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## Commander's Comments

*Col. Jonathan Niedfeldt • Utah Wing Commander*

It's that time again, Fall and Winter will again be upon us, and we can either plan on it, or be consumed by it again! Utah Winter weather varies depending on where you are in the State, but no matter where you live it affects you and your community.

October 1st is also the beginning of CAPs fiscal year, and that brings lots of work for the CAP leadership at the units and at the Wing. But for the membership, the Fall brings the time when applications for next Summer's activities need to be put together and be submitted. Each activity has a different calendar of when things must be completed, so make sure you look online to determine when applications must be completed so you do not miss out.

As you all know, ABUs are going to replace our BDUs over the next few years. They can be worn any time that is appropriate field work where BDUs would have been worn before. Make sure you review the 39-1 regulation for how to properly purchase, and wear your uniforms.

We have a few Unit changes around the Wing that are occurring. Phoenix Squadron is assist-

ing the Wendover Squadron during their reorganization. Wendover has been a great asset to the Wing and the community, but we are taking a short period of time to help them bring in some additional leadership and get everyone trained and ready for continuing the program in the area. Many thanks to both the Wendover and Phoenix squadron leadership to get this training complete.

What do you do once you are done reading this copy of the WingSpan?

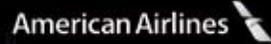
I would like to suggest that you ask your Pediatrician and/or Dentist if you can leave it in their outer office for other patients to read. In addition, maybe they would like to become a sponsor member so they can receive their own copy?

Take a few moments to ensure that your car is ready for Winter. Make sure your tires have enough tread and grip for snowy conditions. Make sure you put an emergency kit including blankets and a heat source in case you run into issues while driving. But most important, make sure you are ready for the driving conditions.

*Continued on page 3 . . .*

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# NESA 2016



## ***National Emergency Services Academy***

*By Maj. Mike Fernandez, CAP*

On the twentieth anniversary of NESA, Utah Wing sent four of its members to attend the yearly national academy in July 2016.

National Emergency Services Academy, better known as NESA, began as the “National Ground Search and Rescue School (NGSAR)” at the Miller School in VA in 1996, and taught CAP members, both Cadets and Senior Members how to operate as a Ground Team Member.

For the first two years, the school was a two week program. Starting in 1998, the Academy continued its two week program but also started presenting one week long schools.

From 1997 through the end of the 2003 school, the ground team school was divided into two programs, Basic and Advanced. The first class had 43 students. Within five years, the number of students had grown to 430.

NESA moved the program to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and added a Mission Base Staff School (MBSS) in 1997, teaching Senior Members the skills to run an Incident Command Post.

Finally in 2000, NESA added the “Mission Aircrew School (MAS)”. The training at MAS is rigorous and students work diligently to amass the skills they need to graduate as either Mission Pilots or Mission Observers.

The school is staffed by members of the Civil Air Patrol that volunteer their time, experience, and effort to make NESA the largest Civil Air Patrol special activity.



This year, Cadet Master Sgt. Max Kamensky and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Patrick Porterfield attended the Ground Team School, Maj. Mike Fernandez attended as a student at the Mission Base Staff School (Air Operations Branch Director) and Col. Jon Niedfeldt attended as an instructor at the Mission Base Staff School.

If you would like to attend NESA, information on the Academy may be found at their web site or ask your Squadron Emergency Services Officer for details.

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## **Commander's Corner** *Continued from page 1*

We are starting to plan activities around the Wing for next Summer. We start planning Summer Encampment in November. We have already started planning next Spring's Wing Conference. You and your squadron should start planning this Fall for next Spring and Summer's activities that

you are going to do with your unit.

If you want to be involved in any local or wing activities or planning, let your unit commander know so they can include you in the process.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon, have a great Fall! ★



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# Utah Wing Mini Flight Academy

*By 2nd Lt. Jenifer Marzo, CAP*

There are several traditional flight academies around the country. Cadets converge on a central location, provided room and board and, of course, instruction in flight as they work towards their personal pilot's license. The cost involved with participating in a traditional flight academy can run well over \$1000.

Wanting to give Utah Wing Cadets this opportunity, a mini version of flight academy was created. This is the first time in the nation this type of format was used with great success!

The tuition was \$800, which included 10 hours of flying time and materials; however, with the help of donations, tuition was significantly decreased to \$575 per cadet.

To help keep cost down, cadets traveled from home to the Salt Lake, South Valley Regional Airport for ten days for academic and practical flight instruction. Lt. Col. Rand Woodward, who instructed at the Texas Flight Academy for 12 years, used the same flying syllabus as traditional flight academies. Teaming up with Maj. Gil Williams for instruction, four of our Utah Wing



CAP Cadets earned their solo wings.

The Utah Wing supplied a Cessna 172 airplane for instruction. During the 10 days each cadet had eight syllabus lessons, flights covering stall recoveries, steep turns, ground reference maneuvers, simulated engine failures, traffic patterns, radio communications, and proper takeoff and landing techniques. Each cadet flew an average of an hour per day. While one cadet flew with his/her instructor, another cadet and their instructor briefed and debriefed.

