



Civil Air Patrol

Magazine
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Manifest

General

- 04 Left Seat
- 06 Cadet Programs
- 11 Diversity
- 12 Logistics
- 22 Operations - Nome
- 24 Safety

- 18 Education and Training
- 29 Tail Section

Squadrons

- 16 Birchwood
- 18 Polaris/Lake Hood
- 20 Delta
- 27 Kenai
- 28 Arcturus



Cover, left to right: unknown, C/MSgt Paul Smoot, sporting the signature orange gear at Hawk Mountain Ranger School, and C/2d LT Reagan Benedict. This page: A photo of one of the CAP planes with the Thunderbirds in the background, courtesy of C/Lt Col Annika Ziesmer.

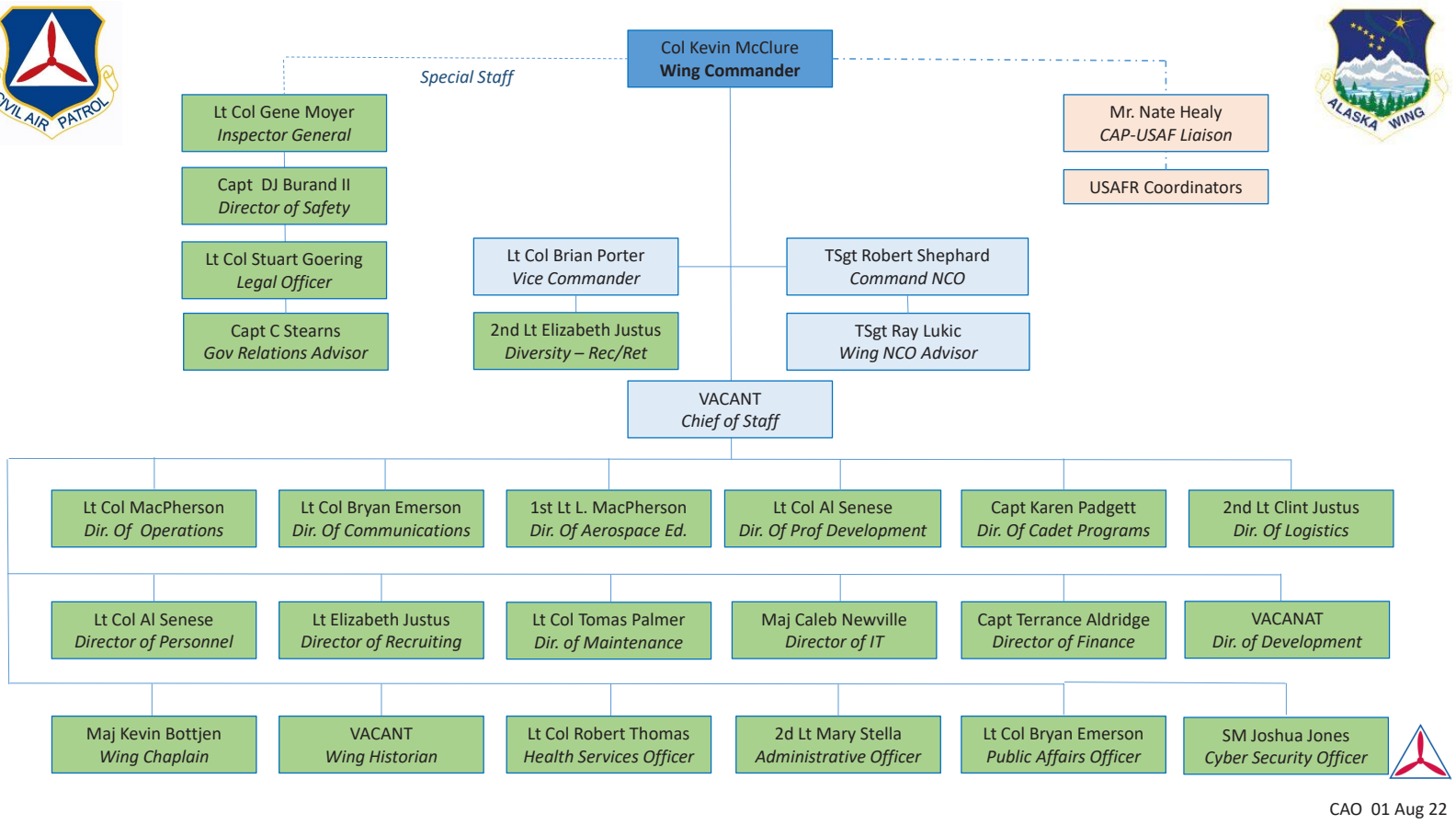
Left Seat



Open Mic night, every 3rd Wed at 1900



Kodiak color guard cadets place second nationally! [ARTICLE HERE.](#)



CAO 01 Aug 22

Register now for
[2022 CAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE](#), Louisville, August 25 - 27
[2022 AKWG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ANC, OCTOBER 1](#)

- [CLICK HERE](#) to see current Wing Staff position vacancies including:
- Commander, AK-93
 - Character Development Instructor
 - Chief of Staff, AKWG
 - Historian
 - Public Affairs - Public Relations, Digital Engagement and Creative Services
 - Supply Officer

Civil Air Patrol

U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Save the Date:
August 25-27
 In-Person Event

Registration Begins Early 2022

2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Galt House / Louisville, KY

Connect • Learn • Celebrate

Cadet Programs

This summer, cadets have scattered throughout the US, attending various National Cadet Special Activities (NCSAs) and staffing encampments!

More than 20 Alaska Wing cadets have attended NCSAs this summer. Some have already returned! Read their stories below, and refer to the Kodiak Composite Squadron article to read about Kodiak cadets' experience at the National Cadet Competition!

Eight cadets from 5 different AKWG squadrons attended the 2022 Hawk Mountain Ranger School NCSA, and Col Brian "Irish" Porter returned to instruct the Aircrew Survival Class.

Located in Kempton, Pennsylvania, Hawk Mountain Ranger School is the longest-running Search & Rescue School in the nation. For over 65 years, HMRS has provided high-quality wilderness SAR training to cadets and seniors throughout the country.

