



# Flight Line

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of  
**New Mexico Wing**



Vol. 11, No. 3 – July, 2021

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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](mailto:jaytourtel@comcast.net)

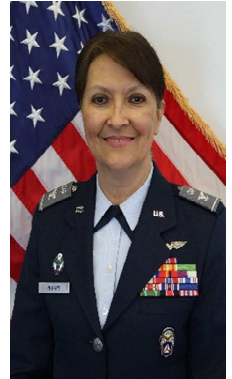
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## New Mexico Wing Commander's Corner

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Hello, New Mexico Wing! I hope your summer is off to a good start. Our Wing has come a long way since this time last year. Thanks to all of you following the CDC's COVID-19 guidelines, as well as the guidelines from CAP National HQ, our Wing has finally reached Phase III of the Remobilization Plan. I have to say that when I received the notice from National HQ that we had been approved for Phase III, a huge wave of relief came over me. Please understand, though, that we're not completely out of the woods yet, and we have to continue to be vigilant about following the CDC guidelines and National HQ guidelines. But we are now having face-to-face meetings, cadet activities and we're planning Wing-wide training for our members – both for ground and air missions.

We learned from our COVID-19 mission that we are capable of running a virtual Incident Command Post (ICP), but we need to have properly trained personnel to fill the positions for ICP. Many of our members have had their qualifications lapse over the past year, so we need to focus on getting our members requalified. In order to do that, we need our Emergency Services and Operations Officers for each squadron to work with their squadron members to figure out what training they need, in order for our members to become requalified in various ES specialty qualifications.

There are many areas in our Wing that we need to focus on, as we come out of the restrictions that we have been under for the past 16 months. One of those areas is Cadet Programs. Despite the fact that we had to cancel both Summer Encampment and Glider Academy for the second year in a row, we hope to have other opportunities for our cadets to participate in weekend activities. We are also focusing on making sure that our cadets receive their powered, glider and balloon orientation rides in a timely manner. Our cadet orientation ride coordinators are Capt. Tom Billstrand for powered o-rides, Lt Col Roland Dewing for glider o-rides and Lt Col William Fitzpatrick for balloon o-



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rides. Squadrons should contact these gentlemen to schedule the orientation rides for their cadets.

Looking back on the past 16 months and the impact the Coronavirus pandemic has had on each and every member of our Wing and our family members, I can't help but be proud of how our Wing has weathered this horrific storm. The impact that our Wing had in supporting and serving the residents of our State of New Mexico was tremendous during the COVID-19 mission. The fact that we were able to continue to support one another during our countless virtual meetings, day after day for the past 16 months, Our ability to continue to keep our squadrons going through the most difficult times speaks volumes of the resiliency of our members. Yes, our membership numbers have dropped over the past 16 months, but I am confident that we will begin to recruit new members once again, as we go out into our communities and share our CAP stories. As for all of our members that have weathered the storm alongside us, we need to continue to come together as a team to support one another and remind ourselves and each other of the many reasons we joined Civil Air Patrol. 🇺🇸

**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”***

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## 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](mailto:jaytourtel@comcast.net). 🇺🇸



**Above:** The intro slide announcing the Wing's approval for Phase III remobilization. (Screenshots: Lt. Col Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

## **New Mexico Wing Approved for Phase III Remobilization; State to Fully Reopen on July 1, 2021**

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M – On June 12, 2021, at a New Mexico Wing virtual Town Hall meeting, New Mexico Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Dean M. Klassy, Sr., head of the Wing Remobilization Task Force, announced that New Mexico Wing was approved to enter Phase III of CAP's Remobilization Plan. On the heels of Klassy's announcement – on June 17, 2021 – New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced that on July 1, 2021, the State of New Mexico will lift all COVID-19 restrictions, and that all businesses will be able to reopen and operate at 100% capacity.

On April 14, 2021, New Mexico Wing was approved to enter Phase II of CAP's National Remobilization Plan by Civil Air Patrol's National Remobilization Team, headed by CAP National Vice Commander Brig. Gen. Edward Phelka. Moving into Phase II allowed Wing Headquarters, and all the units within the wing, greater flexibility in planning and executing meetings, training and other activities. Under Phase II, units were able to hold day-long meetings and one-day activities, with 50 or fewer low-risk members participating in person, with self-identified high-risk members continuing to work from home. Phase II did not allow for any overnight activities.

Under Phase III, New Mexico Wing can now have meetings with 150 or fewer low-risk members, and may resume overnight activities, such as encampments, bivouacs and conferences. Self-identified high-risk members may gradually return to intermittent unit, activity and mission duties; however, they should continue to observe social distancing. All members should refrain from crowds at all times.

For overnight activities, the commander or Activity Director must provide at least 30 days' notice to both the Wing Vice Commander and Safety Officer, and must submit a risk assessment at least three weeks prior to the activity. For aircraft sorties, the aircraft sanitized between sorties. All high-risk members must wear face covers. Fully vaccinated members are no longer required to wear face masks inside or outside; unvaccinated members must continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

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“No one will ask you if you’ve been vaccinated,” Klassy said. “We’re on the honor system here,” he added.

All units must comply with CAP guidelines, New Mexico Wing guidelines and the guidelines issued by the New Mexico Department of Health. Guests are allowed at meetings, but they will count against the 150-person cap. Klassy suggested that commanders and activity directors have guests pre-register to ensure participation from as many members as possible. Commanders and activity directors should also monitor both the maps at [www.covidactnow.org](http://www.covidactnow.org), as well as the New Mexico Department of Health Map, to ensure participation at the following risk levels:

