



April - June 2010

# The Minuteman

*The Official Newsletter of the Massachusetts Wing*



## ▪ **Cadets Take Region Competition**

▪ Mass Wing Cadets Awarded First Place At Color Guard Competition.

## ▪ **Civil Air Patrol Response to Oil Crisis**

▪ Civil Air Patrol Members Provide Support During Crisis.

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**The Minuteman**  
Newsletter is a publication of the Massachusetts Wing, Civil Air Patrol. It is by, for and about the 16 Civil Air Patrol Squadrons that make up the Massachusetts Wing.

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## **WESTOVER SQUADRON WINS NER COLOR GUARD COMPETITION**

The Westover Composite Squadron team from Westover ARB, MA, representing Massachusetts Wing, took first place in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP Northeast Region's color guard, 2 day competition held on May 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. The Team earned the honor of representing the Northeast region at the National Cadet Competition, held this past June at Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville, OR. Color Guard Team cadet members are: Cadet Tech. Sgt. Joseph Goodreau (hometown: West Springfield, MA), Cadet Senior Airman Jillian O'Brien (hometown: Chicopee, MA), Cadet Airmen Ryan Miller (hometown: Granby, MA), Cadet Danny O'Connell (home town: Granby, MA).

The Westover team competed against 6 other teams from throughout the Northeast United States. Second place was awarded to the Pennsylvania Wing; & third place was won by the New York Wing. Additional teams competing were from Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Rhode Island Wings.



The competition consisted of seven evaluation areas: Uniform inspections, standard drill movements, indoor practical challenge ceremony, outdoor practical challenge ceremony (flag raising/lowering, folding), 1 1/2 mile timed run, group panel quiz, and written test.

# **CAP volunteers fly critical missions in support of oil spill response**

*By Capt. Phil Norris, Southeast Region  
Assistant Director of Public Affairs*

Civil Air Patrol members from Mississippi, Alabama and Florida are launching daily aerial damage assessment flights from their station in the Mobile Convention Center, one of several incident command posts set up for the Gulf Coast oil spill response.

In addition to CAP's citizen volunteers, hundreds of other disaster assistance personnel are participating in Deepwater Horizon Response, an operation coordinated by the unified command made up of representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, BP, the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, EPA, and Department of the Interior. The unified command is

working with agencies such as NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and CAP to provide data to the different groups working to clean up the spill.



Responding in its role as the U.S. Air Force auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol is flying critical missions in support of Deepwater Horizon Response. Those missions have included flying VIPs over coastal waters to get a look at the integrity of oil containment barriers, transporting vital mission equipment, collecting data

and flying coastline photo reconnaissance missions.

The most important task the CAP aircrews perform is making daily flights over 700 miles of coastline from Louisiana to Florida and taking digital images of the oil containment barriers and adjacent land area near the shoreline.

In 13 days of flying missions, 26 volunteers have expended 2,128 man-hours making 73 flights in 12 CAP aircraft, for a total of 197 hours in the air over the waters along the Gulf Coast.

On an average day, CAP aircrews take from 2,400 to 3,600 digital images. The images represent critical information disaster planners are using to help determine their response to the spill, which began April 20 following an explosion at the BP-operated Deepwater Horizon oil rig.

“Whether it is performing duties as an aircrew member, mission base or support staff, the opportunity to serve with Civil Air Patrol in response to this incident is an honor,” said Maj. Keith Riddle of CAP's Mississippi Wing.

# Civil Air Patrol offers Westover youth unusual opportunities

By Kathleen Mitchel  
Staff Writer for the Chicopee Register

CHICOPEE – Ryan Roy joined the Westover Composite Squadron of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol in June of 2007 because he was interested in the military. The Palmer teen, who plans to enlist in the Air Force, found it difficult to adjust to the quasi-military atmosphere at first, but within a month, he was thoroughly enjoying the Tuesday night meetings.

“You learn so much you want to stay in longer and keep advancing,” said the 17-year-old, adding he has learned to set and achieve goals, conduct emergency service missions and practice leadership skills through the multi-step cadet program. Twelve-year-old Marie Meak of Springfield will never forget a flight she took in a Cessna 172. “The wind was kicking up and the plane tipped. It was pretty cool,” she said. “CAP is fun. I plan on helping out with search and rescue missions when I’m older. They have hands-on emergency classes and you learn to use radios to find devices that go off if a plane goes down,” she said.