Incorporated in the middle of the day was an hour of classroom instruction learning aerodynamics, aircraft systems, emergency procedures, Federal Aviation Regulations and many other topics. At the end of the ten days, all four cadets successfully completed their lessons and accomplished their first powered solo flight!

On July 14, 2016 Phoenix, Blackhawk and Thunderbird Squadrons came together, along with many friends and family,



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to support Cadet 1st Lt. Emily Miner, Cadet Sgt. Alvin Chung, Cadet 2nd Lt. Colton Mansfield, and Cadet Senior Airman Mont Hays being pinned with their solo wings!



Congratulations to our cadets and congratulations to Lt. Col. Woodward and Maj. Williams for successfully executing a mini flight academy. Plans for many more to come! ★





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# Hill Air Force Base Air Show

## June 24-25, 2016

It was two beautiful days at Hill Air Force Base providing knowledge and awareness of Civil Air Patrol to the public attending the Hill AFB Air Show. The recruiting booth was staffed by Civil Air Patrol senior and cadet members and information materials such as CAP paper airplanes, brochures with squadron information written on them and details of CAP and their 75 years of service. A CAP aircraft, Cessna 182-T, was on display next to the booth. The plane was manned by pilots from the Weber Minute Men Squadron. With assistance from the pilots and cadets, the public had the opportunity to sit inside

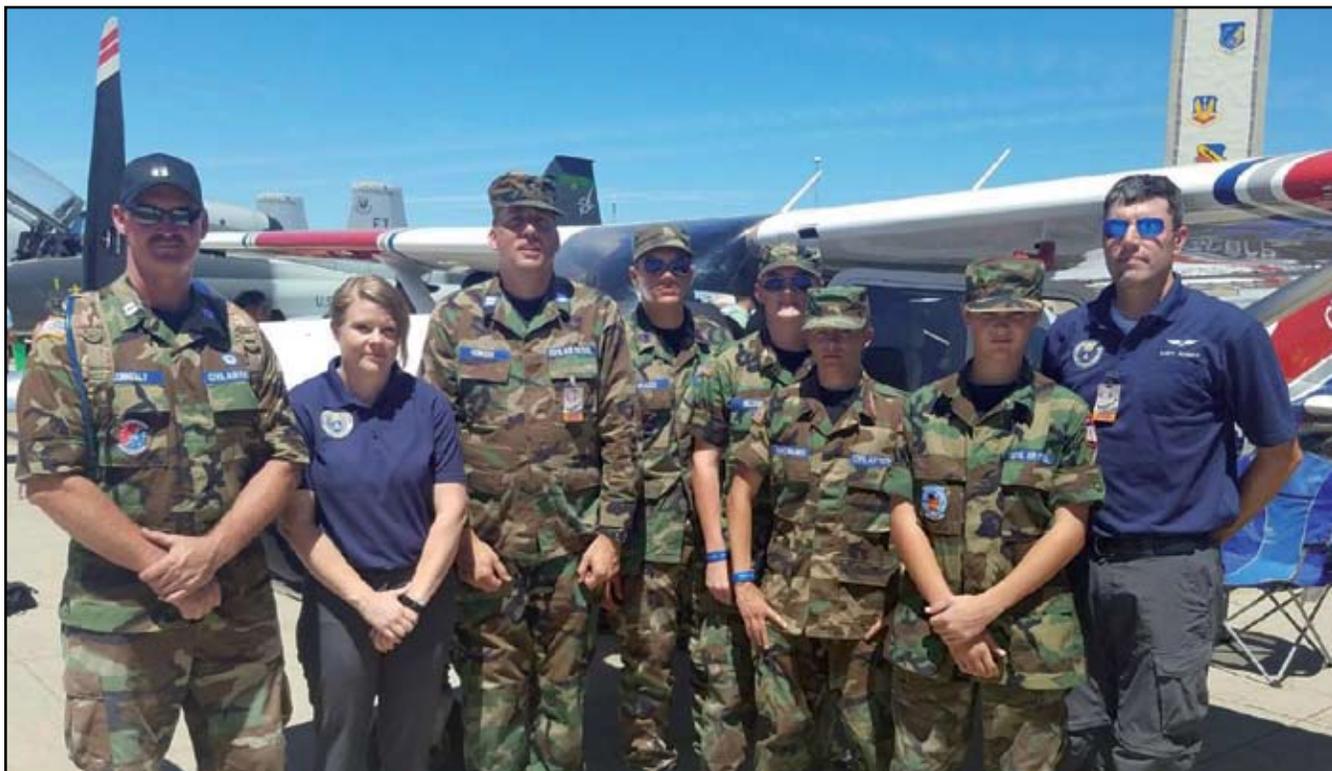


the aircraft and have a hands-on experience of the airplane.

The CAP aircraft was flown in by Scott May, Thursday June 23rd. Booth setup began at 0630 on Saturday, June 25th. The show and CAP booth were open

each day 0800-1700 with shifts set up so our volunteers could use part of their day to visit the rest of the displays.

We had 28 CAP members help Saturday, and 17 on Sunday. Senior and cadet members from



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the Phantom, Weber Minute Men, Thunderbird, BlackHawk, and Phoenix squadrons were able to assist at the booth.

