



ON GUARD

SAN FRANCISCO BAY GROUP 2

Photo Credit: Mr. Adam Briozza, a friend of Squadron 192

Group 2's Online Magazine

Welcome to On Guard

By 2d Lt Elisa Muresan, CAP

Welcome to the **Volume 4, Issue 1** of **On Guard**.

April was the Volunteer Appreciation Month. Thank you for all you do for Civil Air Patrol. Guess what? Your volunteerism has been recognized by the Headquarter. We received the Unit Citation Award for our service during the period from 01 Jan 2019 through 30 Apr 2022. Let us celebrate at the 2024 California Wing Conference, where the California Wing Commander, Colonel Craig E. Newton, will present the Unit Citation certificate and streamer. You must have known by now, the Wing Conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton, San Jose, California. See you all there, Group 2.

In this issue, I would like to try a new format for our beloved online magazine. Thank you to all of you from ten squadrons in San Francisco Bay Area Group 2, who have submitted your pictures and stories. This is your magazine, and **we welcome all your contributions to it with short stories, photos, and short videos of your Squadron or event.**

Enjoy the Volume 4, Issue 1, edition of On Guard.

We are looking for articles for the **July edition**. Please send all articles to the Group 2 website [Here](#) or email elisa.muresan@kawgcap.org or the **editors to the right**.

Don't forget to spread the words about YOU and CAP. Please tag Group 2 on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and we will collect posts, stories, and reels there. Tag us on **Instagram** and **Facebook** as **@civilairpatrolgroup2**. Tag us on **Twitter** as **@CAPGroup2CA**.

Just a reminder that we have a **YouTube** channel for the group so send us any videos that you want to share with the world!

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Photo Credit: 1st Lt Vasudevan

GROUP NEWS

CIVIL AIR PATROL NATIONAL HEADQUARTER AWARDED SAN FRANCISCO BAY GROUP 2 OUR FIRST UNIT CITATION RECOGNIZING OUR SERVICE DURING THE PERIOD 01 JAN 2019 THROUGH 30 APR 2022

A MESSAGE BY GROUP 2 COMMANDER, MAJ RICHARD WEST

With great pleasure, I announce that Civil Air Patrol National Headquarter (CAP NHQ) has awarded **San Francisco Bay Group 2** our **first Unit Citation** recognizing our **service** during the period **from 01 Jan 2019 through 30 Apr 2022**.

Every member of Group 2 who served for at least one day within this award period is entitled to proudly wear the solid green Unit Citation ribbon or add a clasp to a previously authorized ribbon. The tireless dedication of our members has been a labor of love, spanning several years and involving multiple leaders within Group 2. Your commitment and contributions are commendable, and you all deserve the highest accolades. While I have the privilege of making this announcement, it is essential to direct all credit for leadership to my esteemed predecessors: **Lt Col Noel Luneau** and **Lt Col Shawn Lawson**. Their guidance and vision have paved the way for our success.

The Unit Citation certificate and streamer **will be presented by Col Craig Newton, California Wing Commander, at California Wing Conference (CWC) 2024**. We expect many of you will be joining us as the conference will be held here, in Group 2 area.

Congratulations to each and every one of you for this significant achievement. Whether you were a member during the award period or not, I am honored to serve with you and continue to be inspired by your dedicated commitment to CAP and its missions. Thank you for being a part of this great group of airmen and airwomen.

UNIT CITATION AWARD



Photo credit:
Lt Col Shawn Lawson

GROUP NEWS**SAN FRANCISCO BAY GROUP 2 OUR
FIRST UNIT CITATION ...**

... Continued

THE AWARD MESSAGE

The San Francisco Bay Group 2 distinguished through outstanding contributions to the Civil Air Patrol missions from **1 Jan 2019 to 30 Apr 2022**. This award period includes the COVID-19 pandemic that did not prevent Group 2 from providing an exceptional level of support to all echelons of CAP and proved itself as a leader in virtual training and outreach. The achievements listed below reflect individual and team efforts on behalf of their squadrons and the whole group.

Despite the pandemic, Group 2 recruited a total of **351 new members** in the award period (108 senior and 241 cadet). The Group-wide support to the squadrons allowed for us to recover from the expected membership loss by May'21, a little over a year after the initial lockdown, and ultimately surpass our pre-pandemic membership (577 as of Mar'20) by 106 members, an incredible 18% net growth over a 2-year period. In comparison, **Group 2 has one of the smallest geographic footprints within CAWG and the largest membership population of any of the 8 Groups**, around 150 more members than the next largest Group. Within PCR, **Group 2 membership now surpasses that of HIWG, NVWG, and ORWG**.

Group 2 had 90 members earn level 1, 51 level 2, 21 level 3, 8 level 4, and 6 level 5. Notably, 27.2% of Group 2 members hold level 3 or higher. Moreover, 25.9% of new master ratings in all specialty tracks in California wing (CAWG) came from Group 2 members, 27.5% for senior, and 28.4% for technician. Finally, 28.3% of all new Yeager awards in CAWG came from Group 2 members.

Group 2 **members were recognized in unparalleled numbers** during the reporting period, receiving 239 Achievement Awards, 64 Commander's Commendations (Wing), 5 Commander's Commendations (Region), one Commander's Commendations (National), 15 Meritorious Service Awards, two Certificates of Recognition for Lifesaving, and one national staff award (Edwin Lewis Incident Staff Member of the Year). This cumulative recognition clearly proves an exceptional and unparalleled level of volunteer service by Group 2 members to their Squadrons, Group, CAWG, PCR and National echelons. Also, Group 2's exceptional commitment to the OTY (of the Year) awards process and passion for recognizing our members for their dedicated volunteer service resulted in 41 OTY award wins in the three-year award period consistently representing anywhere from 30-40% of all winners at the wing level.