Nineteen-year-old Andrew Karcz joined at age 13. At the time, he had dreams of becoming an Air Force pilot, but his experiences in the program changed his goals. The 19-year-old from Chicopee decided to become a firefighter after taking part in search and rescue missions. He is an honor graduate of the program’s national Emergency Services Academy in Indiana, which he plans to attend this year for the third time. “We perform simulated missions at the Camp Atterbury (Army) base,” he said, adding, “I have met people in CAP who I will know for the rest of my life.” Squadron Commander Col. Frederick Belden has been involved with CAP for 40 years and was the former Massachusetts Wing Commander.

He said the program has three main components: search and rescue, a cadet program and an aerospace program. Cadets also get to go on two orientation flights, which are a program incentive available not long after they join. “You should see the look on their faces after their first flight,” he said. Another bonus comes if they work hard and enter the military. Their pay is automatically increased two grades if they earn a Billy Mitchell award, which is the top honor a CAP cadet can achieve. “That shows the value the Air Force puts on our training,” said Belden. “It’s a rather intense program. If you see a youngster who has gone through the steps to receive the award, he or she has worked hard.”

CAP training includes drills and ceremonies as well as character development. “Cadets are taught how to march, stand at attention and salute – all of the things you would learn in basic training,” said 1st Lt. Stephen Edelman, who joined in 2002 at age 15. “They learn all of the basics of CAP and Air Force customs and courtesies before they take their first test.”

The aviation program teaches cadets about navigation, weather, aircraft engines and the function of wings and lift. They also learn to operate sophisticated pieces of equipment used in search and rescue missions for downed planes. Community service is also part of the agenda. “We participated in the Reach

Across America program and put more than 300 wreaths on graves in the military cemetery in Agawam,” Belden said. “We also support the Girl Scouts. When their cookies came in, we unloaded 50,000 boxes from three tractor trailer trucks in two hours. In addition, we support the Galaxy Council at Westover and provide the trash patrol for another option. This year, youngest to compete, they Wing Competition, and went Competition on Memorial Day



“Our cadets work and study said Capt. Ken Windyka, officer. Edelman said cadets enlisted person. “They have grades, which opens up helps with college ROTC. It also builds primary goal is to teach others their age. The

Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, contact Fred Belden at 739-4012 or via email at fbelden@verizon.net or call the squadron on Tuesday evenings 413-557-3502 or 593-0257.

hard as they want to get ahead,” Westover Squadron’s public affairs move through the same ranks as an the opportunity to achieve officer opportunities outside of CAP. It applications and with college level leadership skills,” he said. “Our cadets to be more independent than Westover Squadron meets every



Senator Scott Brown-MA (R) with Pilgrim Sqdn at Plymouth July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

Summer is a very busy season for Civil Air Patrol. Emergency Services training/actual missions, Aerospace Education activities and Cadet activities take up much of the summer. All of this activity provides us the chance to capture images and video that can be used to tell our story.

## Calling All PAO's

This is where our NHQ partners need your help. Most of you are familiar with the great work that our staff photographer, Susan Robertson and our videographer, Brad Holley do for us in covering many of our national and local activities. However they cannot be at all of them. So this is where we need your help. If you take photographs or video of our activities please share them with our NHQ partners.

High resolution photographs can be sent to Susan (334 953-9303) at

[srobertson@capnhq.gov](mailto:srobertson@capnhq.gov). They should be shot at the highest possible resolution and have cut line information either embedded in the picture’s metadata or provided in the e-mail. Cut line information includes: A short description of what is shown in the image (who, what, when and where) including names of persons in the image. Also include the name and unit of the photographer for appropriate credit.

Raw (un-edited) video can be sent to Brad 9334 953-7848) at [bholley@capnhq.gov](mailto:bholley@capnhq.gov) Video can be in any format to include Mini DV Tape, video encoded to a DVD or electronic files such as mpg, avi and mp4 formats on a DVD. The video needs to be in the highest possible resolution and uncompressed. Any tapes/DVD's that are sent to NHQ will be returned after copying. Please provide the same cut line information as requested for photographs.

