

# Civil Air Patrol

Magazine - June 2022



Glider Academy Issue

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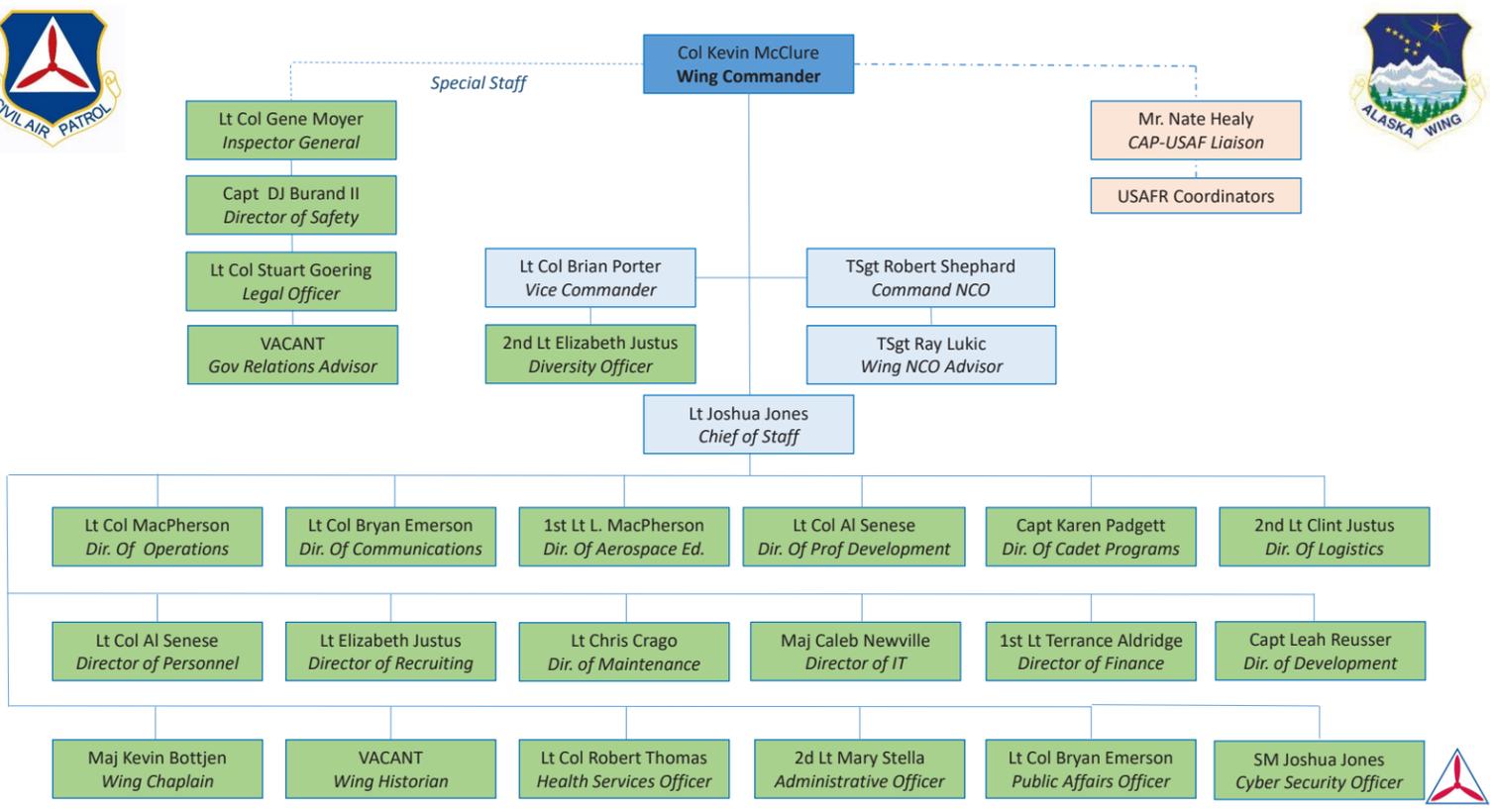


Cover: Maj Ute Kaden, who contributed the majority of photos in this issue, congratulates a newly-soloed cadet.