C/2d Lt Reagan Benedicts from Birchwood Squadron says, "My favorite part of HMRS was the FTX, or Field Training Exercise. I enjoyed the intense physical training and the harsh conditions. We were able to use skills learned before

the FTX in the classroom and practice them in a real-world situation. I learned many useful skills I hope to bring back to my squadron. I would highly recommend this activity and plan on returning next year."

C/TSgt Grania Wegemer from Lake Hood Squadron says, "My favorite part of my experience at Hawk Mountain was the FTX, where we got to hike up the mountain and really experience what a true SAR mission would be like. What I got out of Hawk was a once-in-a-lifetime experience where I got to truly understand what makes a motivated team. What I recommend to any cadets or Senior Members interested in attending Hawk Mountain is fully prepare yourself for the journey ahead; it will be challenging but one of the most rewarding experiences of your life."

C/MSgt Paul Smoot from the Fairbanks Squadron says, "What I enjoyed most at my NCSA was the monsoon that happened on our FTX. We had to build shelters as quickly as possible in the pouring rain, lightning, and darkness. I was the only one that slept well in my squadron that night."

Right: C/2d Lt Tommy Clifton at SUPT NCSA at Columbus AFB, MS.



Cadet Programs, continued

Other cadets who attended include Cadets Keena Bennett, Sigge Mellerstig, Michael Porter, Josiah Wise, and Logan Wong from Lake Hood, Polaris, Birchwood, and Valdez Squadrons.



Above: C/TSgt Grania Wegemer (far right) and other members of Charlie Flight start a fire at HMRS.

Padgett attends Space Force Operations Academy (SFOA) at Patrick SFB and has advice for all cadets. In July, C/Lt Col Alan Padgett attended one of the Space Force Operations Academies, this one at Patrick SFB near Cocoa Beach, FL. The purpose of the academy is to expose cadets to careers that support Space Force operations and ideals of leadership and service through aerospace education and training. The SFOA at Patrick SFB included behind-the-scenes tours, briefings, and expert guest speakers on the various aspects of US missions and roles in space.

