

U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

New York Wing



2013 STATISTICS

Volunteer Members

1,201 adult members
1,170 cadets
1,362 voting-age members
240 aircrew personnel
1,317 emergency responders

Squadrons

69 locations statewide

Aircraft

14 single engine

Vehicles

23 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

24 VHF/FM repeaters
262 VHF/FM stations
37 HF stations

Missions

23 search and rescue missions
15 finds
28 other state support missions

Cadet Flying

1,141 cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

2,453

Financial

\$8.3M value of wing's volunteer hours

National Commander

Maj. Gen. Charles L. Carr Jr.
(ccarr@cap.gov)

Region Commander

Col. Daniel M. Leclair
(dleclair@ner.cap.gov)

Wing Commander

Col. Jack J. Ozer
(Jozer@optonline.net)

Government Relations Advisor

Lt. Col. Andrew J. Liddle
(aliddle@stny.rr.com)

Wing Info:

24 Loop Road - Building One
White Plains, NY 10604-1218
914-683-1000
www.nywg.cap.gov



New York Wing Finds No Mission Too Difficult

With more than 2,300 members, the New York Wing is the largest in Civil Air Patrol's nine-state Northeast Region. With a strong emphasis on emergency services, disaster relief and cadet programs as well as counterdrug missions and homeland security, the wing continues to set the standard for others to follow.

Wing aircrews logged 2,453 flying hours in 2013, including search and rescue missions and training exercises, homeland security tasks such as fighter intercept missions and military support for the state Air National Guard. Aircrews flew 406.8 counterdrug mission hours assisting law enforcement agencies in keeping \$3.5 million in illegal drugs off the streets.

The wing also continued

operating its Search and Rescue Academy and successfully held aircrew, ground team and mission base staff training schools. In addition, the wing participated in the Tri-Wing Disaster Response Exercise in August and received a "Highly Successful" rating — highest in the region — after a U.S. Air Force evaluation in April.

The New York Wing's emergency services program held five wing-wide search and rescue exercises, which consisted of 114 flights and more than 100 ground missions, both involving more than 400 members. The wing also successfully carried out 11 emergency locator transmitter searches.

The wing's annual cadet leadership encampment and flight academy at Stratton Air

National Guard Base in Scotia was again well-attended, and 10 squadrons were recognized as Quality Cadet Units. For the fifth straight year, a wing color guard team presented the colors on the floor of the New York Senate for the opening legislative session. Another color guard team traveled to a college color guard competition in Jacksonville, Fla., and earned second-place honors. Wing squadrons also took part in the CyberPatriot national high school cyber security competition.

▲ Squadron One cadets assemble at the 2013 New York Wing Encampment at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia.

Technology

Advances in technology

— including digital electronic direction finders, infrared cameras that register heat signatures, real-time full-motion video, in-flight chat capabilities and airborne public address systems — have enhanced CAP's SAR capabilities.

High-Profile Missions

Oklahoma Tornadoes — CAP ground teams photographed 13,000 property sites.

Colorado Flooding — 112 sorties and 2,763 man-hours to capture 10,061 images for FEMA.

South Dakota Blizzard — 440 geotagged photos documenting 15,000-30,000 dead livestock, a \$1.5 billion blow to the state's economy.

Nevada SAR — Six people stranded in subzero weather saved.

By the Numbers

CAP annually conducts **90 percent of inland search and rescue missions** in the continental U.S. as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other agencies.

550 single-engine airplanes — one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world.

8,243 aircrew personnel and **4,028 ground team members**.

31,854 qualified personnel trained to federal standards completed **142 disaster relief missions** for federal, state and local agencies.

With aerial photography now CAP's number one emergency services' mission, nearly **80 percent of aircraft are equipped with cameras**.

Air Force Rescue Coordination Center credited CAP's cell phone forensics and radar forensics teams with **30+ saves**.

CAP aircrews flew **1,250 hours during air defense exercises** in 2013, helping prepare fighter units across the country for homeland security missions.

Aircrews conducting **counterdrug and drug interdiction operations** flew 7,017 hours helping law enforcement agencies seize \$442 million in illegal drugs and currency, leading to 247 arrests. CAP aircrews were involved in **188 counterdrug missions** in 2013.

Missions

Cadet Programs

Core Values CAP instills the organization's core values in its cadets — respect, integrity, volunteer service and excellence. Cadets are drug-free role models in their communities and schools.



Community Service CAP cadets serve their communities in a myriad of ways, including collecting and distributing food and clothing to the needy, carrying out cleanup campaigns and meeting logistical needs for aviation-related events like air shows.

Wreaths Across America Every December, in all 52 wings and even overseas, cadets participate in Wreaths Across America observances, presenting the colors and placing wreaths on veterans' graves in national cemeteries and at war memorials.

Scholarships

More than \$300,000 in college and flight scholarships are available to CAP cadets.



Career Exploration

CAP annually offers more than 30 National Cadet Special Activities, ranging in focus from how to fly powered airplanes or gliders to mastery of emergency services skills and techniques.

Flying High

The opportunity to fly is the major attraction CAP offers youth. During 2013, CAP's pilots flew cadets on 32,893 orientation flights.

Encampments

Encampments offer cadets in-depth training in key aspects of the cadet program, enabling them to apply classroom principles to real-world needs.

Aerospace Ed

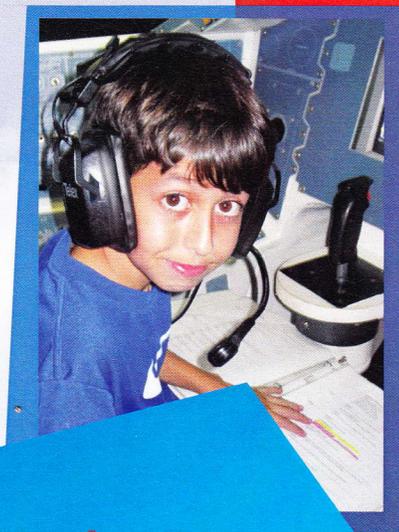
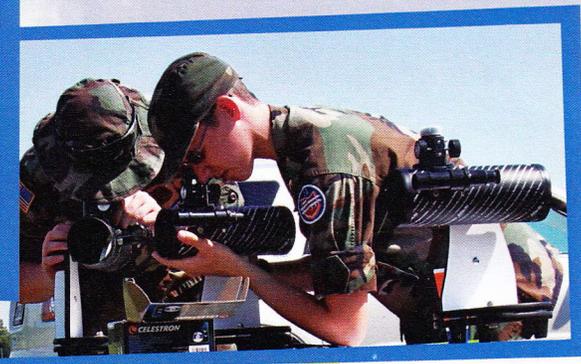
Civil Air Patrol's award-winning aerospace education program promotes aerospace history, flight principles and careers. Many of the nation's astronauts, pilots, engineers and scientists first explored their careers in CAP.

CAP's **Aerospace Education (AE)** program, consisting of inquiry-based science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) products, annually inspires over 25,000 cadets and about 250,000 K-12 students to pursue those careers.

More than 20,000 youth in 28 states are K-6 **Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE)** program kids. The no-cost program enriches academics, character education and physical fitness with an engaging grade-specific curriculum.

Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) Flights

provide educators the opportunity to experience firsthand the excitement of flying and to expand their aeronautical knowledge, which benefits 25,000 students annually.



STEM Education

More than 30 no-cost aerospace education products and programs generate interest in **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**athematics careers for about 275,000 cadets and youth nationwide.

STEM Kits

Nearly 50,000 K-12 youth across the country were exposed to career exploration programs associated with astronomy, flight simulation, model and remote-controlled aircraft, robotics and rocketry, thanks to free STEM kits funded by the National Defense Education Program.

Eye on the Future

The CyberPatriot program, complemented by CAP's cyber security educational materials, is grooming participants for future cyber security careers.

CyberPatriots

Civil Air Patrol is a leader in the the Air Force Association's All Service Division national high school **CyberPatriot** program. CAP cadets were named national champions in 2011 and 2012, and last year the South Dakota team finished first in competition to operate and secure a basic network.



A Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Moment

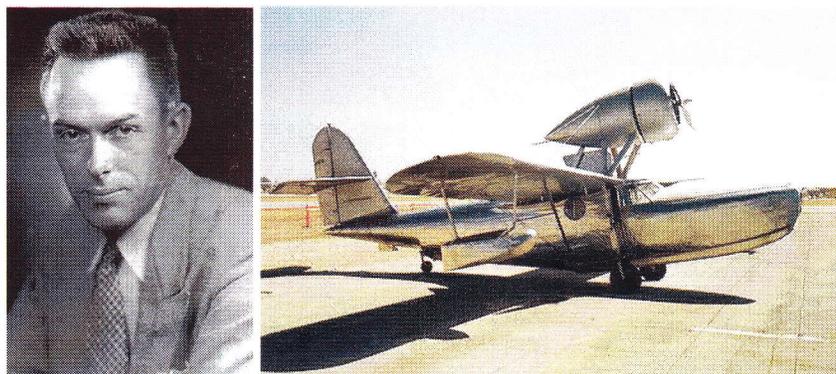
Did you know:



The NY Wing Cadet of the Year award actually represents two generations of dedicated CAP service. The NY Wing Cadet of the Year award is officially titled the Captain James Burr Reddig Memorial Award. Captain Reddig was the commander of a B-47 bomber, with the Strategic Air Command. He was killed on 26 February 1965, when his aircraft collided with a KC-135A tanker while refueling.

Prior to his Air Force service, Captain Reddig joined CAP at age 14 rising to the position of Cadet Commander of the Rochester Cadet Squadron. He became a Senior Member and Mission Pilot. Following his death, Captain Reddig's parents established the memorial award to honor their son's service to our country and his shared passion and dedication to CAP.

Captain Reddig's father, James Clendenin Reddig, was also a long time CAP member, having joined shortly following the attack on Pearl Harbor. James C. Reddig was an aviation pioneer having studied Aeronautical Engineering at MIT. Reddig worked in aircraft design for such notable companies as Loening Aircraft and Fleetwings Co. He was instrumental in the design of the Fleetwings Sea Bird – the first all stainless-steel production aircraft. Reddig joined Eastman Kodak in 1939 where he worked on aerial reconnaissance systems. Reddig's final project prior to his retirement was the development of the camera and film processing system for the Apollo Lunar Orbiter that mapped the moon's surface in preparation for future landings.



In his lifetime, Reddig had the opportunity to meet and work with Orville Wright, Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Jimmy Doolittle and Anthony Fokker. Reddig was often found sharing his many aviation experiences with CAP cadets and senior members of the Rochester, NY and surrounding squadrons. At the time of his death in 1993, James C. Reddig was a charter CAP member with over 51 years of service.

Wheels Up!

CIVIL AIR PATROL • NEW YORK WING • SPRING 2015 • VOL. 10, NO. 1

**NY WING HOSTS
REGIONAL CENTER
FOR DISASTERS**

**CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL FOR
WWII MEMBERS**

**CADETS SOAR
IN SPIRIT AT
ENCAMPMENT**





Wheels Up!

