

CIVIL AIR PATROL

NINER magazine

serving NER's nine wings

SPRING 2016



Guess who ran into Air Force One on an ELT mission?



CIVIL AIR PATROL



ALWAYS
VIGILANT
FOR AMERICA



75

1941 - 2016



FROM EXERCISE TO REAL-LIFE MISSION.

NH WING HAS NEW COMMANDER.



Col. Dan Leclair
Commander

Col. Edward Burns
Vice Commander/North

Col. Joseph Sirois
Vice Commander/South

Col. Jack Ozer
Chief of Staff

Capt. Robert Stronach
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NINER Magazine is a publication of 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 2016



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ON THE COVER

An ELT mission in New York City took searchers on a journey from a major airport to the harbor, with a stop along the way at Air Force One. PAGE 3.

Photo/Lt. Col. Paul Zuckerberg.

New York Wing just finished a weekend search-and-rescue exercise only to be called out for a real life search mission. Here State Police Captain Scott Heggelke praises CAP members for skill level, dedication, and professionalism. PAGE 10.

Photo/Capt. Michelle Williams-Swing.

Col. Kevin Harbison takes command of New Hampshire Wing. PAGE 6.

Photo/Maj. Penny Hardy.

A 'TYPICAL' ELT MISSION IN NEW YORK CITY

SEARCHING JFK AIRPORT, RUNNING INTO AIR FORCE ONE, AND CRUISING THE HARBOR

By Lt. Col. Paul Zuckerberg
NY City Group commander

The morning starts with a phone call that an emergency locator transmitter (ELT) signal was picked up by several aircraft -- the last being a Jet Blue on approach near the JFK Kennedy Airport VOR. As it is a Wednesday morning (May 2015) and most CAP members are either in school or at work, it is a little difficult to get a ground team. The alert system is activated and many phone calls are made and finally we have a team. As the ELT was last reported on approach to JFK Airport, we chose this as the rally point.

I spoke with the Port Authority Police of New York and New Jersey that cover the three major airports -- JFK, LaGuardia and Newark -- and they were happy to help us with a ramp check of JFK. To give you an idea of the size of airport, the length of the runways made it an alternate site for a space shuttle landing. It's the size of Manhattan Island from 42nd Street to Battery Park. So we took a DF (direction finding) stick and, with the assistance of Port Authority Police (PAPD), made our way out to the ramp area. The ramp of Kennedy is not only large and daunting, it is also very busy and the area we were in seemed to be getting busier by the minute. There were a number of Port Authority Police cars, fire trucks, rescue



A New York Wing ground team had to halt the search for an errant ELT when Air Force One (on cover) arrived, and Marine One (above) got ready to ferry the president to Manhattan. Photo by Lt. Col. Paul Zuckerberg.

vehicles as well as Marine helicopters and several heavily armed NYPD and PAPD police. We wondered, what did we just walk into? The radio got very busy and then very quiet, and then the radio transmission: "Attention all units, attention all units. The ramp is now frozen, the ramp is now frozen. No further movement on the ramp."

The police sergeant accompanying us told us to stay in the vehicle. We were now stopped on the ramp near all this heavily armed equipment. Were we being assisted or were we under arrest? It all became apparent as we saw this beautiful blue, white and silver aircraft pull in. Yes, it was Air Force One. The president was on his way to Manhattan for another fundraising event. We watched as he got off the aircraft and onto one of the Marine helicopters, now making it Marine One. The helicopters took off followed by two V-22 Ospreys, but not before I was lucky

enough to get a few pictures with my smart phone (my first, and I wasn't sure how it worked).

We continued on our search and were unable to find a signal on the airport. The best we could do was identify a signal coming from west of the airport.

We continued our search through the borough of Queens into Brooklyn. We were now in familiar territory. We were at Floyd Bennett field, home of our Floyd Bennett Composite Squadron. We were picking up a signal. We made contact with New York City Police Aviation that just happens to be based at Floyd Bennett Field and asked them to let us know if they pick up a signal. Their response was a negative, but they would let us know if they do.

The day is getting long and we are tired. We call into base to find out that Long Island Group has a ground team ready to go, so we advise

where we were, what we've done and let LIG continue the search. In the morning, I find out that they are looking for another ground team from New York City. The search team from Long Island Group did what they could but had to terminate their search due to a lightning storm. We continued the search where LIG left off in the area of Howard Beach in Queens and were receiving a strong signal. We knocked on some doors and gained access to the backyard of some houses. We continued to pick up a strong signal; it seemed to be coming from directly across the canal. We looked at each other and said can it really be them? Directly across from us was NYPD Harbor Patrol.

We drove to the NYPD Harbor unit and introduce ourselves and asked if we could check out their boat. Yes, they do have the 406hz in the boat, but they could still have an old 121.5 onboard. Our search was negative, but

we were still getting a signal from the canal. Harbor patrol asked if they could help and offered to give us a ride. After calling into mission base, we graciously accepted.

We cruised up and down the canal chasing a bouncing signal. Keying in on one boat, we pulled up to the dock and continued to receive a strong signal from both sides of the boat. The owner was not present and NYPD did not have a warrant, so we unable to board the boat without permission. A neighbor offered to call the boat owner who supposedly was not far away. NYPD must have been interested in what we were doing and was having a light day as five more police officers came from landside. As we were just standing around waiting for the owner, we remembered to never miss an opportunity for recruiting. I had a large elevated boat platform and let a number of NYPD officers and neighbors know who we are and what opportunities are available in Civil Air Patrol.