Group 2 actively developed virtual training capabilities and online presence even before the pandemic. Group 2 was **the first CAP group to request a virtual platform (MS Teams) for each of our units**. We developed best practices for virtual unit meetings, and our exceptionally resolute members provided more virtual training and presentations later during the pandemic than in-person training of previous years. Our singular dedication to virtual training and presentations aided us in keeping our YOY (Year-Over-Year) retention numbers at a respectable level compared to other groups in CAP.

Focusing on the pandemic, Group 2 recognized the need for each unit and HQ in **Group 2 to have a new website** based upon the NHQ template. After four months of extraordinary effort, we were able to move all 10 Squadrons' and our Headquarters over to the new platform. This has already proven to be a **valuable tool for recruiting and public affairs purposes**. To date we are one of a very few CAP groups to have recognized the importance of having a standard web presence. The direct result is that unlike other groups our senior member population has grown steadily in the award period including during the pandemic.

The **10-page award letter** forwarded by **Maj West on March 8, 2024** listed more details on why Group 2 got the award. Read on, members. Thank you for being part of Group 2.

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IN MARCH**THE SISTERHOOD OF CIVIL AIR PATROL:
A BOND FORGED IN SERVICE AND SUPPORT**

BY 2D LT ZAINA STREETER

Photos credit: 2d Lt Zaina Streeter

In the heart of Civil Air Patrol Group 2, a remarkable sisterhood thrives, woven from the diverse threads of dedication, service, and mutual support. This community, comprised of sisters, wives, mothers, and caregivers from all walks of life, embodies the spirit of volunteerism, making a profound impact on our cadet programs and beyond.

Each member of this unique sisterhood brings her own mix of talents to the table, creating a tapestry rich with creativity and commitment. Whether it's devising innovative solutions to enhance our programs or responding to last-minute calls, these women exemplify resilience and readiness. Their ability to juggle multiple roles within CAP—while wearing many hats—speaks volumes about their dedication and capacity for multitasking. What binds these women together is not just their commitment to the mission but their profound support for one another. In times of need, they show up—often at a moment's notice—with the biggest smiles, ready to lend a hand or an ear. Their presence is a reminder of the strength that comes from unity and the comfort of knowing they always have each other's backs.

The cadet programs benefit immensely from this vibrant sisterhood. Through their volunteer efforts, these women not only shape the future leaders of tomorrow but also set a stellar example of leadership themselves. Their involvement is a testament to the power of collective effort and the significant impact of women in leadership and mentorship roles within the Civil Air Patrol.

As we celebrate the unwavering spirit and invaluable contributions of these amazing volunteers, let us remember the essence of their bond. The sisterhood of CAP runs strong, fueled by a shared mission and the joy of making a difference together. To all the remarkable women of Group 2—thank you for your service, your creativity, and your inspiring commitment. Your smiles and support light up our community, making every challenge a little easier and every success more meaningful.



GROUP NEWS

TRANSPORTING THE BRAND NEW 2024 CESSNA 172S G1000 NXI

BY 1ST LT SWAMINATHA VASUDEVAN AND CAPT MICHAEL GROSS

AS TOLD TO 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

On **Monday, January 22, 2024**, **Capt. Keith Breton** sent an email to the **Transport Mission Pilot (TMP) Group 2**, titled "Crew Request: Shiny New Airplane Pickup". Within 3 seconds, **1st Lt Swaminatha Vasudevan** responded with "Me me me me me" and he got the job. **Capt Michael Gross** replied a few minutes later, and also got the job. The pilots boarded different commercial airplanes to the **Cessna factory in Kansas** to pick up the brand new aircraft. Both were grateful for the hospitality shown by the **Kansas Wing CAP members**.

Gross remembered that the Kansas airport was situated in a remote area. When they arrived around midnight, they found that the key to their temporary ground transport vehicle—a modified police car stripped of all equipment—was conveniently accessible within an unlocked Fixed Base Operator (FBO) facility.

Both were aware of the brand new state of the aircraft and what needed to be done to maintain specific power levels during the engine's break-in period to ensure proper sealing of the piston rings to the cylinders. Vasu continued, "Consequently, we had to **chart a flight path** that kept us flying mostly at an altitude of 6,500 feet or lower. The Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevadas were off the table. This decision inspired us to create a flight plan that led us back to California through the scenic American Southwest."

The Cessna factory in Kansas

The interior of the CAWG CAP brand new airplane. Can you see the squeaky clean carpet and dashboard? Can you imagine the new airplane smell? Allegedly, it smells better than the smell of a brand new car!



Top and Left Photos credit: 1st Lt Swaminatha Vasudevan



The CAWG CAP brand new airplane at its current homebase.

