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Blackhawk Public Affairs: Year in Review

By Cadet 2nd Lt. Call, CAP

The Blackhawk Squadron has been keeping busy during 2016 by reaching out to the community and letting everyone know what Civil Air Patrol is all about. The first event of the season was the Draper Days parade in July. Cadets from Blackhawk also participated for the first time in the Days of '47 parade in Salt Lake City on July 24, along with cadets from Thunderbird, Phoenix and Weber Squadrons. It was a very hot day, but everyone survived.

The next community outreach activity for the Blackhawk cadets was the Highland Fling Parade in August. The squadron was also given the honor of presenting the colors at a Bees baseball game in September. In October the squadron also set up and manned a booth at this year's Governor's Day at Camp Williams. In that same month the squadron presented the colors at Operation Lasting Support, a community activity to support wounded veterans.

Most recently, Blackhawk cadets presented the colors at the Utah Jazz vs. Toronto Raptors game on December 23. It was a close game! All of these events were coordinated by 2nd Lt. Randy Mansfield.





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We are proud to salute and be a part of the many fine efforts of the men and women in the Civil Air Patrol for their lifesaving missions. Thanks and good luck!



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- *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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Uintah Wilderness Cadet Squadron

By 2nd Lt. Jenifer Marzo, CAP

I finally had Memorial Day off! The first Memorial Day in decades so I was going to Tabiona, a small town in Duchesne County where my dad grew up. We had everything packed to work on the house and the yard, bought flowers and flags to place on the family graves, some of which were veterans. When we pulled into town I found out they were no longer able to have Memorial Day ceremonies. In fact, many small town cemeteries no longer have ceremonies on Memorial Day and the major reason? Not enough veterans left!!! These

smaller towns relied on the American Legions in the local area to perform many of the veteran's ceremonies but many of the veterans have passed on.

Needless to say, I was very disheartened; not just for my family but for all the veterans that have served our country and eventually laid to rest in their small home towns. I spoke with many town officials and discussed Civil Air Patrol. I know our



Squadron RMR-UT-117

cadets would make the time to honor our veterans.

Fast forward to August and we are heading to Vernal to participate in a USU Aggie Aviation Adventure, taught by the professor of aviation at USU, Andreas Wessman, a former CAP cadet and served in USAF as a pilot. Still bothered by the lack of veteran ceremonies I started asking some of the parents about the situation and mentioned CAP, how wonderful our cadets are and how much I would like to be able to arrange for ceremonies for our veterans in these smaller towns.



Handing command flag.



Lt. Davis receives her 1st Lieutenant.



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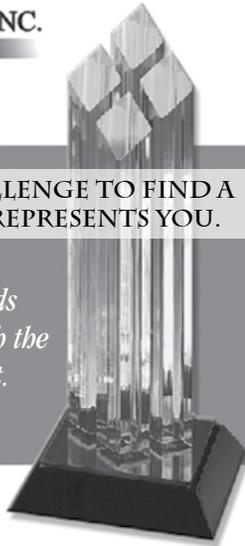
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Little did I know what was going to happen next. The parents kept asking questions about CAP, what do we do, why do we do it, how does the program work and so much more. Professor Wessman arranged for a meeting room at the USU campus after the aviation luncheon on our last day to answer questions about CAP and the work began.

With the support of Col. Niedfeldt, Lt. Col. Fernandez and many others, many enthusiastic parents started networking, gathering and passing information, gaining interest from the community and then started attending meetings. Many hours with interested adults and youth were spent driving from Vernal to Provo and Price almost every week. Many more hours by the senior members to drive to Salt Lake to attend trainings and learn how to lead a cadet squadron, and everything that goes with it.

January 17th eleven Wing Staff ventured to Vernal. We enjoyed a luncheon, sponsored by West USA Realty, with our new squadron, community officials including Joel Brown from the Vernal Chamber of Commerce, the crew from Classic Air Medical, Uintah Search and Rescue, local media and school representatives. This squadron is the only CAP representation within 120 miles! It's a big step in being able to serve the eastern portion of Utah.

That evening we gathered at the Uintah Search and Rescue building for an open house and Start of Command Ceremony. Invitations had been delivered all over town. Schools, business, the local recreation center, and anywhere you think of giving the information about the new squadron. VTV Channel 6 and Uinta Basin Media had community service announcements inviting everyone to attend and just about everyone did!! The room was filled shoulder to shoulder as folks worked their way around the room, looking at all the displays and learning all about CAP.

