





## From the Commander

Col Thomas B. Theis  
Minnesota Wing Commander

No matter who you are and where you're at, all the commanders across the country are thanking their members for all the support we've received in meeting the goals and objectives of our Civil Air Patrol missions. Please allow me to join in and say "Thank you for all you do!"

We can certainly be proud of the many accomplishments that the volunteers of Minnesota Wing have made through 2008.

There were a lot of quality cadet program activities to attend, not only locally and regionally, but nationally as well, through our International Air Cadet Exchange program. Our cadet program folks put on a great cadet encampment and leadership academy for both enlisted and officer cadets.

Senior training is ongoing. Our goal of course is to make sure that all our senior members have the opportunity to progress in the senior training program by attending Squadron Leadership Schools and Corporate Learning Courses, no matter where they are located in the state.

Our operations section has been busy with keeping our pilots, instructors and check pilots qualified and mission ready. Our Flight Academy program is one of the best in the country and is well attended by both powered and glider students not just from Minnesota but other states as well. Amazingly enough, we are the #3 glider Wing in the country.

Our emergency services support has been simply outstanding. We continue to train and use up our budgets, including surpluses from other Wings. Emergency Services training is ongoing, whether it's at the unit, Group or Wing level. We've even supported other Wings and Regions during their time of need. New challenges in what we do and how we do it will continue. Most notable is way we do business in seeking out Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs).



Oftentimes, with a little effort and diligence, when we lose one opportunity, another opportunity presents itself. Wish we could discuss more about some of our more unique activities, but as it's explained to us over and over - OPSEC, OPSEC, OPSEC! Check with our Counter Drug (CD) and Homeland Security Officers for the inside scoop on these operations.

Another area of our activities that seems to have blossomed in the last year or two is our public affairs programs. Wow! Whenever you look, there's some article or story about a CAPr participating in emergency services, receiving an award or documenting their participation in some community service or activity or special event.

We are getting the word out, even though I continue to hear people use the phrase that we're the Worlds Best Kept Secret!

With the down-trend of our economy, participation in a number of areas are starting to drop.

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One never knows for sure what each and every drop in the numbers represents, but we can provide some conjecture. The cost of membership has been pretty stable. But with increases costs in necessities and fuel, and even in some cases, underemployment or no employment, members driving long distances have to rethink how much they have to spend on extra curricular activities.

One of the biggest challenges we face, is how to do we get our members from greater Minnesota to travel across country to participate in some of our more centralized events? It's always been a challenge and with the economy, it can only create more challenges. Having traveled to the far corners of the state during my recent visits, I have an appreciation for what it's like to travel these distances to support our activities. How to get our Groups 1 and 4 units to participate in our activities will always be on my mind.

My goal is to have as many of our wing activities accessible and affordable to as many of our members as possible.

In the spirit of our downturned economy and possible cutbacks that support our CAP programs, the Wing Finance Committee is beginning to take a closer look at how we do business.

One of the more recent expenditures was the installation of the storage shelving at Wing HQ, at a cost of over \$3,000. We still need to complete the project with a locked cage, to secure our more valuable assets for almost another \$1,000. This has been a reoccurring write-up in inspections of the wing. The recent Commanders' Course cost the Wing around \$10,000.

We've solicited donations from other non-profit organizations to help offset the costs of our cadet encampment and flight academy. These organizations are also feeling the crunch as people who support charitable gambling are finding out they don't have the extra cash to toss around. So far this year, we've experienced a cut of 50% in our normal sources of donations.

These funds are typically applied to the cadet encampment and flight academy each year, allowing us to keep the cost at \$1,000. In many cases, if you see an activity that has the same fees as the previous year or two, it's mostly because the Wing is subsidizing it in some manner. It's a challenge, but one we're willing to battle!

Thank you for all you do!

THOMAS B. THEIS, Colonel, CAP  
Commander

## Legal Eagles Recognized



At the January Wing Staff meeting, Minnesota Wing Commander, Col Theis presented National Commander's Commendation Awards to (l) Minnesota Wing Legal Officer Lt Col Kevin Dunlevy and (r) Group 3 Legal Officer Lt Col Jim Garlough for their work in the CAP Legal Officer's Corps.