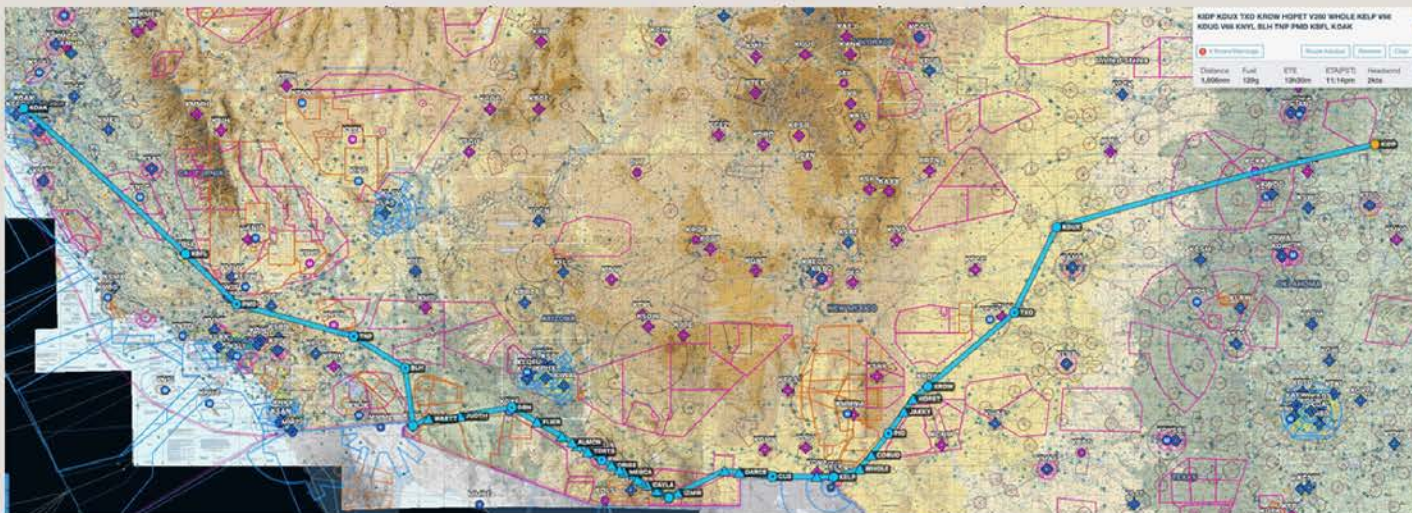
Photo credit: Capt Michael Gross



GROUP NEWS

TRANSPORTING THE BRAND NEW
2024 CESSNA 172S G1000 NXI

... Continued



The flight path created by TMPs Capt Gross and 1st Lt Vasudevan

Photos credit: 1st Lt Swaminatha Vasudevan

During the transport, both TMPs were also concerned about the weather. It was still during winter time and thunderstorms were very common in the Midwest at that time of year. Gross recalled that they had to wait for the wind to go down to 28 knots before they could safely fly out of Kansas. They planned to land in Las Cruces in New Mexico, but the wind was picking up, so they opted for a safe stop at Roswell.

When asked what was the most fun part of the journey, Gross recalled finding the 'alien' and airplanes graveyard at Roswell airport to be his highlight fun. Vasu reminisced their 3-days flight, consisting of 18 cumulative flight hours, and moments to enjoy the vast geography of the country, to be his highlight memory. Additionally, although both TMPs have known each other in their squadrons and many other missions, Gross and Vasu appreciated the opportunity to get to know each other, as a co-pilot, an aircrew member, a CAP comrade, and as a person.



Waiting for midwest wind to go down



Alien sighting at Roswell airport

Arrived in California on time before the storm



Final thoughts from TMPs:

Gross: Semper Gumby. Things change. You have to modify your plans to what actually happened, because of the wind, thermals (in Texas).

Vasu: Respond fast to emails! Every CAP pilot should seize the opportunity to have a flying experience like this, and to serve CAP by helping grow our fleet to perform more essential missions.

GROUP NEWS

CALIFORNIA WING AEROSPACE EDUCATION OFFICER VISIT TO GROUP 2 SQUADRONS

BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

Photos credit: 2d Lt Elisa Muresan, C/MSgt Nicole Dymmel

Group 2 Aerospace Education Officer, Capt Remi R. Nadeu, thank the **California Wing Aerospace Education Officer, Maj Catherine Collom**, for visiting the **squadrons 80** and **10** on March 18-19, 2024.

At squadron 80, Maj Cathy Collom was pleased with the AE initiatives at the squadron and encouraged the senior members to collaborate with their sister cadet squadron 36. She attended a presentation by the new AE Officer, Lt Col John F. Abate, who intrigued the minds of our seniors with knowledge on our nation's missions to Mars! The senior members were then tested at the end and the winners took home full-size chocolate bars and gained the title: "Geek of the Week".

At squadron 10, Maj Cathy Collom had a lot more work to do. Before the meeting, she mentored AEO 1st Lt Vasudevan to obtain his Senior rating in Aerospace Education special track. Then, Maj Collom attended the Cross Country Navigation STEM Kit activity. She told her inspiring story on how she used her math skills to establish her presence and obtain her pilot license in a predominantly male school. She was very pleased when 70% of cadets in squadron 10 raised their hands to answer the question, "Who wants to become a pilot?" She lent the wing's STEM Kit "Sphero" to the squadron.

Squadron 80 is the only squadron in group 2 who still employs virtual Teams to conduct their weekly meetings.



Commander Capt Michael Gross appreciatively presented Major Collom with the brand new squadron magnetic patch.

CADET PROGRAMS



2024 AIRMAN TRAINING SCHOOL (ATS)/ BASIC CADET SCHOOL (BCS) NORTH

BY LT COL AARON KAHN
C/LT COL EMMANUEL NASCIMENTO
AND 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

The 2024 Basic Cadet School (BCS) and Airman Training School (ATS) was held on 16-18 February at Pittsburg California Army National Guard Armory. The location change was maneuvered skillfully by the BCS/ATS Commandant, **Lt. Col. Aaron Kahn**, and ATS/BCS Cadet Commander, **C/Lt. Col. Emmanuel Nascimento**, with instrumental help from **Lt. Col. Grace Edinboro**.

Basic Cadet School is the first step in the CAWG Integrated Leadership Program (I.L.P.) By going to BCS, students will gain a working knowledge of CAP uniforms, drill, and a basic understanding of CAP's history and its missions. They will also receive information about the CAP cadet program, specifically the requirements, opportunities, and awards of Phases I and II. **Airman Training School** is the second step in the I.L.P. Students will learn to be active followers, are expected to gain a firm knowledge of primary drill, and will attain the principle characteristics of leadership. **Lt. Col. Emmanuel Nascimento**, the cadet commander of the 2024 BCS/ATS North, assured that all these skills will aid in facilitating students' personal and professional growth.

