very educational and enjoyable experience.” 🇺🇸



The cadets maneuver back to the base location for hot chocolate as the sun sets and cooler temperatures settle in.

CSCS Wolfpack Members Man Phones for NORAD Santa Tracking

Senior members and cadets of the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron once again manned the phones on Christmas Eve and shared tracking information provided by NORAD on Santa’s worldwide travels with interested callers.



CAP Day at the Capitol

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 was Civil Air Patrol Day at the Capitol and by Governor's Proclamation, Civil Air Patrol Day Across Colorado. The Colorado Legislature honored the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol for its service to Colorado with CAP Day at the Capitol. Governor Jared Polis, Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Michael Loh, Colorado Wing Commander, Col. John Rhoades and Legislative Squadron Commander, Rep (Lt. Col.) Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Asst. Legislative Squadron Commander, (Maj.) Larry Crowder shared remarks about the importance of Civil Air Patrol to the state and the nation. COWG CAP Color Guards presented the colors in the House and Senate and formal tributes about Civil Air Patrol were read and comments shared in both chambers and Rep Michaelson Jenet presented an additional tribute to honor Col. Gary Tobey for his many years of service to the legislative squadron that also noted his induction in to the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame.

Many thanks to the senior members and cadets who made the time to show up and support the wing and CAP by participating. A special thanks goes to the two Color Guard teams for their impressive presentations in both the Senate and House of Representatives:

Color Guard In the House from Valkyrie Cadet Squadron:

C/Capt Kael Tepper
C/CMSgt Cooper Eisman
C/CMSgt Bidya Niroula
C/TSgt David Densmore

Color Guard In the Senate from Douglas Composite Squadron:

C/1st Lt Kimzy
C/Amn Brumbaugh

And from Mustang Cadet Squadron:

C/CMSgt Shore
C/SMSgt Taff

Pledge of Allegiance Leader, C/A1C Allen

Critical Senior Member and Other Assistance included:

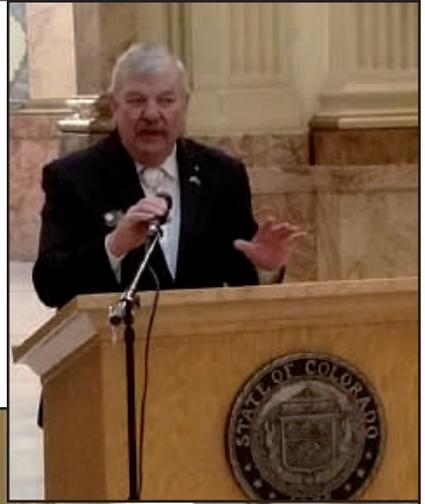
Col. Glenn Kavich
Lt. Col. Robby Robinson
Lt. Col. Thom Scheffel
Lt. Col. Buddy McCormick
Lt. Col. Don Bolles
Lt. Col. Mike Daniels
Lt. Col. Lee Wade
Maj. Helen Gray
Maj. David Pershing
Capt. Reid Lester
2d Lt. Barbara Adams
2d Lt. Linda Vecchiarelli

Megan Sanders, Aide to Representative Michaelson Jenet

Mike McDonald, Division of Civil Air Patrol

Janelle Darnell, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs





Two Days in December at Ft. Logan National Cemetery

*Story and photos by Maj. Mary Cast, CAP
Public Affairs, COWG and Group 4*

December is always a busy month for Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members and we in the Colorado Wing (COWG) are no exception. With several events scheduled over the first weekend of December to mark the founding of our organization on December 1, 1941, to Wreaths Across America, holiday parties, year-end banquets, and other occasions, CAP members are very busy.

In addition to the usual ceremonies shared across

CAP, COWG commemorates the beginnings of CAP and honors the first national commander by holding a unique ceremony at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, typically on the second Saturday in December. This ceremony was established several years ago by one of our former members, Maj. Ed O'Brien, historian and documentarian extraordinaire. Under the auspices of the COWG Cadet Programs team, the tradition continues.



COWG commander Col. John Rhoades poses with cadets after the Curry ceremony has concluded.