**Red (Very High Risk):** Must have five or fewer members at in-person meetings.

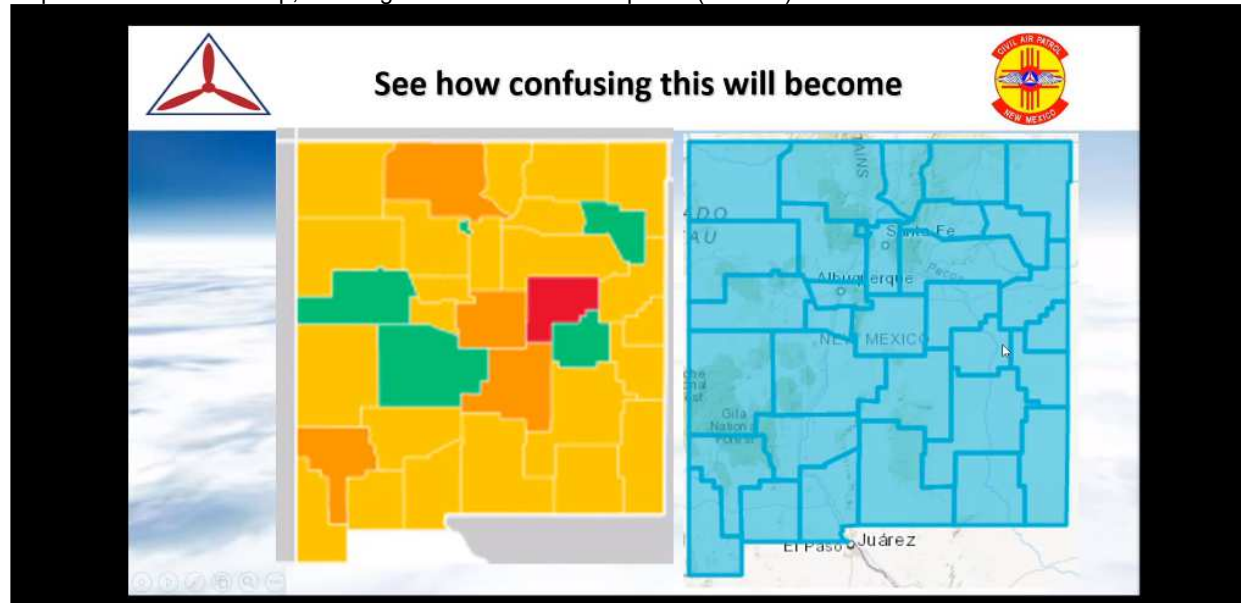
**Yellow (High Risk):** Must have 10 or fewer members at in-person meetings.

**Green (Medium Risk):** May have 20 or fewer members at in-person meetings.

**Turquoise (Low Risk):** May have 150 or fewer members at in-person meetings.

With the entire state at the Turquoise risk level, Klassy does not foresee a relapse, but he urged attendees that in-person attendance is a personal decision. “Members and parents are responsible for their own comfort in attending any meeting,” Klassy said. “No member will be penalized for opting out of an in-person meeting,” he concluded. 🙏

**Below:** The map from [www.covidactnow.org](http://www.covidactnow.org), showing one county in red (very high risk), four counties in orange (high risk), 23 counties in yellow (medium risk), and five counties in green (low risk), next to the New Mexico Department of Health map, showing the entire state in turquoise (low risk).





**Above:** Members of New Mexico Wing pose for a group photo with the commander and crew of the U.S. Marine Corps' MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, on display outside the Wing's aircraft hangar at Kirtland Air Force Base. (Photo: 2nd Lt. K. Randal Roth, CAP)

## **New Mexico Wing Hosts Aerospace, Cadet Programs Day**

*By Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP  
Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On June 21, 2021, 43 cadets and 24 senior members of New Mexico Wing came together for the first time in over a year to participate in the Wing's Aerospace and Cadet Programs Day held at Kirtland Air Force Base.

For nearly 15 months, the Wing's members waited for the day when they could come together again as a group. During that time, squadrons worked to overcome the challenges of declining membership and virtually managing the Cadet Program, while dealing with the COVID-19 restrictions set forth by Civil Air Patrol, New Mexico Wing and the New Mexico Department of Health. Many squadrons lost members as a result of these restrictions, and members felt as though they were being ruled by the pandemic. The Aerospace and Cadet Programs Day gave members a chance to turn the tables, and finally rule over the pandemic themselves. Cadets arrived at the event from Albuquerque, Farmington, Los Alamos and Santa Fe, with senior members coming from as far away as Las Cruces.

Planning the event included a 14-page CAPF 160 Risk Assessment, which covered everything from transportation to and from the Truman Visitor Gate at Kirtland, to keeping members safe in the 100-degree heat. Precautions included staying hydrated, keeping hands sanitized, wearing masks – or not, for those members who were fully vaccinated – and practicing social distancing while participating in activities planned for the day.

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**Above Left:** Cadets drill in person for the first time in 15 months. (Photos: 1st Lt. Martin Pecorella, CAP)

**Below Right:** A cadet tries on the helmet and pack of an Osprey crewmember.

**Following Page:** Cadets gain flight experience on the Wing's glider simulators.

for this day for so long," she said. "The cadets look great for not having drilled together for this long," she added.

Inside the hangar, Capt. Allan Wood, orientation pilot for Santa Fe Composite Squadron, provided preflight inspection opportunities to groups of eight cadets throughout the morning. Many cadets had not received their first orientation flight, so they listened to Capt. Wood with great interest.

Next on the agenda was a tour of the U.S. Marine Corps' MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, which is capable of both vertical and short takeoffs and landings. Organized by New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Andrew Selph at the invitation of the Marines, the tour of the Osprey gave Wing members the opportunity to tour the inside of the aircraft, including the cockpit, and to be photographed alongside the massive machine. The Marine crew, who fly and maintain the aircraft, divided the Wing members into smaller groups, then moved them through the various parts of the aircraft, and provided interesting facts and details about the aircraft in each area. Cadets were able to put on a crew member's helmet and pack, and to sit in the pilot's seat. The tour ended with a group photo of the Wing members in front of the Osprey, and the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation by Col. Peters to the Marines, who gave up their free day to provide the Osprey tour.

Lt. Col. Selph was impressed with the tour. "Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was a great day for New Mexico Wing and the Marines," he said.

The day started outside the Wing's hangar, where cadets drilled – some for the first time ever, others for the first time in more than a year. Under the direction of Eagle Cadet Squadron Commander Capt. Bryan Neal and Flight Officer Casey Neal, cadets worked through basic drill skills, attempting to get back in sync with each other. After a short break, cadets were broken down into three smaller flights, where higher-ranking cadet NCOs drilled each flight. Some of these cadet NCOs were promoted during the pandemic, and had never drilled groups of more than four to five cadets, so for these cadet NCOs, the opportunity to drill a flight of 18 to 20 cadets was a thrilling experience – for both them and the cadets under their command.

New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters was proud of the way the cadets worked together. "We have waited



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Following the presentation, participants returned to Wing Headquarters for lunch and afternoon activities. For three hours, small groups rotated between emergency services training with Lt. Col. Michael E. Eckert, Wing Assistant Director of Emergency Services; the crafting of paper Delta Darts with Lt. Col. Roland Dewing, Director of Aerospace Education; time on the Wing's glider simulators with Maj. Stuart Maxon and David Pepitone; and the opportunity to learn more about the Cadet Wings Program, via a virtual Microsoft Teams discussion with Cadet Col. Dava Flowers, an FBO (Fixed Base Operations)/Flight School Cadet Wings enrollee from Texas. In the supply area, 1st Lt. Joanne Learner-Fisher and Capt. James McKelvey – both of Eagle Cadet Squadron – distributed ABUs to commanders and squadron representatives. It was a full day, as the Wing re-entered in-person participation in all aspects of CAP: Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs.

