

# NINER magazine

serving NER's nine wings

SPRING 2009

**Training with K-9s**  
**Boxing for Charity**



Spencer  
"The Hurricane"  
Horn



**CIVIL AIR PATROL**



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NINER Magazine is a publication of the Civil Air Patrol's NorthEast Region (NER). It is by, for and about the **nine** wings that the region encompasses:  
**Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.**

**SPRING 2009**

Published March 2009

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**COVER: K-9 CAP**  
*New Jersey Wing's 1st Lt Diana Akeret, with her search-and-rescue dog Chaos, coordinated joint training with CAP members and K-9 searchers (Page 4). Meanwhile, Pennsylvania Wing boasts CAP's first K-9 squadron (Page 3).*

**INSET:** *New York Wing's "Hurricane Horn" boxes for charity (Page 10).*

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# CLARION, PA IS HOME TO CAP'S FIRST K-9 UNIT

## 5 Dogs, 10 Handlers in Various Stages of Search-and-Rescue Training

Courtesy of The Clarion, PA News

By Greg V. Renninger,  
Clarion News writer

PENNSYLVANIA - Clarion is home to the nation's first K-9 search and rescue unit under the direction of the Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary to the Air Force.

Major Ralph Timblin Sr. of Clarion is commander of Clarion Composite Squadron, and works with one of the dogs, Timblin's own Newfoundland, Sea Cur (pronounced seeker).

Some members of the former Allegheny Valley Search and Rescue group wanted to continue with their activities after that group closed, and Timblin told them to join up with him under the CAP.

Timblin said one member of the team has five years of search and rescue experience, and one couple has three years of experience, but all in all, the group is pretty new to the search and rescue scene.

The team's five dogs and ten handlers are in various stages of National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) training.

Timblin said the NASARs are good standards and will likely be mandated by



(From left) **Second Lieutenants Roger Parker and Erik Strohm from the Clarion Composite Squadron, and First Lieutenant Scott Brown and Cadet Brown from the Franklin Squadron return from a successful search with bloodhound, Billie, and golden retriever, Savannah. The Clarion Composite Squadron 504 K9 search and rescue unit is the first of its kind in the nation organized under the Civil Air Patrol.**

Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In the meantime, the dogs and their handlers practice throughout Clarion and neighboring counties, locating and rescuing volunteer "victims" almost every Sunday afternoon.

"We are always looking for volunteer victims," Timblin told the CLARION NEWS. "You don't get to tell people to 'get lost' too much anymore, but we do it every

Sunday. It feels kind of good sometimes."

Timblin said all the dogs are gentle creatures. In fact, Timblin said, it's required and the dogs undergo "good citizen" training weekly.

The dogs include a bloodhound, a golden retriever, two Shiloh shepherds, and Timblin's Newfoundland.

The K-9 Search and Rescue Unit is the first of its kind under the Civil Air Patrol, and Timblin said it could be called to service all

over the country by FEMA or Homeland Security, or across the commonwealth by Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

According to their website, Civil Air Patrol handles 90 percent of inland search and rescue missions, with approximately 75 lives saved each year.

CAP members are generally the first on the scene and also provide disaster relief and emergency services following natural and man-made disasters, including such phenomena as Sept. 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina, Texas and Oklahoma wildfires, tornadoes in the south and central U.S., North Dakota flash flooding, and the October 2006 earthquake in Hawaii, as well as humanitarian missions along the U.S. and Mexico border.

The CAP is dedicated to three missions, Timblin said: aerospace education, cadet programs for youths ages 12 to 21, and emergency services.

"We are ready when a three-year-old or an Alzheimer's patient wanders off," Timblin said. "We also search for missing planes and work with groups like the Red Cross and Salvation Army."

### SCHEDULED EVENTS

**20-22 March 2009—MAWG Conference**  
Clarion Hotel & Conference Ctr, W. Springfield, MA

**24-26 April 2009—NYWG Conference**  
Ft. William Henry Conference & Resort Center,  
Lake George, NY

**22-24 May 2009—NER SARCOMP**  
Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, MA

**22-24 May 2009—NER Cadet Competition**  
Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, MA

**16-17 October 2009—CTWG Conference**  
Nathan Hale Inn, UCONN Campus, CT



# NJ CADETS, SENIOR MEMBERS TRAIN WITH K-9 SEARCHERS

by 1st Lt. Sandra Kooker

NEW JERSEY -- It was a cold, brisk Sunday at Bel-leplain State Park on Jan. 25, when members of Cape May County Composite Squadron of Cape May received some valuable training in K-9 search and rescue.

Partnered with Palisades Search and Rescue Dogs Association, and New Jersey State Park Police, the CAP members included C/MSgt Craig Coughlin, C/Amn Ryan Fontaine, C/Amn John Edwards, 2nd Lt Evan Kooker, 1stLt Sandra Kooker, Capt. Tony Simon and squadron commander Capt. Kevin Barstow.

Another squadron member, 1st Lt Diana Akeret, is also a member of Palisades SAR Dogs Association. She brought her two Border Collies and coordinated the training day.

Pat Pittore, Spring Pittore, John Campbell and Andrea Dente of the Palisades dog



**C/MSgt Coughlin assists C/Amn John Edwards with his compass during a grid search conducted with rescue dogs.**

association brought their air-scent dogs to train that day, which included Golden and Labrador Retrievers. State Park Police Officers Dore and Robeson each brought bloodhounds.

