

# CIVIL AIR PATROL

Magazine  
February 2021



**Ski Clinic Edition**

**Communicating from  
Alaska to Puerto Rico**

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Cover page: A CAP Cessna185 at work in the snow.  
Above background: Guess whose ribbon rack?



Civil Air Patrol is excited to announce, in conjunction with National Mentoring Month, January 2021, the launch of Civil Air Patrol's Mentoring Program.

The Mentoring Steering Committee created this program to bring together members interested in helping others be successful, productive members of the Civil Air Patrol and members who need help navigating our programs or growing their skills. Many of us have heard others say having a mentor would make their service in Civil Air Patrol more satisfying, and they would like to have a mentor. Many of us have experienced the joy of being a mentor.

Open Mic night 17 Feb at 1900



If you have a passion for developing people, sharing your knowledge, and sharing your experience, consider becoming a mentor! Mentors will provide expertise in the various Specialty Tracks, including Emergency Services, as well as leadership. The Mentoring Team will match mentors to mentees individually. Mentors will have the option to assist one mentee or a group of mentees. Mentees can request an individual mentor or join a small group.

Visit the new Civil Air Patrol Mentoring Program web page to learn more, find mentoring resources, and sign up as a mentor or mentee. You can find us at <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/ed-training/mentoring>.



### Guidelines for Mentees

- Mentees do the work
- Identify goals
  - Educational (i.e. Regulations, SOPs, Organization)
  - Professional (i.e. CAP career goals like Staff, Command and beyond)



## Recruitment and Retention

### Best Practices for Cadet Retention

In the past, CAP has credited two cadet activities in particular for cadet retention: Orientation flights (O-flights) and Encampments. Recently, National Headquarters assessed the value of cadet promotions, too. Alaska's Lake Hood Cadet Squadron Commander 1st Lt Karen Padgett contends that promotions are the most important component in her retention record.

**O-FLIGHTS:** Alaska Wing pilots do a great job of offering lots of O-flights to our youth. The opportunity to fly in small aircraft, sometimes even handling the controls, gets many cadets particularly excited about staying in CAP and learning more. **Senior members:** please let cadet squadrons know your availability to share your cockpit with the next generation of flyers.

**ENCAMPMENTS:** Sadly, during Covid, all encampments nationwide have been cancelled for a year. As a wing, we need to find other ways to involve cadets to experience the advantages of an encampment: aerospace learning,

leadership, camaraderie, character development, emergency services, fitness, challenges, and fun. Any great ideas? Contact Capt Elizabeth Bratton at Elizabeth.Bratton@akwg.cap.gov.

**PROMOTIONS:** Ribbons, badges, and recognition for jobs well done can make volunteers feel appreciated and invested in an organization. Recently, National CAP Headquarters distributed a spreadsheet of "Promotions per cadet" (PPC) by Wing and Region. Cadets who meet all qualifications can promote every eight weeks - theoretically six times per year. NHQ ranked all squadrons by "PPC" and correlated it with a higher renewal rate. In Alaska, only **Lake Hood's** cadet squadron (which started in 2018 with a dozen cadets) appeared on the Pacific Regional Top Ten List for annual promotions, at a bit fewer than 3 per cadet, on average.

What can we learn from Lake Hood's success? Squadron Commander 1st Lt Karen Padgett explains the evolution of her group: "At first, helping cadets promote was a huge priority just so some members

could officially serve as flight commanders. This focus set a standard for new cadets. We noticed that the more they promoted, the more they attended regularly, participated actively, and, a year later, renewed their memberships. Cadets who work hard to learn and promote become more invested in CAP than those who don't."

Padgett continues, "For the cadets, the training materials have advantages beyond retention. Most cadets say that the material they learn helps them not just in cadet roles but in their broader life too—to make smart decisions, to be leaders, to learn to use technology. Fortunately in this time of distancing, most promotion work can be done virtually through self-paced learning and testing, attending virtual meetings, and having a parent proctor who vouches for physical fitness tests. Most cadet NCOs, cadet officers, and Senior Member testing officers are very happy to proctor modified drill tests and closed-book tests for these aspiring cadets."

See each Wing squadron's page for more details.

## Aerospace Education

<https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaAEM/>



Aerospace Education field trip to CAP hangar.

## Cadet Programs

<https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaCAPcadets>

By 1st Lt Karen Padgett

Alaska Wing Cadet Programs Directorate staff attended a virtual CAP **Youth Development Conference** (YDC) January 15-17, 2021. The theme was "Equity and Justice in Cadet Life," featuring training sessions by national experts in the fields of social emotional learning and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Informal discussions centered around cadet retention during the pandemic. Current cadet favorites include meeting in smaller breakout rooms for informal socializing, and playing virtual games together like Minecraft.

Current **Cadet Programs Directorate staff** include Capt Elizabeth Bratton (Director), and 1st Lt Jacob Baugh, SM Sean Bever, and 1st Lt Karen Padgett (Assistant Directors). SM Kimberly Rice is Senior Advisor for the Cadet Advisory Council.