The boat owner showed up in about an hour. He said he didn't think he had an ELT, but he was not sure. An extensive search proved negative and we continued our search on the canal. Once again we were getting a strong signal and it con-



Ground team on NYPD boat: from left, C/2d Lt Herman Bayter, Derian Urena, 1st Lt Ishfaque Kamal, Lt Col Paul Zuckerberg.

tinued to get stronger and stronger. Through blocking and a frequency change, we determined that another boat was most likely the source.

NYPD ran the registration number on the boat which gave us all the boat information, but the address came up as a post office box. We contacted the marina owner who said he has the phone number of the owner. Unfortunately, he is upstate and the number is in his office and he won't be back until tomorrow. We asked that he give us the owner's number or have the owner contact us when he gets back.

We gave all the informa-

tion to the IC and secured for the night. The next day I had business in the area, so I printed a couple of notes to place on the boat so the owner would know whom to contact. While there, I contacted the marina owner who was in his office and apologized for not getting back to us.

I called the boat owner who gave me permission to board the boat. He said he did not know what I was talking about, but if he did have that type of equipment, it would be in storage well in the back of the boat. He just got the boat a couple of months ago. I boarded the

boat and had the ELT in hand in a couple of seconds. I silenced the ELT and informed the owner who said, "I turned it on, but I didn't know was it was." Not the first time I heard that. All notifications were made and the mission was over (of course, after all the paperwork).

A trip around John F. Kennedy Airport with help from Port Authority Police, Air Force One, a Presidential movement, Marine One, V-22 Ospreys, a ride on an NYPD Harbor boat, and a find.

May be not a typical ELT mission, but such is life in New York City.



Lt. Col. Paul Zuckerberg

SEARCH TEAM MEMBERS FROM NY CITY AND LONG ISLAND

Members of the New York City Group search team were: Herman Bayter, Derian Urena, Ishfaque Kamal, David Saldana, Lawrence Zuckerberg, Paul Zuckerberg.

Members of the Long Island Group search team were: Demetri Bountinas, Mitchel Klass, Christopher Miles, Derek Profit, James Ridley, Daniel Rogers.

WELCOME FROM NORTHEAST REGION COMMANDER

Commander's Message by Col. Dan Leclair

Welcome to the joint Massachusetts Wing / Northeast Region Conference. This year marks Civil Air Patrol's 75th Anniversary and today CAP's volunteers stand ready to take on such challenges as natural and manmade disasters and searches for missing aircraft or individuals.

In CAP's formative years, during the early days of American involvement in the war, the perils were mostly posed by enemy combatants, in the form of Nazi U-boats threatening U.S. shipping – especially oil tankers – off the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. CAP's founders flew patrols that discouraged and eventually stopped the U-boat attacks. They also patrolled the country's borders by air, towed targets for military trainees, spotted forest fires, conducted search and rescue missions, provided disaster relief and emergency transport of people and parts and conducted orientation flights for future pilots.

In many ways, our pioneering members were ahead of their time in devoting themselves to serving their com-



Col. Dan Leclair

munities and their country as volunteers. And just like their CAP counterparts today, when they risked life and limb to help protect the home front during wartime, they weren't looking for recognition.

Today, we come to historic Amherst, Massachusetts and to the joint Massachusetts Wing / Northeast Region Conference. Amherst is the home of Emily Dickinson who was a prolific poet publishing nearly 1,800 poems during her lifetime. Emily Dickinson is now considered



a powerful and persistent figure in American culture.

Although much of the early reception concentrated on Dickinson's eccentric and secluded nature, she has become widely acknowledged as an innovative, pre-modernist poet. As early as 1891, William Dean Howells wrote: "If nothing else had come out of our life but this strange poetry, we should feel that in the work of Emily Dickinson, America, or New England rather, had made a distinctive addition to the literature

of the world, and could not be left out of any record of it." Twentieth-century critic Harold Bloom has placed her alongside Walt Whitman, Wallace Stevens, Robert Frost, T. S. Eliot, and Hart Crane as a major American poet, and in 1994 listed

her among the 26 central writers of Western civilization.

Please enjoy your visit to the Amherst area and to the Massachusetts Wing / Northeast Region Conference and our early New England Spring weather. I leave you with a simple Emily Dickinson poem appropriate to the season ...

*The sun just touched the morning;
The morning, happy thing,
Supposed that he had come to dwell,
And life would be all spring.*

-- EMILY DICKINSON,
"The Sun's Wooing"

PA WING CONDUCTS WEEKEND COLD WEATHER TRAINING EXERCISE

BERLIN, PA. – Pennsylvania Wing conducted a weekend cold weather training exercise here in February. The series of simulated missions brought together 70 cadets, 43 senior members, volunteer firefighters, emergency management

officials and Pennsylvania State Police, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported.

The weekend kicked off with a search for a "missing" nursing home resident. "They filled backpacks for a 72-hour mission and began combing the half of a square

mile surrounding the nursing home, knocking on doors, combing through woods and taking cues from a canine unit," the newspaper reported. "In about two hours, the 'missing' person — a brother of one of the cadets who was sitting in a Subway restaurant

— was found and returned to safety. By 12:30 p.m., the stone-faced cadets, ranging in age from 13 to 21, returned wearily to the Berlin Fire Hall for debriefing and a much-earned lunch."

