



# WingTIPS

The official publication of Minnesota Wing, Civil Air Patrol - December 2006

## Civil Air Patrol Celebrates 65<sup>th</sup>



The Valley Squadron Color Guard presents the Colors at the Burnsville City Council Meeting and Hennepin County CAP Commanders with the Hennepin County Board before being recognized with a Hennepin County Commendation.

Civil Air Patrol has begun commemorating its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary with events all over the nation. Here in Minnesota the anniversary was commemorated with several events.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> Mankato Squadron hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner & CAP 65th Anniversary Celebration.

Retiring State Representative John Dorn used the evening as his final in-district event, reflecting on the personal joy and benefit received from volunteerism and doing service for the community.

The Wing Vice Commander, Lt Col Tom Kettell, brought thanks to our volunteers and supporters. He was joined by the Chief of Staff for Operations, Maj Jerry Rosendahl, and the Chief of Staff for Training and Support, Lt Col John Quilling.

Squadron members receiving recognition were: MSgt John Vanderhoof as Senior Member of the Year, Cadet James Renville as Cadet of the Year, and the Merchlewitz Family as Family of the Year.

On Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> Valley Squadron received a proclamation from the City of Burnsville honoring the squadron and the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Squadron members led by their Commander, Capt Janelle Gates received this honor which was cablecast on the local cable system.

Finally on Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Hennepin County Board honored the Civil Air Patrol and specifically the units and members in Hennepin County with a commendation. "We are pleased to honor Civil Air Patrol and recognize their accomplishments." said Hennepin County Commissioner Mark Stenglein in presenting the commendation.

Accepting the honor was Group 3 Commander Lt Col Mike Moen, Viking Squadron Commander Capt Ronn Winkler and Lt Col Tony Tarcy of Fort Snelling Squadron. The event was televised on the Metro Cable Network.

### In this Issue:

**Wreaths Across America - Member Recognition - and much more!!!**



## **Commander's Column Col Steve Miller, Commander Minnesota Wing**

Minnesota Wing Members,

As the year winds down I say a huge "THANK YOU!" to all our officers and cadets in Minnesota Wing for all you did to make 2006 a successful year. We all worked as a team to carry out the training, leadership building, and the actual missions for America. Your energy and enthusiasm is contagious and is what make us all so successful.

Each person is in Civil Air Patrol for a different reason. The bottom line - we make a difference. It may not always be articulated, but the many hours expended by all of are appreciated! Our Wing could not function without you.

We had a great year in 2006 and 2007 looks to be an even better year. We will soon be picking up a new glass cockpit Cessna 182. This addition will be the third new airplane we have been assigned. We do, however, have to turn in one of our older airplanes. In addition to the new aircraft, we have funding to train pilots in the glass cockpit environment.

This fiscal year Minnesota Wing received a significant increase in training funds. This year you will see different types of training opportunities. I encourage you all to take advantage of the training opportunities made available to you.

Going forward, when the Wing is assigned actual missions, I have directed the Emergency Services staff to utilize, whenever possible/feasible, more than one unit. Having more than one unit on a mission should allow our more of our member to use their training on actual missions. Additionally, when called upon, this should better prepare us to work as one integrated team.

Let's have a great and safe 2007!

Semper Vigilans



### **Cadet wins scholarship from Sun Country**

The Sun Country Airlines Foundation recently announced that C/Capt Patricia Friese (left) of the 130<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron has been selected as a recipient of a Sun Country Airlines Foundation Scholarship valued at \$ 3000.00.

Earlier this summer cadets applied for this scholarship and appeared at a review board of CAP Officers who made recommendations to the foundation.

C/Capt Friese will use the scholarship to help pay for schooling so she obtain her Airline Dispatcher's License.

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# Around The Wing

News about the squadrons and people of Minnesota Wing



For 22 members of the Northstar Cadet Squadron of the Minnesota Civil Air Patrol Saturday, December 16 began early with a trek from St. Cloud to St. Paul for an exciting ride in a Minnesota Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopter, an experience which one compared to being in “a rollercoaster without a track.” Northstar Squadron members said the Blackhawk experience was a fun, informative one.

The Blackhawk is a utility tactical transport helicopter that can carry an entire 11-person, fully equipped infantry squad.

## Area Businessman Supports Son’s Squadron



**Dean Phillips, of Froggy Sports in Cass Lake,** presented Capt. Terrence Best of Northland Composite Squadron, with a check for \$200 from the proceeds of their Big Buck Contest. Dean’s son, Jerimiah is a Cadet Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class at the Northland Squadron.