Forty two students graduated from BCS, **twenty five** students graduated from ATS, and **twenty nine** cadets gained experience as cadet cadre. Congratulations to **C/Amn Owen Schmies**, the BCS Honor Cadet, and to **C/A1C Anvinci Nguyen**, the ATS Honor Cadet. Well done to Flight Honor Cadets, **C/AB Lucas Diaz**, **C/Amn Ryan Bailey**, **C/AB Benjamin S. Mayer**, **C/SrA Brandon Tu**, and **C/SrA Kristine Tu**. **C/Capt Esme Chen** received the Staff Excellence Award as the Director of Food Services at the event. The graduation was attended by Group 2 Commander, Maj. Richard West, and approximately 125 friends and family members of the cadets.

Thank you to 1st Lt Samantha Moat (PA Senior Member), C/CMSgt Marc Chemtob (Cadet Director of PA), C/1st Lt Noelle Madden (Cadet PA Officer), C/MSgt Nadia Fukuhara (Cadet PA NCO) for all the hard work that went into the [BCS/ATS weekend book](#).



Photo credit: C/2d Lt Marc Chemtob

CADET PROGRAMS

**2024 AIRMAN TRAINING SCHOOL (ATS)/
BASIC CADET SCHOOL (BCS) NORTH**

... Continued

Photo credit: 2024 ATS/BCS North Public Affairs Team



Cadets listened attentively to training sessions presented by cadre instructors.



Teamwork is always the key in getting the job done optimally in Civil Air Patrol projects.



The course on "How to do proper instructions for Physical Training" was also taught at BCS/ATS.



Much appreciation to the Food Services staff, led by C/Capt Chen, who planned, shopped for, cooked, prepared, delivered, cleaned up, and repeat the process again, to feed



C/Amn Owen Schmie, the BCS Honor Cadet.



C/Capt Esme Chen received the Staff Excellence Award as the Director of Food Services at the event.



C/A1C Anvinci Nguyen, the ATS Honor Cadet.

SQUADRON 10

STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY AT SQUADRON 10

BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

Photos credit: C/CMSgt Abigail Fukuhara, C/MSgt Nicole Dymmel, and 2d Lt Elisa Muresan

Squadron 10 celebrated the following cadets for receiving the **Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)** for the voluntary service to CAP in calendar year 2023-24: C/Capt Esmé Chen, C/Capt Grace Muresan, C/2d Lt Arthur Gabrilovich, C/2d Lt Meiling Chan, and C/2d Lt Brian Liu. Thanks to Deputy Commander of Operations, 1st Lt Kai Chen, for managing this prestigious award.

The squadron has also been active in organizing Education & Training nights to improve the advancement of senior members professional development. 1st Lt Jake Cobb, a former squadron 10 cadet, taught "Basic Drills", 2d Lt Swaminatha Vasudevan taught "Uniforms", and all senior members have been mentoring each other to finish Level 1, 2, 3, and obtain ratings in different specialty tracks. Keep up the good camaraderie, squadron 10.

The cadets were actively involved in a diverse training activities. They received Emergency Service training on AED from 1st Lt William Winter. In Aerospace Education, they were taught Cross Country Navigation by 1st Lt Swaminatha Vasudevan, using free STEM kit provided by the CAP National Headquarter. They were guided the techniques of air marshalling by 2d Lt Rares Vernica. They also tried to enhance their physical fitness and foster team spirit by engaging in tug-of-war. For Character Development, they were instructed by certified trainers 1st Lt Kai Chen, 2d Lt Scott Thomas, and 2d Lt Akiko Fukuhara. A special note of appreciation is extended to all the senior members for their unwavering commitment to our cadets.

Finally, Deputy Commander for Cadets, 1st Lt Chen, announced the distribution of our squadron patch! Each member received one patch to be installed on their ABUs. The squadron 10 patch is also available for purchase from Lt Chen.



SQUADRON 13

SQUADRON 13 HIGHLIGHTS

BY 1ST LT LYNNE OWEN

Photos credit: 1st Lt Lynne Owen

Squadron 13 has been quite active since our last On Guard edition. Ten cadets successfully graduated from ATS/BCS North, and many more have completed their orientation rides aboard the 809CP Civil Air Patrol airplanes. The squadron has also been highly engaged in fulfilling CAP's Emergency Services mission. Squadron 13 members actively participated in the Inland Search and Rescue (SAR) class in Placerville, as well as the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue training exercise. Additionally, Squadron 13 took part in the Group 5 SAREX and assisted with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office missing person search.

Special congratulations go to 1st Lt. Martin Brey and TFO Liam McKinnon on their well-deserved promotions. To put the icing on the top, squadron 13 celebrates C/TSgt Benjamin Caldwell for receiving his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

Alpha and Tango Flights



Relocating 809CP to its new home



Character Development
Training Session



Orientation flights with CAP-certified
O-Ride pilot 1st Lt Mike Pons

SQUADRON 18

GROUP 2 REMEMBER THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH

BY 1ST LT TERESA FONTANILLA

Photos credit: 1st Lt Teresa Fontanilla

82nd Anniversary in the San Francisco National Cemetery - Presidio

Group 2 Cadets (12) and Adult Members (5) volunteered and commemorated the 82nd anniversary of the Bataan Death March at the San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio on April 13th. Despite the cold and stormy weather, all attendees and volunteers were grateful to participate, recognizing it as a small sacrifice compared to the immense hardships endured by those who completed the Bataan Death March, sponsored by the Bataan Legacy Historical Society.

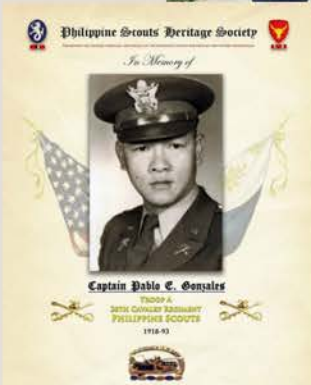
During the event, respects were paid to the 60,000 to 80,000 Filipino and American prisoners of war who endured the 65-mile forced march by the Japanese during World War II, where approximately 7,000 to 10,000 men perished.

