

Spring-Summer 2016

# Wingspan Wingspan



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## Commander's Comments

**Col. Jonathan Niedfeldt • Utah Wing Commander**

Each season of CAP has its annual similarity, and distinct uniqueness. This year has been as varied as ever for CAP and the Utah Wing.

As we do every last Thursday in February, CAP had its Winter Conference in Washington DC,

and members of CAP “walk the Hill” to present our “Annual Report to Congress” to each of our Senators and Congressmen.

We try to save money each year by piling up as many senior members in a room as is possible and legal. This year was no different. The hotel was kind enough to give us roll-away beds so no one had to sleep in the bathtub.

The Utah crew of senior members included: Lt. Col. Eric Weeks, Maj. Mike Fernandez, Maj. Jason Mettmann, and Col. Jonathan Niedfeldt. Since the Rocky Mountain Region wanted some support for another RMR Wing, Maj. Mike Fernandez was asked to attend and support the Montana Wing. Maj. Mettmann self-funded his trip to make sure the Cadet Programs in Utah had the opportunity to be involved in the breakout sessions and discussions that occurred during the conference.

Cadet 1st Lt. Winward attended the Civic Leadership Academy that occurs around the same time as the Winter Conference. We were lucky to have Cadet Winward walk the Hill with us and give a Cadet perspective of CAP to each of our Representatives. During his week at the Civic Leadership Academy, he learned about some very interesting sites around Washington DC that he shared with us while we were walking the Hill. Without ruining his story, please read his



**Cadet 1st Lt. Winward, Deanna Weeks, Lt. Col. Eric Weeks, Maj. Jason Mettmann @ Library of Congress**



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excerpts later in this WingSpan!

As in other years, we usually try to visit the Congressmen/women in the morning, and then walk across the Hill over to the Senate side for the afternoon. Once in a while, like this year, we end up with an opportunity to meet with the Representative rather than their Military Liaison Aide, and we end up having to walk back and forth across the Hill. But while we were walking over to the Senate side, Cadet Winward suggested that we visit the Library of Congress.

Once in the Library of Congress, Cadet Winward took all of us on a wonderful tour of the public portions of the facility, giving us facts and figures that he recounted from his tour of the facility earlier in the week. He closed the tour with a walk over to the office where each of us received our own Library of Congress Card. It expires in two years, so I am not sure how much use I am going to get from it in person, but there are online privileges that we can enjoy at a distance.

We met with all 4 of our Congressmen/women; Congressman Bishop, Congressman Stewart, Congressman Chaffetz, and Congresswoman Love. We also met with both of our Senators, Senator Lee and Senator Hatch. During those meetings, like every other year, we present the “Report to Congress” that contains all of the information about the major missions and the value of CAP versus the cost of CAP specifically based on the number of members, hours, and various missions done within Utah.

The week as a whole was a huge success. We had great meetings with our Federal Representatives, and lots of new direction and information from our National Staff to help us be a better CAP program for everyone.

Thursday evening, after the “Hill”, I was walking out of the hotel elevator while Col. John Desmarais, CAP National Director of Operations, was entering. John saw me exiting and asked “do you want to do another FEMA POD training?” I looked back without hesitation and said “sure!” He laughed as the elevator door closed and said, “Don’t you want to know where it is first?”

(FEMA is the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and POD stands for “Points of Distribution” and is a system used to hand out emergency rations after a disaster)

Col. Wellman and I were selected by NHQ to teach FEMA POD training in Puerto Rico on the 1st of April. You can see an article by Col. Wellman later in this WingSpan with all of the details, but let’s just say it was an adventure that we will not soon forget. One more example, when you are asked if you want to do some training in CAP, you may find yourself with access to adventures that you cannot find anywhere else.

This summer looks to be a lot of fun for the Utah Wing. In the next couple of weeks, we will have our annual Wing Conference. By the time you read this

*Continued on page 25 . . .*



**Maj. Jason Mettmann, Maj. Mike Fernandez @ The White House**



**Col. Jonathan Niedfeldt, Col. Jerry Wellman @ Mayagüez, Puerto Rico**



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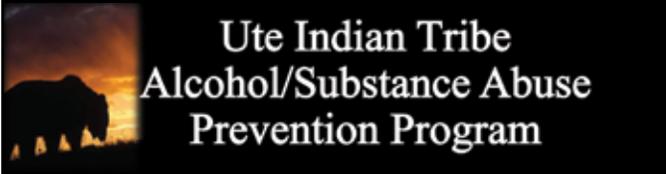
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# I CAN

## *Col. Rosalyn Celeste Carlisi - Spaatz Cadet*

*By Capt. Alison Carlisi, CAP*



*“When you say I CAN’T to yourself, you are building a jail cell. Every time you say I CAN’T you forge another bar for your cage, and you yourself become both the prisoner and the prison guard. The most important person to say I CAN to..... is you!”*

**Rosalyn C. Carlisi**

**April 25, 2016**

There once was this little eight year old girl, with frizzy blond hair, who always loved to wear her favorite pink pants, even though they were high waters. She loved puppies and wanted to be a veterinarian one day so she could play with puppies for a career. She was a bit of a nerd and her friends were just a little nerdy too. Her parents were volunteers in Civil Air Patrol, so once a week she had to go to the squadron meetings, whether she wanted to or not. The big kids were kind, but thought her a pest when she tried to stand in formation and do drills, so she did it by herself at the back of the room. She played on the floor near her mom, while mom asked cadets questions in a board. She sat through the aerospace and leadership classes, coloring, but listening. She found she liked the classes and understood what they were saying. In fact, she began to look up at the stars and wonder what it would be like to travel amongst them. Then the day she turned twelve, she was able to become a Cadet. She already knew so much about the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program that it was easy to jump right in. When she joined she made her dad promise she didn’t have to go in the military because she was going to be a veterinarian. Dad gave her a solemn promise that she could be whatever she wanted to be.

We all look back at each milestone and laugh a little at how rough we were when we joined. We begin at a place where we know very little about CAP. The day you joined, you could not see

yourself as the polished person who wears their uniform perfectly, has a job in CAP, and knows the answers to almost every question; and so it was for Cadet Col. Rosalyn Celeste Carlisi. She began her CAP career listening from the back of a room and wondering about the stars, what it would be like to wear that uniform, stand at the front of formation, do fun things, and have all those friends. The polished young woman she is today, wearing three diamonds, with many awards on her wall and friends across the country, began as Rosie, the little girl with the frizzy hair who was always getting in the way at formation.

Cadet Col. Carlisi has served in every leadership position in Weber Minuteman Squadron, as well as leadership positions with the Wing, and National activities. She was the Cadet Squadron Commander of Weber Minuteman Squadron for two years, the commander of our Color Guard, the aerospace officer, the leadership officer, and served in all positions in the chain of command. She has been to six National Activities, Four encampments, and the National Cadet Competition, twice as a participant and twice as an observer. She has had the honor of commanding one National Activity.