SPRING 2015

New York Wing

Civil Air Patrol

U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Commander

Col. Steven J. Perta

Vice Commander

Lt. Col. Tom Carello

Lt. Col. Patrick Magee

Chief of Staff

Lt. Col. Diane Wojtowicz

Editor/Wing PAO

Capt. Robert Stronach

EditorRob@yahoo.com

Wing Headquarters

Westchester County Airport

24 Loop Road, Bldg 1

White Plains, NY 10604-1218

Phone: 914-683-1000

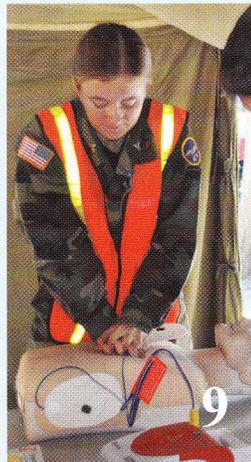
Fax: 914-683-10056

www.nywcap.org



COVER: Aviation Up Close

NY Wing cadets get to experience aviation up close and personal, thanks to orientation flights, involvement in search-and-rescue exercises, and participating in the annual Leadership Encampment at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, where these cadets got up close to a C-17 Globemaster.



Contents

- 3 Wing Hosts Region Command Center**
- 4 A 2-Hitter for Mid-Eastern Group**
- 5 NY Cadet Garners National Honor
Cadets Go to D.C. for Hill Day**
- 6 17 Teams Compete in CyberPatriot
Central NY Group Taps 3 Top Cadets
Wing Receives Aerospace, Disaster Awards**
- 7 187 Participate in SAR Exercise
NY Jets Treat Cadets As VIPs**
- 8 Search Team Tracks Distress Beacon to UPS
CAP Chaplain Is NYPD's Newest**
- 9 Academy Preps Members for SAR Roles**
- 10 100 Cadets Graduate from Encampment
6 Solo at Encampment Flight Academy**
- 11 Rochester Cadets Savor Washington Trip**
- 12 'Bull's Eye' for Rifle/Ropes Bivouac
Pilot Spots Downed Sport Aircraft**
- 13 Wing Spotlights Top Performers**
- 14 NY Member Accepts Gold Medal for CAP**
- 17 Cadet of Year Award Marks 50th Anniversary**



Col. STEVE PERTA

In the Left Seat

GET INVOLVED!

A special welcome to new members who have joined Civil Air Patrol within the past year. As I approach the completion of my first year as commander of New York Wing, I wish to extend a note of thanks to the Senior and Cadet members who are actively involved in CAP's day-to-day missions of Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and Cadet Program. In all parts of the state, uniformed members of CAP can be seen participating in parades, bivouacs, veteran's events, color/honor guard activities, field trips, museum tours, orientation flights, training exercises, leadership training, model rocketry, Cyber

Patriot, science fairs, legislative days, airport and community events. These activities are conducted professionally with "Safety" and Risk Analysis at the forefront.

This past year we celebrated our heritage through the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to members who served CAP in World War II. In 2016 we begin the celebration of 75 years of service to America. In looking ahead I would encourage all members to be actively involved in all aspects of CAP including unit staffing, professional development, emergency services, aerospace education and aviation. Thank you for all you do!

NY WING HOSTS NER REGIONAL COMMAND CENTER NER-RCC TO COORDINATE FUTURE DISASTER RESPONSE

By Capt. BOB STRONACH

The Northeast Region is preparing for the next major disaster with the development of a Region Coordination Center (RCC) to coordinate customer tasks that cross multi-wing boundaries.

New York Wing Headquarters at Westchester County Airport in White Plains was selected as one of two locations to host the NER RCC when activated, Wing Commander Col. Steve Perta announced.

The other location selected was New Hampshire Wing Headquarters at the Municipal Airport in Concord, NH (which served as the NER command center for the Super Storm Sandy response).

Noting that large scale disasters require prolonged disaster relief operations involving multiple wings and regions, Perta said: "Lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and Deep Water Horizon missions indicated that a centralized command concept worked best in assimilating mission tasking and coordinating resource deployment. This has led the Northeast Region to develop the RCC concept, whereby Incident Management Teams (IMT) would staff and operate the center on shifts."

Region Commander Col. Dan Leclair assigned Region Director of Operations Col. Dave Braun with the task of developing an operations plan to identify the organization, staffing and facility requirements for the coordination center. This center



Members from the Northeast Region Staff and multiple wings gathered at the New York Wing Headquarters in 2014 to conduct a tabletop Regional Coordination Center Exercise.

when activated will assign tasks and move assets as needed between individual Wings as well as draw assets from other CAP Regions as necessary to meet the needs of customers and mission management.

Under the plan, each wing in the Northeast Region is charged with developing an IMT consisting of mission base personnel who can be called upon to staff and operate the RCC on a rotating basis. These teams will be ready to deploy within 24 hours notice and for a period of up to seven days once alerted. Wings that do not have enough mission base personnel to form their own IMT can join with another wing to form a combined team.

Colonel Braun noted that NER plans to conduct Region-wide CAP-RCC training events each year to

be ready to meet future disaster tasking. Specific areas of training will focus on:

- Training Core IMT to operate using the techniques and procedures in the RCC operations plan.
- Training Wing IMTs to operate in a centralized command and control environment during large multi-wing missions.
- Training a cadre of Finance Section Leaders to effectively track expenses against an array of accounting classifications.

The two wings selected to host the RCC sites – New York and New Hampshire -- are raising a "core team" (Core IMT) that will respond for the first few operational periods. During that period the Core IMT Planning Section will determine a need for augmented support from other wings. Other wings will raise a relief IMT for

deployment.

A Tabletop Exercise (TTX) was conducted in 2014 at New York Wing Headquarters "with the purpose of defining the techniques and procedures to make the Region Coordination Center operational," Perta noted. "Participants from Northeast Region staff, and New York, New Jersey, Maine and New Hampshire wings toured facilities and reviewed and discussed the draft operations plan." A similar exercise is planned for the NH Wing site.

"New York Wing is in the process of adding additional technology at its Headquarters facility in preparation to serve as a Regional Coordination Center when tasked," he added.

The next phase of the RCC concept will be tested at each selected location in 2015.

A 2-HITTER FOR MID-EASTERN GROUP SHERIFF'S OFFICES BRIEFED AS NEW COMMANDER IS INSTALLED



Senior Member Jackie W. Vogel (above) of Manorville is the new Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Officer for the 9th Suffolk Cadet Squadron (Westhampton Beach), bringing a wealth of experience to the position. He is an intelligence research specialist at the NY Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and is an 8-year veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve. He joined CAP in 2014.

ALBANY -- Mid-Eastern Group took advantage of its March 17th Change of Command event to provide a Group and Wing capabilities briefing to two special guests – Greene County Sheriff Greg Seeley, and Albany County Sheriff’s Investigator Lee Bormann representing its Critical Incident-Emergency Management Office.

“Both were invited to a presentation on the CAPabilities of the Mid-Eastern Group and NY Wing, including assets and manpower plus technology that we have available,” noted former Group Commander Lt. Col. Sean Neal. Wing Commander Col. Steve Perta led the briefing, which included how



Wing Commander Col. Steve Perta swears-in Maj. Susan Neal.

to request CAP services and the MOU process.

Neal added: “We were able to combine a scheduled training mission with some sample work of Albany County over the weekend

of 21-22 March. We expect to do the same for Greene County in the near future.”

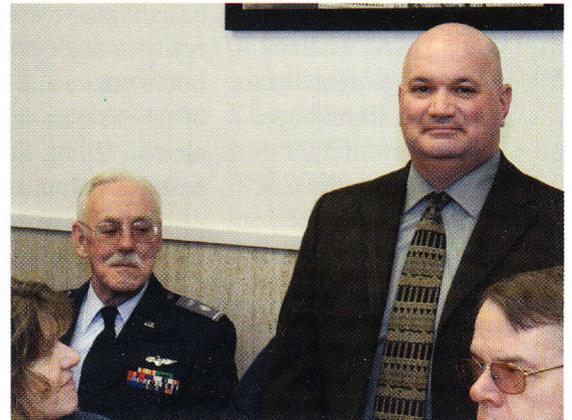
The briefing followed the installation of Maj. Susan Neal as group commander.



Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore (4th Legislative District) was inducted into the Civil Air Patrol Legislative Squadron last August. Col. Jack Ozer, former Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Pat Magee, Wing vice commander south, presented Muratore with a Legislative membership and the grade of major. The ceremony took place as part of the Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10 weekly meeting at Islip MacArthur Airport, Ronkonkoma, NY. Also present for the ceremony were Lt. Col. Michael Mooney, Long Island Group commander, and Lt. Col. Ben Nodar, Wing government relations assistant. After the ceremony, Muratore toured the facility and spoke with CAP cadets.



Maj. Susan Neal at podium during part of capabilities briefing.



Sheriff Greg Seeley (left) and Investigator Lee Bormann (right).

CADETS ATTEND LEGISLATIVE DAY IN D.C.

By Lt. Col. DIANE WOJTOWICZ

Each February, the Civil Air Patrol conducts its Winter National Command Council, Senior Advisory Group, and Cadet Advisory Council meetings in Washington, D.C. These activities are held in conjunction with the CAP's annual Legislative Day on Capitol Hill where adult and cadet members visit their elected representatives to discuss CAP's missions and activities.

This year New York Wing participants included: Cadet Lt. Col. Meghan Duell,

Cadet Major Andrea Parker, Cadet 1st Lieutenant Krystin Stewart, Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Rebecca Hartman, along with Lt. Col. Bill Hughes, Lt. Col. Diane Wojtowicz, Major Brian Benedict, Captain Valerie Duell, Lt. Col. Thomas Carello, Lt. Col. John Jones, and New York Wing Commander Colonel Steven Perta.

Cadets Duell and Parker visited various Congressional Representatives along with Wing Commander Colonel Perta. Cadets Stewart and Hartman visited the offices of: Congressman Higgins,

Collins, Slaughter, Stefanik and Reed, accompanied by Major Benedict, Captain Duell and Lt. Col. Wojtowicz. As a special activity, Cadets Duell and Stewart, along with Major Benedict, were able to tour the Pentagon on Thursday evening with fellow CAP member Lt. Col. Falvo (USAF) who is stationed there.

The cadets attended the morning session of the CAP National Command Council on Friday, and then visited various sites in Washington as well as the National Air and Space Museum.



Nicholas Krupa
National Cadet NCO of Year

CENTRAL NY'S KRUPA IS TOP CADET NCO

Three members of Central New York Group received awards for their performance, training and professional development.

Cadet Master Sgt. Nicholas Krupa received a national CAP honor, being named the 2014 Air Force Sergeants Association Cadet NCO of the Year. The cadet is with F.R. Sussey Composite Squadron (NY-408) in Oswego.

Wing Commander Col. Steve Perta presented the award at January's Group Staff meeting at Hancock Air National Guard Base.

Perta also presented the:

- Grover Loening Award for completion of Level III of the Senior Member Professional Development Program to Maj. Shawn M. Herrmann of Mohawk-Griffiss Senior Squadron (NY-156) in Rome.

- Gill Robb Wilson Award for completion of Level V to Maj. Robert R. Ormsbee of Fort Drum-Watertown Composite Squadron (NY-406).

CADET RECEIVES EAKER AWARD DURING D.C. VISIT

By Lt. Col. DIANE WOJTOWICZ

Cadet Lt. Col. Meghan Duell received her Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award from Congressman Chris Collins during a visit to his office in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 26 with NY Wing Commander Col. Steven Perta.

