

Winter 2019

Bear Facts

The Official Magazine of California Wing Civil Air Patrol



FIFINELLA GOES TO WAR!

Bear Facts

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Col. Ross E. Veta
California Wing Commander

Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger
Asst. Director of Public Affairs
Editor, *Bear Facts* Magazine

Commander's Corner

By Col. Ross E. Veta, CAP
Commander, California Wing



Dear Fellow California Wing Members,

Right now it feels as though California Wing has engaged afterburners on its way to greater achievement and member satisfaction. We have already seen numerous positive changes, improvements, and initiatives that are quickly moving us forward. I am so grateful that the prior leadership has provided such a great foundation for us to build on and achieve even greater successes.



I'm seeing a great deal of enthusiasm and initiative coming from all corners of our Wing. Ideas, proposals, and valuable input are flowing in from members of all walks of life and levels of experience. With so much great opportunity and things to do in only four years, our Wing Staff is working hard to prioritize all of the new initiatives in our path forward.

A large part of our ability to move so quickly and expand so rapidly is the fact that the Wing leadership philosophy is being adopted throughout the Wing. This philosophy of Integrity, Advocacy, Positivity, Innovation, Enthusiasm, Inclusion, Empowerment, and Diversification provides a strong foundation for our progress. It is by the

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ON THE COVER: U.S. Air Force photo circa 1944 of Frances Green, Margaret Kirchner, Ann Waldner and Blanche Osborn leaving their plane, "Pistol Packin' Mama," at the four-engine school at Lockbourne AAF, Ohio, during WASP ferry training. Three of the four wear the Fifinella patch on their flight jackets.

Fifinella Goes to War!

Cadet 2nd Lt. Sydney Cloutier, CAP

Editor's note: This article is reprinted from the Summer 2018 issue of Wing Roundup, the magazine of the South Dakota Wing.

Fifinella. When people hear that word, most may not know what it means or the history behind it. Some may think of the cartoon female gremlin designed by Walt Disney based on a character in Roald Dahl's book "The Gremlins"-- a World War II-era book for children about the hazards of combat flying. According to lore, gremlins were imaginary beings endowed with magical powers. In Dahl's book the female gremlins were called Fifinellas. They were known for engaging in mischievous acts, including causing mechanical failures. But, let me tell you, there is more to Fifinella than meets the eye. For that you need to know a little history.



Walt Disney's design of the mischievous elf-like Fifinella.

By the summer of 1941, after the outbreak of World War II in Europe, American aviatrix Jacqueline Cochran and female test-pilot Nancy Love independently submitted proposals to the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) to allow women pilots in non-combat missions. The rationale was to free male pilots for combat positions by using qualified female pilots to ferry aircraft from the factories to military bases, and to tow drones and aerial targets.

After the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the government encouraged women to enter the workforce to fill industrial and service jobs supporting the war effort and to compensate for the manpower demands of the rapidly growing military. One organization where the manpower shortage was critical was the newly formed Transport Division of the Air Transport Command (ATC). Colonel Will Tunner, in charge of acquiring civilian transport pilots to staff the unit, made the decision to create a force of civilian female pilots attached to the USAAF to fly military aircraft on non-combat missions. The Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD), headed by Jacqueline Cochran, and the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), headed by Nancy Love, were organized separately in September 1942 and assigned to the ATC.



Fifinella unit patch for the WASP's 318th AAFFTD (Army Air Force Flying Training Detachment).



U.S. Air Force photo circa 1944 of Frances Green, Margaret Kirchner, Ann Waldner and Blanche Osborn leaving their plane, "Pistol Packin' Mama," at the four-engine school at Lockbourne AAF, Ohio, during WASP ferry training. Three of the four wear the Fifinella patch on their flight jackets.

On August 5, 1943, the WFTD and WAFS were merged to create the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD). The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), headed by Nancy Love, were organized separately in September 1942 and assigned to the ATC.

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California Wing Members Take Flight with CAP's Balloon Program

1st Lt. Travis Carney, CAP

In early morning Sunday hours at Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta Park, a handful of hot air balloons majestically lift off into the crisp pre-dawn sky. An occasional glow can be seen from each balloon as the burners are ignited, heating the air sufficiently to keep the aircraft aloft. This is the Dawn Patrol – the first flight of what will prove to be a beautiful and exciting day at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

As the Dawn Patrol awaits first light to seek suitable landing fields, balloons and their crews from around the world begin to set up. One such crew is a team of dedicated Civil Air Patrol members from the LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron 811 of the New Mexico Wing. Their balloon, Integrity, is comprised of a beautiful red, white and blue envelope emblazoned with the Civil Air Patrol logo and a woven wicker gondola. Integrity is one of two balloons owned and operated by the Civil Air Patrol under a national program. She is primarily crewed by Squadron 811's cadets and is piloted by Lt. Col. Will Fitzpatrick and Maj. Jessica Makin.

On this particular Sunday, along with California Wing Diversity Officer Capt. Jenny Lynn Burnett, I had the honor of flying in Integrity under the pilotage of Maj. Makin. Our flight was part of Mass Ascension – the near-simultaneous launch of all balloons participating in the event. Naturally, the views were breathtaking, and with the exception of periodically firing the burners to gain or maintain altitude, riding in the balloon was quiet and peaceful.



Capt. Jenny Lynn Burnett and 1st Lt. Travis Carney soar on their first balloon ride! Photo credit: Lt. Col. William Fitzpatrick




Maj. Jessica Makin and Capt. Jenny Lynn Burnett inspect the panels and parachute valve, while the balloon is being inflated." Photo credit: 1st Lt. Travis Carney

Because balloons travel with the air mass, there is no wind noise, and you can often hear people on the ground or in other balloons. After landing in a field and being met by our CAP chase crew, we helped secure the aircraft, concluding an unforgettable experience. The hospitality and generosity of the Integrity crew exemplify the quality of people that Civil Air Patrol attracts all over our country. It was truly our privilege to join the crew and witness first-hand the outstanding work they do promoting Civil Air Patrol and celebrating the oldest form of aviation.

Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), also referred to by some as the Women's Army Service Pilots. WASP members had no military standing; they were United States federal civil service employees.

In 1943, the WASP asked for and received permission from the Disney Company to use Fifinella as their official mascot. Disney's design consisted of a small winged elflike figure coming in for a landing with a red circle in the background; Fifinella has small horns and is wearing a yellow flight cap, a red top, yellow slacks, long black gloves, red high-top boots, and goggles. Fifinella went to war and was worn in the form of patches on WASP flight jackets on WASP stationary and on signs on WASP administration buildings and barracks.