Rosie has won several awards and ribbons, of which her favorite to date has been the National Frank Brewer Aerospace Education Award in 2014. The most rewarding award was the National Color Guard Championship, which she believes was one of the most challenging things she has

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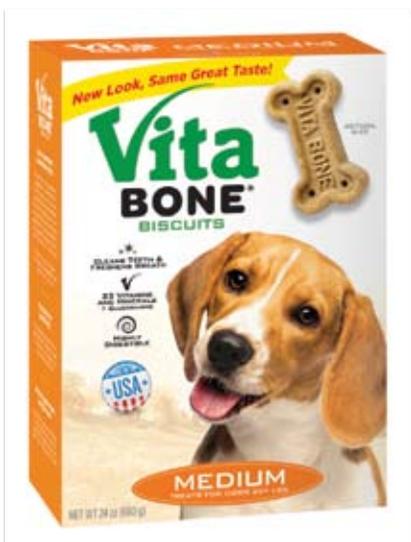
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ever done. She is very grateful to all those who served on her color guard with her over the years, and for the USAF Honor Guard who taught them. The journey to these awards and positions included thousands of hours volunteering for the more mundane tasks in CAP, like cleaning storage rooms, walking in parades, talking at recruiting booths, planning activities, tutoring other cadets in aerospace, and cleaning up after the fun. Over the course of six years, Cadet Col. Rosalyn Carlisi has volunteered more than 1000 hours outside of her normal leadership duties in CAP. Additionally she has volunteer hours with JROTC, her school, and her church. When Cadet Col. Carlisi joined Civil Air Patrol, she didn't just stick her toe in the water to test the water, she jumped in cannonball style!

Cadet Col. Carlisi has made many friends that she will treasure for a lifetime. They have built her up, motivated and mentored her, and been great examples to her. Cadet Col. Carlisi believes that without these good friends, she might have taken a very different path in life. CAP friends are often a life line for her in discouraging circumstances. Until the last few years, school was a difficult place for Cadet Col. Carlisi. She was frequently the focus of bullies, she isn't like the girls who care only about clothing and boys or the kids who just wanted to do sports. However, at CAP, she was able to be herself and share in the joy of common interests and goals with a group of other young leaders who she loves. She looks forward to CAP meetings every week, excited to participate in activities and be with her friends!

Cadet Col. Carlisi is most renowned in our squadron for two things. One, she misplaces her cover, A LOT. This has led to a game of Senior Members taking her cover and photographing it in various places around the world, like a stolen lawn gnome. I will miss this game! She is also renowned for being an incredible public speaker, with a gift for impromptu teaching. If somebody doesn't show up to teach their class, Carlisi is the first one to ask for help and never hesitates to lend a hand.

One of my favorite moments happened just recently at a small Great Start Class. She had been



told she would be teaching about the “Warrior Spirit” and character development; however, through miscommunication another cadet had already taught that class. Cadet Col. Carlisi was faced with an hour in which she didn't have a topic to teach and a room of cadets looking at her expectantly. She stood still for about two minutes thinking hard on what she could possibly say, and then she firmly announced her class would be on intolerance, a topic she knows well. She then proceeded to give one of the most insightful lessons about intolerance I have ever heard from anyone. I have two college degrees and have been attending church for 50 years. As an educated, religious person I was astounded; however, as her mother I was exploding with pride.

The cadets came up to her afterward and were telling her what a great class it was. I just sat there stunned. I asked her if she had learned about this in one of her classes at school. She said no, she had just thought about the topic from time to time. I realized then, that this leadership program had not just affected her on the surface, giving her stuff to put on her resume and hang on her wall. The leadership program had a profound effect on her and became a part of her as a person, her inner self. I appreciated she didn't just think about boys, homework, and dances in her spare time. The CAP leadership program had taught her to think deeply about the problems confronting our Nation,

*Continued on page 17 . . .*



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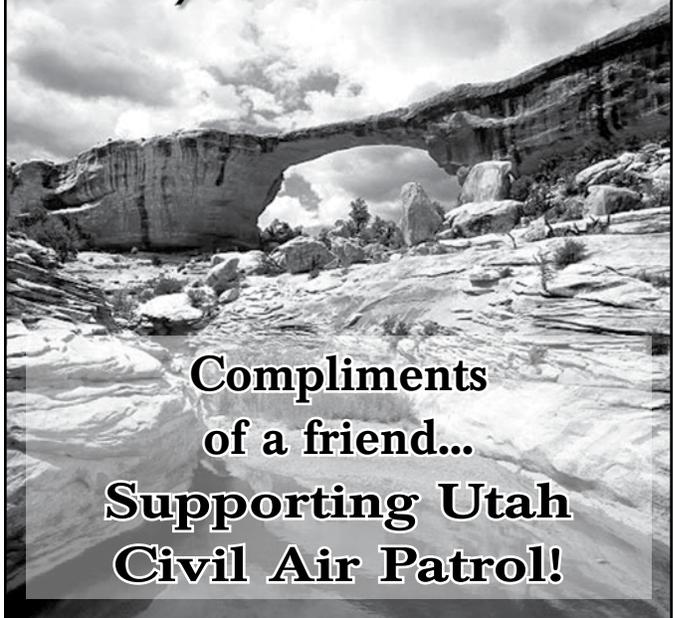
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# Utah Wing Communications Conference

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9 April, 2016

The annual Utah Wing Communications Conference was held on Saturday, 9 April, 2016. This year's conference was jointly sponsored by CAP and the 1st Battalion/211th Aviation Regiment of the Utah Army National Guard.

The Army hosted the conference at their Aviation Support Facility at Salt Lake City's South Valley Regional Airport (U42.)

The topic was liaison communications.

Attending the conference were representatives of the Utah Army National Guard (Aviation Regiment), Civil Air Patrol, Utah Department of Emergency Management, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, Utah Division of Natural Resources and the Utah County Sheriff's Office.

Special guests included the Operations Section Chief of the Utah Division of Emergency Management and the Director of the Utah Division of Aeronautics.

## Morning Session

The morning session consisted of familiarization briefings in which each agency's communications specialists provided an overview of their communications infrastructure, and placed special emphasis on how we could communicate with each other when tasked to support a large event. The Civil Air Patrol and the Army represent the greatest concentration of fixed- and rotary-wing assets which could be called upon by the Air Operations Branch of the State Emergency Response Team.

## **Army Briefing**

Communications managers Capt. Denver Lee and 1Lt. Jordan Green of the UTARNG briefed the group on the Army's VHF and HF communications infrastructure. Included was an overview of the communications suites of the Apache, Blackhawk, and Lakota aircraft, and their very capable deployable ground trailers and mobile satellite terminals.



**AH-64D Apache**



**UH-60D Blackhawk**



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Especially interesting was their capability for re-transmission of VHF-FM radio communications from vehicle-to-base station and vehicle-to-vehicle and the real-time air-to-ground video streaming capability of the Lakota.