At 1930h (7:30 pm) the ceremony began with Jackie Davis, squadron commander, introducing her staff and cadets, talking about their journey to becoming a squadron, and how excited they are to



Luncheon with local officials.

have a program like this available in their area which covers Uintah, Duchesne and Daggett Counties. Jackie also shared why she took the demanding role of command. This program has become very dear to her because in the few short months they have been working to pull the squadron together she has seen so much change and growth in her son who couldn't really find a sport or group where he felt he truly fit in. So many of the others that are coming to meetings or have joined CAP are finding a place of service, unity, and inclusion with endless possibilities for their future!

After Jackie opened the meeting, Col. Niedfeldt, Lt. Col. Fernandez, Maj. Mettmann, and Maj. Hess began the Start of Command ceremony. Maj. Hess described the long standing tradition of the command ceremony and the symbolic meaning behind accepting the squadron flag. Maj. Mettmann presented Col. Niedfeldt with Squadron RMR-UT-117 Gideon who passed the command to Jackie Davis.

Lt. Col. Fernandez announced to everyone we have a problem! Jackie cannot take the command because she is out of uniform!!! With a little playful confusion, Col. Niedfeldt and Lt. Col. Fernandez fitted 1st Lieutenant Epaulets on Jackie's shoulders and presented 1st Lt. Jackie Davis, Uintah Wilderness Cadet Squadron's first commanding officer. ★

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Seventy-Five Years of Vigilance The Civil Air Patrol

By 2nd Lt. Sean Wardwell, CAP

On December 1, 1941, with war looming just six days later, a group of pilots and aviation enthusiasts asked a simple question - How can we serve?

The answer to that question became the Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary of the United States Air Force. We have, for the past 75 years, have stood vigilant for our nation and our communities. This all-volunteer, unpaid force has saved countless lives, performing up to 90 percent of air search and rescue missions in the United States assigned by the USAF. In fact, we're so effective, the Air Force now counts us as part of the "total force," which includes the regular air force, reserves and Air National Guard.

From our beginnings in the Second World War, when we performed coastal patrols, sinking two enemy submarines, to 1947 when we obtained our Congressional Charter, to even today, the Civil Air Patrol remains on watch, ready to take to the air so others may live. We stand ready, always, for any mission where the life and safety of our fellow citizens is at stake. Whether we're performing a search and rescue mission, or transporting life-saving organs to those who need them, to being on call on that fateful day of September 11, 2001, we serve. When other aircraft were forced down on 9/11, we spread our wings for America and took the first photos of ground zero in New York.

When disaster strikes, as it did in Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina, we stepped up, offering disaster relief as we have on numerous occasions, for emergencies both great and small. When trouble looms, when the rains come, when disaster strikes, we go out. When our country and community calls, we answer.

We don't do this for pay or glory. We do it because it needs to be done. We do it for our country, our communities, our family and our friends. There has never been a time when the Civil Air Patrol has failed to answer the call, with our volunteers dropping everything at a moment's notice to go forth and make a real difference.

Needless to say, we're pretty proud of what we do and how we do it. Semper Vigilans, our motto meaning "Always Vigilant" is both a code and a promise. It means the 60,000 plus members of the Patrol will do everything we can to bring you and your loved ones safely home. To quote an old U.S. Air Force saying, "The difficult we do immediately. The impossible takes a few minutes longer."

But the Civil Air Patrol is about much more than search and rescue. Our cadet program instills leadership and character in our nation's youth. Many of them go on to honorable service, being accepted to all service academies, becoming professional officers in their own right.

Our aerospace education programs are second-to-none. Every day, the Civil Air Patrol works with schools across the nation providing the kind of STEM education that the future success of this nation will be built upon.

Continued . . .



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“So you want to be promoted?”

By Lt. Col. Mike Fernandez, CAP

Recently, several members have inquired about promotion procedures, specifically related to the rank of Captain, Major and Lt Colonel. You might also be one of those members wondering what happens once time in grade has been completed. I hope to provide some insight into this process.