Thus ended the first part of the annual event.

NEW HAMPSHIRE WING HAS NEW COMMANDER

RETIRED ARMY OFFICER HELPED START SQUADRON AT SCHOOL

By Maj. Penny Hardy

New Hampshire Wing held a change of command ceremony on Jan. 20 at the wing headquarters in Concord, NH. The ceremony is a time honored tradition where the outgoing commander hands the unit flag to the next higher commander, with the words, "I relinquish command." The flag is then handed to the incoming commander with the words, "I accept command."

With those words, Col. Dale Hardy, outgoing interim commander, turned over command to New Hampshire Wing's new commander, Col. Kevin Harbison. Kevin Harbison.

Colonel Harbison is a graduate of Saint Leo University near Tampa, FL where he received a BA in Technology Management and Computer Science. He is married to Christine Harbison and they have four children ranging in age from 21 to 14. He retired from the U.S. Army after a 22-year career that saw him serving ever increasing levels of leadership. His assignments included Demolitions



Northeast Region Commander Col. Dan Leclair presents flag of command to Col. Kevin Harbison. Photo by Maj. Penny Hardy.

Team Chief, Detachment Command, Company Command and Battalion Operations Officer. His military career culminated with his assignment as Assistant Professor of Military Science at North Carolina A & T in Greensboro, North Carolina.

On retiring from the military he focused on flying and operation of his maritime crewing company. He

joined the Civil Air Patrol in 2008 along with two of his sons. Colonel Harbison went on to serve as squadron commander for the Greater Nashua Composite Squadron and helped organize the Humphrey Cadet Squadron at The Academy for Science and Design in Nashua, NH. This squadron was the first to be formed at a school in New Hampshire. He teaches

aerospace education at the school.

He has served on many CAP emergency services operations and cadet activities over the years. He is a recipient of the Wing Squadron Commander of the Year award. He is master rated in Aerospace, Cadet Programs and Logistics, is a mission observer and Ground Branch director.

NY SPAATZ CADET WANTS TO BE PARARESCUEMAN

HORSEHEADS, NY – Cadet Col. (select) Joel Winkler is South Central Group's newest recipient of the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, Chemung Schuyler Cadet Squadron announced.

Cadet Winkler joined CAP in December 2009 at the age of 13. He "loved

encampment," returning to work as staff in 2012. He participated in several regional and national cadet activities, including a 2013 Cadet Flight Academy and the 2014 Pararescue Orientation Course in New Mexico.

He volunteers in the local fire department, and he

received extensive training at an emergency services trade school in Texas, specializing in professional SCUBA diving and underwater search/recovery.

Cadet Winkler plans to enlist in the Air Force this fall in the hope of becoming a pararescueman.



THE NORTHEAST REGION'S FINEST REGION COMMANDER ANNOUNCES ANNUAL AWARDS

Northeast Region Commander Col. Dan Leclair announced the top performers throughout the nine-wing region. The awards and recipients are:

1. Aerospace Education Officer of the Year: Maj Andrew Notarfrancesco, Northeast Philadelphia Composite Squadron NER-PA-214.
2. Character Development Officer of the Year: 2Lt Corrina Roman-Kreuze, Hanscom Composite Squadron NER-MA-043.
3. Cadet of the Year: C/Col Matthew Jackson, Twin Pine Composite Squadron NER-NJ-092.
4. Cadet NCO of the Year: C/MSgt Samantha Thompson, Williamsport Composite Squadron NER-PA-065.
5. Cadet Programs Officer of the Year: Maj David Stansfield, 103rd Composite Squadron NER-CT-004.
6. Property Manager of the Year: Maj Donna Finch, 106th Cadet Squadron NER-RI-037.
7. Legislative Officer of the Year: Lt Col Dan Brooks, Connecticut Wing NER-CT-001.
8. Safety Officer of the Year: CMSgt Gene Westerlind, Goddard Cadet Squadron NER-MA-007.
9. Public Affairs Officer of the Year: Lt Col Stephen Rocketto, Thames River Composite Squadron NER-CT-075.
10. Communicator of the Year: Maj Sean Dunn, Teaneck Composite Squadron NER-NJ-035.
11. Historian of the Year: TSgt George Brizek, Reading Composite Squadron 811 NER-PA-089.
12. Counter Drug Officer of the Year: Lt Col Paul Falavolito, Pennsylvania Wing NER-PA-001.
13. Senior Member of the Year: Lt Col LouAnn Maffei-Iwuc, Goddard Cadet Squadron NER-MA-007.
14. Professional Development Officer of the Year: Lt Col Glenda Belden, Westover Composite Squadron NER-MA-015.
15. Drug Demand Reduction Officer of the Year: Capt Michele Herrmann, Rochester Composite Squadron NER-NY-273.
16. IC Staff Officer of the Year: Lt Col Darren Cioffi, Connecticut Wing NER-CT-001.
17. Aerospace Teacher of the Year: Capt Jeanne Cirone, Lt Col Michael R. Noyes Middle School NER-NY-803.
18. Wing Director of FM: Col Cassandra Huchko, Connecticut Wing NER-CT-001.
19. Inspector General of the Year: Lt Col James Fallon, Massachusetts Wing NER-MA-001.
20. AFA CAP Aerospace Cadet of the Year: C/TSgt Facundo Cremel, Stratford Eagles Composite Squadron NER-CT-022.
21. Ground Team of the Year: South Central Group NER-NY-084.
22. Paul W Turner Safety Award: Vermont Wing.
23. Squadron of Distinction: Hanscom Composite Squadron – NER-MA-043.
24. Brewer Award/Cadet: C/2Lt Elias Bou-Chahine, CT.
25. Brewer Award/Senior: Lt Col Michael Castania, NJ
26. Brewer Award/Organization: Aldrich Astronomical Society, MA.
27. Brewer Award/Lifetime: Maj Robert Aceves, NY.