Over 25,000 women applied to join the WASP organization, 1,830 were accepted and out of that 1,074 of the women completed the training. All of the applicants had prior flying experience and airman certificates. The WASP arrangement with the USAAF ended on December 20, 1944, and the organization stood down. During its period of operation, each member's service had freed a male pilot for military combat or other combat-related duties. WASPs flew 60 million miles, transported every type of military aircraft and hauled targets for live anti-aircraft gun practice. Thirty-Eight of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots members lost their lives during this period and one was listed as missing. In 1977, WASP members were granted veterans status giving them access to the rights and privileges thereof. In 2002, WASP members became eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors and, in 2009, members of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots, in recognition of their WWII Service, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. 

application of this Leadership Philosophy in all of our missions, interactions, and initiatives that we are able to succeed.


Over the next four years we will continue to exceed expectation in the fulfillment of our missions while growing the Wing through innovation. We will engage and embrace ever evolving technologies, missions, and partners. We will also continue moving towards our long term goal, that being America's premier Disaster Preparedness, Prevention, and Relief organization.

The world is rapidly changing in many ways and CAWG needs to keep pace with this change. Changes in culture, technologies, and missions drive this change. Just like our predecessors following World War 2 when we moved from a sub-chaser organization to a benevolent organization, so must we look forward into the future. The vision that I have introduced for CAWG is one that emphasizes and grows our capabilities in Disaster Preparedness, Prevention and Relief. This new direction involves every one of our missions of Cadet Programs, Emergency Services, and Aerospace Education. By utilizing our core competencies in these missions we will be able to provide a multifaceted and expert contribution to the Total Force and provide a unique resource for our entire Nation.

I have introduced changes in organizational structure and personnel to accommodate the changing environment in which we operate in the new direction towards which we navigate. These changes are aimed at exceeding expectations and successful arrival at our new (mission) destination. Most importantly these changes have and are being made to make sure that each and every member of California Wing is informed and involved every step of the way so that we can work together in concert as the great team that we are.

I encourage you during the next four years to embrace the changes that are being carefully planned and to provide your valuable contribution and input supporting California Wing in our missions. Just like the aircrew on an aircraft, each and every member fulfills a vital role in the success of our team. Remember that every member has something to contribute, and each and every member is part of our most valuable and valued resource.

I look forward with enthusiasm to working closely with everyone in the next four years and encourage you to engage, embrace, and contribute to this great journey that we are all on together.

Remember to do what you can to aspire to inspire others every day. Through your actions our entire team benefits and grows, and so will you. 

Inclusion: Our Common Goal

*Capt. Jenny Lynn Burnett, CAP
Wing Diversity Officer*

CAP National Headquarters has introduced a new initiative inspired by the United States Air Force, promoting diversity and inclusion, and Col. Veta in this issue's Commander's Corner column lists Inclusion as one of eight elements of the Wing leadership philosophy. Inclusion has always been our common goal, so why does this feel like a new initiative? When questioning why we explore in the Summer 2019 issue of *Bear Facts*, David Oberhettinger writes, "We explore because Humanity is an inquisitive species." As technology evolves, so do we as human beings. We are finding new ways to connect with our communities and it all begins with our attitude.

In mechanical terms, an *attitude indicator* is one of the most important instruments in our aircraft. Most pilots depend on this gauge to inform them of their orientation relative to the Earth's horizon and of any changes in the pilot's flying performance. When you first learn to fly, you learn about the most important instruments that guide your aircraft and where you are in relation to *terra firma* (the ground!).

In Civil Air Patrol, each one of us has an internal *attitude indicator* that chooses and communicates the direction and how we work as a team to build relationships based on our skillset and background. When you fly an airplane, the aircraft doesn't know your gender, your ethnicity or your age. Even our Cessna aircraft are diverse, because technology keeps advancing. A round-dial panel consists of a "6-pack" of mechanically driven standard instruments, whereas a G1000 "glass cockpit" includes the same information on an LCD screen as the traditional instruments represented. The changing *attitude indicator* will reflect the input that you apply to the control surfaces. Your attitude in life will also guide you where you belong. Much like tuning into a radio frequency, if you are not tuned into the right attitude, you will not receive clear reception from others.



Image credit: U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FAA – Instrument Flying Handbook, FAA-H-8083-15B (Public Domain).

CAP has been an equal opportunity, non-profit, non-partisan organization for almost eighty years. CAP has embraced men and women from the ages of 12 to 100 years old from diverse abilities, backgrounds, and ethnicities. Per CAPR 1-1, Paragraph 1: "Our nation expects and deserves a high standard of professional conduct from Civil Air Patrol in all of its activities." Per CAPR 36-1, Paragraph 2: "CAP provides an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members and ensures that educational, membership and operational decisions are based on each individual's abilities and qualifications." Since 1941, our values have remained the same. We come from diverse backgrounds, but we all come together as one Total Force with the same core values of: "Integrity, Volunteerism, Excellence and Respect."

When Civil Air Patrol was founded, its purpose was to empower volunteers of diverse abilities, backgrounds, and ethnicities who wanted to make a difference during WWII. In 2014, in order to recognize their outstanding contributions, the United States 113th Congress signed into public law an acknowledgment of those volunteers,

awarding CAP a Congressional Gold Medal and honoring them at a ceremony hosted in the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The many recipients - approximately 500 to this day-- included three over the age of 100. One of those centenarians was a female pilot from California Wing, Lt. Col. Jeri Truesdell.

During WWII, CAP women pilots flew non-combat CAP missions, while the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) were flying non-combat related missions (see cover article “Fifinella Goes to War”). Prior to WWII, most women pilots were already members of the Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots (Ninety-Nines.org), which recently celebrated its 90th Anniversary on 02 Nov 2019. This organization was begun by a female record-setting aviator and heroine, Amelia Earhart, along with ninety-eight other female aviators in 1929. The Ninety-Nines are still active today and advocate for women pilots, offering scholarships and guidance to careers in aviation. In 1964, CAP named one of their most prestigious cadet awards after Amelia Earhart. The Earhart Award marks completion of Phase III of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character.

Over the years, CAP has proven to prepare cadets for leadership roles as they transition from cadet to senior status, but CAP also promotes the success of its senior members by cultivating their own leadership skills through the Professional Development program and Emergency Services Training. Most of us want to learn something new or selflessly give back to our community, freely offering our time and skills. It is important to realize that it is our diversity and internal *attitude indicators* that gives us our strength to move forward as a CAP family.