CAP Regulation 35-5, CAP Officer and Noncommissioned Officer Appointments and Promotions, gives specific requirements and procedures for promotion (and demotions). In addition to the specific requirements that must be completed prior to obtaining a rank promotion, you will also see a reference to “promotion board reviews” as part of the process (1.10.1). Utah Wing, in accordance with the regulation, has established a promotion board to make *recommendations* to the Wing Commander, on any rank that requires Wing or above approval. Currently, the board members include the Vice Wing Commander (Chair), Wing Chief of Staff, Wing Director of Professional Development, and the Wing Administrative Officer. These four individuals are currently tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Reviewing the candidate’s recommend for advancement, which is submitted in writing from the member’s current unit commander, and is the first step in the process.
- Verifying that the candidate meets the minimum requirements listed in 35-5 CAP Officer and NCO Appointments and Promotions.

- Verifying that the candidate is performing in an exemplary manner, meriting promotion to the grade recommended.

Obtaining minimum requirements and written recommendations are easy to assess. Either you have it or you don’t. The gray area for the board is when evaluating the term “performing in an exemplary manner”. How does a candidate show they have met this standard? The Board is requesting that the candidate submit a promotion packet along with your recommendation letter, which would include:

- CAPF 2 – Request for Promotion Action.
- Official memo, in your own words, explaining why you should be promoted.
- A reference letter listing individuals within CAP who can verify your status within the organization.
- A copy of your Member Search Report from eService’s which lists all of your training, certifications, etc.

Although the promotion packet is not required by regulation, it does allow the promotion review board to better understand your CAP history. This will provide the needed background for the board to make an informed recommendation to the Wing and Region Commanders.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact any board member for additional information and clarification.

The Civil Air Patrol *Continued*

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There are squadrons all over our state and they need you. They need your dedication. They need your drive. They need your professional expertise. We do have a job for you if you’re willing to step up. And don’t worry, while we remain part of the U.S. Air Force, we’re civilian volunteers who have earned the privilege of wearing our country’s uniform.

Even if you aren’t a pilot, we invite you to earn your wings. Join the Civil Air Patrol. Make a difference. More information can be found at gocivilairpatrol.com

We hope to see you. Until then, we remain always vigilant for America. ★

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Encampment? Is it for me?

By 2nd Lt. TeriLee Hammond, CAP

Yes! Yes, it is! For young and old alike! Encampment is a unique opportunity to learn new things, brush up on things forgotten and meet amazing people. The Utah Wing Encampment, Desert Hawk, is held each summer during June or July. Plans for Desert Hawk Fifteen (DHXV) are under way and will be set by the time you are reading this article. Go online and find out more about this amazing experience. But is it for me?

CADETS.

You will attend encampment the first year as a basic where you will be challenged in every aspect of cadet life. There will be team building activities, learning about and getting hands on experience in aerospace related lessons, learning proper customs and courtesies and furthering your physical fitness. Encampment can be a test to your character since it can sometimes be an intensive environment that will sometimes take you out of your comfort zone but in the end, it will be worth every ounce of blood, sweat and tears. You'll make memories that last a lifetime and even some amazing friends. Encampment is not all just work but fun as well through activities such as rappelling, obstacle courses, firearm training and O Flights. Plus, remember that completing an encampment is necessary before attending any National Cadet Special activities and also a requirement needed to be a cadet officer.

When you complete your first year of encampment, hopefully you will want to return as a staff member, also known as cadre. Support cadre is needed for mess, public affairs, color guard, logistics, the list goes on. There are also opportunities for Flight, Squadron and Command Cadre as you work your way up through the chain of command. What better way to build a resume and strengthen your leadership skills than to attend encampment each year!

SENIOR MEMBERS – YES YOU!

Senior members are always needed to help encampment run smoothly. Command, Mess, Logistics, Communications, Transportation, Public Affairs, Safety, Administration, Finance, Medical,

Chaplain, Instructors, etc. are all positions that need to be filled with a Senior Member. More hands equal less work! Even if you are unable to attend the full week, positions can be found if you are able to only attend part of the week. Encampment is for seasoned CAP veterans all the way down to the newest senior members. Last year former Wing Commander, Col. Jerry Wellman, helped out as a TAC officer and the first year I attended I had been in the CAP program only a couple of short months when a newly made CAP friend talked me into helping out as the PAO. Encampment is a great way to help shape the next generation of leaders and get involved with the amazing youth that are also a part of the Civil Air Patrol family. Making new CAP friends and catching up with old ones is always a bonus.