She was in Washington to participate in the annual Legislative Day, where CAP members visit elected representatives in Congress.

The General Ira C. Eaker Award recognizes completion of all 16 achievements in the cadet program.

Less than 1% of all cadets earn the Eaker award and on average only 200 cadets earn this award in a year.



Congressman Chris Collins, Cadet Lt. Col. Meghan Duell and Wing Commander Col. Steve Perta.

NYC GROUP RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT

New York City Group has received one of ten 2014 "Giving Back" grants for \$10,000 announced by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Foundation.

The New York City Group plans to use the money for

operational costs and also to assist its cadet program and help New York City inner-city youth understand and appreciate aviation.

"The Giving Back grants are the foundation's way of recognizing the good that is

done in the name of general aviation," said Jim Minow, AOPA foundation president. "These individuals and organizations provide a variety of services and benefits to their communities, all through aviation."

17 TEAMS COMPETE IN CYBERPATRIOT

By Capt. CHARLES ERCKERT III

This past year, 17 teams from New York Wing competed in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program's National Youth Cyber Defense competition in locations across the state. The teams were comprised of high school aged students from different schools and Civil Air Patrol squadrons.

After the two regular rounds, teams were divided into three different Tiers -- Platinum, where teams still had a chance at the National finals, Gold and Silver. During the State Round, where teams competed based on their tier, five NY Wing teams competed in the Platinum tier, four in the Gold and two in the Silver tier. Two of the five teams took first and second in the State with the First Place team advancing to the Category Round in Platinum while one team in Gold and two teams in Silver also advanced to the category round in their respective Tiers. For the top three in each tier, CAP took both 1st and 2nd in all of them. Advancing into Category round is based on all CAP teams in the nation

2 New York Wing Teams Grab Top Spots in State Cyber Round

Two NY Wing teams were awarded 1st and 2nd Place in NY State for the CyberPatriot competition.

1st Place went to Captain Luke C. Wullenwaber Squadron coached by Steven Schiher. The team scored high enough to be one of the top six Civil Air Patrol teams going to the Platinum tier category round.

2nd Place went to the Western NY Group 1 Team coached by Charles Erckert III.

Other teams went on to the Category round in January in the Gold and Silver tiers.

In Gold, Western NY Group 2 Team went to the category round after finishing 1st in NY State, 1st in Civil Air Patrol and 2nd Overall in the Gold tier.

In Silver, Western NY Group 4 Team went to the category round after finishing 1st in NY State, 1st in CAP and 2nd Overall in the Silver tier, as well as another team, Mohawk-Griffiss Squadron, that finished 2nd in NY State, 2nd in CAP and 12th overall in the Silver tier.

and only the Platinum teams were able to place in the top three for the State recognition round and are receiving State certificates.

During the Category round in January, New York Wing had one team compete in the Platinum tier, one at the Gold tier and two at the Silver tier. For the category round, CAP earned two of the six wild card spots in Platinum and Silver and one in Gold, allowing CAP to

have eight teams in two and seven teams in one. The one NY Wing Platinum team finished in 7th place while the Gold team finished in 2nd. The two silver teams finished in 1st and 6th. The one Gold and one Silver team are each receiving a category certificate for placing in the top 3.

So out of the nine category awards won between the three category tiers, NY Wing took 2 out of a possible 4.

NY WING RECEIVES AEROSPACE, DISASTER AWARDS

Col. Steven Perta accepted two awards on behalf of New York Wing at the National Conference and Command Council Meeting from outgoing National Commander Major General Charles Carr (l) and New National Commander Major General Joseph Vasquez. One was the Northeast Region Aerospace Award and the other was the Northeast Region Excellence in Disaster Relief Award.



Aaron Dostie
Outstanding Cadet of Year

CENTRAL NY GROUP TAPS 3 CADETS OF YEAR

SYRACUSE – Central New York Group is honoring three cadets of the year for 2014, Group Commander Lt. Col. John Jones announced.

They are:

- Outstanding Cadet of the Year: C/Capt. Aaron Dostie, NY-162.
- Cadet Officer of the Year: C/2d Lt. Kimball Henderson, NY-406.
- Cadet NCO of the Year: C/MSgt. Benjamin Miller, NY-162.

“This year, in addition to the Cadet Officer of the Year and Cadet NCO of the Year awards, we decided to add a third award for Outstanding Cadet of the Year,” Jones noted. “That award recipient was chosen by the board from all the submitted packages.”

Members of the Cadet of the Year Board included: Lt. Col. Dean Anderson, Lt. Col. William Shafer, and Maj. Shawn Herrmann.

SEARCH FOR MISSING AIRCRAFT FOCUS OF TRAINING

187 MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NOVEMBER SEARCH-AND-RESCUE EXERCISE

By Lt. Col. ANITA MARTIN

ALBANY – New York Wing conducted a search-and-rescue exercise in November looking for a mock aircraft that went missing somewhere between Buffalo and Long Island.

Twenty seven members of the Capital Region's Middle Eastern Group participated in the weekend exercise, working out of a mission base at Albany International Airport. Other mission bases were set up across the state, with a total of 187 members from nine groups being tasked to coordinate a quick search response with both aircrews and ground teams.

The training scenario had the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) contacting New York Wing to begin a search-and-rescue operation for a missing Buffalo aircraft. The pilot was sched-



Incident Commander Trainee Capt. Linda Sheridan, CAP, briefs members of Middle Eastern Group on details of the search-and-rescue exercise.

uled to fly to Westhampton Beach with stops at Rochester, Rome and White Plains. A friend of the pilot called Buffalo to see if the aircraft had left since it had not arrived at its destination.

New York Wing conducts such exercises several times a year to train and make sure its members are qualified to perform in real-life emergencies as well as to provide seamless coordination between mis-

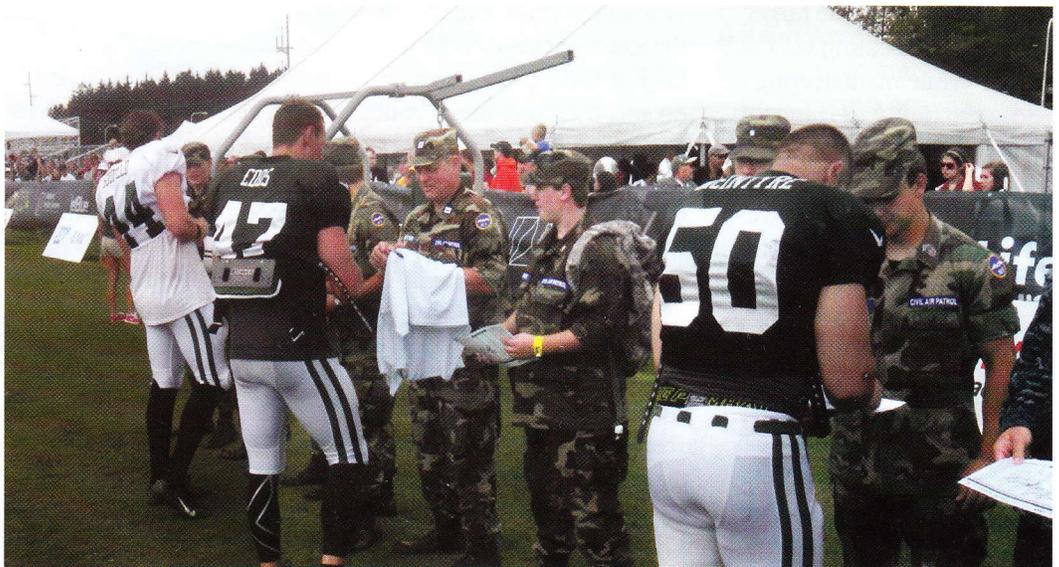
sion bases and air and ground teams. In the November exercise, teams successfully found the simulated downed plane after tracking the expected flight path and conducting air search grids.

NY JETS GIVE VIP TREATMENT TO BROOME-TIOGA SQUADRON

Cadets from the Broome-Tioga Composite Squadron NY-292 in Binghamton have provided a color guard for the opening ceremonies at two NY Jets exhibition games at Met Life Stadium in the Meadowlands in New Jersey during the past two pre-seasons.

On Sunday, July 27 the Jets organization invited the cadets to watch a practice game and meet some of the players at SUNY Cortland in upstate New York. Twelve members of the squadron were given VIP treatment.

Upon arriving the CAP members were escorted to the VIP tent and bleachers. The cadets enjoyed a brunch buffet. After the practice



NY Jets took CAP members aside for special autograph signing.

many of the players walked along the practice field barricade to sign autographs for the Meet and Greet crowd

and the VIPs.

The CAP members, however, were ushered out on to the practice field and the

players signed their items before going over to the VIP area. It was a day to remember.

SEARCH TEAM FINDS DISTRESS BEACON AT UPS FACILITY

By Capt. BOB STRONACH

SYRACUSE -- A UPS facility in Syracuse last November got a surprise evening visit from a Civil Air Patrol search-and-rescue team looking for an emergency locator beacon (ELT) that the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) was tracking after receiving multiple reports from pilots and air traffic control.

The distress beacon, like an airbag, is activated automatically when a plane goes down.

The reports of the distress signal were in the vicinity of the Syracuse International Airport. An aircrew from Syracuse was launched to help pinpoint the signal. With guidance from the aircrew above, a ground team led by Maj. Earl Holdren from Fulton arrived near a UPS facility. Major Holdren noted that the aircrew "did a fantastic job putting us on the target and communicating via CAP VHF" while maneuvering in close proximity to Hancock International Airport.

"This was a great help as it quickly put us where we had a strong signal," Holdren said. "Once in the UPS



New York Wing search team met with UPS managers after tracking a distress beacon to the Syracuse facility. From left are: UPS Security Manager Mark Kellish; First Lt. Mark Swing, CAP; UPS Transportation Manager Lucia Camarda; Maj. Earl Holdren III, CAP, and CAP Cadet Capt. Brian Williams.

facility it was like looking for a candle in a house of mirrors with metal trailers, walls, machinery and a high level of activity. There were 109 semi-trailer bays alone where trucks were loading or unloading, not to mention the fleet of local delivery trucks."

The beacon was traced to a UPS trailer that was headed for Oneonta, NY. As the trailer was due to depart shortly and as it was nearly full, it was deemed impractical to offload the truck and locate the exact package. With the help of UPS management on site, the exact times, route and destination information about the trailer were obtained and relayed back to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air

Force Base in Florida.

UPS management forwarded the information about the ELT to the Oneonta facility. The following day a local delivery driver with a package from that trailer made a delivery to a customer at the Sidney Airport.

"The local delivery driver told the customer about the ELT signal that had been traced to the Syracuse facility and asked if he could please open the package," Holdren said. "Upon opening the package, it was found to contain an ELT and it was turned ON." It was deactivated and the driver reported the find to management, he said. "The ELT had been shipped from a company that apparently makes ELT batteries, according to the

UPS manager. He said that UPS corporate would likely follow-up with them about proper shipping of an ELT so as to avoid future disruptions. While he found the whole thing very interesting, it did create a distraction that they would rather not repeat."

Central New York Group Commander Lt. Col. John Jones praised the air and ground crews for "stepping up on really short notice" when the Air Force tasked CAP's New York Wing with the search mission.

