

SILVER WINGS

Fall 2019



Tahoe-Truckee Cadet Reaches The Skies

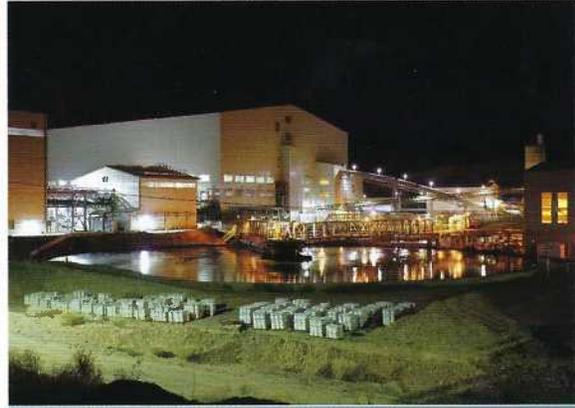
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COMMANDER'S CORNER

***By Col. Deborah Pierce, CAP
Nevada Wing Commander***

Hi there, everyone! I hope you're having a fun and safe summer. I'm just happy to finally stop shoveling snow. Lots of things are going on around the Wing; you'll read about some of them right here in *Silver Wings*. And those folks doing things that DIDN'T get in this issue – there's always the next one! We all want to know what's happening around the Wing and *Silver Wings* is a good way for that. Another way to keep track of what's happening is through the Wing website www.nvwg.cap.org.

One of the big events just completed is the 2019 Nevada Wing Encampment. I spoke with several cadets while I was there and they all related they were having a good time and learning a lot, along with making a bunch of new friends. Big kudos to 1st Lt. Mark Aguiar, Encampment Commander; Lt. Col. Pete Goertzen, Commandant of Cadets; and Cadet Capt. Kenneth Carson (CAWG), Cadet Commandant. These folks put forth a TON of work over the past several months to help make Encampment a shining success. If you haven't been to Encampment and want to know what it was like, ask a cadet who was there – then you'll want to start planning to be at next year's Encampment. It will be here before you know it...

Nevada Wing has its first Cadet



Wings program graduate – Cadet Maj. Justin Hoekman from Tahoe-Truckee Composite Squadron! He was the 11th cadet to successfully complete the program and earn his private pilot's certificate. Well done, Cadet Maj. Hoekman! Any of you cadets out there who might want to fly, take a look at the Cadet Wings program – check it at <http://nvwg-cap.org/cadet-wings-program.html> – It CAN be done... just ask Cadet Maj. Hoekman.

I have some super exciting news! This year's Nevada Wing Conference at Texas Station in Las Vegas will be awesome. In addition to honoring Col. Carol Lynn for all her hard work in service to Nevada Wing, we have some VERY special guests – Maj. Gen. Mark Smith (National Commander) and Brig. Gen. Ed Phelka (National Vice Commander) will be in attendance, along with

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West Air Aviation Open House

*Capt. Jan D. Kopacz, CAP
Aerospace Education Officer, Nellis Senior Squadron*

West Air Aviation hosted an aviation open house at the North Las Vegas Airport for the first grade classes of Pinecrest Academy Horizon School Monday and Tuesday, April 8th and 9th. One hundred fifty first graders, six teachers and several parents participated.

On display were two warbirds, the KNTV Chopper 13 Bell helicopter, the West Air training fleet Cessnas and a Civil Air Patrol aircraft, N252CP.

N252CP is a 2014 turbo Cessna 206 H G1000 model operated by the Nevada Wing. It was clearly the hit attraction of the open house. All 150 first graders had the opportunity to sit at the controls of the aircraft. They asked amazingly astute questions of the CAP officers in attendance.

Adults, left to right, in the photograph are CAP Capt. Jan Kopacz, West Air dispatch manager, Mellisa Brewer, CAP Maj. Ezekiel Martin and, near the tail, CAP 2nd Lt. Clifford Jackson.

Not shown in the photograph are several West Air employees who were in attendance, Chief Pilot Van Steenis, CFII Alejandra Newport, CFGI Dennis Murray and Mitch Marcus.

All participants enjoyed a great two day event that the children will fondly remember.



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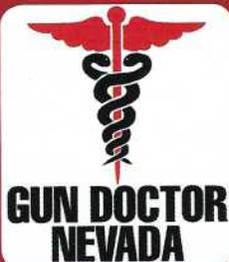
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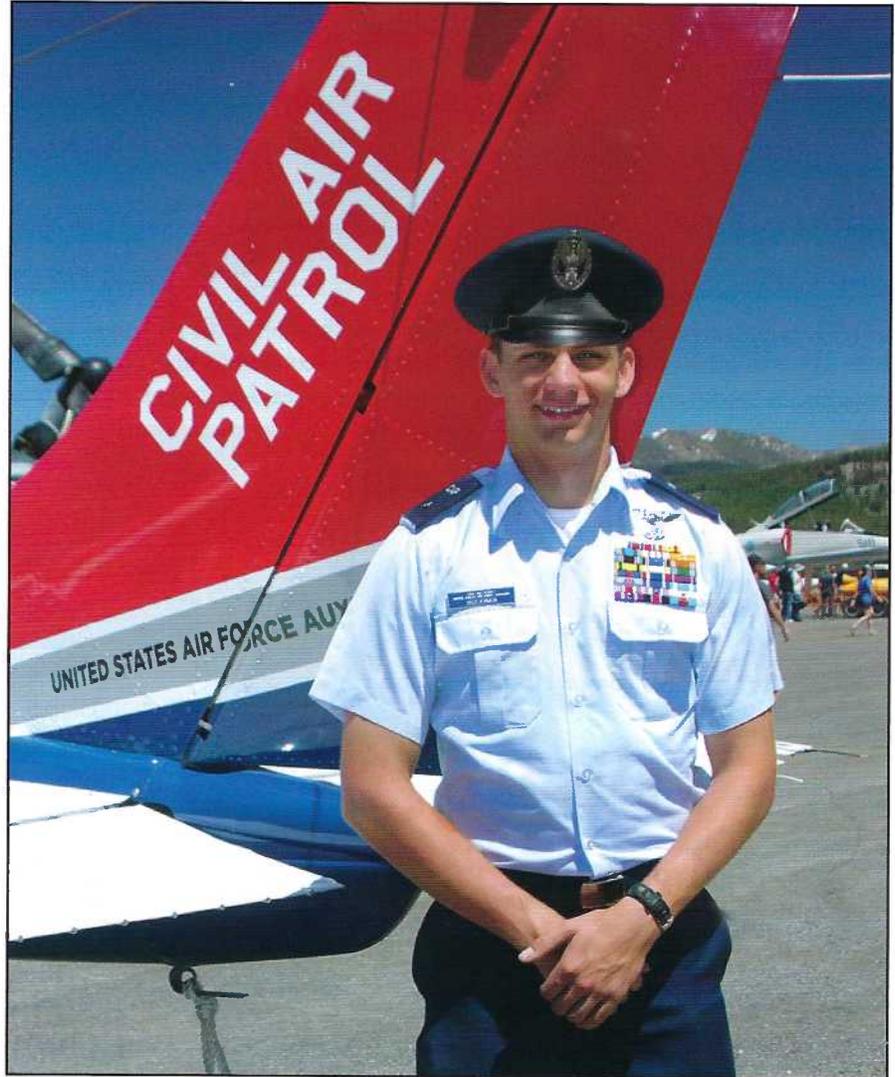


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TAHOE-TRUCKEE CADET REACHES THE SKIES

My name is Cadet Maj. Justin Hoekman of the Tahoe-Truckee Composite Squadron. I have been in the Civil Air Patrol for 5 years this August and can proudly say that this program afforded me unparalleled experiences and has introduced me to some of the most outstanding people this nation has to offer. I joined at 14 when I saw Cadets directing traffic for our Truckee airshow. I was attracted to the military uniform, the physical challenge, and the possibility of meeting people who thought like me. I ended up getting something far different. I have received world class training in leadership, met the most diverse group of individuals and faced the challenge of challenging others to achieve their goals. I strongly believe that no other youth group can even come close to the experience CAP can offer. The only thing I found that limits a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol is their own efforts. CAP is truly a program in which you get out of it what you put into it. My first few years in CAP I primarily just focused on my squadron and myself. It resulted in me only experiencing squadron activities and not growing as an individual. I then shifted my focus on wing, regional and national activities. As soon as I did this, CAP changed nearly overnight. The program went from cadets meeting in a snowed in squadron building to a nation of truly impressive young cadets leading today in order to change tomorrow. I am now near the completion of my CAP cadet career. I am excited to



move forward and go on to accomplish something new. I will be going for my Spaatz Award this month and can say that I have done everything I have wanted to in the Civil Air Patrol. The pinnacle of my cadet career was this past June where I spent an entire month on a Civil Air Patrol scholarship finishing my private pilot's license. "What an awesome experience!" is the best way to sum up the Advanced Flight Training Academy in

Texas. This activity was hands-down the best experience I have ever had in the Civil Air Patrol and so far, the best experience I have had in my life. I can proudly say I am now a pilot and I am proud of my fellow pilots who graduated from this intensive training activity.

