



Flight Line

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of
New Mexico Wing



Vol. 10, No. 2 – April, 2020

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FLIGHT LINE is published quarterly, on the first month of every quarter. Deadlines for submission are as follows:

1Q – 20 December
2Q – 20 March
3Q – 20 June
4Q – 20 October

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred), or as a document attached to an e-mail

Images must be in JPG format, unretouched, un-cropped and at least 1200 by 900 pixels.

Credits: In all cases, please give full name, grade and unit assignment of:

1. The article's author;
2. Photographer, and
3. Anybody mentioned in the article.

Send submissions to the Editor at:

jaytourtel@comcast.net

Message size limit: 15 MB

New Mexico Wing Commander's Corner

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Hello, members of New Mexico Wing.

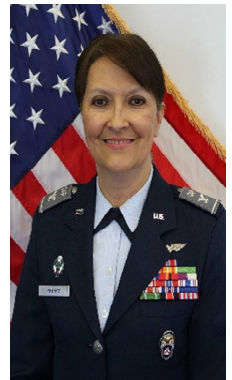
I hope that everyone is doing well, despite the difficult circumstances we are all facing with the COVID-19 Coronavirus. You all probably feel like you have been bombarded with e-mails coming from all directions. My staff and I are trying not to overwhelm our members, but we want to make sure that we are forwarding important information to you concerning your safety, and status updates of what our wing and National Headquarters is doing during this pandemic.

Our emergency services and operations staffs and I have been busy working to keep our wing mission-ready, should the call come from state and local agencies requiring our assistance. Here is a recent update that I received from our National Commander, Maj. Gen. Mark Smith, that I would like to share with you.

Maj. Gen. Smith writes:

We now have six wings engaged in COVID-19 missions supporting our communities, and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has indicated that more are likely in the days and weeks to come. A national operations plan is posted online for use by you and your teams when more support is requested. Also, HQ CAP-USAF and First Air Force are working hard to support our operations team in moving as many of our State and Local missions to AFAMs (Air Force Assigned Missions) as possible.

As a Total Force partner, the Air Force is adding CAP to be able to quickly and accurately report on the health and status of our resources, to include our members...it is important for everybody to know that the data will not be distributed outside of CAP, just the aggregated numbers...Hopefully, this data will help your situational awareness of illness-related issues in your organizations.



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With limited training available in some areas, we know that there are concerns with operations qualifications lapsing. The staff is working to implement a one-time extension for all operations qualifications until the end of September all operations qualifications that are due to expire between 31 March and 31 August. We will send a separate memo addressing this extension, but I want to encourage you to keep training as much as you can.

In these difficult times, it may be necessary to adjust our leadership style. Some leaders are more “touchy-feely” while others are more authoritarian. It is my hope that with everyone operating under higher levels of stress, authoritarian is not the best option. Our people need a gentler hand during these challenging times. Please keep this in mind and adjust your leadership style accordingly.

I have to say that it is strange, not being able to have the one-on-one interaction with our members, but even though we can't have our weekly in-person meetings, we can still interact virtually with our members. I commend the squadrons and staff members that have set up virtual meetings in the last couple of weeks. These are challenging times, but we will get through them. We are a team; we are New Mexico Wing. 🇺🇸

Col. Annette Peters, CAP
New Mexico Wing Commander

“New Mexico Wing – Working Together as a Team, in All of Our Missions for Our Community, State and Nation”

How to Submit Articles for this Newsletter

What should I write?

- Any article of general interest to the Wing. The most common articles are about cadet and senior promotions, milestone awards, field trips and guest speakers. Typically, an article should have the following four qualities:
 - **Brevity.** Neither too short nor too long. One to one-and-a-half printed pages (approximately 750-1000 words) is ideal.
 - **Timeliness.** Anything that happened within the 90 days prior to publication.
 - **Newsworthiness.** Articles should be about what the members of the Wing are doing, when they are doing it, where they are doing it and how well they are doing it.
 - **Relevance.** Does the article have a direct bearing on CAP, the Wing, or its missions?
- Articles written by cadets, especially if they are assigned as the cadet PAO, are welcome.

How do I submit articles and photos?

- **Do not format the article.** Articles should be sent in the body of the e-mail, which is the preferred method of submitting them.
- **Please include photos.** Articles without photos are less likely to be published. Make sure all participants are in the proper uniform. Please include the grade, first and last name, and duty position of each participant in the photo, as well as the name of whoever took the picture.
- **Do not embed photos in the Word document.** Please send in the original, unretouched, full-size photo as an attachment, in JPG format.

Have any ideas, suggestions or questions about articles? Feel free to contact the newsletter editor at jaytourtel@comcast.net. 🇺🇸



Above (L-R): Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell and Capt. Julielynn Wong, M.D., perform pre-departure safety checks, prior to deploying the sUAS to the earthquake-affected areas of southern Puerto Rico. (Photo: CAP Public Affairs)

Spirit Squadron Cadet Participates in Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Mission

*By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP
New Mexico Wing Public Affairs Officer*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Cadet Capt. Mark K. Chappell of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron was one of several Civil Air Patrol members who assisted in disaster relief efforts following the earthquakes in Puerto Rico that started on December 28, 2019, and progressed into 2020.