97-YEAR-OLD NJ NATIVE RECEIVES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Muriel Chalow, a 97-year-old New Jersey native who served with the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, received a Congressional Gold Medal in January during an afternoon ceremony at her daughter's home in Cape Charles, VA, news media reported. She also accepted a Gold Medal on behalf of her late husband, Rudolph "Rudy" Chalow.

Rudy Chalow, a pilot who met Muriel at an airport next to her family's farm in Vineland, NJ, was one of the

members of the coastal base located in Atlantic City, NJ.

Shortly after their marriage on Feb. 6, 1943, Muriel Chalow left her job as a secretary to work at the Atlantic City base with her husband, an auto mechanic by trade who worked on the planes that he flew, the Delmarva Daily Times reported.

"To me, it's something we did because of the necessity at the time," Muriel said.

The newspaper reported: "She and other women worked inside the Atlantic

City base's plotting room. There they received radio reports of German U-boat longitude and latitude coordinates that were then plotted on physical maps. Just six weeks after getting married, Muriel Chalow was in the plotting room the day her husband crashed his plane into the Atlantic Ocean while on a practice bombing mission. She plotted the coordinates of the crash site and communicated with the Coast Guard during the successful rescue of her husband."

New Jersey Wing Commander Col. Steven Tracy told news media that Muriel was the first living New Jersey native to receive the Congressional Gold Medal for her WW II service. "To meet her... it's very, very moving," said Tracy, who presented Muriel with her late husband's Gold Medal.

Tracy, along with fellow members of the New Jersey Wing, were flown to the home of Merle and Bob Starer by members of Virginia Wing.

BELOW-ZERO WIND CHILL DOESN'T STOP MAINE EXERCISE TEAMS SEARCH FOR 'DOWNED' PLANE, DO PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE

By Capt. Mark Hyland

PORTLAND, MAINE – Maine Wing members braved below-zero wind chills on Saturday, January 23, for a Portland search-and-rescue training exercise. The Wing devoted four airplanes, a number of sorties, and a team of ground searchers to search for a staged airplane crash. Air and ground teams had to communicate and coordinate their efforts to find the well-hidden wreckage.

“The training exercise sharpened members’ search-and-rescue skills in a mock exercise,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Weinstein, incident commander. The Wing was preparing for a biennial CAP Search and Rescue evaluation that takes place in April.

In addition, a ground team from Caribou conducted photo reconnaissance of river ice in central Aroostook County to look for ice jams. Additional missions were flown to take aerial photography of the Jetport and a dam for emergency management purposes and to train new mission pilots.

The Portland Jetport Airport was the center of operations for the exercise, which drew more than 30 members from squadrons in Caribou, Portland, Lewiston, Augusta, Bangor and Bar Harbor.



Air Operations Branch Director Capt. Mark Beck (distant center) directs team during mission planning. BELOW: Runway 29 at Portland Jetport. Photos by Capt. Mark Hyland.



VERMONT SQUADRON DECORATES EVERY VETERAN'S GRAVE

BARRE, VT — Members of Vermont’s Capital Composite Squadron were finally able to do something they’ve been hoping to since they began participating in Wreaths Across America five years ago, the Barre-Montpelier Times-Argus reported Dec. 17.

For the first time, the grave of every veteran buried at

Hope Cemetery — roughly 2,300 in all — was decorated with a balsam remembrance wreath.

“Thanks to a nationwide spike in donations for the program, the local patrol learned it would be receiving more than 2,000 extra wreaths — enough to blanket Hope Cemetery in a ges-

ture of gratitude for the freedoms all Americans enjoy,” the newspaper reported.

For some of the cadets this annual event hits a little closer to home, reported myChamplainValley.com.

“I always try to get here first so I can lay a wreath on my grandfathers grave,” Cadet Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Wen-

del was quoted as saying. “I think that if my grandfather was here right now he would be extremely proud of me; he’d like the fact that my whole squadron is here being able to do this for all the veterans that have served their country and have died or passed away after their service.”

NJ CADET RECEIVES SPAATZ AWARD AT PENTAGON

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III presented the General Carl A. Spaatz Award to Cadet Col. Matthew Jackson, a cadet from New Jersey, during a Nov. 9 ceremony at the Pentagon.

"We're recognizing Matt as he joins an elite group," Welsh said. "Just 0.2 -- not 2.2 -- percent of Civil Air Patrol cadets earn the Spaatz award."

The Spaatz award was established in 1964 and is the Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor. Since its inception, only 2,003 cadets have earned the Spaatz award -- on average, two out of every 1,000.