On 07 Dec 06 “Viking’s” flag flies proudly over FOB Orgun-E of the 27th Eng Bn in Afghanistan.

### **Viking Flag flies over “Orgun-E” Outpost in Afghanistan**

Lt Col Barney Uhlig

Viking Squadron has supported the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) in Afghanistan with both gift packages and money.

The packages were sent directly to the “sappers” in the combat zone, the money to the 27th Engineer Family Support Group at Fort Bragg, NC, where the 27th is at home.

The engineers are building new roads, repairing old ones, and are conducting civil affairs projects helping Afghans with buildings for schools, etc. All this is being done with the ousted Taliban in mind, who are using every opportunity to attack American forces.

“Vikings, You have all gone over and beyond the call of duty and all your efforts are greatly appreciated. It is nice to know that our efforts over here and the herculean efforts of our families back at Ft. Bragg are not being overlooked,” wrote Lt Col Thomas O’Hara, the Battalion Commander. “Also, tomorrow [07 Dec 06] I will be raising a flag over our Task Force headquarters in Forward Operating Base Orgun-E in honor of the Viking squadron,” he added.

The flag will be shipped to Minnesota and will be proudly displayed in a walnut flag case on the wall of the Squadron’s Emergency Response Center at Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie.

## **Awards and Recognition**

### **Cadet Awards**

#### **Mitchell Award**

Jacob Otterson, North Hennepin

#### **Earhart Award**

Mike Kenny, Anoka County

#### **Spatz Award**

Nathan Wozniak, Northland

### **Senior Awards**

#### **Certificate of Proficiency (Davis Award)**

Seth Grenke, Hutchinson

#### **Grover Loening Award**

Marilyn Lucas, Red Wing  
 Paulette Odette, Northwest Minnesota  
 Elizabeth Pflingsten, Crow Wing

### **Senior Promotions**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant**

Timothy Frame, Anoka  
 Dutch Van Vranken, Northland  
 Dennis Gustafson, Northland  
 David Winters Viking

#### **First Lieutenant**

Jennifer Davis, Southeast Minnesota  
 Norine Olson, Valley

#### **Captain**

Seth Grenke, Hutchinson

Please send information on Cadet Officer Promotions to [wingtips@mncap.org](mailto:wingtips@mncap.org) so they may be included in future issues.

## Northstar Cadet Squadron has new commander



With nearly 70 people in attendance, Captain Ryan Brovold (right) officially took command of the Northstar Cadet Squadron of the Minnesota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol during a December 11 ceremony at the St. Cloud Armory.

Brovold joined CAP in the fall of 2001 after September 11th, eventually rising to operations officer of the North Hennepin Squadron. He joined the St. Cloud Senior Squadron in the fall of 2004 serving as both Aerospace Education Officer and Professional Development Officer. Since the summer of 2005 he has been Deputy Commander of the 25 member St. Cloud Senior Squadron. Brovold has been a pilot since 1995.

“I have heard only great things about the Northstar Cadet Squadron,” Brovold said. “They have a marvelous reputation and I

intend to build on that during my tenure. I consider it a great honor to command this squadron.”

Brovold replaces Captain Pat Cruze, (left) a retired Department of Corrections employee, who commanded the 25 member cadet squadron since October 2004. Cruze, of St. Cloud, became a CAP member when his son joined the organization in September 2002. His son is following in his father’s footsteps and is currently serving in the US Air Force.

As Cruze leaves command he reflected on his time with the squadron. “I like to think of how many young lives I influenced or how many young lives I helped set clear goals for in a positive way. These are the accomplishments that one cannot set a price or value on that will continue to give me rewards for years to come. I will also miss working with a very highly dedicated staff that is extremely motivated and very competent. It has been an honor to have served with such fine people.”

Also attending the change of command ceremony were Brigadier General Gerald Lang, Minnesota Army National Guard; Lieutenant Colonel Tom Kettell, Minnesota Wing vice commander; Major Al Matson, Minnesota Wing Group 2 commander; and State Representative Larry Haws (DFL) of St. Cloud.

## Minnesota Assists in Wreaths Across America Campaign



Members of the Valley Squadron and other CAP members presented wreaths honoring veterans of all of the Military Services on Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup> at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

This was done as a part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America program started by Morrill Worcester, president of the Worcester Wreath Company. It started as a company taking its extra holiday wreaths and using them to honor servicemen buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

It has grown into a nationwide effort to expand the reaches of the Arlington Wreath Project with *Wreaths Across America* – the placing of memorial wreaths during a special ceremony at each of the over 230 State and National Cemeteries, and Veterans Monuments across the country.