Please make sure that all members captured in photos or video are in a correct CAP uniform as per CAPM 39-1. Releases are not necessary.

This is a greater way to get members who may not be PAO's but have the "shutter bug" to get involved in telling the CAP story. Cadets are very technically savvy and in the past have shot some great video and taken beautiful photographs of our activities and missions. PAOs are requested to share this information with their cadets and wing CAC's. Many wings conduct activities such as Flight Academies and Encampments and publish online albums. Please send links to those and to any video posted online to Susan and Brad as appropriate.

## **Murrell Tapped As CAP Senior Volunteer Operations Advisor**

Civil Air Patrol National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter has appointed Col. Michael Jay Murrell to her staff as senior adviser for operations. He succeeds Col. Andrew Skiba, who served as senior operations volunteer adviser from January 2008 to February 2010.



Murrell joins the senior operations volunteer leadership after more than four years of service as the national aerospace education adviser.

As the senior operations volunteer adviser, Murrell will assist the national leadership with matters pertaining to the conduct and support of CAP's operational missions. His areas of responsibility will include powered flight operations, glider operations, working with federal and international search and rescue organizations, pilot training and proficiency programs, radio communications and the organization's Advanced Technologies Group.

Murrell, a former Ohio Wing commander, has also been a commander at the group and squadron level in three different wings. He is currently the Florida Wing deputy chief of staff for operations. His staff assignments have included wing director of operations and deputy director of emergency services.

The colonel is a pilot with nearly 1,000 flying hours as pilot in command in light single and multi-engine aircraft. He has received numerous awards for his CAP service, including the Distinguished Service Award, the Exceptional Service Award, Meritorious Service Award and Commander's Commendation Award, and has earned the Gill Robb Wilson Award, signifying completion of CAP's Professional Development Program.

He is also active in CAP's operational missions as a mission observer, mission pilot, air operations branch director, operations and planning sections chief and incident commander in the Florida Wing.

## **SAFETY CORNER**

*By National Safet Beacon  
Newsletter*

Safety vests rules have changed. A policy change has been made and a copy of the revised CAPR 62-1 will be out in print for member comment soon. Please note that the requirements of CAPM39-1 have been superseded. Here are the requirements: To be compliant with Federal Regulations, it is now required for CAP members to wear ANSI Class 2 or Class 3 safety vests or apparel if they are going to be or if there

### **ENCAMPMENT IS COMING... ENCAMPMENT IS COMING:**

Encampment is the most significant, worthwhile training experience in a CAP cadet's career. It is a week long Program and is required for the General Billy Mitchell Award. Encampment is designed to develop a greater understanding of CAP and Air Force missions and capabilities, personal and team leadership, and teamwork.

The experiences you will get at the Massachusetts Wing Encampment will provide an excellent place for cadets to work together, develop leadership skills, and gain an early understanding of military life.

Encampment is the time in a cadets' career that he or she can functionally practice the skills taught in the leadership portion of the cadet program. It's a chance to work towards becoming a better leader. This year, the MAWG Encampment will be held at Fort Devens, Ayer, MA

The encampment will be held from 8 - 15 August 2010, and the cost is only \$130.00!

**All applications must be postmarked by 22 July 2010.**

For application and scholarship information, check out the encampment website at [www.mawgcadets.org/encampment](http://www.mawgcadets.org/encampment)

is a chance members may perform duties within the vicinity of federal-aid roadways. For the military style uniforms, only ANSI-approved vests are authorized. For the corporate uniform, members may wear ANSI-approved apparel such as insulated vests, jackets, winter coats, or rain gear, as an option.

For other activities that will not be in the vicinity of federal-aid roadways, all safety vests must have reflectivity applied to them. While safety vests do not have to meet the ANSI standard, again, reflectivity is required. For all apparel items other than safety vests, ANSI compliance must be met regardless of the activity. This policy also requires the wear of the safety vest or safety apparel by all CAP members when performing ground functions. Examples include, but are not limited to: all ground functions of emergency services, road guards around formation movements of CAP members, performing volunteer activities near any location where motorized vehicles operate, including flight line support, and at night when walking during any ground activity, other than to and from personal vehicles at the beginning and ending of CAP functions. The color of safety vests and apparel can be either orange or lime green. White/grey reflective striping is preferred and in wooded operations, orange vests or orange apparel with reflectivity is highly recommended as a U.S. standard color of human existence in hunting areas.