Captain Ada Hurst, CAP, the daughter of Captain Pablo E. Gonzales from the 26th Cavalry Regiment (PS) and a survivor of the Bataan Death March, attended the event. Captain Hurst is the former squadron commander of @sq18firebirds and the current Director of Diversity of the California Wing CAP.



Top: Group 2 cadets posed with 1st Lt Ada Hurst after the parade.

Right: Captain Pablo E. Gonzales from the 26th Cavalry Regiment (PS) and a survivor of the Bataan Death March.



SQUADRON 36

EXCEED THE CHALLENGE AT SQUADRON 36

BY 1ST LT WILLIAM WINTER

Photos credit: Public Affairs Officers of Squadron 36

The Cadets participated in physical training. Bravo, Charlie and Tango flights competed in a multi-part obstacle course.



In February, Squadron 36 hosted NCO Training Day for NCOs and cadets on staff. Cadets attended classes on how to command a flight and how to teach cadets new drill movements.

Squadron 36 cadets went to the "Stop the Bleed" class taught by Hongngoc Nguyen, Ginger Miramontes and their own squadron commander, 1st Lt William Winter and CPT Willert. Cadets learned how to respond to possibly life-threatening injuries with bleeding control measures. 1st Lt Winter also conducted a CPR Training Day, where cadets received CAP and Red Cross certifications for CPR and First Aid. Cadets were trained to do high-quality CPR, use an AED, use the steps check, call, and care in an emergency, and more.



Squadron 36 cadets hosted a guest presentation from a new non-profit flight school, Hera School, that is based out of their home airport, Reid-Hillview. Hera's mission is to educate and inspire students in the exhilarating world of aviation. Their night was capped by a presentation by 2d Lt Jacobik of the United States Air Force, who spoke about his experience and career in the Air Force as a remote drone pilot.



SQUADRONS 22, 44, 86



WINGS OVER SOLANO AIRSHOW

BY SM JULIAN A. VILLEGAS, CAP
 TRAVIS COMPOSITE SQUADRON 22



On March 16th, 2024, cadets from Civil Air Patrol Squadrons **22, 44, and 86** performed their community service at the **2024 Wings Over Solano Airshow held at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California**. The Airshow, a biannual event organized by the **60th Air Mobility Wing**, provides an opportunity for military personnel, their families, local citizens, and aviation enthusiasts to witness firsthand the impressive aircraft stationed at Travis. The cadets played a crucial role in supervising the Kids Zone, which was greatly appreciated by both attendees and organizers. Additionally, they had the chance to explore various aircraft and interact with the crews who operate them. Highlights for the cadets included watching "Top Gun: Maverick" after a long day's work, receiving an up-close tour from the F-22 Raptor Demo team, and concluding the weekend with a firm, encouraging handshake from **Brigadier General Derek Salmi**, the Commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis AFB.

Thank you to all senior members from squadrons 22, 44, and 86 in groups 5 and 2, who helped make this community service happened.



Photos credit: SM Villegas, C/Amn Jace Towyenis, 1st Lt Larry Wong

SQUADRON 44**AEROSPACE EDUCATION BY THE BAY**

BY C/2D LT NICHOLAS B. FISCHER

Squadron #44 Gets Exclusive Tour at Hiller Aviation Museum

CONCORD, Calif. -- (January 2024) Squadron 44 cadets explored the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, CA and were given an exclusive, private tour which included a guided view and docent narrative of the L-39 Albatross and Grumman HU-16, reserved for special groups only. The aerospace exploration field trip was part of the museum's educational program where schools, groups and organizations can receive customized hands-on activities including drone flying, state of the art flight simulators as well as an opportunity to learn about, view and in some instances, sit in actual historical airplanes and prototype helicopters throughout the museum's expansive indoor hangar which includes an outdoor area allowing for a walk through of a cross section of a 747 commercial plane passenger and cockpit. Cadets received an enriched experience and learned historical facts and trivia by the museum staff at the Hiller Aviation Museum, which sits alongside the San Carlos Airport.

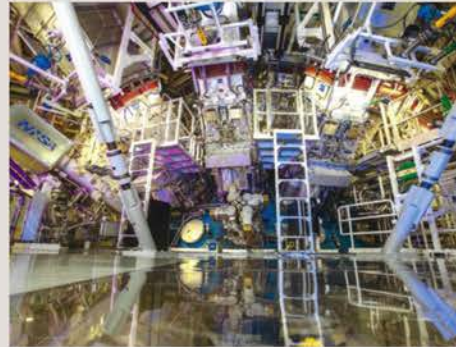
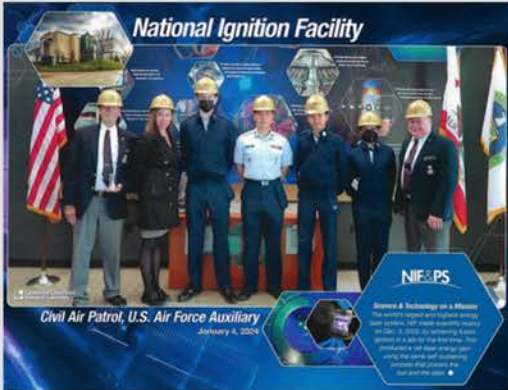
For more information visit: www.Hiller.org*Photos credit: C/2d Lt Nicholas b. fischer*

SQUADRON 86

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION !

BY 1ST LT LARRY WONG

Photos credit: Public Affairs Officers at Squadron 86



On **January 4**, members of Squadron 86 were treated to a tour of the **National Ignition Facility (NIF)** at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

NIF is the world's largest and most energetic laser. 192 laser beams are amplified a quadrillion times (yes, that's a lot!) through a 10-story building the size of three (American) football fields, with nearly 2 million joules of energy focused on a target the size of a pencil eraser. On December 5, 2022, Fusion Ignition took place for the first time when the energy produced by fusion was more than the laser energy delivered to the target.



