



High Flight 2.0

The Official Newsletter of
Albuquerque Heights
"Spirit" Composite Squadron
New Mexico Wing, Civil Air Patrol



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FLIGHT LINE is published monthly, by and for the members of Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron. Submission deadline is the third Tuesday of the month preceding publication.

Text may be submitted in the body of the e-mail (preferred), or sent as an attachment in Word format.

Photos must be in JPG format, unretouched, uncropped, and at least 1200 by 900 pixels.

Credits: in all cases, please give the grade, full name and duty assignment of the author of the article, the photographer, and anybody mentioned in the article.

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AE / ES Extravaganza Kicks 2018

By 2nd Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP
Public Affairs Officer



On Saturday, January 6, 2018, Capt Rene Larricq and Capt Mary Fox gathered the Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron at the New Mexico Wing Hangar to kick the new year with an Aerospace Education combo Emergency Service Extravaganza. The morning began by introducing participants to a remote controlled dirigible (a Blimp). Cadets and family members were provided opportunity to handle the remote control, flying the blimp around the hangar briefing room. After the blimp exercise was completed, Orientation Pilot, Captain Thomas Billstrand, Albuquerque II, provided instruction for the first orientation flight which allowed six cadets to prepare for their first flight.

While the six cadets were in the air, the remaining cadets and senior members had an opportunity review aircraft systems and discuss how Cessna engines might be brought forward into the future. Captain Larricq spent several hours discussing aerospace

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concepts. He began with balancing balloons filled with helium and ended a “dog fight” between two copters. To expose all participants to an aspect of emergency services, lunch was served in MRE (meals ready to eat). Participants were provided with a complete MRE menu, and were taught how to open the package, heat the main meal, and “trade” less desirable components with others at the table.

Participants were – Lt Col Beverly Vito, Capt. Rene Larricq, Capt. Mary Fox, Senior Member Monica Funston-Treadway, C/Msgt Thomas Martin, C/SrA Hussein Al Itawi, C/SrA Olivia Spafford, C/A1C Sean Cuellar-Hatcher, C/Amn Kathryn Parsons, C/Amn Max Wignall, C/AB James Funston-Treadway, C/AB Morgan Raney, C/AB Jessamine Wignall, C/Amn Derek Williams. The family members in attendance were Mr. Martin, and sibling Teddy Funston-Treadway. Special thanks to Albuquerque Squadron II for providing orientation Pilots, and to Lt. Col Roland for spending time with our cadets at this extravaganza event. Additional special thanks to SM Josiah Lopez, Director of Wing Propeller Orientation Flights, for his willingness to work with Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron as they prepared for this event over the past three months.



(Left) C/Amn Max Wignall controls the blimp while chasing Captain around the briefing room

(Right) Captain Rene Larricq observes while C/A1C Sean Cuellar-Hatcher balances the helium filled balloon.

(Photos by Captain Mary Fox)



Annual Holiday Banquet a Huge Success!

By 2nd Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP, Public Affairs Officer



On Thursday, December 21, 2017, Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron met for their annual holiday banquet—a December ritual for the squadron. There were four former Spirit Squadron commanders in attendance for the event with Civil Air Patrol National Commander, Major General Mark E. Smith as the evening’s special guest. Although Smith had

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attended the annual holiday banquet, as a former commander, many times before, his attendance this year was special. Squadron awards were presented cadets and senior members for their outstanding duty performance.

A new addition to the annual tradition was the addition of a silent auction fundraiser. The squadron earned \$289 as a result of its generous parent, senior member and cadet population. (Photo by Jonathan Fox)

Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron “Goodwills” it Again

*By 2nd Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP
Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On Nov. 4, 2017, The Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron held its second Goodwill fundraiser of the year at its headquarters, the Heights First Church of the Nazarene in Albuquerque. The purpose of the fundraiser was to raise money for the squadron, which goes toward purchasing insignia and supplies for the senior members and cadets.

The squadron accepted donations of gently used items to donate to Goodwill, and received \$50 for every bin that they filled. The November fundraiser filled eight bins for a total of \$400, outpacing the previous fundraiser, where six bins were filled for a total of \$300.

According to squadron commander Capt. Mary A. Fox, members may not find fundraising to be desirable, but it is necessary. “The funds do wonders to keep cadet excited about CAP,” she said.

She noted that once the members got into the rhythm of collecting items and filling bins, it turned out to be a great team builder. “Not only did we earn funds, but in five hours, the cadets got to hang out with each other,” Fox said. “There was a lot of squadron esprit de corps going on. We had a great day!”



Fox acknowledged another fringe benefit of the fundraiser. “Perhaps we should encourage fundraising not only as a means of fundraising and recruitment but also as a means of retention,” she concluded.

Participants included Fox, Lt. Col. Beverly A. Vito, and Cadet Airman Basics Kyla Anderson, Morgan Raney, Jessamine Wignall and Derek Williams.

(Photo: C/AB Jessamine Wignall expressed excitement at Goodwill Fundraiser, November 4, 2017. Photo by Captain Mary Fox)

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If you are interested in writing an article for our squadron newsletter, *Highflight 2.0*, please contact 2nd Lt. Michael R. Saul, CAP, Public Affairs Officer
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