



WINGTIPS

The Newsletter of Minnesota Wing, Civil Air Patrol

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Minnesota Wingtips Back Online

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After many months of sitting idle in 2009, Minnesota Wingtips is back online. Minnesota Wing squadrons continue to be an active component in the Civil Air Patrol, and we continue to shine with devoted service, leadership, and teamwork. I am putting a call-out to all Minnesota squadrons to participate in building our Minnesota Wing newsletter back to the outstanding publication that it once was. Your training, activities, and stories are the fabric of this publication, and critical to its success. That being said, what better way to start out the newsletter for the New Year, but with a review of the past year. I look forward to working with you, and reading your stories. Minnesota Pride!

Minnesota Wing Celebrates Successful 2009

Major Richard J. Sprouse
Public Affairs Officer
Group 2, Minnesota Wing

The Minnesota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol completed a successful and intensive year of operations and activities in 2009.

The year started on a sad note with the passing of Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Krause, a 62-year Minnesota CAP member and World War II hero from the Mankato area, who died in late February.

Krause was one of the C-47 pilots that flew critically needed supplies over "The Hump," a dangerous 530-mile long passage over the Himalayan Mountains where nearly 1,000 men and 600 planes were lost.

Krause flew 72 missions over "The Hump". Among his many military awards were two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Purple Heart.

Finding fun ways to beat the Minnesota winter blues wasn't hard for the 200 Wing members and their families that turned out in early March for the annual Lock-In and Volleyball Tournament held in St. Cloud.

Starting with a bevy of teams competing in a volleyball tournament, the weekend led to lots of food, rock climbing, flight simulators, movies, games, swimming, dodge ball, and shooting hoops at St. Cloud State University's state of the art student recreation center.

Cadets from Viking Squadron took top volleyball honors, with a cadet team from St. Croix Squadron finishing second.

At the conclusion of the event, it was a tired but happy group exclaiming: "Awesome." "Excellent." "It rocked," as well as, "We'll be back again next year!"

Minnesota Wing Celebrates Successful 2009 Cont.

The Wing's operations tempo picked up dramatically in late March when approximately 200 members were called to fight flooding in the Fargo/Moorhead area.

"The assistance of Civil Air Patrol was much appreciated and lifted our spirits," said Fargo resident, Kent Wanner.

Phil McShane, also of Fargo, had plenty of praise for CAP as well, particularly the cadets working in his neighborhood.

"What marvelous young people. They were polite, hardworking, and their sense of community was just amazing. What an example and inspiration to all of us."

May included two major events: the annual Wing Conference in Alexandria, as well as Memorial Day. A highlight from the Wing Conference was Captain Bill Menkevich receiving the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Wright Brother's Master Pilot Award for 50 years of safe flying.

"We are very happy and proud that the FAA honored a member of the Anoka Squadron for 50 years of safe flying – an impressive achievement," says Major Don Sorenson, Group 2 commander of the Minnesota Wing.

"Bill sets an example for all of us to follow – that flying can be 100 percent safe given good planning, sound judgment and attention to detail. We salute Bill on this well-deserved award."

May also means Memorial Day, a busy time for many Wing color guards.

C/Amn Peter Spicer of St. Cloud Squadron had the honor of carrying the POW/MIA flag while joining the crack Minnesota Military Funeral Honor Guard during festivities at the State Veterans' Cemetery near Camp Ripley. "That was awesome," Spicer said as he helped post and retire the colors.

Despite being the shortest member of the military honor guard, Cadet Spicer stood tall among the nearly 12-hundred people attending the event.

"The little guy did real well on a sacred day for all war veterans," said Todd Goodrich, a Navy Gulf War veteran and member of the Minnesota Patriot Guard. "He stood tall and did his duty, just like a true veteran."

June and July are big months for cadets with the annual encampment at Camp Ripley and the annual Flight Academy in Mankato.

The June 20-27 encampment consisted of 86 Basic Cadets, 17 Staff Development Squadron cadets, and 28 Cadet Staff members. Nearly 30 Senior Officers and volunteers were also there. Cadets and staff from Missouri, North Dakota, as well as dozen from Iowa, participated in the event.

"Minnesota has a well-earned reputation as one of the best run encampments in the nation," said 2d Lt Carol Hinkle of the Burlington (Iowa) Composite Squadron. "I learned so much being there."

The July 17-25 flight academy drew 25 cadet pilots in training from Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Georgia and put them behind the controls of either a Super Blanik L-23 glider or Cessna 172 aircraft. Nearly 30 Senior Officers supervised the activity.