“This was an extremely productive day, and well-organized,” said Lt. Col. Eckert. “It was probably one of the best ways to come together after such a long haul of virtual meetings – for both cadets and senior members,” he added.

Guests who were present to observe the Wing in action were Capt. David Plaster, an Air Force ROTC commander and CAP Aerospace Education Member, and Master Sgt. Jennifer Gutierrez, USAF, New Mexico Wing's CAP-USAF liaison. To top off the event, the USMC MV-22 Osprey commander, Lt. Col. Wilbur Oles, presented the organizers with a challenge coin, thanking them for their service in CAP and for their efforts in organizing the day's events.

New Mexico Wing's successful completion of the Aerospace/Cadet Programs Day provided evidence that the pandemic did not defeat the members of the Wing. Instead, members successfully and safely came together again in person, and look forward to the return of a strong Cadet Program across the state.

“This was a great day, full of experiences. I hope we can do it again,” said Eckert. 🇺🇸\





**Above:** Members of the Kirtland Air Force Base 377th Force Support Squadron donate surplus ABUs to CAP's New Mexico Wing. On hand to receive the donation is New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peers (in blues, third from right). (Photo: Lt. Col. Andrew Selph, CAP)

## Kirtland Air Force Base Donates ABUs to New Mexico Wing

By Lt. Col. Andrew Selph, CAP  
New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On May 14, 2021, members of Kirtland Air Force Base's 377th Force Support Squadron's Airman Leadership Class 21-6 donated surplus ABUs (Airman Battle Uniform) to Civil Air Patrol's New Mexico Wing and the Albuquerque Public Schools Middle School Leadership Program. The class conducted a six-week, base-wide drive to collect the ABUs, as the Air Force transitioned to the ACU-OCP (Airman Combat Uniform – Operational Camouflage Pattern) on April 1, 2021

According to their website at <https://kirtlandforcesupport.com>, the 377th includes five flights, which combine similar functions that already work closely together: Force Development, which includes all education, training, professional development and professional military education; Manpower and Personnel, which manages manpower, civilian personnel, military personnel and appropriated fund employees; Airman and Family Services, which manages the airman and family readiness center, the child development center and family child care and youth programs; Sustainment Services, which includes food operations, clubs, lodging and fitness and sports; and Community Services, which manages the base golf course, outdoor recreation, the ITT (Information, Ticket and Travel) office, the base auto shop and aero club.

On hand to receive the donation was New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters. 🇺🇸





**Above:** Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox flies her kite at Albuquerque’s Arroyo del Oso West Park, as part of the squadron’s creative approach to physical training. (Photo: CSM Robin Jones, CAP)

## Spirit Squadron Gets Creative with Outdoor PT

*By Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron Public Affairs*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On April 10, 2021. Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron got creative with their outdoor PT (Physical Training), by telling their cadets to (literally) go fly a kite. Three senior members and two cadets did just that, by flying kites at Albuquerque’s Arroyo del Oso West Park, to get them out of their homes and get them moving.

According to Squadron Commander Maj. Mary A. Fox, “Getting creative is the only way a squadron can be successful.” She continued, “Without creativity, cadets lose interest in their online programs, stop participating in their aerospace events and probably more significantly, stop going outside for fresh air and exercise.” When New Mexico Wing was approved for Phase I Remobilization on March 13, 2021 – which allowed squadrons to meet in person in groups of 10 or fewer members – Fox tasked her staff with creative ways to stimulate the cadets’ interest in PT.

Cadet Sponsor Member (CSM) Robin Jones, a member of Spirit Squadron since January 2020, joined the squadron just prior to the New Mexico schools and CAP squadrons heading into lockdown, when the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. She and her husband Doug (also a Cadet Sponsor Member), in their efforts to support the squadron, volunteered to work as meal

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planners to support a squadron rafting trip, scheduled for July 2020, which was canceled due to the risks from the COVID-19 coronavirus. When the squadron staff was asked for creative ways to bring the cadets back together for physical training, CSM Robin Jones suggested a family favorite: kite flying.

Working diligently with Maj. Fox, CSM Jones drafted a risk assessment for the activity, using CAPF 160, *Initial Risk Assessment*, which was revised several times between Fox and Jones, and finally reviewed and approved by the Wing Safety Officer. After the date and time were established, according to Fox, “The cadets were on the path to a unique and creative physical training opportunity.”

On the day of the training, Fox, both Joneses and two cadets met at Arroyo del Oso West Park, where the Joneses taught everyone how to fly the single-rope control Indian Fighter kite, a favorite flown from the rooftops during festivals in India. The day was warm, the sky was blue and the sun was bright.

“Today was perfect,” said CSM Robin Jones. “If only we could control the wind,” she added. The winds were blowing at about 6-10 mph, but not consistently. However, in the long run, members had just enough wind to learn how to fly their kites. After the activity ended at 2:30 p.m., the winds began gusting to 18-20 mph – a condition that no one in the squadron could have anticipated.



**Top Right:** Cadet Airman Noah Jefferson takes on the challenge of flying his kite.  
(Photos this page: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)

**Bottom Left:** CSM Robin Jones gets her kite into the air.



The participants all went home with their kites, which were gifts from the Jones family. Participants included Maj. Fox, CSMs Doug and Robin Jones, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aiden Jones, and Cadet Airman Noah Jefferson, who all stepped out of their comfort zones and into the land of hands-on PT.

When asked how she would sum up the success of the day, CSM Jones said, “Wouldn’t it be exciting if New Mexico Wing could bring kite flying back into the limelight?”

According to Fox, although kite flying is thought of as a thing of the past, Spirit Squadron has never been known to step away from challenges. “Perhaps one might see a New Mexico Kite Flying Competition in the future – best homemade kite, highest flying kite, or perhaps even the kite that stayed in the air the longest,” she said. “Either way, it is through such creativity that cadets return to physical activity, healthier living, and remain excited to be Civil Air Patrol members,” she concluded. 🇺🇸

## Clovis Schools Cadet Squadron Family Spends Military Child Day at Cannon AFB

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

CLOVIS, N.M. – On April 17, 2021, Clovis Schools Cadet Squadron Search and Rescue Officer Capt. William VanNostran and his family spent Military Child Day at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis. In 1986, the Department of Defense Education Activity authorized the month of April as Military Child Month.