The **Alaska Wing Cadet Advisory Council** is alive and well, meeting the first Friday of each month. Three committees advise Col McClure

on recruitment and retention, emergency services training, and flight training. Meeting login information are on the calendar on the Alaska Wing website. The main contacts for cadets are C/Maj Ryan Padgett, AKWG CAC Chair for FY 2021, and C/Lt Mitchell Anderson, Vice/Recorder. C/Maj Alan Padgett and C/Capt Katarina Lukic are Alaska Wing representatives to the Pacific Region CAC. The Senior Advisor is SM Kimberly Rice.

**National Cadet Special Activities** (NCSAs): Registration is now open for forty NCSAs including the AKWG Powered Flight Academy planned for May 28-June 6, 2021 at Clear AFS. NCSAs will be conducted only if COVID restrictions allow. Consider all dates tentative. <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/activities/national-cadet-special-activities>. The deadline to register for 2021 NCSAs has been extended indefinitely, but positions will fill up, so apply soon.

**AKWG Glider Flight Academy** is currently in planning stages. Keep

your eyes and ears open for updates.

**Alaska Wing 2021 Encampment** 2021 is currently being planned for June 10-20, 2021. Information on the AKWG website will be periodically updated here: <https://akwg.cap.gov/encampment/2021-cadets-msg>

**Quality Cadet Unit Award** (QCUA): The 2021 criteria for QCUA are quite different than for previous years. This year's Alaska Wing goal is for ALL cadet units to achieve QCUA. More information can be found here: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/cpofficer/quality-cadet-unit-award>. Squadron commanders and AEOs are urged to register their squadrons for the Aerospace Excellence Award (AEX) and then organize seven hands-on aerospace activities. The monthly aerospace contests Lt Lynda MacPherson and SM Mary Stella offer are eligible activities, but the squadron must FIRST register to get credit.

## AK-009 Fairbanks



Thanks to Col. McClure, cadets were able to resume meeting after December 3. The second meeting in January opened with Lieutenant Hausmann and C/2nd Lt. Nautiyal giving a class on Customs and Courtesies. Following this, C/CMSgt Burley led most of the cadets in drill.

On the 21st of January, C/CMSgt Weisensel completed his speech requirement for Achievement 8, followed by drill and promotion boards.

On the last meeting of January, **Aerospace night**, C/CMSgt Burley gave a speech on the difference between leadership and followership for Achievement 8. C/CMSgt Weisensel gave a short class on airport taxiway signs, fol-

lowed by cadets finding their way around the building directed by taxiway signs positioned in doorways. After the cadets safely found their way around the building, they learned how to identify basic aircraft parts and the purposes they serve.

On the first meeting in February, the cadets resumed **PT**, lead by C/2nd Lt. Nautiyal, followed by marching in close confines. In the next meeting cadets practiced in-place movements, flanks, and to-the-rear.

**Promotions:** Congratulations to C/TSgt Medlin promoting to C/MSgt!



Kenai Cadets continue to make excellent presentations. All meetings have taken place via Zoom to ensure health and safety. Cadets display healthy and safe behavior during meetings and when out in the community. All cadets are working on their achievements.

Cadets offered required Safety, Aerospace, Character Development and Leadership lessons. One of the most impressive presentations was by Cadet Matthew Schwartz. "What to Do in Case of a Plane Crash" included Preparing a First Aid Kit, Preflight Checklist, Essential items to pack for a flight, Survival Pack Items, What to Watch for during the Flight, What to Do After a Crash, How to Prepare a Shelter, How to Start a Fire, and How to Get Help. A lot of discussion ensued and cadets learned crucial knowledge.

Cadets are beginning to get O Rides. The weather has not been conducive for safe flights but we're working on it. Three cadets are taking Ground School Lessons. The cadets have welcomed a new prospective member. We are very proud of our cadets and their continued efforts.



We had the extraordinary honor of having three major Civil Air Patrol leaders attend our Change of Command ceremony. General Mark E. Smith gave us his personal insights on leadership and answered several cadets' questions. It was a pleasure having him preside over our Change of Command ceremony, as well as Colonel Ishikita and Colonel McClure both attending. After the COC the D.C.C, Col. Brian Porter and SSgt. Ray Lukic, both presented awards to several cadets.

C/2lt Michael Porter, C/Capt Katarina Lukic, and C/CMSgt Madeline Anderson were all presented the achievement award for their hard work and diligence toward improving the squadron during the pandemic.

We had several **promotions**, including the ones from the previous month;

- Madeline Anderson to C/CMSgt
- Rachel Anderson to C/MSgt
- Logan Sabo to C/A1C
- Michael Bradley to C/Amn and
- Michael Krol to C/CMSgt

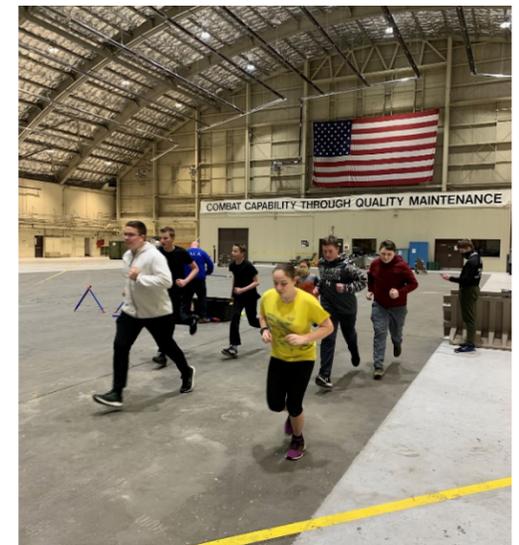
During the previous months ES meeting, we successfully found a beacon at Merrill Field through Body Blocking, despite cold weather and Phase 1 restrictions. This resulted in many cadets getting signed off on their UDF Quals.