Jackson serves in the Twin Pine Composite Squadron of the New Jersey Wing, West Trenton, New Jersey.



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III presents New Jersey Wing Cadet Matthew C. Jackson with the General Carl A. Spaatz Award at the Pentagon, Nov. 9, 2015. U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash.

LOVE OF FLYING RUNS DEEP IN MAINE'S GODFREY FAMILY

By Capt. Mark Hyland

One might say a love of flying -- and the Civil Air Patrol -- runs deep in Maine's Godfrey family.

Donald Godfrey, promoted to lieutenant colonel Dec. 1 during Maine Wing's annual meeting at Augusta State Airport, is a mission pilot with more than 2,500 flying hours. He is the wing's director of operations as well as former wing vice commander and chief of staff. He has been flying for over 40 years, following the lead of his aviator father and airport owner grandfather.

In 1925 grandfather E. R. Godfrey developed the first Bangor Airport, known as Godfrey Field, which he sold to the U.S. government in 1940 to later become Dow Air Force Base. His father, Col. Prentiss Godfrey, served in CAP during World War II, patrolling for enemy



Lt. Col. Godfrey receives his new shoulder boards from Maine Wing Commander Col. James Jordan. Photo by Maj. Warren King.

submarines along Maine's coast. The family recently received Col. Godfrey's replica Congressional Gold Medal, a copy of the Gold Medal awarded by Congress to honor all Civil Air Patrol's WWII "Sub-Chasers."

Lt. Col. Godfrey, a finan-

cial professional by vocation, has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol since joining the Cumberland County Composite Squadron in Portland in 1998. In addition to volunteering with CAP, Godfrey likes to fly, with his wife, in a Grumman Tiger

that he has owned since 2011. He also volunteers in the Grumman light plane owners group, the American Yankee Association, and is a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and the Aero Club of New England.

NY GOES FROM SEARCH-AND-RESCUE EXERISE TO SEARCH FOR MISSING ELDERLY MAN

By Capt. Robert Stronach

New York Wing emergency services personnel were having a busy week last August.

Only hours after concluding a weekend training exercise, coordinating air and ground searches out of multiple bases, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) alerted them to be ready to join a missing person search the next day (Monday) with state forest rangers.

Initially 30 ground personnel joined the search for an 81-year-old man in the Cincinnati area, CAP Mission Incident Commander Lt. Col. Bill Hughes said. More than 50 were on scene the following day.

“We reached out to Pennsylvania Wing since the forest rangers wanted to saturate the search area,” Hughes said.

“CAP personnel from



Maj. Robert Ormsbee briefs ground team before heading out on a search. Photos by Capt. Mark Swing..

New York and Pennsylvania Wings provided 235 person days of searchers, flew three

air sorties for both visual and imaging of the six-mile-square search area over the

six days we were involved. We provided 1,609 geo-tagged images of the search to the ICP (Incident Command Post).”

In addition, CAP provided “a radio relay on a ridge to get a radio link over a hill” to the command center in Cincinnati.

Capt. Mark Swing, CAP’s on-site ground base director, noted that CAP received “good marks for sending in trained teams that can be briefed, do the job, get debriefed and sent back out for more.” The incident commander, Forest Ranger Joan Oldroyd, told Captain Swing: “You folks are awesome.”

The missing elderly man, who was reported to have a history of heart problems and other medical conditions, was eventually found in a wooded area by a person walking a dog. He was taken to a hospital for medical attention, and died a day later from complications.



Capt. Joe Falbo debriefs with Forest Ranger Joan Oldroyd. The comm vehicle provided a hilltop radio link to the command center.

CONNECTICUT WING AIRCREW SPOTS BRUSH FIRE

FAST-MOVING BLAZE SPEWED SMOKE 3,000 FEET IN THE AIR

A Connecticut Wing aircrew returning from a routine flight last September spotted a bush fire in a state forest near New Fairfield and reported it to Danbury Air Traffic Control, which alerted fire officials.

Firefighters from several towns ended up battling the fast-moving brush fire, which grew from about 3 to 10 acres in just over an hour, news media reported.

The smoke was as high as 3,000 feet when the aircrew flew in the area, said Wing Commander Colonel Ken Chapman. The aircrew took aerial photos of the fire.



Aerial photo of brush fire taken by Connecticut Wing.

LONG ISLAND GROUP REDICATES HEADQUARTERS FACILITY NOW BEARS NAME OF COL. PAUL HALSTEAD

By Maj James A. Ridley II

HOLBROOK, NY, Sept. 12, 2015 - Thirty six years after former New York Wing Commander Col. Paul C. Halstead cut the ribbon on the new Long Island Group Headquarters, his son and family rededicated the same facility, which was renamed in the colonel's honor after undergoing a major facelift.

The ceremony attracted senior and cadet members of the Group, along with New York Wing Commander Col. Steve Perta, Northeast Region Commander Col. Daniel Leclair, region Chief of Staff Col. Jack Ozer and region Director of Operations Col. Dave Braun, among others.

The host for the day was Long Island Group Commander Lt. Col. Lou Fenech Jr., who oversaw the renovation.

The headquarters is located on the grounds of the Town of Islip's Macarthur Airport

in Holbrook, NY. The renovation included roof repairs, a paint job, a new more efficient heating and cooling system, backup generator, and new carpeting. The kitchen received new floor tile, cabi-

nets and counters.