Full of enthusiasm, CAP members played a vital role in the training that day. CAP members were eager to volunteer as the “victims” and

subjects of the searches, but also served as valuable members of the ground team conducting the searches. As part of the search teams, CAP members learned how different types of search dogs conduct their searches, the kind of support dog handlers need, as well as how important good compass and map reading skills are to a suc-

cessful search and rescue.

Every CAP member involved in the training that day went home with a greater understanding of K-9 search and rescue, and dog handlers learned how valuable CAP members can be when partnered with search teams. It was a rewarding day for all, with the promise of more joint training to come.

## PA UNIT HELPS PACK CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

by Lt. Bea Gernert

PENNSYLVANIA -- Lebanon VFW Composite Squadron 307 drove to Lancaster, Pa. Catholic High School on Dec. 6, 2008 where they helped the Military Mothers and Friends pack over 300 Christmas boxes to send stateside and overseas to our deployed military service men and women.

The boxes contained personal items, candy, soup, pretzels and homemade cookies as well as other items too numerous to mention.

Two of the squadron's former CAP cadets had boxes shipped to them. Senior members and cadets signed the boxes and also enclosed notes to the former cadets wishing them a safe Merry Christmas and to let them know they all were praying for them.

**Squadron members help pack boxes going to military service men and women.**

Photo by Lt. Wilson Ballester



# NY MIDDLE SCHOOL CADETS TEND TO TROOPS

## Soldiers Being Deployed Find Warm Welcome in Rome, NY



Photo by MICHAEL LAPOLLA/ Utica Observer-Dispatch

**Central New York's Rome City School District Squadron** Cadet Wyatt Frazier, 11, serves pound cake to Sgt. Ulysses Cullars, of New Hartford, NY, right, during a layover at the New York State Armory on Black River Blvd. in Rome on January 29. The soldiers were being deployed to Thailand. Private James Alsheimer, of Poland, NY, is at center. The community turned out to give the soldiers a warm send-off, including members of Rome School Squadron and Mohawk Griffiss Senior Squadron.

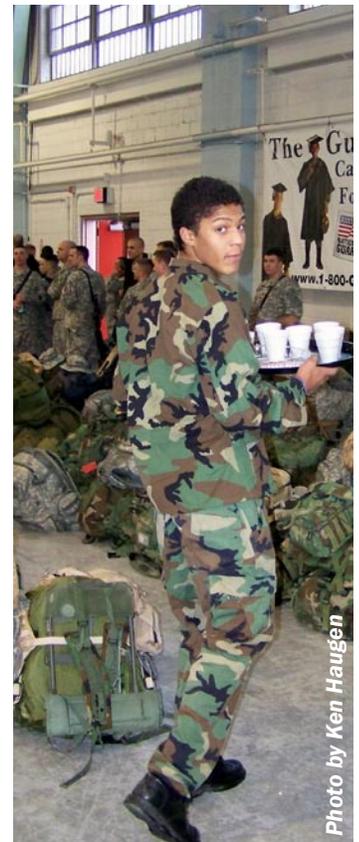


Photo by Ken Haugen

C/Airman Collin LaRoche brings a tray of beverages to soldiers.



Photos by Ken Haugen

C/Airman Tyler Lemieux and C/SrAirman Camilla Corum mingle among the crowd with snacks.



C/SrAirman Patrick Haugen, CSSgt Wyatt Frazier and C/Airman Marcus Vasquez bring snacks to soldiers being deployed. The community turned out to give the troops a warm send-off during a layover at the NY National Guard Armory in Rome.

# NY MEMBER HONORED FOR ROLE IN FLORIDA RESCUE

## Radar Operator Helps Guide CAP Crew to Downed Helicopter

by 1st Lt. Bob Stronach

NEW YORK – When a Civil Air Patrol aircrew found a downed helicopter with four survivors in Florida in September, the successful mission reflected the searchers' considerable training and skills and a lot of behind-the-scenes coordination -- including key activity some 1,300 miles away in Rome, N.Y., involving an Air National Guard radar analyst who is also active in CAP.

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center contacted the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS), which monitors air traffic over the eastern half of the country, for assistance when a helicopter failed to arrive at its destination in Marathon, Florida, after flying out of Tamiami, Fla.

Even though the Florida Wing aircrew was looking for the missing chopper, the search involved a huge area



Paul Kulesa, 1st Lt CAP

and time was of the essence. NEADS has the technology to conduct a "real time" look back at any aircraft at any given time, explained Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Paul Kulesa, who was on duty at the time.

"This gives us the ability to spot where an aircraft may stop, but not necessarily land," said Kulesa, a first lieutenant in CAP and deputy commander of the Utica

Cadet Squadron.

"We are able to view aircraft data from specific periods in certain areas of the country, given we can insert the specific data information. In our case, we had to use a broad range of information. Master Sgt. Eugene DeHart and I began the process and kept our eyes on the multitude of aircraft flying during the wide time frame we had to deal with."

He noted that "about 20 minutes into our playbacks, Lt. Guy Loughridge of the Civil Air Patrol called in." Loughridge is CAP's radar data expert. "We began our information-sharing process and passed back and forth some key points of interest. Lt. Loughridge and I agreed on a certain track of data that required a physical search."

That key bit of information put the copter's last known position near the edge of the Everglades and Florida Bay's open waters. And it led

the air crew to the downed helicopter, flipped over and partially submerged with the four men standing on it and waving frantically.