In **February**, The National Guard Armory sustained damages from a big storm. **Lt. Col. Leo Nascimento, JROTC**, organized the squadron to meet at the temporary location, George Washington High School. The squadron conducted proper uniforms training, ground team search exercise with hypothetical missing elderly, and celebrated C/Lt Col Emmanuel Nascimento for his General Ira C. Eaker Award. In **April**, Squadron 86 was back at their homebase again and had a busy night with flight simulators, drone flying, aerospace education, CSX prep, and Color Guard practice.



On **April 20**, Squadron 86 took part in the Grand Parade for the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival. After the perfect photo opportunity at City Hall, cadets marched to Japantown and Peace Plaza to help celebrate the arrival of spring and Japanese culture.



SQUADRON 192**WELCOME TO OUR SQUADRON, OUR HOME****BY 1ST LT NICHOLAS PEGIS**

For the first time in over 25 years I walked back into my home unit, Squadron 192. I noticed two things as I stood there in that old classroom. It still looked the same, and had this room gotten smaller?

Like any squadron, years of materials, equipment, and miscellaneous items were piled up everywhere. Aside from my other duties, I spent the next several months just observing the squadron, and making notes about what physical improvements could be made. My first stop was to get the cadets involved, after all this is their squadron too. One 5th Tuesday of the month, and night generally used for "fun" the cadets voted to clean up the squadron together. Off we went, and we totally changed the appearance of the Squad room. It was a great start, but we needed something more.

In my former profession, I spent more than 10 years working in a small family run business with my father and brother. Our business was a martial arts studio, where most of my students were young children and teens. I learned a valuable lesson from a very successful studio owner in Southern California once. When I was at his studio, it was under construction. He said you always have to put the money back in the business. The students and especially their parents need to see their investment is going to more than just the owner driving a fancy sports car. That stuck with me. Always improving our school, adding to it, cleaning it. When our customers came in, it was professional, comfortable, welcoming, and clean.

We at our home units are not all that different. When a new potential cadet and their parents walk into the squadron what kind of image do we want to present? We all know what CAP can do for any young person, but do they know that? After all, what personal appearance and standards do we set for the cadets when they show up in uniform?

After the cadet clean up is where I really went to work. I started checking old equipment, and other items that had been collecting dust. Several times, I got together on the weekend with the former and current unit commander to decide which of these items we can trash, recycle, or donate. Felt really good seeing all that clutter go. We have a new saying: if the object hasn't been used, and doesn't make you happy, get rid of it.

Decor. Turns out the cadets really like having photos of airplanes; who would have thought? I got some cool prints, some fun aviation plaques from various stores, nothing pricey like 10 to 15 dollars each. I got some great air force hi-res photos from the air force website, printed them, and got simple frames. The place really started to come together. Now, with some other nic-nacs, model planes and what not. It was starting to really look like the squadron we deserved. A senior member who had been away for a while, said to me "you got a clubhouse going on here?" Yup we do! I proudly stated.

The CAP community also really helped me with my unit to make it better. One Saturday at an event in Livermore, I met a fellow senior member who I quickly became friends with. After telling her all about my goals for cleaning up my squad she became a huge help. She got me in touch with getting new recently donated furniture. New chairs, and other office furniture at the ready. I got my truck, and picked up new chairs for my unit, and boy did it really look great. Thanks Zaina (Lt. Streeter and also Squadron 18)!

It doesn't take a whole lot. Just a little bit of effort, love, and care. In the end it shows the cadets, their parents, and other members that we really care about their future in the Civil Air Patrol.

SQUADRON 192

WELCOME TO OUR SQUADRON, OUR HOME.

... Continued

All Photos were taken by 1st Lt. Nicholas Pegis



Starting a new tradition for cadet promotions. The presenting of the rank insignia.



Hi-res photos from the Air Force and its different missions. Simple box set of frames from Amazon.



Photo collage of all the cadets activities during the year.



Our Library is open to all Squadron members, and a tribute to CAP history. With some fun decor and games.



The cadets in a class with the new look, and atmosphere.



C/SSGT Dastidar teaching a class on AE, and a background that says it all.

SQUADRON 156

PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE

BY CAPT. KEITH H. BRETON AND 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

On January 11, 2024, just three days shy of his birthday, **Cadet Colonel Kavin Ram** of Squadron 156 earned his **Private Pilot Certificate** in CAP 424. He completed his rating just under the wire as he is aging out of the cadet program. Civil Air Patrol is America’s premiere opportunity for air-minded youth. Thanks to CAP adult volunteers, cadets learn about the fundamentals of aviation through classroom activities, self-study texts, orientation flights, and formal flight training (<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/activities/cadet-flying>).

The process to get his Private Pilot Certificate through CAP began with **Free Orientation Flights**. Every CAP cadet under age 18 is eligible for **five** flights in a powered aircraft, **five** flights in a glider aircraft, and an **unlimited** number of **backseat** flights *when conditions allow*. Cadets who have completed some orientation flights, studied their Aerospace Dimensions texts, and participated in some of the following electives, Aviation 101, Fit for Flying, and Let’s Go Flying, are ready to pursue formal flight instruction leading to a solo flight or private pilot certificate. If they are interested in obtaining their private pilot certificate, they must pass an FAA private pilot written exam. CAP units may put together a cohort of cadets to mentor them as they complete their coursework together in 3-6 weeks, in-person or virtually, to allow participants to review harder-to-learn concepts and ask an instructor pilot questions.