In addition to Holdren, the ground team included First Lt. Mark Swing and Cadet Capt. Brian Williams. The air crew consisted of Lt. Col. Dean Anderson, Lt. Col. Tom Carello, and Maj.

CAP'S REV. WILLIAMS-HARRIS IS NEWEST NYPD CHAPLAIN

New York Wing's Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams-Harris is the newest member of the New York Police Department Chaplains Unit.

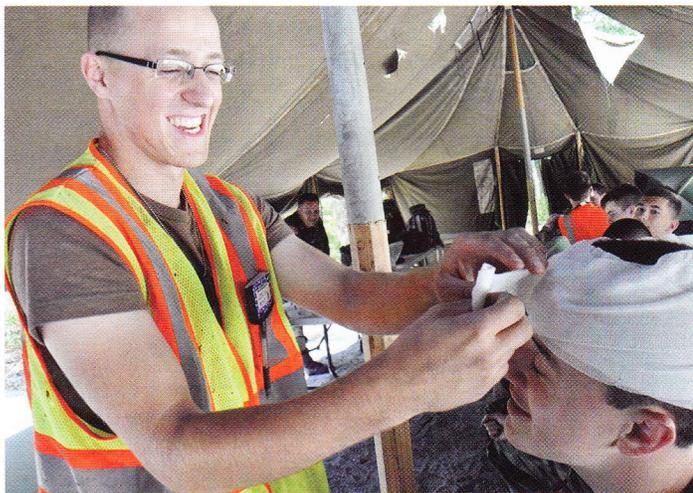
NYPD Commissioner William Bratton welcomed her to the unit Sept. 13, describing the unit as "always there for our members." He said her promotion to department chaplain was effective Sept. 29.

Capt. (Chaplain) William-Harris has served as a CAP chaplain on the squadron, group and wing levels.



Commissioner William Bratton welcomes Chaplain Barbara Williams-Harris.

ACADEMY PREPARES CADETS, ADULTS FOR GROUND TEAM ROLES



Trainees practice first aid and CPR at the NY Wing Search-and-Rescue Training Academy.

By 2nd Lt. NELKA COTTO

LONG ISLAND – The New York Wing Search-and-Rescue Training Academy (SARTAC) put more than 30 cadet and senior member trainees from five different Groups through various levels of emergency services training during its annual summer session in August.

The week-long academy at Sears Bellow Park on Long Island featured five different levels of training -- from Ground Team Member Level 3 through Ground Team Leader and even Ground Branch Director.

SARTAC Director **Maj. Josh Lebenns** notes that the academy challenges trainees physically, mentally and socially, allowing them to hone skills, build teamwork and spur dedication to the mission while emphasizing CAP Core Values and promoting esprit de corps.

SARTAC offers basic, advanced, expert and master GSAR (Ground Search and Rescue) training.

The “Basic GSAR Training School” focuses on funda-

mental principles and concepts of Emergency Services, what equipment is required, and how to use the equipment. Trainees learn how to build improvised shelters, employ safe fire building practices, and obtain CPR and First Aid certifications, amalgamating the CAP Ground Team Member Level 3 qualification with that of NASAR (National Association for Search and Rescue), American Red Cross, and NY State Department of Environmental Conservation training.

The “Advanced GSAR Training School” builds upon the basics and emphasizes land navigating and survival techniques, promoting unassisted mission deployment for up to 48 hours. Graduates qualify as a Ground Team Member Level 2.

The “Expert GSAR Training School” is a rigorous course that takes place in the field more than in the classroom. It was conducted under the watchful eye of a SARTAC alumnus, A1C Ian Kuhn, USAF, who is a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Special-

ist Instructor with the 106th Rescue Wing of the NY Air National Guard. “It’s great to be back!” said A1C Kuhn, who attributes his success as a SERE instructor to his humble beginnings as a SARTAC instructor. A1C Kuhn specifically tailored the expert course to adhere to the CAP Ground Team Member Level 1 curriculum, as well as extra knowledge that would help them on future missions.

The “Master GSAR Training School” takes all the skills previously learned from basic, advanced, and expert to elevate the trainee to a Ground Team Leader position. By leading a ground team through the simulated missions, the trainees learn to apply all of their training and skills to meet goals and objectives, and use innovative strategies and resources to lead and complete missions.

Ground Team Leader graduates are invited back each year to participate as an “Assistant Training Instructor” (ATI). ATIs are tasked and guided by “Lead Training Instructors,” aka “Black Hat Instructors.” ATIs that prove themselves ca-

pable and competent instructors after having attended two Academy training sessions in such capacity may earn their Black Hat, the highest honor a staff member can achieve.

SARTAC Director Major Lebenns awarded black hats to **C/Maj. Samael O’Brien** and **C/1st Lt. Mitchell Klass** and welcomed them into SARTAC’s exclusive Lead Training Instructor group. **C/CMSgt. Coryn Porter** was named Most Motivated Trainee and **C/CMSgt. Brenna Chen** was named Most Inspiring Trainee.

Major Lebenns was assisted by 1st Lt. Tyler Mealey (Planning Section Chief); Capt. David Collins (Operations Section Chief); Capt. Stephanie Collins (Resource Unit Leader); Lead Training Instructors A1C Ian Kuhn, Capt. David Cotto and Capt. Jason Somers; Support Staff and Public Affairs Officer 2nd Lt. Nelka Cotto.

2015 will be SARTAC’s 10th anniversary, having trained over 400 CAP and Non-CAP personnel from over five different Wings and two Regions.

6 CADETS SOLO AT ENCAMPMENT FLIGHT ACADEMY

By Col. STEVEN PERTA

It has often been asked, “When does a person become a Pilot?” I believe that all will agree that the milestone achievement of a “First Solo” is the day that marks a person’s achievement of commanding an aircraft alone and without the help of others, thus being recognized as a pilot. All

six cadets of the 2014 New York Wing Flight Academy achieved this. They are:

- C/Col. Luke Bickley
- C/Maj. Andrea Parker
- C/1st Lt. Kristyn Stewart
- C/1st Lt. Paul Dowty
- C/2nd Lt. Alexander Knecht
- C/CMSgt. Brianna Pichey

These cadets achieved this milestone under the training of Flight Instructors Col Jack Ozer, Maj Brian Benedict,

Capt Roger Teck with assistance from Lt. Col James Piersonn. To Lt. Col. Diane

Wojtowicz, Lt. Col. Bill Hughes and the Flight Academy- “Job Well Done”.



Cadets Luke Bickley and Andrea Parker with Maj. Brian Benedict.



Cadets Kristyn Stewart and Alexander Knecht with Col. Jack Ozer.; Cadets Brianna Pichey and Paul Dowty with Capt. Roger Teck.



100 GRADUATE FROM LEADERSHIP ENCAMPMENT

Some 100 first-time cadet attendees completed the 2014 New York Wing Leadership Encampment last July at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia. Plus all six cadets in the encampment’s Flight Academy soloed.

“A moving graduation ceremony along with a Pass and Review” capped the week-long event, noted

Wing Commander Col. Steven Perta.

“A sincere note of thanks and congratulations is extended to Lt. Col. Charles Miller, encampment commander, and the dedicated senior and cadet staff of the Leadership Encampment, and to Lt. Col. Diane Wojtowicz, Flight Academy director and the dedicated Flight Academy staff.”

The encampment agenda included leadership, problem solving, physical fitness, flight orientation, character development, and aerospace education activities.

After visiting the encampment, National Deputy Director for Cadet Programs Curt LaFond praised the New York Wing program, noting in a letter: “Boy, the Scotia facility is incredible.

You guys have built a tremendous relationship with the Air Guard. It’s hard for me to find something constructive to say on how to improve your program. It’s fundamentally sound every way you look at it.”

Because the encampment is so worthwhile, he encouraged the wing to try to get as many cadets through the program as possible.



LEFT: Cadets line up in preparation for graduation. RIGHT: Getting to see the inside of Air National Guard aircraft was a highlight for cadets.

ROCHESTER SQUADRON VISITS WASHINGTON

FROM WAR MONUMENTS TO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM TO ARLINGTON

by C/CMSgt DAVID MADIGAN

Rochester Composite Squadron in August took its annual trip to Washington D.C. Ten Cadets were chosen to participate. Over the weekend, we saw many of sites that Washington has to offer.

Perhaps the most sobering was our visit to the Korean War and WW II monuments. Both of these sites showed just how many American soldiers have sacrificed for the sake of our country, and just how much they continue to sacrifice. These monuments helped us realize what freedom means, and that it is truly not free. After visiting these areas we had the pleasure of meeting a group of Honor Flight soldiers. It was amazing to meet them and to shake their hands and to thank them for their service to this great country.

In addition to the serious side of our trip, we were also able to see the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. It gave us a picture of our American heritage. We visited the Smithsonian, Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, where we had the privilege of getting a guided tour from retired Air Force pilot Col. Joe Kinego. Colonel Kinego has over 900 hours on the SR-71 aircraft. We took the subway to the National Mall, where we saw the Washington Monument, the Lincoln memorial, and the reflecting pool. We then drove to Mount Vernon, and sat on George Washington's



Rochester cadets at World War II monument.

front lawn.

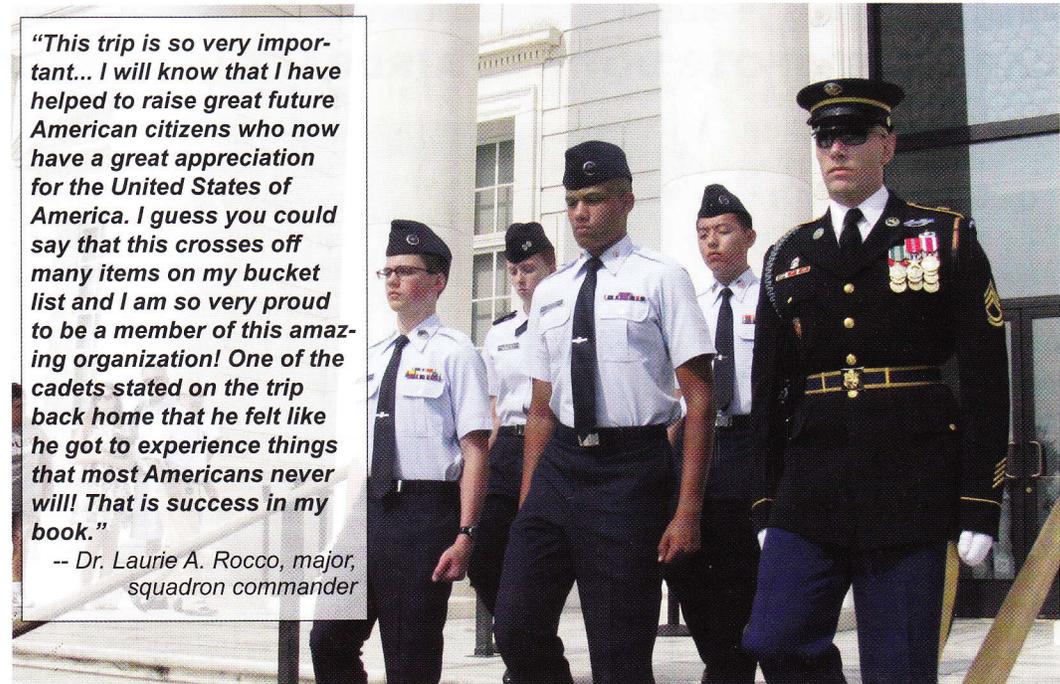
Lastly, we drove out to visit one of the most sacred places in this country, Arlington National Cemetery. Four cadets (Noah Fargo, Devonte Johnson, David Madigan and Julia McMaster) had the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. This was one of the most humbling

experiences. Seeing the precision and dedication of the tomb guards gave a feeling of humility beyond words, and it was by far my favorite stop on the entire trip. I highly recommend that every squadron visit Washington D.C., to get an idea of what Civil Air Patrol represents. Squadron members who made the trip were:

Capozzi, Josiah C/A1c
 Fargo, Noah C/MSgt
 Graham, Nicholas C/SSgt
 Heroux, Francis C/Smsgt
 Johnson, Devonte C/SrA
 Knapp, Sierra C/A1c
 Madigan, David C/SMSgt
 McMaster, Julia C/1Lt
 Nickelson, Ryan C/SrA
 Zappia, Peter C/A1c
 Rocco, Laurie Major
 Gleason, Jeffrey Capt.