Padgett's favorite part of the SFOA NCSA was seeing the Artemis rocket that is scheduled to launch on August 29, 2022. He also enjoyed having access to things a regular tourist would never see, and meeting people who are discovering new technologies and running experiments.

He recommends cadets talk to people who have been to NCSAs. He encourages all cadets to expand their horizons, explaining that something that may not at first seem interesting often becomes more interesting when you learn more about it. He goes on to say that, in Civil Air Patrol, you will have experiences at NCSAs you will not find anywhere else.

Right: C/Lt Col Alan Padgett & others check out apparatus in NASA's Cryogenics Lab to learn about how NASA engineers design space vehicle components to be suitable for the harsh environment of space.



Martin attends Aircraft Manufacturing Academy (AMA) NCSA in Independence, KS. For the AMA NCSA, cadets spend a week at Textron Avi-

ation doing hands-on work, learning how aircraft are built and how major manufacturers and airlines handle normal and unexpected maintenance problems. This NCSA is designed for cadets interested in a career in the general aviation industry as pilots or as airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanics. This NCSA also offers internships, some of which are exclusively for CAP cadets!

In July, C/CMSgt Adrienne Martin (photo below) attended the Aircraft Maintenance and Manufacturing NCSA in Independence, KS. She states, "What I enjoyed most from this activity was the camaraderie with the fellow cadets. I experienced what it was like to work on the airframes, and it brought a more human outlook. I would absolutely recommend attending as it is very important to fully understand the amount of time and skill that goes into the airplanes we fly."



Clifton attends Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) NCSA at Columbus AFB, MS

CAP hosts two SUPT NCSAs. In July, C/2d Lt Thomas Clifton attended the SUPT at Columbus AFB, Mississippi. The objective of the Mississippi event is to simulate the US Air Force's SUPT as closely as possible. Cadets could not receive the USAF pilot training, but they did get a close representation of what the academics, testing, and training environment are like for USAF SUPT students.

Clifton's favorite part of the NCSA was the challenge this NCSA presented. Clifton states, "I came into the week dreading the academics. But after the first day, I started to get excited about taking the next test and discovering not only my potential but the entire flight's potential. As the week progressed, our flight formed a very tight-knit team. By the end of the second day, we had begun to learn each other's strengths and weaknesses. That teamwork significantly boosted our performance and our morale. Being a part of that team was my favorite part of this activity."

Clifton highly recommends this NCSA for other cadets interested in becoming pilots in the US Air Force. His ad-

Cadet Programs, continued

vice, if choosing one SUPT NCSA over another, is to consider that the SUPT in Mississippi is more academic than the one in Texas.

C/MSgt Orion Bender's flight successfully completes a Team Leadership Problem at the Columbus AFB SUPT.

NCSA Participants: Please email your favorite NCSA photo and a few sentences about your NCSA, what your favorite thing was, and why other cadets should apply, to cp@akwg.cap.gov

- NCSA information—click on each link to learn more NOW before these NCSAs are removed to make room for next year's similar NCSAs: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/activities/national-cadet-special-activities>
- Many NCSAs have their own Facebook pages and websites:
 - SmugMug photos for many NCSAs: <https://photos.cap.gov/National-Cadet-Special-Activities>
 - Hawk Mountain Ranger School: <https://www.facebook.com/caphmrs> & <https://www.capranger.org/>
 - Columbus AFB Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training

(SUPT) FC: <https://www.facebook.com/SUPTFCCAP>

- National Blue Beret (Oshkosh Air Show) NCSA: <https://www.facebook.com/NBBCAP>
- Laughlin AFB Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) FC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/18564819019>
- E-Tech Robotics NCSA at USAFA: <https://www.facebook.com/EV3activity/>
- Patrick SFB Space Ops Academy: <https://www.facebook.com/afspaceflcap>
- Aircraft Maintenance & Manufacturing NCSA: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CAP.NCSA.AMMA/>
-
- Mark your calendars: Next Cadet-Invest (Financial Aid/Scholarship) Application Window: October 1 to Dec 31, 2022. AKWG's goal is for all active cadets to submit at least basic information to CadetInvest. In 2022, eight cadets' NCSA travel and tuition expenses were covered by NHQ!!
- Register for NCSAs starting Dec 1, 2022 with an "Early Ontime" Deadline of Jan 15, 2023.