During the Academy, we spent 30 days flying. Here every Cadet logged over 40 hours of flight time, over 100

Continued on page 7 . . .



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Tahoe-Truckee Cadet Reaches the Skies . . .

Continued from page 5

take-offs and landings and hours of ground school. This is an intensive undergraduate pilot program that takes a tremendous amount of work to succeed. This program was the most difficult thing I have done in the Civil Air Patrol, other than trying to get cadets to promote at my squadron. I owe my success to my two instructors, Lt. Col. Brian "Jumper" Childs and Capt. Bruce "Jester" Stone. These two men are of the highest order, not only in their profession but in the way they live their lives and support others. Jumper and Jester, in our month in Texas, you made a tremendous impact on my life and I thank you for your time and support in this large goal.

For any CAP cadet who wants to be a part of this activity, it is surprisingly simple to attend. The two basic requirements are: 1) pass the FAA private pilot exam and 2) to have soloed. Realistically, there is more to this than just the two requirements. This is a competitive program. The ideal applicant is an active CAP cadet and an active student. By active I mean excelling: promoting actively in the Cadet Program, volunteering to staff activities, doing well in school and being able to prove your commitment to aviation.

How I did I achieve these requirements? I studied for my written exam independently, soloed at a CAP Flight Academy last year, challenged myself in academics, worked at my local airport, and flew whenever I was given the chance. I applied for

the flight scholarship with 20 hours logged in a Cessna 172 (one-hour solo), 19 hours in a glider, above a 3.5 GPA, Cadet Major, and have held several staff positions in my squadron, also served as the Cadet Advisory Council Nevada Chair, I received the Nevada Wing Best Cadet Speaker Award, Wing Commander's Commendation, five community service awards and have consistently participated in many other activities in the Civil Air Patrol over the years. Even with these achievements, I was one of the last people to be accepted, meaning I barely got in.

For the cadets who are NCOs, don't be discouraged even if you have not yet achieved your Mitchell Award - apply anyway. There are young men and women who range from Technical Sergeant to Chiefs who have achieved what less than one percent of the population achieve... attaining their private pilot certificate.

These past five years have been phenomenal and I believe they laid a firm foundation for a successful future. I strongly recommend this activity to anyone whose dream is to become an aviator. This program will not disappoint. Here you will receive unparalleled training provided by world-class instructors and meet the finest cadets the Civil Air Patrol has to offer. Thank you to my instructors, Nevada Wing, Tahoe-Truckee Composite Squadron, and my family for your continuous support in helping me reach the skies! ★

Commander's Corner . . .

Continued from page 1

VIPs from National HQ and all the Region Commanders! We're working hard to plan several classes and workshops along with lots of fun. Cadets, Cadet 1st Lt. Dana Surwill is on the Conference Planning Team, designing activities for YOU. Folks, this is our chance to show them how we do it BIG here in Nevada - come on over to YOUR Conference. Registration is now open; check the Wing website for details.

As always, my thanks to all for your contributions to our Wing's success. Hope to see you all at the Wing Conference!

Best Regards,

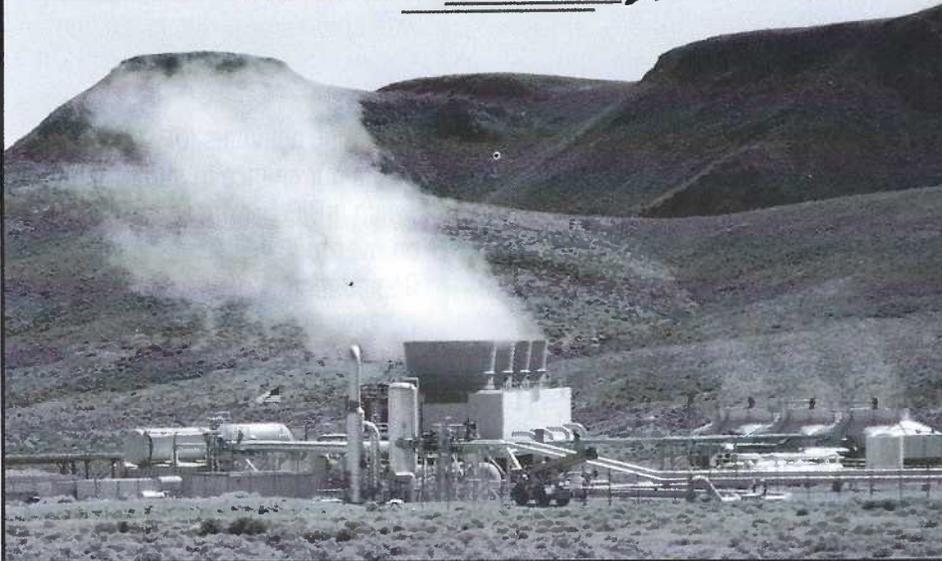
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2019 Truckee Tahoe Airshow

*Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Alexander Brun, CAP
 Tahoe Truckee Composite Squadron*

On July 14th 2019, the Tahoe Truckee Composite Squadron represented the Civil Air Patrol at the 2019 Truckee Tahoe Airshow as we do each year. The cadets volunteered to perform many tasks from setting up/tearing down the whole event, to recruiting, and raising money for their squadron.

The annual Truckee Tahoe Airshow and family festival hosted by the Truckee Tahoe Airport boasts one of the most iconic backdrops of any airshow in the world. Located only 15 minutes from the shores of North Lake Tahoe, the Truckee Tahoe Airshow was the perfect place for the Truckee Tahoe Composite Squadron to showcase the Civil Air Patrol. The event held many attractions such as WWII aircraft like the P38 Lightning, the P47 Thunderbolt, and the B-25 Mitchell. Many learning opportunities were available such as the STEM EXPO booth where kids could learn about science, technology, and engineering. The Tahoe Truckee Squadron represented Civil Air Patrol at this event by showcasing the program and its many opportunities. Likewise, the Cadets spent the day talking to many young aspiring boys and girls about the missions of Civil Air Patrol, which include aerospace education, emergency services, and cadet programs. The Squadron airplane was also present at the event

for the public to observe and even sit inside of.

While some cadets of the Tahoe Truckee Squadron were out recruiting new cadets, others were busy raising money for the squadron by making and selling snow cones. The squadron will use the money raised at the event to give the cadets a chance to follow their dreams by applying for scholarships, allowing them to receive training by some of the best leaders in the Civil Air Patrol, and attend the many cadet programs that Civil Air Patrol has to offer. As an aspiring pilot, this event has personally influenced me as a Civil Air Patrol Cadet because of the many learning opportunities. I really enjoyed talking with the Cadets from the Air Force Academy that were present at the event and listening to their advice about how to become a successful pilot. However, my favorite part of the event was simply inspiring younger kids to achieve their goals and helping to give them the tools needed to do it.

The Truckee Tahoe Airshow was a fantastic event with many learning opportunities for the Civil Air Patrol Cadets of the Tahoe Truckee Composite Squadron, as well as other young aspiring aviation enthusiasts.