"This trip is so very important... I will know that I have helped to raise great future American citizens who now have a great appreciation for the United States of America. I guess you could say that this crosses off many items on my bucket list and I am so very proud to be a member of this amazing organization! One of the cadets stated on the trip back home that he felt like he got to experience things that most Americans never will! That is success in my book."

-- Dr. Laurie A. Rocco, major, squadron commander



Cadets march to Tomb of the Unknowns, escorted by a Tomb guard.

ANOTHER 'BULL'S EYE' FOR RIFLES/ROPES BIVOUAC

By Capt. JOHN C. JENSEN

LAFAYETTE, NY – Senior members and cadets from around New York gathered at Adam's Eden Camp in Onondaga County from 27 through 29 June, 2014, just south of Syracuse for the fourth installment of the New York Wing Rifles and Ropes Bivouac.

Some 93 members participated in a split course that included the choice of either a challenging high and low ropes course or the chance to qualify as an National Rifle Association (NRA) marksman with the .22 rifle.

A total of 54 students took the Rifles course. The vast majority qualified after two and a half days of training and target shooting. NRA instructors conducted much of the training with the assistance of CAP staff. Groups rotated to the range with 10 students shooting at a time.

"The fundamentals taught, and safe attitude toward



Cadet is congratulated by CAP and NRA instructors after completing the Rifles Course.

handling and firing a rifle are things they will take with them and remember for the rest of their lives," said Capt. Glenn Gabriele, Rifle Course commander.

For 21 members, the adventure and challenge of the Ropes Course made for an exciting weekend. Instead of taking to the air in a Cessna 172, these participants took

flight powered by fellow CAP members. The course included a "flying squirrel" and a "zip-line" among other obstacles the cadets needed to overcome together.

The Ropes Course gave both adults and cadets "the opportunity to grow as individuals and as members of a team," 1st Lt. Joel Falbo said. "Most importantly they

learn to trust each other and push themselves."

A Cessna 172 with a crew of three conducted air-to-ground communications with Bivouac participants. Radios, mirrors, and symbols were used to communicate with the aircraft. Aerial photographs of the campsite were taken as part of the exercise.

Maj. Matt Mallory, deputy commander of Central New York Group and former commander of Syracuse Cadet Squadron, served as overall commander of the bivouac and coordinated both courses with the help of Captain Gabriele and Lieutenant Falbo. Major Mallory assembled a team of 18 staff from across the Wing, with a majority coming from Central New York and Finger Lakes Groups.

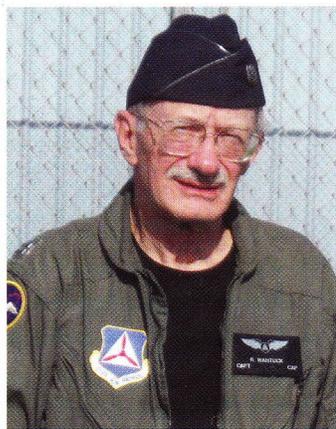
The Rifles and Ropes Bivouac has been growing from year to year. For details on how to get involved as a student or part of the staff, visit riflesandropes.org for details.

CAP PILOT SPOTS DOWNED AIRCRAFT IN WESTERN NEW YORK

By Capt. BOB STRONACH

GASPORT -- New York Wing pilot Capt. Robert Wantuck was on a proficiency flight near Royalton Airport in western New York on July 5 when the airport's UNICOM station asked for assistance in locating a downed light-sport aircraft.

"After several orbits I was able to spot the wreckage" in a heavily wooded area just south of the airport, Wantuck said. He notified emergency personnel who were conducting a ground search.



Capt. Robert Wantuck

"The stand of trees and foliage were so thick," he said, it would have been difficult for ground searchers

to spot. The downed pilot "was trapped in the cockpit." Emergency personnel extricated the 79-year-old pilot, who was conscious, and taken by Mercy Flight to Erie County Medical Center for treatment of multiple injuries, Niagara County Sheriff's Office told news media.

The sheriff's office said the small, two-seater crashed shortly after takeoff and that trees cushioned the plane's descent. A backhoe was used to clear a path about 150 yards into the woods so the pilot (John Schnabel) could

be carried out. (He died in the hospital 11 days later.)

"What was a practice session turned out to be the real thing," said Captain Wantuck, who was doing a practice sector search.

During a recent SAREX he became aware that funding was available for mission pilot proficiency. "Had it not been for the training made available, I may not have been flying that day."

In addition to being a mission pilot, Captain Wantuck is the aerospace education officer for Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron (NY-343).

NY WING SPOTLIGHTS TOP PERFORMERS

LAKE GEORGE -- New York Wing turned the spotlight onto some of its top performers during the 2014 Wing Conference at Lake George, honoring high-achieving members and units with a wide range of awards.

Two 70-year members who joined Civil Air Patrol during World War II received special recognition for their longevity of service – Lt. Col. Frank Crisci, a member since June 28, 1944, and Col. Johnnie Pantanelli, a member since Dec. 28, 1944.

Recognized with awards were:

- Senior Member of the Year – Capt. Richard Ware, commander, Lt. Anthony L. Willsea Cadet Squadron.
- Cadet Noncommissioned Officer of the Year – Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Krupa, F.R. Sussey Composite Squadron.
- Cadet of the Year – Cadet Maj. Benjamin Pfuhl, cadet commander, Suffolk Cadet Squadron.
- Squadron Of Merit – Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10, commanded by 1st Lt. Frank Zambaras.
- Senior Chaplain of the Year – Lt. Col. Barbara Y. Williams, wing staff.
- Squadron Chaplain of the Year – Capt. Andrew R. Hart, Long Island Group.
- Character Development Instructor of the Year – Lt. Col. Janet Schachner, TAK Composite Squadron.
- Cadet Program Officer of the Year – Capt. Michele A. Renneberg, Leroy R. Grumman Cadet Squadron.
- Check Pilot of the Year – Capt. Roger Teck, Mid-



ABOVE: Cadet Maj. Benjamin Pfuhl, Cadet of the Year, with Lt. Col. Stephen Samuels (left), Wing Cadet Programs director, and Col. Jack Ozer, outgoing wing commander.

BELOW: Capt. Richard Ware, Senior Member of the Year, with outgoing Wing Commander Col. Jack Ozer. Photos by Maj. Robert Elwood.



- Eastern Group.
- Most Cadet Orientation Flights – Long Island Group.
- Aviation Excellence Propeller Award for Most Hours Flown – South Central Group.
- Communicator of the Year – 1st Lt. Bruce Koppe, wing staff and Rochester Senior Squadron.
- Outstanding Emergency Services Program – Mid-Eastern Group.
- Aerospace Education Officer of the Year – Capt. Andrew Woodbridge, Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron and New York City Group.

- Inspector of the Year – 1st Lt. William McCauley, wing staff.
- Safety Officer of the Year – Capt. Thomas Szekely, Phoenix Composite Squadron.
- Counterdrug Officer Award – Finger Lakes Group.
- Drug Demand Reduction Officer of the Year – Lt. Col. Judith Hewett, wing and Northeast Region staff.
- Legislative Officer of the Year – Lt. Col. Benjamin Nodar, wing staff and Suffolk Cadet Squadron.
- Logistics Officer of the Year – 1st Lt. John McKellar, Finger Lakes Group.

- Professional Development Officer of the Year – Maj. Robert Ormsbee, Central New York Group and Fort Drum-Watertown Composite Squadron.
- Wing Staff Officer of the Year – Maj. Brian Benedict, standardization/evaluation officer.
- Empire Award for Group of the Year – NY City Group.
- Quality Unit Awards:
 - Batavia Composite Squadron.
 - Broome-Tioga Composite Squadron.
 - Orion Composite Squadron.
 - Rochester Composite Squadron.
 - Williamson Composite Squadron.
 - Brian M. Mooney Cadet Squadron.
 - Leroy R. Grumman Cadet Squadron.
 - Lt. Anthony L. Willsea Cadet Squadron.
 - Southtowns Cadet Squadron.
 - Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10.

NY WWII MEMBER ACCEPTS GOLD MEDAL FOR CAP

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- World War II New York Wing pilot Lester Wolff accepted the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the Civil Air Patrol in a Dec. 10th ceremony on Capitol Hill. Wolff, a former U.S. congressman, was among 46 founding CAP members at the ceremony.

During WWII more than 200,000 CAP volunteers helped protect U.S. shipping against German U-boat attacks and carried out other vital wartime domestic missions.

Speaker of the House John Boehner presented the medal to Wolff and CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez.

Wolff noted that the Coastal Patrol mission "began in the dark days following Pearl Harbor, when submarines were sinking oil tankers within sight of East Coast cities."

"For 18 months we patrolled the Atlantic and Gulf coasts hunting submarines, escorting thousands of ships and searching for attack survivors," said Wolff, who flew out of Coast Patrol Base 17 at Riverhead, NY "...The fact that we were armed with small bombs indicates just how serious the threat was."

Coastal Patrol pilots spotted 173 U-boats and attacked 57.



Lester Wolff accepts Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the Civil Air Patrol from Speaker of the House John Boehner. At left is CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez. At right are other Congressional leaders (then Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Michael McCaul, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. Photo / U.S. Congress.

They also escorted more than 5,600 convoys and reported 17 floating mines, 36 bodies, 91 ships in distress and 363 survivors in the water.

In all, 65 CAP members lost their lives in the line of duty by the end of the war, including 26 Coastal Patrol participants.

Along with the 46 members present, more than 50 other pioneering CAP members were represented by family members – **including the sons of NY Wing's Glen Cook of East Greenbush.**

The gold medal is to be placed on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institution. Three-inch bronze replicas are being presented to veterans and families.

Some other WWII members from NY Wing:

- Col. Johnnie Pantanelli of White Plains. After serving in the Marine Corps, she joined CAP in 1944 and never left. A squadron she commanded for decades now bears her name.

- Lt. Col. Frank Crisci, a member since June 28, 1944.

- Wallace Higgins of Alfred Station. He was a cadet in Rochester until he turned 18 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and went on to become a Tuskegee Airman.

- Lt. Col. Clive Goodwin Jr., who joined in 1942. He flew missions out of Cortland Municipal Airport. He remains active in North Carolina Wing.

- Phyllis Fay Young of Scio, NY. She was a cadet in the newly formed Wellsville Squadron at Wellsville Airport from 1942 to 1944.