General John F. Curry, US Army Air Forces (USAAF) is buried at Ft. Logan and COWG incorporated this element in creating a meaningful ceremony to recognize the newest of CAP cadets. As the first national commander of the Civil Air Patrol, General Curry had an opportunity to establish an organization that contributed significantly to the advancement of aviation from the time of inception through today and will continue to do so into the future. Although General Curry did not hold the post for more than a few months before being re-assigned to other duties in the USAAF, his flair for organization, his recognition of the value of women as pilots, and his respect for general aviation as a vital contributor to both home defense and as a training school for new pilots helped CAP secure a permanent place in American aviation.

The Curry achievement is the very first one that a cadet earns; arguably the most important one as it marks the beginning of a cadet's journey in CAP. Without this first achievement, there is no advancement towards the Wright Brothers, or Mitchell, or Spaatz achievement. What better way to recognize the young people who have chosen to join CAP than to introduce them to the namesake of this achievement. Though the general died in 1973, we continue to recognize his importance as one of the "founding fathers" of CAP through this commemoration. The ceremony begins at Shelter A with the Pledge followed by a brief history of the formation of CAP and some personal information about the general and ends at the gravesite of Maj. General John Curry, where the Curry cadets are presented one by one at the gravesite of the general to the general. This year, the Curry ceremony coincided with Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, so in addition to the presentation about CAP, we spent several minutes remembering that terrible event and our entrance into World War II.

Pictures, news stories, and personal possessions of the general all play a part in making history come to life for cadets and their families. It is an opportunity for cadets to learn more about the general as several anecdotes and family remembrances are part of the presentation. Curry had a fascinating life and every year different stories help bring this man to life. In the past, members of General Curry's family that



"Attention!" The CAP contingent is called to order prior to the start of the WAA ceremonies.

knew him personally would join us during this time, either in person or via the phone; however, that did not happen this year. The former Lowrey AFB, where Gen Curry was stationed was important in the early days of CAP so a bit of the history of the air force base and the formation of the Civil Air Patrol is woven into the presentation. After the initial discussions at the shelter pavilion, cadets and senior members make their way (march!) to the general's gravesite. There, each cadet, in turn salutes the general's grave as they are presented. After the presentation, attendees return to the shelter where they are able to touch many of the general's possessions, such as a footlocker or his swagger stick, look at some of his awards, and read newspaper articles that highlight some of his notable achievements.

This year, the ceremony was led by Lt. Col. Gary Falls, COWG CP. Col. John Rhoades, COWG commander, along with Lt. Col. McCormick, COWG VC, and Col. Gary Tobey, former RMR and COWG commander, and Lt. Col. Don Bolles made a strong statement of support from the COWG command. Curry cadets came from several squadrons across Colorado.

The following Saturday many of the same cadets and senior members were representing CAP at the Wreaths Across America (WAA) remembrance. Throughout the country, the ceremonies are timed to coordinate with the one at Arlington National Cemetery so there is a feeling of unity across this great land. Participation in WAA has grown enor-

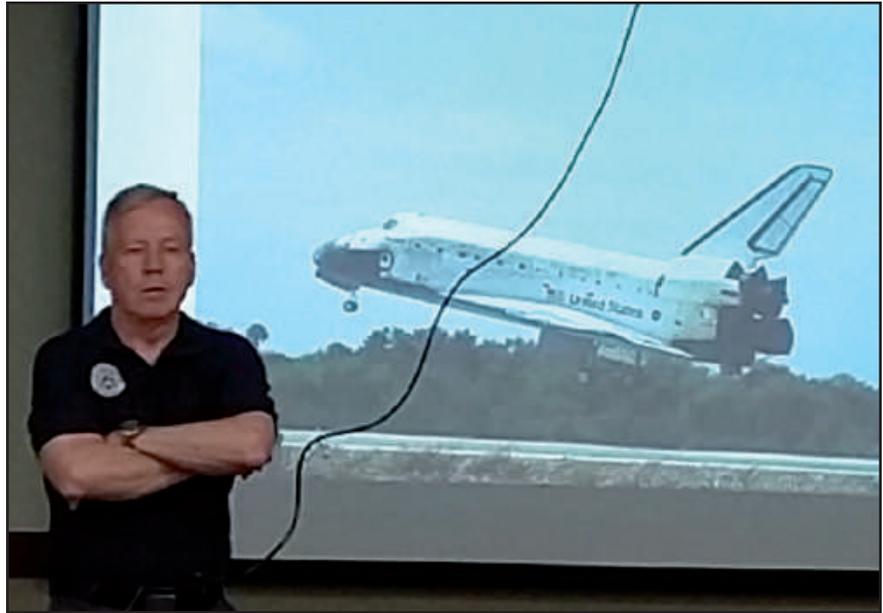
mously across the state, so CAP squadron members were not just at Ft. Logan National Cemetery but at cemeteries throughout the state as they helped lay wreaths at the graves of veterans. While Mustang Cadet Squadron took the lead at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, over three dozen cadets and a dozen senior members from several other metro-Denver area squadrons, Groups, and Wing staff also participated in the ceremony and wreath laying. Maj. Tom Jacobs (Mustang) was the Officer in Charge (OIC) for CAP at Ft. Logan. Before the ceremony, CAP cadets passed out information, helped answer questions, and contributed helping hands wherever needed. Once the formal ceremonies concluded, CAP personnel helped distribute some of the many thousands of wreaths to visitors before laying several dozen wreaths throughout the cemetery. As each wreath was laid, the name of the veteran was announced, and salutes rendered. It took well over three hours and several thousand visitors to lay all the wreaths that had been sent to Ft. Logan and CAP was there until the final wreaths were laid. 🇺🇸