If you were among the 90 cadets and senior officers who attended Minnesota Wing's annual Ground Team Academy you possess the skills to perform search and rescue operations, anytime, anyplace.

Minnesota Wing Celebrates Successful 2009 Cont.

After some classroom instruction on land navigation, tracking ELTs, conducting a line search, working with search dogs and first aid training, the cadets and senior officers spent several days in the recesses of Camp Ripley's 53,000 acres honing their newly acquired skills under a variety of search and rescue scenarios.

"Ground Team Academy is an intensive event designed to help prepare our members mentally, physically and technically to deal with life threatening emergencies," said Lt Col Chet Wilberg, Ground Team Academy commander.

Last year, Minnesota Wing logged 75 actual or training missions totaling nearly 15,000 personnel hours, 469 air sorties, 789 air hours and one save.

Minnesota Wing's BlackCAP Emergency Services College celebrated 25 years in September with turnout of 130 members on a brilliant fall day.

Created by the Red Wing Squadron in 1984, BlackCAP is devoted to teaching the search and rescue procedures that enable Civil Air Patrol wings everywhere to save nearly 100 lives every year. Cadre at the event wears a special black cap.

Among the course offerings were flight line marshalling, field first aid, use of radios and direction finding equipment, line searches, transitioning from a search to a rescue operation, and handling the news media.

Public affairs seems to be a Minnesota specialty. Minnesota Wing submitted the most news releases to CAP National Headquarters in 2009 with nearly 60 submissions. 1st Lt George Supan of Anoka, 1st Lt Erik Lindquist of Viking, and 1st Lt Scott Richardson of St. Croix, as well as C/CMSgt Lydia Wiff of Viking is among a talented pool of Wing public information officers. Minnesota was also home to the North Central Region's public information officer of the year, Major Richard Sprouse of Group II Headquarters.

Minnesota Wing's Leadership Academy (MLA) had a full house during its annual session at Camp Ripley in October, graduating 16 cadets from the Basic Commissioned Officers Course (BCOC) and 34 cadets from the Noncommissioned Officer School (NCOS).

The MLA prepares cadets to become leaders through academic study and practical excises focusing on improving communications and interpersonal skills, affirmation of the leadership skills the cadets already have, as well as provide them ready resources that will help them deal with the challenges confronted by most young leaders.

The distinguished graduate of the BCOC seminar was Cadet Second Lieutenant David Nelson of Red Wing Squadron. For the NCOS seminar, the distinguished graduate was Cadet Staff Sergeant Caitlin Albrecht of North Hennepin Squadron.

November 11 was Veterans Day, and squadrons across the state participated in a number of events. Community involvement is an integral part of many Wing activities.

Minnesota Wing members were at the forefront of another major operational mission in November when a pilot and plane were reported missing in northern Minnesota.

The pilot, Andrew Lindberg, died in the crash discovered southwest of Bemidji.

Over the course of four days, nearly 400 Civil Air Patrol members from Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota wings, including ground team members and pilots, were involved in the search. They used 18 CAP aircraft.

Minnesota Wing Celebrates Successful 2009 Cont.

Cadets from North Hennepin Squadron took numerous honors during Minnesota Wing's annual color guard competition held December 4-5 at Camp Ripley.

The North Hennepin color guard placed first in Indoor Practical Drill, Outdoor Practical Drill, Standard Drill, Mile Run, Male Fleet Foot competition, Inspection, Panel Quiz, and Written Test.

The North Hennepin color guard consisting of C/A1C Garan Williams, C/SrA Sam Kessler, C/SSgt Jasmine Sands, C/MSgt Kris Grimaldi, and C/A1C Mitch Hanson (alternate) will represent Minnesota Wing during the North Central Region color guard competition in early 2010. A team from the squadron won both Minnesota and North Central Region color guard competitions last year before attending National Cadet Competition in Oregon.

In what is now very much a holiday tradition, Civil Air Patrol is partnering with Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit organization with a mission to remember, honor and teach about the service and sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

The Southeast Composite Squadron had a successful first year participating in the program placing about 170 wreaths in Rochester.

All in all, a great year!

Minnesota Wing Holds Logistics Conference

1LT. Erik J. Lindquist
Public Affairs Officer
Viking Squadron, Minnesota Wing

Minnesota Wing's Logistics Officer, Lt. Colonel Paul Adams, held the fifth annual MNWing Logistics Conference. Over fifty supply and transportation officers from across the state of Minnesota met at Wing HQ. Colonel Adams stated, "The reason we meet, is so that Minnesota Wing is always leading the pack!"