Civil Air Patrol provided more than 13,000 aerial photographs taken from small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS), more commonly referred to as drones, in support of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Three two-member sUAS teams and a unit leader deployed on January 9, 2020, following a series of earthquakes and aftershocks that began two days earlier. Each team consisted of a CAP sUAS mission pilot and an sUAS technician.

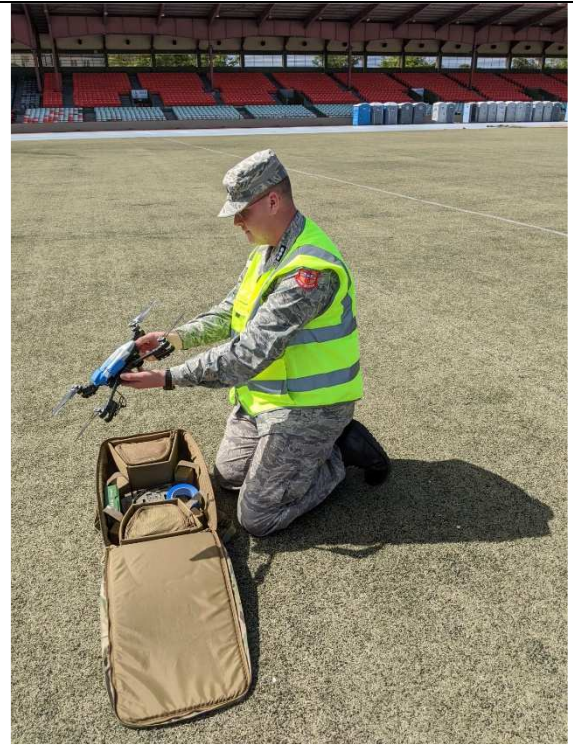
A second group of seven CAP members arrived in Puerto Rico to staff sUAS operations on January 19, replacing the original team members, and completed its assignments on Jan. 27, 2020. The mission officially stood down on January 29.

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Chappell, 20, was one of the six team members operating in Puerto Rico. He was attending a fixed-wing sUAS training program at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, when Civil Air Patrol support was requested by FEMA for the Puerto Rico disaster relief mission. Chappell was offered the opportunity to participate on one of the teams being deployed to Puerto Rico and accepted the offer.

Chappell began flying sUAS five years ago, when he joined a New Mexico Wing remote-control plane competition. "In spring of 2018, I took an introduction to UAS class at Central New Mexico Community College," Chappell said. "From there I earned my FAA Part 107 commercial drone certificate and worked on completing a collegiate certificate in UAS."

Chappell quickly found a way to put his newfound skills to work. "I started my own business, providing mapping services and ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) to government agencies," he said. He learned about CAP's sUAS program while looking for a course to attend at the annual National Emergency Services Academy. "From there, I've been developing New Mexico Wing's sUAS program as their director of training for unmanned aerial systems."



Above: Cadet Capt. Mark Chappell performs a safety check on an sUAS aircraft. (Photos: Capt. Julielynn Wong, M.D, CAP). **Below Left (L-R)** 1st Lt. Emmary Webb, Chappell, and Lt. Col. John Webb discuss the tactical implications of the sUAS on the target of the day.



Chappell considered it an honor to be one of the few cadets to deploy on this mission. "The CAP sUAS Program is an invaluable asset for CAP and first responders across the United States," said Chappell. "During my deployment, I had the honor of working with FEMA responders from across the United States, CAP members from six different wings, and work with command assets at the highest levels of government.

"As the only cadet to deploy with the first team, it was an opportunity for me to take my classroom experiences into the real world to serve my community, state and nation."

Chappell has been a member of CAP and the squadron since October 2013. He is currently assigned as the squadron's cadet commander. 🇺🇸

(Editor's Note: Capt. Margot Myers, public information officer for this disaster relief mission, contributed to this report.)

Falcon Composite Squadron Hosts Awards Night

By Capt. John Keel, CAP
Falcon Composite Squadron

RIO RANCHO, N.M. – On January 30, 2020, Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron held an awards ceremony, during which New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presented two national association awards and one milestone award to Falcon Squadron cadets.

Cadet Senior Airman Johnny Tran received the Air Force Sergeants' Association award for Outstanding Squadron First Year Cadet. This award recognized the dedication Cadet Tran has shown in his first year in Civil Air Patrol, such as attending summer encampment in his third month, as well as numerous other activities.

The Air Force Sergeants' Association Award for Outstanding Squadron Cadet NCO was presented to Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Moriah Marshall. This award recognizes the leadership and outstanding dedication Cadet Marshall has shown this year as the Falcon Squadron cadet first sergeant.

The highlight of the awards ceremony was the presentation of Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award to Cadet Capt. John G. Fox, Falcon Composite Squadron's cadet commander. This milestone is one of the highest achievements in the program and carries with it promotion to cadet captain. The Earhart Award is not easy to earn and very few – only three percent of all cadets – reach this milestone.



Above (L-R): New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presents Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award to Cadet Capt. John Fox of Falcon Composite Squadron. (Photos: MSgt Jeffrey Barlow, CAP) **Below Left:** As squadron commander 1st Lt. Keith Dirsa looks on, Col. Peters presents Cadet Senior Airman Johnny Tran with the Air Force Sergeants' Association award for Outstanding Squadron First Year Cadet.