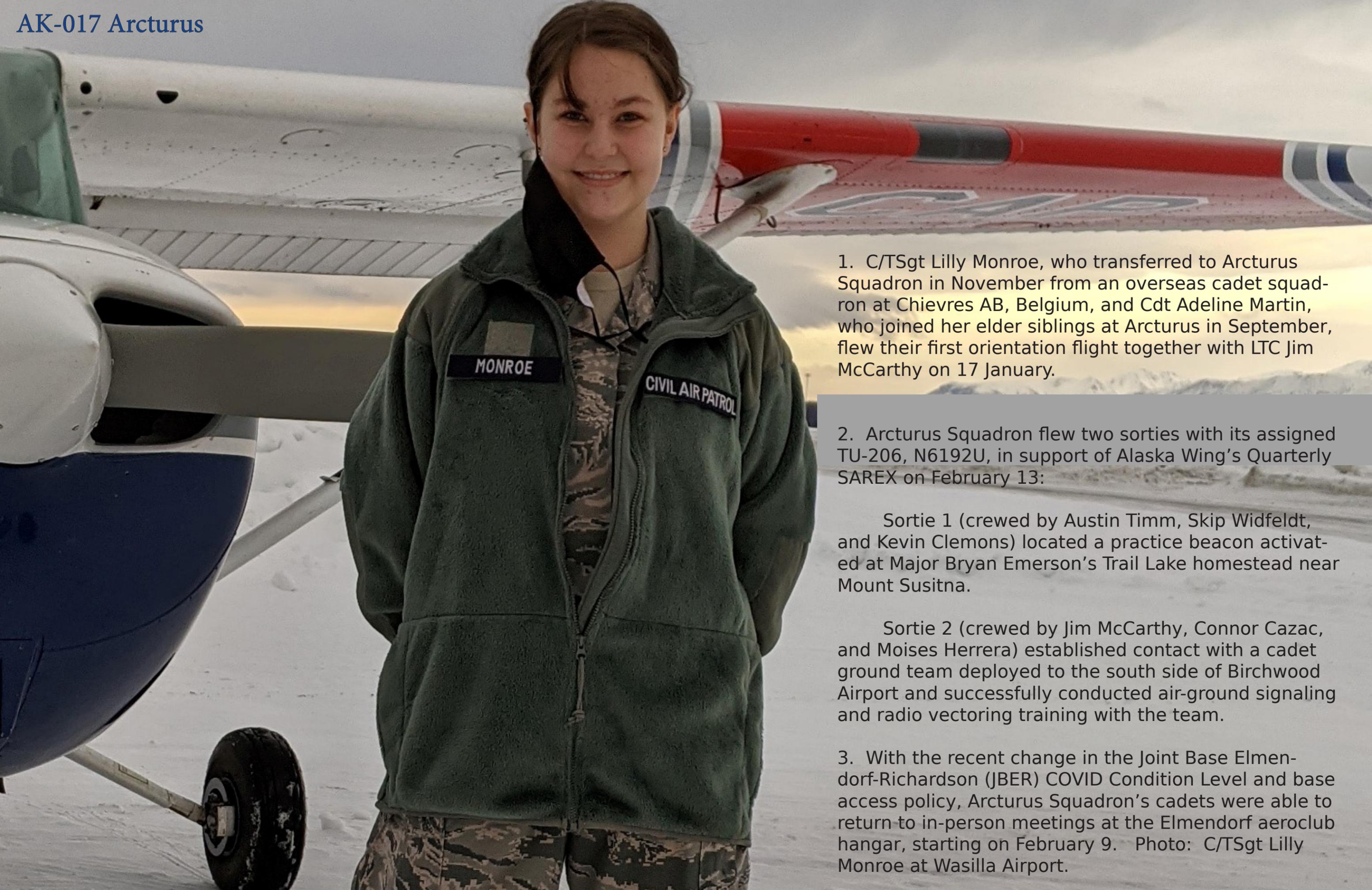
This month's PT meeting was very successful. Right before the mile run Colonel Anderson spent time going over running techniques with the cadets. This led to greatly improved mile run scores. After the PT test was completed and recorded, C/2ly Porter led a heated Volleyball game with a slight twist. Before a cadet served the volleyball they would answer an AE related question.

We had the pleasure of touring the Commemorative Air Force's Hanger. Our tour guide was the Arcturus Senior Member Clemmons. He taught us the history and mechanics of the B-52 Texan Trainer, as well as a rare Canadian stunt plane.