- Jack Arthur Jr., who joined at 15 and trained at Mitchell Field, Long Island. His experience led him to become an Army pilot flying the Stinson L-5 Sentinel and Cessna L-19 Bird Dog as a cartographer in post-World War II Germany. He later returned to NY Wing, active until he was in his 70s.

- Isaac W. Burnham II of Scarsdale.

- Paul C. Halstead of Cincinnati.

- Harvey C. Rousseau of Macedon.



At the Gold Medal ceremony, Lt. Col. Sean Neal of Mid-Eastern Group poses with Robert Cook (l) and David Cook, sons of WWII CAP pilot Glen Cook of East Greenbush, NY. Photo by Maj. Robert Elwood.



Wallace Higgins



Col. Johnnie Pantanelli

Celebrating 50 Years of New York Wing's James Burr Reddig Cadet of the Year Award

This section spotlights many of the past Cadets of the Year.



Lt. Col. Thomas Vreeland was the first Cadet of the Year - 1965.

1965

Lt. Col. Thomas Vreeland, CAP

Tom Vreeland joined CAP in 1960. In 1965, he was a cadet major in Yonkers Composite Squadron when he received the first Captain James Burr Reddig Memorial Cadet of the Year Award, at the Wing Conference at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City.

He had participated in the International Air Cadet Exchange the prior year, earned his observer wings, was very active in search-and-rescue operations, and was a college freshman at Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute. Tom went on to earn his Spaatz and Falcon Awards, attended the first CAP National Staff College, and was founder and became Squadron Commander of Westchester Cadet Squadron #1.

He worked for 20 years in the U.S. Government and the military, serving in U.S.

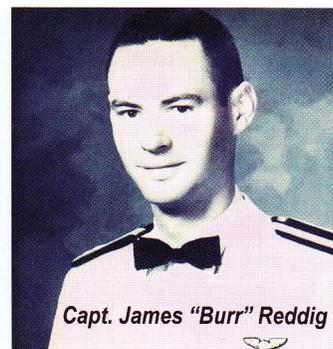
Army Civil Affairs units and in the 19th Special Forces Group. After that for the next 15 years he had his own advanced technology companies. He authored 11 technical books.

For the last 15 years he was a teacher and professor, and worked in non-profits on educational technology,

cyber-security, and philanthropy. Currently he is director of the Vreeland Institute.

Lt. Col. Vreeland served as director of information technology for New York Wing, director of the CAP Advanced Technology Group, and on National HQ staff as advanced technology program officer.

The NY Wing Cadet of the Year Award is named after Capt. James "Burr" Reddig, a former CAP member and Strategic Air Command (SAC) bomber pilot. He died in February 1965 in the North Atlantic after a KC-135 refueling tanker blew up, taking his bomber down with it. His body was found the next day in the cold ocean, floating in his life preserver and attached to an inflatable raft. His father, CAP Lt. Col. James C. Reddig, was director of emergency services for NY Wing at the time.



Capt. James "Burr" Reddig



1967
Frank C. Pirz

Frank was 19 years old and already a Junior attending college at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn when he received the Reddig Award.

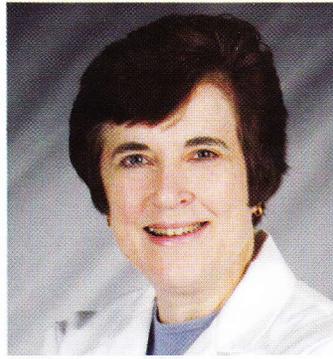
While he was academically advanced, he sometimes thought the only thing that helped him survive was the discipline and training he had received as a cadet in Civil Air Patrol.

He joined the ROTC unit at Brooklyn Poly, which had the only Corps of Engineers ROTC unit in the country.

When he graduated in 1968, with a BS in Electrical Engineering, he decided to attend graduate school at University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. He ended up getting master's degrees in both EE and computer science (a new field at the time).

That skill set got him a position in 1972 at what was then called The Bell Telephone Laboratories, the research arm of AT&T, in New Jersey. It was the start of a 27 year career.

In 1999 he moved to Rochester NY and wound up managing Xerox's data center for five years before he finally retired.



1971
Col. (Dr.) Sharon Falkenheier, USAF(ret)

Sharon A. ("Shari") Falkenheier, MD, MPH, MA, earned her MD from the State University of New York Upstate Medical College, Syracuse, in 1978.

She is board certified in Aerospace Medicine. Dr. Falkenheier is a retired USAF colonel with over 26 years of USAF service in a variety of roles. From 1989-91, she was assigned to the Air Force Surgeon General's Office. From 1991-1994, she served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). Her final USAF assignment before her 2000 retirement was as Director, International Medical Training at USAFSAM.

In 2003, President George W. Bush nominated and the Senate confirmed Dr. Falkenheier for appointment to the Board of Regents of Uniformed Services University (USU) of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Falkenheier holds an appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.



1972
Lt. Col. Patrick J. Magee, CAP

Pat Magee joined Bronx Cadet Squadron 2 in 1967, attended seven NY Wing encampments and was the cadet encampment commander at Stewart AFS, Newburgh in 1972. He participated in the 1971 International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) with Peru.

As a senior member he has served in various key staff roles on the region and wing levels, was senior member of the year in 1983, and was Bronx Group commander before moving to Florida in 1986. He attended IACE as a senior member escort in 1989 (Singapore), 2012 (Canada), and 2013 (Turkey).

His law enforcement career began in 1973 as a New York City cop. He went on to become a Special Agent with US Immigration & Naturalization Service, then with US Customs Aviation Program in Florida and in New York -- before retiring in 2009.

Magee received a bachelor's degree from Regents College, and completed the Executive Development Program at Columbia University Graduate School of Business.

A resident of Westhampton Beach, NY, Magee is married to a former Long Island Group cadet, Cherie Carter.



1973
Suzanne (Rapp) Strauss

Introduced to CAP by her father, Lt. Col. Wilson Rapp (USAF), Suzanne was a member for approximately seven years -- six years as a cadet in the Rochester Cadet Squadron. At the age of 21, while attending SUNY Albany, she became a senior member, and joined the Schenectady Composite Squadron.

She attended Cadet Officers School and the International Air Cadet Exchange (I.A.C.E.) program in Austria. She served on the NY Wing Cadet Advisory Council for several years, including as chairperson. She was selected for a CAP National College Scholarship. In addition to being Wing Cadet of the Year, she was named Northeast Region Cadet of the Year. She earned the rank of Cadet Lt. Col. As a senior member, she attended I.A.C.E. as an escort to cadets traveling to Belgium.

Suzanne went on to get a master's in education at SUNY Albany, teach in the Lake George School District and then join the State Education Department in Albany as a professional staff member in the vocational unit until her retirement in 2008.

She has lived in Saratoga Springs, NY with her husband of 37 years, Richard.



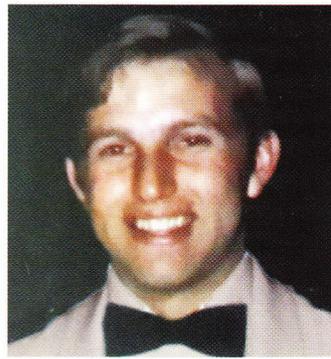
1976
Capt. William G. A. Betz,
CAP

William Betz, also National Cadet of the Year in 1976, joined in May of 1971 and attended his first Wing Encampment at Plattsburg AFB in August where "I knew from that point I was hooked on CAP." He participated in encampments, bivouacs, drill teams, wing and region competitions, and International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) to Netherlands. Transitioning to senior member in 1977, he assisted with various wing cadet programs over the next five years. He served 2006-2009 as Brooklyn's Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron commander.

He joined the NYC Battery Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in 2004, and when Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005, he joined rescue efforts -- using Zodiac boats to search the water-filled streets for people needing assistance.

He a deputy director in the Information Technology Infrastructure Department of the New York City Housing Authority. He holds an associate's degree in data processing & business management and a BA in public administration from C.U.N.Y.

William and his wife Laura live in Staten Island.



1972
Thomas J. Lennon

Thomas joined CAP in 1972 when he was 13. He became cadet commander of Squadron 10, chairman of Suffolk County Group Cadet Advisory Council, cadet commander of Suffolk County Drill Team and a member of the Suffolk County Search and Rescue Team. He attained the rank of Cadet Lt. Col. and attended six New York Wing Encampments at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (3 as a cadet and 3 as a senior member). He attended the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) to Great Britain.

As a Senior member Tom held the rank of 1st LT, obtained his private pilot's license and became a pilot for Suffolk County Group. After the Civil Air Patrol, he went on to college, graduating from SUNY Stony Brook with a BA degree. He then became a federal air traffic controller, assigned to the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center in Aurora, Illinois. He has been a air traffic controller for over 29 years.

Tom continues to fly in a local flying club and says CAP gave him leadership tools that are respected by supervisors and peers alike.



1979
Lorraine (Swift)
DiMarco

Lori was a member of Far Rockaway Cadet Squadron, Queens Group. She obtained the rank of C/Lt. Col. She chaired the NY Wing Cadet Advisory Council, and went to four NY Wing Encampments at Plattsburg AFB.

Lori was cadet commander of the Queens Group Cadet Competition Team. In 1978 the team went to the National Cadet Competition and placed 2nd overall. Lori was named the National Competition's Outstanding Team Commander.

Lori was the Region Cadet of the Year.

The first female to attend Aviation High School, she went on to become a FAA licensed Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic. Lori started a 15-year career at FedEx, working through the ranks to become managing director of Maintenance Planning, Control and Performance. After serving as director of maintenance for other airlines, Lori and her husband have settled in Atlanta, Georgia, where she is general manager of Base Maintenance Operations for Delta Air Lines. Lori has a B.S. in Education from The City College of New York and an MBA from Dowling College.



1981
Lt. Col. Robert J.
Kantor, CAP

Very Rev. Robert J. Kantor, LCDR, CHC, USNR (ret.) has more than 22 years of Navy service as a public affairs officer and then as a chaplain in the reserves. This included a tour in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2005. He served in the Arabian Gulf four additional times (2003-2006). He has trained flag officers as part of a media training team and served on the public affairs staff of NATO. In his final duty assignment, he served with Marines as chaplain to the 4th Marine Division, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion until his retirement in 2008.

Fr. Kantor is active in the Florida Wing. In NY Wing he had served as wing director of public affairs and as squadron commander for both Ithaca and TAK Composite Squadrons.

As a Catholic priest, Fr. Kantor is pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church, Naples, FL. Before entering seminary, worked in radio and was a partner in a radio production, syndication and media consulting firm in Ithaca. He earned a BA in journalism and broadcasting from Buffalo State, and his M.Div. degree from Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, NY.



1982
Lt. Col. Edwin Rabassa, CAP

Ed Rabassa migrated to Brooklyn from the Dominican Republic in 1972, joined Academy Cadet Squadron in 1977 and in 1980 transferred to the Jamaica Cadet Squadron where he became cadet commander. Ed attended four Wing Encampments at Plattsburg AFB.

Cadet Competition "Drill Team" was his favorite activity. He joined the Queens Group team, and also participated in Suffolk Group and Bronx Teams. After becoming a senior member, Ed continued working with the Bronx Drill Team. In 1991, he was senior trainer for the New York City Drill Team, which won the National Cadet Competition.

