

Great Lakes

Ohio unit lends support to Armed Services Blood Program

OHIO – Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker Composite Squadron members stepped up for America’s military men and women deployed around the world when the Armed Services Blood Program held a blood drive at the Army Reserve Training Center in Whitehall. With the current mobilization of U.S. armed forces, the need for blood is critical, and CAP members decided to do their part to provide support.

Blood donated to the program is rapidly transported to where the need is greatest, typically within just a couple of days. When the armed services run low on blood products, officials then have to buy the units from other civilian sources, sometimes at a much higher cost to the taxpayer.

“Civil Air Patrol is committed to community and civil service,” said Capt. Dan Petry, Rickenbacker squadron commander, who was joined by eight cadets at the blood drive. “Helping save lives through our emergency services program or donating blood to help our troops are just some of the ways we are helping our community, state and nation.” Though only a few of the cadets were old enough to give blood, their younger counterparts assisted the staff with refreshments.

For Cadet Sr. Airman Kelsea Callahan, who donated for the first time, the occasion caused a little nervousness beforehand but was well worth it. “Knowing that I am making a difference to some soldier’s life is amazing!” Callahan said. “What a gift, to possibly be giving someone another chance at life!” >> 1st Lt. John C. Morgan



Photo by Cadet Capt. Nathan Spehr, Ohio Wing

Cadet Sr. Airman Kelsea Callahan donates blood for the first time at the Armed Services Blood Program blood drive.

Middle East

South Carolina commander uses own plane as teaching tool

SOUTH CAROLINA – When Sr. Mbr. Cleveland Gore, commander of the Walterboro Composite Squadron, wanted to give cadets in the recently formed unit a hands-on lesson on the inner workings of a plane, he used his own Cessna 150 for the discussion.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Rita Gore, South Carolina Wing

Walterboro Composite Squadron Cadet Airman 1st Class Ellesse Jackson-Gill begins removing the Cessna’s cowl.

During a cadet meeting, he took the cadets to the hangar and, in pairs of two and in stages, had them take off the Cessna’s cowl. He then explained what they were doing, asked questions about items they had covered in their module and challenged them to put into practice everything they had learned in CAP aerospace education coursework. The cadets were able to correctly identify various parts of the horizontally opposed aircraft engines, functional purposes of the aircraft magneto system and the plane’s flight controls, fuel supply and delivery systems.

At one point, senior members observing the cadets asked to join in to learn the same systems. >> 2nd Lt. Rita Gore

North Central

Minnesota members enjoy weekend behind locked doors

MINNESOTA – Finding fun ways to beat the late-winter blues wasn't hard for 200 Minnesota Wing members and their families during the annual Lock-In and Volleyball Tournament hosted by the St. Cloud Composite Squadron. The event included a volleyball tournament and an evening and overnight stay packed with food, rock climbing, flight simulators, movies, games, swimming, dodgeball and hoops at St. Cloud State University's state-of-the-art student recreation center.

"The goal of the event is to provide cadets, seniors members and families from across the Minnesota Wing an opportunity to socialize and interact with each other in a safe, holistic environment," said the St. Cloud squadron's 1st Lt. Steven Parker, who organized the lock-in portion. "It seems everyone had a positive experience."

In the volleyball competition, Viking Composite Squadron cadets took top honors, with a cadet team from the St. Croix Composite Squadron placing second. The wing headquarters' "Wing Nuts," a team of senior members, finished third. "Congratulations to the more than 160 cadets who participated in the 19-team volleyball tournament," Capt. Laura Broker, organizer of the competition, told participants. "Thank you for your infectious enthusiasm!"

>> Capt. Richard J. Sprouse



Photo by Capt. Richard J. Sprouse, Minnesota Wing

Cadets from squadrons across the Minnesota Wing enjoy a card game with new and old friends.

Northeast

New York member honored for remote role in Florida rescue

NEW YORK – When a Florida Wing aircrew found a downed helicopter with four survivors last September, another Civil Air Patrol member was playing a key role some 1,300 miles away in Rome, N.Y. That's where Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Paul Kulesa, who is also a Civil Air Patrol first lieutenant and deputy commander of the Utica Cadet Squadron, serves at the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS), which monitors air traffic over the eastern half of the country.

The Florida aircrew's search for the missing chopper involved a huge area, and time was of the essence. NEADS has the technology to conduct a "real time" look-back at any aircraft at any given time, said Kulesa, who was on duty at the time. "This gives us the ability to spot where an aircraft may stop, but not necessarily land," he said. Radar information put the copter's last known position near the edge of the Everglades and Florida Bay's open waters. It led the aircrew to the downed helicopter, flipped over and partially submerged with the four men standing on it and waving frantically.

Air Force Col. John P. Bartholf, commander of NEADS, recently recognized Kulesa's time-critical role and presented him with a Commander's Commendation Award. Kulesa's "diligent, meticulous manipulation of the archived raw radar data and close coordination directly with the Civil Air Patrol resulted in the expeditious and successful rescue of all four civilian passengers," the commendation reads. >> 1st Lt. Bob Stronach

Photo by Brooke Davis, Northeast Air Defense Sector



1st Lt. Paul Kulesa monitors flight data at the Northeast Air Defense Sector, where he works as an Air National Guard technical sergeant.

Pacific

California cadets refine radio skills

CALIFORNIA – While most teens are busy listening to the radio, cadets from Corona Cadet Squadron 29 are transmitting over the airwaves. In an effort to expand the squadron’s role in CAP communications, cadets participate in weekly VHF radio nets.