A few cadets were presented awards from the Alaska Wing Conference.

- CMSgt Madeline Anderson was awarded Commander's Commendations Award
- CMSgt Sophie Lukic was awarded an Achievement Award





1. C/TSgt Lilly Monroe, who transferred to Arcturus Squadron in November from an overseas cadet squadron at Chievres AB, Belgium, and Cdt Adeline Martin, who joined her elder siblings at Arcturus in September, flew their first orientation flight together with LTC Jim McCarthy on 17 January.

2. Arcturus Squadron flew two sorties with its assigned TU-206, N6192U, in support of Alaska Wing's Quarterly SAREX on February 13:

Sortie 1 (crewed by Austin Timm, Skip Widfeldt, and Kevin Clemons) located a practice beacon activated at Major Bryan Emerson's Trail Lake homestead near Mount Susitna.

Sortie 2 (crewed by Jim McCarthy, Connor Cazac, and Moises Herrera) established contact with a cadet ground team deployed to the south side of Birchwood Airport and successfully conducted air-ground signaling and radio vectoring training with the team.

3. With the recent change in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) COVID Condition Level and base access policy, Arcturus Squadron's cadets were able to return to in-person meetings at the Elmendorf aeroclub hangar, starting on February 9. Photo: C/TSgt Lilly Monroe at Wasilla Airport.



This month, the Delta Force Cadet Squadron recognized C/TSgt Coen in his achievement of GTM3. Promotions included L Lee to C/MSgt and B Lee to C/CMSgt.

New cadet leadership and support positions were chosen for 2021 as follows:

Flight Commander: C/MSgt L Lee

Flight Sergeant: C/MSgt Fox

Element Leaders: C/SSgt R Schmidt and C/SrA Titarenko

Public Affairs: C/TSgt Coen

Public Affairs Asst: C/MSgt Fox

Support Flight Commander: C/2dLt L Schmidt

ES/Safety/Leadership: C/2dLt L Schmidt

Recruitment/Orientation: C/MSgt L Lee

Aerospace Education Asst: C/A1C C Schmidt

Supply Asst: C/A1C Barnard

Historian: C/SSgt R Schmidt

In January, the squadron received radio communications training and practice. The unit also held a half-day workshop in photography, taught by 1st Lt Baugh and C/2dLt L Schmidt that was well-attended and enjoyed by all. Aerospace education included a lesson on the stratosphere, flight planning with sectionals and charts, and utilizing the Spheros STEM kit.

In February, cadets received lessons regarding wind chill, being an NCO, and how to be a disciplined leader and supervisor. The highlight of the month was the squadron hiking to Castner Glacier, where they enjoyed exploring the glacier ice cave and seeing fantastic mountain views. The squadron anticipates additional orientation flights this month.



The February SAREX in the Interior was organized by Capt Jim Low from the Fairbanks 9th squadron. The 71st Eielson Squadron and the 9th squadron participated in the collaborative exercise. Cold temperatures made for a slow start. At 11 am Major Burley and Major Kaden launched the C172 and the GA8 Airvan to practice an ELT search and airborne photography. The February SAREX was an excellent example of collaboration and joining forces to accomplish tasks.



LTC McIntyre at ease in the Valdez Squadron Communications center.



The biggest events at Birchwood Squadron this past month include a videotaped Change of Command ceremony, several promotions, and one new cadet recruited. On January 26th, C/2d Lt Mitchell Anderson passed on his duties as Cadet Commander to C/2d Lt Soren Larsen. Cadet Anderson led the squadron for the

past two years and plans to continue his involvement in CAP by assisting locally in our squadron, serving on the Cadet Advisory Council, and staffing at encampment. Cadet Larsen brings new ideas and excellent leadership traits to the position of Cadet Commander. We thank Anderson for his service and look for-

ward to new growth and development with Larsen. Congratulations to C/Amn Taylor Moehring, C/Amn Benjamin Parker, C/A1C Reagan Benedict, C/A1C Liam Connelly, C/A1C Hunter Haley, and C/A1C Tucker Haley on their **promotions**. We also welcome our newest recruit C/AB William Lindsay.

Submitted by Capt Richard Dennis, PAO



## CADETS

### AWARDS:

- C/2ndLt Stephen Briar received the Mitchell Award (bottom photo)

### PROMOTIONS on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> (right photo)

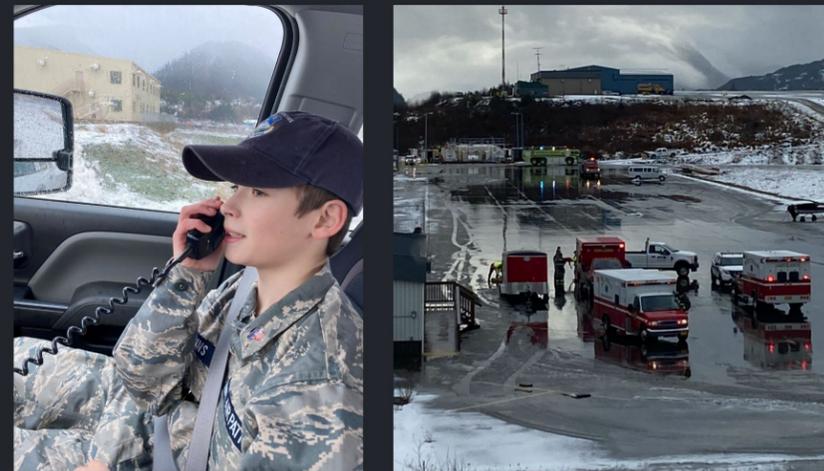
- C/SrA Sarah Briar
- C/SrA Miah Landers
- C/SrA Matthew Landers
- C/SrA Joshua Dale
- C/Amn Jonathan Adkins