## **CAP Briefing**

Col. Jerry Wellman and Capt. Mike Collett provided an overview of the CAP HF and VHF radio systems and did a “show and tell” of multi-powered portable VHF radio kits, the Highbird PDR repeater package, and the Motorola HF Rapid Deployment Package. Jerry touched on the increased importance of CAP communications resources as CAP is now a component of the Air Force “Total Force” organization.

## **Department of Forestry and Fire Briefing**

Mr. Mike Melton, Area Fire Management Officer for Southwest Utah (Div. of Forestry, Fire and State Lands) has been working large, multi-agency wildfire events for forty years.

By their very nature, such events involve numerous state, local and federal agencies and beg the need for reliable liaison communications. Mike related two types of scenarios which hamper effective multi-agency communications: (1) local responders are often acquainted only with radio channels used in day-to-day communications, and are not aware that their radios are capable of operation on liaison channels; (2) there can be insufficient liaison channels available (both VHF and 800 MHz) for multi-agency communications when channels get congested and the group was advised to seek larger suites of channels for coordination. Be sure to have front-panel-programmable radios available.

Mike’s humorous presentation, built on decades on front-line experience, was a highlight of the conference. He left the group with the advice of approaching liaison communications through the eyes of the served agencies, and not through the eyes of the communicators.

## **Department of Emergency Management Briefing**

Bob Craven, Communications/Operations Manager of the state Department of Emergency Management mapped out the communications infrastructure of both state and local public safety agencies. Most of northern Utah has migrated to the 800 MHz trunking system and several of those agencies have discontinued operations on VHF-FM capability entirely. The more rural southern Utah agencies largely remain on VHF.

In order to conduct effective liaison communications, our Army and CAP systems must include cross-linking capability to both VHF and 800 MHz local systems. (Hence the addition of an 800 MHz capability for the afternoon cross-link test.)

Bob explained that our choice of 800 MHz cross-link channels should utilize “common-denominator” simplex channels as outlined in the federal NIFOG manual rather than Utah “event” channels which depend on the terrestrial trunking-system infrastructure. That approach will give us standalone cross-linking capability in areas not covered by 800 MHz trunking, especially in Southern Utah.

## **Utah County Sheriff’s Office Briefing**

2nd Lt. Doug Nielson (Phantom Squadron, CAP) is a radio technician with the Utah County Sheriff’s Office. He briefed the group that more agencies, particularly in larger urban areas, are equipping their personnel with dual-band (VHF/800 MHz) radios, such as the Motorola APX series.

While such equipment can facilitate multi-agency communications, the users generally have experience only with the daily dispatch and tactical channels (only one band) and do not practice how to change bands and utilize interoperability channels. The capability of the equipment outpaces the knowledge of the operators.

Doug suggested that improved awareness, not more equipment, is the key to improved multi-agency

communications in these urban areas. That should be followed by exercising the expanded capabilities of the radios (improved communications “muscle memory.”)

### Field Exercise Session

The afternoon session consisted of a live exercise in which the communications interoperability of multiple agencies was tested, and included both air and ground assets.

1300 Army helicopter and CAP fixed-wing aircrews briefed the communications mission and airspace de-confliction.

Joint CAP/Army/DNR/Utah County resources combined to form an inter-agency ground communications team to set up an advance base of operations and the cross-link radio system at Walden Airfield, an abandoned airport south of Salt Lake City.

Simultaneously, a separate CAP communications team deployed to the Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper, Utah (a Salt Lake City suburb) and received an orientation and tour of the Army’s Joint Operations Center and Communications nerve center, and to monitor the joint communications test on the Army’s low-band FM SINCGARS radio system



1400 Civil Air Patrol launched a C-182 aircraft from U42; the Army launched an AH-64 Apache helicopter from the same location with a pre-planned rendezvous over Walden airfield.

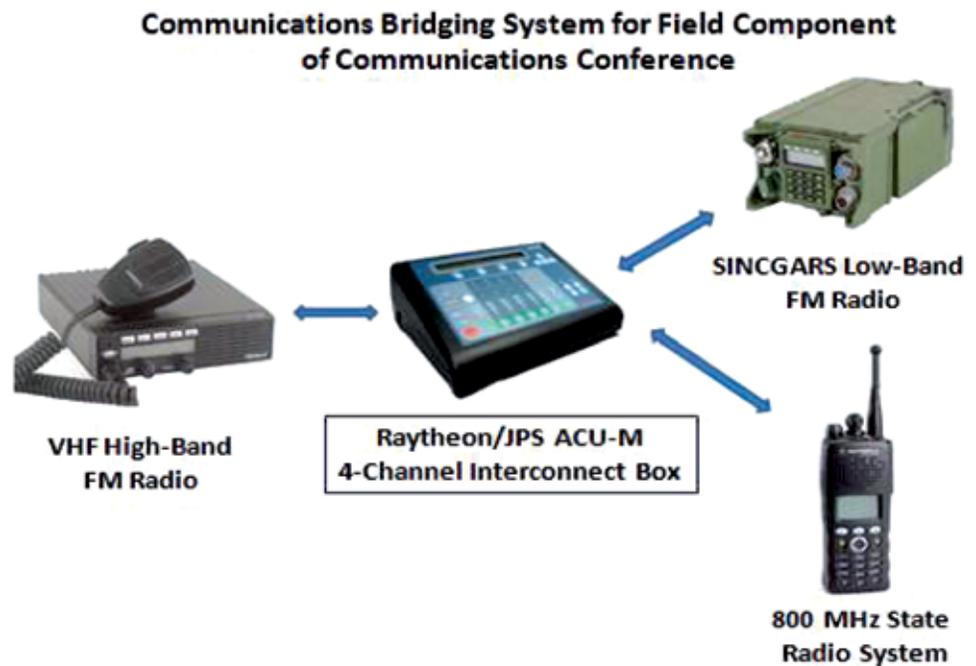
The ground team readied the Raytheon/JPS ACU-M cross-link radio system so the multiple agencies could communicate with each other in real time over their respective radio systems.

Cross-connected at the advance communications base were the following systems:

- Civil Air Patrol high-band FM radio (to communicate with the CAP C-182 and CAP ground team)
- Utah Army National Guard SINCGARS low-band FM radio (to communicate with the Apache)
- 800 MHz State of Utah radio (to communicate with the State of Utah Department of Emergency Services representative and with the Utah County Sheriff’s Office)

As an adjunct to the cross-linked liaison communications test, a CAP ground team deployed from Walden Airfield to conduct a D-F search to locate a practice EPIRB which was carried into the field by the Utah County Sheriff’s Office representative (also a CAP member.)

The field liaison communications test was monitored by several CAP communicators and the State Emergency



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Management Communications Officer back in the conference room at U42 via the now-linked 800 MHz state trunking system.

All frequency coordination for the cross-band test was pre-arranged with the Utah Army Guard's spectrum manager and the State of Utah Interoperability Communications Manager.