# Minnesota Wing answered the call in 2008

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“When you (CAP) respond to a search, you are prepared for the terrain and the weather. Your crew understands the chain of command and you already have team leaders selected. You bring radios, compasses and GPSs with you and are willing to share them with others. You practice searching in a line grid and it shows. If there is difficult terrain, Civil Air Patrol teams volunteer to work it. We wouldn't hesitate to call you if we needed you again,” said Scott County Sheriff's Deputy Mary Hensel.



Members of the St. Paul Squadron participating in a missing person search in November 2008.

In another incident, Minnesota Wing members did flyovers in Marshall, Pennington and Red Lake counties for a missing woman. That case remains under investigation by local law enforcement officials who also praised CAP's efforts.

The Minnesota Wing also successfully passed a winter search and rescue evaluation conducted by the US Air Force last January.

Major Jeff Peterson, who led the Air Force evaluation team, praised the 77 senior officers and 42 cadets who participated in the event. “Minnesota has a very competent wing.”

Wilberg noted that Minnesota Wing routinely flies thousands of hours per year of operational flights, and annually contributes some 10,000 + person-hours to search and rescue, counter drug, disaster preparedness, Homeland Security and other humanitarian mission flying.

“CAP is a ‘force multiplier’ always ready and willing to work with local, county, state and government emergency services providers,” Wilberg said.

Wilberg also had this to say, “We have the resources and personnel readily available when the need arises, and we're constantly training our air crews and ground teams for when that call comes. The numbers tell the tale.”

## Equal Opportunity Training now Mandatory for Senior Members

National Headquarters recently announced that the Equal Opportunity Training presentation is now available on the CAP website.

This training is mandatory for all senior members (active, cadet sponsor, life and 50-year members) as per CAPR 36-1, Paragraph 5-e. This training is a PowerPoint presentation that you review and certify that you agree with afterwards.

It takes about 10-15 minutes to complete and can be accessed under CAP University on the Links to Professional Development page at <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com> , or [https://tests.cap.af.mil/EO\\_Training/Index.cfm](https://tests.cap.af.mil/EO_Training/Index.cfm) .



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## Wreaths Across America

Capt Richard Geis  
Wing Public Affairs Officer



This was a brisk December day, yet many in our community - Blue Star families, Gold Star families, active military personnel, local police departments, Patriot Guard, VFW and American Legion posts, church congregations, scouting troops and CAP squadrons - came to participate in the wreath laying and dedication on Saturday, the thirteenth, remembering our military service men and women across the State of Minnesota. Wreaths Across America ceremonies were conducted and wreaths placed on gravesites at eight locations throughout our state.

Minnesota State Veterans' Cemetery - Little Falls  
Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial - Rochester  
Oakwood Cemetery – Rochester  
Oakwood Cemetery 2 – Rochester  
Calvary Cemetery – Rochester  
Grandview Memorial Cemetery - Rochester  
Greenwood Cemetery – Bemidji  
Fort Snelling National Cemetery - Minneapolis

Minnesota Wing proudly participated in “Wreaths” events in Minneapolis, Brainerd and Camp Ripley.

This is the third season that our veterans have been honored with this project in Minnesota. As many of you may know, the program was extended throughout the United States at each state’s national cemetery from the program begun at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia in 1992 by the Harrington Wreath Company of Maine. We have grown from some forty participants in 2006 at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, to many hundreds of people throughout Minnesota in 2008.

At Fort Snelling National Cemetery, wreaths were placed at each military service branch memorial flagpole surrounding the main flagpole on Mallon Road. Gold Star families of SSgt James Wosika, Jr., Thomas Burnett, Jr., and Lance Corporal Scott Modeen with Howard Wilson, Chris Baker, and William Leroy Namen former servicemen, and Cindy McLean were accompanied by active duty servicemen and CAP Cadets when placing these wreaths.

Section “T” was selected to be decorated this year, a northern portion of the cemetery. Cadets and seniors from Anoka, Red Wing, Valley Squadrons, and Wing HQ along with other people attending placed approximately 450 wreaths in this section. A memorable “Silent Night” was sung by all present in the final minutes of decorating the gravestones.

Minnesota Patriot Guard members also stood at each gravesite of servicemen fallen after 11 September 2001 through service in Afghanistan and Iraq. A wreath was present at each of these sites for the families to place.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony will again take place 12 December 2009.