According to the officials at Hill Air Force Base, over 600,000 people attended the event. 75% of these people attended Saturday. Traffic to Hill was jam packed on the interstate and side roads. It took some members two hours after finally reaching the gates to arrive at the booth. The Airforce closed the gates at 1530 on Saturday because the air field was full of visitors and safety in those crowds became



a concern. Visitors standing & with chairs kept getting closer to our booth. By 11:30 am the CAP booth was surrounded by people standing & sitting watching the

many air shows.

It was difficult for people to get to our booth for the most of Saturday due to these large crowds. A few of the cadets got creative and, as a group, walked around the area with CAP pamphlets and flyers answering questions and handing out information. Due to the heat we reserved an area under the CAP canopy for the public and offered them a seat in the shade and water if they needed some. Sunday was much less crowded. The area in front of our display had an open walkway which left us with a steady flow of visitors at the booth and airplane.

The CAP booth was located close to the runway which gave us an amazing view of the many air shows. These included a Heritage Flight with the P-51 Mustang flying alongside the newest fighter jet, the F-35 Lightning, and the finale both days was the United States Air Force Thunderbirds! The USAF Air Demonstration Squadron assigned to the 57th Wing based at Nellis AFB, Nevada. After the show the Thunderbird Pilots and crew were available to sign autographs and pictures taken. ([www.aftThunderbirds.com](http://www.aftThunderbirds.com)) ★



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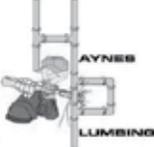
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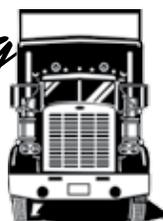
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# Advanced Technologies Academy

*By Maj. Susie Wickman, CAP  
ATA PAO*

Twenty- six Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets (ages 14-18) gathered at Peterson Air Force Base (PAFB) in Colorado Springs, CO, to attend the CAP Advanced Technologies Academy (ATA) July 16-23, 2016. Cadets from around the country had the opportunity to experience the cutting edge technology used by CAP with a focus on aviation. Cadets experienced technologies such as aerial photography and real-time video; hyper-spectral imaging with the ARCHER (Airborne Real-time Cueing Hyperspectral Enhanced Recon) system; cyber security; night vision goggles (NVG) and infrared cameras; and the state of the art computer application Systems ToolKit, which models satellites on orbit.

Some cadets came for the flying and some came for the technology. Cadet 2nd Lt. Holland Oxford from Socorro, NM was excited to attend the academy when she read the promo- “Do you enjoy being on the cutting edge of today’s technology?” She enjoys computers and the possibility of flying. Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Fischer from Ann Arbor, Michigan came primarily for the Cyber Security session, where cadets were introduced to many of the cyber security challenges that are also an integral part of the Air Force Association’s (AFA) national Cyber Patriot competition, and hopes cyber security may be a career someday. Cyber Patriot is part of CAP’s Aerospace Education mission, teaching much needed skills of defending our nation’s security and infrastructure, and exposing them to future career possibilities. Cadets work in teams in virtual competitions, competing with students around the world, to defend computer networks against virtual cyber attacks.

On the first day of flying during ATA, 2nd Lt.



**Cadet Senior Airman 1st Class Zane Dunn from Salt Lake City.  
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Charles Vandersteen from Sandy.  
Photo credit Lt. Col. Russell Davis from Oklahoma Wing.**

Mathew Lopez from Eglin Composite Squadron in Navarre, FL flew on 5 sorties. He had no idea that flying could be that exhausting. Cadet 1st Lt. Brandon Lawson from Prince William Composite Squadron in Woodbridge, VA loved the flying so much he volunteered to fly when others cadets chose not to.

Cadet 1st Lt. Brandon Lawson commented after his aerial photography flight, “It’s harder than it sounds. Taking (aerial) pictures isn’t something you can just do. It’s a process.” The Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (COWG) participates in ongoing missions to take aerial photographs of flood damage, debris collection, and mitigation effectiveness in the Colorado Springs/El Paso County area.

Cadet Master Sgt. Jared Garcia from Nazareth, PA really enjoyed observing the pilot talking to mission base, and how communications worked together on his ARCHER flight. Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Nicolas Prater’s (from Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron) favorite thing about his

*Continued on page 15 . . .*

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## Advanced Technologies Academy

*Continued from page 13 . . .*

ARCHER flight was being able to fly. His second favorite was being on the computer, communicating to the pilot, telling the pilot when to turn, and keeping the pilot on the specific ARCHER track. ARCHER analyzes the specific spectral signatures of objects across the broad spectrum from near ultra violet to near infra red. It can be used to match the specific spectral signature of almost any object. It has been used to determine kill areas of beetle infestation, as well as differentiate between live or dead vegetation, such as burned and unburned growth after the Black Forest fire.

Cadets learned about GIIEPs technology, (Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation – Portable system) that allows geospatial information and video to be transmitted to mission base using Sprint broadband cell phone technology in real time. The flexibility of the system allows operators to tailor their efforts to take maximum advantage of available assets and communications as they support disaster response operations.