On 01 MAR 2019, an Interim Change Letter for CAPR 20-1, *Organization of Civil Air Patrol*, was issued by our National Commander, Major General Mark E. Smith, to incorporate a Diversity Officer at National, Region and Wing levels. This initiative is based on the United States Air Force Diversity Strategic Roadmap. According to the Interim Change Letter, “The Wing Diversity Officer is the subject matter expert for diversity



Capt. Jenny Lynn Burnett, CAWG Diversity Officer, taken after my CAPF 5 in a Cessna Turbo 206 / G1000. Photo credit: Capt. Alan Shanahan

and inclusion excellence in their respective wing. The Wing Diversity Officer advises the Wing Commander and staff on the impact of diversity on mission effectiveness and recruiting/retention, organizational progress, and actions to promote diversity.” The California Wing appointed their first Diversity Officer at the Wing Conference in September, 2019.

Over the next several months, a new Diversity and Inclusion Program will unfold, and a new Diversity duty position will be created at Group and Squadron levels. The California Wing will engage members from every walk of life and give them the opportunity to serve their country while enjoying the benefits of learning, growing, and evolving with our three missions: Cadet Programs, Aerospace Education, and Emergency Services. Despite our gender, color, ethnicity, age, religious belief, disabilities, economic background or political views, we all want to be respected and treated the same. The Diversity program is aimed at building the creative positive synergy amongst the members of our beautiful state and enhance communication, workflow, and promote outreach within California Wing. We want to hear your voices! In the coming months, you will see e-mails requesting article, event, or calendar submissions. We hope that by sharing more communication, CAWG will bring our communities closer together. We will also get to know each other by introducing

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Member Highlights

*Capt. Jenny Lynn Burnett, CAP
Wing Diversity Officer*

This is the first in a series of articles highlighting our diverse corps of volunteers in the California Wing. As I state in the preceding article, “Our greatest strength as a Wing is embracing who we are while sharing the same core values and representing the Total Force.” As we profile a CAWG member with whom you may have worked, you may gain a deeper appreciation of their contributions, and of the breadth and uniqueness of the background they bring to our mission.

Member Profile: Maj. Jennifer Davenport, CAP



Photo credit: Maximus Davenport

Maj. Davenport is someone who has a heart for others. Her relational leadership skills facilitate empowerment, enthusiasm, and excellence in such a quiet and subtle way that even the most experienced leaders indirectly gain momentum and energy bringing a new level of success to their organization and style. She prides herself on finding the strengths in others, offering mutual respect, and creating the best results for the team, unit, group, or event regardless of circumstance or differences. She currently serves as Group 8 Commander in California Wing. In her CAP career of five years, she has served as the Commander of San Diego Cadet Squadron 144 and Group 8 Emergency Service (ES) Officer to name a few. She was recently awarded Pacific Region Unit

Commander of the Year for 2018 in addition to accepting the CAWG Cadet Squadron of the Year award for the fourth year in a row.

If you are interested in Emergency Services (ES), her “Bivouac in a Box” is a duplicatable training program used by CAWG-wide cadet and senior member students to create the biggest SAREX event in CAWG history. She comments, “To be an effective leader, it is very important to understand people’s perspectives and you can only do that when you walk in their shoes (or spend quality time listening to their stories).”

Maj. Davenport has three incredible children: Alex, Maximus, and Grace. She is proud to be a former foster mom. She has authored a children’s picture book called *Kind Words: The Glue That Helps Keep Us Together*, published in May 2019. Her background includes 25 years as a Health Educator with a Masters’ Degree in Health Science. She is a Nationally Board-Certified Health and Wellness Coach, Trainer, and Educator. She especially enjoys speaking in schools and with parents about kind and healthy communication with the intent of improving mental health, family function, and peaceful communities. Her health and wellness audiences have included the military, universities, non-profit organizations, and local schools.

In her free time, Maj. Davenport is found hiking, backpacking, or helping the U.S. Fire Service as a trail angel when needed. Find her on Facebook or Instagram @jeniddavenport or @thetstandingmtn

Member Profile: 1st Lt. Gerald Cosey, CAP



Photo Credit: Carmen Mackey

1st Lt. Gerald Cosey retired from Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) in 2018 after thirty-five years of service. His assignments included Firefighter, Firefighter Paramedic, Firefighter Specialist, Captain, and Battalion Chief alongside multiple roles within Air Operations. He culminated his career as the Assistant Fire Chief (Antelope Valley) where he oversaw Division 5. Additionally, he was responsible for fire department response, prevention, and community relations programs within multiple geographical locations. 1st Lt. Cosey gained fire-line qualifications as a Strike Team Leader, Division Supervisor, Air Operations Branch Director, Air Support Group Supervisor, Helicopter Coordinator, Agency Representative, and Incident Commander Type 3.

1st Lt. Cosey's past assignments boast wide-ranging experience. He worked within the LACoFD Incident Command Team for twenty-two years, and spent eleven years as part of the Southern California Interagency Incident command team. Twenty-four years were spent within the LACoFD, California Urban Search and Rescue Team. Moreover, he has contributed to responses in notable incidents such as Hurricane "Iniki" (Hawaii, 1992), the Fred Murrah Federal Building bombing (Oklahoma, 1995), the Summer Olympics bombing (Georgia, 1996), the Haiti Earthquake (2010), and the SoCal Gas Leak (California, 2016).

1st Lt. Cosey joined Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in June 2016 and became the squadron safety officer and Assistant Emergency Services officer. In 2017 he was assigned as Emergency Services officer. In 2019 he became the Assistant Group 1 Operations officer, and subsequently was assigned as Group 1 Operations Officer. His CAP qualifications are MSA, MRO, Mission Scanner, Mission Observer, Mission Safety Officer, Counter Drug, Cadet/JROTC Orientation Pilot, and SAR/Mission Pilot.

Beyond his professional roles, 1st Lt. Cosey enjoys spending time cycling, hunting, and, flying. He has cycled long distances multiple times raising money for cancer research, and to support Antelope Valley Scholarships. He gained his private pilot license in 1983 and currently is working on his instrument rating. He belongs to 8 Ball Flying Club at VNY and California Redtail's Black Pilots of America. 1st Lt. Cosey has been married for twenty-two years to Robin, and has two daughters, Ashley and Alyssa, in university education. He lives in Stevenson Ranch, California.

Member Profile: Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger, CAP




Photo credit: Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger

Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger is an aeronautical engineer and the Chief Knowledge Officer (CKO) Emeritus of the NASA/Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. JPL is this world's leading spacecraft design and

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Highlights *Continued from page 15*

operations center for the robotic exploration of deep space; we have visited all the planets (and discovered 28 Earth-like exoplanets), placed four rovers on Mars, landed by a methane lake on Titan, and both Voyager spacecraft have left the solar system and are operating in interstellar space. Additional responsibilities within the JPL Office of the Chief Engineer have included assuring engineering excellence in the design, test, and operation of robotic interplanetary spacecraft and planetary probes. This has included managing the JPL Engineering Standards Office and the JPL Spaceflight Engineering Research Program, chairing the JPL Lessons Learned Committee, and serving as a member of the JPL Engineering Board. His primary technical expertise is in spacecraft design, spaceflight risk management, and failure modes for deep space systems. Prior to work at JPL, as manager of the Spacecraft Engineering Technology Department of Northrop Grumman, he oversaw all Northrop Grumman work related to the design or test of spacecraft systems. Before that, he served as a public interest lobbyist in Washington, D.C. A past General Chair, he was appointed by the president of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics to the Board of Directors of the 66th annual Reliability & Maintainability Symposium.