According to the Earhart Award fact sheet, "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. Further, Earhart Award cadets must have passed comprehensive examinations on leadership and aerospace topics. After earning the Earhart Award, only Phase IV of the Cadet Program, and the prestigious Spaatz Award Examination remains for the young person to conquer as a CAP cadet."

To conclude the events of the night, Col. Peters shared personal stories of success within CAP and took questions from the cadets. 🇺🇸



Above (L-R): Members of the Al-Ithawi family: mother Jwlan Muhssen, Cadet Staff Sgt. Hussein Al-Ithawi of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron, younger brother Mohanad Jasim, and father Khalid Al-Ithawi. (Not pictured: older brother Mustafa Al-Ithawi) (Photo: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)

Spirit Squadron Cadet Becomes United States Citizen

By 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP
Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On March 5, 2020, at the field office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), Cadet Staff Sgt. Hussein Al-Ithawi of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron was sworn in as a United States Citizen. He had received his passport and verification of citizenship at the end of 2019, but had to wait for the ceremony to be officially sworn in.

Also attending the ceremony were Al-Ithawi’s father, Khalid Al-Ithawi; and his mother, Jwlan Muhssen. Al-Ithawi was naturalized along with his younger brother, Mohanad Jasim. His older brother, Mustafa Al-Ithawi, and his mother received their citizenship at an earlier ceremony in September 2019. Al-Ithawi’s father is still waiting for the date of his naturalization ceremony.

Before taking the Oath of Citizenship, all members of the family received tutoring in English and the history of the United States. Because Al-Ithawi and his brother were both under the age of 18 at the time, they were both presented Certificates of Citizenship, and swore the Oath of Citizenship at the ceremony. The entire family now awaits the naturalization of their husband and father, Khalid.

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The Al-Ithawi family has traveled a long road to citizenship, until they arrived in the United States in 2014 as refugees. Members of the squadron were invited to attend the ceremony, which was otherwise restricted to a few close friends and family.

Advisor to the Commander Lt. Col. Beverly A. Vito, one of the attendees, remarked upon the obstacles the family had to overcome, which included several years they spent in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, while fleeing the oppression of Iraq.

“The wonderful thing about this family is that they ‘refugeed out’ and spent several years in Dubai, until they could get permission to enter the United States,” said Vito.

“The entire process is a testament to the courage of a family wanting nothing more than what was better for their children,” said Spirit Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox, who also attended the ceremony. “They have waited a long time for this citizenship to happen,” she continued.



Above (L-R): Cadet Staff Sgt. Al-Ithawi and his younger brother swear the Oath of Citizenship. *Photo: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP.* **Below Left (L-R):** Cadet Staff Sgt. Al-Ithawi shows his Certificate of Citizenship to Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox. *(Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Khalid Al-Ithawi)*



Al-Ithawi has been a member of Civil Air Patrol and the squadron since April 2016. As a permanent resident of the United States at the time, he patiently waited three months for his application to be approved. His love of aviation and his desire to be a pilot kept him on task, as he overcame language barriers and military jargon, to earn the grade of cadet staff sergeant in October 2018.

Fox agreed that for Al-Ithawi to have come this far was a major accomplishment, and the squadron celebrated his citizenship, along with other promotions and awards, at their weekly meeting later on that evening. 🇸🇨



Above: Former Korean War POW Manuel Martinez addresses Military Day attendees on the importance of remembering prisoners of war and those missing in action. (Pictured at far right: Maj. Gen. Kenneth Nava, New Mexico National Guard Adjutant General.) (Photo: SM Mario Valenzuela, CAP)

Santa Fe Composite Squadron Participates in Military Day

By SM Mario Valenzuela, CAP
Santa Fe Composite Squadron

SANTA FE, N.M. – On January 25, 2020, Santa Fe Composite Squadron participated in the Military Day celebration at the New Mexico State Capitol building. Members of the squadron manned a recruiting booth, displaying brochures and informational packets about Civil Air Patrol at the activity, which included other booths, ranging from veterans' resource groups to the New Mexico National Guard.

Usually the event is held on a legislative session day, where CAP cadets deliver packets with thank-you letters and membership applications to all legislators. While CAP is a congressionally chartered, federally supported non-profit corporation. CAP also receives funding from the state, and New Mexico legislative support is very much appreciated. This state funding helps conduct state missions.

This year's Military Day was on a Saturday, so the legislature was not in session. Manuel Martinez, who was a prisoner of war (POW) during the Korean War, gave a heartfelt speech about freedom and the sacrifices that the brave men and women of the armed forces make to secure that freedom.

The focal point for this year's Military Day was remembrance of those who are still missing in action (MIA), those who were formerly MIA, and POWs. Maj. Gen. Kenneth Nava, New Mexico National Guard Adjutant General, announced a call to action for everybody to make POW/MIA Recognition Day in New Mexico more well-known. Attendees agreed that the general gave a moving and memorable speech.

The CAP team at the event included New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters, Santa Fe Composite Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Angie Slingluff, New Mexico Wing Chief of Staff Lt. Col. John Gravel, and Santa Fe Composite Squadron Cadet Commander Cadet 2nd Lt. Forest Nelson. According to Slingluff, several individuals were interested in joining CAP at the event. Since CAP is a volunteer organization, recruitment is very important and Military Day was an opportunity for CAP to make itself known to the general public. 🇺🇸

Spirit Squadron Graduates its First “Great Start” Class

By 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP
Albuquerque Heights “Spirit”
Composite Squadron

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On January 23, 2020, Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron completed its first-ever Great Start graduation ceremony. The ceremony was the culmination of eight weeks of training, led by the squadron’s Deputy Commander for Cadets, Maj. John H Brennan.

