



**The Official Magazine of California Wing Civil Air Patrol
Spring 2006**

*Noteworthy Happenings From
Around the California Wing*

**RE:CAP
A California Wing
Flyby**

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California Wing Civil Air Patrol
Eagle Call
P.O. Box 7688
Van Nuys, CA 91409
www.cawg.cap.gov
eaglecall@cawg.cap.gov

A California Wing Flyby

Sonoma Squadron Fights Rushin' Russian

SANTA ROSA— Cadet and Senior members of Redwood Empire Composite Squadron 157 were among those who spent the final hours of 2005 and New Year's Day manning the Sonoma County Emergency Operations Center when the Russian River flooded. At Guerneville, the river rose to 41.65 feet, peaking nearly 10 feet above flood level, inundating the town and damaging nearby Rio



Nido and Monte Rio. Governor Schwarzenegger declared it a disaster area. CAP was tasked by

the EOC with securing its facility as well as guarding a normally unmarked access point, signing in workers, and escorting the press. Ten senior members and three cadets—including Cadet Capt. Zachary Hamill, seen here in Forestville—provided security around the clock under the coordination of 1st Lt. Don Olsen. No lives were lost.—1st Lt. David Reber, PAO

Another "Class of 9/11" Success Story

RIVERSIDE—Capt. Jon Stokes, newly installed commander of San Bernardino Senior Squadron 5 (here with Lt. Col. Jon Meyer, right, at the change of command) was recognized in the "San Bernardino County Achievers and Volunteers"

column of the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*. Capt. Stokes told the newspaper that he'd joined Civil Air Patrol after the events of September 11th because, never having joined the military, he felt he hadn't done his part for the country. The publication of

the column immediately led to visits by three prospective members, two of whom have since joined up.—**Capt. James Daley, PAO**



Committed to the CORE

OAKLAND—A dozen members of Amelia Earhart Senior Squadron 188 trained here for disaster relief in the Federal Emergency Management Agency program CORE, Citizens of Oakland Responding to Emergencies. The City of Oakland Fire Department conducted the training through the Office of Emergency Services.

The curriculum for the three-part program, conducted over several days, includes a simulated disaster exercise and working with the local community toward the goal of ensuring self-sufficiency for several days in the event of a disaster.

FEMA classifies CORE as a CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) program.—**Lt. Col. Dennis Matarrese**



The Noble-ity of Acting

SANTA MONICA—Expect flight-line double takes at the sight of 1st Lt. Bob Noble over the summer, as the ad campaign for Washington Mutual in which he stars as a fraudulently unreformed banker has been in full swing since March. A pilot with Clover Field Composite Squadron 51, Lt. Noble had a reoccurring role as the President's butler in *West Wing* and made prominent guest appearances on *Crossing Jordan* and *Boston Legal* last season. A proud Vietnam veteran, Noble served in U.S. Air Force intelligence during the war years, though he humbly stipulates, with respect to his brothers in arms, that he was not stationed "in country." He promises to never rip off his flight suit in the manner of the commercial to reveal some anti-CAP alter ego. Photos: Courtesy of Leo Burnett USA, Chicago.—**Capt. Greg Solman, Editor**



Squadron 144 'Touched' by Katrina Briefing

SAN DIEGO—Maj. Christopher Van Gorder returned in February to the squadron he once commanded to present his personal, professional perspective on Katrina efforts in Houston, where many displaced hurricane victims relocated.

Maj. Van Gorder, CEO of the Scripps Health chain of hospitals and clinics in La Jolla, said that he'd dispatched a medical response team of 71 doctors, nurses, and first responders to Houston last October at the command of U.S. Surgeon General Vice Admiral Richard Carmona.

His briefing summarized his team's findings in PowerPoint presentations and videos. Members said they were "touched" by his video essays.

Maj. Van Gorder recounted a then-recent experience of saving two hikers in a San Diego County search-and-rescue effort in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and showed cadets reserve ambulance "Rescue 88."