Over the past fifteen years, Lt. Col. Oberhettinger has served CAP in such roles as Wing Director of Aerospace Education, Wing Asst. Director of Public Affairs, various unit positions within Squadron 35 (San Fernando), and as base staff or aircrew on CAP missions. He presently edits *Bear Facts*, the magazine of the California Wing. In his spare time, he flies a Cardinal (tail number N13HK) to captivating places like Santa Barbara or Santa Ynez. He is a frequent speaker on the international conference circuit, having delivered keynote speeches in Canada, Europe, South America, Australia, and Africa-- plus a recent TED-type talk (<https://youtu.be/dQt3BCziULg>). He lives with his wife Jan in Valencia. 


Common Goal *Continued from page 11*

“Member Highlights” about different CAP members in each issue of *Bear Facts*. Stay tuned!

I would like to think that where there was once a roadblock, there is now only a hurdle. Where there was once a wall, there will now also be a door. In the Summer 2019 issue of “*Bear Facts*,” Col. Ross Veta explained his philosophy of leadership which also includes “the rekindling of old initiatives in ways that bring them into the present.” Inclusion will incorporate growth and innovation by borrowing from familiar initiatives which include wellness, resiliency, and mentorship. In the spirit of Maj. Gen. Mark Smith’s “The CAP Five Pillars of Wellness and Resilience,” the Inclusion Program will also integrate these familiar ideas of living in wellness and promoting good habits that enhance all members’ resiliency. These five pillars represent Mind, Body, Relationships, Spirit, and Family.

Because CAWG is an inclusive family, ways to work smarter rather than harder naturally present themselves. Most of us have busy schedules, and if a workload can be shared with others, it will reduce the burden on all involved. If there is someone you don’t know or with whom you don’t see eye-to-eye, simply smile, lend a hand or say thank you. It’s a privilege to be involved with this organization, and just by being grateful can create a positive shift in attitude.

Whether you are new to the organization or a member of forty years, we all have a purpose and want to be included and recognized. Let professionalism, kindness, and your personal positive *attitude indicator* guide you in all parts of your life and resonate within your CAP family. Every squadron needs more members to share the responsibilities and the squadron front door is where we welcome each person for each meeting, each local event, and every training exercise.

Our greatest strength as a Wing is embracing who we are while sharing the same core values and representing the Total Force. Our job in CAP is supporting our three missions in each community, but let inclusion be our common goal. 

California Wing Education Conference

*1st Lt. Jillan Restivo, CAP
CAWG Director of Public Affairs*

Bakersfield, Calif. – The California Wing Education Conference (CWEC) celebrated another big year of wing service to community, state, and nation. More than 200 members of the California Wing, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, and guests attended the annual CWEC held September 19-22, 2019, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bakersfield, California.

The conference featured a number of specialized courses available to members, such as Aerospace Education Officer School, The Advanced Incident

Command System (ICS) Command and General Staff-Complex Incidents (ICS-400) course, and Training Leaders of Cadets. Additionally, there were over 30 workshops and activities in the areas of Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, Operational Technology, Emergency Services, and Aircraft Maintenance. The conference provided an opportunity for members to gain knowledge, network with each other, and



Maj. Marc Sobel presents “CAWG and Unmanned Aerial Systems” at the California Wing Conference. Photo credit: Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger

come together as the California Wing.

The Saturday general session opened with the posting of the colors by San Diego Cadet Squadron 144; Lt. Col. Steve Asche served as Master of Ceremonies. California Wing Commander Col. Alan Ferguson addressed the members in attendance, followed by Pacific Region Commander Col. Jon Stokes. Change of command ceremonies were also held during the general session for South Coast Group 7 and San Diego Group 8. Lt. Col. Eric Krause took command of Group 7 from Maj. Craig Newton, and Maj. Jennifer Davenport took com-



Col. Ross Veta assumed command of the California Wing. Pictured here is Pacific Region Commander Col. Jon Stokes, newly selected California Wing Commander Col. Ross Veta, outgoing California Wing Commander Col. Alan Ferguson, and CMSgt. Noel Furniss. Photo credit: 1st Lt. Jillian Restivo

mand of Group 8 from Lt. Col. Ross Veta.

The conference closed with the formal awards banquet on Saturday, September 21. The keynote speaker for the banquet was retired Col. David Reaney, U.S. Army, a former California Wing cadet and close friend of our outgoing wing commander. One of the highlights of the evening was the promotion of Ross Veta to the rank of colonel, followed by Col. Stokes presiding over the wing change of command ceremony.

Col. Ferguson was named California Wing Commander on September 26, 2015. He began his Civil Air Patrol career as a cadet at the age of 14, becoming a senior member at 21. His vision as commander was to bring aerospace education onto an equal footing with cadet programs and operations. With the hard work of CAWG's aerospace education team, CAWG instituted an annual weeklong cadet academy at Edwards AFB and a mobile aerospace education trailer. Col. Ferguson was awarded numerous awards by his command staff, and Col. Stokes as Region Commander thanked him for his time and service as the 27th California Wing Commander.



Guest speaker, retired Col. David Reaney, U.S. Army, presents outgoing California Wing Commander Col. Alan Ferguson with an eagle. Photo credit: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Maximus Davenport



Pacific Region Commander Col. Jon Stokes presents California Wing Commander Col. Alan Ferguson with the Distinguished Service Award. Photo credit: 1st Lt. Jillian Restivo

Special guests throughout the conference weekend included: Ms. Kristina Jones, Civil Air Patrol Chief of Philanthropy; Lt. Col. Peggy Myrick, Civil Air Patrol Director for International Air Cadet Exchange; Col. Jon Stokes, Pacific Region Commander (former California Wing Commander); Col. Tim Hahn, Pacific Region Vice Commander; Lt. Col. Traci Scott, Pacific Region Chief of Staff; CMSgt. Noel Furniss, Pacific Region Command Chief; Lt. Col. Gregory Chase, California Wing Vice Commander; Terrie Singleton, California Wing Administrator; Lt. Col. Mike Prusak, former California Wing Vice Commander; Mr. Dean Richardson, CAP-USAF Pacific Liaison Region Assistant Director of Operations; Lt. Col. Kevin Cummings, CAP-USAF Pacific Liaison Region Commander; and



Col. Alan Ferguson presents Lt. Col. Gamila Mherian-Wiest and Lt. Col. Charles Wiest with Exceptional Service Awards for their time and efforts in coordinating the conference. Photo credit: 1st Lt. Jillian Restivo

Col. Deborah Pierce, Nevada Wing Commander. Also in attendance were former California Wing Commanders-- Col. Larry Myrick, Col. Virginia Nelson, Ch (Col) Kenneth Parris, and Col. Jon Stokes.