*By October 1, 2012, all safety vests and apparel will be required to be ANSI compliant for all CAP activities.*

## FROM CADET PROGRAMS

Phase I & II cadets may begin studying leadership using the new *Learn to Lead* textbook effective **1 July 2010**. The new text will replace *Leadership for the 21st Century* (previously known as *Leadership: 2000 & Beyond*).

**Phase-In.** All cadets who join after **1 July 2010** will receive a copy of *Learn to Lead*, Modules 1 and 2 in their New Cadet Kit. Phase I and II cadets who joined prior to that date may remain in *Leadership for the 21st Century* or opt to switch to *Learn to Lead*. **If a current Phase I or II cadet opts to receive the new texts, he/she will have to purchase them from Vanguard.** Cadet Officers will not be immediately affected as Modules 3 and 4 (serving Phases III and IV respectively) will be published in 2011.

**Written & Drill Tests.** New tests will serve the *Learn to Lead* cadets, via the [new online testing system](#). Cadets who remain in the *Leadership for the 21st Century* text will continue to use the same tests they've been using (CAPT 68, 60, and 64-1). *Learn to Lead* cadets will demonstrate their proficiency in drill through a performance test during every achievement in Phases I and II.

**Practical Tips for Current Cadets:** As stated above, current cadets may remain in the "old" or switch to the "new" textbook. They need to keep in mind that when they reach the Wright Brothers Award Exam and the Mitchell Award Exam, they will take either the "old" or "new" exam. In other words, there's no cafeteria option for the milestone exams -- a cadet will NOT be able to say, "I want a Mitchell based on chapters 1, 2, and 3 in the old book and chapters 4 through 8 in the new book." It's one or the other.

**Curriculum Design.** *Learn to Lead* will be a textbook of four modules (one for each phase in the Cadet Program). Each module consists of a number of chapters, with cadets studying one chapter per achievement (as they do now with the current textbook).

**Hard Copy Distribution.** Around 1 July, every squadron will receive a hard copy of each *Learn to Lead* publication. Hard copies will also be available for purchase and/or print-on-demand; please stay tuned for details. \* Essentials of Team Building were sent to squadrons in 2009. NHQ does not stock this item in inventory. Additional copies available from online retailers by clicking on the cover.

### **Congratulations**

*To 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Steve Bates from the Hanscom Composite Squadron for receiving the USAF  
**Flight Manager of the Year Award.***

*1Lt Bates was selected initially as Flight Manager of the Year by the USAF Electronic  
Systems Command and then went in to competition on a service-wide level. He was  
then selected as the top Flight Manager of the Year in the entire United States Air*

## Around The Wing!

### Essex County Composite Squadron

Lt Col. Antionette Fischer – Commanding

- Cadet Eric Oines will be attending West Point beginning 2012 after completing his education at the NY Military Academy.
- C/SrAm Tylor Belletto is attending a week long leadership academy Norwich University. He also received a Leadership Award from St. John's Prep where he attends.
- C/2lt Abhiram Iyngar will be attending CAP's Cadet Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base.
- C/2Lt Eric Rodreguez was recently awarded a ROTC Scholarship from Northeastern

## Special Announcement: DHS Launches "See Something, Say Something" Campaign

Department of Homeland Secretary's (DHS) Janet Napolitano launched the first phase of DHS' nationwide "See Something, Say Something" campaign and announced a new national information-sharing partnership with Amtrak as part of the Department's Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative during a whistlestop train tour—highlighting the public's role in keeping our country safe and the Obama administration's commitment to bolstering surface transportation security.

"Implementing a national suspicious activity reporting partnership with Amtrak and expanding the 'See Something, Say Something' campaign strengthens our ability to guard against terrorism and crime," said Secretary Napolitano. "These initiatives enable us to provide frontline security personnel with the latest information and intelligence to recognize behaviors and indicators associated with new and evolving threats."

In the coming months, DHS will expand the "See Something, Say Something" campaign nationally with public education materials, advertisements and other outreach tools to continue engaging travelers, businesses, community organizations, and public and private sector employees to remain vigilant and play an active role in keeping our country safe.