The former commander of San Diego Cadet Squadron 144, and a lieutenant in the San Diego County Volunteer Sheriff's Department, Van Gorder was



Commander to ex-Commander: Maj. Daryl Newton (left) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Maj. Chris Van Gorder.

appointed in March to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Commission on Emergency Medical Services.—**Capt. Dennis Ammann, PAO, San Diego Cadet Squadron 144**

San Diego Cadets Steal a Glimpse of a Night Hawk

*'Neath the shadow of a
Stratofortress: Cadets,
Seniors, and Air Force
tour guides gather.*



SAN DIEGO—Members of three Civil Air Patrol squadrons got the catbird's view of an F-117A Night Hawk Stealth Fighter during the Miramar Air Show at the Marine Corps Air Station here last October.

San Diego Cadet Squadron 144 and South San Diego Cadet Squadron 201, Chula Vista, typically join forces at Miramar to recruit prospects, setting up right next the U.S. Air Force booth. Skyhawk Composite Squadron 47, Camp Pendleton, was invited to represent the northern portion of San Diego County.

The show is also Aerospace Education paradise, with every type of military and civilian plane imaginable on display, from military replica WWI aircraft to the latest fighters. Majors Brian

Billing and Dee O'Sargent, both of SQ47, conducted walking tours with Capt. Dennis Ammann of SQ144.

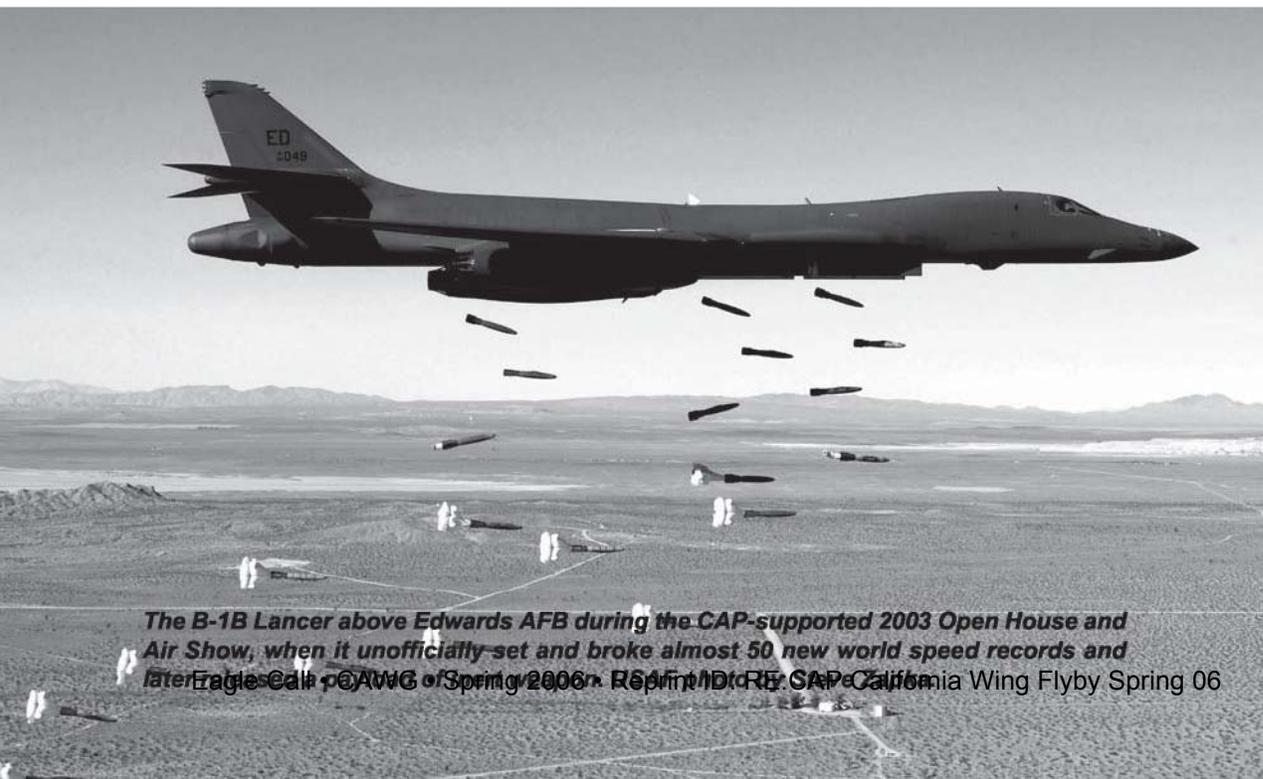
Highlights of the tour included a Boeing B-52H Stratofortress out of Minot AFB, N.D. Capt. Ryan McGough, radar navigator from the 23rd Bombing Squadron, thoroughly explained the mission, history, and operation of this huge, eight-engine aircraft. A young "H" version with 45-years of service, the B-52 is expected to be in the Air Force inventory 15 more years. Master Sgt. Steven Henderson, crew chief, and Staff Sgt. Barry Heuyard, systems specialist, both from the 28th Bombing Squadron, Dyess AFB, Tex showed the B-1B Lancer—a swing-wing, supersonic, four-engine heavy