The Historic Wendover Air Field and Base

Desert Hawk Encampment is a truly unique experience. Where else can you spend time doing PT or other activities under the same roof that once housed the famous B-29 the Enola Gay? Where else can you eat in the same dining facilities that the enlisted men of WWII did? Catch a ride in a vintage 'Deuce and a half' to your lessons in the Officers Service Club? Take a tour of the historic base and see where the top secret Norden bomb-sights were kept, see the atomic bomb loading pits, look for casing where fighter planes had their forward guns adjusted and walk where the great men and women of WWII once walked?

COST.

The average cost of encampment is around \$200 with a \$50 savings if you register before the early deadline. This price includes meals for a week and all of the activities during that week. Being unable to pay for encampment shouldn't hold back a cadet who wants to participate. The wing works hard to keep encampment affordable for all families but for some it is still hard to achieve. However, thanks to Air Force support, CAP has special funding available to help cover encampment fees. Please check out www.capmembers.com/ceap for more information about assistance.

Hope to see you there!



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HART Ceremony

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. TeriLee Hammond, CAP

HART, Honoring Allies and Remembering Together, is held at various locations each year along the border of the United States and Canada. The ceremony recognizes the service of all veterans, including young men and women from Canada who are serving or have served in the U.S. Military. The Alberta ceremony, started six years ago, was a small gathering on the Couettes border but now it's the largest international HART ceremony in North America. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for members of the Civil Air Patrol and the Royal Cadets of southern Alberta to participate in the solemn ceremony of friendship and solidarity, friendly athletic competition and social networking with an emphasis on positive social relations and camaraderie between the members of two great nations.

Twenty-five Cadets and 6 senior members from Sevier Valley, Phantom, Blackhawk, Thunderbird, Phoenix and Weber Minuteman squadrons left the Utah Wing headquarters in Salt Lake City on Thursday November 17th to start their journey to Canada. After traveling more than 200 miles, the three Utah CAP vans arrived at the American Legion/VFW building in Idaho Falls where they would spend the night. The next morning, 2 cadets from the Idaho Wing joined us before we

started our journey further north. The trip to the Hart ceremony can be fun and exhausting all at once. The cadets keep occupied during the long drive by getting to know other cadets in their van, watching movies, listening to music or playing on their phones while the Senior Members took turns driving so that no one got overly tired on the days 500-mile trip to the northern border. The Utah wing made it to the border crossing around 1900 hours and after making it through had to stop a few miles down the road to take a picture in front of the 'Welcome to Alberta' sign. Shortly after, the Utah CAP member made it to the Vimy Ridge Armoury in Lethbridge Canada where they joined other Civil Air Patrol members from the Wyoming, Nevada and Montana Wings to spend the night before the ceremony the next morning.

On Saturday November 19th, the cadets woke up early to eat an amazing breakfast, complete with real Canadian Maple Syrup, before dressing in their Blues uniforms for the upcoming ceremony. It would consist of more than 100 Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Royal Canadian Sea Cadets and Royal Army Cadets joined by approximately 75 Civil Air Patrol members to honor the service of veterans from both sides of the border. The ceremony began with the arrival of dignitaries and the Memorial



HART, Honoring Allies and Remembering Together, 2016.



Utah Wing members after the ceremony.

Cross Families. At 1030 local time the Honor Guards representing the U.S. and Canada advanced their flags to the center of the parade ground for the ceremony. The Star-Spangled Banner and O Canada played and speeches were given. Then it was time to present Remembrance Wreaths to the Memorial Cross Families and Families of the Fallen. After, Post and Taps were played before a silence was held in honor of all those who had been killed in the line of duty. It was a touching ceremony that none will forget and there were many attendees that had to dry their eyes.



Cadet Earnhart presenting a wreath to a Memorial Cross family.

After the ceremony was complete CAP cadets exchanged patches, pins and coins with their counterparts from across the border before changing out of their uniforms. The rest of the day was spent competing in a Volleyball tournament, a Drill Off competition, getting to know each other and a small presentation that compared the US and Canadian cadet programs, their mission and the opportunities cadets are given on each side of the border. The Thunderbird Cadet Squadron's Commander, 1st Lt. Lisa Vandersteen made her first trip to the HART ceremony this year and said, "What a great honor it was to bring cadets together from two countries to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. The cadets also really enjoyed trading pins, money and patches with each other and learning each other's drill maneuvers."