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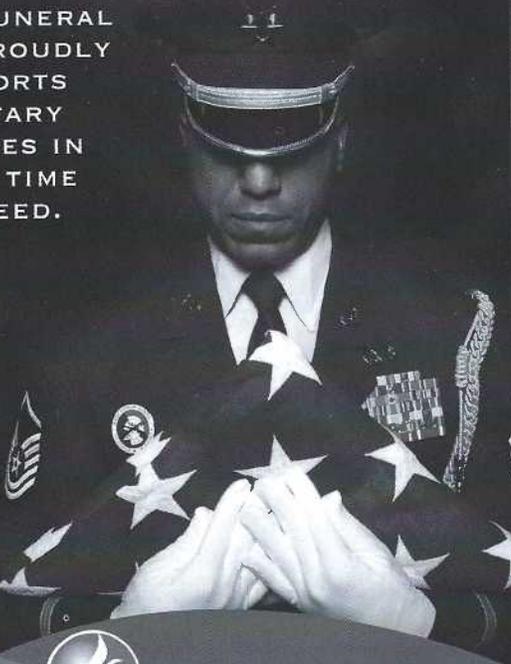
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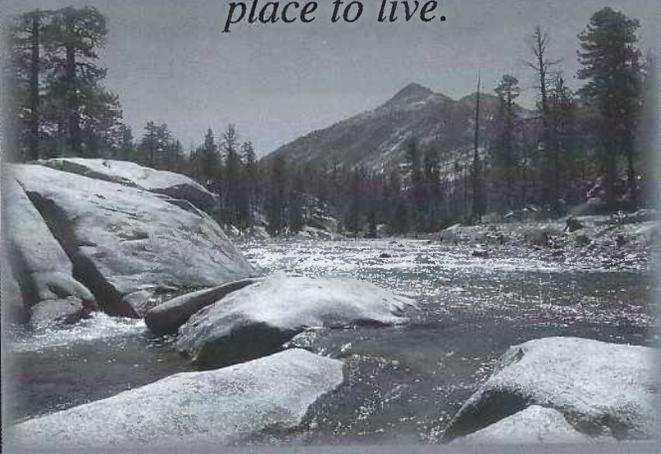



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Goals of the Nevada Wing CAC

NVWG CAC Outreach Committee

The Cadet Advisory Council is a cadet-led program within CAP that promotes cooperation between all squadrons within a wing. Members of the CAC are cadet representatives selected to share the interests and concerns of their squadron with the rest of the wing. With this designation comes the responsibility of giving an accurate, non-biased representation of squadron goals and remaining an active CAC participant, in order to ensure that their squadron is given equal opportunities for representation within the wing. CAC representatives have frequent discussions, during which they collaborate on wing-wide projects to improve the CAP cadet program.

The Nevada Wing CAC is currently involved in several such projects, one of the biggest being developing a plan to increase recruitment and retention of cadets within the wing. Nevada Wing is currently experiencing a decrease in the number of new cadet members and of cadets choosing to renew their membership. Should this trend continue, Nevada Wing will soon experience difficulty in maintaining wing-wide cadet events, such as encampments and drill competitions. For this reason, Nevada Wing CAC is leading an effort to make cadets more interested in CAP by determining activities that cadets would be interested in, as well as determine cadets' reasons for leaving the program.

Nevada Wing CAC is also working to implement a system of squadron-level awards within the wing. This project is still under development, and would include awards

such as "Most Improved PT" or "Most ES Participation." Squadron-level awards in various categories will serve as an incentive for greater participation in local activities and self-improvement in meetings. Cadets will be able to work towards short-term goals as well as long-term goals, enabling them to take advantage of the many opportunities offered by CAP.

In addition to improving cadet programs, the Nevada Wing CAC has also been working to unify wing leadership. Ensuring that all Nevada Wing CAP members in leadership positions are informed of projects and new proposals allows for easier coordination when planning large events or implementing a new procedure. Additionally, keeping all personnel involved with a decision accurately informed allows for ideas to be shared from a wider range of people than only CAC representatives. By gathering opinions and suggestions from all parts of Nevada Wing, it can be assured that the finished product is beneficial in all aspects.

If you are a cadet with an idea to improve CAP, speak with your squadron CAC representative. The CAC is reliant upon being able to understand the interests and opinions of cadets wing-wide, which cannot be accomplished without direct input being given. Your ideas are valuable, and could be used to improve the CAP experience for cadets all over the wing. If you are a cadet officer, please join the CAC discord server using the following link: <https://discord.gg/jh2XRPv>

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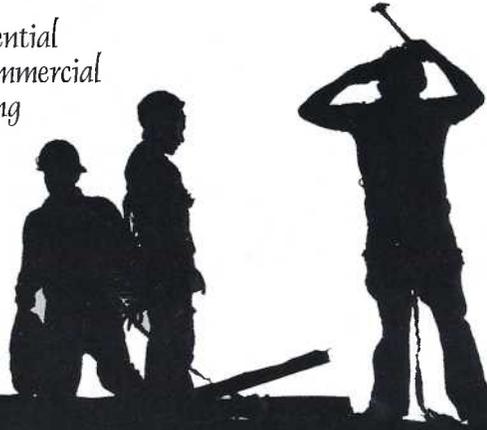
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Squadron Health

*By 1st Lt. Mark Silver, CAP
Reno Composite Squadron*

We are volunteers. We are benevolent people who are making our communities better by engaging our cadets to be leaders. The communities we serve are better with the emergency services we provide. Our aviation community is better by introducing aerospace education that will continue to create job opportunities and further the education of the cadet program. The squadrons in our great state of Nevada are the backbone of what Civil Air Patrol can do for our communities. So the health of the squadron is paramount in achieving our goals.

The squadron is a living, breathing, hungry entity that we need to take care of. The air it breathes is our enthusiasm to get all the jobs done. It craves sustenance from us in the form of sweat equity in filing the papers and following procedures. It grows with inclusiveness of every member. It thrives when we all do our part to make a success no matter how small. It matures with our members advancing in their respective specialty tracks. Professionalism is what we achieve when all this comes together.



Conversely, if we do not “feed” it, if we don’t supply the “air” for it to breathe, if we allow just a few parts to carry the entire load the squadron is open to disease in the form of burnout, resentment, lack of cooperation, and apathy. The results are a poorly functioning unit that is unable to meet its goals and training. It puts people in danger by overloading individuals to the point where important items can be missed. When the squadron “body” grows fatigued it is prone to mistakes or begins to neglect vital areas that need support. There are things we can do to prevent the illness from taking hold in our squadrons.

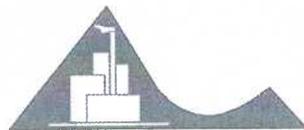
Speak up. We have regular squadron meetings. Attendance by the members allows us to communicate face to face. If, in your position in the squadron, you are overloaded or just need a break you have the chance in a meeting to throw out a lifeline. Someone needs to grab the other end. They may not need you to submerge yourself in their duties, but sometimes a break or sharing the load makes all the difference. Little things matter. Who picks up after a meeting? Who cleans up the coffee pot? Spirits can be lifted by those little words: “What can I do to help?” Not every job takes a professional pilot. New members, do not be afraid to say, “I don’t know anything about what you do, but what can I do to help?” It is a great way to get started and find your niche in the program. We all can do our part to make our squadrons healthy.

Just like the aircraft and vans, the squadron needs maintenance. If a squadron has a “cold”, do not let it get worse. Let’s step up and nurse it back to health with some understanding and can do attitude. Likewise, if your squadron is healthy do not get complacent thinking it does not need anything to keep going. We are the blood of the squadron. We bring it to life. We are responsible to keep it alive. With healthy squadrons we can keep the “ecosystem” of the Nevada Wing moving forward and making it the best in the west!



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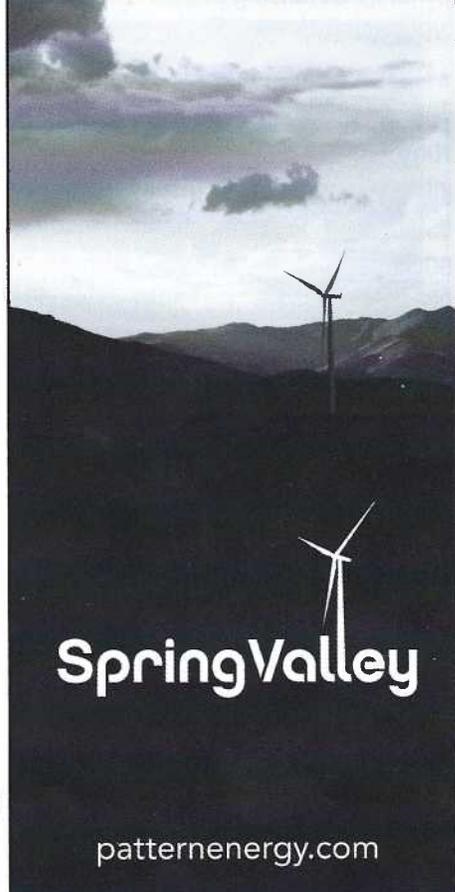
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National Emergency Services Academy and USAF Pilot Preparation Program

*Lt. Col. Russell Smith, CAP
Douglas County Composite Squadron*

The USAF PPP (Pilot Preparation Program) was attached to the CAP NESA (National Emergency Services Academy) Mission Aircrew School in Columbus, Indiana for 2019. There were two sessions, 19-01 which commenced July 13 thru July 20 and 19-02 from July 20 thru July 27.