Long Island Group Plans and Programs Officer 1st Lt. Mark Delorfano introduced Colonel Perta who spoke of the history of the Civil Air Patrol and New York Wing, and Lt. Colonel Fenech recounted Colonel Halstead's contributions and the positions he held in CAP dating back to its founding. The Halstead family was introduced to the audience, and the group commander, along with the wing and region commanders, presented them with Colonel Halstead's Congressional Gold Medal.

Following the medal presentation, the colonel's son, Paul Halstead, cut the ceremonial ribbon adorning the front door of the headquarters.



Paul Halstead holds his father's Congressional Gold Medal, and Lt. Col. Lou Fenech Jr. presents the dedication plaque.

12 CADETS FROM 2 NORTHEAST WINGS COMPETE

96 CADETS MAKE IT TO NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION

Cadets from Pennsylvania and New York were among the 96 cadets from across America participating in the 2015 National Cadet Competition Dec. 30-Jan. 2 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The competition renewed a prestigious CAP inspection and drill event that originated nearly 70 years ago. Describing them as “Civil Air Patrol’s very best cadets,” Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez, CAP’s national commander, noted: “These cadets work year-round to get here.”

The Northeast Region cadets are:

Pennsylvania Wing

Allegheny Co. Composite Squadron 602

- Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Noah Wolfe
- Cadet Staff Sgt. Steven Babyak
- Cadet Staff Sgt. Seth Parker
- Cadet Senior Airman Jarrett Niecgoriski
- Cadet Airman Brianna DeYarmin

Washington Composite Squadron

- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Zachary Keyes

New York Wing

Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 10

- Cadet Capt. Derek Profit
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Michael Russo



New York Wing's Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 10 working together during the Team Leadership Problem event.

- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Alison Shumway
- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kyle Velez
- Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Nicholas Molinelli
- Cadet Master Sgt. Nicholas Volpe

Returning after a one-year hiatus, the competition has been reduced to teams of six cadets, and the menu of competi-

tive events is much more diverse. “Whereas the previous competition focused on military drill, the new model includes model rocketry, a fitness circuit, public speaking, team leadership problems and more,” said Curt LaFond, director of cadet programs at CAP National Headquarters.

CADETS HONOR NEW JERSEY SQUADRON COMMANDER

Story and photo by Andrew Liput

ROCKAWAY, NJ -- The cadet members of the New Jersey’s Picatinny Composite Squadron honored Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Michael Dolan in December for his 41 years in the Civil Air Patrol by presenting him with a special wooden box with the CAP logo.

Lt. Colonel Dolan, who served in the heavy weapons infantry in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, has been an active senior CAP officer since



Lt. Col. Michael Dolan poses with Cadet Capt. Daniel Banas and the award he received from his cadets.

1974. During that time he has received two Commander’s Commendation Awards, and every Air Force Auxiliary

award including the prestigious Gil Rob Wilson Award. Col. Dolan is a resident of Jefferson Township, NJ, is

married and has two sons, one of whom was a CAP cadet in the early 1990s. He retired in 2011 after many years in sales at Frito Lay Corp.

When asked why CAP was important to him, Dolan said: “When I was a young man and joined as a cadet in 1961, there were many adults who mentored me and helped me grow as a young adult. I wanted to give some of that back.”

He added: “I remember most fondly my first encampment as a cadet in the summer of 1962 at McGuire Air Force Base. It had a tremendous impact on me.”

3 GENERATIONS SERVED IN CIVIL AIR PATROL

NJ HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT JOINS DAD AND WWII GRANDDAD

ROCKAWAY, NJ -- When Mountain Lakes High School sophomore Sloane Liput joined the Civil Air Patrol in October 2015, she became the third generation in her family to serve. Sloane joined her father Andrew Liput, the Picatinny (NJ) Squadron's public affairs officer, and her 88-year-old grandfather, Andrew Liput Sr., who served as a sub chaser with CAP from 1944 to 1945.

Sloane's grandfather was recruited into a special cadet aerospace training program while in high school in back in 1944. He had experience crop dusting, and since five of his brothers were already in the war, he was not likely going to be sent overseas. Flying for Civil Air Patrol was appealing to him. "It was a much more attractive way to serve than digging foxholes," Liput recalled. "I was required to take a ground school course, and then was assigned to fly with an



Andrew Liput, Sr. and his granddaughter, Sloane Liput, pose with a photo of Liput's WWII Avenger aircraft and his pilot's wings. Photo by Andrew Liput.

Army Air Force Captain in a Grumman Avenger two-seater fighter plane based at Avoca Naval Air Station in Pennsylvania." The eldest Liput, who now resides in Pennington in Mercer County, flew submarine spotting missions along the eastern seaboard until the war ended in August 1945.

His most vivid memory: "Running low on fuel on a return flight and nearly crashing in the Poconos. We still had a live torpedo latched underneath and were in a residential area. Eventually I found a small airport and refueled, but I had ulcers for three years after that!"

Sloane, who would like to

attend West Point, noted: "I only recently discovered my grandfather's war service and have really enjoyed listening to his stories, especially how he received his wings with Civil Air Patrol and how his Army pilot cut his shirt tail when he soloed in the fighter plane."