Cadets also learned all about the Systems Tool

Kit (STK), part of the CAP Aerospace Education Program. The STK curriculum, available on the National Aerospace Education website, provides cadets the unique opportunity to be able to create and model satellites in orbit. It also provides tutorials on how to create satellites in low, medium, highly elliptical, and geosynchronous earth orbits. This unique software also allows cadets to model satellite constellations, to model the launch of rockets into space, and to have them join up with orbiting spacecraft. The CAP Systems Tool Kit program is a program offered for cadets within National's Aerospace Education Program, similar to the Model Rocketry, Radio Controlled Airplane Program, and the new Robotics program....as part of the STEM initiative.

Cadets were able to use the NVGs and thermal for one night, exposing them to technologies used to enhance Search and Rescue efforts. Trying to find lost/injured hikers at night is much more effective if you can see in the dark (NVGs) or are able to detect heat signatures (the IR camera). Cadets ages 14-18 are eligible for the ATA program. ★

# AGGIE AVIATION ADVENTURE

*By Andreas Wesemann*

**W**hat do you get when you take youth for the first time up in the air at the controls of an aircraft? Big Smiles! Utah Wing teamed up with Utah State University this summer to give an orientation in aviation in conjunction with the Aggie Aviation Adventure.

Utah State University (USU) held its first youth summer camps with tremendous support from the Utah Wing CAP. 41 youth from around the state and even California were able to take the controls for a flight in an aircraft—for some, the first time ever in an aircraft as well.

The first week of camp was held June 6th-10th at the USU Logan Campus, with 21 participating, including 3 CAP cadets, the week before Encampment. Each youth was able to take controls of a DA-40 on a local flight, with modern G-1000

instrumentation in the near glider-like composite aircraft. One unique aspect of this camp was that each youth was at the controls of a Robinson 22 helicopter, the only one in the nation to fly helicopters in a basic aviation summer camp. In addition, they flew a 1.5 million dollar CRJ-700 (Canadair Regional Jet) simulator, demonstrating crew concepts and modern technology to these youth.

As a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) adventure, youth spent time in the Aviation Maintenance Technology lab, sewing fabric on aircraft wings, riveting their initials into metal and creating composite “wings” in the manufacturing laboratory. The students also participated in a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) activity, where they used Lego bricks to build a payload for a small UAV. Classes included aviation weather,





navigation, pre-flight planning, human factors and flying fundamentals. The Cache Valley Composite Squadron hosted the 21 youth for a demonstration on ELTs and Direction Finding, where they hid a practice ELT and after the demonstration, went outside to locate the ‘downed aircraft’. Ground training covered VFR and IFR navigation, airspace, and a half day on aviation survival. Youth were able to practice with a signal mirror, make fire with flint/steel, batteries/steel wool, and magnifying glass and cotton. Other skills such as shelter, water purification and first aid were discussed.

The second camp was hosted by the Castle Valley Composite Squadron at the airport in Price, Utah, from August 3rd to 5th. 8 participants experienced an abbreviated camp, where they were able to fly the DA-40, mini drones and tour a Cessna Citation aircraft. Youth were given information about CAP and invited to the next meeting. The hangar allowed space to fly the drones, be in air conditioning and host 40 folks for the luncheon. The USU Eastern Provost, Dr. Joe Peterson, commented how great it was that USU brought its aviation program to Price, and that CAP was able

to host this first ever camp. Redtail Aviation provided parking space in their hangar and fueled the aircraft, and provided space for flight planning and a second story deck to see the airport from the air.

In Vernal, Utah, at the APEX Aviation FBO (Fixed Based Operator), 12 youth participated in the third week of the 2016 Aggie Aviation Adventure. Youth once again flew at the controls of the DA-40, but also toured Classic Air Medical, where they were able to meet flight nurses, mechanics and pilots of the helicopter operation. Randy Chesley from USU Aviation Maintenance brought some interesting maintenance tools and youth were able to rivet and repair fabricated metal. Youth were also briefed on the programs and missions of CAP and will hopefully be a catalyst for the rebirth of a Vernal Composite Squadron.

Planning is underway with over 2 dozen interested folks who are meeting to plan a location, date and time, and then with the support of a few previous members, bring CAP back to the Uintah Basin!

For more information on CAP re-entering the Uinta Basin, contact Maj. Mike Fernandez 801-652-9817. ★

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# Newly Designed Phoenix Cadet Squadron Patch Receives Approval

*By 2nd Lt. Ken Prince, CAP*

Seven years ago the Phoenix Cadet Squadron was chartered by the Utah Wing to bring forth the three missions of Civil Air Patrol to the western valley of Salt Lake City, Utah. Last month, a newly designed squadron patch for the Phoenix Cadet Squadron was voted upon by its members and received wholehearted approval by the Utah Wing.

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Jay Brimhall, a member of the Salt Lake Phoenix Cadet Squadron, is the author and creator of the new moniker which features the Phoenix bird mascot. Cadet Brimhall explains how this ancient symbol came from the Arabian Desert and represents his cadet squadron's essence. "A Phoenix is a unique bird that lived for five to six hundred centuries in the Arabian Desert, burning itself on a funeral pyre and rising from the ashes with renewed youth to live through another cycle. It is also used to describe a person or thing regarded as uniquely remarkable in some respect."