bomber—highlighting the various defensive systems such as chaff, flares, and electronic counter-measures. Cadets saw the carousel bomb rack and learned how cruise missiles could be rotated and ejected.

Staff Sgt. Brandon Wannarka and Senior Airmen James Ray, Bryan Perrine and Shawn Moore, systems specialist, all of the 49th Air Maintenance Squadron, Holloman AFB, N.M., hosted the tour of an F-117A Night Hawk, one of two on display. Cadets were permitted in pairs to climb the hard stand and view the cockpit. Some cadets viewed the open bomb rack and learned how the two 2,000 pound bombs eject during a bombing run. The tour guides explained the infrared camera, laser-guidance and exhaust dissipation systems,

engines, landing gear, and recounted the F-117's combat history.

The day's excitement later peaked when the Blue Angels, the Navy Flight Demonstration Team, performed.—**Capt. Dennis Ammann, PAO, San Diego Cadet Squadron 144**



The B-1B Lancer above Edwards AFB during the CAP-supported 2003 Open House and Air Show, when it unofficially set and broke almost 50 new world speed records and later Eagle Call of CAPC of Spring 2006. RSP in MD, RE CAP California Wing Flyby Spring 06

Iraqi Freedom Flag Finds Home at SQ5

RIVERSIDE—San Bernardino Senior Squadron 5 was honored in February with the surprise presentation of an American flag flown in a combat mission over Iraq. ^{1st}Lt. Kevin Strange, a member of the squadron, returned from working in Iraq and presented the flag to the unit commander Capt. Jon Stokes. A plaque bearing the following inscription accompanied the folded and encased flag:

*1st Military Intelligence Battalion
Mosul Air Base, Iraq*

“To all who read this: Let it be known that this American Flag was flown on a combat mission over the skies of Iraq on 31 December 2005 to 1 January 2006 aboard an IGNAT-ER, Aircraft #002, Callsign T-Bone 31, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to aid in maintaining stability and the reconstruction of Iraq as we prosecute the war on terrorism and is hereby presented to CAP Squadron 5 for your outstanding support and sacrifice to our nation and our brothers and sisters in arms.”

Lt. Strange had been stationed at LSA Diamondback in Mosul on an Army contract supporting the troops in northern Iraq. Other members of Squadron 5 have flown supplies and troops in support of U.S. operations in