The California Wing Conference would not be possible without the help of our dedicated volunteers, and this level of activity would not have been the success it was without the support and planning of a core group of special individuals. A special thanks to Lt. Col. Gamila Mherian-Wiest and Lt. Col. Charles Wiest for their time and efforts in coordinating this event, and the support of the out-going California Wing Commander Col. Alan Ferguson, and Col. Ross Veta.

California Wing individual annual award winners included:

Exceptional Service Awards

- CMSgt. Noel Furniss
- Lt. Col. Gamila Mherian
- Lt. Col. Charles Wiest

Meritorious Service Awards

- Lt. Col. Patrick J. Bergin
- Lt. Col. Gregory P. Chase
- Lt. Col. Brett D. Dolnick
- Lt. Col. Roger B. Dunn
- Maj. Steve R. Groner
- Ch Lt. Col. Robert W. Harris
- Lt. Col. Daniel Hoppy
- Lt. Col. Daniel L. Hough
- Lt. Col. George K. Ishikata
- Lt. Col. James E. Kapphahn
- Lt. Col. Mark W. Kempton
- Lt. Col. Shawn O. Lawson
- Lt. Col. John P. MacKenzie
- Lt. Col. Michael Prusak
- Lt. Col. Tammy A. Sturgill
- Lt. Col. Ross E. Veta

Commanders Commendation Awards

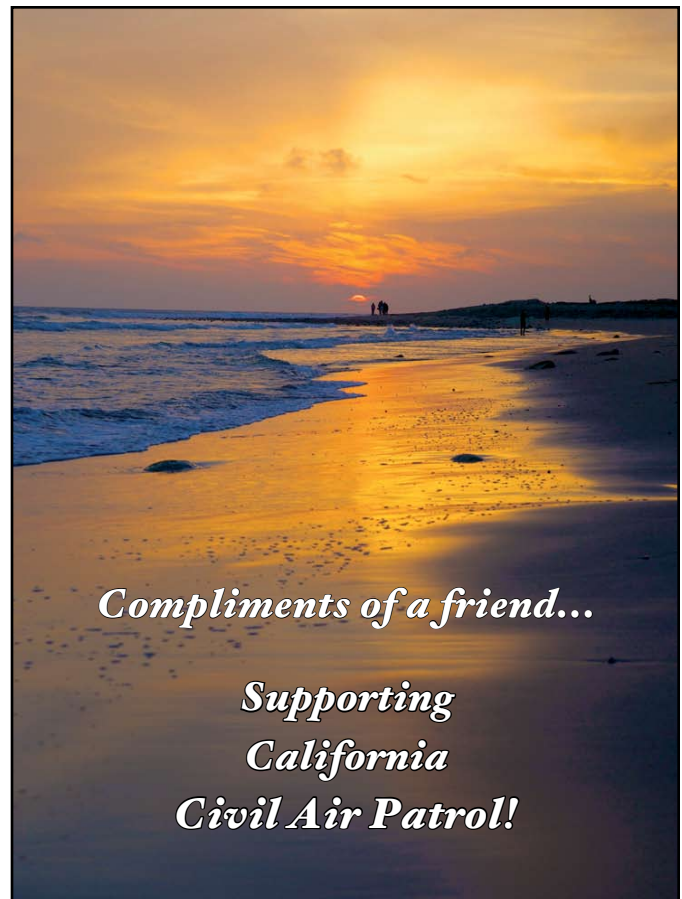
- Maj. James W. Breedlove
- Maj. James V. Bertz
- Lt. Col. Joseph A. Brickman
- 1st Lt. Erick D. Buesing

Civil Air Patrol Achievement Awards

- 2nd Lt. Paul K. Daly
- Lt. Col. Valerie G. Hanley
- Capt. Edward D. McMullin
- 1st Lt. Jillian R. Restivo

Lt. Col. James Crum Lifetime Achievement Award – 2018

- Lt. Col. Michael Prusak



Lt. Col. James Crum Lifetime Achievement Award – 2019

- Ch Col. Kenneth W. Parris

50 Years of Service

- Lt. Col. David A. Widrig

Norm Edwards Counterdrug Officer of the Year

- Maj. Thomas R. Barbre, III

General Carl A. Spaatz Award #2255

- C/Col. Jeremy P. Jurkoic

Gill Robb Wilson Awards

- CMSgt. Noel Furniss (#3622)
- Lt. Col. Scott M Dineen (#3634)
- Lt. Col. David E. Wallace (#3655)
- Lt. Col. Andrew J. Peters (#3670)

Squadron of Merit

- Fullerton Composite Squadron 56




Ch Col. Kenneth Parris was awarded the Lt. Col. James Crum Lifetime Achievement Award. Photo credit: 1st Lt. Jillian Restivo



Cadet Col. Jeremy Jurkoic was presented with his General Carl A. Spaatz Award #2255 from outgoing California Wing Commander Col. Alan Ferguson. Photo credit: 1st Lt. Jillian Restivo

California Wing Annual “Of the Year” Awards

- Wing Staff Member of the Year: Lt. Col. Christopher Suter
- Unit or Group Staff Officer of the Year: Maj. Paula Urbom-Shope
- Recruiting and Retention Officer of the Year: Capt. Louise M. Mateos
- Cadet Orientation Pilot of the Year: Capt. John J. Heldt
- Unit Historian of the Year: 1st Lt. Nikolay I. Zherebnenkov
- Unit Finance Officer of the Year: 1st Lt. Regien D. De Bleecker
- Professional Development Officer of the Year: Maj. Richard A. Benson
- Air Force Sergeant Association Cadet NCO of the Year: C/CMSgt. Jesse A. James
- Cadet Programs Officer of the Year: Lt. Col. Shawn O. Lawson
- Safety Officer of the Year: Capt. Stephen B. Parker
- Communicator of the Year: Maj. George D. Gadd
- Property Management Officer of the Year: 2nd Lt. Orhan Baser
- Public Affairs Officer of the Year: Maj. Jeffrey T. Goeggel
- Squadron Chaplain of the Year: CH (Col.) Kenneth W. Parris
- Character Development Instructor of the Year: Lt. Col. Jessica C. Black
- Aerospace Education Officer of the Year: Capt. Richard J. Addante
- Frank G. Brewer Aerospace Education Award: CAP Senior Member: Capt. Remi R. Nadeau
- Operations Staff Member of the Year: 1st Lt. Richard West
- Aircrew Member of the Year: Maj. Terry A. Pratt
- Incident Staff Member of the Year: Capt. John S. Watt
- Counterdrug Officer of the Year: Maj. James R. Redmon
- Unit Commander of the Year: Capt. Douglas Miller
- Cadet of the Year: C/Capt Rebecca A. Mayer-Cherry
- Cadet Squadron of the Year: San Diego Cadet Squadron 144
- Composite Squadron of the Year: Fullerton Composite Squadron 56
- Senior Squadron of the Year: Fallbrook Senior Squadron 87 