The well-known Civil Air Patrol aircraft marking is framed in the center of the famous icon's outstretched wings adding color and distinction.

There are three white stars flanking the left side of the Phoenix which represents the three missions of Civil Air Patrol: Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs and Emergency Services.

A blue solid line streaks across and under the Phoenix representing the sky, flying and the composite of cadets and senior members working together.



The top rocker signifies the proud name of the Phoenix Cadet Squadron with the bottom rocker containing their motto: "Nulli Secunus" meaning, Second to None.

The Charter Number balances the right hand side completing the new squadron patch.

The Phoenix Cadet Squadron Commander is Maj. Nick Cook who himself achieved Lt. Commander as a Cadet in the 1990's.

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# Blackhawk Cadets Climb to New Heights



*By Capt. Sarah Borden, CAP*

Last April saw Blackhawk Cadets trying out an aspect of the new beta CPFT guidelines, getting out and doing fun physical activities. 16 cadets participated in an instructional small group where they learned the needed skills for indoor top rope climbing. Cadets were first taught proper rope care and knot tying, then to communicate and properly belay a climber.

*“We learned about the specific knots that are required for climbing, and that not all of them are as easy as they look.” – Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Brian Beesley*

After learning the skills needed to safely have fun, they then were able to work together to climb. Cadets enjoyed the

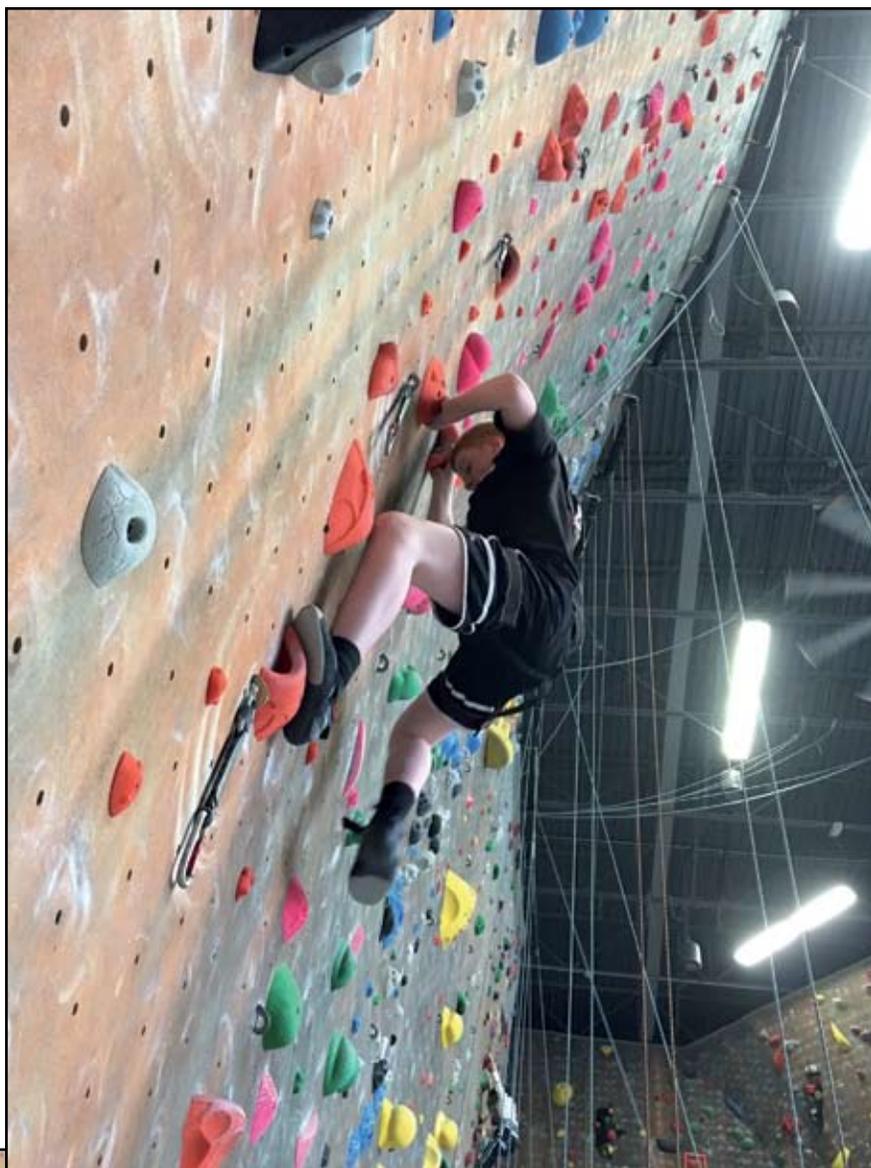


new activity and the teamwork involved.

***“You had to learn to trust your partner, because without the trust you would be terrified all the way up!”  
– Cadet Airman 1st Class Mckenzie Johnson***

Cadets had the opportunity to try out various types of climbs including some difficult inclines and small holds. Cadets proudly earned a few blisters and sore muscles from striving for the top.