Cadets enrolled in the Great Start program had been sworn in by early December, and were working together, as a class, to complete the requirements for their first promotion. The newly graduated cadet airmen included Andrew Gallegos, Abigail Henry, Emery Byers, Joseph Keleher, and Gabriel Wusciewski. Absent on the date of graduation, but graduating two weeks later, was Cadet Airman Nicholas Mora.

The Great Start program is a training format that involves bringing all new cadets together into one group, and keeping those cadets together until they have mastered the material necessary for leadership and drill. Once the group has accomplished this task, learned CAP’s Cadet Oath and attended their Wingman character development course, they are eligible to take their first step up—the Curry Achievement, which is also their first promotion in CAP, to the grade of cadet airman. While learning together, the group grows in esprit-de-corps and strengthens itself in foundations of leadership. When asked how his entrance into the Civil Air Patrol as a new cadet was, Cadet Airman Byers said that the Great Start class “was very informative, and I was able to learn a lot through the various teaching techniques. The cadets who taught the course were great,” he concluded.

Brennan, an active-duty Air Force officer and a former Spaatz cadet, has been actively involved with cadet programs since he joined CAP in January 2006. His experience contributed greatly to the squadron’s graduation of its first Great Start class. Cadet Tech. Sgts. Aiden Jones and Sarah Roth assisted Maj. Brennan as cadet instructors for the class. 🇺🇸



Above: Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets, Maj. John H. Brennan (back to camera), addresses the squadron’s first-ever Great Start graduating class. (Photo: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)



Above: The cadets and senior members of Route 66 Composite Squadron participate in the squadron's search and rescue exercise. (Photo: Capt. Ryan Stanton, CAP)

Route 66 Composite Squadron Conducts Ground Team Training

*By Capt. Ryan Stanton, CAP
Route 66 Composite Squadron*

EDGEWOOD, N.M. – New Mexico Wing's Route 66 Composite Squadron conducted a joint cadet-senior member search and rescue exercise, the weekend of February 14-15, 2020, at the Torrance County Park just south of Edgewood.

The exercise included 12 cadets and five senior members, with three senior members on the ground and two in the air. Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Roger Lenard was the mission pilot for the exercise, and emergency services officer La Vern "Pete" Scherf served as mission observer.

Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets Maj. Dennis Craig, and Communications Officer 2nd Lt. Lucas O'Dell, taught the cadets how to use signal mirrors and communicate by radio. New Mexico Wing Assistant Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Chris Branan, who also serves as advisor to the squadron commander, taught the cadets other methods to attract rescue aircraft, and communications using the phonetic alphabet, as well as whistle commands that are used to locate lost people on a ground team search.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the team enjoyed an old-fashioned campfire with hot dogs and marshmallows. The cadets and seniors agreed that the operation was a success. 🍔



Above (L-R): Former Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Lloyd J. Voights and Central New Mexico Group Commander Lt. Col. Michael E. Eckert (right) prepare to pin on Cadet Maj. Mark K. Chappell’s new grade insignia. (Photos: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)

Chappell Promoted to Cadet Major

By 1st Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP
Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On March 5, 2020, Mark K. Chappell of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron was promoted to the grade of cadet major, becoming the first cadet in the squadron to achieve that grade since the squadron was chartered in July 2005.

Chappell’s promotion was one of several celebrations that night, which included the citizenship of Cadet Staff Sgt. Hussein Al-Ithawi, who was naturalized earlier in the day. Among the other honors, Cadet Staff Sgt. Trevor Anderson received the Good Citizen Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution; Cadet Sponsor Members Doug and Robin Jones received their Certificates of Completion of Level I of CAP’s professional development program; and three other cadets were promoted: Christian Cumbow to cadet airman, Jessamine Wignall to cadet staff sergeant, and Morgan Raney to cadet senior master sergeant. The highlight of the evening, however, was Chappell’s promotion, where former Squadron Commander Maj. Lloyd J. Voights, and Central New Mexico Group Commander Lt. Col. Michel E. Eckert, showed up to pin on Chappell’s new insignia.

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Chappell has been a member of CAP and the squadron since September 10, 2013. Almost six years to the day, on September 12, 2019, he received CAP's Amelia Earhart Award, which carried with it promotion to cadet captain. He has held a number of positions as he rose through the ranks, while also achieving his personal goals. He currently serves as New Mexico Wing Director of Training for small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) – reporting directly to the Wing Director of Emergency Services, Lt. Col. John P. Grassham – even though he is a cadet. He actively participates in training cadets and senior members the concept of sUAS, commonly called drones, and has encouraged many members to participate in drone activities both in and out of Civil Air Patrol.

In early January, Chappell joined a team of drone flight specialists, and represented CAP in Puerto Rico as FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and other agencies worked together to assess the damage done by the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that occurred there on January 7.