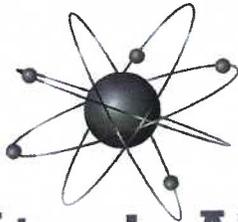
Participants included USAF Officers ranging from 2nd Lieutenant thru the grade of Captain. Most of these officers had very little or no flight time previous to enrolling in the program. The program was designed to strengthen basic aviation skills, enhance the knowledge of aviation through developmental modules which included actual flight time and simulator time. This "beta" program was funded by HQ USAF and operations were coordinated

by the Air Crew Task Force under the USAF Operations Plans and Requirements. This program potentially may be managed in the future by AETC. The program developed as a direct result of General Smith offering assistance to HQ USAF in response to looking for innovative ways to increase pilot recruitment.

CAP has conducted NESA since 1996 to provide for Emergency Services training to its membership who may not otherwise have an opportunity to obtain this training in their home units or states (wings). During the PPP CAP was conducting 5 other schools. CAP flew a total of 372 sorties for 590+ flight hours over the two week period for 56 USAF personnel. CAP had a total of over 1200 flight



CFI's Russell Smith and O'Conner at NESA PPP.



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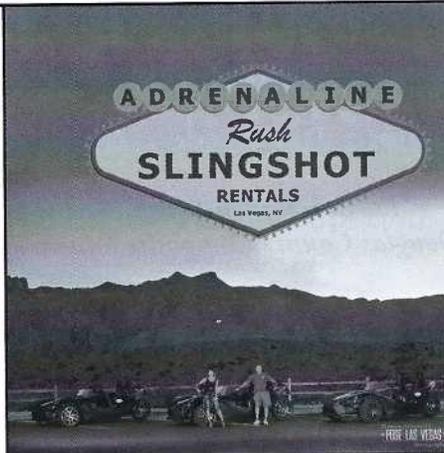
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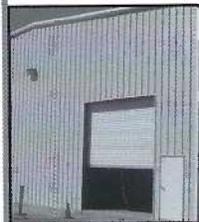


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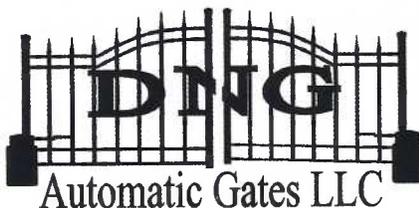
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Mission Aircrew School aircraft at NESAs. 38 total aircrafts.

hours during the two weeks which included the other NESAs schools. Other NESAs schools were ground team, radio operator, mission pilot, mission aircrew (scanner and observer), mission base personnel and even UAV training.

Instructors from CAP for PPP were from all over the US and were selected based on wing recommendations from polling conducted earlier in the year. Each instructor had 2 students who rotated from front to back seat during the training for maximum exposure to aviation. Tom O'Connor and Russell Smith were selected from Nevada Wing to participate.

The syllabus included ground school training, a series of 5 flights of 90 minutes each as student pilots and an additional 5 flights in the rear seat of the Cessna 182T as an observer and flight "simulator" time in a classroom set up. The flights consisted of typical "pre solo" flight maneuvers that are common to aviation training programs. Each USAF officer had successfully completed a commercially available private pilot ground school "on line" home study course before arriving at Columbus for the flight portion of training. The typical "day" included a morning "mass" briefing for the Mission Aircrew School of Weather, airport operations, mission radio procedures, and review of emergency and normal operating procedures for the aircraft. Students then broke into groups with their instructors for one on one briefing on the flight operations planned for the day including a review of the 182T POH, emergency procedures, AIM and FAR review as well as other pertinent materials. The duty day was typically 10 hours with time in the evenings to operate the

aviation training devices that were available. Personnel from Flight Safety and Red Bird were on hand to facilitate this portion of the training.

There were 38 CAP aircraft assigned to the school including Cessna 172's, Cessna 182T's and GA 8 aircraft for scanner/observer training. CAP had onsite maintenance for airframe, power plant and avionics. Additional volunteers helped in flight release duties, air operations and radio communications. The airfield had an Air Traffic Control tower and on some days the operations count was over 200.

The students were from all over the world and had responsibilities in a wide variety of Air Force functions but all had in common a desire to increase their test scores to be selected for Undergraduate Pilot Training. As this was a BETA program, no pictures were allowed and some of the personnel involved are in various classified USAF operations.

Nevada wing was well represented at NESAs in other mission schools including DAART and Incident Command as well as the Pilot Proficiency Program. It was an intense week from the beginning to the end but extremely worthwhile. The end result of how well the school performed will be determined after the students take the various examinations for UPT but the initial feedback has been very positive. It certainly demonstrated CAP's ability to be a part of the Total Force Concept for the USAF as the program including active duty, reserve, CAP and civilian components. ★



2019 FACT SHEET



OUR MISSION

Supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space and cyber power.

ABOUT CAP

Civil Air Patrol is congressionally chartered and operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. CAP performs services for the federal government as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and performs other missions as a nonprofit organization. CAP is made up of eight geographic regions consisting of 52 wings (the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia). It is a strategic partner of the Air Force, serving as a member of its Total Force. CAP has three primary missions — Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education.

The latest technology

WaldoAir camera pods like this were temporarily mounted on CAP aircraft during the Hurricane Michael response in the fall of 2018. CAP aircrews tasked with taking aerial photography in the wake of the Category 4 storm used the advanced imaging sensor to provide high resolution 3-D models of the devastation on the Florida Panhandle and parts of southwest Georgia.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Conducts 90 percent of inland search and rescue in the U.S. as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other agencies.
- Coordinates Air Force-assigned missions through CAP National Operations Center at Maxwell AFB, Ala., at a cost of \$120-\$165 per flying hour.
- Has more than 6,850 aircrew members and nearly 35,000 emergency responders trained to FEMA standards.
- Provides over 450 chaplains to assist during crises to help comfort survivors, render support and aid victims of disaster.
- Performs aerial reconnaissance for homeland security.
- Provides air intercept training, impact assessment, light transport, communications support and low-level route surveys for the Air Force.
- Provides disaster-relief photography and support to local,

Future pilot

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Emma Herrington of the Texas Wing's Sulphur Springs Composite Squadron is the first of a long list of CAP Cadet Wings graduates. The Cadet Wings program is an Air Force-funded pilot initiative to identify potential young fliers within CAP and help them earn their private pilot's certificate.

state and national agencies.

- Transports time-sensitive medical materials, blood products and body tissues when commercial resources are unavailable.
- Assists federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the War on Drugs.
- Maintains an extensive VHF and HF communications network.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

158

Saved a modern-day high of 158 lives and recorded 712 "finds" through Air Force-assigned search and rescue efforts in fiscal year 2018, thanks in large part to the assistance of CAP's Cell Phone Forensics and National Radar Analysis teams.

560

Operates one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 560 planes.

35,000+

Flew a record 35,316 orientation flights with CAP cadets, as well as Air Force ROTC and Junior ROTC cadets.

61,066

Consists of 1,422 squadrons and more than 61,000 volunteer youth and adult members nationwide.

89,773

Flew nearly 90,000 hours in 2018, nearing or surpassing that CAP flying mark for the fourth straight year.

700,000+

Has impacted more than 700,000 youth over the past six years through CAP's STEM Kit program.

\$2.4 Million

Using \$2.4 million from the Air Force to provide CAP cadet training aimed at helping reduce the nation's pilot shortage.

\$187 Million+

Contributed \$187,202,536 in man-hours in past year, serving the emergency services, youth development and aerospace education/STEM needs of communities, states and the nation.





STEM education

CAP's six-year STEM Kit program has already impacted over 700,000 youth, teaching them science, technology, engineering and math through 15 hands-on products geared toward aviation and aerospace education. Here, cadets work with the Rocketry STEM Kit, which introduces them to the hobby and science of model rocketry and associated careers. The rockets included in the kit help cadets progress toward one stage of CAP's rocketry badge.



AEROSPACE EDUCATION

- Educates adult and cadet members and the community on the importance of aerospace careers.
- Develops, publishes and distributes national academic standards-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) aerospace education curricula for kindergarten through college classrooms, affecting over 400,000 K-12 students annually nationwide.
- Generates interest in STEM careers through aviation-, space- and technology-focused activities and CAP STEM Kits associated with astronomy, flight simulations, model and remote-control aircraft, robotics, rocketry, weather, hydraulic engineering, computer programming and quadcopters.
- Exposes thousands of cadets to cyber defense careers through CyberPatriot, the Air Force Association's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.
- Provides educators with 40+ free educational programs and products as well as services that include teacher orientation flights.
- Offers grant and college credit opportunities for adult and teacher members.
- Provides aerospace support for educational conferences and workshops nationwide.