# Left Seat



Open Mic night, every 3rd Wed at 1900



CAO 29 Apr 22

**Register now for**  
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2022 CAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE, Louisville, August 25 - 27  
2022 AKWG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ANC, October 2-3

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# Civil Air Patrol

U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

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# 2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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# Glider Academy

## Alaskan Cadets Raise the Bar in Their Glider Flight Training!

-Staff Writer

Over the course of ten days in (and over) Alaska's interior wilderness, 27 May through 5 June 2022, seventeen cadets from across the state participat-

ed in Alaska Wing's Glider Flight Academy (GFA'22) that, for the first-time, included advanced, pre-solo and orientation flight training courses. Building on Lt Col Dik Holder's legacy of offering first-time glider flight students orientation flights as they support solo candidates, Alaska Wing added an

"advanced" student curriculum to the academy. "As a wing, we need to find a better way to help cadets who have soloed a glider pursue their Private Pilot Glider certification," remarked a former Alaska Wing cadet. "We need to start with getting them through ground school so they can knock out

their written test, and then support them in reaching their checkride goal with realistic FAA practical test preparation."

Alaska Wing Operations and Cadet Programs Directorates took that feedback and ran with it, developing a year-



2 Gliders positioned for hook up; 2 crews ready to launch into the "Wild Blue!"

long plan to get students ready to test. 5 Alaska Wing cadets were selected for advanced training; C/Lt Col Annika Ziesmer, C/Lt Col Katarina Lukic, C/Capt Mitchell Anderson, C/Capt Michael Porter and C/1st Lieutenant Sigge Mellerstig. These students worked hard for 6 months to grind out their prerequisites including FAA Private

Pilot Ground School and their written Airman's Knowledge Test. Meanwhile, more than 30 applications for the 2022 Glider Flight Academy were reviewed by a wing selection board to select the 6 Pre-Solo students and 6 Orientation students.

As students received glider textbooks

and crew assignments, Alaska Wing Director of Glider Operations Lt Col Don "TD" Burand was hard at work managing the complicated process of getting the 3 tow aircraft upgraded with new towing assemblies, and the 3 Alaska Wing gliders ready for the season. As the start of the academy drew near, it became apparent that our beloved

orange glider, the venerable Schweizer 2-33 was not going to be ready to fly in time for the academy. Rather than cut students of sorties, the instructors, tow pilots and ground support personnel worked out a demanding, but safely achievable schedule calling for 325 sorties supporting the syllabi of the 3 different sets of students using only the



Solo Pilot C Capt Michael Porter "over the piano keys," completing his last solo "high tow" sortie required for FAA certification.

Wing's high-performance sailplanes, the Blanik L-23 and the Schleicher ASK-21, along with 2 C-182 tow planes.

Settled into the friendly lodging and classroom facilities generously provided by Anderson School (many thanks to 2d Lt Uve Hoffman for arranging these

venues), and enjoying the world-class dining provided by our active duty and Air Guard friends at Clear Space Force Station, the members of GFA'22 got to work. Stalwart Alaska Wing Certified Flight Instructors Colonel Ed Daly, Lt Col Jim "Jasper" McCarthy, Lt Col Don "TD" Burand, Lt Col Scott "TOTA" Lanis,

Major Ute Kaden, joined by Captain Clare Catherine Porter (USAFA Class of '23, current USAFA Soaring Instructor Pilot and former Alaska Wing Spaatz cadet) led their advanced, pre-solo and orientation students through briefings, flights, ground operations, debriefings and ground training across the chal-

lenging 8 days-worth of flying, logging a record-setting 326 sorties! "This really looks like the deck of an aircraft carrier," said "Air Boss" Major Andy "Blast" Coykendall, whose job it was the safely manage the movement of aircraft and personnel on and off Clear Airstrip's runway, a key component of optimizing