Diversity



Armed Forces Officers Roberts, Garcia & Alaska Wing Diversity Officer Rec Ret

Logistics/Plans and Programs - JBER Airshow

Alaska Wing Participates in the JBER "Arctic Thunder" Open House and Airshow.

No, the GA8 isn't on fire! The smoke is from pyrotechnics used for a demonstration of joint airpower tactics on the airfield behind LTC McCarthy and the Airvan.



Logistics/Plans and Programs - JBER Airshow, continued

On Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson held its Arctic Thunder Open House and Airshow after a long hiatus of 4 years.

Alaska Wing participated with the static display of two aircraft - our new G1000-equipped Cessna 182 and a Gippsland GA-8 Airvan. The aircraft were staged directly outside of the huge Hangar 2, while inside the hangar, we set up display tables to distribute CAP brochures and show motivational videos. We intended to operate the (former Medalion) mobile flight simulator that the Wing acquired from the FAA. The simulator proved to be a very popular attraction for visitors earlier this summer at the Valdez Airshow and the Alaska Aviation Trade Show. Unfortunately, a video card failed when the simulator was powered on early Saturday morning, so the simulator became a "static display" itself. Nevertheless, both the static dis-

plays and information booth saw many visitors, informing them about Alaska Wing and its CAP missions, and no doubt generating a few new recruits.

Staffing the static displays and information booth required volunteers from all four Anchorage Bowl squadrons; so, here is a big THANKYOU to the following folks for their participation: Capt Terry Aldridge, C/Capt Mitchell Anderson, 2Lt Rena Anderson, C/SrA Talen Benjamin, LTC Mike Chiesa, C/2Lt Taran Harris-Barnes, 2Lt Clint Justus, 2Lt Elizabeth Justus, C/MSgt Ryan Justus, C/A1C Adeline Martin, C/CMSgt Adrienne Martin, C/CMSgt Andrew Martin, Cdt Avery Martin, C/SMSgt Adam McArthur, LTC Jim McCarthy, C/SrA Dawson Michele, SM Jack Minko, SM Larissa Myers-McCoin, SM Marie Nelson, C/Amn Thomas Owens, C/LTC Ryan Padgett, 2Lt Steve Prindle, C/TSgt Grania Wegemer, LTC John Western, C/LTC Annika Ziesmer.



Above: C LTC Annika Ziesmer (093), 2d Lt Prindle(017), 2d Lt E. Justus(017), SM Marie Nelson (017), LTC Jim McCarthy (017), CSrA Talen Benjamin (015). Below: Lt Col John Western.



LTC Mike Chiesa (017), Justus X3, C TSgt Grania Wegemer (093)



Birchwood

In June, Birchwood Cadets had the opportunity to apply and interview for cadet staff positions. The new positions were announced on June 28th and became effective on July 1. Congratulations to our new staff: C/2nd Lt Benedict (Deputy Cadet Commander), C/CMSgt Moehring (Cadet First Sergeant), C/CMSgt Connolly and C/SMSgt Parker (Flight Commanders), C/SrA Larsen and C/SrA Wilson (Flight Sergeants), C/SSgt Parker and C/SSgt Tolbert-Nielsen (Element Leaders), C/SrA Evans (Public Affairs), C/SrA Tolbert-Nielsen (Logistics), and C/CMSgt Edwards (CAC Assistant Representative). We are excited to train with and glean from these cadets' efforts!

Birchwood Squadron congratulates C/2nd Lt Benedict on recently achieving the Billy Mitchell Award! We are currently in a "Promotions Push" and hope to announce several new promotions in the next Alaska Wing Magazine.

Three Birchwood cadets received glider orientation flights in the last couple of weeks thanks to all of the awesome glider instructors and tow pilots in the Alaska Wing (too many to mention). In

addition, ten Birchwood cadets recently received powered orientation flights thanks to Major John Nealon, Lt Dennis Eby, and Capt Bill Brown.