NH MEMBER HOPES TO SEE MEMORIAL FOR VETS

By Maj. Penny Hardy

New Hampshire Wing Legislative Affairs Officer Maj. Preston Lawrance has been a key proponent for a Global War on Terror monument to be located in the Memorial Garden area of the State Veteran's Cemetery in Boscawen. Major Lawrance felt that a memorial was needed for War on Terror veterans.

After speaking with the cemetery director, he was given the go ahead to begin working on a proposal and getting a design

drawn up. The Memorial Monument Fund has a goal of raising \$80,000 to construct the monument. Recently the fund received a substantial donation of \$20,000 from the Service Credit Union.

Major Lawrance, who is board chair for the Global War on Terror memorial works at the VA Hospital in Manchester, NH, and 2014 Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sgt. Ryan Pitts were showcased on WMUR-TV discussing the significance of the memorial. Pitts, who served in Afghanistan, is a New Hampshire resident.



Rendering of proposed monument with service member Photoshopped in image.

MAINE PROMOTES VETERAN AVIATOR WARREN KING

By Capt. Mark Hyland

The Lewiston Auburn Squadron hosted a promotion ceremony on Feb. 4 at the Lewiston-Auburn Airport, where Northeast Region Commander Col. Daniel Leclair officially promoted Maj. Warren King of Auburn to lieutenant colonel. A CAP member since 2008, King is a mission pilot with nearly 6,000 flight hours. He has been flying for over 50 years, starting when he served in the Air Force in the 1950s. He has served as Maine Wing maintenance officer and squadron maintenance officer, and is currently director of maintenance for the Northeast Region.

Also attending the ceremony was Maine Wing Commander Col. James Jordan.



Col. Daniel Leclair and Maj. Mary Story-King pin new shoulder boards on Lt. Col. Warren King.
Photo by Capt. Mark Hyland

Director of maintenance for the Region is a demanding job with 70 airplanes, six gliders, and pilots spread across nine wings from New Jersey to Maine. Gliders need rebuilding, new planes need testing and delivery, and older planes need work to stay operational. King has mentored

a number of Maine Wing pilots in the proper care and flying of CAP aircraft. He is qualified in all CAP aircraft from the computer glass Cessna 206 Stationair to the steam gauge Cessna 172 Skyhawk.

King joined the Air Force in 1955 and trained as a flight engineer in the C-119 Flying

Boxcar and the B-26 bomber. He learned to fly using the GI Bill after leaving the Air Force and spent many years as a crop duster.

Lt. Colonel King and Maj. Mary Story-King, wing recruiting and retention officer, were also awarded the Paul E. Garber Award.

NH CADETS PARTICIPATE IN CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT DAY

By Cadet First Lt. Ethan Gray

Eight cadets from all over New Hampshire participated in a Character Development Day at the University of New Hampshire on Jan. 30.

The cadets learned how

to better themselves, how to work as a team, and how to build character.

Guest speaker U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Thomas Lee spoke to the cadets about character and pursuing excellence with the people around

them and with their community.

The cadets also learned about trust and teamwork at The Browne Center in Durham. One of the activities was trying to balance each other on a large

balance board with little to no touches on either side of the board. Another exercise was transporting everyone from one “Island” to another across a “raging river” while only using certain stepping stones.



Cadets pose with CAP mentors at University of New Hampshire. Photo by Capt. Darlene Cray

CONGRESSMAN HELPS PRESENT GOLD MEDAL

NIAGARA FALLS MAN SERVED IN CAP DURING WORLD WAR II

Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26) joined members of the Civil Air Patrol in January for a special presentation of a Congressional Gold Medal to Niagara Falls resident Frank A. Supkowski for his World War II CAP service.

“On behalf of a grateful nation, we are honored to recognize the service of Frank Supkowski, who eagerly sought to support the work of U.S. troops and defend this country as a member of the Civil Air Patrol and later a member of the United States Army,” said Congressman Higgins.

Added New York Wing Commander Col. Steven J. Perta: “We are honored to recognize one of the early pioneers of the Civil Air Patrol.” In 2016, he said, CAP is celebrating “75 years of service to America building upon the missions of Homeland Security, Aerospace Education, Emergency Services and the Cadet Program that were started in 1941.”

Supkowski, a Pennsylvania native, became a CAP cadet in 1943 during WWII, while still attending high school. He was eager to help with the war effort but was too young to enlist in the Army. His duties included attending National



World War II CAP member Frank Supkowski holds his Congressional Gold Medal. Flanking him are Congressman Brian Higgins and New York Wing Commander Col. Steven Perta.

Guard meetings, serving as a lookout trained to identify enemy aircraft, and driving transport vehicles. Following his graduation from High School he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in China. He later settled in Niagara Falls and built a long career with the DuPont Company.

Colonel Perta, Pennsylvania Wing Commander Col. Gary Fleming, and Western New York Group Commander Lt. Col. John Risio were among CAP dignitaries at the presentation, which took place at the Western New York Group Military Ball on Jan. 23.

During the Second World

War over 100,000 men and women served in the Civil Air Patrol.

CAP flew about 750,000 hours during World War II, on coastal patrols looking for submarines, towing targets for military training, conducting search and rescue, and protecting the borders.