In support of DHS's "See Something, Say Something" Campaign, FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division has partnered with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to research how to improve the public's response to suspicious activity. FEMA and IACP plan to present on the research findings and recommendations at the IACP Annual Conference in late October.

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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS:

*I am pleased to inform you that we completed our bi-annual evaluation. We received a rating of excellent with four sections being rated as Outstanding. No individual section received a rating lower than Excellent. We have begun the revolution and it is going well. I told you that it would begin here and it has. It is an honor to command this wing. Thanks to all who participated, helped, planned and executed. Be safe, and continue to fight the good fight. You folks are simply the best.*

**Colonel Bill Meskill, MAWG/CC**

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## *Around the Wing!*

### **Hanscom Composite Squadron**

Lt Col William Duffy – Commanding

- Cadet SMSgt Julianne Braden soloed at the CAP National Flight Academy
- 1<sup>st</sup> LT. Steve Cavanaugh received his Doctorate from Harvard University in Partical Physics
- Maj. Lynne Putney was selected by CAP Hq to serve as the Escort to the United Kingdom in the International Cadet Exchange Program.
- Lt Col. Bill Duffy has been selected by CAP Hq to serve on the IACE staff in Washington D.C assisting IACE personnel coming to the U.S. from foreign countries.
- Capt. Dave Druga has been selected to serve as Hanscom's new Deputy Commander for Cadets (DCC)
- Former MAWG Spatz cadet Stephanie Grzlak has joined the Hansom Composite Squadron serving as Cadet Programs Officer and PAO.

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## **Cadet Receives Mitchell Award**

A Massachusetts Wing cadet was honored last month for receiving awards during the MAWG Commander's Call held in June.



with his 2Lt grade in front of a packed room which included his mother, Squadron Commanders from around the Wing and Wing Staff members.

The first milestone of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program is the General Billy Mitchell Award, which is earned after the completion of the first eight achievements of the cadet program.

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Anthony Nardone, Frank Poacher/Minuteman Composite Squadron, was commissioned as a cadet officer at the last MAWG Commanders Call held in June at the MAWG Headquarters. Colonel William Meskill, MAWG Commander along with Lt Col. Sharon Ingrham,

Squadron Commander presented Cadet Nardone



## SAFETY CORNER - HEAT EXHAUSTION

Heat exhaustion occurs when your body gets too hot. The hypothalamus, the part of the brain that controls thirst and hunger, also controls the body's core temperature. Normally, the body cools itself by sweating. But if you are exposed to high temperatures for a long time (working outdoors in the summer, for example) and don't replace the fluids you lose, the body systems that regulate temperature become overwhelmed. As a result, your body produces more heat than it can release. Heat exhaustion requires immediate attention because it can progress to heat stroke, a life-threatening illness.

People with heat exhaustion may experience the following signs and symptoms:

- Heavy sweating
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Pale, clammy skin
- Thirst
- Rapid heartbeat
- Dizziness, fainting
- Nausea, vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Mild temperature elevations

If body temperature goes above 104°F, or if coma or seizure occurs, the patient may have heat stroke. Heat stroke can quickly lead to heart attack and death if not treated.

### What Causes It?

Heat exhaustion occurs most often when you are exposed to high temperatures and become dehydrated, usually from not drinking enough fluids. It also can happen when large volumes of sweat are replaced with fluids that don't contain enough salt.

### Who's Most At Risk?

The following factors increase the risk of developing heat exhaustion:

- Being dehydrated
- Age (the elderly and children under 5 years of age)
- Illness or chronic disability
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Cardiovascular disease

- Hypertension
- Respiratory disease
- Drinking alcohol
- Physical exertion in hot or humid environments (athletes, military personnel, outdoor laborers are particularly at risk)

If you are working or exercising in the heat, don't wait until you get thirsty to drink fluids. Instead, drink plenty of fluids before, during, and after the activity. Take the following precautions to prevent heat exhaustion:

- Stay in cool or air-conditioned spaces when possible on hot days.
- Drink more fluids than usual. Drinking enough fluids during exercise, for example, helps improve heart function, maintain kidney function, and lower the body's core temperature. Dehydration can stress the heart and reduce the kidneys' ability to maintain the correct balance of electrolytes (charged elements -- such as potassium, sodium, phosphorous, and chloride -- which are essential for the normal function of every cell in the body).
- Check on those vulnerable to heat exhaustion (the elderly, for example).
- Avoid alcohol, caffeine, and sugar, which can cause dehydration. Drink water or sports drinks sweetened with natural juices.
- Exercise or work outdoors during cooler times of day.
- Take cool baths.
- Wear loose, lightweight clothing.
- Long-term prevention of heat exhaustion includes regular, doctor-approved exercise. Those who exercise regularly over time, allowing their bodies to adjust to hot conditions, may better tolerate exercise on hot days.