Senior Members Steve and Heather Parker stepped up to lead as Fitness Officers. They organized a fun meeting where we inspected backpacks, trained on hills at Loretta French Park with backpacks, and even played Ultimate Frisbee with packs on our backs to help us learn balancing techniques. This was all meant to prepare for a hike in Hatcher Pass, but the hike was unfortunately canceled due to high rainfall and flooding in the Matanuska Valley. The hope is to reschedule if a break in the rain happens soon.

Coming up on August 23rd, we start a "Great Start" meeting which will be open to our current waitlist. Birchwood looks forward to welcoming some new cadet members following the Great Start program.

Opposite page: Cadet Cook Receiving Instruction Prior to a Glider Orientation Flight by 1st LT Rena Anderson.

Below left: Communication Practice in Action during a Team Leadership Problem taken by C/SrA Aidan Evans, Birchwood Squadron Public Affairs Officer.



Polaris/Lake Hood

by C/TSgt Bennett

Lake Hood and Polaris cadets' staff meeting on July 31st was made memorable by pizza, cookies, and brownies. While enjoying the food, cadets had a feedback session where they could voice their ideas on how to make the squadrons better. Great Starts, orientation flights, and the upcoming SAR-EX were also discussed.

Earlier that day and the day prior, cadets from several different squadrons in the Anchorage area helped staff the CAP recruitment booth at the Arctic Thunder airshow, which took place at JBER. Parked between the F-22 Raptors and a C-17 Globemaster were two CAP aircraft, a Cessna 185 and a GA8 Airvan. Though the planes may have been some of the smallest aircraft there, they were definitely no less impressive. Page 2 above is a photo of one of the CAP planes

with the Thunderbirds in the background, courtesy of C/Lt Col Annika Ziesmer.

Several days before the excitement of Arctic Thunder, July's Character Development/Promotions meeting took place on the 26th. This month's topic was "The Importance of Feedback". The class' instructor, Col Brian Porter, quickly engaged the room and had several cadets come to the front and practice giving each other feedback by having one person be the "supervisor" and the other be the "employee". During flight time, some of the cadets participated in a bearing test. Those who cracked a smile early on in the test got to tell their best jokes to the rest of the flight in hopes of breaking someone's bearing. At the end of the meeting, eight cadets promoted, including C/Amns Cone, Horton, Leon, and Owens, C/SrA Benjamin, C/TSgts Ori and Wegemer, and C/SMSGt

Brunelle. Congratulations to all of you!

August's Emergency Services meeting happened on the 2nd, to kick off another busy month. At the beginning of the meeting, cadets newer to the squadrons continued practicing in-place facing movements and began learning marching. After flight time, everyone split into two groups: one group went

on an ELT search, and the other had a shelter building competition. In the end, though, neither team won, as nobody wanted to be late for the SM Change of Command Ceremony. During the ceremony, Capt Chet Harris passed command of the squadrons to Maj Lance Brunner. The attached photo, courtesy of Col Brian Porter, shows Maj Brunner receiving his first salute as Cadet Commander.



Congratulations are due for C/SrA J Medlin's recent promotion. Welcome, also, to new cadet Skyy Knutson, who has been faithfully attending weekly meetings.

Squadron cadets experimented with various flammable items, such as cotton balls in Vaseline, dryer lint in cardboard tubes, waxed paper, and small bags of Doritos, to see which, when lit with only a flint and steel, would burn the longest without kindling. Doritos definitely was the winner, with about a 13-minute burn! Fortunately, there was a rare day without wind and with low fire danger so this could be accomplished.

Capt Schmidt presented the AKWG



Overnight Activity Training to the squadron. Cadet Sponsor A. Lorenzana and C/Amn A. Lorenzana led the cadets in learning to code with one of CAP's current robotics STEM kits.

The month's Character Development lesson on Teamwork was very insightful. The squadron followed this with viewing and discussing a Star Trek: Next Generation's "The First Duty" episode for their leadership lesson on another side of the topic of teamwork.