While the ground team was homing in on the ELT beacon in the field, the remaining CAP communicators at the Aviation Support Facility received a tour and briefing of the Army's AH-64 Apache simulator (very "gee-whiz") and an up-close and personal tour of an Apache helicopter in the hanger (with special attention to every antenna on the airframe!) The Apache inspection was followed by a flight line tour of a UH-60 Blackhawk and a CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter.

The conference concluded at 1600.

#### What was accomplished; lessons learned

- We received very informative, multi-agency briefings on each agency's communications systems.
- The group had the chance to get acquainted with each other's communications specialists.
- We learned to approach liaison communications from an operational and not just a technology perspective.
- Served agencies may be used to using their radios only on "dispatch" channel—help them out to understand how to dial into a cross-linked channel.
- We added an additional dimension to February's cross-link system's test: the State 800 MHz system for communication with state Emergency Management officials and a local sheriff's office (most agencies are on 800 MHz in Northern Utah.)
- We learned to use simplex 800 MHz state liaison channels to avoid being tethered to trunked system towers when operating at remote locations.
- We received positive feedback from the State Emergency Management Operations Officer: "We're glad to see agencies testing their liaison communications capability."
- We learned that we needed to explore ways to expand the "suite" of available frequencies for liaison communications, both VHF and 800 MHz.
- We discovered an error in programming the cross-link channel into the Technisonic radio on the CAP C-182. It had one-way, not 2-way communications on the cross-link channel. We need to continue pre-programming the Army cross-link channel in all of our aircraft (we did this one on the fly at an outlying airport.)
- We had a hands-on opportunity to learn the capabilities of the Raytheon/JPS ACU-M portable inter-connect box: we used COR "high" squelch for one radio, COR "low" squelch on another radio, voice-recognition VOX on another (we even tested an AM aircraft band radio with the system.)
- The Army is going to build a dedicated, pre-programmed 50-watt VHF high-band portable radio kit to combine with the ACU-M to have a "grab-and-go" cross link system at the ready: SINCGARS, VHF-FM high-band, and 800 MHz. (We have been working side-by-side with them to build the linked system from scratch on the last two joint exercises.) ★



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# OFF-SITE COMMANDER CALL

*Maj. Mike Fernandez, CAP*

Every Commander knows that the best way to know what is going on with your officers is to sit down with them and have a face-to-face meeting. This allows the officers to voice what is working and what is not. It gives the commander an opportunity to hear first-hand what is going on in the field and to provide both training and support to his/her units. CAP learned this long ago and recommends that the Wing Commander host a “Commander’s Call” at least once a quarter.

For the first Commander’s Call of the year, our Wing Commander, Col. Jon Niedfeldt, decided that he wanted to try something different in appreciation of all of the work the squadron commanders have done over the past year. The search began for a location that would be accessible for a January gathering, requiring accommodations, meals and a meeting hall to accommodate the conference. After months of research and evaluating bids and locations, the Eureka Hotel and Casino in Mesquite, NV was able to meet all our needs and accommodated our budgetary requirements. Our many thanks go to the folks at the Eureka Hotel for making this possible.

As unpaid professionals, we all know the time and effort it takes to be a unit commander, and without the support of our spouses, influencing partner or close friend it would be almost unbearable. Therefore, we also invited those who personally support our unit commanders to accompany us in appreciation of their support.

Although there is a budget to support Commander’s Calls, the majority of this event was funded by ‘anonymous’ personal donations.

The event lasted two nights and the official Commander’s Call meeting was held the morning of 23 January. Every unit in the Utah Wing was represented and we had several members of both wing and region staff on site to help answer questions and address concerns.

Wing staff members presented program updates, details and future plans in their respective areas. Rocky Mountain Region Commander, Col. Robert M. Bost, was also in attendance and shared informa-



tion about what is occurring at both Regional and National levels as it relates to our local units.

Before and after the official meeting, unit commanders had the opportunity to interact and discuss best practices, shared effective solutions to common challenges, problem solving issues that were affecting their units and day to day concerns. It was extraordinary to listen to everyone collaborating and openly sharing their different views and experiences. We heard over and over again “thanks, that’s a great idea”.

To ensure this was not only a working Commander’s Call weekend, “free time” was scheduled to allow the commanders and their “plus 1” to socialize with each other, explore Mesquite and enjoy some down time. Commanders found a variety of activities such as going shopping, walking around enjoying the warm January weather and driving south to explore Hoover Dam.

The Commander’s Call ended with a semi-formal dinner and allowed the participants to relax, get to know one another better and end the event with new friendships and resources for future collaborations.

The feedback received has been very positive. Everyone expressed what a great opportunity this was to sit in a relaxed environment and chat with wing staff. Interacting and building relationships with the other unit commanders, learning what other units are doing around the wing and gathering some great ideas to bring back to their home units was invaluable.

# Eaker Award Presented to Lt. Col. Norris



*Written by:*

*2nd Lt. Ryan Wiendl, CAP, Thunderbird Cadet Squadron PAO*

*Cadet Senior Airman Zane Dunn, CAP, Thunderbird Cadet Squadron Cadet PAO*

Why would a successful 18yearold who already has a year of college under his belt continue on with CAP when he has so little time as it is? The answer is simple and in his words—“CAP has developed a foundation for how I live my life now and core values give a perfect example of how I should act, whether in school or work. It has really developed who I am.”

Those are the words of Lt. Col. Aiden Norris, who recently earned the General Ira C. Eaker

Award. He is truly someone who has applied what he has learned from CAP to his everyday life and achieved. As mentioned, this remarkable young man has finished one year of college while in high school and has already obtained a pharmacy technician license. He works at the Huntsman Cancer Institute Inpatient Pharmacy, compounding and delivery medication and he intends to work on an EMTB license this summer. Lt. Col. Norris plans to graduate in 2020 with a double major in Psychology and Human Anthropology. And after that he plans to apply to medical school. Now that’s a full plate. And yet he continues in CAP because he is eager to help younger cadets. This is truly a person who has gained so much from the CAP program and applies it every day to make a good life, not only for himself but others also.

Lt. Col. Norris’ CAP resume is as impressive as his scholastic. Some of his accomplishments include; Cadet Commander for the Blackhawk Squadron, Desert Hawk XIII Cadet Commander and he is currently serving as the Cadet Advisory



**Lt. Col. Ray Atanacio, Col. Jon Niedfeldt and Col. Robert Bost present the General Ira C. Eaker Award to Lt. Col. Norris.**

Council Chair.

Maj. Sue Shurtliff CAP Commander of the Blackhawk Cadet Squadron says, “Lt. Col. Norris....What can I say about this guy. I have known Lt. Col. Norris his whole CAP career. He is a gentleman, a good friend, and a great Cadet. Lt. Col. Norris comes to the aid of anyone that needs it. He is always ready and eager to help younger Cadets to get through the program. He works well with newbies as well as the more seasoned Cadets. I have seen him operate in and out of the Squadron, and have seen him do a tremendous job at whatever job he had at Encampment. He did an outstanding job as Encampment Cadet Commander all the while being the Cadet Commander within the Squadron. He has been a joy from day one, and I have had the pleasure of watching him grow from a new Cadet to the fine young man he is today. I have no doubt that Lt. Col. Norris will succeed at whatever task comes his way. Someday I will be able to say “I knew this guy when....”.