Captain Porter preparing for an Emergency Procedures sortie with Advanced Student Cadet Mellerstig.

the academy's number of safe launches and recoveries. This feat was impossible without the NASCAR-like efficiency of the cadet crews and the "rock star" flying skills of tow pilots Lt Col John "Westy" Western, Maj Ben Padgett, Maj James "Hawk" Davis, Capt Paul "Doc" Silveira, SM Tully Ward-Hamer and led by Colonel Tom "Polo" Palmer – turn times were kept to a stunning 3 min-

utes between tow rope drop, landing, taxi-back, hook up and launch!

Cadets and Ground Support Team members included the dynamic duo of Maj Wally and 1st Lt Sarah Parks, WMIRS guru 1st Lt Mary Stella and chase vehicle driver SM Rick Benedict. All told, three of the five advanced students logged all solo and dual in-

struction requirements to take their FAA Private Pilot test. One student had a medical issue that prevented them from flying from mid-week on, and one advanced student needs a few more solo sorties to wrap up their FAA requirements. Students C/Capt Madeline Anderson, C/CMSgt Tommy Clifton, C/SMSgt Logan Sabo, and C/TSgt Kai Halliburton each success-

fully and repeatedly took their glider aloft and returned it to the earth safely, earning their CAP Solo Glider Pilot rating! C/1st Lieutenant Rachel "Viking" Anderson and C/TSgt Alexander "Gabe" Wilson each accomplished supervised solos and won their CAP Pre-Solo Award, ready to solo next year. Orientation flight students C/2d Lt Weisensel, C/CMSgt Andrew Martin,



Clear Space Force Station Commander Lt Col William Hassey visits GFA'22 with his team.

C/CMSgt Dylan Pittsenbarger, C/SMSGt Rick Benedict, C/MSgt Caelyn Wise, and C/MSgt Christina Wise “slipped the surlies” and learned the ropes, and are well-prepared to return next year as Pre-Solo students.

As a bonus, the National Commander Maj Gen Phelka personally reviewed the pre-flight preparation and daily emergency procedures of the cadets, calling into the morning coordination brief (well done, cadets Lukic and Porter) and addressing the team during the CAP-wide Safety Focus Day held mid-academy. Additionally, Lt Col Holder was able to virtually address the Alaska Glider Flight Academy Class of 2022 during the graduation ceremony. “We started this academy 19 years ago, trying to help cadets all over the state get their chance to fly,” explained Lt Col Holder. “They have the opportunity many of us didn’t, and now they can pay it forward,” added long-time academy director.

As the last sorties safely landed and the gliders were disassembled and trailered, this year’s activity director Lt Col Brian “Irish” Porter reflected “We owe so much to those dedicated, driven and selfless volunteers who taught, flew, pushed and towed these cadets! Alaska really has a full-spectrum glider

‘pilot pipeline,’ built on the wing’s exceptional glider program and directly shaped by the cadet pilots who came before - and those who continue to pursue their aviation goals. I can’t wait to see what these senior members and cadets will do next year!”

Cadets who wish to apply for the 2023 Glider Flight Academy, and want to improve their board score, should do all they can to prepare themselves, including working on their individual progress in CAP, completing FAA ground school (either in-person with a flight instructor or online), and their FAA Private Pilot written test prep:

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/emergency-services/education-and-training/private-pilot-written-test-preparation-courses>

Also, interested cadets should complete the CadetInvest application process (<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/cadetinvest>) as well as the 2023 Alaska Wing Glider Flight Academy application, when available this fall. Cadets should direct any questions about these processes and timelines to their Deputy Commander for Cadets – now, “let’s keep ‘em flying!”