Col. Alan Ferguson congratulates Cadet Capt. Rebecca Mayer-Cherry with the Cadet of the Year award. Photo credit: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Maximus Davenport

Chaplain Lt. Col. Harlan Confer is ‘Squadron Chaplain of The Year’

Maj. Lindsay Edwards, CAP

He was a military officer for 13 years, in both the Army National Guard and the Regular Army. Deployed to South Vietnam in 1966, he has expert knowledge on various military vehicles and weapons. While serving in Vietnam, he earned a Purple Heart after being wounded when the Duster vehicle on which he was travelling hit a land mine. He is also a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) member. Who is he? Well, I interviewed him for a couple of hours in February for this article and found out a lot about this guy.

He is Chaplain Lt. Col. Harlan Confer, of Shasta Composite Squadron 126 in Redding, CA, and his latest achievement is winning the California Wing “Squadron Chaplain of The Year” award for 2018. (He was not able to attend the 2018 CAWG Education Conference, so it was presented to him by the Commanding Officer of Redding Squadron 126, 1st Lt. Nancy Maas, at a squadron meeting in March 2019).



The M42 40 mm Self-Propelled Anti-Aircraft Gun, aka “Duster,” used components from the M41 light tank. Photo credit: Wikipedia



1st Lt. Nancy Maas presents the “Squadron Chaplain of The Year” award to Lt. Col. Confer. Photo credit: 2nd Lt. Nate Caeton

But the military was not Chaplain Confer’s first calling. “I was an 18-year-old Young Life leader in college in 1952 working with high school youth”, he said. “I later became a youth leader for Hamilton AFB.” While serving as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Globe, AZ, Confer was awarded the *Citation of Merit for Exemplary Service in Mental Health*. “This is where I caught the bug about serving mankind,” he said whimsically.

“This guy is an amazing fellow,” I thought as I heard his story. “I have never met a chaplain who has such a knowledge of military weapons.” And as we got further into the interview, I figured that there is a heck of a lot more to him than just that! When I asked him how he managed to get himself a Purple Heart, his sense of humour came to the fore: “I had nothing to do with it, the enemy did it all!”

Chaplain Confer joined CAP in the Summer of 2007, after finding out that Squadron 126 in Redding was badly in need of a chaplain. “I just see this as an extension of my calling”, he said during the interview, adding “I see it as a privilege to serve members of this great voluntary organization and in particular its youth.”

Confer was born in 1934 and from his early days was familiar with the military, his father being a captain in the California National Guard as well as being employed by the Army Corps of Engineers building airfields around California. “My dad helped build March Air Force Base”, Confer told me.

He started seminary school in San Francisco, later transferring to California Baptist Seminary in Covina. “That is where I met Charlotte, my lovely wife-to-be”, Confer reminisced. “She was a registered nurse at the local community hospital and was also a seminary student preparing for the foreign mission field”, he added.

Confer would join the Arizona National Guard in 1964 as a Chaplain (1Lt.) assigned to the 158th Infantry Battalion. “Those days we did our ‘officer’ training on the job”, he stated. He did not do formal officer training until being activated in 1966 and being posted to the U.S. Army Chaplain School at Fort Hamilton, NY.

After chaplain school, he was posted to the 5th Battalion, 2nd Artillery (AW-SP) at Fort Bliss, TX, as Battalion Chaplain. The same year, the battalion was deployed to join 2nd Field Force, Vietnam, just north of Saigon. “This was where I managed to get myself blown up”, he said, adding “I was riding on the outside of a Duster vehicle. This is a small self-propelled anti-aircraft vehicle with an open turret housing twin 40mm Bofors cannon.” “I had to ride on the outside because only crew were allowed in the turret. Unfortunately, we ran over a land mine and I was wounded.” Later pieces of shrapnel had to be removed from Confer’s head. “Upon regaining my wits after the explosion, I remember saying: ‘Who in the world would want to do that to us?’”, he laughed.

After being wounded in the field, the Battalion Commander told him he could order him to stay out of the field. The Commander’s reason was: “What am I going to tell Charlotte if you go and get yourself killed!” Harlan’s reply was: “Colonel, you are going to have a morale problem when you command draftees to go into the field, which you regard as too dangerous even for their chaplain.” “God is the one who decides the number of days I live on this Earth, for me to live, is Christ, and to die, is gain.”

After Vietnam, Confer was posted to the 59th Ordinance Group in Weierhof, Germany, followed by a stint in the Texas National Guard in Waco and Austin. While with the Guard, he continued his studies and wrote his PhD doctoral dissertation.

His next position was as an Assistant Professor at Biola University at Talbot Theological Seminary in La Mirada, CA. Then in 1984 he became Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Red Bluff. He also taught at Simpson University as Adjunct Professor and later in 1984 started teaching at Shasta Bible College. He says:

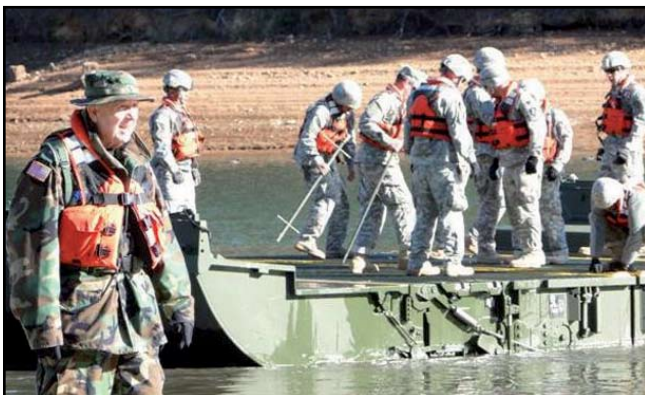


Chaplain and Mrs. Confer while based in Germany in 1966. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Harlan Confer

“I have the privilege of helping students prepare for ministry. I was not born to be a professor but rather a pastor.”