Best wishes to you, and your future. It has

## Norris Eaker Award

Continued



Over 100 cadets, senior members, and family came to congratulate Lt. Col. Norris.



been an extreme pleasure to see the work you have done, and look forward to see what comes your way in the future.”

“Lt. Col. Norris came to the Thunderbird Squadron at a time of major transition,” says 1st Lt. Lisa Vandersteen, CAP Commander of the Thunderbird Squadron. “He has been an exceptional mentor to both senior members and cadets. He greets everyone with his unique double handshake and has a way of making everyone feel like they are the most important person in the room. His dedication and service to CAP and level of achievement in the program serves as a model and inspiration to our entire squadron.

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Norris on becoming the 3,020 cadet to earn this prestigious leadership award! ★

## Carlisi Spaatz Award

Continued from page 7

about the world around her, and how problems can be solved. Yes...solved. What a gift the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Programs is to our community, when it teaches our children to think beyond themselves, and beyond today!

When the time came, Cadet Col. Rosalyn Carlisi, as she always has, jumped in cannonball style and studied for her Spaatz exams, re-reading all her books and making over 1000 flash cards. Everywhere she went she was carrying some of those flash cards, and every time we did laundry we were pulling flash cards out of her pockets. She passed her Spaatz exams, joins those in the Spaatz Association as number 2037, and she is looking forward to every challenge the future has to offer.

Cadet Col. Carlisi will be graduating in May in the top of her class from the Utah Military Academy. She has been accepted to seven colleges and universities with excellent engineering programs, and was offered more than \$780,000 in college scholarships, including the Civil Air Patrol Academic Scholarship. She has accepted an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, Class of 2020, and will major in Astronautical Engineering with plans to minor in Russian. On June 30, 2016 Rosie will begin again as a Basic Cadet at the USAF Academy. She plans to continue in CAP and will be visiting her family and friends in Utah a lot.

Yes, her Dad kept his promise from all those years ago, that she could be anything she wanted to be, she just changed her mind along the way. She still loves puppies, but today she dreams of serving her country and advancing our understanding of space. If she could give one piece of advice to Cadets whose goal is to become a Spaatz Cadet, it would be....

“say *I CAN* to yourself. I can learn this material. I can run a mile. I can learn this drill movement. I can stick with this, even if some people quit. I can rise above challenges, or hurts, or failures. I can.” ★



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# Who the Heck is Uncle Mike?

*By Lt. Col. Matt Johnson, CAP  
Utah Wing Dir of Flight Operations*

The origin of Utah Wing's radio callsign, "Uncle Mike", has been a source of puzzlement to our members for many years. Just who was Uncle Mike, anyway? (And does Utah Wing have any aunts?)

As it turns out, "Uncle Mike" wasn't a person\*, but the work of an uninspired staffer.

(\*Not to be confused with "Uncle Mike Mike", who was a real person and served as Utah Wing Director of Communications once upon a time...but that's a story for another day.)

As CAP built its nationwide communications network many decades ago, each wing was tasked to come up with its own "tactical callsign" for each of the three types of radio station: land-based, mobile and air-mobile.

The more creative wings came up with callsign triplets like "Box Car", "Kiddie Car" and "Side Car", or "King", "Queen" and "Jack". Alas, no one dreamed up similarly clever ideas for Utah Wing. Instead, some unknown communications staffer--possibly even the wing Director of Communications at the time--simply submitted "Utah Wing", "Utah Mobile" and "Utah Air-mobile".

Somewhere along the way, these were shortened to the two-letter acronyms UW, UM and UA. Under the old phonetic alphabet in use then, these translated to "Uncle Willie", "Uncle Mike" and "Uncle Able"--which became Utah Wing's official tactical callsigns for the next several decades.

In 1986, discrete mobile and air-mobile callsigns were eliminated, replaced by a "mobile" or "air-mobile" station type identifier tacked onto the land-based callsign (e.g., "Uncle Mike 22" became "Uncle Willie 22 Mobile"). A short time later, "Uncle Mike" returned, replacing "Uncle Willie" as Utah Wing's official callsign. The station type identifiers were eventually dropped in the 1990s.

The "Uncle Mike" callsign would remain in use for another 30 years, until 2016's mandated change.

([http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/EMERGENCY\\_SERVICES/COMMUNICATIONS-BLOG/?BIG\\_CHANGES\\_FOR\\_CAP\\_CALL\\_SIGNS&SHOW=ENTRY&BLOGID=1728&UTM\\_SOURCE=TWITTERFEED&UTM\\_MEDIUM=LINKEDIN+COMPANY+PAGE](http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/EMERGENCY_SERVICES/COMMUNICATIONS-BLOG/?BIG_CHANGES_FOR_CAP_CALL_SIGNS&SHOW=ENTRY&BLOGID=1728&UTM_SOURCE=TWITTERFEED&UTM_MEDIUM=LINKEDIN+COMPANY+PAGE))

**Subject:** UTWG Call Sign project  
(Summarized from voting activity report by Capt.

Mike Collett, Utah Wing Dir of Communications)

This is a long process because this process was akin to naming one's child! The Utah Wing recommendations for a new radio call sign have been submitted to DOKO at CAP national headquarters. The selection process was designed to be all-inclusive and as unbiased as possible.

The communications and active communicators compiled a list of names and this list was put to a vote. The list was rank-ordered by vote, presented to the wing command staff and operations staff at April's ops staff meeting. They provided a few additional names, the list was again voted on and rank-ordered with the additional votes.

This list was reviewed and any names that would not meet with the Air Force regulation on call signs were removed. This includes names that were too closely associated with the state of Utah (e.g. Beehive) per AF directives. All the names on this list were then evaluated with the long term thought "could we live with this and feel good about it if it were selected" again, much like naming a child.

Although we received information that a fair number of the names on the list, including several "cool" names at the top of the list, may have already been assigned within the U.S Military, in order to not make any assumptions these names were left on the list.

Two teams were established, each consisting of one person from the communications staff and one from operations staff. Each team took hand-held radios and went into separate rooms, shut the door and each person took turns reading the list of names over the radio. This process was repeated SIX (6) times! In doing this exercise, names that were indistinct or hard to pronounce were moved down the list. Names that were very difficult to understand over the radio were removed from the list.

The final list that was submitted had 41 names.

Some of the information going around is several wings have had none of their initial submissions accepted. Some that have been accepted were in the 30's to 40's on the list submitted, so we really don't know what to expect.

\*Note: At the time of publishing The Utah Wing has not received any response from National HQ... Stay tuned for the naming of our future soubriquet!!