Chappell's commendations include CAP's Meritorious Service Award, for his many contributions in and out of CAP. His promotion to cadet major marks the pinnacle of his cadet career, since Chappell plans to transition to senior membership and the grade of technical flight officer. Upon his 21st birthday, he will be eligible for promotion to first lieutenant. 🇺🇸



Above: (L-R): Cadet Sponsor Members Robin and Doug Jones receive their Certificates of Completion of Level I of CAP's professional development program.



Above (L-R): New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters presents Clovis High Plains Composite Squadron Commander Capt. James W. Netcher with CAP's Grover Loening Award. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

Netcher Receives Grover Loening Award

*By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP
New Mexico Wing Public Affairs Officer*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On January 11, 2020, Capt. James W. Netcher, commander of Clovis High Plains Composite Squadron, received Civil Air Patrol's Grover Loening Award at the quarterly Wing Commanders Call and Staff Meeting. The award was presented to Netcher by New Mexico Wing commander Col. Annette Peters.

The Grover Loening Award represents completion of Level III of CAP's five-level professional development program for its adult senior members. To earn the award, members must complete Level II of the professional development program, serve in a command or staff position for one year, attain the Senior rating in any specialty track, attend two region, wing or national conferences as a senior member, complete Civil Air Patrol's Corporate Learning Course (CLC) and earn CAP's Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Award. Members who successfully complete Level III are eligible for promotion to captain, after 30 months' time-in-grade as either a first lieutenant, senior flight officer, or combination thereof.

Netcher has been a member of CAP since December 2014. His previous positions in the squadron have included testing officer and transportation officer. 🇺🇸

Sprit Squadron Fights COVID-19 Virus by Holding Virtual Meetings

By Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron Public Affairs

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - On March 19, 2020, Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron faced the challenges presented by the COVID-19 Coronavirus by holding its first virtual meeting.

Working in conjunction with the National Civil Air Patrol directive to practice social distancing, which included suspending in-person meetings until at least May 11, Spirit Squadron took swift and decisive action, and within a week, discovered a virtual meeting app, organized and trained all members of the squadron on its use and successfully accomplished its first virtual reality weekly squadron meeting.

In researching various apps to use for this concept of virtual CAP meetings, Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox found a virtual meeting app that met her needs: it was free, user-friendly and easy to teach. Fox had from Saturday, March 14, to the following Thursday to teach the 22 squadron members how to use the app in order to have an effective meeting.



Above: Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox prepared for a virtual squadron meeting from her home. (Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Juana Fox)

As one of the guest speakers for the squadron's first virtual meeting, New Mexico Wing Commander Col Annette Peters provided words of encouragement during this time of the COVID-19 crisis. Assistant Wing Director for Safety Lt Col Douglas Weitzel also gave a brief COVID-19 update. Other guests included Central Group Commander Lt Col Michael Eckert and New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs Lt Col Andrew Selph, who were both interested in the technology. "Tonight was an outstanding representation of organizing and managing of a weekly meeting," said Eckert, "Senior members and cadet instructors had their own classrooms and time slots for training, the same as if it were a regular meeting night." He went on to add that "Senior member and cadet feedback was highly positive."

Peters noted that the movement between virtual classrooms was interesting. Whenever Fox needed information from another virtual classroom, she would "send" a senior member to retrieve that information, and then that member would return with the information requested. "It felt like the member was actually running down the hall and then coming back," said Peters, "almost as if they were really in their squadron headquarters, going from room to room."

Advisor to the Commander Lt Col Beverly A. Vito was a dial-in participant, and did not have the privilege of seeing all that was happening on line. "I really felt like I was actually there with everyone," said Vito, who expressed how easy it was for all members to access the meeting with or without a computer.

The first virtual meeting included 26 squadron members and four guest members, and ran for two and a half hours. Fox praised the members of the squadron for refusing to allow COVID-19 to interfere with their weekly meetings. "The virus has worked hard to change how our lives look and play, but it was not able to take the squadron down." said Fox 🇺🇸

Editorial

The COVID-19 Coronavirus: This Generation's Finest Hour

By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP
New Mexico Wing Public Affairs Officer

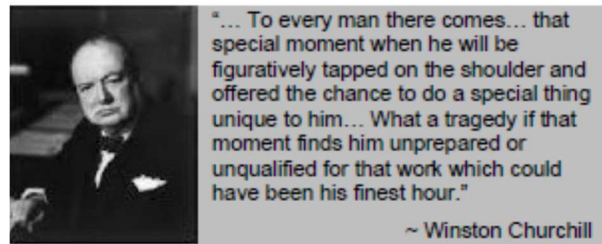
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Every generation or so, a cataclysmic event comes along that plunges the population into the depths of despair, and yet this country, after being subjected to these trials, emerges far stronger for having survived them. The Great Depression, World War II and 9/11 all come to mind, as examples of when we pulled together as a country to conquer a seemingly unconquerable foe. Now we are at war with an invisible enemy: the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Like the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the virus struck without warning. We first heard about it in mid-January 2020, as a virus that had originated in Wuhan, China. No one ever thought that the virus would make landfall on our shores, but over the past two months, increasingly more cases were reported – not only in the United States, but in Italy, South Korea, Africa, and North and South America. By the beginning of March, the virus had affected 114 countries, and by March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization had declared the Coronavirus a global pandemic. And just like that, the whole world. was plunged into chaos.