The next day the cadets awoke early to pack and say their goodbyes before loading into the vans for the long ride home. Some cadets traveled as far as 900 miles that day to safely arrive home. In the words of Cadet Chief Arturo Morales from Phantom Squadron, "The Canadians were a hoot. Full of energy and very welcoming to us. It was an incredible opportunity to learn about their program, their costumes and their methods as well as exchanging leadership techniques and swapping stories. I loved the time we spent up there and still talk to the friends I made". ★

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# WENDOVER CADETS HONOR VETS

Cadets from the Wendover Flight (Squadron) sponsored a "Salute to America's Heroes" on Veteran's Day, 11 November. Maj. Alan Rowley organized the event which hosted the largest crowd at any of the last 5 years of this traditional program.

The cadets started the evening off by having a greeting line at the entrance and escorting guests to their seats. They then performed a flag ceremony and honored the Fallen Comrades with the Missing Man Table.

The veterans and guests at the Service Club on The Historic

Wendover Airfield were greeted by Captain James S. Petersen who introduced the evening's Master of Ceremonies, Nathan Luehr. Senior Member Craig Peterson gave a history of Veteran's Day and he was followed by the son-in-law of Wendover's oldest Veteran who gave a remembrance speech. Conner Campbell, a senior at Sunset Hill High School was the guest speaker. Campbell was the winner of the Freedom Academy Speech Contests held in July at Camp Williams.

A highlight of the evening was the playing of the service songs while the cadets presented the service

flag for each branch of service. The veterans and families of members who had served were invited forward to be recognized for their service. Several people had not only served in the military, but also had pictures of their ancestors who had served.

Following the service flag presentation, the "Missing Man" was saluted and the flag on the dining table was retired. The audience was invited to follow the flag into the parking lot where the

flag ceremony took place. Following the playing of Taps, the audience was invited back into the building for a social hour where refreshments were served. The cadets stayed afterwards to help put away chairs and cleanup which the Service Club staff greatly appreciated.



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# Thunderbirds 2016

“Uh... Colonel?”

“Yeah, what’s up Sarge?”

“I think that we’re lost.”

If I could have a dime for every time that I heard those words this past year, I would have well over enough money to pay the rest of my college tuition. Words like these were commonplace during one of any of the Thunderbird FTX’s, and often became so frustratingly common that I found myself taking deep, controlled breaths to ensure I wouldn’t lose my



grip or throw my diamonds at a tree.

But, that was the joy of these exercises - spending time lost in the woods with my family of friends, surrounded in their excitement, their passion, and their camaraderie. To see the fantastic young men and women that I was surrounded with, regardless of how frustrated I was that we were lost for the third time in one march, reminded me of the reason that I joined CAP and love that I have for it today. This passion and love for CAP permeates our unit, and is the driving force behind our unquenchable engine that pressed us onward to success in 2016.



Thunderbird Cadet Squadron has faced innumerable challenges over the past year with this engine, however, including switching (for the third time) squadron buildings, communication issues, and logistical nightmares between FTX’s. We’ve



struggled to get our feet on the ground, from time to time - but that’s the beauty of being a Thunderbird; we never fail to get back on our feet. Amid these challenges, we’ve grown, we’ve trained, and we’ve continued attaining to excellence, with our highest rates of promotion and recruitment seen since distant times. We proudly welcomed two new Cadet Officers, several Cadet Chief’s, and many brand new Cadet NCO’s to drive our core forward.

Our cadets also represented well at Encampment and summer NCSA’s, where two of them earned



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their glider solo wings and continued to not only represent our unit, wing, and region - but our country in the 2016 HART Ceremony. They've also participated in a variety of ceremonies, including Color Guards at local football games, funeral ceremonies for local CAP members, and remembrance



services for our fallen heroes. We hosted our first annual squadron Barbeque, where we had over 80 family and friends attend, attended a trip to the Air Force Academy, and were awarded the 2016 Squadron of Merit at Wing Conference.

2016 was a year of growth, preparation, development, and passion through our many challenges. The strategic vision of our unit is to "... develop future leaders from intellectual, in-depth classroom leadership discussions followed by practical, rigorous Field Training Exercises." The growth that



we've seen over the past year has resulted directly from this directive to train our cadets to be real-world leaders. But, the learning never ceases - our academia and application of leadership will continue to grow and thrive in 2017.

How do we know this? Because we succeeded amidst our challenges in 2016 - now that we've faced them and won, there's a storm brewing in Salt Lake City... And it's headed your way.