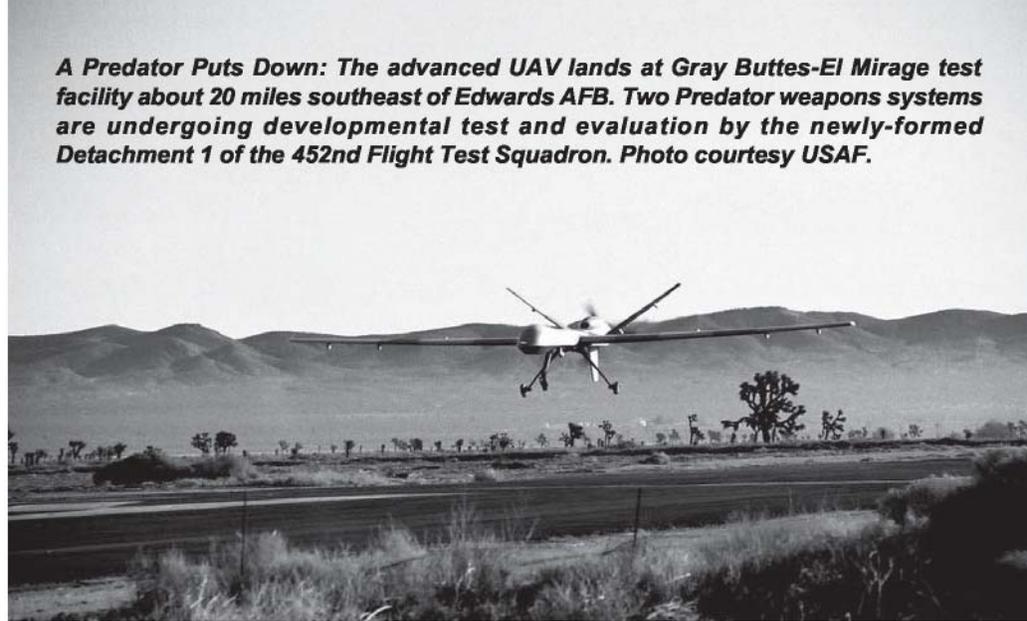
Afghanistan and Iraq. The unit has also collected and delivered personal comfort supplies to our wounded soldiers recovering in Germany.

The I-GNAT Aircraft, which carried the flag and its sister craft,

the Predator, are remote control aircraft, UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles). UAVs deploy state-of-the-art reconnaissance systems in extensive use by U.S. government agencies, including the Air Force, Army, Navy, NASA, and Department of Energy. Other models are being used to patrol the skies over the U.S. /Mexico border. These remote control aircraft are controlled from mobile ground control stations that can be installed in the back of a Hummer. This technology provides a cheaper and safer alternative to manned reconnaissance.

Several southern California locations are being used for UAV development, testing and training. These locations include flight operations facilities in El Mirage and Gray Butte in the Mojave Desert east of Los Angeles and a Research and Development facility in Adelanto, Calif.—**Capt. James Daley**

Remembered in Iraq: Lt. Kevin Strange (R) presents a war memento to squadron commander Capt. Jon Stokes.



A Predator Puts Down: The advanced UAV lands at Gray Buttes-El Mirage test facility about 20 miles southeast of Edwards AFB. Two Predator weapons systems are undergoing developmental test and evaluation by the newly-formed Detachment 1 of the 452nd Flight Test Squadron. Photo courtesy USAF.



Lancer Crew Cuts It with Cadets

SANDIEGO— Staff Sgt. Angelic Atkins and her fiancée, Staff Sgt. Kurtis Payne, both on active duty with the USAF's 28th Maintenance Squadron, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, took their leave time to speak to San Diego Cadet Squadron 144 here last December. Sgt. Atkins is a structural mechanic and Sgt. Payne maintains ground support equipment for the B-1B Lancer, 28th Bomb Wing, Air Combat Command. The two staff sergeants explained their respective jobs and outlined the challenges facing the USAF to provide parts for an 1980s-vintage aircraft that is no longer made. Sgt. Atkins stated

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Members of Squadron 144 enjoy a photo op with Staff Sgt. Kurtis Payne, USAF (left) in civilian clothes, Staff Sgt. Angelic Atkins, USAF (center), and Lance Cpl. Chris Houcom, USMC (right). Photo by Capt. Dennis Ammann

Buzz and The Beav

Support DC-3 Restoration Party

SANTA MONICA—A *CAP Investigation Concludes!* Your editor here produces indisputable photographic evidence that Jerry “The Beaver” Mathers did *not* die in Vietnam (a widely circulated rumor back in the day). On the

contrary, Mathers proudly served in the Air National Guard, Van Nuys, during the '60s, where he was assigned administration duty—and only suffered Eddie Haskell-esque wisecracks along the lines of: “Update my 201 file,

Beav, or I'll pound you!” Mathers attended a Clover Field Composite Squadron 51-supported event at Santa Monica Airport last December commemorating the 70th anniversary of the original flight of the DC-3s, which were built in Donald Douglas's ingeniously disguised factories near the old Clover Field.