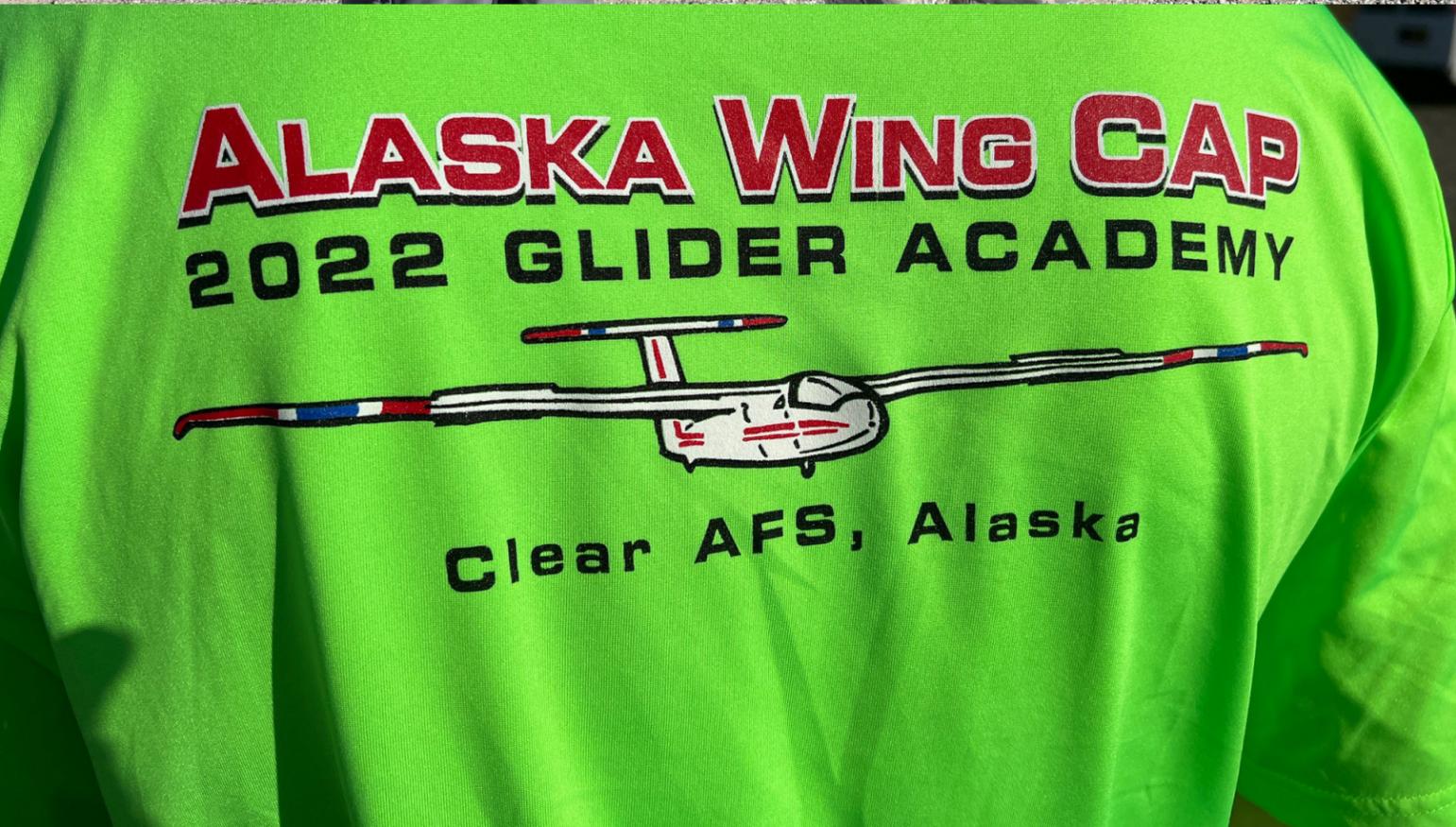


C/Lt Col Annika Ziesmer documenting sorties on the official log.



Glider Assembly at Birchwood Squadron. Photo by 2nd Lt Rena Anderson.