### MEETINGS:

- Location: Tok School,
- Time: 1630 - 1800 hours (04:30 - 6:00 PM)
- Uniform: ABUs
- 15 February - Regular Cadet meeting. Tok School.
- 22 February - Senior Member meeting. Location TBD. Cadet attendance optional.
- 1 March - Regular Cadet meeting. Tok School.
- 8 March - Senior Member meeting. Location TBD. Cadet attendance optional.
- 15 March - Regular Cadet meeting. Tok School.
- 22 March - Senior Member meeting. Location TBD. Cadet attendance optional.
- 29 March - Cadet social gathering / informal meeting. Location TBD.
- Lt Col David Briar, Cadet Commander, will be out of the country, Lt Pine and C/2Lt Briar will direct meetings.

## SENIORS

- Meet twice a month at the Tok School Shop area
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month at 1830hrs, regular meeting
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month is a training meeting, 1830 hrs
- Commander Capt Harry White, 883-3291



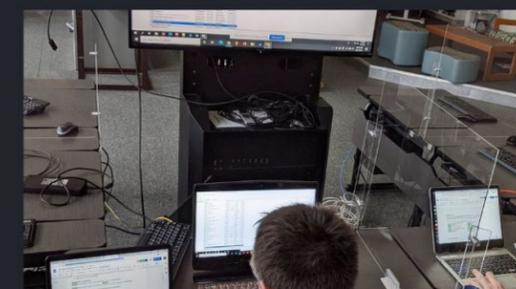
At the Ketchikan International Airport Jan 30, 2021 Joint Triennial Drill, CBP, USCG, CAP, KFD, STVFD, NTVFD, KPD Dispatch, KTN ARFF, Guardian Air and KTN Police, C/Amn Noah Robbins attended along with 2nd Lt. Travis Robbins with as backup crew on radios along with photographers.



Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Larry Dur'an gave our Unit a great one to one meet and greet with their SAR Dog in



Guardian Flight ops debrief regarding MediVac services based in Ketchikan.



All 3 rounds CyberPatriot completed

## AK-087 Kodiak

Kodiak Composite Squadron conducted “**MAN DOWN**” severe injury training and response with Coast Guard Corpsmen HS3 Thomas Napier and HS3 Jesse Pacheco on January 19. The corpsmen provided a presentation on GITMO8 and first aid response. Cadets responded to two realistic severe injuries as two separate teams.

January 23 Brian Brown and Casey Harver led survival training for cadets at **Naval Special Warfare Detachment** Kodiak. Cadets learned basic principles of survival. They worked as a team to build a cozy shelter, to start fires with a variety of techniques and to gather flammable materials in a very wet environment.

For the regular squadron meeting on January 26, cadets played a rousing game of volleyball and completed the Wing STEM tower challenge. Cadets enjoyed being together in a large gym with plenty of room to be active and maintain social distancing.

**Aerospace Education** is reserved for the first Tuesday of every month; February 2 was no exception. Cadets studied the basics flight, and built and flew paper airplanes for aerospace education. Airplane contest win-

ner was C/Ab Martinez with a flight of 49 feet.

February 9 was a true celebration! C/Major Klier passed the torch of squadron leadership to C/CMSgt Cook. C/Major Klier was a trailblazer and “way maker” for the Kodiak Composite Squadron. He was the first cadet in Kodiak’s squadron to lead the squadron as an officer, and he did so for 2 years with distinction. He was the first officer of every rank Lt through Major in Kodiak Composite Squadron. He was the first Color Guard Commander of Kodiak’s Color Guard team. He led the Color Guard to two Alaska Wing Color Guard Championships and one Regional Color Guard 4th place in California. He maintained a high level of fitness throughout and encouraged other members to work hard on their own fitness. He ran cross country in the Kodiak High School team. During his role he also took classes at Kodiak College and worked at a local business. Kodiak Composite Squadron appreciates his hard work and dedication. We look forward to seeing where life takes him.

**Promotions:** C/MSgt Cottle, C/CMSgt Lorch

Red Service Award for 2 year membership. C/CMSgt Cook, C/CMSgt Lorch, C/MSgt Cottle, C/MSgt Simeonoff, C/TSgt Ostlund

Cadet Commander Change of Command: C/Major Klier was relieved by C/CMSgt Cook.

C/CMSgt Klier received the Cadet Advisory Council Ribbon for one year of service.

C/CMSgt Cook was awarded the Air Force Association NCO Award.