**PLAY IT SAFE AND WATCH FOR THE DANGER SIGNS!**

## TOP CADETS TO TRAIN AT ALABAMA AFB



**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS** – Members of Massachusetts Wing, along with a full complement – 112 – of Civil Air Patrol’s rising cadets will attend Cadet Officer School, one of the top professional development opportunities available to CAP youth, July 5-15, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., home of Air University and professional military education for the U.S. Air Force.

The participating cadets competed for selection to the school. Only the top 15 percent of all CAP cadets nationwide are invited to participate.

While at the school, the cadets will have a unique opportunity to learn about the Air Force, airpower history, leadership, teamwork, communication skills and problem-solving.

Patterned after Air Force Squadron Officer School, Cadet Officer School is an academically challenging program combining lectures, seminars and hands-on training. Cadets will practice what they learn through a series of writing and speaking assignments that will culminate with a group project testing their ability to overcome obstacles through planning and teamwork.

This leadership opportunity is one of 30 National Cadet Special Activities sponsored by CAP this summer. These activities allow cadets to hone their skills in a variety of areas, including search and rescue, flight and emergency services, science, citizenship and military courtesies, and to explore aerospace technology and aviation careers.

The attendees from Massachusetts are

- Beverly Composite Squadron — Cadet Capt. Alexander Ortins
- Essex County Composite Squadron — Cadet 2nd Lt. Abhiram Iyengar
- Pilgrim Composite Squadron — Cadet 1st Lt. Heidi Schneider

### Around The Wing!

#### **Pilgrim Composite Squadron** Maj. Robert Yaeger – Commanding

- **Young Eagles at Plymouth:** Nine cadets and seniors helped the Experimental Aviation Association give free flights to about 20 area youth. The EAA also gave our cadets some free flights for their help.
- **Rocketry at the Boys & Girls Club:** Ten cadets and seniors taught about 65 summer campers a little about rocketry physics, said a few words about drug abuse, then helped them build and launch various kinds of rockets. Everyone had a good time and some of the kids got several launches on their rockets.
- **Handicapped Veterans Lunch:** 14 cadets and seniors went down to Neds Point Lighthouse Park in Mattapoisett to help the American Legion provide a picnic lunch for hospitalized veterans. The vets look forward to this event all year and really seemed to enjoy the day

## Pilgrim Composite Promotes Cadets

At a recently held squadron meeting, the Pilgrim Composite Squadron promoted three cadets to 2nd Lt last Tuesday.



From Left to right: Cadet 2Lt. Lydia Murdy, Cadet 2Lt. Connor O'Dwyer, Cadet 2Lt. Cameron Myette.

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## HANSCOM CADET EARNS HER WINGS.

*Submitted by: Reid J. Leonard, CAP 1st Lt., Public Affairs Officer  
Hanscom Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol*

Julianne Braden, daughter of John Braden of Lincoln, Mass., achieved her first solo flight in a Cessna 172 aircraft during the Civil Air Patrol's 16th annual National Flight Academy. The flight academy was held June 12-21 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wis.

Achieving solo flight is a major milestone for every aspiring pilot. To be approved for solo flight, a student pilot must complete an intensive course of classroom study on the theory and practice of flight plus many hours of in-flight training under the direction of a Federally licensed flight instructor. The successful Solo requires three take-offs and landings by the student pilot without an instructor aboard the aircraft. Additional training and practice is required beyond the Solo to become a fully licensed civilian or military pilot. Most pilots vividly recall their first Solo as a defining accomplishment.

Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Braden has been a member of Civil Air Patrol for two and a half years, and currently serves as the Cadet Commander of the Hanscom Composite Squadron. The National Flight Academy is one of many special activities offered across the country that Civil Air Patrol cadets are eligible to participate in during the summer months.