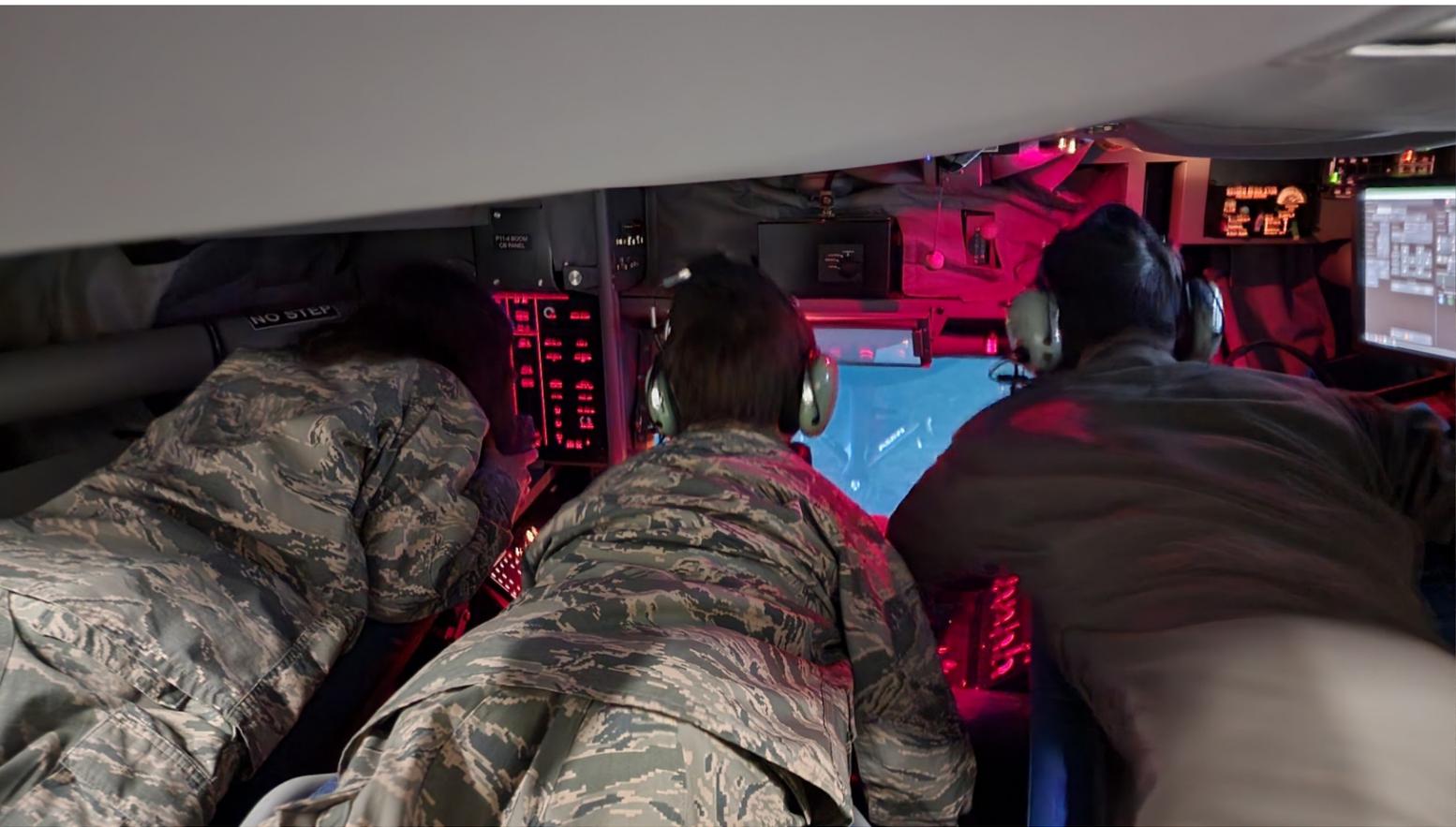


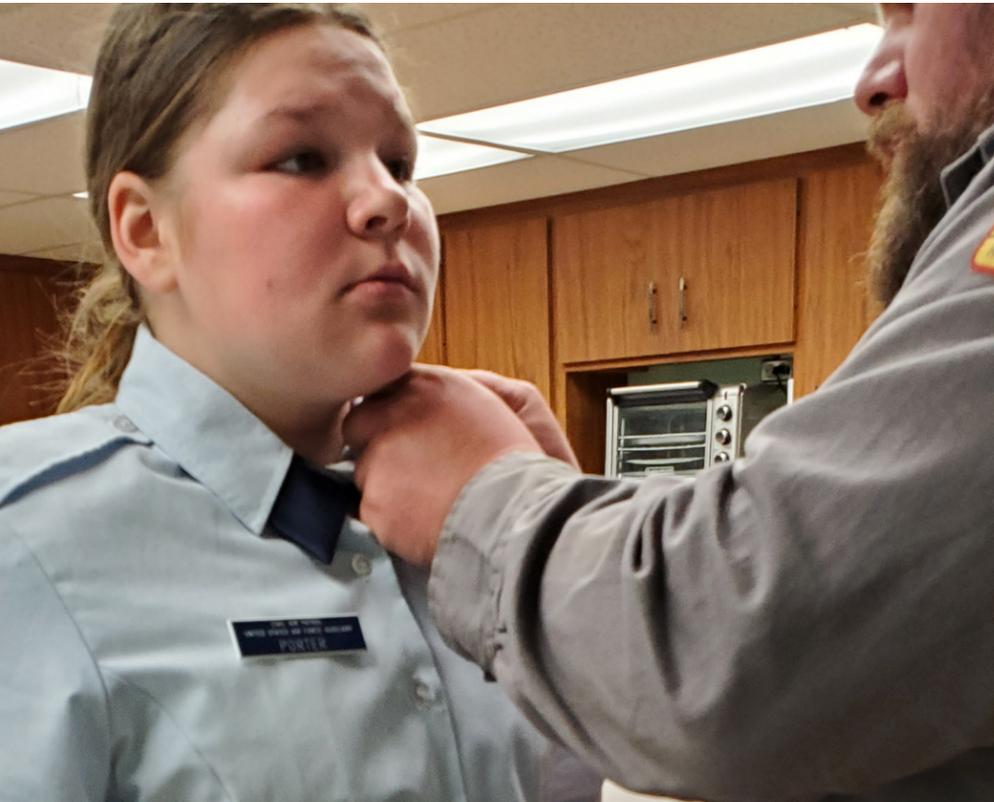
Celebrating the first five solo flights at Glider Academy 2022

# Fairbanks

Cadets from Fairbanks, Eielson, and Delta Junction had the opportunity to visit the 168th ANG and tour the KC-135 last month. Members of the 168th gave

them a tour of the tanker and even let the cadets try their hand at aerial refueling in the BOSS simulator.





C-A1C P Porter Promotion June 2022



C-A1C J Medlin C-CMSgt M Medlin C-CMSgt B Lee C- MSgt L Lee Practice Color Guard



C-CMSgt B Lee C-CMSgt M Medlin Blouse Rolling

Congratulations to C/A1C P Porter for her recent promotion!

Over the last month, several cadets and SMs traveled to Eielson AFB for an AK Air National Guard KC-135 tour hosted by the 168th Wing. They learned about the KC-135 Boom Operator Simulator System (BOSS) and practiced refueling a tanker. The group, along with 2 other CAP squadrons, received an in-depth tour of the inside and outside of a CK-135. It was a great experience, and the 168th even provided a pizza dinner.

Capt Schmidt completed the Virtual-In-Residence Squadron Commander Course.

One cadet is currently at AKWG Summer Encampment. Capt Schmidt served as Logistics Officer at the highly-successful AKWG Glider Flight Academy at Clear SFS this month, and received a high-tow glider flight piloted by Maj U Kaden. A squadron cadet will be attending Mid-Atlantic Region Honor Guard Academy NCSA later this

summer. 2 cadets are still working on achieving their Mitchell award. The squadron completed its Subordinate Unit Inspection (SUI) with flying colors.