Facing page photos: Kodiak cadets respond to simulated Amputation, head wound and gut wound of 2Lt Velma Vining (top); Cadets participate in Naval Special Warfare Survival Training Kodiak (bottom).



# AK-093 Lake Hood

<https://lakehood.cap.gov/>

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Karen Padgett

Happy Birthday to Lake Hood Squadron! On February 13, 2021, Lake Hood Cadet Squadron celebrates its third birthday.

To recap the last three years with Lake Hood Squadron, the first informational meeting was held at the Alaska Aviation Museum on Lake Hood in Anchorage, Alaska on December 7, 2017. The high degree of interest shown by potential members encouraged 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Mark Ransom to proceed with forming the squadron. The squadron officially chartered, and the applicants officially became members on February 13, 2018. The squadron then consisted of twelve Cadets with no rank and six Senior Members.

In three years, Lake Hood has “commissioned” seven cadet officers and now includes 25 cadets ranging from Airman to Cadet Major.

Ransom recently wrote, “Few things in my life in or out of Civil Air Patrol have brought me as much gratification as I enjoyed by launching the Lake Hood Cadet Squadron three years ago. I was working at the Alaska Aviation Museum at the time, and thought the venue was ideal for a CAP cadet unit. In many ways I was right, but the site also provided many challenges. Still, it was sufficient to get a running start, and I was able to see my personal goals realized.

Initially I thought I would re-join CAP for one year, get the new squadron up and running, get it stable, and turn it over to folks more competent. (Laughs) Well, I was actually the commander for over two years, but anyone could see early on that I was surrounded by those ‘folks more competent,’ dedicated and enthusiastic senior members who were in it for the cadets as much as I was. I was also in awe to see cadets break out of the chute with unbending determination, absorbing the program and rising from cadet basic to seasoned officers within that two-year span. As a result, Lake Hood Squadron continues to be on solid footing, and I couldn’t be more proud.”



Lake Hood Squadron continues strong. The squadron continues to meet weekly on Tuesdays, usually starting at 6:30pm AST. Especially when meeting virtually, the squadron invites any CAP members from anywhere in the country to join us. To join us in our weekly meetings, see the Events tab on [www.lakehood.cap.gov](http://www.lakehood.cap.gov) for meeting locations and times.

Since the last monthly newsletter, Lake Hood had the following weekly meet-

ings.

- January 19<sup>th</sup>: Virtual PT meeting with C/2d Lt Cedar Shuler leading cadets and senior members in a vigorous workout.
- January 26: Character Development meeting on the topic of Feedback lead by C/2d Lt Liam Dupras. Col McClure attended as a Distinguished Visitor to congratulate cadets and senior members on the awards and promotions listed below.
- February 2: Virtual Guest Speaker AST2 Paul Wiedenhoeft, Rescue Swimmer from US Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak
- February 9: Aerospace Education lesson and Aircraft Groundhandling training provided by C/2d Lt Sigge Mellerstig and Major Ben Padgett.

Lake Hood Cadet Squadron awards from January 15 to February 15, 2021:

- 1st Lt Karen Padgett - Garber (Level IV) Award
- C/CMSgt Ben Walkup - Nomination to the US Air Force Academy, Congressman Don Young
- C/Maj Alan Padgett, C/Maj Ryan Padgett, C/A1C Mason Beiler - Three-year membership
- C/2d Lt Cedar Shuler -- Lake Hood Squadron AFSA NCO of the Year