Since the water had shorted out the chopper's radio and emergency locator transmitter, and none of the men's cell phones worked, the tracking of radar data became all the more critical.

Air Force Col. John P. Bartholf, commander of NEADS, recently recognized Kulesa's time-critical role and presented him with a Commander's Commendation Award.

Kulesa's "diligent, meticulous manipulation of the archived raw radar data and close coordination directly with the Civil Air Patrol resulted in the expeditious and successful rescue of all four civilian passengers," the commendation states.

Kulesa has assisted in several CAP searches from NEADS.

## NOT FIRST TIME NY MEMBER HONORED BY AIR FORCE

Paul Kulesa, cited for his radar work in a successful 2008 CAP search-and-rescue, was honored before by the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS). In 2004 he was named senior airman of the quarter, and as a reward, the Air Force gave him a ride in an F-15 fighter jet - twice. He flew out to Kingsley Air National Guard Base in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where he attended a pilot briefing on a training mission involving combat maneuvers, evasion techniques and bombing runs; took life-support training, learning how to eject



Paul Kulesa in cockpit of F-15 fighter jet.

and guide a parachute; spent time in a flight simulator, and then boarded the F-15.

"It was fantastic," he recalled. "I still love talking

about it." He said they spent a lot of time in the clouds at 18,000 feet, flying by instruments and practicing combat maneuvers. "It was

a smooth ride, not bumpy. It was smoother than riding in a car," he noted, adding that he didn't feel turbulence until the pilot put on the "air brakes" to slow down to land.

After two hours in the air, they learned that snow and low clouds forced Kingsley to close the runways, and so they were diverted to the Naval Air Station at Fallon, Nevada – a Navy Top Gun school – where they dined at the Officers' Club and spent the night. They went up in the F15s again the next day as soon as the bad weather broke in Klamath Falls.

## CONNECTICUT UNITS PARTICIPATE IN FLY-IN

by C/SSgt Mario Robles

CONNECTICUT -- The Royal Charter Composite Squadron, along with the 169th Squadron from Manchester and the 103rd Squadron from Bradley International, took part in the 23rd Annual Simsbury Fly-In last September 21.

Arriving at the airfield around 0800 hrs, before doors opened to the public, Royal and the other Squadrons worked together and split into three integrated teams to knock out tasks as-

signed for the day. The overall job that Civil Air Patrol Cadets had to take on all day was wing walking aircraft to designated parking spots, which is basically walking alongside the plane making sure no one or no thing posed as a serious obstacle. As simple a task as that seems, cadets were up and down the field pacing (and most of the time jogging) from one end to another constantly.

Despite keeping up with the work, everyone was fed and given free time every 30

minutes for an hour to relax. The workers at the airfield also made sure that all the cadets kept hydrated. Thanks to the Buddy system, cadets monitored each other to make sure everyone was in a stable condition.

At 1530 or so, pilots began to make their way out and headed home just in time to hit rush hour. By the end of the day, all three teams ended up working together instead of in shifts.

Royal arrived at home base by 1730 and everyone went home for well deserved rest.

## MA CADETS ASSIST IN TRIBUTE TO FALLEN

MASSACHUSETTS -- Cadets from the Hanscom Composite Squadron took part Jan. 30 in the launch of "Operation Home Ties" at American Legion Post 273 in Burlington, marking the first viewing and presentation of "Faces of Remembrance: Memory Portraits of Our Hometown Heroes."

The program features local artist Gina Johnson's pencil drawings of 44 local servicemen and -women who died in the line of duty during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is just the beginning, as she has promised to honor all of the local heroes by creating a portrait for each of the families.

The Hanscom squadron cadets opened the evening by posting the colors and were recognized by being asked to stand honor guard while the pictures were unveiled to family members and guests. Once the formalities were completed, the cadets were able to spend some time talking with the artist.

Maj. John Flaherty, Massachusetts Wing director of cadet programs, was so taken by the formality and simplicity of the event that he spoke with Johnson about one young soldier killed in Afghanistan in August – Army Pfc. Paul Conlon, a former cadet with the Cape Cod Composite Squadron.

Johnson agreed to present Conlon's picture to his mother at the Massachusetts Wing Conference in March. She has also agreed to display her drawings at the conference as a tribute to the fallen soldiers.

## CT SQUADRON HAS DISPLAYS AT AEROSPACE FESTIVAL

CONNECTICUT -- The Thames River Composite Squadron in Groton set up a CAP display and recruiting booth at the Gales Ferry Aerospace Festival at the Juliet Long School on Friday, Jan. 9.

The event was hosted by Aerospace Education Member Stuart Sharack. Numerous booths involved students in hands-on activities from the construction of gliders to aerospace art.

Lt Col Lawrence Kinch, Capt Rocketto, Lexie Wojtcuk, Abi Wojtcuk, and Michael Molinari set up a display highlighting CAP's rocketry program and SAR mission. Lt Robin Wojtcuk and SM Adam Wojtcuk assisted in setting up and taking down the displays.

C/CMSgt  
Michael Molinari  
discusses rocket  
launching with  
student



C/TSgt Abi Wojtcuk explains program to elementary school students.



## CONNECTICUT UNIT ASSISTS EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSN

CONNECTICUT -- Danbury EAA Chapter 130 d hosted its annual Fly-In last July at Danbury Municipal Airport, home of the 399th Composite Squadron.

Chapter President James Galvin, who is also a 399th member, was one of the event organizers.