The event, sponsored by the 27th SOW (Special Operations Wing) at Cannon, was a way for the Air Force to reach out to military families and their children, to recognize the challenges they face in relocating, making new friends, adjusting to the local community and other stresses unique to military children.

“We had been informed by a local Boy Scout troop of the event, so we contacted Ms. Sara Williams of the 27th SOW,” said Capt. VanNostran. As a result, the squadron was able to arrange several static displays and recruiting materials. The display included brochures on pilots in CAP and the CAP Cadet Program, as well as Mission Support equipment: SAR (Search and Rescue) radios, a practice ELT (Electronic Locator Transmitter), a Hammer Head Direction Finder, lensatic compasses and a constant-play video of past cadet activities, training, search and rescue exercises and FTXs (field training exercises) from 2014 to the present, which included cadets and officers participating in C-130 and Black Hawk helicopter orientation flights.

Children of all ages were able to talk on the SAR radios, either with a sibling, parent or member of the squadron (the squadron had four radios). They could also use the direction finder to locate the ELT signal, hidden under one of four orange cones, and then use a compass with Center Hold Method to determine the azimuth of the ELT signal. They also learned basic rescue knots, such as overhand, water



**Above (L-R):** Clovis Schools Cadet Squadron Search and Rescue Officer Capt. William VanNostran and his daughter, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Regan VanNostran, work the squadron’s recruiting table at Military Child Day at Cannon AFB in Clovis. (Photos: Courtesy of Ms. Dina VanNostran)

**Below:** Capt. VanNostran shows a prospective cadet how to determine an azimuth with a lensatic compass.

knot, figure-eight and others, and were permitted to choose a prize from one of three different five-gallon grab buckets: a CAP flashlight, fidget spinner, micro flashlight, can openers or combat ear plugs.

The squadron made contact with several military families regarding CAP, and a representative of Marshall Middle School in Clovis asked their board to offer the CAP Middle School Program as an elective. “The event allowed us to get the word out about CAP in Clovis,” VanNostran concluded. 🇺🇸



**Above:** Cadet Senior Airman Aiden Fried, himself a glider pilot, gets a feel for the new glider simulator setup.  
(Photos: Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP)

## **Spirit Squadron Salvages Canceled Glider Flights with Simulator Training**

*By Maj. Mary A. Fox, CAP  
Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On April 24, 2021, cadets from Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron were poised to get back in the air, for their first glider orientation flights in more than a year; however, that was not meant to be. With no tow pilot, glider flights were not possible. However, New Mexico Wing Director of Aerospace Education Lt. Col Roland Dewing, working as fast as he could, revised the day's plan. Instead of going to the Socorro Municipal Airport for actual glider flights, the cadets headed to New Mexico Wing Headquarters at Kirtland Air Force Base, to practice on the new glider simulators, designed and engineered by Maj. Stuart Maxon of New Mexico Wing Headquarters.

For the cadets, the timing couldn't have been better. Both Maxon and Dewing had been collaborating on a glider simulator for use at the New Mexico Wing Glider Encampment, to be held in Hobbs in July 2021. They had constructed a total of five simulators: one for visual learning on a large screen, and four other practice simulators. Both Dewing and Maxon were ready to give them a test, and the Spirit Squadron cadets were glad to comply.

Cadet Airman Noah Jefferson was originally apprehensive, because he wanted to go in the air, but after 45 minutes in the simulator, he expressed complete confidence and satisfaction "Now I feel ready for

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my first glider flight!” he said. Cadet Senior Airman Makayla Lovato was also impressed. It was a great experience,” she said. “It was a little confusing at first, but then with Cadet Senior Airman Fried’s assistance, it got better,” she added.

Cadet Airman 1st Class Cooper Diercks agreed. “It was a little confusing at first, but then I started to understand.” The cadets agreed that while the simulator was a fabulous replacement, they are still looking forward to their first glider flight, as soon as one can be scheduled.

Maxon and Dewing had been working on the simulator concept for many months. “Every time someone brings a glider simulator to a glider encampment, all the cadets are immediately attracted,”



**Above (L-R):** Cadet Senior Airman Aiden Fried instructs Cadet Senior Airman Makayla Lovato on how to properly fly the simulator.

Maxon explained. “Why not take advantage of the simulator excitement,” he added. “Let’s build our own, and provide training on the ground while others are in the air.” Maxon’s next mission is to create lessons that can be used to enhance glider flights. “The more the cadet learns on the simulator, the more confidence will be expressed in the air,” he concluded.

The April 24 training session also provided an opportunity to train instructors. Senior Member Michael Fried, Capt. René Larricq and Cadet Senior Airman Aiden Fried, all from Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron and all glider pilots, were first in line to learn the program and practice training the cadets how to use it. Dewing and Maxon’s ultimate goal is to have the simulators ready for the New Mexico Wing Glider Encampment. While some cadets are in the air learning in the glider, others can be on the ground, learning confidence in the glider through the simulator..

Although the cadets did not get into the air in an actual glider, for 45 minutes, they felt as if they were high up in the sky, as they practiced on the newest equipment being offered to the Wing. 🇺🇸



**Above:** USAF Col. Michele Boyko (left) presents a plaque, in appreciation of the Wing's contribution to the COVID-19 relief missions, to New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters. The plaque was presented on behalf of U.S. Army Col. Dale Snider, Region VI Defense Coordinating Officer for U.S. Army North. (Photo: Lt. Col. Dave Finley, CAP)

## Air Force Recognizes New Mexico Wing's Pandemic Service

By Lt. Col. Dave Finley, CAP  
Mission Public Information Officer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Describing Civil Air Patrol members with terms such as “quiet heroes” and “selfless volunteers,” a U.S. Air Force official presented a one-of-a-kind symbol of recognition on June 18, 2021, to the New Mexico Wing for dedicated service to the state and nation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning in April 2020, CAP volunteers, acting as the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, flew time-critical coronavirus test samples from far-flung communities across the state to laboratories in Albuquerque for processing. The rapid transportation helped get the test results delivered quickly to aid in treatment and in tracking down contacts of patients diagnosed with COVID-19. When the first vaccines became available, CAP aircrews quickly turned to speeding the precious medicines from Albuquerque to numerous New Mexico towns and cities. The New Mexico Wing was the first CAP unit in the nation to carry the vaccines for a state.

Throughout the pandemic, nearly 140 New Mexico CAP members contributed at least 13,627 volunteer labor hours, including 587 flight hours and 5,354 miles driven in ground vehicles. The final flights in the COVID-19 missions came in March 2021. The CAP COVID-19 missions were funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and New Mexico Wing assisted the New Mexico National Guard, in support of the New Mexico Department of Health.