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- Albert Einstein



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## HISTORY

Civil Air Patrol and its earliest members were honored in December 2014 with the Congressional Gold Medal for their contributions during World War II, when they forged the path the organization and its volunteers still follow today – helping secure the homeland, selflessly and often at great sacrifice.

These days, CAP’s volunteers stand ready to take on such challenges as natural and manmade disasters and searches for missing aircraft or individuals. In CAP’s formative years, during the early days of American involvement in the war, the perils were mostly posed by enemy combatants, in the form of Nazi U-boats threatening U.S. shipping – especially oil tankers – off the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

CAP’s founders flew patrols that discouraged and eventually stopped the U-boat attacks. They also patrolled the country’s borders by air, towed targets for military trainees, spotted forest fires, conducted search and rescue missions, provided disaster relief and emergency transport of people and parts and conducted orientation flights for future pilots.

In many ways, the pioneering members being honored were ahead of their time in devoting themselves to serving their communities and their country as volunteers. And just like their CAP counterparts today, when they risked life and limb to help protect the home front during wartime they weren’t looking for recognition.

Even so, more than 70 years later they received it.

Legislation in both houses of Congress awarded CAP a single Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of its members’ contributions during the war. Many used their own aircraft to conduct volunteer combat operations and other emergency missions under hazardous conditions.

They came from all walks of life. Their ranks, more than 100,000 strong, included not only ordinary men, women and teenagers in communities throughout the country but also such prominent figures as a noted Hollywood director and a world-famous pianist, a Munchkin from “The Wizard of Oz” and a sitting state governor, a storied Wall Street financier and a pioneering African-American female aviator, future Tuskegee Airmen, the head of a major brewery and the founder of a famous doughnut chain.

Most of the early volunteers, unfortunately, are gone. The Department of Veterans Affairs has said the nation’s World War II veterans are dying at a rate of 670 a day. Fewer than 100 CAP members from those days are known to be alive today.

“All the guys who I was with are all gone,” said CAP Lt. Col. Clive Goodwin Jr. “As far as I know, I’m the only one left. It’s a dwindling number.”

Goodwin joined a CAP squadron in Cortland, N.Y., in the fall of 1942 and flew as a mission pilot out of Cortland Municipal Airport. The squadron’s assignment was to fly search and missing aircraft missions for the U.S. Army Air Forces. He remains active as a member of the North Carolina Wing’s Franklin County Composite Squadron and is still a pilot.

When the Congressional Gold Medal was on the horizon, “I think it’s great that they’re recognizing CAP,” Goodwin said. CAP was founded Dec. 1, 1941, six days before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Early

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in the war, after supply ships leaving American ports to support the Allied war effort began drawing deadly attacks from U-boats off the East Coast, CAP pilots carried out anti-submarine missions, often carrying bombs to drop by hands on any enemy vessels they sighted. Their vigilance helped discourage and eventually halt the attacks.

Over 18 months, CAP anti-submarine coastal patrols flew more than 24 million miles, spotting 173 U-boats and attacking 57. They also escorted more than 5,600 convoys and reported 17 floating mines, 36 bodies, 91 ships in distress and 363 survivors in the water.

“We who served asked for nothing in return and got nothing,” said former U.S. Rep. Lester Wolff, D-N.Y., who commanded a CAP squadron based at Mitchell Field on Long Island, N.Y., during World War II.

Often, “it was a perilous task,” Wolff said, recalling the loss of one of his squadron members.

“So many people forget that our little effort contributed so much,” especially in terms of providing protection for shipping, he said.

“Time is catching up, and at least there is still time for some of us to smell the flowers,” Wolff added.

CAP Col. Robert Arn flew anti-submarine missions out of Coastal Patrol Base No. 14 in Panama City, Fla., from September 1942-June 1943.

Of the 12 original pilots he served with at Panama City, “we lost six of them,” said Arn, who flew 179 missions totaling 557 hours of flight time over the Gulf of Mexico.

“I think with the aircraft we had, which weren’t built to go out over the Gulf of Mexico, we were able to do a job and do it well,” he said.

“To be recognized by the government would be wonderful,” said Col. Steve Patti, who joined CAP in January 1942 and was stationed at Vail Field in Los Angeles. For 15 months he was assigned to the 12th Task Force Anti-Submarine Patrol in Brownsville and San Benito, Texas, as an aircraft mechanic. He also flew as a replacement observer on convoy escort, anti-submarine, beach and border patrols, and later served at bases in Marfa and El Paso, Texas.

“It’s a great honor to be bought into the limelight of recognition,” said Patti, who like many of his CAP colleagues subsequently served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. At the time, “there was no thought of recognition; there was only the thought of getting the job done.”

“I personally never gave it any more thought after the war,” he said. “We did our job every day and we asked for nothing. We had to buy our own special tools or make our own tools.”



**The Utah Wing supported development testing of the U.S Army’s JLENS cruise missile defense system over western Utah in 2011, helping ensure the effectiveness of defense against low-altitude cruise missiles. Here, a Utah Wing aircrew orbits the elevated JLENS aerostat, designed to provide battlefield commanders**



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*Continued on page 25 . . .*

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# 75th Anniversary History

*Continued from page 23*

## UTAH WING

### From Blizzard of '49 to '02

### Olympics, wing stays vigilant

Utah Wing activities have encompassed blizzards, crashes, Olympics security and high-tech missions — even parachuting sheepdogs to herders whose dogs died in the terrible blizzards of January-February 1949. In that worst winter since 1899, members helped master-map and observe the landscape and dropped food and medicine.

In 1969, the wing used 96 members and nine planes for three days, rescuing three survivors after a Cherokee Six crashed in the Grand Canyon. Members joined the 1997 search after an A-10 Thunderbolt crashed near Eagle, Colo. Post-9/11 support included transportation, reconnaissance and airborne imagery missions. In the years since the terrorist attacks, aircrews have also flown as simulated targets in simulation exercises in the U.S. Air Force's Operation Noble Eagle. In 2002, aircrews took pre-event airborne digital photos of Olympics and Paralympics sites in Salt Lake City to be used as baselines for comparison in the event of an attack.

In 2011, aircrews flew over 50 sorties and more than 200 hours, and mission base staff contributed more than 1,300 hours to development testing at the Air Force's Utah Test and Training Range of the U.S. Army's Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS), a tactical, theater-based sensor system elevated by tethered aerostats. This was the first time CAP was involved in development testing of a major Department of Defense weapon system; CAP's Garmin G1000-equipped aircraft provided flight support for calibration of the surveillance radar system. ★

# Commander's Comments

*Continued from page 3*

it will have already occurred, so if you missed it, make sure you mark your calendar for next May. It is a great time to get together with other CAP members around the Wing and figure out "best practices", or how to have the most fun in CAP! My understanding is that Maj. Mettmann, the Wing DCP, has some fun planned for the cadets while the senior members are finishing dinner!