As the interview progressed, I could easily see Chaplain Confer’s level of commitment to his fellow man. In 2009, he joined the local unit of the California National Guard, the 132nd Multi Role Bridge Company (MRBC) as its chaplain. He has been with that unit for around 10 years. When they were deployed to Afghanistan in 2012, he was devastated that they would not take him with them, (being only 78 years-young).

Chaplain Confer was one of the recipients of the California’s State Assembly’s *Veterans of the Year Award* in 2015 after being nominated by



Chaplain Confer looking on as his National Guard unit assembles a “ribbon bridge”. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Harlan Confer

Assemblyman Brian Dahle. He received the award in Sacramento at the 2015 California State Assembly's 8th Annual Veterans of the Year Luncheon.

When I asked him what he gets the most out of serving in his various capacities, he simply says, "The privilege of being a servant to God and Country", quoting "Pro Deo et Patria." I asked what he enjoys the most from CAP? "The privilege of serving with committed patriots and working with youth as future leaders," he unhesitatingly said. He regards himself as a servant and friend and as an older guide.

I asked Chaplain Confer if he had any particular view about the roles and duties of a chaplain in a squadron. "Well", he said, "I see the chaplain as the special staff officer to assist the commander in the areas of religion, morality and morale. There is also the traditional role of the chaplain in terms of being available to all squadron members and their families to offer a listening ear and to dialog with them. But most of all, to practice the ministry of presence by modeling a love for God and a love for man".

When I asked him what it meant to be awarded Squadron Chaplain of the Year for 2018, he said: "I was embarrassed because there are more deserving people out there." I thought: "I don't think so." When asked for advice for CAP cadets and senior members, Chaplain Confer said, "Just tell them to continue to serve with an honorable motivation..... don't use promotion as your primary motivation for serving."

That seems to sum up the whole of Chaplain Harlan Confer's life. 



Chaplain Confer receives the California's State Assembly's Veterans of the Year Award. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Harlan Confer



Chaplain Confer with Squadron 126 Members. Photo credit: Maj. Lindsay Edwards

Wing Chaplain “Change of Authority” Ceremony

The California Wing Education Conference in September provided a formal venue for a transition within the position of Wing Chaplain. Chaplain Lt. Col Robert Harris, who has served in the role for more than six years, formally handed his duties over to Chaplain Major Michael L. Morison. Ch Maj. Morison previously served as chaplain for the Redwood Empire Composite Squadron 157 in Santa Rosa, where he also served as Aerospace Education Officer, and he continues as the Deputy Region Chaplain for the Pacific Region.

The stated role of the Chaplain Corps within CAP is to oversee the moral and spiritual welfare of CAP members and help guide them in living out CAP’s core values of integrity, respect, excellence, and volunteer service. Assisting the chaplains are senior members within the Character Development Instructor (CDI) specialty track, who can achieve Technician, Senior, and Master Ratings within the professional development specialty.

The designation of the ceremony as a “Change of Authority” proceeds from the fact that CAP chaplains are the only CAP members who report directly to the Air Force. The Secretary of the Air Force may call up CAP chaplains to support USAF active duty and reserve components whenever the Secretary deems it appropriate. This is feasible because CAP chaplains are required to meet almost identical educational and professional standards as Air Force chaplains, and they receive similar training.

The change of authority ceremony was also an occasion for the attending CAWG chaplains to reaffirm their oath of office. In addition, several CDI candidates were sworn in as CDIs during the Wing Conference event.



Ch Lt. Col. Harris conducts the change of authority. Photo credit: Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger



Ch Maj. Morison reads the oath of office to the attending chaplains. Photo credit: Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger



Ch Maj. Morison reads the oath of office to the new CDIs. Photo credit: Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger

CAP Awards and Decorations

*Lt. Col. Tammy Sturgill, CAP
CAWG Chief of Staff*

During our recent California Wing Education Conference held in Bakersfield on 19-22 September 2019, a workshop was offered on CAP Awards and Decorations. Lt. Col. Shawn Lawson, the CAWG Personnel Director and CAWG Award Chairperson, and Lt. Col. Tammy Sturgill, CAWG Chief of Staff, presented a workshop to 25 members on “How to Submit Someone for an Award.”

The class started with a presentation provided by Lt. Col. Jay Roberts (NVWG) and expanded upon as the class continued. After the presentation, Lt. Col. Lawson walked the participants through an actual award to show just how easy award nomination can be. Some helpful hints when writing an award:

1. Any CAWG member can nominate another for an award.
2. Confirm that they have not been put in for a prior award for the timeframe you are submitting.
3. Be sure when writing the justification to include the following:
 - a) time frame of the award
 - b) job performed
 - c) what duties were provided over and above the job description
 - d) any photos or documents to support the nomination (not required)

To help with the writing you can always reference CAPP 39-3, Awards Made Easy, and the AFH 33-337, The Tongue and Quill: both can be of great assistance. Another option is to ask your Personnel Officer at your local unit for assistance. Once the award nomination is submitted, depending on what level you have requested, it can take up to two weeks for it to be approved at each level (Group/Wing/Region).



Lt. Col. Tammy Sturgill shares her CAP awards and decorations know-how. Photo credit: Lt. Col. David Oberhettinger

Cadets Visit the U.S. Air Force Academy and NORAD

Maj. Jeff Goeggel, CAP

On 24-28 April, 2019, four officers and eleven cadets from different California Wing squadrons took off from Chino Airport for a four-day visit to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO., with a side trip to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) headquarters and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tuscon, AZ. Making a second trip in what is becoming an annual event, officers from Fullerton Composite Squadron 56 arranged a trip to the academy for cadets who are high school juniors or seniors and have a strong desire to attend the academy. Candidate cadets were selected based on academic performance and on their brief essay on why they should be chosen. Selectees would have an opportunity to visit the academy, spend some time with USAF cadets, and learn about cadet life.

Out of about 24 candidates, eleven were chosen to make the trip. Fullerton Squadron 56 senior staff on the trip were Squadron Commander Capt. Doug Miller, Public Affairs Officer Maj. Jeff Goeggel, and Leadership Officers Capt. Nicholas Benson and Capt. Mary Pickering. Flying the 75-year old refurbished DC-3 aircraft, known as the “Flabob Express,” were pilots Joe Fisher as captain) and John “Tym” Tymczyszyn as first officer. The cadets selected for the trip were Cadet Airman

1st Class Adam Walter, Cadet Airman Jordan Garcia, Cadet 2nd Lt. Stefanie Storms, Cadet Staff Sgt. Nicholas Norris, Cadet Master Sgt. Emily Foster, Cadet Senior Airman Kayden Maly, Cadet Technical Sgt. Apolinar Acevedo, Cadet Master Sgt. Hannah Nilsen, Cadet Master Sgt. Aiden Peck, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Grant Gillinger, and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jason Rodriguez.