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In the June 18 ceremony, the CAP New Mexico Wing received a plaque commissioned by U.S. Army Col. Dale Snider, Region VI Coordinating Officer for U.S. Army North. The plaque, shaped like the familiar Cessna aircraft CAP flies, includes a list of many of the 2020 accomplishments of the members of the New Mexico Wing. Snider oversees coordination of Federal forces, when those forces are tasked to be in support of state efforts, as requested by state and tribal governors. The region includes five states: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

“We don’t have a standard way to laud the unique and consistent services the New Mexico CAP provided during this historic time. Col. Snider was eager to ensure the volunteers in New Mexico knew their efforts were both noticed and applauded,” said Col. Michele Boyko, a representative of Air Forces North, who presented the plaque, on behalf of Col Snider, to New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Annette Peters.

“We greatly appreciate this recognition,” Peters said. “Throughout a major national emergency, our members gave freely of their time and efforts to provide extremely valuable services for our fellow New Mexicans. Despite the pandemic’s impact on their own personal and professional lives, they dedicated themselves to helping others. They have added a highly honorable chapter to Civil Air Patrol’s nearly 80-year legacy of service to our nation,” she concluded.

Acting as a Total Force partner and official civilian auxiliary of the Air Force, Civil Air Patrol is aligned with First Air Force to rapidly respond to non-military threats domestically when tasked in a Defense Support of Civil Authorities capacity to save lives, relieve suffering and provide humanitarian assistance.



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**Below:** Cols. Boyko and Peters (center) display the plaque alongside members of New Mexico Wing’s Incident Management Team for COVID-19 missions, joined by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Smith (front row, second from right). (Photo: Lt. Col. Dennis Hunter, CAP)



## Command NCO's Corner



### Where to Find the New Education & Training Course Requirements

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – As we venture down the path of the new Education and Training Program, many course-required items are not being put forward very clearly. This document will try to clarify to this issue.

When you enroll and open your chosen course, you will see a page similar to below. I have selected the module "Compliance Requirements," which is a module under Level 3. When the module first opens to a new window, you will see the header. labeled Learning Activities. Your progress through the required items is tracked directly under that header – a green bar that will move from left to right as you progress through the module. Until that green bar moves all the way across the page to the right and indicates 100%, you're missing a required component.

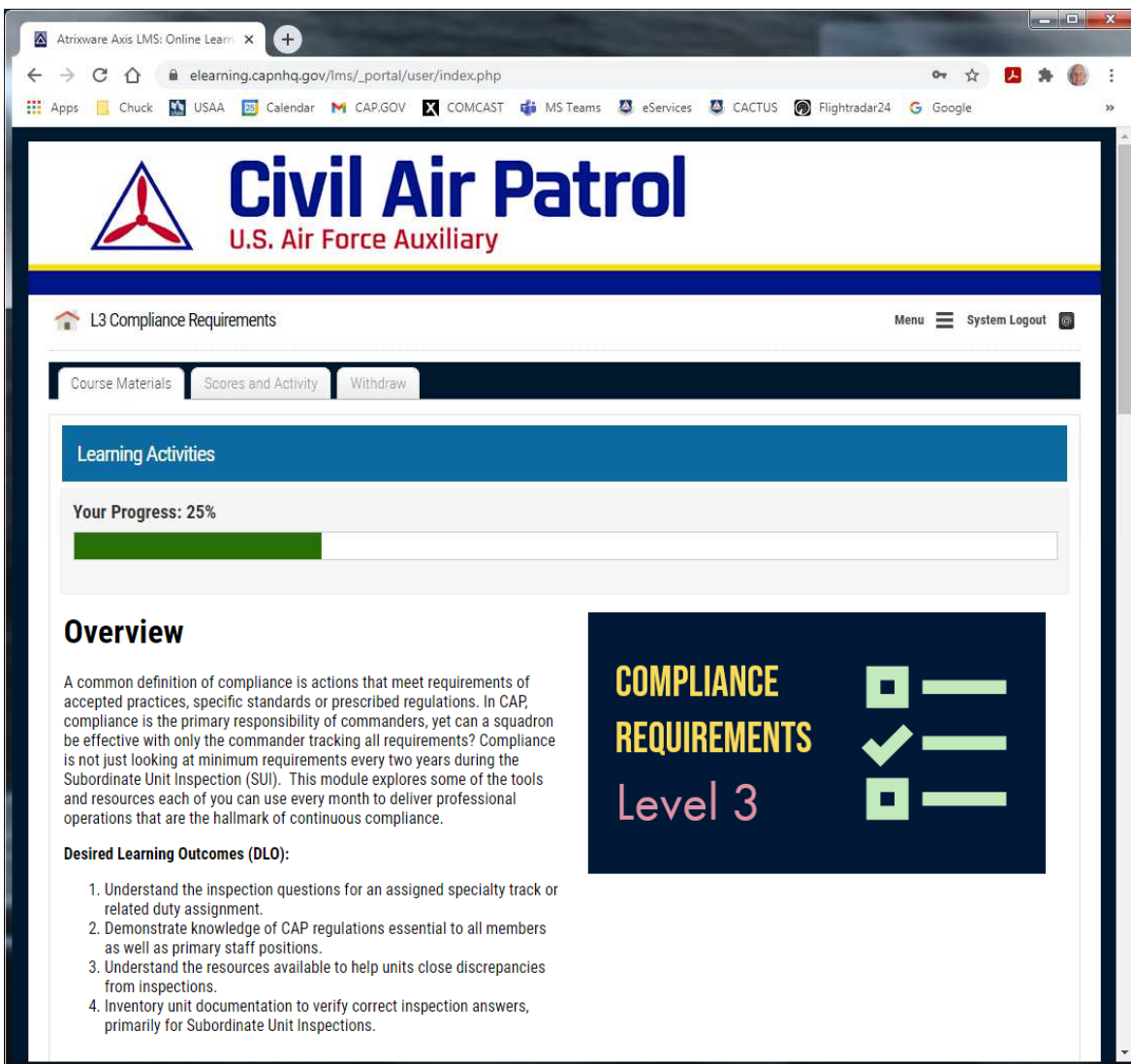


Figure #1

Let's take a closer look at the required components for a specific course (Module). Scrolling down from the **Figure #1** picture, you get to the section labeled Lesson Content. This is where the Presentations,



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Worksheets, References and other Pertinent Information, covering the course content, is presented. You must select and view each of those content items presented in order to get credit (which is automatically tracked in the module). Note the **COMPLETED** green box in the example next to the Compliance Requirements, that's how you know you have been given credit for that item. Generally, if the red box says **OPEN**, you just need to look at that subject matter. If the red box says **START**, you need to proceed carefully and make sure you do all required items when the new window opens. To ensure credit at the end of the item, **DO NOT** hit the "X" in the upper right corner, instead use the **CLOSE** button in the lower right corner. After selecting the **CLOSE** button, the window will pop up stating that you have **COMPLETED** that item and will ask if you wish to close the content item, select CLOSE THIS WINDOW.