American legend Apollo astronaut “Buzz” Aldrin attended the DC-3 fly-in and USO-style social, along with actor Cliff Robertson (*PT109*, *The Devil's Brigade*, and for the Cadet generation, *Spider-Man's* uncle); aviator, FBO owner and FOC (Friend of CAP) Clay Lacy; and 58-Mission Spitfire flyer and ace test pilot Bob Hoover. CAP officers and cadets controlled crowds and escorted celebrities as well as relatives of the late Donald Douglas.—**Capt. Greg Solman, Editor, Eagle Call**



**“Attention all Units...Make That All Groups...
Ah, Heck, Everybody in the Wing
Look for a Boob Hauling a Boat!”**

FRESNO—At the end of a freezing, all-night search of the Grapevine for an emergency locator transmitter in February, a ground team from Bakersfield Composite Squadron 121 felt it had finally closed in for the kill. That’s when the signal started moving—from Group 6 to Group 4 territory. About-to-be-seasoned Incident Commander trainee Theresa Longley dispatched a second ground team from San Luis Obispo Composite Squadron

103 to head it off and launched CAPflight 404 from Fresno Composite Squadron 112.

Unable to correlate the read out of the Cessna 206’s direction finder with its barely audible report, Maj. Mark Lambie, Pilot in Charge, and Mission Observer Jennifer Waite resourcefully swapped out the bad DF unit with a handheld model and continued the chase.

Almost two hours later, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center

satellites located the signal near Manteca—so out came a third ground team, this one from Merced County Composite Squadron 147, Group 6. That team could only hear a weak signal, so Maj. Lambie radioed the NorCal Approach controller working the Stockton area, who requested the assistance of any other aircrafts flying over the area. A jet



CF404 could do nothing but take pictures of the oblivious offender.

could hear the ELT, confirming that it was moving north, apparently on Interstate 5.

CF404 caught up to the signal west of Sacramento Metro (Group 5). A ground team, Lt. Col. William Correll and Capt. Art King, Sierra Composite Squadron 72, from CAP’s French Camp outpost, were hopelessly behind the signal, outside Stockton.

Maj. Lambie applied gastric intel: He knew of a good restaurant at Willows where California Highway Patrol might be informed of their dilemma (and they might use the facilities). But as they descended to 1,000 feet, they locked onto the ELT—a Dodge pickup with camper hauling a boat. Ill equipped to do anything but pretty S-turns above the unwitting ELT-tripping scofflaw, they took pictures (see above).

CF404 taxied to the ramp at Willows. As Maj. Lambie had predicted, a patrol car was parked by the CHP’s C206, and an officer was enjoying a hearty late breakfast. Informed of CF404’s dilemma, the officers dispatched their highway units to pull over the Dodge and tell the driver to turn off his ELT.

CF404 returned with 6.3 hours on the Hobbs, a nondistress find, and lots of pictures to prove it.—**Reported by Maj. Mark Lambie, Fresno Composite Squadron 112**



This California Highway Patrolman left breakfast behind to help CAP complete a neverending story.

Lancer Crew Cuts It with Cadets

Continued . . .

that although the Lancer is old, “stealth” technology incorporated into the airframe gives it the radar cross-section of a small bird. Sgt. Atkins spoke of her deployments to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Oman during the past six years. Sgt. Payne said he’d joined the Air Force to see the world and laughed at the irony of his subsequent

stationing in Ellsworth, where he’s from. Marine Lance Cpl. Chris Houcom also spoke. The former CAP Cadet inspired Cadets with tales of his combat experience in Iraq. He sustained shrapnel wounds and hearing loss after a suicide bomber attacked his observation post.—**Capt. Dennis Ammann, PAO**