***“It was so much fun! But your hands hurt from pulling the rope and pulling yourself up!” – Cadet Senior Airman Faith Hilton***



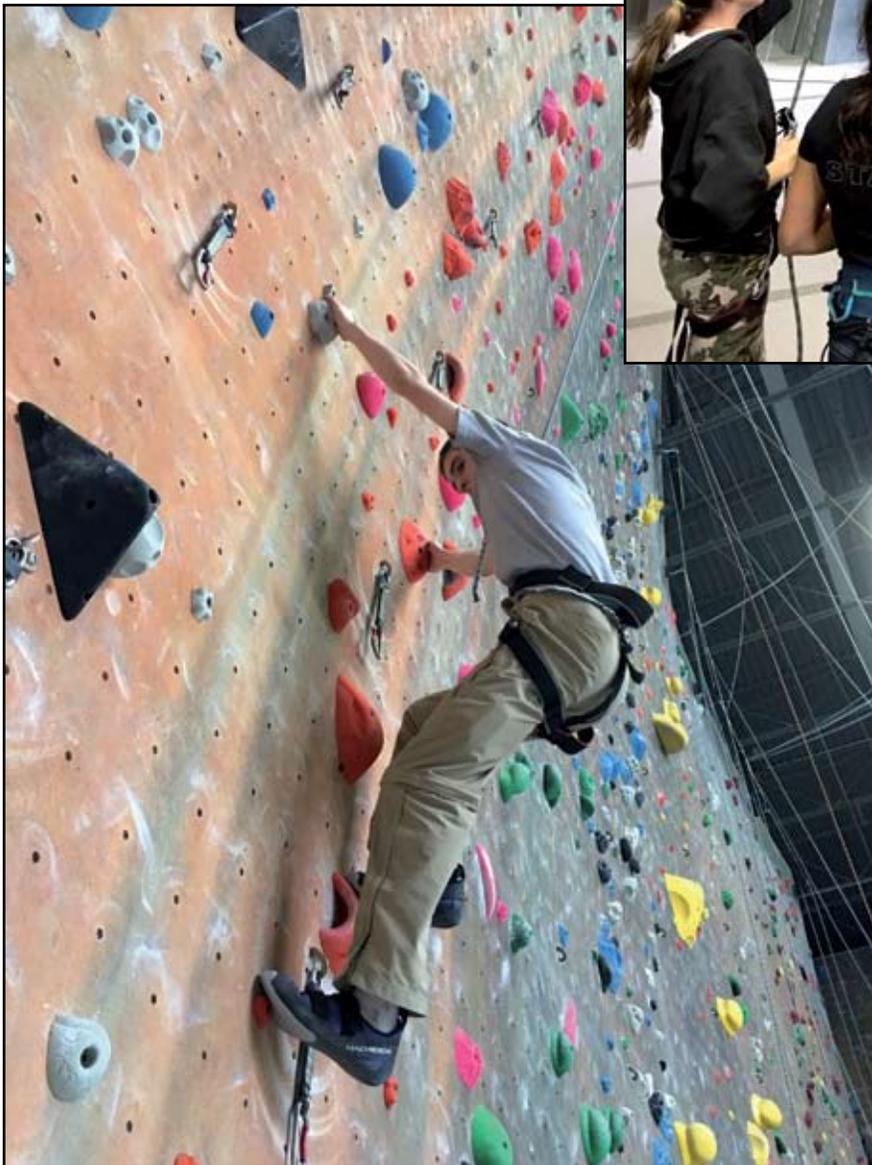
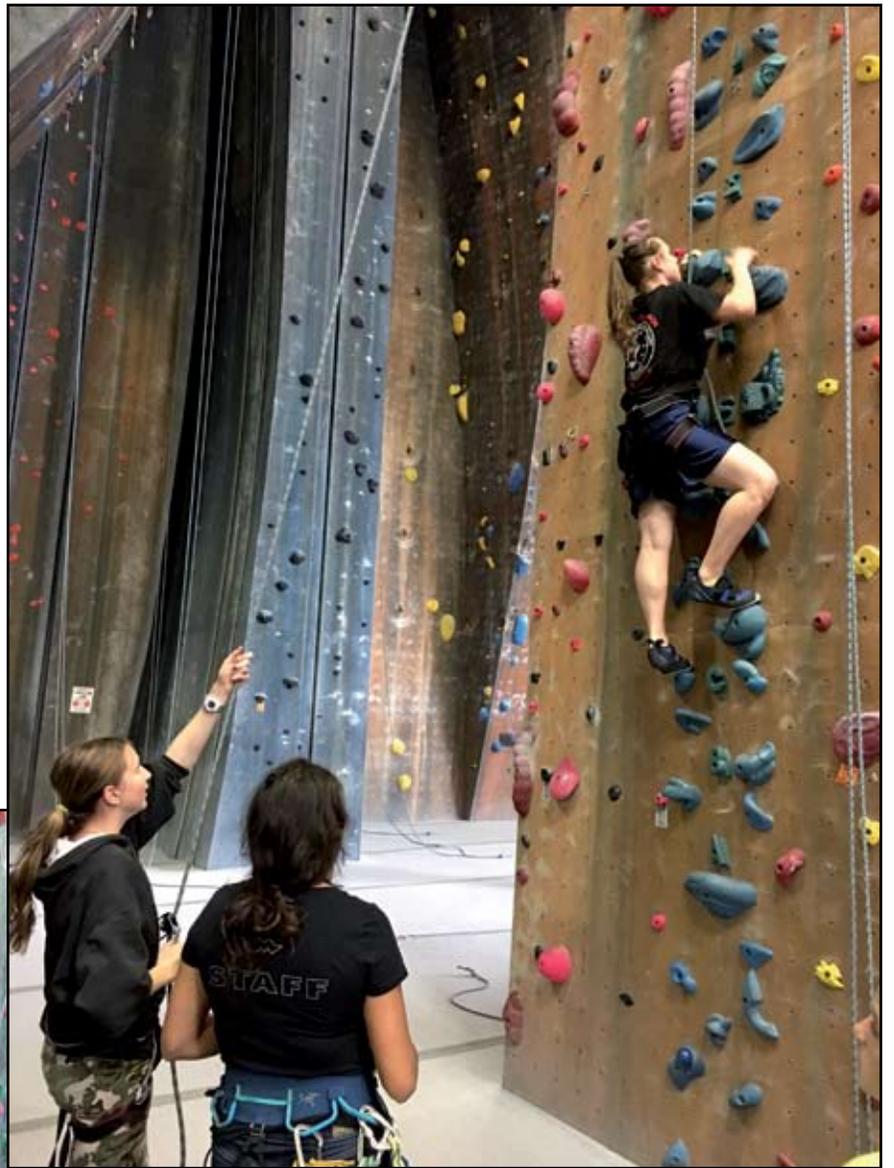
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For more information about the new beta CPFT please visit [http://www.capmembers.com/cadet\\_programs/?active\\_cadet\\_fitness\\_program\\_beta\\_testing&show=entry&blogID=1680](http://www.capmembers.com/cadet_programs/?active_cadet_fitness_program_beta_testing&show=entry&blogID=1680)