CADET PROGRAMS

- Attracts over 26,000 members ages 12 through 20 for participation in its cadet programs.
- Educates youth in four main program areas — leadership, aerospace, fitness and character development.
- Enriches school curricula through after-school programs.
- Offers orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, as well as flight training scholarships.
- Provides activities and competitions for cadets at the local, state, regional and national levels.
- Makes opportunities for community involvement available through color guard/drill team and emergency service missions.
- Challenges youth to be ambassadors for a drug-free lifestyle.
- CAP cadets make up about 10 percent of each U.S. Air Force Academy class.
- Cadets who have earned the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award enlist in the Air Force, U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard at a higher pay grade.
- Participates in the International Air Cadet Exchange program.
- Awards college scholarships in several disciplines.



Learning to fly

Here, a cadet flies in one of CAP's 50 gliders, located at squadrons throughout the U.S. These orientation flights, or "O rides," introduce thousands of youth to flight, playing a vital role in the future of American civilian and military aviation.



An opportunity to lead

CAP's cadet program offers more than 1,500 of its members in-depth leadership training through National Cadet Special Activities like Cadet Officer School and the Civic Leadership Academy. The training cadets receive at these weeklong activities, which often includes STEM-based initiatives like the one seen here, enable them to become leaders in their home squadrons, their schools and their communities.



Active lifestyles

Physical fitness and well-being is the primary goal of CAP's Active Cadet Fitness initiative, which is aligned with the Presidential Youth Fitness Program. Through the program, cadets like those seen here attending their wing encampment are motivated to develop a lifelong habit of regular activity.

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Lifted by the Winds of History

Shonto's Bahé Ketchum CAP Squadron Follows in Footsteps of the Heroic Navajo Code Talkers

By Paul South

On the flight line, even as piercing glare bounced off the cockpit windshield of the rising single-engine Cessna, Frederick Fout could see smiles brighter than the early morning sun.

"I was on the flight line when they were landing, and you could see the kids' faces even as they were pulling up through the glare. . . You could still see the excitement on their faces. And that was amazing. And after they landed, they wouldn't stop talking forever — and that's rare."



Cadet Airman Amaris Tracy settles into the cockpit and prepares for an orientation ride in a single-engine CAP Cessna over the Grand Canyon. Photo by Olivia Richard/Cronkite News



Members of Navajo Codetalker Bahé Ketchum Composite Squadron 211 walk toward their assigned aircraft at Page Municipal Airport. Members of the squadron took their first orientation flight over Lake Powell country, which included parts of the Grand Canyon. Photo by Krista Allen, Navajo Times

The smiles belonged to the cadets of Arizona's first new Civil Air Patrol squadron in 20 years. Codetalker Bahé Ketchum Composite Squadron 211, named for one of the legendary "Code Talker" Navajo heroes of World War II. Cpl. Ketchum and his comrades distinguished themselves in the Pacific Theater during bloody battles like Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

The Code Talkers made their mark and changed the course of the war by crafting a Navajo language-based code that con-

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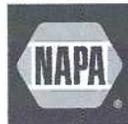
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founded the Japanese. The Code Talkers' story has been immortalized in books and on film.

Ketchum, who died in 2015, lived near Navajo Mountain, sacred ground for the Navajo Nation and located near the school. The sacred peak's Navajo name, Naatsis'a'a'n, means "Head of the Earth."

Fittingly, the young pilots-to-be flew over Navajo Mountain and the Grand Canyon, also sacred ground for the Navajo, as well as the kids' own homes.

Formed in 2018, the squadron is the result of collaboration between Fout, then principal at Shonto Preparatory School, the school superintendent and school board, and the community.

"When I was hired there by the board and accepted by the board, one of the board members expressed an extreme interest in having this for their kids," said Fout, now the head of school at Sarasota Military Academy in Florida. He served K-8 students at Shonto Prep for three years.

"At first, they were just looking for some kind of military-type service opportunity for the kids, like an ROTC or something like that," Fout said. "And through my research, Civil Air Patrol was the one that was most successful to us, primarily because it addressed a wider range of kids. It goes all the way down to sixth grade. Junior ROTC programs don't start until they're in high school.

"That was one of the real draws of the program," he said. "We were able to include more kids and start at a younger age. Plus the fact that the CAP was



Members of the squadron are briefed by Capt. Russ Miller before they head out on orientation flights. Photo by Krista Allen, Navajo Times

completely volunteer, whereas the JROTC program requires that you actually hire an employee — retired military personnel — to lead the group."

The CAP aerospace curriculum also dovetails with Shonto Prep's STEM curriculum — science, technology, engineering and math. While teaching young people to fly is the exciting sizzle of CAP's cadet mission, education is the meat.

"The great thing about the CAP is it lent very nicely to our desire to open our kids' minds to careers that had something to do with science and technology, engineering and math," Fout said.

"The curriculum that comes along with Civil Air Patrol is just spectacular. The kids had a lot of hands-on activities to do, dealing primarily with aerospace engineering. The aerospace education portion of the Civil Air Patrol was an excellent addition

to our curriculum.

"When I see these kids doing some of these STEM projects based on the aerospace curriculum, they're learning physics," he said. "They're learning things that are applicable across the board everywhere. And they're learning it in a fun way.

"It's really an opportunity for the kids to open their eyes to careers and possibilities that for a kid living in a rural area or on a reservation may never have come up before."

The Ketchum squadron also opens another chapter in the proud Navajo heritage of military service to the U.S., embodied in not only the Code Talkers but also generations of the Navajo Nation. During his time in Shonto, Fout saw a strong veteran presence.

"There's really a great deal of pride in the Navajo Nation, within the people for that concept of service to country. They



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take a lot of pride in that history of the Code Talkers. The kids see that, not so much as an opportunity, but something [they're] supposed to do," Fout says. "[The attitude is] 'It's what my father did. This is what my grandfather did. This is what we do.' "

One of the Shonto members, Cadet Airman Tymicus Yazzie, embodies the spirit that lives in the hearts of the Navajo.

"I want to serve like those before me," he told Cronkite News last year in a story broadcast by Arizona PBS. "One day, it will be my turn."

Tymicus' mother, Ferleighshea Yazzie, understands the tribe's treasured legacy of duty, honor and country.

"The Code Talkers are individuals of great honor for our tribe," she told Cronkite News. "To have my son be part of that legacy — wow, it makes my heart want to burst with happiness."

Since Civil Air Patrol is the U.S. Air Force auxiliary, involvement as a cadet opens greater opportunities within the military.

"It's a great opportunity in expanding their education in STEM, but it also has a great character development program within it," Fout said. "And, with CAP being an auxiliary of the Air Force, it's viewed similarly to the JROTC. So when a cadet

goes through CAP and earns those ranks, that can transfer over to greater opportunities when they get into military service."

The impact of the Bahé Ketchum squadron has reached quickly across the Navajo Nation.

"I know that it is recognized as something positive for the youth of the Navajo Nation. It's definitely appreciated. Since the inception of the squadron we've had requests by the Navajo Nation and different organizations to do color guards and things like that. It's also a great opportunity for the kids to stand up and shine and show how they are having a positive impact within the Navajo Nation," Fout said.

He added, "I know within the school itself and for the community around the school, it's definitely had a positive impact in that there's something else that maybe a kid who doesn't excel at athletics or (isn't) academically gifted has perhaps found a niche in this. It's another opportunity for kids. And it's not just on reservations. Kids anywhere that aren't blessed with privilege could benefit from a program like this."

Even now, nearly 3,000 miles from Shonto, Fout, as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve and a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, feels the impact

of the Bahé Ketchum squadron, and not just on the flight line.

"Even when they post colors, for a person like me, or the veterans that are there, you can't explain that. It's pretty special."

When the Bahé Ketchum squadron was born, Fout and his wife, Gerlie Alicando Fout, were the only non-Native Americans involved. Now the unit is completely Navajo-run.

The squadron wasn't the result of one person's efforts, Fout said.

"I was just that one person in the right place at the right time. We gave people the green light, and they ran with it. The support from the parents, the support from the superintendent and the school board, and the way the community opened their arms and said, 'Yes, we love this,' has been fantastic. If it goes on for however long it goes on, it will be because of them."

He added, "They're going to do great things with it, because they believe in it."

In its short history, the squadron has opened the world to the Navajo and the Navajo to the world, building bridges of understanding. For Fout, that's something to cherish.