The effects of this pandemic have been devastating. Many countries are on lockdown, with residents being told not to leave home unless absolutely necessary; panic-buying and hoarding of essential supplies, such as toilet paper, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes has become commonplace; people are being asked that if they do go out in public, not to congregate in groups of more than five, and are also being asked to observe social distancing – to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others at all times – in hopes of not contracting or spreading the virus. Businesses have closed (with the exception of those deemed essential by each governor), employees have been furloughed, laid off or terminated, and some households are wondering how they will meet expenses for the duration of this crisis. To the casual observer, the situation seems hopeless.

And yet, we have emerged victorious from hopeless situations before. The Greatest Generation, which came of age during the Great Depression, were forged in the crucible of self-sacrifice – gasoline and tire rationing, paper and scrap metal drives and War Bond sales – so that when they were called up for World War II, they were trained to do more with less. When the war ended in 1945, it launched one of the greatest postwar economic booms in history. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, were meant to cow the country into submission to the terrorists' demands, but instead, we summoned the resolve to regroup and rebuild, and for a brief time, we all came together as a country; a new spirit of patriotism flooded the land. As far as COVID-19 is concerned, President Trump just signed an emergency relief bill that will sustain middle-income families financially for the next four months – by which time, with any luck, the crisis will have passed. CAP is adapting, as well. Virtual meetings are being held, training deadlines are being extended and tabletop exercises are being offered in place of actual search and rescue exercises. Civil Air Patrol's adaptability has been amazing.

In researching this column, I was reminded of British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill's "finest hour" speech, and how he used that speech to rally Great Britain out of desolation and despair. This quote was not part of the speech that he delivered, but it resonates with those who embrace the volunteer spirit of Civil Air Patrol. CAP members have been figuratively tapped on the shoulder to do something special or unique. Let us be prepared and qualified for the work that will make this our finest hour. 🇺🇸



Command NCO's Corner

How Does an NCO Fit into Your Organization?



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – The CAP's NCO program provides the following:

- ▶ CAP members access to professional military skills, training and experience of former military NCOs.
- ▶ Training and advice for non-prior service CAP members in the methods and procedures of military organizations, leadership and management.
- ▶ CAP military skills training: wear of the uniform, customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, and basic leadership – a single resource at all levels of CAP

CAP NCOs are a diverse group of prior service members from all branches of the armed forces of the United States. Each is unique in military background, training, skills, and experience. The NCO program has added to CAP's ability to perform its missions.

While CAP encourages citizens with no previous military background to volunteer, the nature of CAP's missions requires an understanding of the military culture. The recruitment and assignment of former military members allows CAP to bridge the gap between the civilian talents of its volunteers and the unique skill set of the military personnel, especially NCOs – the foundation and backbone of today's military services.

It's vitally important to understand that *NCOs are eligible to hold ANY position within CAP*. Period. The only limitations are those assignments normally reserved for officers, such as unit commanders. This last sentence is not all-inclusive, however. To support the NCO's CAP career, if an NCO wishes to take a command position, conversion to an appropriate officer grade can be made and at the completion of the command assignment, the individual may return to his or her NCO grade with time-in-grade, as an officer, counted for subsequent NCO promotions.

How does an NCO fit into your organization? Any way he or she deems they want to. Give them a job they are interested in and get out of their way; you'll be surprised by the creativeness and responsibility that comes out of prior service individuals.

Next time: **How to get your NCOs Promoted.**

Semper Vigilans,

Chief 

**CMSgt Charles Grosvenor, CAP
New Mexico Wing Command NCO**

"The New Mexico Wing NCO Program – A Personal Choice"

Safety Corner

COVID-19 And Risk Management



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – For this issue, I’d like to share a perspective by Mr. George Vogt, National Headquarters’ Chief of Safety, from a recent email to Region and Wing Safety Directors:

“Even if we feel strong, healthy, and invincible (which we’re not),” Vogt says, “travel and meetings can increase the spread of the virus to those who may be older, or have other high-risk conditions. That is the well-advised reasoning behind Gen Smith’s memo curtailing most of CAP’s group activities ([click HERE](#)) and the DoD’s (Department of Defense) similar restrictions on travel and conferences, and the actions being taken by state and local governments to reduce group and community spread of the virus.

“As you work (virtually) with your units and have a chance to explain some of the reasoning behind these decisions,” Vogt continues, “it is a perfect time to provide a lesson in risk management. The virus is the hazard. The severity of the illness (the risk) can be reduced by prompt testing and treatment. The [likelihood of] the hazard can be reduced if we follow sound hygiene practices, social distancing guidelines, and travel/group restrictions. Implementing those risk controls will minimize the effects of the spreading virus. When the crisis is over, our leaders will do the “mishap review” portion of the process to see what contributed to the spread and what could be done in the future to reduce the risk. That is risk management, and it should be at the forefront of the discussions you have with your members so they can get a full appreciation of how risk management is an important part of just about everything that affects us.”

Please take this to heart in your interactions with other CAP members, and especially our cadets. Each of us has a very important role in reducing risk to the community. *Now is the time to be at the top of our game in protecting our fellow members.*

Stay safe and healthy. 🍀

Maj. C. John Graham, CAP
Director of Safety

New Mexico Wing Safety – “Think Before You Do”

Public Affairs Corner

An Apostrophe to the Apostrophe



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Can anyone tell me what is wrong with this sentence: “Do misplaced apostrophe’s annoy you?”