Recent **promotions** include

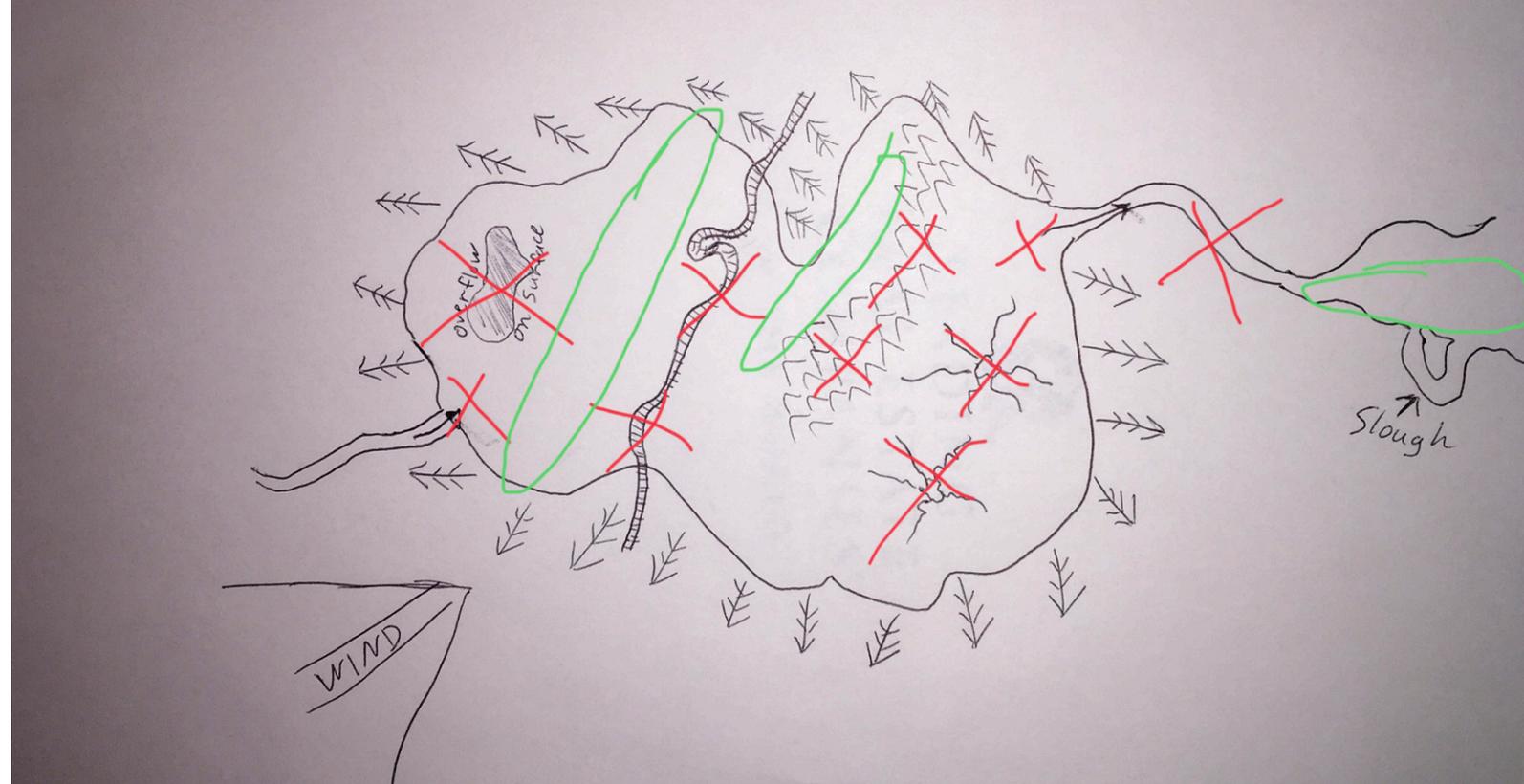
- New Cadet Dominic Brunelle
- Wright Brothers Award C/SSgt Madeline Ashlock
- Wright Brothers Award C/SSgt Taran Harris-Barnes
- Billy Mitchell Award C/2d Lt Kaden Cook (who has since enlisted in the Army National Guard and is currently in basic training)
- Billy Mitchell Award C/2d Lt Liam Dupras
- Billy Mitchell Award C/2d Lt Cedar Shuler
- C/Maj Annika Ziesmer
- Major Ben Padgett

Stay tuned to hear how Lake Hood’s virtual Red Ribbon Leadership Academy (RRLA) with Northwood Elementary goes! The operations plan will be available to any other squadrons who may want to try a running a virtual RRLA. It’s a great community service, opportunity for cadets to lead, and a possible recruitment tool.



**Want to donate?**

Click here, choose "Wing Squadron" in Purpose Selection & type "PCR-AK-093 Lake Hood" in donor note.



The Alaska Wing hosted an illuminating three hour virtual ski plane clinic on Saturday, February 6. Approximately 70 participants heard harrowing tales of what NOT to do as well as helpful hints for safely landing and departing off-airport in the bush. Maj Lance Bruner organized several presentations by experienced winter fliers to remote locations.

Capt Dj Burand offered a case study of reading a remote lake. He drew the hypothetical Lake Onomatopoeia and marked it with red Xs for hazards evident from the air and green lines for feasible landing locations. Hazards included:

- An in-flowing/outflowing CREEK (bottom left and top right), where flowing water may decrease the thickness of the ice.
- OVERFLOW (left), where saturated snow can slow down a taxiing plane and, worse, possibly trap and freeze the skis. The depth of overflow is difficult to predict until one is in it but there is “normally” a solid base

of ice underneath it in mid-winter to keep a plane from sinking to the bottom of the lake.

- The rutted PATH of a snowmachine (middle top to bottom). Hitting one of these on landing or takeoff with any speed faster than a walk can damage a ski or bend the plane’s struts.
- Drifting MOUNDS of snow (the undulating “M”s) are unpredictably hard and high.
- SPIDER HOLES (right) are or were open water on the surface, perhaps due to methane releases from decaying matter on the bed of the lake. These areas, like the extensive cracking resulting from an earthquake, are of uncertain load bearing capacity and should be avoided.

In Capt. Burand’s assessment, there are three possible landing areas on this map, all into the wind. He recommends the following considerations before landing:

- How tall are the trees along the shore and how might they affect both landing and take-off (length of usable lake surface, wind turbulence, drifts of snow in their leeward side, visibility/shadows, etc.)?
- Are there sufficient resources on the ground to get me to safety or back in the air (nearby cabins, snowmachiners, roads, spruce boughs, cell phone reception, etc.)?
- Do I have appropriate equipment in the plane to help if I get stuck (shovels, snowshoes, a come along, other?) or to communicate for help?\*
- How much daylight is left? Is the weather likely to change?
- Do I know how to improvise a tie-down if a stay is required (hint: get ice screws)?
- If I decide NOT to land here, do I have sufficient fuel and daylight to land elsewhere? Have I communicated my options in advance to my flight release officer or other person who may need to contact emergen-

cy services?