"I would want people to fall in love with kids doing something they didn't know they could do and having dreams. This kind of opportunity really does that for them." ★

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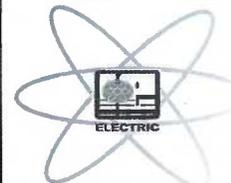
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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA | FACT SHEET

About Civil Air Patrol

- More than 61,000 members nationwide.
- Celebrates its 77th anniversary Dec. 1, 2018.
- Three primary missions – aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.
- Performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions, as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, saving an average of 82 lives per year.
- Also performs aerial reconnaissance for homeland security and disaster relief missions for local, state and national organizations.
- Operates one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 560 currently in the fleet.
- Flies, through volunteer members, approximately 100,000 hours each year.
- Maintains fleet of 1,000-plus emergency service vehicles for training and mission support.
- Mentors over 25,000 cadets ages 12-20 in four areas: leadership, aerospace, fitness and character development.
- Cadet activities include an active role in emergency services missions, orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, flight training scholarships and career explorations, as well as activities and competition for cadets at local, state, regional and national levels.

About Wreaths Across America

Civil Air Patrol is a Wreaths Across America partner. The nonprofit organization's mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach about the service and sacrifices of the nation's veterans.

Founded in 2007, Wreaths Across America is an offshoot of the Arlington National Cemetery wreath project, which was started in 1992 with the annual placement of wreaths donated by Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine.

Wreaths designated for Arlington are transported on a 750-mile journey from Columbia Falls, Maine, after a sendoff ceremony. The route is known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities along the way to remind people how important it is to Remember, Honor and Teach.

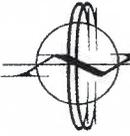
Last year's observances

More than 1.5 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored by the public for placement on veterans' graves at 1,433 ceremonies in all 50 states and abroad:

Civil Air Patrol's sponsorship of wreaths over the past 11 years has raised \$1.1 million for participating CAP units.

Civil Air Patrol's Arlington observances annually include a wreath-laying ceremony at the CAP Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Women in Military Service Memorial.

Each year Civil Air Patrol's National Honor Guard take part in a special ceremonial holiday wreath-laying at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Similar ceremonies were held at state capitols nationwide.

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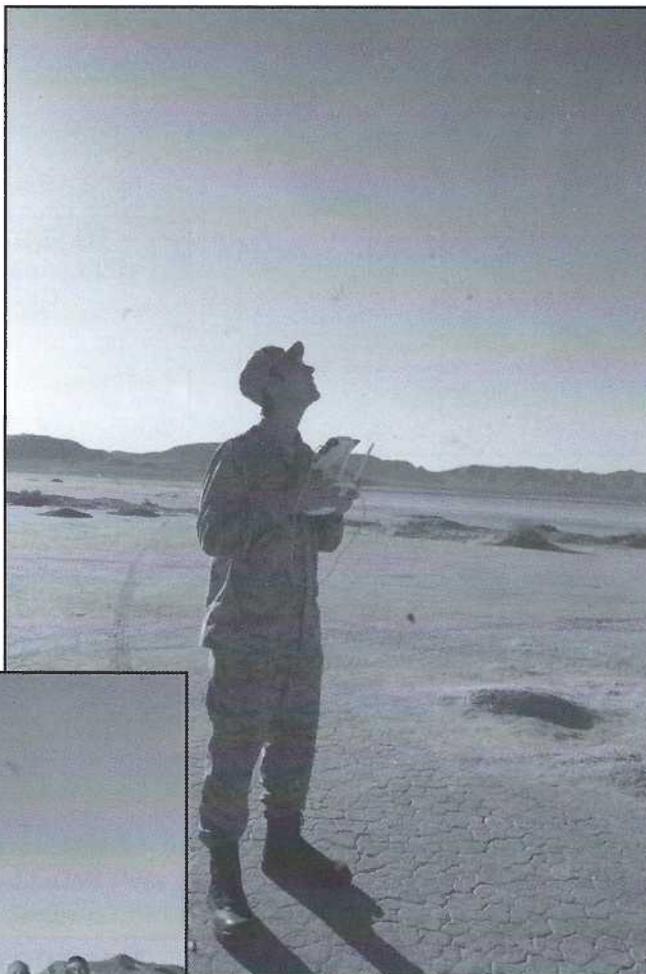
Dreaming Big: Henderson Squadron Sees Success with Second Test Launch

*2nd Lt. Holly Addleman, CAP
Public Affairs Officer, Henderson Composite Squadron*

May 25, 2019, more than 25 cadets, senior members and parents counted down in anticipation as a high-altitude balloon launched from a dry lakebed near Jean, Nevada. The beautiful weather and cloudless sky painted a faultless backdrop for the early morning exercise.

Reaching far beyond weekly meetings, 1st Lt. Thomas Whitcomb, 1st Lt. Ken Kennedy and numerous Henderson Composite Squadron cadets committed immeasurable hours to fundraising, planning, equipment design and research in preparation for their second test launch.

Once launched, the balloon remained visible to the naked eye for over 30 minutes or about 6 miles at an altitude of 20,000 feet. The helium-filled balloon remained airborne for a total flight time of 2 hours 45 mins. and reached an altitude of nearly 60,000 feet and traveled a total distance of nearly 80 miles. The team tracked the balloon to its eventual landing site nearly 65 miles NE of Las Vegas.



Cadet Master Sgt. Payce Anderson uses his drone flying skills to record footage of the launch and to help the recovery team locate the package.

Cadets and Senior Members from Henderson Composite Squadron gather just before 5:30am to begin test launch #2.

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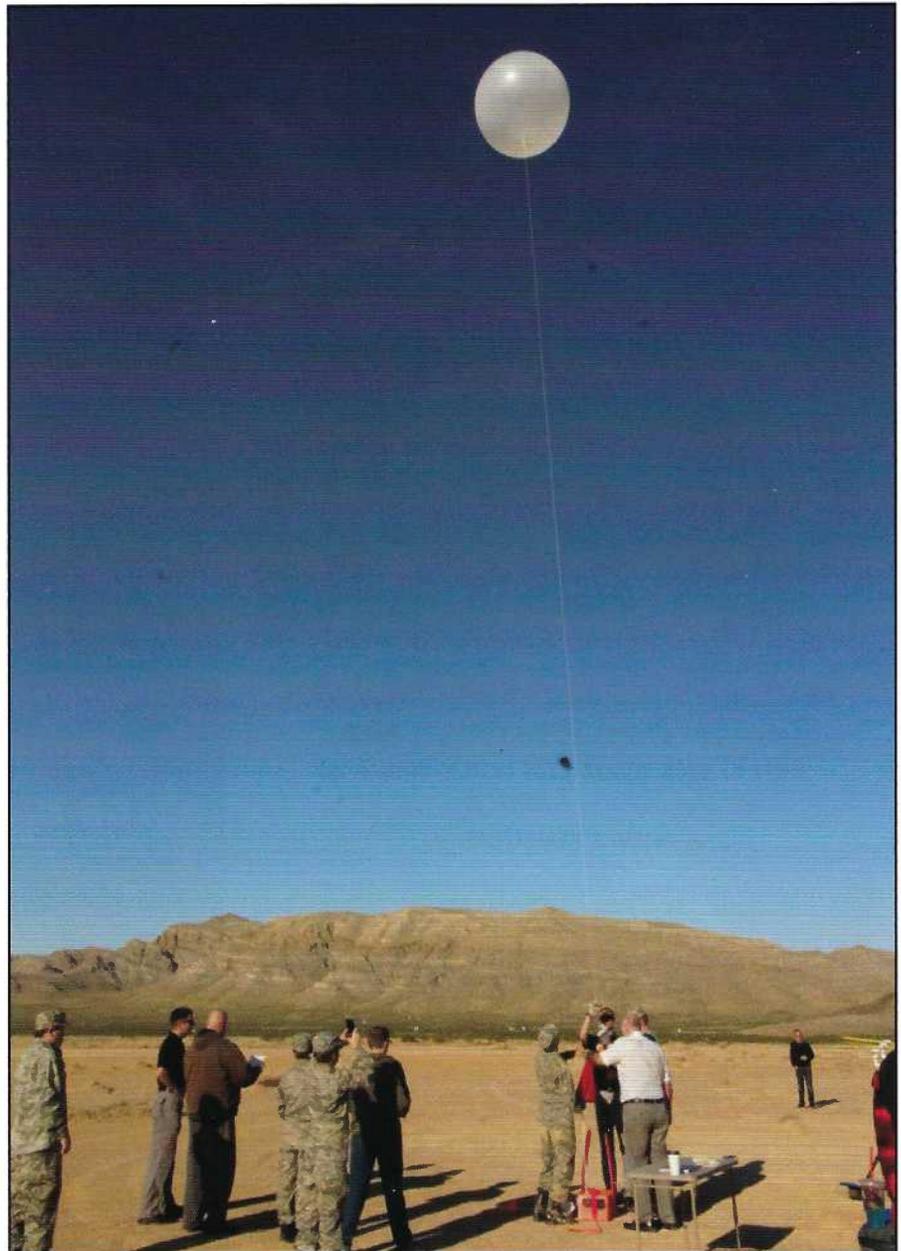
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The launch day marked the second launch since the beginning of the High-Altitude Balloon project and the first launch of 2019. Henderson Composite Squadron's Aerospace Education Officer, Thomas Whitcomb said that the cadets remain dedicated to the intricacies of the project and have also worked very hard to raise funds necessary for the equipment and helium.