More information about Wreaths Across America can be found at <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

## **Training exercise turns into a real search**

**Capt Cliff Tamplin**

On November 11th a National Mission Check Pilot Course was held at Fleming Field.

Lt. Col. Craig Lommel and Capt. Cliff Tamplin had just concluded a check ride which included a search for a practice ELT. When the aircraft landed to refuel at St. Paul downtown airport, a real ELT signal was heard whilst performing the shutdown checklist.

They contacted the control tower who confirmed that the ELT had been active for some time. AFRCC was contacted but the signal was not being received by the SARSAT system.

Capt. Paul Pieper was called and asked to activate a search team. The duty officer, Col. Dale Hoium obtained a mission number and the hunt was on! After securing the aircraft, Capt. Tamplin joined Capt. Pieper and they started an airport search.

St. Paul Downtown airport is a big and busy airport and the ELT signal was bouncing off the buildings and other structures making direction finding challenging. After almost an hour of walking around a very cold and windy airport, the signal was finally tracked down. The aircraft was in a hangar where it was undergoing maintenance and the ELT had accidentally been activated.

What is to be learnt from this mission?

1. Contact your local control tower and introduce your squadron to them. Educate them that they should contact Flight Service if they hear an ELT signal. Leave them CAP contact information so that they can alert you if an ELT signal is heard so that you can be prepared when a mission is assigned.

2. Always follow your check list and check on 121.5 before shutting down your aircraft. The ELT signal that you hear may be yours, or you may find another that no one else has reported

## **NM Minnesota Squadron responds in Crookston**

Minnesota Wing Ground Teams responded to a report of an ELT going off in the Crookston, MN Area on Friday December 1st.

The Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center received satellite information of an aircraft emergency transponder going off and contacted the Minnesota Wing Duty Officer, Major Chet Wilberg.

A ground team from the North West Minnesota Squadron was sent to the Crookston Municipal Airport. The team contacted local police and the airport's Fixed Base Operator (FBO) to help with search of airport. The FBO noticed a Cessna 172 was not on the ramp where it should be after being rented earlier in the day.

The ground team searched south of the airport and located the missing plane, crashed less than 2 miles southwest of the airport.

There were 2 persons found dead in the aircraft. They were Jacob Rueth of Orland Park, Ill., and Jacob Sundblad of Annandale, MN. Both were Aviation Students at the University of North Dakota.

Rueth was a member of the Civil Air Patrol's Lewis Composite Squadron based in Romeoville, IL. He had earned the Amelia Earhart Award and was very active his squadron.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

## **Wing assists in search for missing person**

Minnesota Wing was activated on December 21st to assist the Lac Qui Parle County Sheriff's Department in their search for a missing 79 year old female and her vehicle. They were last seen leaving the hospital on December 19th after receiving a blood transfusion. Hospital workers offered to drive her home several times, but she refused and has not been seen since.

Multiple air crews were placed on standby, but bad weather prevented any air searches on the 21st and 22nd.

On the 23rd, Air Crew personnel from Wesota, Hutchinson, St Cloud, Crow Wing, Viking, North Hennepin, and Worthington responded. Mission Base personnel from Hutchinson, Wesota and Wing HQ assisted.

Air operations were conducted with 6 aircraft throughout the day on Saturday the 23rd in an area mostly North and West of Madison, MN.

With no further leads being identified and the Christmas holiday approaching, the Sheriff elected to discontinue the search at the end of the day.



## **CAP-USAF thanks Minnesota Wing for Outstanding Support**

At the December 2006 Wing Staff Meeting Lt Col Mike Pederson, Commander of the North Central Liaison Region recognized the wing for it's support of this year's CAP-USAF Training Exercise in Mankato.

CAP-USAF staff, reservists and State Directors gathered in Mankato this past September for a week of training and learning. The subject was Civil Air Patrol.

They spent time learning how we do business especially in the operations and emergency services areas. They flew in CAP aircraft doing practice grid searches, electronic searches and familiarizing themselves with the ARCHER system the GA-8 Airvan.

CAP subject matter experts conducted a mini ground school on search and rescue techniques, and the SDIS system. USAF members also participated in glider orientation flight program by flying familiarization flights in the glider and the tow plane.

Lt Col Pederson presented an original piece of art that commemorates the Air Force's relationship with Minnesota Wing. It was created by Major Eric Peltier's mother. Major Peltier is the NCLR's Director of Training.

"Without the outstanding support of Minnesota Wing we could not have accomplished this training. Thank you." said Lt Col Pederson.

The art is on display at the Wing Operations and Maintenance Facility in South St. Paul.