Many National Cadet Special Activities, that even Senior Members get to attend, occur around the country. Summer activities begin accepting applications in late fall and early winter. Make sure to sign up as soon as the application opens. The selection process is often competitive, with waiting lists. Check the National Cadet Special Activities page (<http://www.ncsas.com/>) often for dates, deadlines, and possible pre-requisites.

If you want to learn how to fly a Glider, or a powered aircraft, there are flight academies for the Cadets. If you want to learn more about Emergency Services, you can attend NESA or Hawk Mountain. If you want to help out at the Oshkosh Air Show, there is Blue Berets'. There are too many National events to list in this article.

Desert Hawk XIV, Cadet Basic Encampment is in Wendover again this year! I can't give away any secrets, but this year's plan looks to be one of the best encampments that we have been able to put on. If you are at least a Curry Cadet, and you have not attended an Encampment yet, you NEED to attend. If you have already attended an Encampment, sign up as a staff member!

How can you get the most out of CAP while helping Utah Wing? Find something you enjoy in your squadron and ask how you can help. Leaders lead, but sometimes it is hard to find someone to help unless they raise their hand and say something.

Do you have questions about what you have read? Wondering how you can be more involved? Talk with your Unit Commander, or Cadet Programs and/or CAC representative.

Have fun, but be safe!

I look forward to seeing each of you at the various Wing activities this summer! ★

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# Puerto Rico CAP, PODs Training



*Col. Jerry Wellman, CAP*

The weekend of April 2-3, 2016 Col. Jon Niedfeldt and Col. Jerry Wellman travelled to Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, to conduct Points of Distribution (PODs) education for members of the Puerto Rico Wing. Civil Air Patrol Representatives from FEMA and the American Red Cross were also in Puerto Rico that weekend to teach shelter management courses to the PR Wing.

Flying from Salt Lake City on Friday, April first, and returning Monday, April fourth, the travel time was nearly 9 hours to San Juan, PR and nearly 12 hours to return home. Upon arrival into San Juan at 8:00 pm local time, Col. Carlos Fernandez (PR Wing Commander) met us at the airport and drove us to Mayagüez, some 110 miles or about 2.5 hours from San Juan.

We arrived at the CROEM\* School and were housed in a dorm room on the school campus where 9th-12th grade students stay during much of the school year. Approximately 145 members of the PR wing, primarily cadets, were housed at the CROEM facility. This is a public school administered by a former PR Wing commander and is an outstanding venue for CAP events.

Lt. Col. Marie Ann Fernandez, the PR Wing's director of operations, did an outstanding job of coordinating the transportation, meals, equipment and all other details of the event. The scope of this event could have been a logistical nightmare but she made it look easy.

The attending students were to be divided into groups, some attending shelter management classes and scheduled PODs classes. There was so much interest in these trainings, more participants were present than expected. After some re-arraigning of schedule times, two shelter classes and one PODs class were taught on Saturday with the reverse, one shelter class and two PODs classes, taught on Sunday. This made the PODs class numbers very manageable and



there were no problems accommodating everyone.

The training materials were to be provided by another source, relieving the burden of having to transport this material; however, upon review, these materials were not as high quality as expected and left many gaps in the training. Traveling such great distances and having such eager students excited to learn valuable training, this was unacceptable for Col. Niedfeldt and Col Wellman.

Wanting to provide an exceptional training experience, Col. Niedfeldt and Col. Wellman collaborated, combined their training and knowledge, using the IS-26 FEMA manuals and searching the internet, they re-created the POD training. Col. Wellman built a customized presentation from materials found in the IS-26 along with tracking down a higher resolution version of the POD training video than the one provided.

Before departing SLC, "POD kits" were developed to assist with the demonstrations and proved themselves to be a valuable tool. The kits were stocked with sidewalk chalk, masking tape, and printed cutouts of things like trucks, cars, pallets, dumpsters, light towers, bathrooms, tents, etc. Participants used the kits and prepared mini-PODs on the concrete areas outside of the classroom. Cadets commented that the "hands on" part of the training reinforced their understanding of the classroom materials. Everyone was engaged and enjoyed this practical application.

The PR Wing cadets and seniors displayed a lot of genuine enthusiasm and engagement in the PODs course. Members were in CAP uniform and NOT ONE uniform violation was spotted. It was an outstanding display of excellence!

On Saturday evening we were invited to attend a very special event, the presentation of the Carl A.



Spatz Award to two cadets, a brother and sister. Puerto Rico's very first female general officer, MG Marta Carcana with the PR National Guard, presented the awards. It was a very impressive ceremony, and having the general participating and awarding the cadets, demonstrated the level of support from the Puerto Rico National Guard for CAP. The general stayed to interact with seniors and cadets and spoke highly of the Civil Air Patrol in Puerto Rico.

We were also able to visit with a variety of senior members serving on wing staff and in squadrons. A significant number of squadron commanders were in the course.

On Sunday, a cadet was noticed carrying a VHF-FM radio. When asked, he reported he was the monitor station for the day and gave his call-sign. A little while later Col. Wellman was able to call him and this cadet was delighted to have his first contact with a Utah Wing station. During his group net later in the day, both Col. Niedfeldt and Col. Wellman were able to check into his net, giving him another first in having a current wing commander and past wing commander from Utah enter into his log book. From the smile on his face, it was a good day for this cadet.

For the return trip, we were taken to San Juan by members from the Muñiz ANG Cadet Squadron. The departure was early Monday morning. Because of traffic concerns, the distance from the school to the airport, and the need to make the flight Monday, we stayed in San Juan on Sunday night.

Overall, the cadets and staff in Puerto Rico are an outstanding representation of Civil Air Patrol.

\*El Centro Residencial de Oportunidades Educativas de Mayagüez or Residential Center of Educative Opportunities of Mayagüez. ★



# Civic Leadership Academy

*By Cadet 1st Lt. Alexander Winward, CAP*

My journey to CLA started back way back in September of 2013. Opening the first volume of Learn to Lead, one can't help but see the pictures of Cadet Officers standing out in front of the Capitol building. I would imagine myself standing amongst the other officers taking in all that our nation's capital has to offer. The idea at the time seemed implausible. These young men and women were the best CAP had to offer. Being a young airman in my decently-sized New Jersey squadron, I was anything but the best. I even wondered if I'd ever achieve the Billy Mitchell Award! Doubtful, I placed the goal in the back of my mind, waiting for the day I would be ready to go.



**State Department**

Fast forward two years to October 2015, I'm on vacation in St. George when I get a call from Capt. Allison Carlisi. She tells me that CLA applications are opening and she wanted me to apply. At the time, having been awarded my Billy Mitchell, I was still unsure if CLA was something that I really wanted to do. I found a lot more excuses not to go than I did to support putting all the time and effort into the application that would lead to my acceptance: no money, middle of the school year, new officer, not qualified. The list went on and on. Realizing that this was something that I did want to do, I began to sort my priorities. CLA is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I could make up school work, but I couldn't make up the lessons and knowledge attainable from attending such a prestigious program. A few days later when the applications opened, I got to work. I knew that regardless of the outcome, I would

learn beneficial skills that would make me successful for future NCSA applications.