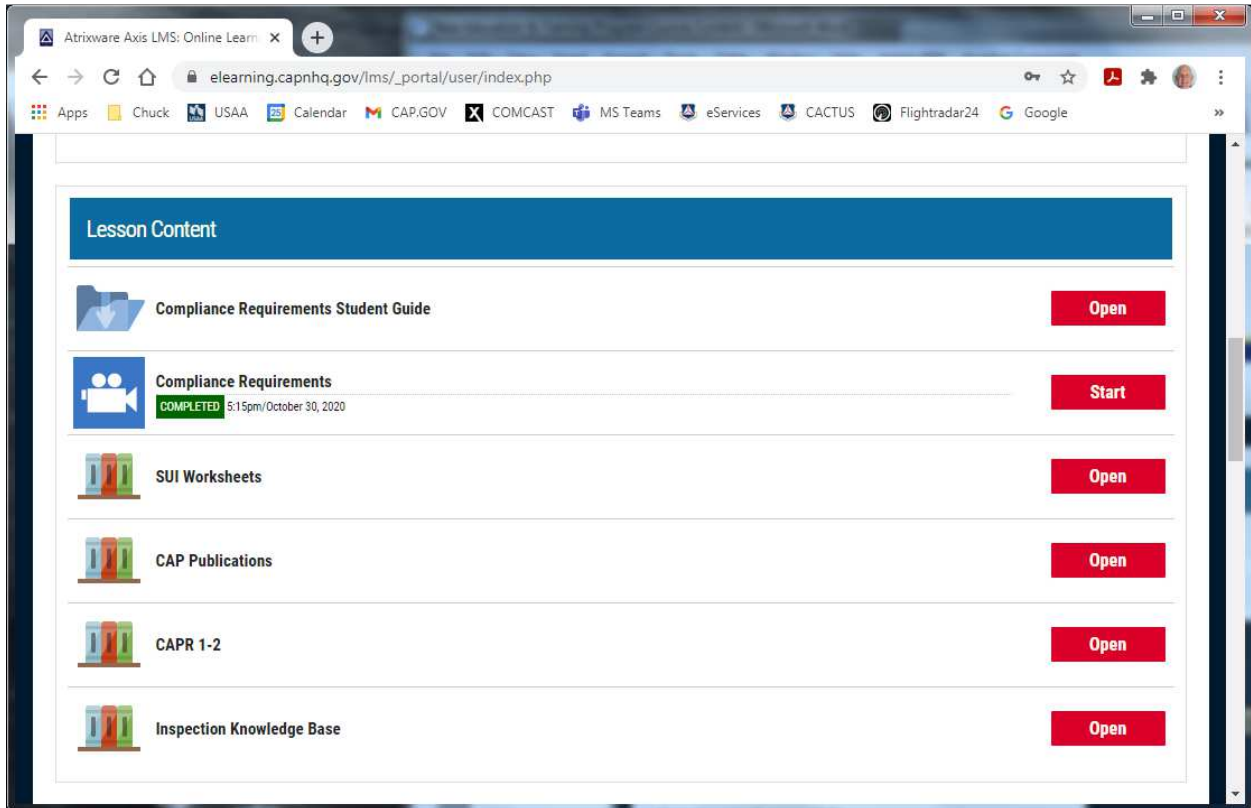


Figure #2

Scrolling down from the **Figure #2** picture, you get to the section labeled Course Activities. This is where you will find two distinct items that are being added to previous modules (you may have completed the module earlier, before these two items were added, you need to go back in and complete the work to get full credit).

The two components are **Discussion Scenario** and **Module Assignment**. To get credit for completion of the module, you must complete and have your work and submissions graded by a VOLU instructor. Right now, this can only be done via a VOLU COHORT, that you must join. Only specific instructors have access to the AXIS system where the grading can be entered.

Course Activities

What does your last SUI report tell you about the overall “health” of your squadron and/or your own functional area?

There are two major activities in this learning module. In order to successfully complete the module you will need to complete and receive a passing score on both modules.

### Discussion Scenario

Units have SUIs every two years. Using the information from an SUI tells us how the unit is doing in many areas. It is important for members to know how to find SUI reports, how to read them, and how to close any open discrepancies. For this assignment, you will need to acquire your unit’s most recent SUI report. Using the SUI report you obtained, review the report. Make the following three posts:

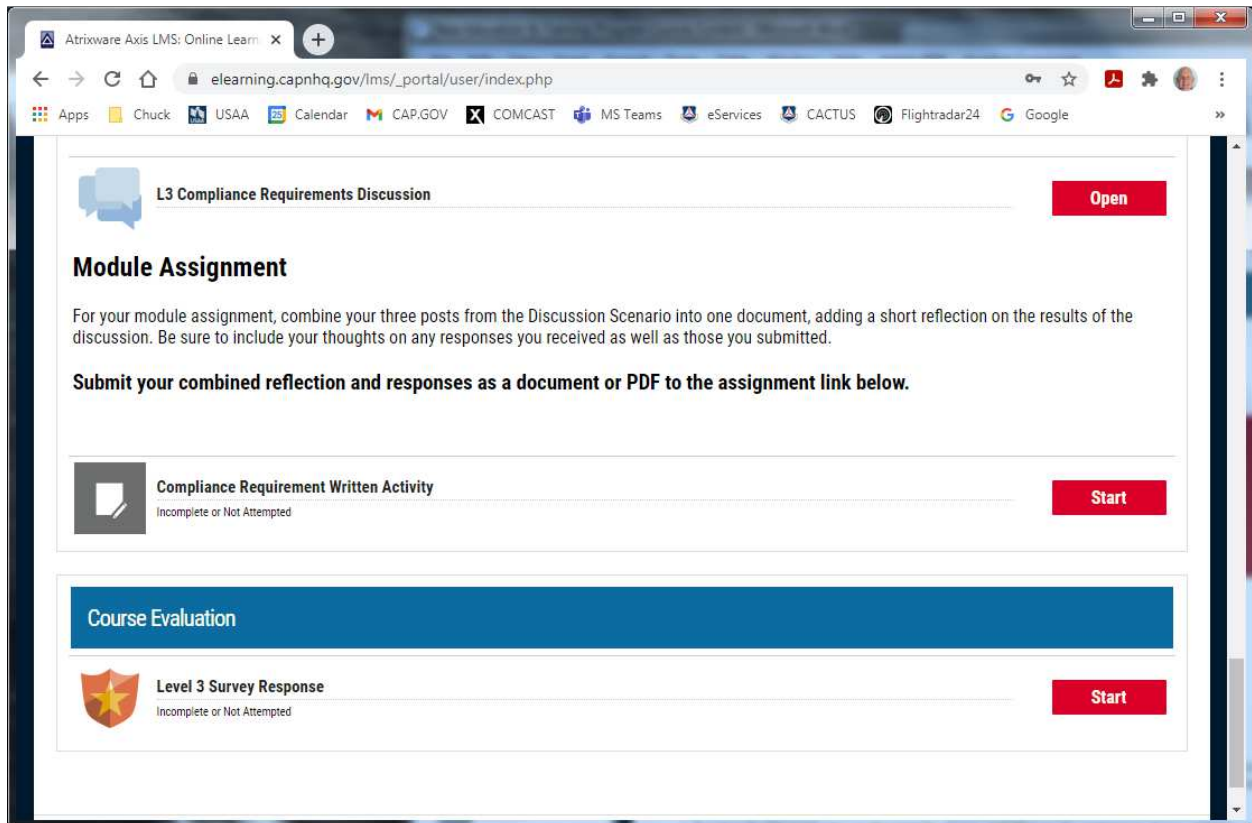
1. Based on the SUI report, what are the strengths of your unit? What are the weaknesses of your unit? How can you use the information in the report to help your unit? Are there any open discrepancies? If yes, how long do you have to close them? If not, what discrepancies were closed?
2. If your unit has open discrepancies in the report, go to the Inspection Knowledge Base and find out what needs to be done to close the discrepancy. Explain what needs done according to Inspection Knowledge Base. If there are no discrepancies, go to the Inspection Knowledge Base and see how to close a discrepancy of your choice. Describe the discrepancy you looked up and the specific steps required to close it. Please note that this is not how to close a discrepancy in general. This answer requires you to share how to close a specific discrepancy. How easy was it to find the information to close the discrepancy? Were you aware of the Inspection Knowledge Base before this module?
3. In this post, you will play the role of an IG. Review the post of another student regarding how to close a discrepancy. Did the person list all the proper information specific to the discrepancy he or she tried to close? Respond to their post and let them know if the discrepancy will be closed or not based on the information in the Inspection Knowledge Base.

Figure #3

Scrolling down from **Figure #3**, you get to the area for the Discussion Scenario work input. Click on the red **Open** button and follow the directions for exchanging your thoughts with members of your COHORT. See **Figure #5** for a representation of the window that opens when you start your discussion.

Next item to complete for full credit is the Module Assignment. This consists of an assignment that you must complete, scan and upload to the AXIS system for grading/evaluation by a VOLU (Volunteer University) instructor. See **Figure #6** for a representation of the window that opens when you start your written activity. Again, the **COMPLETED** green box will show when you have successfully accomplished the required tasks.

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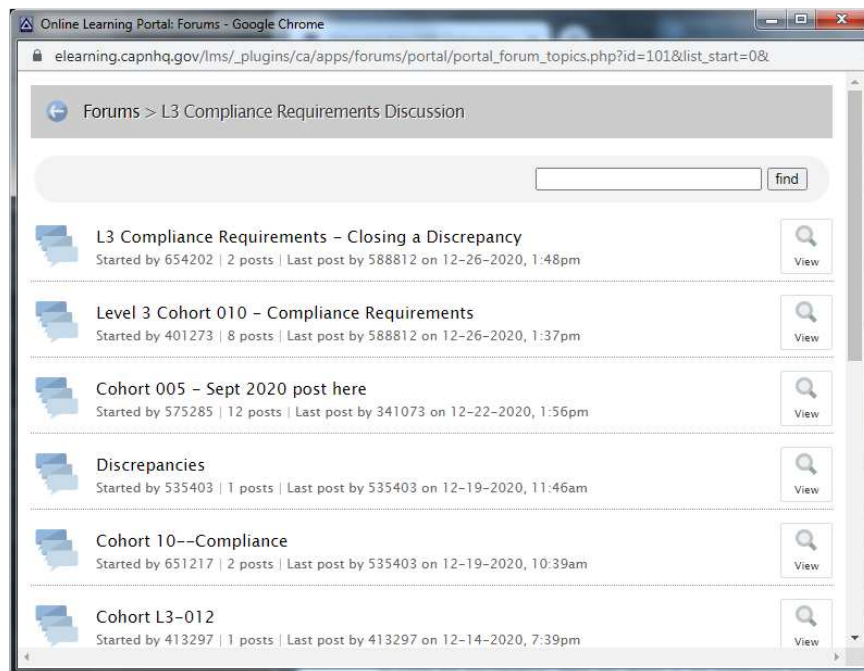


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `elearning.capnhq.gov/lms/_portal/user/index.php`. The dashboard includes the following elements:

- L3 Compliance Requirements Discussion**: A discussion topic with an **Open** button.
- Module Assignment**: A section with instructions: "For your module assignment, combine your three posts from the Discussion Scenario into one document, adding a short reflection on the results of the discussion. Be sure to include your thoughts on any responses you received as well as those you submitted." Below this is a prompt: "Submit your combined reflection and responses as a document or PDF to the assignment link below."
- Compliance Requirement Written Activity**: An activity marked as "Incomplete or Not Attempted" with a **Start** button.
- Course Evaluation**: A blue header bar for the evaluation section.
- Level 3 Survey Response**: A survey marked as "Incomplete or Not Attempted" with a **Start** button.

Figure #4

Last is the section marked Course Evaluation. Yes, this is a required component for full credit. Here's your chance to tell someone what you think of this new program and the individual components of the new program. Again, the **COMPLETED** green box will show when you have successfully accomplished the required tasks.