If the answer is “yes” – either to the question itself or what is wrong with the sentence – you are one of the few who understand the proper use of the apostrophe. Some of you may ask, “What difference does it make?” Actually, it makes a lot of difference. In order for language to make sense, we need to know what is being said. The apostrophe serves two purposes: to show possession and to act as a contraction.

To show possession. If you wanted to talk about an umbrella that belongs to Joe, you would say, “That is Joe’s umbrella.” Without the apostrophe, we get the awkward “Joes,” which leads us to believe that the writer is talking about more than one Joe. An apostrophe can also show plural possession, such as, “We are going to the Smiths’ for dinner.” You wouldn’t say “Smith’s,” because you are talking about the Smiths, which is plural. So, you would say you are going to the residence of the Smiths, or the Smiths’ which is grammatically correct. If the subject’s name ends in *s*, then the apostrophe is added to the end, such as, “Rufus’ mother is a stern taskmaster.” You can use the *apostrophe-s* if you want to, but “Rufus’s” sounds a bit unwieldy.

To act as a contraction. This is the biggest problem I see with apostrophes. People know that they act as contractions, but they need to know which words are being contracted. It’s best to think of the apostrophe as a marker, showing that a letter, a series of letters or words has been omitted. For example:

- **You’re.** Used as a contraction of *you are*. Not to be confused with *your*, meaning something belonging to you.
- **They’re.** Used as a contraction of *they are*. Not to be confused with *their* (belonging to them), or *there* (in that place).
- **O’clock.** This phrase actually means, “*of the clock*.” The apostrophe serves as a place holder to account for the missing words.

In some cases, a missing apostrophe can dramatically change the meaning of a word. If we remove the apostrophe from *we’re* we get *were*; *she’ll* becomes *shell*; *I’ll* becomes *ill*; and let’s not even discuss the price we would pay by removing the apostrophe from *he’ll*.

When I took freshman composition at NMMI, I discovered that the word *apostrophe* has two meanings. The first refers to the punctuation mark; the second is a way to rhetorically address a usually absent person or a usually personified thing. To me, the apostrophe is the personification of civilized writing.

This has been my apostrophe to the apostrophe. 🇺🇸

Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP
Public Affairs Officer

New Mexico Wing Public Affairs – “Telling the CAP Story”

OPSEC WARNING! Be Careful What You Post!

WHAT IS OPSEC?

OPSEC (Operational Security) is the protection of sensitive information, that the loss or compromise thereof will pose a threat to Civil Air Patrol's operations or missions. All CAP members must complete OPSEC training and sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement to become emergency services qualified. If you have not done so, please speak to your commander.

HOW DO I PRACTICE OPSEC?

- **Identify and Control Critical Information.** Critical Information is information which can potentially provide an adversary with knowledge of our intentions, capabilities or limitations. It can also cost us our technological edge, or jeopardize our people, resources and credibility. Critical Information should not be released to anyone without a valid "need to know."
- **Examples of Critical Information:** Documents or photos that include the following:
 - Deployments – Chaplain or other support of CAP
 - Technology – Capabilities of CAP equipment
 - Exercises – CAP participation in DoD exercises
 - Missions:
 - Planned intercept missions
 - Law Enforcement Support missions
 - Major event support like the Super Bowl or Olympics
 - Communications – Radio Frequencies and Access Tones
 - Documents marked FOUO (For Official Use Only)
 - Ops Plans, tail numbers of aircraft and Victor Airways
 - Location of Resources – airplanes, vehicles, repeater sites, etc.
- **Watch what you say or post.** Foreign and domestic terrorists are constantly monitoring our communications, looking for weaknesses. Don't try to impress others with your knowledge.
Loose Lips Sink Ships!
- **Publicly accessible websites will NOT include:**
 - For Official Use Only (FOUO) Information, such as radio frequencies
 - Sensitive Information, such as any of the examples listed above.
 - Planned Deployments, such as movement of aircraft to or from mission base.
 - Personal Information – Social Security Numbers, Phone Numbers, etc.
 - Pictures of aircraft crashes, military aircraft (depending on technology), pictures of comm equipment with frequencies, counterdrug flights, ground targets, or any photo not cleared by the incident commander (IC) or Public Information Officer (PIO).

OPSEC IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

- The purpose of OPSEC is to protect against unauthorized disclosure of official information. Keep your information secure at all times
- OPSEC is mostly common sense. If we take the time to learn what information needs protecting, and how we can protect it, we can continue to execute our missions effectively. 🇺🇸

Members of New Mexico Wing! Get Recognized for Your Writing!

Beginning with the January 2020 issue of FLIGHT LINE, New Mexico Wing will recognize members who contribute articles to the newsletter as follows:

A New Mexico Wing **CAP Certificate of Appreciation** will be awarded to members who contribute articles to three different issues of FLIGHT LINE. (Issues need not be consecutive.) Multiple articles run in the same issue will count as one submission.

A New Mexico Wing **CAP Achievement Award** will be awarded to members who contribute articles to another six issues of FLIGHT LINE. (Issues need not be consecutive.) Multiple articles run in the same issue will count as one submission.

Wing will present the award certificate at the earliest opportunity. If no member is present to accept the certificate, it will be sent to the member's unit at the first available opportunity.

How to Submit Articles Suitable for Publication

All articles will be written in AP Style. For more information, go to www.ap.org, or see our supplement, "Associated Press Style in a Nutshell."