Senior members and cadets from the 399th Composite Squadron assisted in the day's activities, by marshaling aircraft and maintaining safety. This was a unique opportunity to meet the pilots of light



*C/2d Lt Peter Foshi marshaling replica Sopwith World War I fighter*

sport and replica aircraft. The Experimental Aircraft

Association is a nationwide organization with more than

1,000 chapters and over 170,000 members.

## PENNSYLVANIA CADET RECEIVES BELATED CADET OF YEAR AWARD

*by 1st Lt. Bea Gernert*

PENNSYLVANIA -- Cadet Col. Tommy Carr of Lebanon VFW Composite Squadron 307 officially received his recognition as the Pennsylvania Wing's Cadet of the Year for 2007 while home for Christmas vacation Dec. 30 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he is a freshman and a member of the rifle team.

The presentation -- delayed from September, when Carr was unable to attend the wing's annual conference because he had just begun his first year at West Point -- was made at Biddle Hall at Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville.

Lt. Col. Robert Meinert, executive director of the Pennsylvania Wing, presented Carr with the Edwin



*Lt. Col. Robert Meinert, Pennsylvania Wing executive director; Cadet Col. Tommy Carr; and State Rep. RoseMarie Swanger.*

G. Holl Wing Cadet of the Year plaque and a \$1,000 scholarship. He also received a proclamation from state Rep. RoseMarie Swanger.

Friends, family and dignitaries gathered at the hall to congratulate Carr, as did the Lebanon squadron's commander, Capt. Hal Roach;

deputy commander, Maj. Warren Parks; and a number of cadets.

The squadron's deputy commander for cadets, 1st Lt. Thomas Carr, is the cadet's father, and his mother, Belinda Carr, has also held the rank of first lieutenant as a member of the unit.

The ceremony was featured on the front page of the "Lebanon Daily News" on New Year's Day.

Carr received the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award -- Civil Air Patrol's highest honor for cadets, achieved by less than one-half of 1 percent -- in December 2007.

Photo by 1st Lt. Wilson Ballester

# LONG ISLAND GROUP HOLDS 4TH ANNUAL MILITARY BALL

by Capt. James Ridley, Sr.

NEW YORK – Long Island Group held its 4th Annual Military Ball at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook. The Military Ball, or MilBall, as it is known, has grown into a grand event eagerly looked forward to by cadets and senior members alike; in fact, it has become so well known that members from other New York Wing groups have found their way down to Long Island in order to participate. Also attending were cadets from Hofstra University's National Society of Pershing Rifles, Company Q-8, who volunteer each year to act as judges in the Long Island Group Color Guard competition. In all over 230 CAP members and friends arrived at the elegant catering hall in the heart of Suffolk County, NY to enjoy an evening of ceremony, dinner and dancing.

This year's "Guest of Honor" was New York Wing Commander Col Ken Andreu who attended with his wife and several members of his staff. The event's project officer was Maj Lou Fenech, Jr., and was presided over by the LI Group Commander, Lt Col Jack Ozer. The evening began with the posting and retrieving of colors by the 2008 LI Group Champion color guard team. Then after a sumptuous dinner buffet it was time for several promotions as well as presentation of the LI Group's Annual Awards including those given out for members who participated in the recent Long Island Group SAR School. Dancing rounded off the evening's festivities.

"The Mil Ball has definitely become the highlight of the year for us," said Major Fenech. "It shows what great camaraderie LIG has developed within the Group and the willingness of our members to come together." Furthering that end, Col Ozer announced that there will be a LI Group-sponsored cruise aboard the Emerald Princess Nov. 1-8, 2009. Details can be found on the LIG website.

Next year's Ball has been already scheduled for January 16, 2010.

## Awards given out at the Mil Ball included:

- *CAP Achievement Award:* Capt Andean Pisano, Suffolk Cadet Squadron 9.
- *Cadet of the Year:* C/Lt Col James Ridley II, Col Francis S. Gabreski Squadron.



Cadets enjoy the night's activities by participating in what has become an annual ritual, the "conga line".

- *Cadet NCO of the Year:* C/CMSgt Kory Gatley, Col Francis S. Gabreski Squadron.
- *Senior of Distinction:* Capt Paul Zuckerberg, and Capt James Ridley, LIG.
- *Senior of Year:* Capt John Corcacas, LI Senior Squadron.
- *Squadron of Distinction:* Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10.
- *Squadron of the Year:* Col Francis S. Gabreski Squadron.
- *White Scarf Award:* Lt Col Jacques Heinrich, LIG.



Lt Col Robert Jennings

## NJ VICE COMMANDER WRITES ABOUT CAP IN NETWORK WORLD

NEW JERSEY -- Vice Commander Lt Col Robert Jennings recently had an article entitled "Information Security and the Outsider" published in Network

World.

The article looks at how the US Government is working with semi-official volunteer organizations, like the Civil Air Patrol,

and provides a case study about how CAP adapted to provide better information security for new assignments.

# NEW YORK'S 'HURRICANE HORN' STRIKES

## Wing Legal Officer Dons Gloves for Local Charities



Capt. Spencer Horn

*By Neil Probst  
Courtesy of CAP National HQ*

He's a lawyer by trade, but when the opportunity arises, "Hurricane Horn" gives Long Island, NY, three rounds of excitement and thousands of dollars for local charities. Capt. Spencer Horn's first fight was memorable, to say the least.