## Wreaths Across America – Bemidji



## Wreaths Across America – Minneapolis



## Wreaths Across America – Camp Ripley





# 11<sup>th</sup> Cadet Training Group readies for 2009 Wing Encampment

Capt Nash Pherson  
Executive Officer, 2009 Minnesota Wing Cadet Encampment

As Minnesota Wing celebrates the dawn of the second decade of the Integrated Leadership Program and the Cadet Training Group, preparations are well underway for the 2009 MNWG Encampment. Over fifty cadets gathered to have their knowledge and skills tested as they competed for 11th Cadet Training Group (CTG) staff positions at the Staff Selection Exercise.

C/Col Charles Cox, 11th CTG Commander, is assembling the best cadets from around the wing and region to ensure this summer's encampment is the "the most significant week of training and personal development in our cadets' CAP career."



Those who attend the 11th CTG will be challenged physically and mentally by the strenuous weeklong activity. The days are long and packed with activities like uniform inspections, drill instruction, and the confidence course. Cadets will receive classroom instruction about Civil Air Patrol and U.S. Air Force from experienced USAF Officers. Throughout the week, cadets will develop strong teamwork and leadership skills through an intense living leadership laboratory.

After graduation, cadets will go home with strong sense of personal accomplishment, memories of

fun activities like the rifle range and tank simulators, and new friends from throughout the region.

Basic cadet applications open at the beginning of April on the encampment website at <http://www.mncap.org/cp/11ctg/>

Please send any questions to [encampment@mncap.org](mailto:encampment@mncap.org)



# Wing Leadership Gathers for Growth, Learning and Revitalization



Just before the holiday season began the Squadron and Group Commanders gathered with the Wing Executive Team for the annual Commander's Workshop.

Over 3 days the wing's leaders met and discussed a variety of issues as well as being able to spend time together and discuss issues and concerns as peers and colleagues.



Col Theis promotes Wing Legal Officer Kevin Dunlevy to the grade of Lt Col during the 2008 Commander's Workshop.



Group 3 Commander, Lt Col Mike Moen congratulates Matt Barrett on his promotion to Major at the 2008 Commander's Workshop.



Col Theis and Group 1 Commander Lt Col Dave Odette promote Paulette Odette to the grade of Major at the 2008 Commander's Workshop.



## Aviation Maintenance Conference to feature Aviation Jobs Nationwide

St. Paul, Minn.— The 2009 Minnesota Aviation Maintenance Conference cosponsored by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Office of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration, will be held March 16-17, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Detailed information and registration forms can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/>. Click on the blue Maintenance Conference icon on the left side of the page.



Conference attendees will have the opportunity to participate in continuing education classes, visit with exhibitors and aviation industry employers, experience networking opportunities, and complete their Inspection Authorization renewal on site. “More than 500 people are expected to attend,” said conference organizer Landice Wilson. “We are thrilled to have employers on site and many jobs to potentially be offered during this conference. The Conference continues to grow and retains its international flair with participants and exhibitors from Canada, and all over the United States,” she added. Select sessions and breaks are generously sponsored by industry representatives who understand the value and importance of continuing safety education.

As many as 50 high school students are expected to participate in the conference and will have the opportunity to meet with aviation business professionals, listen to aviation speakers, and explore quality, affordable aviation education at Minnesota colleges and universities. Students will also have the opportunity to speak to working mechanics, pilots and other aviation industry people about their careers fields.

The Minnesota Aviation Maintenance Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, 11 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. The conference location is within two blocks of additional restaurants, shopping and local entertainment.

For information on attending or registering on line go to: <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=660287> , or contact Landice Wilson, at 1-800-657-3922.

## Upcoming Events



- \* 7 Feb – Communications/Logistics Conference
- \* 27 Feb – SAREX @ Red Wing
- \* 28 Feb – Squadron Leadership Schools @ St. Croix Sq
- \* 3 March – Lock-in @ St. Cloud
- \* 3-5 April – BlackCAP XXV @ Red Wing
- \* 1-3 May Minnesota Wing Conference @ Alexandria

The complete Wing Calendar is always available at the Minnesota Wing Website at:

<http://www.mncap.org/calendar/calendar.cfm>