The screenshot shows a forum page with the URL `elearning.capnhq.gov/lms/_plugins/ca/apps/forums/portal/portal_forum_topics.php?id=101&list_start=0&`. The page title is "Online Learning Portal: Forums - Google Chrome". The forum content includes:

- Search bar:  find
- Forum list items:
  - L3 Compliance Requirements – Closing a Discrepancy**: Started by 654202 | 2 posts | Last post by 588812 on 12-26-2020, 1:48pm. View
  - Level 3 Cohort 010 – Compliance Requirements**: Started by 401273 | 8 posts | Last post by 588812 on 12-26-2020, 1:37pm. View
  - Cohort 005 – Sept 2020 post here**: Started by 575285 | 12 posts | Last post by 341073 on 12-22-2020, 1:56pm. View
  - Discrepancies**: Started by 535403 | 1 posts | Last post by 535403 on 12-19-2020, 11:46am. View
  - Cohort 10--Compliance**: Started by 651217 | 2 posts | Last post by 535403 on 12-19-2020, 10:39am. View
  - Cohort L3-012**: Started by 413297 | 1 posts | Last post by 413297 on 12-14-2020, 7:39pm. View

Figure #5

## Flight Line, New Mexico Wing – July, 2021

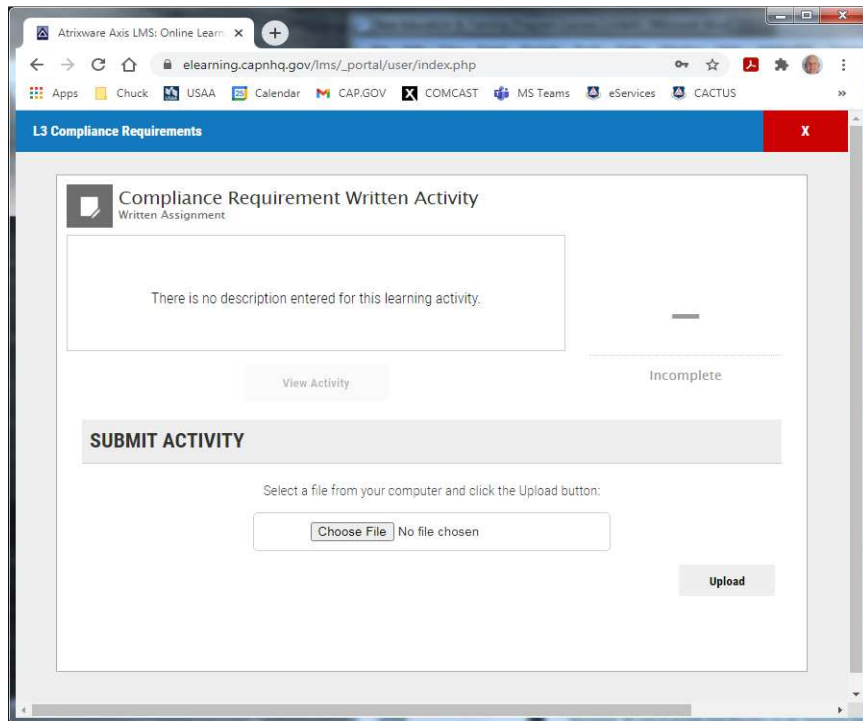


Figure #6

Next time, **Why Education and Training?**

Semper Vigilans,

Chief *Chuck* 🇺🇸

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

***“The New Mexico Wing NCO Program – A Personal Choice”***

## Safety Corner

### Back to Normal?

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – For well over a year, we've been wishing for the pandemic to be over, and now the end may finally be in sight. For most, this is a happy relief, but according to a recent *Today* show article and a number of scholarly journals, it may be cause for stress and anxiety for some. It's even produced a new acronym: FONO, or Fear of Normal.



As reported in the article, "This is a global example of what's called re-entry after trauma," said Deborah Serani, a psychologist and professor at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York. "The pandemic is a traumatic event," she added.

Per the National Alliance for Mental Illness, coping strategies include the following: recognize how you feel; set your own pace and boundaries; practice mindfulness; exercise; eat a healthy diet; get enough sleep; spend time in nature; be kind to yourself; find support.

Considering our CAP activities and regardless how we feel about returning to "normal," we're likely to be "rusty," out of practice, or out of shape for what we plan to do. It's important to take things slowly, engage in training, watch out for each other, and make sure we're prepared.

Recently, a crew member fell ill during a mission and the pilot had to divert to the nearest airport to arrange for emergency medical response. Fortunately, the member was okay after a few days' recuperation, but this illustrates the importance of paying attention to wellness, not only for ourselves, but for those with whom we serve.

Take time, and take care of yourself and each other. 🇪🇺

**Maj. C. John Graham, CAP**  
**Director of Safety**

***New Mexico Wing Safety – "Think Before You Do"***

## Public Affairs Corner

### This Part Won't Work if it's Bent



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Writing runs in my family. My great-uncle, Herbert Tourtel, was a reporter and assistant editor for the *Daily Express* in Canterbury, England. His wife, Mary Tourtel (*née* Caldwell), created, wrote and illustrated the *Rupert Bear* comic strip (which celebrated its 100th year of publication in 2020), until her death in 1948. My father, Fred Tourtel, a former scuba instructor, served as a writer and technical advisor for aviation publisher Jeppesen Sanderson, when they published their *Sport Diving Manual* in 1974. (I was 17 years old at the time.) One night in 1973, while he was working on a draft of the manual, he handed me a piece of paper with the following sentence written on it: *The functional capability of this component is directly dependent upon its maintenance of structural integrity.*

“What does it mean?” Dad asked.

“I don’t know, what?” I said.

“*This part won’t work if it’s bent,*” he said.

*This part won’t work if it’s bent.* That phrase taught me the importance of never using a big word when a smaller one will do. Let’s deconstruct this sentence to see exactly what is wrong with it.

*The functional capability of this component* is complicated, ambiguous and overblown. *Functional capability* refers to how well something works, but we have no idea what it refers to. *Is directly dependent upon its maintenance of structural integrity* is passive, and even more ambiguous. *Directly dependent* means nothing by itself. What does *structural integrity* refer to? This sentence, if it were a meal, would be the junk food of all sentences: empty words, devoid of all meaning.

How do we write simply and clearly? The trick is to boil each sentence down to its essential elements, following several simple rules:

- **Use the simplest words possible.** *Use* instead of *utilize*. *Simplify* instead of *facilitate*. Unless you are writing a doctoral dissertation, you should write as simply as possible, so you can reach the broadest audience possible.
- **Use as few words as possible.** Avoid using wordy phrases, such as “due to the fact that” or “by virtue of” when “because” would work just as well.
- **Edit, edit, edit.** One method I learned to better my writing is what I call the “hand test.” Hold your hand over a word or phrase in your writing; if the sentence makes just as much sense without it, then leave it out.

In short, we can all say more by writing less. Good luck and good writing. 🇺🇸

**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](http://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](http://www.ap.org) – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖

Flight Line, New Mexico Wing – July, 2021  
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.