"It was a battle of David and Goliath. I'm about 5-foot-7 and he was over 6 feet. I just kept going out there swinging," said Horn, who defeated a Golden Glove boxer in the three-round fight. In the debut bout for the Long Island Fight for Charity, Horn helped raise an impressive \$10,000 for charities that fight cancer and protect battered women.

Now 26 years old, Horn came to Civil Air Patrol when he was 12 after his father, Stu, encouraged him to join.

Stepping up to be legal officer came naturally with his background, but ever since he could walk and talk,

he was enamored with airplanes. Once he was in CAP, he was hooked.

In his early days, he served as a cadet commander, participating heavily in search and rescue and soloing in a glider.

Since his father is chief executive officer of Aviat Aircraft Inc., Horn already knew a thing or two about planes in and out of CAP. It wasn't long before he sought a private pilot's license and started flying Huskies.

"What really sparked my interest in CAP was search and rescue and emergency services," said Horn, who loves an exciting ground team search as well.

Familiar with the benefits of volunteering through CAP, Horn jumped at the chance to help his community through boxing. He knew a law partner's wife who was battling breast cancer, and members of his own family were waging personal struggles with similar diseases. He also was greatly concerned for women strug-

gling with domestic violence and residents of Long Island suffering with illnesses, including multiple sclerosis and autism.

Even though he was bumped around a good bit, Horn said the benefits of fighting for charity are awesome.

"Raising thousands of dollars for charity is very rewarding," said Horn.

"I definitely got hit in the head pretty hard and my nose was swollen for a couple of months," he added. "I'm not sure if it was ever broken because it wasn't bleeding, but it definitely hurt and it was definitely swollen."

Horn doesn't know when his next bout will be. Perhaps if an interested boxer in Horn's weight class signs up, he may be persuaded to duke it out again for charity.

Until then, he's content to fight legal battles in courtrooms and to embrace the challenges and rewards that come with his CAP membership.

## NY CADET WINS APPOINTMENT TO AIR FORCE ACADEMY

NEW YORK — Justen D. Fazekas, a cadet staff sergeant with Central New York Group's Utica Cadet Squadron, has been offered an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy, Congressman Michael Arcuri, D-Utica, announced Jan. 26.

Capt. Chuck Hereth, squadron commander, said Cadet Fazekas "has shown maturity and competence" during his time with the squadron. "The Air Force

Academy will continue to challenge, motivate, and allow him to realize his full potential. He'll make a fine United States Air Force officer."

Fazekas, son of David and Melissa Fazekas of Verona, is a senior at Westmoreland Central High School. In addition to the Civil Air Patrol, his extracurricular activities include National Honor Society, SADD, Drama Club, and serving as student gov-

ernment Secretary of Treasury. Fazekas also is involved in ice hockey, cross country, and martial arts.

"It is clear that Justin will serve our country well and represent his community with honor and distinction," Arcuri said in a press release. "Speaking with Justin last week, I offered my sincere congratulations on his appointment and wished him the best of luck."



Cadet Fazekas during a recent promotion ceremony.

# NH WING TRAINS FOR AERIAL FOREST FIRE PATROL

by Maj. Penny H. Hardy

New Hampshire Wing has begun training flights to orient pilots and aircrews to support the state Department of Forestry with surveillance of the "north country" during highest fire danger days -- Class 3 or higher.

The flights will be flown out of Lebanon or Laconia airports by qualified mission pilots with observer/scan-

ner crew members. Aircrews will be asked to commit to a one week period on "alert status". Aircrews will be alerted by 1000 hours to launch by 1300 hours.

Routes are preplanned and will be flown either clockwise or counter-clockwise. Each flight will take approximately 2 ½ hours of surveillance from either Lebanon or Laconia and over Conway, Berlin, Errol, Littleton, Haverhill and Woodstock.

Position reports are required every 30 minutes from the aircraft to a CAP ground control station.

Reports are also to be given to the forest service fire towers at preplanned GPS turning points and upon sighting smoke or fire.

Pilots may be asked to try to pinpoint GPS coordinates of smoke/fire once sighted. Winds aloft and cloud cover will be critical factors in planning these flights.

This is a new mission for New Hampshire Wing and should help put hours on its aircraft while providing assistance to the New Hampshire Department of Forestry.

The first training flight was flown in late January by Col Dale Hardy, mission pilot; Lt Col Mary Ann Croker, scanner, and Capt Robert Martens, observer. More training flights are scheduled.

## NH CADETS TEACH ROCKET-MAKING TO ANG DEPENDENTS



Photo by 1st Lt. Cheryl Piazza

**Seacoast Composite Squadron cadets assist youngsters in rocket making.**

by Maj. Penny Hardy

Members of the Seacoast Composite Squadron of the New Hampshire Wing taught dependents of

the New Hampshire Air National Guard how to make foam rockets at the annual Winter Carnival held at Pease Air National Guard Base, Portsmouth, NH in

December.

The squadron has been helping out with this Winter Carnival for four years.

It has been a big hit to the dependents who have fun

learning about rockets.

The rockets are made with heat pipe insulating foam, styrofoam meat trays and an elastic.

# MASS. CADETS GET EXPERT LESSON ON PHYSICAL TRAINING

## Physical Therapists Teach Proper Warm-ups, Stretching

by Lt. Col. Bill Duffey

MASSACHUSETTS -- Cadets from the Hanscom Composite Squadron were recently treated to an evening of professional physical training when two volunteers conducted a free class on the proper ways to perform stretching and muscle-conditioning exercises before strenuous physical activity.