Lt Col McCormick, vice commander COWG, lays a wreath at the grave of a veteran.

Former Astronaut & CAP O-Ride Pilot Col Steve Lindsey's Space Shuttle Landing Presentation

How many Civil Air Patrol squadrons receive an emergency services briefing followed by a presentation about landing the space shuttle from one of their fellow members who happens to also be a former NASA astronaut? The JeffCo squadron's Col Steve Lindsey talked about his experience as the pilot of the space shuttle Discovery and what was involved in landing the aircraft. Col Lindsey is a CAP O-Ride pilot with the squadron and is VP of Space Exploration Systems at Sierra Nevada Corp with whom NASA has contracted for the next generation of space travel, the Dream Chaser.



Broomfield Composite Squadron Assists RAF Red Arrows During RMMA Visit

Twelve Hawk Jets from the Royal Air Force Red Arrows performed at RMMA in Broomfield in September and members of the Colorado Wing's Broomfield Composite Squadron had the privilege of assisting them. The Rocky Mountain Metro Airport thanked the squadron and stated they couldn't have pulled off the event without their help.



Spaatz #2260

Cadet Col. Christopher Franklin

*Maj. Mike Fassi, CAP
TVCS PAO*

Cadet Col. Christopher (Chris) Franklin joined an elite group of Civil Air Patrol Cadets last Friday night at our Thompson Valley Composite Squadron Dining Out by becoming the 2260th CAP Spaatz Cadet. Cadet Col. Franklin has been a member of Thompson Valley for five years. On November 2019 Cadet Col. Franklin achieved a goal that only that only 2259 CAP Cadets Nationwide previously had achieved.

The General Spaatz Award which began in 1964 is Civil Air Patrols highest cadet honor and is awarded to a cadet after devoting 5 years and completed 16 achievements in the CAP Cadet Program. The final step in the process is a difficult four part exam consisting of a physical fitness test, an essay exam on leadership, a comprehensive written exam and an aerospace education exam.

Cadet Col. Franklin has many accomplishments to add to his new Spaatz Award. Cadet Col. Franklin is a graduate of Colorado Early College, a private pilot, Form 5 qualified CAP Pilot, CAP Mission Observer, and is currently working on his instrument and commercial rating while working at Northern Colorado Regional Airport. In the fall Cadet Col Franklin will be attending CU Boulder on an Air Force ROTC Scholarship. The Air Force ROTC Scholarship was presented to him by 2nd Lt Emma Baggett, USAF.

The prestigious Spaatz Award was presented to Cadet Col. Franklin by retired Colonel Kent Nelson, USAF. Col. Nelson himself is a Distinguished AF ROTC graduate from the University of Wyoming class of 1969. Col. Nelsons accomplishments include: Outstanding Flight Test Engineer from the USAF Test Pilot School. Col. Nelson was an Instructor and Chief Flight Test Engineer at USAF Test Pilot School and Chief Flight Test Engineer on the B-2 Bomber Combined Test Force along with having flown and tested more than 117 different aircraft as a Flight Test Engineer. Col. Nelson challenged not only Cadet Col. Franklin but all of the Cadets to strive for excellence in all you do.