Cadets worked on a TLP using fast cup stacking. They also practiced rolling their ABU blouse sleeves for the summer months. The squadron collected Wreaths Across America wreaths at the local cemetery for disposal. Lt L Stricklin taught the squadron how to set up a helicopter landing zone, and we practiced near the Forestry helicopter site.



# Polaris/Lake Hood

By C/SSgt Keena Bennett

If you ever needed a good reason to join CAP, there's one right here! During the joint Lake Hood/Polaris Squadron meeting on May 31st, cadets were invited to attend a barbecue, which included hamburgers, hot dogs, and apple pie. "It was lots of fun talking about past encampment experiences and talking to cadets who will be attending the upcoming [Alaska Wing] encampment," says C/SSgt Lydia Ori.

Food aside, cadets attending Alaska Wing encampment participated in a "bag drag", where it was determined if they had everything needed for a successful encampment. Luckily, most of them did. It's amazing the sheer number of socks needed for the week. Let's

hope they broke in their boots, too.

Additionally, cadets worked on drill and online tests to promote, and some worked on their TRUST certificates, which authorizes them to fly drones if the opportunity ever arises. You can find the TRUST test at <https://trust.mod-elaircraft.org/group/4/module/4/answer/63>.

To round out a busy month in Alaska Wing, from May 25th to June 5th was the 2022 Alaska Wing Glider Academy. 17 cadets ages 14-18 attended, and many different parts of Alaska were represented. Several cadets were from Lake Hood and Polaris squadrons. The included photo is of all the female participants in the academy. Photo courtesy of Maj Ute Kaden.

# Encampment (a sneak preview)

Encampment on JBER in Anchorage ends after this edition is published so stay tuned for lots of photos and accomplishments next month. We look forward to hearing your stories! Photos courtesy of C/Maj Soren Koh and his PA staff.



# Alaska Wing CAP Remote Switch Control

The column on the left will show the name of the smart device. The button on the right will show the current state of the device. Click the button to toggle the device status. If you turn on the device, please remember to turn it off when you are done. All devices will be automatically turned off at midnight.

NOTE: It will take a few seconds to toggle the device state after you click the button.

IYS Training Beacon 121.775

BCV Training Beacon 121.775

Trail Lake Beacon 121.775

Off
Off
Off

If no devices or incorrect devices are showing above, reset your cookies using this button.

Reset Cookies



Thanks to Lt Col Tom Palmer’s engineering skills and Maj Caleb Newville’s programming expertise, the remote practice beacons may now be activated remotely for flying proficiency at [http://apps2.akwg.cap.gov/switch\\_control/](http://apps2.akwg.cap.gov/switch_control/) Hope to see you overhead soon!

Left: Homesteaders place logs on the ground to signal to the aircrew that all is well (“Lima Lima”).



Lt Elizabeth Justus with test pilot Melissa Burns in Valdez.

## Tail Section

### In the News:

- Note: A memorial service was held at the Alaska Air Museum On the evening of May 31 in honor of Robert Lee Brouillette, AKWG Wing Commander from 2001 to 2005. We greatly appreciate his many contributions to CAP.
- [Young pilots with an eye for aviation careers get a jumpstart at Civil Air Patrol's glider camp](#)
- [Fairbanks and Eielson Civil Air Patrol tour 168th Wing KC-135 mission](#)

The annual Glider Academy at Clear Space Force base was a huge success! Please enjoy the pictures here and on the Wing's Facebook page as you will see both the hard work and fun all had there.

This online publication is designed to attract, inform and motivate readers through photos, text and stories. We see and feel the four core values in the faces and body language of the cadets and senior members portrayed herein.

If you would like to propose any content by the 15th of

each month or provide feedback then please contact me.

*Volunteers serving America's communities, saving lives, and shaping futures.*

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