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# The New National Cadet Competition

By Capt. Alison Carlisi, CAP

National Cadet Competition has been one of my favorite Cadet Programs to be involved in. It pushes cadets to be their best. There are fun activities and traditions, and you get to meet Civil Air Patrol members from all over the country. It has changed over the years, and the big news was it had changed again.....a lot!

In 1948 the first National and International Drill Competitions were held. The international competition was held against the Air Cadet League of Canada and continued annually into the 1950's. From 1966-1973 there was no drill team competition. Since 1978, the teams have been awarded the Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Trophy, but prior to that, the awards were named after various Generals. In 1996 The Drill Team Competition was divided into Drill Team and Color Guard Competitions. The Utah Wing won the Drill Team Competitions in 1953, 1956, 2009 and 2010. The Utah Wing won the Color Guard



**Orion Color Guard: Cadets Enoch Horning, Braylee Earhart, Rosalyn Carlisi, Houston Crudele, Ben Perczak, and Tony Wood.**



**Leadership Reaction Course.**

Competition in 2013. After budget concerns, the National Cadet Competition was cancelled for 2014 and revamped. In 2015 the competition was reinstated for the Color Guard Competition but not the Drill Team.

I confess I was disappointed that the Drill Team competition was dropped. I felt it displayed the best of teamwork in Cadet Programs. The changes to the competition came with some controversy and angst, and there are quite a few bugs to be worked out. Disappointment aside, I would like to promote Cadet Competition to all of the Squadrons in the Wing. I hope you will consider training a team for the next Utah Wing Cadet Competition! If you plan to compete, it is important to read all the changes in the competition so you are prepared!

One of the first changes to the competition is that runner up teams can compete nationally from each regional competition. This year Utah and Colorado sent teams to represent The Rocky Mountain Region. Florida sent two teams and won first and second place overall. It would be terrific if Utah Wing were to emulate the success of the Florida Wing, and send two teams! So, any team

competing now really has twice the chance of going to National Cadet Competition.

The next thing that teams will want to know is there are a lot more parts to the competition now. It would be almost impossible to start a team at the last minute. Start preparing and fundraising now! The competition now consists of six color guard members, instead of four. There are specific rules about how many and what members of the team need to be in each performance, so read the rules closely. There is still the Indoor practical Drill, and Outdoor practical Drill, but the commands and format are different now. Read CAPP 52-4 to understand the new format. The mile run has been changed to a full PT challenge, with cadence push-ups, sit-ups, and a sit and reach. Inspection has been changed to a spot inspection, which can be done at any time during the competition. Panel quiz has been changed to Jeopardy, and is now two competitions, one for higher ranked cadets, and one for lower ranked cadets. Jeopardy now covers both Aerospace and Leadership topics. The written exam includes both Leadership and Aerospace as well.

Additionally, there is a rocketry competition, a robotics competition, a service project and presentation, two speech competitions, a leadership reaction course (LCR), team problem competition,

and a sportsmanship competition. Two members of the team must participate in rocketry, two in robotics, two in the speeches, four in the LCR, four in the team problem solving, and the whole team in sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is scored by a secret judge walking around and scoring your team's attitude and good conduct.