***On behalf of the  
67th Cadet Squadron,  
Applica Tempestas! ★***

***By Cadet Lt. Col.  
Aiden C. Norris, CAP  
Cadet CC, 67th Cadet Squadron  
"Thunderbirds"***



# **UTWG Joint SAREX/COMEX**

## **With 211th Aviation Group, Utah Army National Guard**

### **17 November, 2016**

*By 2nd Lt. Jenifer Marzo (adapted from the AAR from Maj. Mike Collett)*

Twice a year the Utah Wing conducts joint communications exercises with the 211th Aviation Group of the Utah Army National Guard. This year's fall/winter event was a combined COMEX and SAREX wrapped into the annual "overdue aircraft" scenario practiced by the UTARNG.

The scenario was an overdue AH-64 Apache helicopter which was last reported in the foothills of southeast Tooele County, Utah. The target aircraft was landed and hidden in the shadows of a ravine several miles from the CAP Fairfield Mission Base. Everyone was amazed at how the pilot was able to tuck that big Apache in this little ravine surrounded by trees and bush. So well imperceptible in place, ground teams had to use signal mirrors for air crews to get visual on their location.

The objectives for this exercise were to deploy an advance search base comprised of two ground SAR teams and two ground comm teams. A linked communications bridge was established between the Army's SINCGARS radios and CAP VHF-FM radios. This allowed for the CAP ground teams, air teams and comm teams to communicate directly with the Apache in the air conducting air search. A coordinated air search between Army rotary-wing and CAP fixed-wing aircraft exercise ensured airspace de-confliction between aircraft.

The preparation to conduct this exercise was very extensive. CAP Comms and National Guard teams had put in many hours working on the Raytheon portable interconnect bridge connecting CAP radios to Army SINCGARS for seamless communications in emergencies which worked flawlessly. SAR Ground Teams, including several cadets, have many classes to keep their training sharp and emergency gear ready so that if they are called on a true downed aircraft, or other emergency, they are prepared. This preparation was evident as everyone arrived with proper task and safety gear.

At this exercise was the newly refurbished Comm Van which served as the field base structure for the field teams at Five Mile Pass, "Fairfield Mission Base", which stayed in constant communication with IC at Mission Base, Salt Lake City. Ground teams gathered to conduct safety briefings and mission details. While awaiting the Army AH-64 search aircraft, cadets conducted some field training with ELT D-F equipment for the newer cadets.

It wasn't long before the AH-64 search Apache was heard over the CAP radios and within seconds buzzed over mission base jumping everyone into action. Two ground teams loaded up and were directed toward the "downed" aircraft by the Apache. The Apache led them within about 100 yards from the downed aircraft. From there they went in by foot to locate the target.

The purpose of these exercises is to simulate a real life mission for training and learn what improvements can be made to increase the success in a real life scenario. As the teams headed toward the target they had traveled over several ridges which interfered with line of site communications to mission base. That included the comm bridge to the Apache, which was connected to the Comm Van at Fairfield Base. The Apache pilot flew around to the side of a field team pick-up, approximately 100 feet above ground, and the cadet in the passenger seat recognized the pilot was giving them hand signals from the Apache. This successfully directed them to the target. Although this was an exemplary show of how well the air and ground teams work together, plans to prevent the loss of communications are being conceived for future use. The CAP Communications team also used this opportunity to take a vehicle equipped with HF radios to the ground team location and use the backup HF communications systems.

Cadets and senior members of CAP, from every department of the operations, are a diverse group with many backgrounds and experiences. From the most senior leader to the newest cadet, we witnessed a team come together and teach each other, no matter age or rank, without bias. Their comradery, not only to each other, but how well they worked with and respected the collaboration with the Utah Army National Guard is a reflection of what CAP stands for. The remarkable pilots of the Apache showed their appreciation by taking time to demonstrate some of what they do, showed our ground teams around their AH-64 Apache and posed with them for pictures. Truly an experience that won't soon be forgotten!



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# Astronomy FTX

*By Cadet 2nd Lt. Call, CAP*



Blackhawk Cadet Squadron hosted cadets from all around the Utah wing this past August to learn various skills relating to astronomy. Eighteen cadets from the Wendover, Thunderbird, Blackhawk, Phantom, and Sevier Valley squadrons traveled to the Mountain Dell Scout Range for a fun filled weekend. Everyone spent two nights sleeping in huts on bunk beds. There was plenty of food to be eaten.