It’s no secret that flight training is expensive. CAP supports cadets in their aviation career aspirations through college and flight scholarship programs. Most scholarships are competitive, benefitting cadets who have ranked-up in the Cadet Program, graduated from encampments, and participated in some of the electives shown on this article (<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/activities/cadet-flying>).

So, what are you waiting for? **Get those requirements ready for you to fly for FREE through CAP!**

Congratulations, Cadet Colonel Kavin Ram.



A Free Online Introduction to Aviation Course
 Are you interested in aviation?
 Have you thought you might like to become a pilot?
 Have you always dreamt of a career in aviation?
 Whenever your motivation, AVIATION 101 is a great place to start! Enroll in this FREE online course, and proceed at your own pace to learn fundamentals that will give you a head start to your aviation career. AVIATION 101 offers you more than just knowledge. Learn more about Embry-Riddle by visiting the University's web site.



Photos credit: Capt. Keith H. Breton, <https://erau.edu/aviation101/>,
https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/Lets_Go_Fly_BOOK_LR_E6FE88CEC48E.pdf,
<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/library/fitness/fit-for-flying>

SQUADRON 188

SQUADRON 188 HIGHLIGHTS
BY 1ST LT JOSE ALVAREZ

Photos credit: 2d Lt Zaina Streeter and 1st Lt Jose Alvarez

In January, guests and members of Squadron 188 participating in the Annual Safety Day.



Congratulations to Major Fridell on successfully completing his Form 5 flight.



sUAS and Mission Aircrew School participants at the Alameda County Sherrif's Regional Training Center - a coordinated training by members of Civil Air Patrol Groups 2 and 5.

Special thank you to 1st Lt Vincenzo Puppo who has been most active in providing Orientation Rides for Cadets from sister squadrons in Group 2.

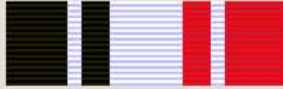


Capt Antonio Forenza and 1st Lt Vincenzo Puppo conducted their flight proficiency. Keep up the good work and thank your for all you do.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GROUP 2 EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS

BY MAJ RICHARD WEST



Membership Ribbon (Level 1)

SM Westmoreland, John (716841) [Sq80]
2024-01-11

SM McKinnon, Liam (607521) [Sq13]
2024-01-12

SM Sacco, Mark (714635) [Sq188]
2024-01-15

SM Carter, Gerald (715404) [Sq44]
2024-01-15

SM Medina, Veronica (384546) [Sq192]
2024-01-29

SM Andraychak, Michael (717785) [Sq44]
2024-02-12

SM Singh, Ajit (715978) [Sq10]
2024-02-20

SM Cunha, Jean (704923) [Sq13]
2024-02-22

SM Haigh, Daniel (707507) [Sq156]
2024-02-22

SM Youngblood, John (712467) [Sq156]
2024-02-23

SM Sankararaman, Hariharan (710239) [Sq36]
2024-02-27

SM Dawson, Christopher (720495) [Sq192]
2024-03-01

SM Rudolph, Connor (719745) [Sq156]
2024-03-05

SM Lacey, Millard Sierra (718297) [Sq13]
2024-03-12

SM Krishnamurthy, Satish (709357) [Sq192]
2024-03-18

SM Asher, Danielle (662012) [Sq13]
2024-03-19

SM Garcia, Prieto Gala (711186) [Sq10]
2024-03-21

SM Chun, Lawrence (342745) [Sq86]
2024-03-22

SM Porazik, Peter (714045) [Sq156]
2024-03-27



Benjamin O Davis Award (Level 2)

Certificate only, no Ribbon

1st Lt Fontanilla, Teresa (629290) [Sq18]
2024-01-04

1st Lt Fenech, William (644783) [Sq156]
2024-01-24

1st Lt Brej, Martin (679095) [Sq13]
2024-02-13

SM McKinnon, Liam (607521) [Sq13]
2024-02-26

1st Lt Lee, Abigail (573541) [Sq36]
2024-03-05

1st Lt Baldwin, Terry (577114) [Sq188]
2024-03-09

1st Lt Shabalín, Ilia (621135) [Sq10]
2024-03-12



Grover C Loening Award (Level 3)

Capt Nadeau, Remi (574259) [Sq86]
2024-01-23

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GROUP 2 EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS ... Continued



Specialty Track Technician Rating (Leadership Ribbon)

1st Lt Yang, Robin (651744) [Sq18]
Character Development — 2024-01-09

SM McKinnon, Liam (607521) [Sq13]
Cadet Programs — 2024-01-12

1st Lt Fenech, William (644783) [Sq156]
Communications — 2024-01-16

Lt Col Luneau, Noel (454201) [Sq188]
Public Affairs — 2024-01-22

1st Lt Alvarez, Jose (634111) [Sq188]
Public Affairs — 2024-01-22

2d Lt Fontanilla, Edmundo (629291) Sq18
Cadet Programs — 2024-02-03

1st Lt Brej, Martin (679095) [Sq13]
Finance — 2024-02-11

1st Lt Owen, Lynne (638669) [Sq13]
Recruiting And Retention Officer — 2024-02-15

1st Lt Lee, Abigail (573541) [Sq36]
Administration — 2024-02-20

1st Lt Shabalina, Ilia (621135) [Sq10]
Safety — 2024-03-11



Specialty Track Senior Rating (Bronze Star on Leadership Ribbon)

1st Lt Owen, Lynne (638669) [Sq13]
Cadet Programs — 2024-01-27

1st Lt Yang, Robin (651744) [Sq18]
Public Affairs — 2024-02-06

1st Lt Chen, Kai (660399) [Sq10]
Cadet Programs — 2024-03-24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 CALIFORNIA WING CADET COMPETITIONS



ASSEMBLE YOUR TEAMS
CAWG CADET COMPETITION
MAY 10-12
 CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO
 Staff applications & team registration
NOW OPEN!
APPLY TODAY!