Please help me Congratulate Colorado Wings newest Spaatz Award winner Cadet Col. Christopher Franklin and wish him nothing but “Blue Skies” and “Gods Speed on Your Journey”.



WHEN THE AIR FORCE CALLS A PRACTICE GAME

*By Maj. Mike Fassi, CAP
PIO, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron, COWG*

On Thursday, October 10th both Lt. Col. John Mitchell and I received a call from the Colorado Wing Emergency Services Officer and were asked to be part of an air crew which involved three Wing aircraft and eleven CAP members. We were asked to participate in an exercise that not only tested CAP and their air and communications abilities but also Air Force pilots from Buckley Air Force Base who were qualifying for a very important mission.

Since 9/11 the Air Force and CAP units across the country have been playing a game of “Cat & Mouse”. The goal is clear. Make sure that an event similar to 9/11 never happens again.

That said, on a peaceful fall morning in October three CAP aircraft from the Colorado Wing headed out to play the role of mice. One of the aircraft was designated as “High Bird” an airborne communications platform coordinating communications between the CAP aircraft and mission base.

As Mission Observer in one of the aircraft working the radios and the G 1000 my heart started pounding and the adrenaline started flowing as radio chatter increased. Soon we reached the initial designated point and heard that the fighters had been scrambled. “Game On”. Our heads were on a swivel looking for the approaching F-16’s. In a matter of minutes, which seemed like forever, they were on us and giving us “very clear and precise” instructions. Needless to say, we followed them and were given orders to depart the area. WOW! What a rush.

While flying back to our base for lunch and a debrief we reviewed our responsibilities, objectives, and what went right and what went wrong. As it turns out according to our Air Force Observer, John Macklin, these missions are very important to Air Force pilots as they qualify annually to fly these intercept missions.



CAP and the USAF are truly Total Force partners. Without the help of highly trained and committed citizen volunteers working with our Air Force partners these missions and their successes would not be possible.

On a personal note, it was an honor and a privilege to have been asked to participate. I was surrounded by a pilot and friend with over 12,000 flight hours, and an Air Force Academy graduate who could fly a bus if asked. THANK YOU for the opportunity! I encourage all CAP members to remember what Lt. Col. Scott Snyder, CAP-USAF RMLR Commander, said at our last SAREX in Greeley. “Practice like you fight”. Always keep your skills sharp and practice because like me, you never know when you’ll get the call and be put in the game. The stakes are high and as CAP “professional volunteers” it’s our duty to be ready.

Thank you for all you do for CAP!

Zulu, Pepe, and TO

Eagle County Cadet Squadron

*By Cadet 1st Lt. G. Dalton Peck, CAP
Cadet Deputy Commander, Eagle County Cadet Squadron*

“The three of us haven’t been in the same room together in 24 years” said LtCol (Ret) Guy Brilando, callsign Pepe, speaking to the cadets, senior members, and gathered civilian audience of the Civil Air Patrol’s Eagle County Cadet Squadron on Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

In 1995, Brilando was a flight commander in the U.S. Air Force’s famed “Triple Nickel” (555th) Fighter Squadron, flying F-16s from Aviano Air Base in Italy. Brilando recalled that on 2 June 1995, he handed one of his subordinate pilots, Capt. Scott O’Grady, callsign Zulu, a set of fake teeth as a gag gift, which O’Grady enthusiastically thanked Brilando for, then promptly stored in his locker before taking off for a combat patrol over Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Conflict in which Brilando, O’Grady and the Aviano pilots found themselves was the result of the former nation of Yugoslavia dissolving into six rival nations. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Serb majority had embarked on a campaign of ‘ethnic cleansing,’ developing a long and terrifying list of war crimes and human rights abuses to nearly rival that of Nazi Germany. In a 1994 mission O’Grady flew, U.S. fighters from Aviano had destroyed 4



Serbian aircraft returning from an airstrike. The pilots spoke of the scattered Serbian surface-to-air defenses, however, with nearly the air of children around a campfire recounting rumors of terrible beasts in the woods. One of these almost mythical terrors was reported by U.S. Intelligence to be a Russian-built SA-6 Kub mobile Surface to Air Missile system, and on that fateful 1995 patrol mission, Scott O’Grady found himself directly in its jaws.