He joined NY Wing Cadet Program staff and in 1991 was named Wing Staff Member of the Year.

In 1982 while visiting a squadron in Manhattan he met Cadet Airman Maggie Perez. They married in 1989. Ed and Maggie live in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. From 1985 to this past February, Ed worked for Citibank as an IT field engineer, trainer, and compliance officer. He recently transitioned into a start-up company as a senior IT engineer.



1982
John T. (Tom) Wilson Jr.

Tom achieved the rank of cadet major and was cadet commander of the Niagara Frontier Group's TAK Composite Squadron. He attended Para-Rescue Orientation Course. He was Niagara Frontier Drill Team commander his final year in the CAP, before joining the Army.

He served two years enlisted in the Army as an MP right out of high school. He then attended SUNY Buffalo State, and completed a BS in Business Administration at SUNY Empire State College.

After his initial active duty period, he joined the New York Army National Guard, becoming a warrant officer and helicopter pilot. He flew Bell UH-1 Iroquois AH-1 Cobra helicopters. He migrated to North Carolina, where he joined the North Carolina Army National Guard and flew Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. After 9/11 he was deployed to Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan as a Blackhawk pilot and Tactical Operations Officer. He retired from active duty as a CW4 in 2013 with a total service time of 30 years.

Tom is married and lives in Northern Maryland.



1985
Jonathan Himmelwright

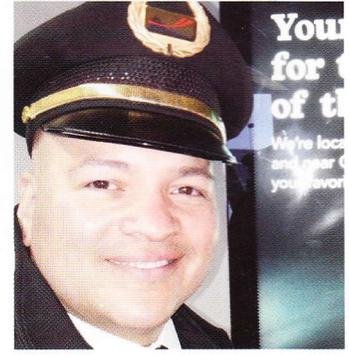
Jonathan joined the Schenectady Composite Squadron in 1978. During his cadet career, he served in many leadership roles including the Cadet Advisory Council, cadet squadron commander, leader of the Cadet Leadership School, and cadet commander of the 1985 NY Wing Encampment.

In 1981 he successfully completed training and obtained his private pilot license. After transitioning to senior member in 1986, Jonathan continued to support several cadet programs.

That same year he became a business owner, opening a retail ski shop in Schenectady. The following year he married and began a family, raising a son and daughter. In 1997 his wife of 10 years passed in a tragic automotive accident.

Over the years he has served in many business roles, started several businesses, and provided consulting and speaking services. The skills and leadership training provided in Civil Air Patrol, he says, have been the foundation of his success.

Today, Jonathan resides in Florida with his wife, two children and two stepchildren.



1986
Maj. Miguel Arroyo, USAR

Miguel grew up in Brooklyn, under the shadows of airliners on final approach to LaGuardia Airport and with a passion for aviation. Today he is a First Officer on the CRJ-900 for Endeavor Air, a Delta Connection carrier, based at LaGuardia.

Miguel joined Manhattan Cadet Squadron 4 in March 1981 and rose through the ranks to C/Lt. Col. He was a member of the Bronx Group Drill Team in 1984 through 1986, which included two consecutive National Championships (1984-1983). He attended four Encampments at Plattsburgh AFB.

After his cadet career, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve and the New York Army National Guard and graduated from the Army ROTC Program at St. John's University in 1989. He was commissioned into the Army National Guard as a second lieutenant. He served on active duty with NY State and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is currently a major in the Army Reserve.

Miguel worked for the New York City Human Resources Administration from 1993 until 2006 when he followed his passion for aviation and became a professional pilot and flight instructor. Miguel is married to the former Marisela Fermin.



1987
Dr. (Lt. Col.) Raymond
W. Staats, USAF (ret)

Raymond joined the North Syracuse Cadet Squadron in 1980. He served as the squadron's cadet commander from 1982-1984, and then as cadet commander of the LTC Robert S. VanKeuren Cadet Squadron from 1985-1986. He also served as cadet commander for the 1984 Fort Drum Encampment and the 1986 Plattsburgh Encampment. He earned the General Carl A. Spaatz Award (#734) in 1985.

Raymond earned his commission through Air Force ROTC at Syracuse University in May 1988. His assignments ranged from working with defense communications satellites (Schriever AFB, CO) to (after earning a MS degree) participating in 27 space launch campaigns at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, FL, as a Delta II Launch Crew commander. He then supervised ICBM test and evaluation launches at Vandenberg AFB, CA.

Dr. Staats earned his Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering in 2003 at Virginia Tech, then joined the AFIT faculty. He took over as commandant of the Community College of the Air Force in 2007. He retired from active duty in 2009.



1988
Maj. Gabriel D. Gong,
CAP

Gabriel joined Academy of Aeronautics Cadet Squadron in 1982. He attended four NY Wing Encampments, serving as cadet commander in 1987. He received an appointment to the US Air Force Academy in 1985. He was a member of the 1986 Northeast Region Champion Bronx Group Drill Team. He attained the grade of Cadet Colonel and received the General Carl A. Spaatz Award (#892).

As a senior member, Gabe continued his encampment participation and served as commandant of cadets in 1992 at Plattsburgh. He was the Squadron Commander of the Academy Cadet Squadron (NYC Group) from 1994 through 1996, when the unit was recognized as the Squadron of Distinction. From 1996 to 1998 he was wing director of cadet program.

After graduating from the Polytechnic Institute of NY in 1990, Gabe started working for the electric generation companies on Long Island, and is currently senior engineer.

Major Gong lives in Queens. In 1994, he married fellow Spaatz Award recipient Jennifer Chan.



1989
Maj. Costas Leonidou,
USAF (ret)

Costas rounded out his cadet career by earning General Carl A. Spaatz Award # 938 in May 1989. He completed Air Force Academy Prep School in 1990 and matriculated at the Academy that fall. After graduating, he entered pilot training, and then flew the E-3B/C (Sentry) at Tinker AFB, OK. (where he was 1996 Pilot of the Year and subsequently an instructor pilot). He also worked with NATO in Germany as an E-3A/707/Flight Simulator instructor pilot & flight safety officer. Upon his return to Tinker AFB, he was assigned as the E-3B/C flight examiner, chief pilot, and chief of the Flight Crew Branch. Later assignments included a stint at the Pentagon and then at Beale AFB, CA as the U-2 mission pilot/mobility officer. His last active duty assignment involved training over 200 aircrew on the MC-12W (Liberty) for overseas reconnaissance missions.

After retiring from the Air Force in August 2014, Costas started working with Southwest Airlines. He is a First Officer based out of Oakland International Airport, flying four versions of the Boeing 737.



1992
Musa K. Johnson

Musa Johnson joined Brooklyn Technical Cadet Squadron 1 in 1986. He attended several New York Wing Encampments along with one New Jersey Wing Encampment. At the National level he participated in the Pararescue Orientation Course (PJOC), Blue Beret Program, and attended Cadet Officers School (COS) at Maxwell AFB, AL. He eventually transferred to Manhattan Cadet Squadron 1 where he was active in the Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) up to the Region level and was a member of the Manhattan and later NYC Group Drill teams which represented New York Wing at the Northeast Region and was a member of the 1991 National Cadet Competition Championship winning team.

In 1995 he enlisted into the United States Marine Corps where he served as air traffic control communications technician and drill instructor.

He has a BA in History/Political Science from Chamaine University of Honolulu and recently retired from the Marine Corps where he achieved the rank of Gunnery Sergeant (E-7). He resides in Fort Worth, TX, and is married to Robbie Rovaris-Johnson.



1996

Lt. Col. Joseph Winter,
CAP

A member of CAP for more than 20 years, Joseph Winter is Maryland Wing vice commander. He joined CAP in 1993 as a cadet in New York Wing, where he rapidly rose through the cadet program. After college, he transferred to the Maryland Wing, heading cadet programs and Maryland Wing Headquarters Squadron.

In 2009 he was also appointed to national staff first serving on the cadet programs team as the director for national cadet special activities, a position he held until 2014, and now as a member of the National Public Affairs team. Winter also is director of Cadet Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Joseph was named 2004 Maryland Wing Staff Officer of the Year and 2009 CAP National Cadet Programs Officer of the Year.

He holds a BS in sports management from St. Thomas Aquinas College, and an MA in teaching from Sacred Heart University. Outside of CAP, Winter is an Air Force officer, serving as executive officer of Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing.

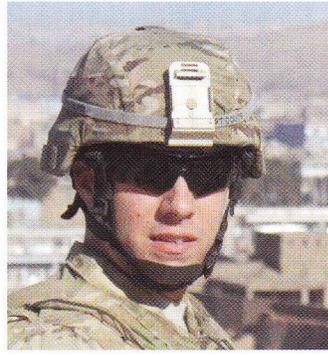


1997

Timothy J. Maher

As a junior in high school Tim joined Batavia Composite Squadron. Rising quickly through the cadet ranks, Tim was the cadet commander of the squadron by the time he attended his first encampment in 1994. At the Wing conference in 1995 he won the opportunity to take a ride in an F-16 Falcon based at Hancock Field in Syracuse. After serving as cadet commander for the 1997 Ft. Drum encampment, Tim left CAP to pursue college, studying criminal justice. He became an EMT and firefighter at Avon Fire Dept. and then Rural Metro Services in Rochester, where discovered a co-worker was commander of Rochester Composite Squadron. He once again found himself in a CAP uniform.

In 2002 Tim again left CAP, this time to attend the Finger Lakes Community College Paramedic program. Since becoming a Paramedic, Tim has served in the roles of Chief and Deputy Chief Paramedic, Quartermaster, Operations Lieutenant and most recently Operations Captain at various agencies. In 2014 Tim was featured on the first episode of TLC's "OMG EMT" television show.



1999

Capt. Justin W. Coutts,
USA

Justin joined Vedder Composite Squadron in 1996, rising to cadet squadron commander and cadet commander of the NY Wing Encampment at Ft. Drum. He chaired the Cadet Advisory Council at the group and wing levels. Justin achieved the grade of Cadet Colonel by earning the General Carl A. Spaatz Award (#1417).

He received an Army commission through Siena College ROTC in 2003. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Captain Coutts supervised the evacuation of over 8,000 people at New Orleans International Airport and led security and search-and-rescue patrols in the area. He also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and, while with the NY Army National Guard, deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In between his active duty and National Guard assignments, Captain Coutts worked for Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation in Stratford, CT from 2008 to 2010. He is currently assigned to Joint Force Headquarters-New York (JFHQ-NY) in Latham, where he plans for emergency responses.



2000

Lt. Col. Daniel Brodsky,
CAP

Dan moved to Virginia in 2012 and served for about two-and-a-half years as the Virginia Wing director of cadet programs. His last assignment in New York Wing was as the Central New York Group Commander. He has also served as a Deputy Commander for Cadets, Squadron Commander, and Assistant Wing Inspector General. He has completed 12 NY Wing encampments, most recently as deputy commander in 2010.

Lt. Col. Brodsky is currently the Middle East Region Deputy Chief of Staff for Cadet Programs. In this role he provides cadet programs resources and training for the Region, mentors seven Wing Directors of Cadet Programs, and oversees several annual Region-level activities including two Cadet Leadership Schools, an Honor Guard Academy, and a Cadet Competition.

Lt. Col. Brodsky earned a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and a Master's degree in Cyber Security, both from Utica College.