World War II CAP member Frank Supkowski offers a few remarks after accepting the Gold Medal from Congressman Brian Higgins (left) and New York Wing Commander Col. Steven Perta (right).

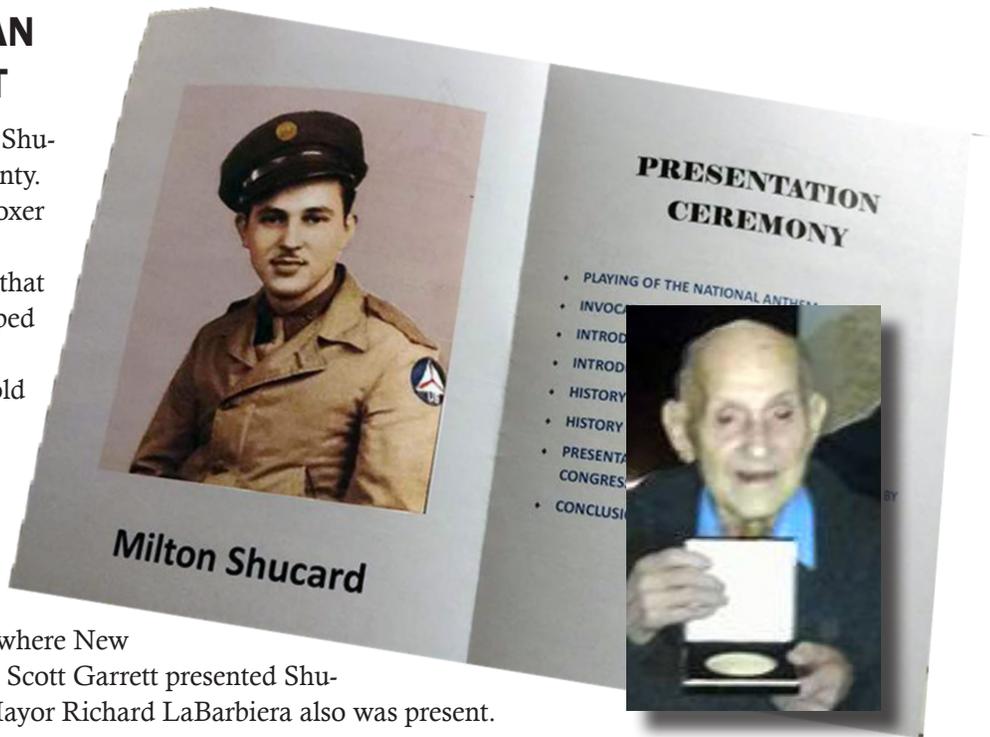


NOTABLES AROUND THE NORTHEAST

NJ WING, CONGRESSMAN HONOR WWII CAP PILOT

PARAMUS, NJ -- Milton "Manny" Shucard of Paramus has accomplished plenty. He fought 12 times as a professional boxer under the name "Jersey Devil." He restored a 1959 Jaguar XK150 Roadster that was used in four movies. He even jumped out of planes as a paratrooper. Now, NorthJersey.com reports, the 93-year-old Shucard adds another achievement to a life fully lived: a Congressional Gold Medal for his service as a Civil Air Patrol pilot during World War II.

Shucard was honored at a ceremony held Feb. 16 at CareOne at The Cypola, a senior community in Paramus where New Jersey Wing leaders and Congressman Scott Garrett presented Shucard with the Gold Medal. Paramus Mayor Richard LaBarbiera also was present.



PA CAPTAIN STARS IN 'SURVIVOR'

On "Survivor: Kaoh Rong -- Brains vs. Brawn vs. Beauty," Civil Air Patrol Capt. Debbie Wanner is a member of the Brains tribe. The 49-year-old chemist from Reading, PA, is a seven-year member of Reading Composite Squadron 811. Wanner is one of 18 contestants on Season 32 of the popular reality television show. "Survivor: Kaoh Rong" debuted Feb. 17 on CBS, as Wanner and friends watched her premiere at a Berks County restaurant, reports WFMZ-TV.

DOUBLE HONOR FOR WWII PILOT

HOLBROOK, NY -- Col. Paul C. Halstead, who flew coastal patrols for the Civil Air Patrol in World War II, received double posthumous honors Sept. 12 at Long Island MacArthur Airport. He received a Congressional Gold Medal, and the Long Island Group Headquarters was dedicated in his honor.

Long Island Group Commander Lt. Col. Louis Fenech Jr. noted that Halstead was a pilot with Coastal Patrol Base 17 in River-

head. In 1942, he took command of the newly formed Hicksville Squadron on Long Island. In 1948, he was named deputy commander of the newly formed Long Island Group where he served until he was asked to become the operations officer at the Northeast Region. He served in that position and then as the Region's deputy commander until he took command of New York Wing in 1972. Born in 1915, Colonel Halstead died in 2010.

A GOLD MEDAL ON 101ST BIRTHDAY

Seventy years after Michael Popovich ended his World War II service in Civil Air Patrol, he received what he described as "one of the best birthday gifts ever" on his 101st birthday party Oct. 17 when Col. Cassandra Huchko (left), former Connecticut Wing commander, and the wing's chief of staff, Lt. Col. James Ridley Sr. (right), presented him with his replica Congressional Gold Medal. The West Hartford, Conn., resident was a flight officer for Connecticut Wing.



Photo by Don Caruso