“It was only about 6 and a half seconds from that first radar ‘tickle’ to the missile impact”

O’Grady said in the Eagle County squadron classroom, explaining that rather than opting for the typical approach of gaining a radar lock and then firing, the Serbian SA-6 crew had opted for a more lethal strategy; firing the missile before activating the radar to provide it with targeting and guidance information, thus reducing O’Grady’s reaction time. The missile struck just aft of the F-16’s cockpit, and O’Grady, like Brilando (who had ejected after his F-16’s engine failed over South Korea) recalled a ‘temporal distortion’ in the burning cockpit as he pulled the handle to eject. O’Grady landed in a small

clearing and immediately heard rifle fire from furious Serbian paramilitary forces surrounding him. After escaping from this threat, O'Grady found himself surviving on the ground with uncertain chances of rescue, in the most unenviable conditions. Not only did he attest to having developed the kind of 'trench foot' made infamous in World War One, but O'Grady's only hydration came from methods like wringing the moisture out of his socks, of which he said "what came out was mostly brown and green... it was the worst toe-jam soup I'd ever had." Still, O'Grady said he celebrated achievements like extracting some form of hydration from his socks; along with his raw determination and faith in God, that kind of small celebration and psychological self-encouragement was part of what kept him alive out there.

O'Grady survived in such a manner for 6 days until, one night, the Squadron's third guest, Capt. Thomas Hanford, callsign TO, a fellow Aviano F-16 pilot from another squadron, chose to loiter on station for an additional 45 minutes, using his active radio callsign, Basher 11, to attempt to hail Basher 52, the callsign O'Grady had been using when he ejected. About to give up and return to base due to his low fuel state, Hanford tried one last measure; he turned the squelch down on his radio, allowing it to pick up weaker signals the radio previously would've only recognized as noise. On this attempt, Hanford heard the weak signal of Basher 52 responding to the call. Scott O'Grady, who



many at Aviano didn't believe would be alive, was now relaying encrypted rescue coordinates. Hanford eagerly relayed this to the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft, callsign "Magic," who, through the chain of command, dictated Hanford's code-word reply to O'Grady: "Mañana," Spanish for "tomorrow," to which O'Grady urgently replied "No, I need you guys to get me out tonight!" After Hanford finally did return to base on command orders, U.S. Marine Corps helicopters were dispatched to rescue O'Grady, who, puzzling over how to confirm his identity to the Marines, realized that he had a reversible "Boony hat," camouflage on one side, day-glow orange on the other, in his survival supplies, and decided to signal his location by being "the one guy out there dumb enough to be wearing a bright orange hat." The rescue was an intense escape from Serbian territory, with O'Grady recalling that small arms fire once bounced off of, and left a dent in one Marine's drinking canteen. But at last, Scott O'Grady was out of Bosnia and bound to return to the United

States as a national hero. As Hanford and O'Grady himself said multiple times, "they don't make movies that exciting."

Captain Scott O'Grady's story became a media frenzy in 1995, even making the cover of Time Magazine. More information can be found at: <http://scottogrady.com/>

Founded in 1941 to provide wartime coastal patrols, the Civil Air Patrol now consists of over 66,000 citizens serving their communities and dedicated to three missions: Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs. Youth between the ages of 12 and 18 can join as cadets, and adults are welcome to join as senior members. The Eagle County Cadet Squadron, Civil Air Patrol meets at the HAATS faculty in Gypsum, Tuesday evenings 7-9pm Capt. Chris Peck, Commander (970) 390-4834, eaglecountyCAP@gmail.com / gocivilairpatrol.com 

Cadet 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. Special thanks to Lt Col Thomas Eggers for providing the Achievement data!



Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award

C/Col Victoria Schmidt, Mustang Cadet Squadron
C/Col. Christopher Franklin, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron



Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award

C/Lt Col Charles Ross, North Valley Composite Squadron
C/Lt Col Christopher Franklin, Thompson Valley Composite Sq
C/Lt Col Samantha Lee, Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron
C/Lt Col Memphis Thomas, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
C/Lt Col Caleb Han, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron



Amelia Earhart Award

C/Capt. Jenna Jones, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
C/Capt Rachel Keller, Montrose Composite Squadron
C/Capt Phillip Rodriguez, Heart of the Rockies Composite Squadron
C/Capt Tobias Hild, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
C/Capt Mathieu Shippy, Douglas Cadet Squadron
C/Capt Jack Jones, Delta County Cadet Squadron
C/Capt James Culp, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
C/Capt Kael Tepper, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron
C/Capt Nicole O'Hayre, Douglas Cadet Squadron
C/Capt Davis Iskiyan, Douglas Cadet Squadron
C/Capt Carolyn Simzey, Douglas Cadet Squadron
C/Capt Nick Garver, Douglas Cadet Squadron
C/Capt Jon Borchelt, Highlander Composite Squadron
C/Capt Cade Cesmat, Highlander Composite Squadron
C/Capt Ethan Bruehl, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron



Gen. Billy Mitchell Award

C/2d Lt Carolyn Kimzey, Douglas Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Dylan Weatherly, Banning Lewis Ranch Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Emmalei Jenkins, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Annmarie Hackworthy, Steamboat Springs Composite Sq
C/2d Lt Robert Herting, Parker Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Margaret Cole, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt James West, Mustang Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Micah Yeager, Delta County Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Connor Hogan, Delta County Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Jacob Palmer, North Valley Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Emilio Sena, Brighton Cadet Squadron

C/2d Lt Karl Krueger, Parker Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Lia Kubitschek, Boulder Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Logan Smith, Delta County Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Jacob Vega, Eagle County Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Thomas Zapel, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Pablo Lopez-Maheras, Thompson Valley Composite Sq
C/2d Lt Amber Boll, Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Micah Jungling, Broomfield Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Elena Gomez, Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Paul Leeder, Banning Lewis Ranch Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Brennan Smith, Highlander Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Landon Coker, Eagle County Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Shayden Jones, Eagle County Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt George Peck, Eagle County Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Cole Smith, Parker Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Ashlynn Secor, Foothills Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Johnathan Bizzano, Foothills Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Justin Lee, Air Academy Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Tucker Simpson, North Valley Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Gregory Herting, Parker Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Jack Megenhardt, Parker Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Catherine Loudon, Parker Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Kaden Griffith, Montrose Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Colton Magoon, Brighton Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Braxton Dennison, Mesa Verde Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt. Elijah White, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Brian Stevenson, Greeley Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Gage Dower, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Andrew Weisler, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Daniel Pratt, Greeley Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Ethan Kishiyama, Mustang Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Kayla Foltz, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Sophia Byrd, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Carissa Sigler, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Cayden Stratford, Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Daniel Shore, Mustang Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Jack Morman, Foothills Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Jadon Adrouni, Greeley Cadet Squadron
C/2d Lt Danielle McCormick, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron
C/2d Lt Levi Foster, Fremont Starfire Cadet Squadron

MUSTANG SQUADRON'S C/COL VICTORIA SCHMIDT EARNS PRESTIGIOUS SPAATZ AWARD

The Colorado Wing is very proud of our newest Spaatz Cadet, C/Col Victoria Schmidt, of the Mustang Cadet Squadron. Who's the next COWG cadet to reach the pinnacle of CAP cadet achievements? Less than 2,300 cadets have attained the Spaatz Award in the 78 year history of Civil Air Patrol.



Senior Member 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.

Special thanks to Lt Col Thomas Eggers for providing the Achievement data!



Paul E. Garber Award

Maj Robert Thomas, Thunder Mountain Composite Squadron



Gill Robb Wilson Award

Lt Col David Micheletti, Pikes Peak Senior Squadron



Grover Loening Award

Capt John Cossick, Montrose Composite Squadron

1st Lt Kimberly Culp, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron

1st Lt Donna Fay, Air Academy Cadet Squadron

Capt Brian Foltz, Heart of the Rockies Composite Squadron

Capt Rolf Groff, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron

Capt Brittany Hardy, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron

Capt Meredith Lyons, Brighton Cadet Squadron

Capt Chad Morris, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron

Capt Michael Orcutt, Foothills Cadet Squadron

Capt George Peck, Eagle County Composite Squadron

Capt Jane Peters, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron

Capt Peter Roosting, Black Sheep Senior Squadron

1st Lt Timothy Walsh, Steamboat Springs Composite Squadron



Specialty Track Master Rating

Maj Gregory Deemer, Professional Development, North Valley Composite Squadron

Col John Rhoades, Cadet Programs, Colorado Wing Hq

Lt Col Debrah Archer, Cadet Programs, Group 2 Headquarters

Capt Alexander Santiago, Recruiting & Retention, Eagle County Composite Squadron

Capt Lyn Parker, Personnel, Vance Brand Cadet Squadron

Capt Alex Nuckols, Communications, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron

Lt Col Michael Fay, Cadet Programs, Group 3 Headquarters

Maj Raymond Wells, Standards & Evaluations, Black Sheep Senior Squadron

Col Celeste Gamache, Command, Colorado Wing Hq

Lt Col Harvey Siegal, Inspector General, Colorado Wing Hq

Capt John Cossick, Standards & Evaluations, Delta Composite Squadron

Capt Michael Fournier, Health Services, Group 3 Headquarters



**HEADQUARTERS COLORADO WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
325 West Hamilton Avenue, Building 133
Peterson Air Force Base, CO 80914**



10 APR 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR COWG

FROM: COWG/CC

SUBJECT: 2019 OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

1. I am proud to announce the winners of the 2019 “of the year” awards:

Name	Unit	Award
Ellis, David	Vance Brand Cadet Squadron	Historian of the Year
Flanders, Matthew	Colorado Wing HQ	Safety Officer of the Year
Foltz, Brian P	Heart of the Rockies Comp. Squadron	Communicator of the Year
Gamber, Robert T	Jefferson County Senior Squadron	Property Management Officer of the Year
Hanley, Thurston J	Thompson Valley Composite Squadron	Jack Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year
Houston, Christel	Steamboat Springs Composite Squadron	Character Development Officer of the Year
McNeely, Michael T	Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron	Senior of the Year
Munson, Trevor A	Valkyrie Cadet Squadron	Col (Bud) Payton PAO of the Year
Peters, Jane L	Thompson Valley Composite Squadron	Professional Development Officer of the Year
Peticolas, John R	Jefferson County Senior Squadron	Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award – Senior Category
Scheffel, Thomas N	Valkyrie Cadet Squadron	Major General Dwight H. Wheless Legal Officer of the Year
Settergren, Randall	Jefferson County Senior Squadron	Lt Col T. Keith Riddle Aircrew Member of the Year
Stone, Isaac N	Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron	Cadet of the Year
Tobey, Gary H	Black Sheep Senior Squadron	George Texido Legislative Officer Of the Year
Waterman, Robert	Pikes Peak Senior Squadron	Col David Kantor Operations Staff Officer of the Year
Zapel, Thomas Arthur	Air Academy Cadet Squadron	Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award - Cadet Category

**JOHN RHOADES, Col, CAP
Commander
Colorado Wing**

Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame Inductee Col. Tobey is JeffCo Guest Speaker

The JeffCo Senior Squadron was honored to have Col. Gary Tobey as the featured guest speaker for their November monthly meeting. Col. Tobey is a former RMR Commander, and former COWG Commander, who now serves as the COWG Govt Relations Advisor and was recently inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame. He delivered a presentation on his personal history of the Vietnam War titled, *Attack Into North Vietnam from the USS Enterprise* and spoke of his experience as a naval aviator and about carrier operations while flying the A-4 during the war. Col. Tobey's presentation was well received by the JeffCo members who filled the Mt. Evans meeting room of the Rocky Mountain Metro Airport Terminal Bldg.

Col. Gary Tobey was inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame on October 12, 2019. As a Naval Aviator, Col. Tobey flew 188 combat missions in A-4 fighter jets from carriers during Vietnam. In 1996 he co-founded the Colorado CAP Foundation



to provide scholarships to CAP cadets. He served as the president of the Colorado Pilots Association and was a board member of the Arapahoe County Airport Authority.

Former COWG Commander Honored as ‘Best Flight Instructor’

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

Lt. Col. Dave Novotny, a Civil Air Patrol pilot and a former COWG Commander who now serves as the Rocky Mountain Region’s standardization/evaluation officer, was recognized in October by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association as Best Flight Instructor in the Northwest Mountain Region.

The award process followed by AOPA, the world’s largest civil aviation organization, involved an evaluation of 972 flight schools and 1,876 individual flight instructors.

The 2019 awards were drawn from flight students and pilots



who voluntarily reviewed their flight training experience this past summer through an AOPA online customer satisfaction survey.

The awards were presented in October at the Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight at Centennial Airport in Denver during the Redbird Migration annual conference for flight training professionals.

Novotny joined CAP in in December 1986. He has served as interim commander of the Colorado Wing, as the wing’s vice commander, as wing communications engineering officer and as Pikes Peak Senior Squadron communications officer.