He works as a senior computer engineer for a data analytics company in McLean, VA. He is married with two kids.



2001
Maj. Rebekah L.
(Strock) Layton, CAP

Rebekah has been a member of CAP since 1996. As a cadet she earned The General Carl A. Spaatz Award (#1468). Former c/Col Strock served in squadron and wing leadership roles, including cadet commander of the NY Wing Encampment in 2002. As a senior member, she served as the Vedder Composite Squadron leadership officer, until 2014.

A paratrooper, Rebekah is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom where she served as a Military Police Officer in Baghdad, training Iraqi Police and enforcing the security mission. She was a platoon leader and executive officer for the 118th Military Police Company (Airborne), out of Fort Bragg, NC. Rebekah also served in Seoul, Korea, as operations officer for the Eighth Army Provost Marshall. She held the rank of captain, and is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal.

Rebekah earned her Ph.D. in Social/Personality Psychology from SUNY Albany in 2014. Dr. Layton is currently completing her post-doctoral training in health psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she lives with husband Seth and daughter.



2002
Capt. Jennifer (Neville)
Fuka, USAF

In addition to being NY Wing Cadet of the Year, Jennifer was named the 2002 National Cadet of the Year.

Jennifer is currently a student at the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB, CA.

She has served in various engineering roles since graduating from the Air Force Academy in 2006 with a BS in astronautical engineering – which she followed up with an MS in aeronautics and astronautics engineering at Purdue University, IN.

She has served as a developmental engineer at Vandenberg AFB, CA; lead engineer for cryptographic solutions at Fort Meade, MD (where she was also executive officer for the 707th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group), and flight test engineer at Nellis AFB, NV (where her assignment culminated in being dual hatted as the F-35 flight test engineer and assistant director of operations).

She expects to complete an MS in Flight Test Engineering in July 2015 at the USAF Test Pilot School.

Captain Fuka is married to Capt. Jacob Fuka.



2006
Capt. Jonathan
Lewczyk, USAF

Jonathan entered the U.S. Air Force Academy in June 2006 -- the same year he was named NY Wing cadet of the year.

He graduated in May 2010 with a BS in Foreign Area Studies and a minor in Russian language.

Jonathan completed Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) at Vance AFB, OK and graduated in December 2011. At flight school graduation he was awarded the flight training award for the T-1A “Jayhawk” training pipeline.

He then went to Altus AFB, OK and was selected as a distinguished graduate for C-17A pilot initial qualification.

Assignment to the 16th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, SC occurred in July 2012. He has flown the C-17A out of Charleston since.

Currently, he is a captain in the Air Force serving as an airdrop-qualified aircraft commander and an executive officer in the 16th Airlift Squadron.

In his personal life, he has been married to his wife Megan since April 2014, and they live in Mt. Pleasant, SC.



2007
Elizabeth (Anger)
Belcher

Elizabeth joined CAP in 2002 as a member of TAK Composite Squadron. She participated in many CAP activities, including five Wing Encampments, where she especially enjoyed being the Standards and Evaluation Team OIC. She continued in the cadet program to earn her Spaatz Award and the rank of cadet colonel in 2009. She participated in the International Air Cadet Exchange to France that same year.

In 2011, Elizabeth graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh where she had majored in neuroscience and psychology and minored in chemistry. She married another former CAP cadet, Christopher Belcher, and was employed as a research specialist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

She currently is a PhD student in neuroscience at the University of Rochester. She investigates the effect of radiation on the growth of new neurons in the adult brain. At the University of Rochester she also sits on the boards for the Graduate Student Society and Center for Professional Development.



2008
Jacob Miller

Jacob joined the Condor Composite Squadron in 2004. He started out slowly but eventually progressed quickly through the ranks. He was elected chairman of the Wing Cadet Advisory Council the same weekend he was named Cadet of the Year. Two weeks later, he was chosen to be that year's Wing Encampment cadet commander. Shortly thereafter he completed his time as a cadet, but not before earning the General Carl A. Spaatz Award #1755.

He started at Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY in 2012. As an extracurricular program he joined the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Design, Build, and Fly (DBF) team. He was elected team president for the 2013-2014 competition. This was Clarkson's best placing year to date. In 2013 he got a position as an undergraduate research student with the Clarkson UAV Program and the Blade Test Facility (BTF). He has lead teams building and testing UAVs. He earned his B.S. in aeronautical engineering in 2014 and expects to complete his M.S. in mechanical engineering in the fall of 2015.



2009
2nd Lt. Heather Nelson,
USAF

Heather joined CAP at the end of 9th grade with the hope, she says, "that it would help me get into the Air Force Academy, my goal since I was 8 years old."

She did just that. By the time she left for the Academy in Colorado Springs three years later, she had been promoted to cadet lieutenant colonel, served as a flight commander, deputy cadet commander, and cadet commander of Vedder Composite Squadron. She also had the opportunity to solo at the National Flight Academy.

At the AF Academy she fencd for the Air Force for three years, including one year on the U.S. Junior National Team. She graduated as a distinguished graduate (top 10%) with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, and was able to spend a year and a half at Penn State getting her master's degree in aerospace engineering. She also fencd for Penn State. After graduating, 2nd Lt. Nelson returned to Colorado Springs to work at Schriever Air Force Base as a project engineer for Air Force TENCAP (Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities), where she continues to work today.



2010
Stephanie Hyatt

Stephanie is the youngest recipient of the Reddig Cadet of the Year Award. She was 16 – and already serving as cadet commander of the Batavia Composite Squadron, commander of the Finger Lakes Group Honor Guard, chairman of the New York Wing Cadet Advisory Council, and recorder for Northeast Region CAC.

In the years to come, she served in an advisory role at KY-222, cadet instructor at four NYWg conferences, the first cadet to serve on NYWg staff, command staff at four encampments, attended nine NCSAs (including IACE UK), and served as the NCAC vice-chairperson.

Stephanie was a competitive dancer for 16 years, and used her training to become a member of her college dance troupe and taught dance to underprivileged youth. She also shows dogs. Scholastically, Stephanie was homeschooled and graduated shortly after receiving the Reddig award. She then graduated cum laude at the age of 20 from Liberty University with bachelor degrees in healthcare management and economics. She moved south and works full-time in Christian ministry.



2012
Capt. Benjamin Tartter,
CAP

Benjamin Tartter says he joined Civil Air Patrol at the age of 13 as an overweight, out of shape individual.

The mere thought of public speaking was a terror for him and self-confidence was far from his being.

He attests to CAP as the experience that changed his life forever. Over the course of the next eight years he became empowered to be things he thought impossible. He served as a New York Wing Leadership Encampment deputy cadet commander and cadet commander of his squadron; he was named Cadet of the Year and earned his Spaatz Award with promotion to cadet colonel.

Benjamin is a graduate of Gordon College with a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. He is now working in the medical field with plans of entering medical school.

Sailing is a favorite pastime.

He exhorts younger cadets to never give up, "for anything is possible for those who are determined."



2013
C/Col. Travis
Brodbeck, CAP

Travis Brodbeck has been in CAP since January 2008. He received his training at Dutchess County Cadet Squadron in Southeastern Group.

Travis attended his basic encampment at Stratton ANGB in 2008; since then he has staffed five encampments: two in New York, one in Connecticut, one in Vermont, one in Maryland.

Cadet Brodbeck attended Cadet Officer School in 2012 and participated in the 2014 International Air Cadet Exchange in the United Kingdom.

In December 2012, Cadet Brodbeck attended the Northeast Region Winter Regional Cadet Leadership School; in 2013 he returned as cadet training officer, and in 2014 he returned again as cadet commander.

In 2014 Cadet Brodbeck earned the General Carl A. Spaatz Award (#1971). Currently, he serves as the Northeast Region Cadet Advisory Council chairperson.

Travis is a sophomore at Siena College, with a dual major in accounting and economics.



In Memorium

Lt Col Charles Chaluisan, CAP

**Manhattan Drill Team
Bronx Group Drill Team**

Mentor to many. Missed by all.

NEW YORK WING AT A GLANCE

With more than 2,000 members, the New York Wing is one of the largest in Civil Air Patrol's nine-state Northeast Region. The wing boasts a strong emphasis on emergency services, disaster relief and cadet programs as well as homeland security and counterdrug missions.

Wing aircrews logged 2,069 flying hours in 2014, including search and rescue missions and training exercises, homeland security tasks such as fighter intercept, low level route surveys and forward air controller orientation missions, and other military support for the Air National Guard. Aircrews flew 293.4 counterdrug mission hours assisting law enforcement agencies in keeping \$1.8 million in illegal drugs off the streets.



The wing operates a Search and Rescue Academy as well as other aircrew, ground team and mission base staff training courses. New York Wing not only participates in Northeast Region Disaster Response Exercises, ensuring that members are properly trained to meet any emergency, but its Headquarters in White

Plains has been designated as one of two sites for a Northeast Region disaster response operations center. The wing conducts missions from the Atlantic Ocean to the Canadian border.

The New York Wing's emergency services program held several wing-wide search-and-rescue exercises which consisted of 211 sor-

ties and more than 185 ground missions. The wing also successfully carried out nine emergency locator transmitter searches and accounted for six finds.

The wing's annual cadet leadership encampment and flight academy at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia nurtured leadership skills and provided aviation experiences for hundreds of youth. In addition, over a dozen cadets, mentored by experienced flight instructors, were able to solo or pre-solo in glider and powered aircraft.

Eight squadrons were recognized as Quality Cadet Units. For the fifth straight year a wing cadet color guard team participated in a JROTC competition in Richmond, VA earning first place honors.

FOR NEW YORK WING, THE FUTURE IS...

"BHAG!"

That's the word Col. Steven Perta presented at his first wing commander's briefing at the 2014 New York Wing Conference held in Lake George.

It stands for "big hairy audacious goals," Perta said. He wants New York members to think big. Big ideas like:

- Everyday operations center, with on-duty incident commander and staff.
- Everyday training mission briefings.
- Everyday flights for counter drug, fire patrol, traffic survey, flood watch and aerospace education missions.

He also announced a series of immediate initiatives

to grow and advance the wing, such as:

- Member On-Boarding, aimed at the "new CAP member on board." Simply put, it's an in-person orientation, held a few times a year at locations across the wing, emphasizing the "helping hand in member progression."
- CAP Pilot Orientation, for new pilots and a refresher for existing pilots. It's a face-to-face activity, emphasizing CAP pilot culture, conducted by the Operations Team.
- Cadet Flight Orientation Days, on scheduled dates



around the wing, with aircrews teaming up to handle as many cadets as needed. Tie in other activities on the same days. "Promote, photograph, recognize, celebrate."

- Reach Out to Former Cadets -- successful cadets who moved on to college, military services, careers in the past six years -- and re-engage them as senior members.

- Legislative Squadron Growth, stepping up the outreach to federal and state legislators.

- Wing Headquarters Facility, enhancing its use for meetings and training, and as a coordination center, and upgrading its technology.

- Mission Base Facilities, soliciting a wish list, refining capabilities, encouraging frequent use and attracting maximum turnout for events.

- NY Wing Capabilities Brochure, telling "who we are, what we do, what we have, how CAP New York can be engaged."

It's all about CAP's Vision, he said, to build "the nation's finest force of citizen volunteers serving America."