The squadron is currently accepting cadet applications for the FY2023 AKWG Cadet Advisory Council primary and alternate representatives.



Operations - Nome USCG Mission



CAP SM Jack Minko, Petty Officer 1st Class Nate Littlejohn, Chief Schaeffer, and CAP Capt Alex Dupuis (left to right)

SM Jack Minko and Capt Alex Dupuis mission destinations while flying the Coast Guard Marine Safety Task Force out of Nome. We made it 100% of the USCG's destinations for CAP. They completed all of their facility inspections in the villages of Elim, Golovin, White Mountain, Wales, Shishmaref, Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, and Brevig Mission. [CLICK HERE](#) for the article.



Petty Officer 1st Class Nate Littlejohn (left side of the truck bed). Chief Schaeffer is on the right side in Unalakleet.

Safety

CAP Safety Management System Series-
Our safety culture

“Just”- based on or behaving according
to what is morally right and fair.

- Oxford Languages

In CAP we have a modern safety management system (SMS). This SMS is supported by a safety culture that focuses on proactive risk management. For it to function correctly it requires an informed and involved membership.

To encourage that participation, over the next few months I’m going to be writing a series of articles on how our SMS in CAP works and what roles we all play. I want to remove the mystery of how we handle things in the safety department, as well as encourage individual ownership of the SMS.

This month I’ll start with our safety culture and draw a direct contrast between how we do things now versus the “old safety culture” that many of us grew up with. It is this current culture that informs all of the other components of our SMS so understanding the “why” of what we do is foundational to understanding the “how.”

Before I go further I want to point out that nothing about our culture and SMS is unique to CAP. The shift to the current way of doing things is something

that has taken place in multiple industries and government agencies. While we may use CAP specific terminology and tools, the core tenets I’ll be covering are found in any modern SMS.

Now let’s take a look at the old culture of safety. Its key features were that it was reactive and used a system of punishment to keep people in line. The reactive nature led to occurrences, sometimes catastrophic in nature, happening even though many people in the organization knew there was a problem for some time before a big event happened. Those people weren’t empowered to do anything about it. Often there would be many smaller events or near-misses from which nothing was learned before one big catastrophic event occurred. When the “big one” did happen the organization would react, often with shock.

The second feature of the old system was rule by punishment. Individuals could expect that any occurrence, regardless of whether it was the result of unintentional human error, outside factors, or intentional deviation from policy, would be treated the same: targeted punishment. This led to a culture of hiding errors and occurrences at all cost to avoid drawing attention. Since events were routinely covered up no one was learning from what others had experienced and the organization didn’t have

a chance to improve its systems.

In contrast to the above the current culture features a proactive and just approach. Our goal is continuous improvement through learning, active reporting, and flexibility combined with competency to meet unexpected challenges head on and make sound decisions.

We can be proactive by empowering individuals to raise safety issues and recommend improvements through reporting before an occurrence happens. This way we open up communication between those doing the activities or missions and those assigning them or creating policy. Additionally, by using deliberate risk management to mitigate potential hazards before activities, and by training our members to be flexible enough to react to new hazards in real time, we can create a safe environment for our people and improve our organization’s reliability when it comes to completing missions for our customers (think RCC, USAF, federal and local agencies, etc).

We can’t totally remove all risk, however, and no one is perfect. When things do happen we use a review process to determine what happened and why, not who is to blame. A response is then crafted based on that review. That may mean an organization wide “heads up,” a change in policy, training at an individ-

ual or group level, tracking for trending purposes, or any number of other responses. While we must be accountable for following our policies, we approach occurrences in a just manner that seeks to learn from what happened and continuously improve ourselves and our systems.

None of this works without everyone working together though. The current safety culture is a team sport. It depends on participation from each individual instead of top down mandates. If the individual players aren’t participating it just doesn’t work. So if you’re reading this, consider this my official ask to be an active player in our safety culture and SMS.

Having laid the groundwork with our culture, next I’ll be covering the individual components of our safety system. This will include how to use the proactive suggestion/hazard reporting system, how to respond when an occurrence happens, post-occurrence reporting procedures, the review process, and more.