Wednesday, 24 April, was the first day of the trip, primarily taken up by travel to Colorado Springs. En route, the cadets and staff made a stop at Albuquerque International Airport for fuel for both the cadets and the aircraft. While parking at Cutter Aviation, the cadets all noticed two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft parked on the ramp. After lunch, it seemed that Maj. Goeggel had wandered over to one of the C-17s and got permission from the crew to come aboard. The pilots were off-site attending a training class. After a brief search for Maj. Goeggel, the cadets found their way over to the C-17 where he was waiting for them, and they were also invited on board by the crew. The crew gave them a very thorough tour of the aircraft, plus an explanation of the C-17’s main missions—including troop transport, cargo movement, and aeromedical evacuation of wounded troops.

Before long, the Flabob Express crew found all of us at the C-17, and announced that it was time



Cadet Master Sgt. Hannah Nilsen poses in front of a statue of a P-51. Photo credit: Maj. Jeff Goeggel

to get back in the air for the final leg of the flight to Colorado Springs. To keep the cadets busy, they were invited to the right seat on the flight deck where they got 30-40 minutes of actual flight time at the controls. For those cadets who were unsure about flying careers, they found time at the controls of a large aircraft to be inspiring. Along the way, the cadets also learned a little wartime history of the aircraft. The last military celebrities to fly in the “Express” prior to the end of WWII were Sir Winston Churchill and the British royal family.

By 1800 hours, and after a couple enroute rainstorms, the group safely landed at Colorado Springs Airport. While taxiing over to Cutter Aviation (yes, they have one in Colorado Springs as well), we saw a group of Air Force C-130 pilots watch us taxi, took photos of the aircraft, and waved to the cadets who had their noses pressed up against the windows waving back. On arrival at Cutter Aviation, the aircraft was parked for the night, and the cadets got all the gear unloaded; meanwhile, Maj. Goeggel and Capt. Benson rounded up two vans that were supplied courtesy of the Colorado Wing, and drove them over to the plane to load up.

After everything was loaded, and all personnel and equipment accounted for, we drove over to the Airplane Restaurant for dinner. As it turned out, the restaurant is the full fuselage of an Air Force KC-97, the forerunner of the KC-135 Stratotanker. After dinner, it was off to check in to our hotel. Billeting was at the Academy Hotel (not on academy grounds, but pretty close). Lights out were at 2200 hours, but I would bet most everyone was asleep by then: it was indeed a full day.

Speaking of full days, everyone was up early on Day Two, had breakfast, and then were off to meet our escort at NORAD, Doug Dal Saglio, who organized and accompanied us on a tour of NORAD. We

were fortunate to receive this tour as NORAD is pretty much a top secret installation run by both the U.S. Air Force and the Canadian Air Force. NORAD tracks unknown aircraft coming into Canada and the United States through the Alaskan Air Defense Zone. NORAD also monitors the restricted airspace surrounding the White House in Washington D.C., and is set to scramble F-16 Viper fighter aircraft if the need arises. While in the NORAD Operations Center, we were given a high level briefing by a Canadian Air Force colonel who explained the



Cadets and seniors pose in front of NORAD at Peterson AFB. Photo credit: Maj. Jeff Goeggel

primary mission of NORAD. There were also some Air Force F-16 pilots, a tanker pilot and navigator, and a drone pilot who came in to speak with the cadets.

Before anyone was aware, it was 1200 hours and time for lunch. The remainder of the day, the cadets were on their own as the hotel had an indoor swimming pool where they all could kick back and relax. Dinner that night was at the Olive Garden, then back to the hotel.

Friday morning found the cadets up early yet again, and arriving at the Air Force Academy Visitors Center at 0800 to meet up with our guide, USAF 1st Lt. Jacob Booker. Lt. Booker is a 2018 Academy graduate on assignment to the Admissions Department. Lt. Booker, guided us to the academy chapel overlooking the parade grounds where, at 1200 hours, the entire academy cadet wing formed up to march to lunch as a group. While on academy grounds, the CAP cadets toured some of the dorms, the library, and

the new planetarium where they saw the IMAX movie “Fighter Pilot.” The film tells the story of a F-15 pilot on his way to Nellis Air Force Base to take part in his first Red Flag exercise.

The remainder of the day was occupied with an academy briefing to approximately 250 new academy appointees, which took about two hours. After the briefing, the cadets and staff met up with USAF C4C (Cadet 4th Class) Mitchel Ryder—a former Cadet Commander of Fullerton discussing the routine of academy life. After meeting with C4C Ryder, it was the end of the duty day and off to dinner at Cheddar’s (featuring REALLY good food) with Airman Ryder as our guest. After dinner, it was back to the hotel while Capt. Miller took Cadet Ryder back to the academy before Taps.

Saturday morning saw the cadets wheels up at 0800 hours—leaving for our last stop on the trip—an overnight stay at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tuscon, AZ. After landing in Tuscon (yes, it was hot) we rented two vans and drove over to the base where we met up with our host officer, USAF 1st Lt. Hannah Tordoff from Base Operations. After getting checked in to billeting at the Inn at Davis-Monthan, we spent the remainder of the day taking a tour of the control tower. Dinner was at the base bowling alley where we met up with a group of officers that Lt. Tordoff had invited to discuss Air Force careers with the cadets. As the hour was getting a little late, we all headed back to our rooms across the street from the bowling alley. The next morning, after breakfast at the DFAC (Dining Facility), we had a tour of the flightline where we took a group photo in front of an A-10 Thunderbolt (Warthog).

After the flightline, it was off to the Boneyard where thousands of retired Air Force and Navy aircraft now reside in the Arizona desert outside Tuscon. The aircraft stored there are preserved by the desert heat and the very low humidity. The aircraft are kept for parts, or are rebuilt and put back into the Air Force inventory of aircraft to be reused on active duty.

After finishing the tour, and a 3-½ hour flight, we landed back at Chino Airport at approximately 1600 hours.....a little (no, A LOT) tired but none the worse for wear.

Planning for USAFA 2020 is in the works. If you have a strong desire to attend the Air Force Academy, and you are

either a sophomore, junior, or senior in high school, watch for a wing e-mail announcing the next trip to the Academy. We look forward to seeing you at Chino Airport the morning of departure!



Academy cadets form up for the march to lunch. Notice the flightsuits: Friday is flightsuit day. Photo credit: Maj. Jeff Goeggel



Cadets and seniors pose in front of an A-10 Thunderbolt on the flight line at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Photo credit: Maj. Jeff Goeggel