REMEMBER: take-offs are optional but landings are mandatory.

Do you want to practice off-airport winter landings before a future CAP search and rescue mission? A CAP member volunteers his home location that is a 35 minute flight north of Anchorage on a lake with no landing strip this winter. Pilots can test their procedures and emergency bag, but have the back up of a warm cabin and a couple of snowmachines with come-alongs, if needed.

March is a great time for winter flying with the longest days of the season. Clear days yield magnificent views of distant mountains and possible landing spots. Plan now for your next remote wilderness adventure.

## Communications

Alaska is fortunate to gain the knowledge and experience of Lieutenant Colonel Diego A. Irizarry from Puerto Rico Wing, 4900 air miles from Anchorage, AK. He holds the Duty Position of Assistant Director of Communications – Training. We affectionately call him the “Oso Famoso” or Famous Bear. Welcome!

Lt Col Irizarry has been an active participant with CAP for 24 years, with ten years of service in Communications, including 6 years as a dedicated Message Center Station. Along the way, he also earned his Level 4 Command and Staff, Professional Development award. He participates nearly daily on the CAP’s National Traffic Network (NTN) in which Puerto Rico and Alaska are unique nodes because the two locations can cover the whole nation in support of continuous relays of information during emergencies, communications trainings, and message handling on behalf of CAP and the United States Air Force.



“The more trained radio communicators that a Wing has, the more assistance it can offer in any emergency,” observes Irizarry. “For example, CAP Puerto Rico qualified Air Crew personnel were the first responders after Hurricane Maria. We took over 60,000 pictures for Homeland Se-

curity so they could quickly see the scope of the devastation.

In the Alaska Wing, I plan to build our bench strength of communicators to provide real-time, actionable information to Incident Command during search and rescue operations.”

Starting this month, Lt Col Irizarry will head up the training and advancement for CAP members in Communications. He will reach out to the 34 people who have registered to start their Technician rating, to squadron leaders who lack ICUT training, ICUT evaluators or a communications Officer on their duty roster, as well as cadet leaders. He is here to help.

Readers can email Lt Col Irizarry directly ([diego.irest@gmail.com](mailto:diego.irest@gmail.com)) to get help in completing the requirements of each level of the Communications Specialty Track. Winter is a good time to take these!

## Diversity

By 2d Lt Elizabeth Justus

The Alaska Wing Diversity Team has formed and is now meeting monthly. The team has created a webpage on the Alaska Wing Website. It is under the “Members” tab at <https://akwg.cap.gov/members1/diversity>.

So far, the Diversity website contains some resources that may be helpful to Squadron Commanders, DCCs, and others. One example of the resources posted includes an entertaining and informative recording of a CAP National Conference presentation by CAP Major/Chaplain Kwan Sung called, “Culture Concerns: Managing Unconscious Bias.” This presentation is suitable for showing to squadron leadership, all Senior Members in your squadron, and even cadets, though we recommend a senior member view it first. We hope to soon plan some local (Alaska) activities, which will be listed on the Wing Diversity webpage and on the Alaska Wing calendar

The Diversity Team has drafted an Alaska Wing Diversity and Inclusion plan and will also post that on the website when it is finalized.

To find out more about the Diversity and Inclusion within Alaska Wing or if you are interested in serving on the Diversity Team, please contact 2d Lt Elizabeth Justus, Wing Diversity Officer, at 907-538-3163 or [641341@akwg.cap.gov](mailto:641341@akwg.cap.gov).

## Safety

Safety is a byproduct of excellent mission execution. If we approach every task, in every CAP operation, with a sincere desire to get the mission done with minimum risk while preserving our resources for future missions - we operate safely. This applies equally in all areas of our lives - in the air, on the ground, at work and in our homes. As we begin to move forward as a wing into the higher operations tempos that come with Spring in Alaska, I encourage everyone to focus on increasing their capabilities in their chosen mission areas - integrating relevant risk management into everything they do.

As a wing, we have done an amazing job of continuing to operate smartly and safely during the pandemic. Let’s continue to be excellent wingmen and leaders as we move forward, together. Col Kevin McClure, AKWG Commander

## Tail Section



[Donate Now](#)



Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 single-engine Cessna aircraft and 1,550 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked

by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Members serve as mentors to about 25,000 young people participating in CAP’s Cadet Programs. One of the premier public service organizations in America, CAP benefits the nation with an estimated economic impact of \$209 million annually. Visit [www.CAP.News](http://www.CAP.News) or [www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com).

All units are encouraged to keep copies of their internal and external Public Affairs activities. Those documents can be attached to the A-1 Public Affairs worksheet that is required from each unit. In addition, if all the units would do their Continued Compliance that is required and

upload their activities with this information monthly, it would keep them current in the requirement. The entire Alaska Wing Staff thanks you for all you do on behalf of our wing and our organization. Your membership, dedication, hard work and [donations](#) are most appreciated.

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