Maj. Lynne Putney, the

squadron's nurse officer, and Master Sgt. Shane Lietzke, deputy commander for cadets, arranged for physical therapists Paula Bresnahan and Melanie Maguire to conduct the evening-long class at the Hanscom Air Force Base Fitness Center.

Bresnahan and Maguire both hold master's degrees in physical therapy and are nationally accredited. They are therapists and trainers

with the Sports and Physical Therapy Associates, which provides the official therapists and trainers for the Boston Red Sox, Boston Bruins and the New England Revolution soccer team.

The instruction was intended to help the unit's cadets learn to prevent injury during physical training sessions and while participating in school athletics. For about

2 ½ hours the cadets were guided through a series of bends, stretches and lifts that gave them a far better appreciation of the importance of proper warm-ups and stretching before strenuous physical activity.

At the end of the evening, Bresnahan and Maguire were presented with Certificates of Appreciation and warmly applauded by the grateful cadets.

## PA. SQUADRON WINS \$500 GRANT FROM UNITED WAY

by 1st Lt. William J. Wagner

PENNSYLVANIA -- Members of Wayne Composite Squadron 201 were presented with a \$500 grant check recently from the United Way of Lackawana County.

Because there is no United Way branch in Wayne County, the squadron applied to the branch in Lackawana County and was awarded the grant. The presentation occurred at the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce.



Receiving the United Way grant check are, from left, Maj. Michael A. Huffstutler, Wayne Composite Squadron 201 commander; 2nd Lt. William J. Wagner, deputy commander; Cadet Airman Aaron C. Keating; 2nd Lt. Kenneth M. Houston, who applied for the grant; and Cadet Master Sgt. Billy J. Kroptavich. UW officials are at left and at right.

## PA SQUADRON RETIRES FLAGS

by Lt. Bea Gernert

PENNSYLVANIA -- Lebanon VFW Squadron 307 held a formal flag retirement at the Lickdale, Pa. American Legion Post 910 on November 22. They retired flags that were gathered from the gravesites of veterans buried in Lebanon County.

Even though it was a bitter cold and snowy day, the squadron performed the ceremony to show respect and honor for the flag of the United States of America.

## OBAMA SURPRISES CADET AT HIS SPAATZ AWARD PRESENTATION



WASHINGTON, D.C. – One week after he took the oath of office, newly-elected U.S. President Barack Obama was on Capitol Hill congratulating one of the Civil Air Patrol's most accomplished cadets.

Much to the total surprise of Cadet Col. David F. Hill IV and 14 members of West Virginia Wing's Martinsburg Composite Squadron accompanying him, Obama left a Jan. 27 luncheon in the U.S. Capitol to personally meet and greet each of the cadets and senior members gathered for Hill's official Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award presentation.

Hill is a senior at Pennsylvania's Mercersburg Academy

# NY SQUADRON COMMANDER INSPIRES CADET

## Cadet Cohen Earns Spaatz to Honor Lt. Col. Pantanelli

by Capt. James Ridley, Sr.

NEW YORK -- For many cadets, earning the coveted Spaatz Award is a lofty goal -- difficult to achieve, but equally rewarding with promotion to the highest cadet rank.

For Cadet Colonel Natasha Cohen, the driving force behind her achieving the Spaatz Award ran much deeper.

"The fact is I never planned to test beyond cadet major," said Cohen, a freshman at Boston University majoring in International Relations with a minor in Russian. "I did it because New York Wing hadn't had a Spaatz cadet since 2005 and I did it to honor my squadron and its commander, Lt Col Johnnie Pantanelli who joined CAP in December of 1944 and in all her years as squadron commander has never had a cadet achieve their Spaatz."

Lt Colonel Pantanelli has been a positive mentor to Cohen ever since she joined the North Castle Composite Squadron in April of 2003. Cohen, an aviation enthusiast who once wanted to be a pilot and astronaut, joined after her father showed her an article about CAP. After visiting several squadrons she chose the North Castle Composite Squadron, which, in its long history, has never known any commander other than Pantanelli.

In fact, the current NY Wing Commander, Col Ken Andreu, was a former cadet of Pantanelli's when she was the squadron commander of the former White Plains Ca-



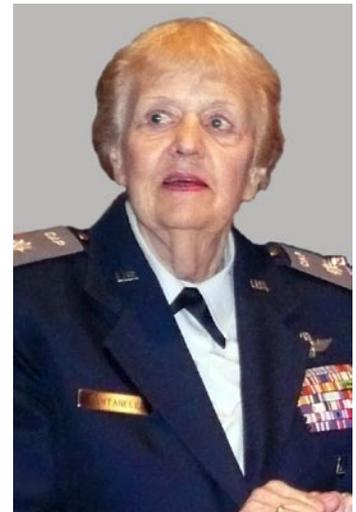
*C/Col. Natasha Cohen receives Spaatz Challenge Coin at the Spaatz Association Dinner in Alexandria, VA Feb. 28 from Association President and former National Commander Brig. Gen. Richard L. Anderson. Behind them is a portrait of the award's namesake, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz.*

det Squadron.