Recovery of the payload was led by Lt. Col. Dan Wilcox and included 4 cadets. The ground team tracked the balloon's progress visually and with assistance provided by the telemetry/ ground station. For several additional hours, the team faced punishing terrain while trekking to retrieve the balloon and payload. Not knowing the uncertainties they would face, the team considers it to be a great outcome to have recovered the payload intact and undamaged.

The payload itself consisted of multiple cameras and a Tracksoar APRS telemetry transmitter. The flight cameras captured video and the telemetry equipment measured the balloon's altitude, location, temperature, wind speed and air pressure, then transmitted that data



Lt. Col. Pete Goertzen had the honor of launching the High Altitude Balloon on launch day.



Cadet Master Sgt. Robert Stamanis and Cadet Airman 1st Class Quintin Healey begin the arduous task of inflating the balloon.

to the ground station which was built by 2nd Lt. Ken Brand.

The ground station consisted of a radio receiver fed from a custom- built antenna, and data was then fed into an in-field laptop computer for decoding. Brand also built a custom software solution which stores data packets, displays data to the user interface, and calculates bearing to the balloon. The Ground tracking station successfully tracked the balloon from launch to descent until terrain no longer allowed proper reception of the radio signal.

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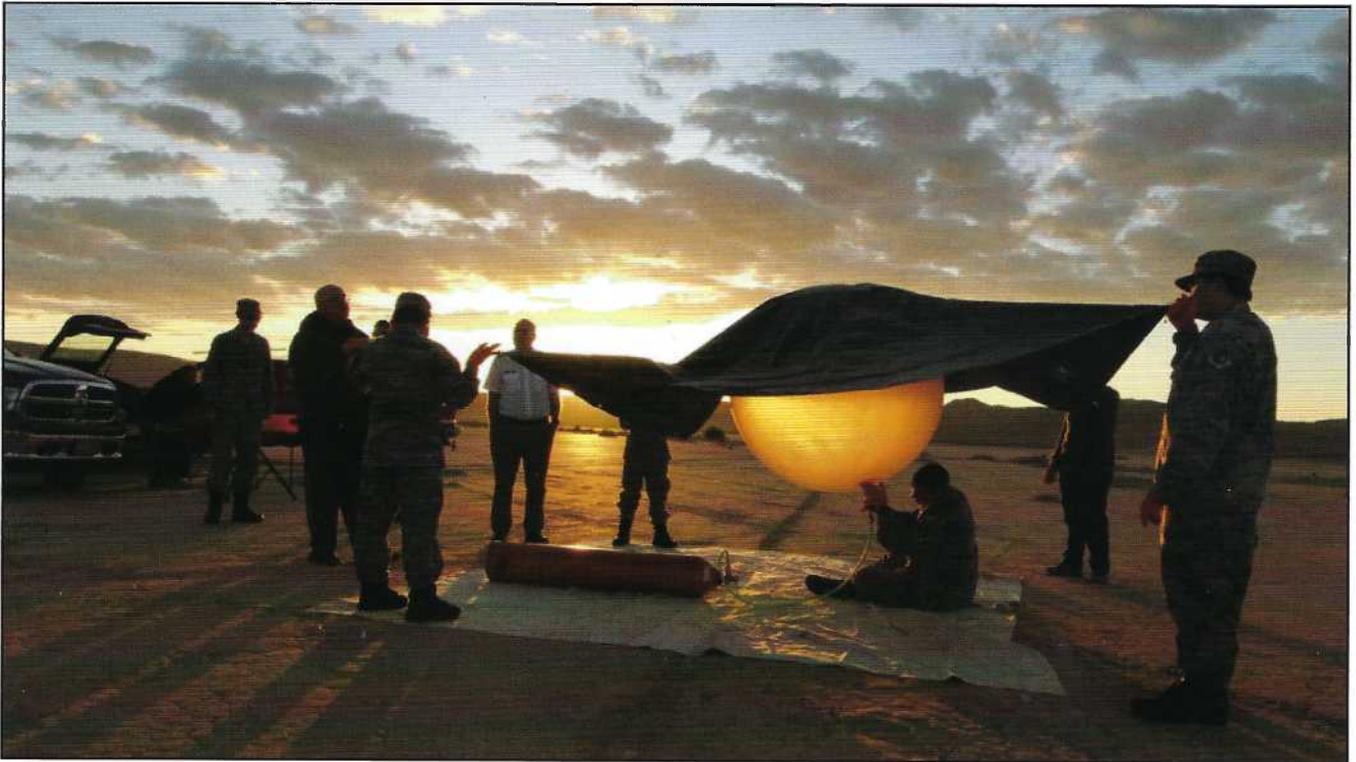
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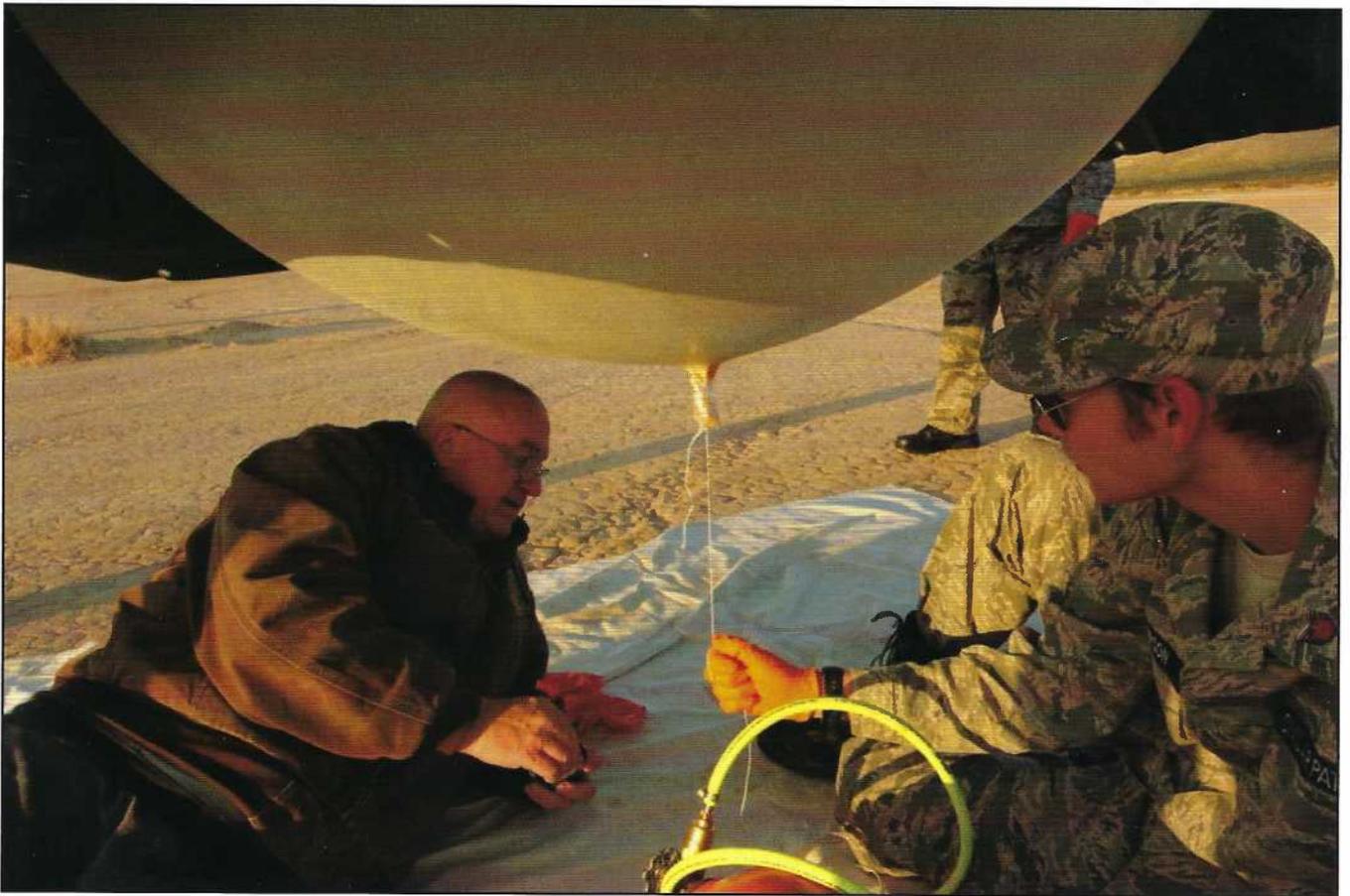
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The sun rises over the dry lake bed in Jean, NV.