During the day, the cadets split into groups to do four rotations of activities. One of the rotations was a ropes course called “The Quad.” Cadets had to navigate zip lines and bridges. This activity was a COPE, or Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience. Another rotation was making radio telescopes using TV satellite dishes. Cadets were able to listen to the sounds that objects in space make. Another rotation was scuba spacewalk training, which involves simulating a spacewalk by creating a weightless environment. This included making a portal in the swimming pool using PVC pipes in which each team had to go through together.

The last rotation was learning how to use telescopes and how to identify objects in space. Cadets had the opportunity to look through telescopes that had eight, twelve and sixteen inch diameter mirrors. They were able to see Saturn, Jupiter, and other celestial objects. The telescopes were provided by Lt. Quayle, Aerospace Officer at the Blackhawk Squadron and employee at the Clark Planetarium in Salt Lake City.

# PT Activities: Thinking Outside the Box

*By Cadet 2nd Lt. Call, CAP*

Blackhawk Squadron has been keeping busy and has taken their PT activities to a new level. A few of their activities have included fencing, horseback riding, and shooting.

At the fencing activity, the cadets were instructed on the proper way of fencing. Fencing is also an NCAA sport at the Air Force Academy. After the cadets completed their training they got to fence each other in a squadron tournament. Cadet McGuire won the fencing tournament.

The horseback riding activity took place at the Utah State Developmental Center in American Fork. The cadets pulled weeds and picked up rocks from inside the therapeutic riding area as a service project. Afterwards, their hard work paid off when they got to ride the horses within the large enclosure. During this activity, they were able to learn basic horse handling and commands.

The Utah State Developmental Center provides resources and support to individuals with varying levels of disability. One of these resources is horseback riding, with special accommodations provided to help people fully participate in this recreational activity.

The cadets also received advanced firearm training and got the opportunity to shoot an AR-15 at the TNT Gun Range in Murray this past November.



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# Air Force Academy Tour

*By Cadet 2nd Lt. Call, CAP*

Civil Air Patrol members from the Blackhawk and Thunderbird Squadrons visited the Air Force Academy in Colorado over fall break. They traveled to Colorado Springs in a CAP van and an RV. The cadets and leaders stayed at the KOA campground a few minutes from the Academy.

On Friday the Cadets were



given a tour of the school starting with the flight line and the parachute team training facility. The Cadets saw all of the amazing sports facilities on the campus, all cadets are required to participate in a sport, either NCAA or club. The highlight of the tour was the Chapel, a beautiful building designed to accommodate multiple faiths.

Another highlight was running into academy cadet Rose Carlisi in the cafeteria.

This tour helped the Civil Air Patrol Cadets become more familiar with the Air Force Academy and what life is like for cadets that attend the academy. This was the first time that most of these CAP cadets had ever been to the Academy. The next day the cadets went on a

tour of the museum at Peterson AFB and learned about the Norad and early AWACs systems. After the tour the group went to the Air Force vs. Hawaii football game and it was fun to watch the Falcons win.



# Cedar Mustang Cadets

The Cedar Mustangs spent Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Air Show at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, NV. This is the home base of the Air Force Thunderbirds and was a spectacular event. We got to spend some time touring the aircraft and visiting the booths while watching the impressive air show above. The Civil Air Patrol had a booth as well as aircraft on display.

The highlight of the visit for the cadets was their visit to the Air Force PJ's booth. They are a fascinating component of the Air Force and the cadets were impressed by their level of training and readiness.



## Wreaths Across America

*By Cadet 2nd Lt. Call, CAP*

Every December, wreath-laying ceremonies take place across the nation to remember and honor veterans. These ceremonies have been going on since 1992 and have expanded to nearly one thousand locations in the United States and around the world. The main goal of Wreaths Across America is to “Remember, Honor, and Teach.”

Here in the Salt Lake Valley, cadets and senior members from the Blackhawk Squadron participated in a Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 17 at the Utah Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery at Camp Williams. Earlier in the year, members of the Blackhawk Squadron raised enough money at a local Walmart to buy over 140 wreaths.

The ceremony was conducted by Cadet 2nd Lt. Colton Mansfield. Cadets Liu, Beninati, Johnson, and Cooper formed the color guard. Cadet Cooper also played taps on the bugle at the conclusion of the services. It was a very solemn and moving ceremony. Afterwards, the cadets and other ceremony attendees were invited to place wreaths on the graves of veterans in the cemetery. It was a cold, snowy, and windy day, but all who participated in the ceremony enjoyed the opportunity to honor those who served our nation.





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