“It is great to see cadets sit down and take the time to learn how to do this,” said Capt. Michael Yamada, the unit’s aerospace education officer. After all squadron cadets completed Basic Communication User Training, several continued on to complete Advanced Communication User Training, and then began working on requirements to earn their communications badges.

“Our squadron has been trying to expand our role in emergency services,” said Capt. Doug Giles, squadron commander. “Training cadets in communications is part of that mission.” Cadet Master Sgt. James Aeschliman added, “I want to improve my skills as a mission radio operator (and) perhaps become qualified as a communications unit leader one day.” >> 1st Lt. Paul J. Saba



Photo by 1st Lt. Eric Velasco, California Wing

1st Lt. Paul Saba shows cadets the proper method to check into a directed net.

Rocky Mountain

Colorado cadet receives Spaatz award from NORAD commander

COLORADO – When Cadet Col. Kristopher Poskey of the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron received Civil Air Patrol’s highest cadet honor, the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award, the presentation was made by an appropriately prestigious figure — Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr., commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command.

Renuart addressed the Colorado Springs squadron and guests during the Spaatz ceremony held at Peterson Air Force Base. He told those assembled that “what I’ve learned and what I certainly understand now in my current job is that the Air Force auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol, allows us the capability that is probably the best bang for the buck you can find.”

“And maybe most importantly,” he said, “[involvement in CAP] provides an opportunity for young men and young women to be associated with something a little bigger than themselves, to be associated with something that is important to their country and their community.”

Renuart called the Spaatz award “a great way to recognize the performance, commitment, sense of duty and sense of service” demonstrated by Poskey. From the squadron’s color guard, the new cadet colonel received a flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol. Also, Colorado Wing Commander Col. Edward Phelka presented him with the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz silver coin, initiating him into the Spaatz Association, a nonprofit organization of past and present CAP cadets who’ve earned the program’s highest cadet honor. >> Sr. Mbr. Eric Moldenhauer

Photo by Sr. Mbr. Eric Moldenhauer, Colorado Wing



Gen. Victor Renuart, commander of NORAD, presents Cadet Col. Kristopher Poskey with his Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award certificate.

Southeast

Weekend immerses Georgia cadets in aviation exploration

GEORGIA – More than 50 Georgia Wing cadets devoted a busy weekend in Savannah to exploring multiple aspects of aviation, ranging from historic war-birds and current aircraft to corporate practices and employment opportunities. Sponsored by the wing's Group 6, the weekend enabled members of the Savannah, Statesboro and Augusta composite squadrons and the Effingham Cadet Squadron to tour the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, where they encountered living history in the form of their tour guide — a member of a World War II B-17 bomber crew. They toured exhibits and inspected aircraft, ranging from a Phantom fighter to a B-47 six-engine jet bomber and including the Eighth's newly acquired B-17, the City of Savannah.

In addition, FlightSafety International Inc. hosted the cadets on an extended tour of company facilities. They learned about technical training for modern business jets' pilots and crews, aircraft simulators, water survival training and maintenance. Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. welcomed the group as well, providing a complete tour of manufacturing, testing and service facilities and allowing the visitors aboard Gulfstream's G-550 twin-engine corporate demonstration aircraft.

U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah flew its HH-65 Dolphin helicopter to Signature Flight Support's ramp at the airport, where cadets talked with the crew, inspected the helicopter and climbed aboard. Another crew, from Marine Aerial Refuel Transport Squadron 252 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., made its aircraft, a U.S. Corps KC-130J aerial tanker/transport, available as well. During their visit, cadets talked with the crew about service as military aviators. >> Capt. Jim Phillips



Photo by Capt. Jim Phillips, Georgia Wing

Cadet Airman Basic Allyson Priestley of the Savannah Composite Squadron makes herself at home in the cockpit of the HH-65 Dolphin helicopter flown in by an aircrew from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah.

Southwest

Louisiana aircrews demonstrate photo capabilities to disaster experts

LOUISIANA – After partnering with National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette as part of a focus on disaster management, the Louisiana Wing followed up with an exercise to demonstrate its capabilities in capturing and displaying high-resolution aerial photos. Civil Air Patrol pilots and observers flew a photo survey mission to assess selected structures. They were joined by Dr. Robert Stewart, the university's vice president for research and graduate studies; Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, executive director of the institute; and Larry J. Landry, assistant director of homeland security for St. Martin Parish. Aerial imaging technology made real-time views of the targets available to all users. Versions of these images were e-mailed for others to use.

"The exercise was a great success, and we look forward to working with NIMSAT in the future," said Lt. Col. Mickey Marchand, incident commander for the exercise and emergency services officer for the wing. Officials began exploring a possible relationship between the NIMSAT Institute and CAP last year and made significant progress during hurricanes Gustav and Ike. While working in the state of Louisiana's emergency operations center before and after the storms, the institute's staff assessed the likely damage the storms could cause, determining which facilities might be vulnerable and how their temporary loss could affect municipal services. Once Hurricane Gustav made landfall, team members assessed its impact. After that, they worked with state agencies to have CAP assigned to take aerial photography and record first-hand observations of affected assets.

Heading to their airplane as part of the aerial photography exercise, Shreveport Senior Squadron's Lt. Col. Doc Barnard, the pilot, left, and Maj. Michael Falcon, observer, flank Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, executive director of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's NIMSAT Institute.



Photo by John Zarembo, Louisiana Wing

NIMSAT is a national partnership of more than 30 public, private and nonprofit organizations in 16 states. Its mission is to enhance national resiliency to a full range of potential disasters by conducting research leading to cutting-edge tools and applications that strengthen homeland security and emergency management agencies through education, training and operational support. >> Maj. Michael James