1st Lt. Thomas Whitcomb and Cadet Master Sgt. Payce Anderson meticulously tie the string to the balloon, ensuring the knots are strong and can endure the weight and flight.

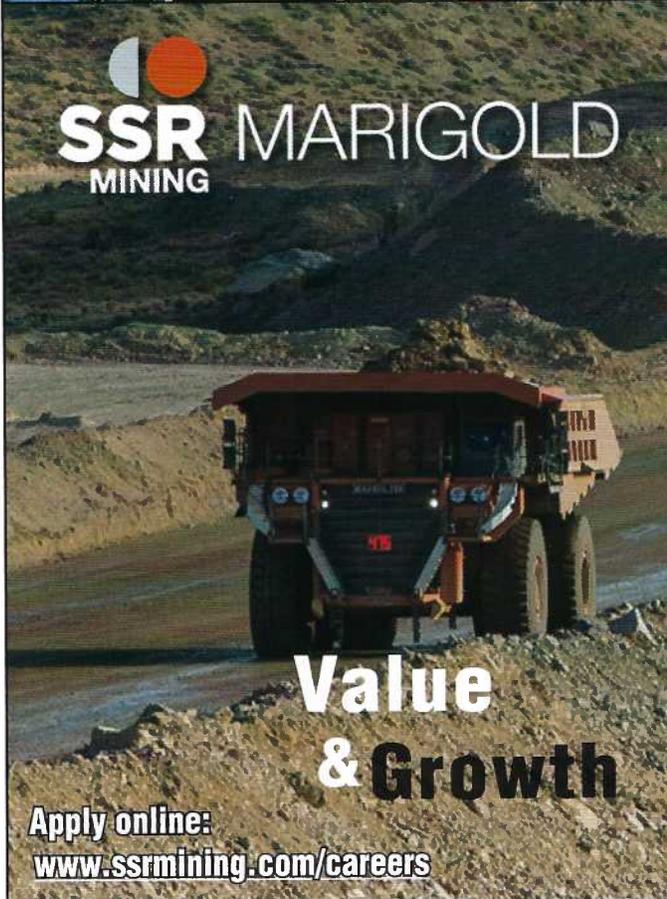


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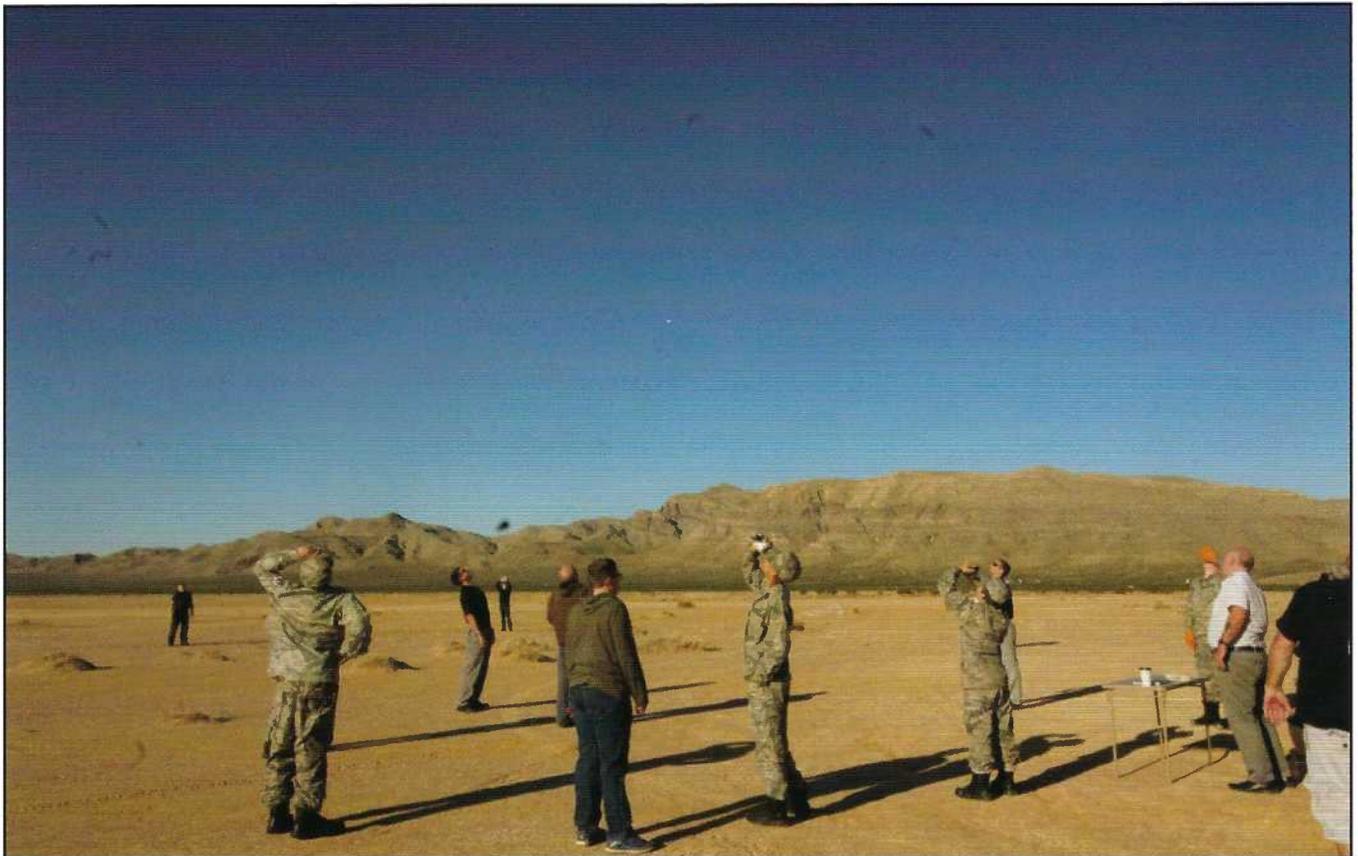
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The High Altitude Balloon Team watches in anticipation as the balloon ascends.



Recovery team led by Lt. Col. Dan Wilcox and 2nd Lt. Ken Brand. Cadet Master Sgt. Payce Anderson, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Heili Petrisca, Cadet Airman 1st Class Michael Brand, and Cadet Staff Sgt. Trevor Wilcox tracked the balloon for nearly 3 hours.



Recovered package, landed safely.

The High-Altitude Balloon Project was initiated in 2018 by Lieutenants Ken Kennedy and Thomas Whitcomb with the intent to build and fly low cost weather balloon payloads into the stratosphere, capturing photographs, recording sensor data and providing a reliable launch platform for high altitude experiments.

Whitcomb hopes to encourage cadets to become more interested in Aerospace and STEM education while encouraging them to use their interpersonal skills to work as a team and lean on others with equally valuable skill sets. This balloon launch was just that, in that it provided a different way for students to learn, and one that could result in greater enthusiasm and understanding of

aerospace principles and teamwork.

While the team continues to process data, Kennedy trusts that all involved would call the second of the balloon launches a success. Moving forward, the Henderson Composite Squadron High Altitude Balloon team will make iterations based on lessons learned and they anticipate that they will find their next launch to be even more successful.

Dream big with these determined cadets as they raise the necessary funds and plan the final balloon launch, while attempting to break the current world record. ★

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Thanks
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We appreciate all you
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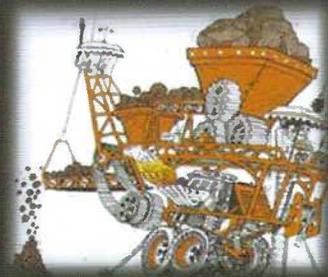
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