In all, this means that we went from seven contests, to 15 contests, which are all boiled down into one score in the end. It is scored like golf, so the lowest score wins. A first place gives you one point and a 16th place gives you 16 points. There are now 16 Color Guards Competing. Rumors are that the competition will next be held in San Francisco, California. It is also a rumor that it may be delayed until the summer of 2017, so it can be put back on a summer cycle.

This year, The Weber Minuteman Squadron was able to send a team to the National Cadet Competition, The Orion Color Guard. We didn't know what to expect from some of the contests, our team was definitely challenged and we had to think on our feet. We scored "good" to "excellent" in all the contests but one.

Weber Minuteman Team placed 5th out of 16 teams. It wasn't the place the team hoped for, but we were very proud of how well they did! Team Orion was especially good at the Leadership Reaction

Course, Outdoor Practical Drill, Written Exam, and Jeopardy.

Our team had a wonderful time and made some great friends. We learned A LOT about how to prepare better for the next competition, and we welcome the opportunity to share these insights with any team that is interested in competing at the National level this year. ★



**Team Orion with Phoenix, Arizona team.**

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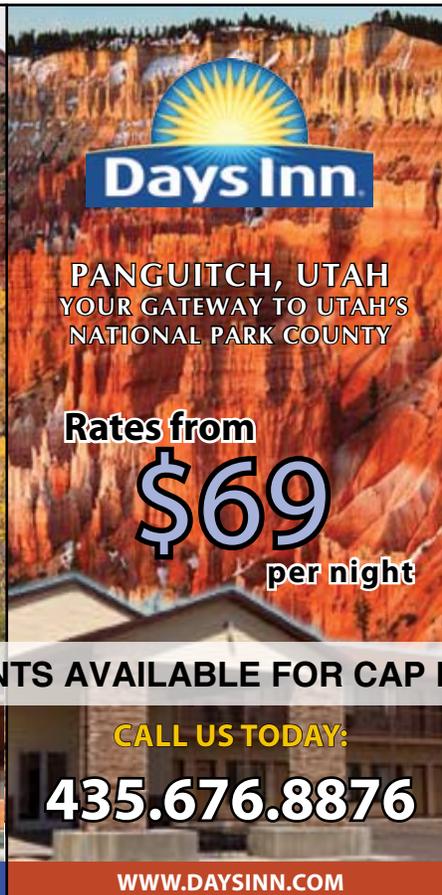
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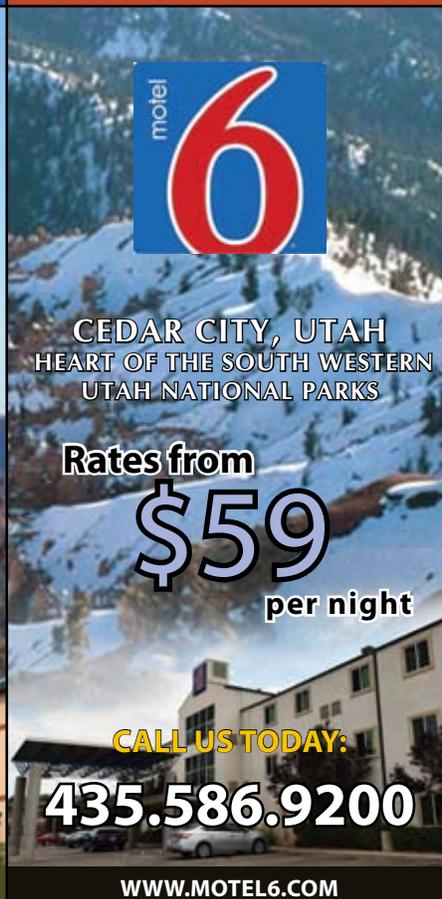
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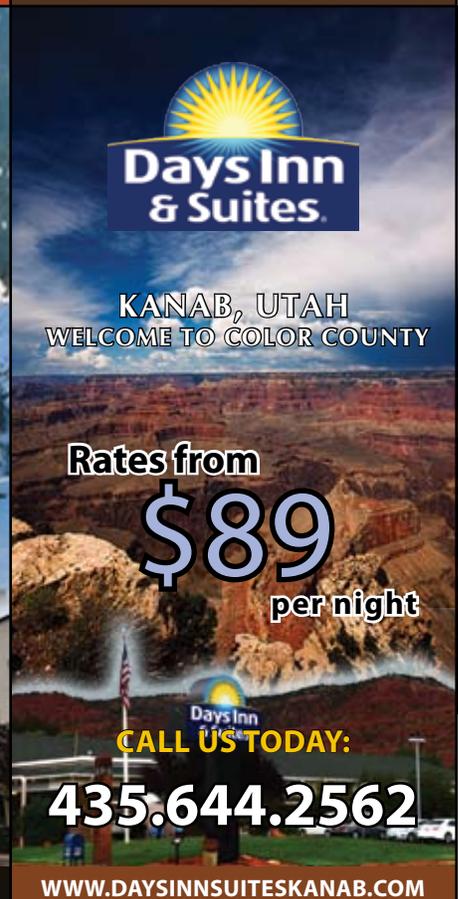
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