"Lt Col Johnnie Pantanelli is a life member who has dedicated her adulthood to squadron command," said Colonel Andreu. "I was a cadet in that Squadron and remember the night that Johnnie was told she would be going to the North Castle Squadron to be their commander...Over 40 years later, Johnnie is still the squadron commander of North Castle Composite Squadron. She has been offered a multitude of accolades and higher echelon positions, but has never given in to the temptation

or ever thought of leaving behind her squadron. Johnnie has become a pillar of the CAP program in New York Wing."

Of all the CAP core values, integrity is the one that she values above all else, said C/Colonel Cohen, who took and passed her Spaatz exam January 12 on her first attempt. Currently she serves as her squadron's staff advisor whenever she is home from school and she plans to remain a cadet until she is 21 and hopes to nurture and mentor the younger cadets and help them achieve



*Lt. Col. Johnnie Pantanelli, Cadet Cohen's commander, joined CAP in 1944.*

everything they can from the cadet program -- as she had over her six years in the program. During that time she has attended four NY Wing encampments (three as staff), Space Camp in 2003, the Aviation Challenge in 2004, the U.S. Space Command Familiarization Course at Patrick Air Force Base in 2005, and the National Honor Guard Academy in 2006. For the past two summers Cadet Cohen has worked as a research assistant in the U.S. Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Center at West Point which is part of the college's social science department, something she will continue to do this summer as well. Natasha has recently been named as an Aide de Camp to Lt Col Joe Abegg for the 2009 North-East Region Search and Rescue Competition being held on Memorial Day weekend.

She officially will receive her Spaatz Award at a ceremony at NY Wing headquarters on May 29, 2009.

# THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

## Pennsylvania Members Assist with Re-Enactment

by 1st Lt. Bea Gernert

PENNSYLVANIA – Members of Lebanon VFW Cadet Squadron 307 joined with other squadrons from all over the Pennsylvania Wing from Jan. 27-31 to help make sure the World War II Federation's re-enactment of the Battle of the Bulge went smoothly.

In all, 1,545 re-enactors from 37 states and at least three countries participated in the event, held at Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville.

Cadets assisted with security, registration, parking, communications and as road guards. They posted colors for the laying of the wreath at the memorial, retired flags in front of the veterans building and assisted veterans of the battle.

The weather was similar to that prevailing during the historic campaign in Belgium. About 5 inches of snow lay on the ground, topped with a thick layer of ice. Snow fell several times, but the cadets were not deterred from their duties.



**Cadets assisted with registration.** Photos by 1st Lt. Wilson Ballester

Along with the re-enactment, veterans who fought in the actual Battle of the Bulge 64 years ago were invited to stay in the veteran barracks at the site. The veterans – who were informed that German prisoners had been held at Fort Indiantown Gap during World War II -- were taken on a bus tour of the facility, with Maj. Warren Parks, Lebanon squadron commander, serving as their guide.

A busload of the combat veterans and re-enactors vis-

ited the Lebanon VA Medical Center, where they spoke with the patients. They were escorted by a Lebanon squadron senior member who is a volunteer at the hospital.

The evening of Jan. 27, the cadets were greeted by a re-enactor who portrayed Gen. George S. Patton and was accompanied by re-enactors portraying his guards. He delivered one of Patton's famous speeches, then answered the cadets' questions about the general, the war,

uniforms and other aspects of history. He also gave out autographed pictures of himself and was available for photographs with cadets.

The Lebanon squadron also managed to find time for aerospace lessons. The unit's aerospace education officer, 2nd Lt. Art Lyon, brought a huge model airplane to be covered in a special plastic

ironed on to the wood. During downtime, he instructed the cadets on how to cover the model plane. Lyon also brought a disk and laptop to use for lessons on flying.

In addition, Park gave a briefing on the Battle of the Bulge to cadets. The squadron's photographer, 1st Lt. Wilson Ballester, gave a briefing on communication.

Ballester took more than 800 photographs for the squadron during the five-day event.



**Battle of the Bulge re-enactors, including 'Gen. George Patton' (center rear), pose with Lebanon VFW Cadet Squadron.**

# NEW YORK CADET HAS HIS EYES SET ON THE SKIES

## Hereth Continues Family Tradition and Joins Air National Guard

by 1st Lt. Bob Stronach

NEW YORK – Cadet 2nd Lt. Dan Hereth, cadet commander of the Utica Cadet Squadron, has his eyes set on the sky.

He has taken orientation rides in Cessna aircraft, benefited from leadership training and earned the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award to become a cadet second lieutenant.

Now he has become the third generation to join the Air National Guard.

His grandfather, Dr. Arthur Brodsky, joined the Delaware Air National Guard in the 1950s and retired as a lieutenant colonel. His mother, Lt. Col. Elise Hereth, is an Air National Guard officer with the Northeast Air Defense Sector in Rome, NY. His father, Capt. Chuck Hereth, is a pilot and commander of the Utica squadron.

He was sworn in by his



**Cadet Dan Hereth, the third generation in his family to join the Air National Guard, is shown with his mother, Air Force Lt. Col. Elise Hereth, and father, CAPT. Chuck Hereth.**

mother during a ceremony Feb. 6 at the 174th Fighter Wing recruiting station at Hancock Field in Syracuse.

A senior and member of the wrestling team at Vernon-Vernona-Sherrill High School in Vernona, Dan

expects to complete the fall semester at the State University of New York at Oswego before undergoing for Air Force basic and technical training.

