



Educators Take to the Skies for Summer Training

**Summer Professional Development Opportunity
Provided by
Civil Air Patrol and
Montgomery, AL Chapter of the Air Force Association**

**June 23-27, 2011
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Educators at all levels- pre-service, in-service, administrators, college professors, system coordinators, STEM consortium leaders, military program coordinators, and Department of Defense (DoD) STARBASE Directors- were the benefactors of a unique “out of the classroom” experience for summer professional development. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) joined hands with the Air Force Association (AFA) to provide an exciting aerospace education workshop for educators. Beginning with complimentary military airlift transportation from Maxwell Air Force Base, AL to Kirtland Air Force Base, in Albuquerque, NM, the trip evolved around potential science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career paths for students.

Workshop participants came from all areas of Alabama, as well as from Florida, North Carolina, and Michigan. Montgomery’s Bear Exploration Center teachers, SueAnne Reynolds, Loretta Harrison, Deborah Hendrix, and Laurie Houlditch were all fully sponsored for this trip by the Montgomery Chapter of the AFA due to their school’s participation in the CAP’s Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program the AFA chapter supports each year.

Each summer, the CAP and AFA work together to provide military airlift to transport teachers to new locations around the country for field trips, hands-on learning activities, and special speakers that will enhance their instructional program. This year, the group visited the Very Large Array in the NM desert to learn about radio astronomy; worked with the NM STARBASE director in conducting engaging aerospace activities; learned about new mini rocket launching for student inquiry-based instruction; dialogued with legendary and current cutting-edge speakers about aviation, space, and satellite imagery; and culminated the workshop with a hot air balloon flight over Albuquerque and the Rio Grande River.

“The best part of the trip is the time to meet new teachers and share ideas that can improve our classroom instruction,” said Florida teacher Amy Davis, who also attended the AFA/CAP’s Dayton, Ohio summer trip in 2009. STARBASE creator, Barbara Koscak, from Michigan, encouraged the teachers to “take every opportunity to reach out to the aviation community to secure field trips, speakers, positive role models, and career exploration events for their students. You never know when one experience will be the one that turns a young person’s life around.”

Dothan pre-service teacher, Danny Bedsole, was awed at the opportunity provided to him on this trip. “Being a victim of the poor economy, I have had to begin a totally new career path. Since I selected education, I have found that there is so much to learn and so many resources needed to

get started in a classroom. The CAP supplied me with over 20 free educational products to use in my classroom. These resources, combined with this workshop experience, will only improve my knowledge and enthusiasm to share with my future students.”

Montgomery teacher, Alvin Bell, had a special connection at the workshop. His former college instructor, Susan Mallett, was co-director of the workshop with Debbie Dahl, both of CAP and the AFA. Alvin is moving from an elementary school to Goodwyn Jr High School in Montgomery and plans to use this experience to motivate his middle school students.

MSgt Judy Bush of the Alabama Air National Guard in Dothan attended the trip to learn more about how to become involved in middle to high school youth development programs to inspire young people toward aerospace careers. Her initial eagerness about the workshop was far exceeded as she observed NM CAP cadets in distinguished action during the workshop.

Montgomery AFA Chapter President, Larry Carter, bid the group a grand journey as they departed from Maxwell AFB. “The AFA is proud to partner with the CAP to sponsor this trip. We hope that the experience will invigorate your interest in promoting STEM subjects and careers with your students to not only improve their lives but to contribute to the national security and future workforce of our country.”

CAP and AFA both work with communities across the nation to promote the importance of aerospace in national security and in future workforce development. To find out about CAP’s special teacher and youth programs that include free materials and airplane flights in CAP’s Cessna airplanes, go to www.gocivilairpatrol.com. To find out about the AFA, go to www.afa.org. To find out about the Montgomery Chapter AFA, go to <http://www.afa102.net/>. For more information about any programs, contact ae@capnhq.gov.

POC: Susan Mallett 334-201-5224 smallett@capnhq.gov

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TRIP PHOTOS



AFA Chapter and State Presidents, Larry Carter and Skip Dotherow, bid team farewell at Maxwell AFB terminal



Rhonda Bishop, Lynn Toney and Geri Evans doing hot air balloon activity



Alvin Bell looks out over the landscape below.



Group in front of radio astronomy Very Large Array



Jennifer Cleere, Debbie Dahl, and Geri Evans with the pilot



Inside of balloon envelope



Balloons over Rio Grande River



Packing up the balloon



All packed up and worn out



Montgomery area teachers with workshop director, Susan Mallett: Loretta Harrison, Deborah Hendrix, Terry Dotherow, Laura Houlditch, SueAnn Reynolds, and Alvin Bell



In front of C-9 at Maxwell - - - home at last!