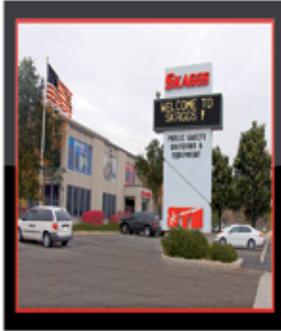
The day after Christmas, one of the best presents I could ask for shows up in my email inbox. I was accepted! Silently celebrating, I knew that the next few months were going to be a little stressful. I was wrong! It was VERY stressful. CLA is notorious for the assigned homework that must be completed before arrival. I won't tell you that I was always getting the assignments in on time, but I will say they eventually got in.

My second hurdle was the fact



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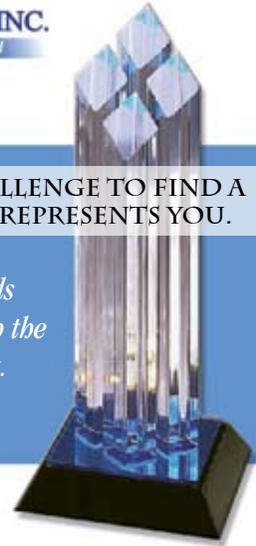
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**Arlington Museum**

that I had no money. Sadly, I knew I wouldn't be able to make the payment deadlines with the money and hours I was working. Hesitantly, I reached out to wing and they were able to set aside a sufficient amount of money to aid me in my efforts to attend. If any cadet is struggling with financing a National Cadet Special Activity, the wing often sets aside money in their budget to help give cadets aid where they need it. You just have to ask!

Finally, after months of stress, work, and waiting, the day came where I would leave Utah and travel to Washington DC. I know my way around an airport, so getting to DC wasn't hard. The hard part was finding my way to the Hilton that we would be staying at. The whole entire time sitting at the bus stop, I kept eyeing this young guy who looked just as confused as me. He looked like he was a cadet officer, but I didn't say anything until we were getting off the bus at the Hilton. "I'm assuming we're here for the same thing?" I asked cautiously. "I'm sure we are!" he replied. Cadet Lt. Col. Charles Blome, I soon found, and I then began to wander the halls of the hotel until finally finding the floor and rooms we were to meet in.

From there, I was able to meet the wonderful senior members and cadets that came from all over the country. There were twenty-four cadets in total. All of us had been selected from a relatively small pool of just under a hundred cadets. To the director, we exemplified in our applications the necessary skills and qualifications to accurately represent CAP in Washington DC. I was truly honored to be a part of this group. We all looked great!

Together, we toured the capital. From the National Mall (the small area where the Washington Monument, MLK Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and many others reside) to the Pentagon, we were able to see all the inner workings of our government. A few of my favorite places we visited were the CIA Headquarters, the State Department, and especially the Supreme Court. We were able to sit in on an actual case and see how problems are solved in the highest court in the land! Our timing was rather special in that we able to see the black drapery they placed around and over recently passed Justice Antonin Scalia's desk and seat. The standard in the court is nine Justices and it's very rare to only see eight. We concluded our time in the Supreme Court meeting with the Supreme Court Clerk and learned what it was like to work with the Court from a more indirect point of view. It was quite the honor.

Eventually the time came when we would, as they say, "Walk the hill." This is the pinnacle of the CLA experience. All of us would be able to join our Wings to talk to all of our Senators and Representatives from our states. As part of the CLA curriculum, we had to set up all the meetings with their schedulers. I found this rather tedious because their offices closed when I got home from school as a result of the time differences. The goal of the meetings



**Arlington wreath laying**

were to convince congress to recover our budget to the usual range, as it tends to be lowered the same amount each year. Most of the time we are successful and do manage to recover it.

After waking up and eating the standard continental breakfast, we walked to another hotel where all the senior members and other cadets were taking part in the National Cadet Advisory Council meetings. It was there that I met with the Utah Wing Commander, Col. Jonathan Niedfeldt, DCP Maj. Jason Mettmann, LLO Lt. Col. Eric Weeks, and his wonderful wife, Deanna Weeks. Together we braved the streets of Washington DC traveling from office to office informing the Senators and Congressman

the importance of supporting CAP's budget in congress. In between one of our meetings, I was able to give the Senior Members an awesome tour of the Library Congress, thanks to the one I received the day prior. I then took them to get their very own official Library of Congress cards; even today, they never stop talking about them. Through all these meetings and time spent with the Senior members, I can assure you one thing: the senior members are, quoting Maj. Mettmann, "a good time." They sure have quite the sense of humor. Fifty percent of all the walking we did was in fact tripping over ourselves because we would be laughing so hard. We had convinced ourselves that we were held to higher standards because of our Library of Congress cards and refrained from simple, yet legal, jay walking across the ten-foot-wide streets. As a result, we would laugh ourselves silly during the five-minute-long waits at the crosswalks. Don't even get me started on the 1,000 selfies Lt. Col. Weeks and his wife took. #America'sCouple.

After the exhausting day, I had the opportunity to meet Congressman Chafetz, Senator Lee, and many other important staffers working for the other officials. They were all very welcoming and well acquainted with our yearly business on the Hill. I'm sure we were successful in our presentations and would not be surprised at all to see our planned budget get the additional money it needs.

I think the most important things that I learned would definitely have to be leading amongst leaders and tolerance towards other people's views. The thing about CLA is that it is exclusive to only a select group of cadets, all of which have substantial experience. All of us wanted to be "the leader" of the group. Most of us aren't used to being the cadet at the bottom of the food chain especially when we are so used to being at the top. This is something that a lot of us had to deal with. As long as we did what we were told, and contributed to the group when we needed to, our time was definitely an amazing, worthwhile experience.

National Cadet Special Activities, as I always say in my squadron, are the things that make CAP fun! There is a full list of amazing activities and camps that you can attend during the summer. I'm sure that



**Washington Monument**



**Supreme Court**

regardless of your interests or hobbies, you will find something you would enjoy attending. Ask around, learn what you can. Set some goals! This summer, I will have attended all the NCSAs I was hoping to as a cadet! All it took was filling out the few prerequisites for the applications and hitting the submit button. My philosophy behind the things that I do and the goals I set is to, in the words of Astronaut Alvin Drew, "Never be reasonable, never be realistic." Aim for the peak of the mountain and I'm sure you'll get there, but aim for the sky and you'll reach the moon! ★



# UHPA

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- To protect the rights of widows and orphans of deceased members;
- To associate as sworn officers who are employed to enforce the laws of the state;
- To devise ways and means of promoting the best interests of the members of the UHPA;
- To seek enactment into law measures relating to the association;
- To provide a method of representation of the interest of the membership before such boards, commissions, department heads, or legislative bodies or other persons or groups as may be necessary to further the goals set by the association.

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