He says he plans to continue his membership in the

Utica Cadet Squadron while going to college and serving part-time in the Air National Guard at Hancock Field. He will be assigned to the 152nd Air Operations Group as an aerospace warning and control systems specialist.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT MASSACHUSETTS SQUADRON

### Cadet Offered Appointments to Both Army and Air Force Academies

by Capt. Andrew W. Buck

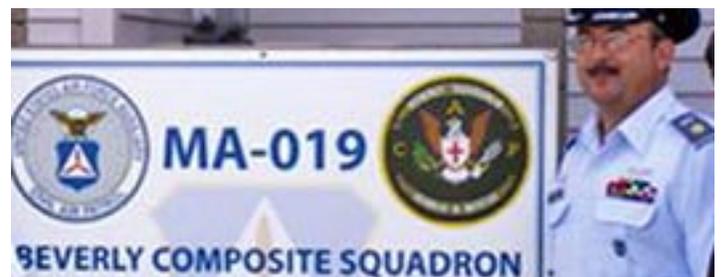
MASSACHUSETTS -- Beverly Composite Squadron members attending the unit's recent annual awards and promotions ceremony saw not only the usual array of honors but also a few new awards, as well as an unusual presentation to the commander and special recognition for a cadet.

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Steven Davidson received an ovation when it was announced he has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West

Point for the Class of 2013. Davidson will be reporting to West Point on June 29 to begin cadet basic training.

He also won an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy but chose to accept the West Point appointment instead. Davidson's blue leather-bound Appointment Certificate was available for all to members to see and appreciate.

The members of the squadron decided to highlight two of unit commander Maj. Thomas Lyons' three major accomplishments during the previous 12 months



**Beverly Squadron Commander Thomas Lyons**

-- acquiring a lease on a new headquarters building at Beverly Municipal Airport and convincing the wing commander, Col. David Belcher, to station an airplane at the Beverly facility -- by presenting him with models of the headquarters

building and of a Civil Air Patrol Cessna 172.

The third achievement, a highly successful World War II hangar dance fundraiser held Sept. 20 was not captured in a model but was remembered as a part of the presentation.

# NEW YORK SQUADRON CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

## Airline Pilot Started Unit in Rural Greene County

By Dave Gordon

Catskill Daily Mail

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009

NEW YORK -- Greene County's Civil Air Patrol squadron turned one year old this week and held a party -- complete with birthday cake.

The Vanguard Composite Squadron, based in Freehold, was largely the creation of its commander, Lt. Col. Sean Neal, according to several members at the party, which was held Jan. 16 at Freehold Community Center.

"Col. Neal and his wife, Capt. Susan Neal, really got this started," said First Lt. Garry Palmer, who held a private pilot's license when he joined and has completed the training to fly for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The organization works with other agencies to help find lost people, locate downed airplanes, provide disaster relief and even help with homeland security and counterdrug operations. The Freehold unit has not participated in search, rescue or other operations, Palmer said. However, unit members train regularly to be prepared when needed.

When the unit started, "the only person who knew anything about it was Col. Neal," Palmer said. "He did it all, but not without instruction from his wife."

Palmer sees the organization as "something good for young people. They can fly and learn survival skills, first aid and CPR. They learn to use radios and participate in search and rescue operations."

Not all CAP members are pilots. In search and rescue operations, ground teams are



**Vanguard Squadron Commander Sean Neal**

important, and the organization also provides education and activities for youth. Cadets can join at age 12 and continue until age 18. After that, they join as adults.

Neal has been involved with CAP since he joined as a cadet 30 years ago in Pennsylvania. He was 15, and his father died six months later.

"Civil Air Patrol gave me some direction," he said. "In college I became a squadron commander in Florida."

When he and his wife, Susan, moved to the area four years ago, he looked for a unit he could join.

"My wife wanted to know how we could tell if Catskill Creek flooded. The answer was, 'Look for water in your basement,'" Neal said. Also, Susan has two teenage sons,

and she found there was not much for them to do in rural Freehold. The nearest CAP units are an hour away, Neal said.

While many CAP pilots gained experience in the U.S. Air Force, Neal does not have a military background. However, he said, "I fly for a living." He's employed by American Eagle as a pilot.

The Vanguard Composite Squadron also helps the community through Toys For Tots, the county's Youth Fair and the Bluegrass Festival, Neal said. The organization provided a color guard at the Veterans' Day observance last year.

Neal owns a 1940 Fairchild airplane, which he keeps at Freehold Airfield.

Lt. Col. Anita Martin,

group commander for the region, said when she took over the job, there was not a CAP unit in Greene County.

"Sean Neal asked why there was no squadron here. I told him, 'You're the man to form one,'" she said. "When you have 16 people applying for membership you can form a squadron."

Martin's region extends from Greene and Columbia counties to near the Canadian border. She coordinates eight squadrons. The regional unit's airplane, a Cessna 182, is based in Schenectady airport, she said.

CAP was founded Dec. 1, 1941 — six days before Pearl Harbor — and became an auxiliary of the Air Force in 1948.

Displays around the room showed photographs of CAP activities and equipment. Many featured flying outings for young people and various encampments over the years.

One display featured a variety of emergency locator transmitters, which alert authorities when an airplane goes down or people are lost. The display included several ELTs small enough to fit in a pocket, and when hikers or campers are lost, they can send a signal to a satellite, which alerts a center in Florida.

As part of the ceremony, Neal presented several members of the squadron with replicas of the membership certificates that were given out to the first CAP members in 1941. He also presented the Freehold Volunteer Fire Department with a certificate of thanks for allowing the squadron to use its space.