Date and time:
10 - 12 May 2024

Location:
 Camp San Luis Obispo, CA

The top two teams will represent the California Wing at the PCR Cadet Competition at March Air Reserve Base 30 Aug – 2 Sep 24. Cadet Competition gives cadets an opportunity to demonstrate their excellence in a wide range of activities in the arenas of leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character (Refer to Civil Air Patrol Pamphlet 60-75 for details).

- The planned events are:
- Indoor Posting
 - Uniform Inspection & Uniform Build
 - Standard Drill (Color Guard & Element)
 - TLP
 - Written Exam
 - PFT

For more information, email the Activity Director, **Lt Col Michael Samuel**, at michael.samuel@cawgcap.org.

2024 AEROSPACE EDUCATION SCHOOL



NORCAL AEO SCHOOL
25/26 MAY, 2024
TRAVIS AFB AVIATION MUSEUM 0800-1600

OPEN TO:

Commanders seeking understanding of AEO Specialty Track Aerospace Excellence Award Squadron AE Achievement Award	AEOs completing Technician and Senior Specialty requirements	Cadet AEOs
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Date and time:
25 - 26 May 2024

Location:
 Travis Air Force Base Aviation Museum

Group 2 and Group 5 are sponsoring an AEO School at the Travis Air Museum on 25-26 May 2024. In addition to the Pacific Region Curriculum presented on 25 May, a STEM Workshop will be conducted on 26 May to network and expand knowledge and capabilities with STEM kits. This two day format will not only satisfy requirement for the AEO School for attendees on Saturday but the Saturday and Sunday attendance is creditable for Conference attendance for Professional Development.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 CALIFORNIA WING ENCAMPMENT

Date and time:
24 June - 2 July 2024

Location:
Camp Roberts, San Miguel, CA



2024 AEROSPACE EDUCATION AND STEM ACADEMY (AESA)

Date and time:
13 - 20 July 2024

Location:
Edwards Air Force Base, CA

Call for AESA Cadre:
5 May 2024



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 CYBERPATRIOT COMPETITION (CP-17)



CP-17 Exhibition Round 1: May 15 to June 17, 2024

Important Dates and Deadlines for Civil Air Patrol competitors:

- **October 2, 2024:** Last day to register your team for CP-17
- **October 23, 2024:** Last day to add competitors to your roster(s)

Looking for more competitors? Use the CyberPatriot Demo Image for Beginners
Download the Demo and Quick Start Guide at: <https://forms.gle/PTibjP2fzZEBNT199>
Never expires. Tutorial included. No other software is required for use. NOT a Practice Round image.

2024 HIGH ALTITUDE BALLOON CHALLENGE



The fourth annual national AE cadet STEM challenge, the 2024 Col Joe Kittinger CAP National High-Altitude Balloon Challenge for Cadets (HABC), officially opened team registration on 1 April and will **close on midnight local time 12 May** (late registrations will not be accepted).

Click [HERE](#) to register YOUR squadron team!

2024 CALIFORNIA WING CONFERENCE

October 17, 2024 - October 20, 2024

Contact: 1st Lt Clairissa Gregory, CAP (Clairissa.gregory@cawgcap.org)

Phone: 530-652-8006

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, CA

The annual educational conference and awards ceremony.

Stay tuned for more details.

FUN AND GAMES**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW CIVIL AIR PATROL?**

The questions here are derived from **AXIS Learning Management System**, which will be **obsolete in June 2024. Please do not forget to back up all your training records.**

1. Organizations often follow rules or are governed by a set of regulations. What is the governing set of rules in the military known as?
 - a. Military Book of Justice
 - b. Uniform Code of Military Justice
 - c. The Military Justice Code
 - d. There is no set of rules
2. In CAP an individuals "grade" determines what?
 - a. Years of experience
 - b. Department they work
 - c. Area of expertise
 - d. Status and relative authority over others
3. You supported an AFAM yesterday. You left early and didnt get home until late last night, and now after a good nights rest at home you are putting together your claim for reimbursement. You paid \$35 for fuel for the corporate van that was used on the mission, \$3 in phone calls, and \$30 in meals, all of which you have receipts for. How much of this could you possibly get reimbursed for?
 - a. \$35.
 - b. \$65.
 - c. \$38.
 - d. \$68.
4. The CAP website used to document all operations related training and qualifications for CAP members that is accessible to all members in eServices is .
 - a. CATS
 - b. CEMS
 - c. WMIRS
 - d. Ops Quals
5. How frequently must a senior member refresh his or her training by retaking a Cadet Protection course?
 - a. Once a course is taken it does not need to be refreshed.
 - b. Seniors must retake the Basic Course every 48 months.
 - c. Seniors must complete the Basic or Advanced Course every 48 months.
 - d. No recertification is required, unless directed by the unit commander.
6. Which of the following statements is TRUE regarding new member screening?
 - a. If an applicant seems questionable, that person should be made to go before a membership board. If the applicant seems okay, the board is not necessary.
 - b. All prospective members, cadets included, must be interviewed by the Unit Membership Board.
 - c. Every prospective senior member must be interviewed prior to joining.
7. To keep parents informed of cadet activities, each cadet unit must:
 - a. require cadets to submit completed CAPF 60-80 Cadet Activity Permission Slips before participating in overnight activities only.
 - b. maintain a web-based unit calendar, and post activities at least two weeks in advance.
 - c. maintain a web-based unit calendar OR require cadets to submit completed CAPF 60-80 Cadet Activity Permission Slips to participate in activities.

FUN AND GAMES



ListCaboodle.com

SPACE JOKES

FOR KIDS



**What did the doctor say to
the rocket ship?**

Time to get your booster shot.

**What does space-time and
apples have in common?**

A wormhole.



**Why did the alien throw
a steak on the comet?**

He wanted it meaty-or.

**What kind of crazy
bugs live on the moon?**

Luna-ticks.