See you all next month. Until then, stay safe and enjoy your summer.

[REFERENCE HERE.](#)

-Capt DJ Burand



Education and Training

Help Your Squadron Advance! Become a VolU Instructor!

National's vision for this new E&T (Education & Training) program is that each squadron have at least one VolU (Volunteer University) instructor. VolU instructors can teach, in person or virtually, Levels they themselves have completed. If you are interested in joining the team and helping to take CAP education and training into the future, please complete these three steps.

Step 1: Complete the Volunteer University Instructor Application

Step 2: Once your application is approved by region and wing command, you will be enrolled in the VOLU Instructor Course in AXIS for which there are 6 brief modules to work through. For more information or assistance, contact NHQ VolU instructors at instructor@cap.gov

Step 3: After completing the online portion of the Instructor Course, you must participate in a one-hour virtual training session to be fully qualified as a Volunteer University assistant instructor

or instructor and to learn how to enter completed modules in eServices. Sign up for this step using the Education and Training Calendar searching for offerings titled "Instructor Course Virtual Session".

Once you have completed the virtual training session, you will receive your eServices permissions as an instructor or assistant instructor. Questions? Contact us at instructor@cap.gov

Facebook groups that can support you as a VolU instructor:

CAP VolU Instructors group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/378324606770504>

ET- Civil Air Patrol Education & Training Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/635312233678572>

Civil Air Patrol - Virtual Training Notification Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2973181479391506>

(Reference: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/ed-training/volu-main>)

By Capt Karen Padgett

Kenai

Every Monday 6:30 to 8:30 Kenai Cadets and Seniors make Aerospace, Leadership, Safety and Character Development Presentations. C/MSgt Luke Hillyer made a Leadership Presentation to our Composite Squadron. The emphasis was to work together when leading. It brings the greatest results even though it takes longer to accomplish the goals. Seniors learned along with the cadets. Good conversation followed.

Using the Robotic Stem Kit, cadets assembled the Turtle Robot and Sensor Robot. They used a new computer language to make the robots move. The experience was absolutely terrific. Everyone learned new computer language and learned to have a lot of fun! Everybody wants to continue

making the more intricate robots. The Kenai cadets worked on the GES 116 Course. They learned a lot. Poor weather prohibited Orientation flights. C/2dLt Wyatt Cole attended Ground School in Utah. He soloed. He said it was remarkable. CAP continues to help cadets accomplish their dreams.

All cadets are working hard, setting a good example in our community and supporting each other in practicing the Core Values. Cadets drew a Coat of Arms which included their life goals and experiences as they relate to the Core Values. Their Coat of Arms are displayed in our Cadet building. Cadets continue to do for others.



C MSgt Lydia Schwartz and C MSgt Luke Hillyer learn new computer language for robot.



C MSgt Lane Hillyer and C MSgt Matthew Schwartz build their robot.



Arcturus promotion with squadron commander McCarthy.



C Ann Martin promotion.
28 CAP AKWG



Promotion of C MSgt. Shook.



Promotion of C A1C Martin with mom.

Tail Section

In the News:

- [LOCALS WORK TO RESURRECT HOMER CIVIL AIR PATROL](#)
- [\(SIMULATED\) GREAT BALLS OF FIRE: AIRPORT CARRIES OUT EMERGENCY PLAN EXERCISE \(JNU\)](#)
- [KODIAK CADETS PLACE SECOND IN NATIONAL COMPETITION](#)
- [SEARCH ONGOING FOR MAN MISSING IN LAKE ILIAMNA](#)
- [COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY TASK FORCE OPERATES OUT OF NOME](#)
- [TROOPERS EFFECTIVELY END SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN ON LAKE ILIAMNA](#)
- [TWO RESCUED BY NATIONAL GUARD FROM PLANE CRASH NEAR TUSTUMENA LAKE](#)
- [JBER ENCAMPMENT WEEKBOOK](#)

Thank you for helping this magazine grow! Our first edition on November of 2020 had 289 reads and 315 impressions while last month's edition grew to 458 and 1564 respectively. In total since inception we realized 22,930 impressions and 7,420 reads.

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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