"Article" is defined as a narrative that:

- Is written in AP Style;
- Answers the questions Who, What, When, Where, and Why, and preferably also How;
- Has one or more quotes from participants, with attribution;
- Has two or more digital photos attached (not embedded in the text), with appropriate cutlines (photo captions). An article submitted without digital photos that is selected for publication will count as a half-credit. For full credit, it must have accompanying photos.

General advice on writing a good article:

- Get all the facts right, stick to the facts, and do not use hearsay or express opinion.
- **Take good digital photos.**
 - Do not use digital zoom, or else your photos will lack good focus and definition;
 - Take "action shots" of people doing something interesting that is material to the article; for each photo, identify the people on it by grade, name, and unit.
 - Make sure everyone is in the correct uniform and you identify all, as per above.
 - **Note: Good photos are essential to add immediacy and flavor to the story.**
 - **Get good quotes.**
 - Ask participants for their opinion.
 - Get full grade, name, position title and unit of assignment for each quote.
 - Get the individual's consent to publish the quote as recorded (read it back).
 - **Note: Getting quotes is how you get to express opinion, and get your readers to share the experience that you are writing about.**
- **Write in good, idiomatic, unadorned English**
 - Do not "pad" your sentences, such as saying "due to the fact that" when "because" will do;
 - Avoid trite expressions, such as "it goes without saying" – if it does, don't say it;
 - Avoid colloquial expressions.
 - Do not write in acronyms – always define the first instance, such as "Federal Aviation Administration" before you use FAA;
 - No nicknames – unless famous, such as "Ike" for Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower. 🇺🇸

Associated Press Style in a Nutshell

Below are the most important rules to keep in mind when writing in AP Style

- Write the title in normal English-language capitalization. Never all in caps.
- Add your byline below the article title
- Do not format the text in the article (only exceptions are: bullet comments and numbered paragraphs in a section that details a process or sequence).
- Do not indent the first line of a paragraph.
- Use AP Style rules for punctuation.
- Single space the article. At the end of each paragraph, execute two end-of lines (Enter key).
- Do not introduce artificial paragraphing by hitting the Enter key at the end of each line in your article. Instead, let the text wrap naturally and tap two Enter keys at the end of the paragraph.
- Use only a single space after a period.
- Insert a dateline at the beginning of the article, following AP Style rules.
- Answer the 5Ws: Who, What, Where, When, Why + the honorary W: How. In writing a CAP article, you will always know the 5Ws.
- Write all dates in AP style.
- Do not use postal codes instead of state abbreviations (not OK but Okla., not NM but N.M.) but some states have no abbreviation, such as Texas.
- Write all military grades in AP Style.
- Write the article in the third person singular.
- Express no opinion. To express opinion, use one or more quotes of qualified sources – always get the quoted person’s permission to include the quote, unless it is a matter of record (printed article or recorded audio-visual). Get the quoted person’s grade, name, job title and organization.
- Never self-quote.
- Identify all persons by grade or title, name, job title if material, and organization.
- Never refer to a young person as “kid.”
- When a young person is a CAP cadet, never use “boy,” “girl” or “child” but identify each one by grade, full name (or last name only – never first name only), and unit of assignment.
- Never use “their” for the possessive of a singular subject, such as, “the cadet took their meal.”
- Avoid the abbreviations i.e. and e.g. You may know what each one means, and the Latin words they represent, but most people confuse the two. Be clear. Write in English and leave Latin and non-English to scholars.
- Refer to CAP members by grade, name, duty position and unit of assignment. Never by first name.
- On second or subsequent references, use only the last name, except when there are two persons with the same last name, in which case the use of both first and last name is preferred (never just the first names).
- In the case of CAP or military commanders or higher-ranking senior members, on second reference use the grade and last name.
- Do not use Lt. as a grade. Lt. is a mode of address. The correct grade may be 2nd Lt. or 1st Lt., but never Lt. The Navy is the only service that has the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the good rules of English grammar and syntax, and follow them.
- *For best results*, buy the latest copy of the Associated Press Stylebook, available at a modest cost at www.ap.org – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖

Flight Line, New Mexico Wing – April, 2020
Uniform and Photo Guidelines

- All personnel must be in the proper uniform.
- Face-to-waist is the best composition for most photos.
- Uniforms should be clean, neat, pressed and in good repair.
- T-shirts should not be visible on any of the open-collar service uniforms (USAF-Style and Corporate).
- Only regulation headgear is allowed with all uniforms (USAF-style and Corporate).
- Hair must be clean, well-groomed and neat.
- Members must meet weight and grooming standards to wear USAF-style uniforms.



BDUs/ABUs: For group photos, either all sleeves up or all sleeves down, to present a uniform appearance.

Tie (or collar tab) must be worn with all long-sleeved service shirts (both USAF-style and Corporate), Class A uniforms and CAP blazer combinations.

SUNGLASSES AND EYGLASSES

- Sunglasses are not allowed in military formations.
- Sunglasses and eyeglasses will not be worn around the neck, on top/back of the head or worn hanging exposed on the uniform.
- Pens, pencils, wallets, watch chains, fobs, pins, jewelry, combs, cigars, cigarettes, pipes and sunglass cases will not be worn or carried exposed on the uniform.