The conference has many purposes. It is a time to review new supply and transportation procedures to maintain regulation compliance. It is also a great opportunity for everyone to come together, get re-acquainted with fellow logistics members, and maintain a solid networking structure. For those new to logistics, it is a great opportunity to bring them into the fold, and offer them structured support. Another key feature of the conference is the ability to do a physical inspection on Minnesota Wing Vans. This year's inspection was special in that it was held inside the Wing hanger, keeping transportation officers happy by keeping them warm.



Inspection of MN Wing Vans



Lt. Colonel Paul Adams



A room full of logistics officers

St. Cloud Squadron Names New Commander

Major Richard J. Sprouse
Public Affairs Officer
Group 2, Minnesota Wing

Major Pat Cruze was named the new commander of the St. Cloud Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol during a change of command ceremony at the Minnesota National Guard Aviation Facility on January 11. Major Cruze replaced Captain Blane Pierson as commander. It is Cruze's second time as commander of the squadron.

The St. Cloud Composite Squadron is a mixture of 39 senior (adult) and 36 cadet (ages 12-21) members who learn about leadership and receive training for search and rescue missions. The squadron holds meetings each Monday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Minnesota National Guard Aviation Facility in St. Cloud.



Major Pat Cruze (right) receives the St. Cloud Composite Squadron guidon from Major Don Sorenson (left) Group 2 Commander of the Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol.

Viking Squadron Unveils Unit Challenge Coin

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Viking Squadron, Minnesota Wing

Members of Viking Composite Squadron were very excited at the unveiling of their new squadron challenge coin. In keeping with the tradition of the military, the challenge coin is used to inspire great pride and participation within the squadron. Besides using the coins for challenging, they are also used as rewards or awards, and are used as a tool to build morale.

The tradition of a challenge is the most common way to ensure that members are carrying their unit's coin. The rules of a challenge are not always formalized for a unit, and may vary between organizations. The challenge only applies to those members that have been given a coin formally by their unit. This may lead to some controversy when challenges are initiated between members of different organizations and is not recommended. The tradition of the coin challenge is meant to be a source of morale in a unit.

The one side of the coin details the North Star and a Viking ship. The mast of the ship is also the shape of an airplane. On the reverse side the coin is numbered to personalize it to each member. The first order of 100 coins has been distributed quickly, and further orders will follow. Special thanks to Major Jared Scribner and Lt. Colonel Brent Halweg for making this coin a reality.



Viking Squadron Pitches in for African Hunger Relief Food-Packing Campaign

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Viking Squadron, Minnesota Wing

Members of the Viking Composite Squadron teamed up with other community volunteers over the weekend to support the Hunger Initiative organization and its effort to pack bags of food for hunger relief in Africa.



Nationwide, the Hunger Initiative's goal for the January campaign is to pack more than 1 million meals – enough to feed more than 3,000 children in Dondo, Mozambique, for an entire year.



Locally, squadron members working in two-hour shifts alongside other community volunteers packaged 50,000 bags of food. Each held six meals containing a unique nutritional formula developed by food scientists -- including easily digestible protein, carbohydrates and vitamins – and consisting of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and 21 vitamins and minerals.

The event organizers had cooked samples on hand for volunteers to try, and Viking squadron members were surprised at how good the meal actually tasted.

The event enabled the Civil Air Patrol members not only to participate in an important volunteer effort addressing a need made even more prominent by the recent suffering and loss of life in Haiti, but also to raise the organization's profile among their fellow community volunteers.



St. Paul Squadron Cadets “O” Flight and Once in a Life Time Opportunity After

1LT. George Supan
Public Affairs Officer
Group 3, Minnesota Wing

It was a great winter day for flying in St. Paul, MN area on January 15, 2010. The air was crisp and the sky was blue. The smiles on the Cadets faces were as big as they could be before their “O” flights and were even bigger when they returned.



Lt Col Paul Adams, Pilot, enjoyed the opportunity to share his training and experience with four Cadets from the St. Paul Composite Squadron. Expanding the horizons of young people brings a smile to Col Adams along with meeting a special Viking.

C/MSgt David Kirsch and C/Amn Thomas Henschell enjoyed their flights and seeing the City on a clear day. The chance to fly is so great. You can see the smile on Cadet Henschell face as they were getting ready to taxi.



C/MSgt Kyle Sebesta and C/Amn Caitlin Niemann also had great flights. Cadet Niemann said, “It was my first “O” flight and though it would be hard”. “Once flying it was awesome, I’m ready to go again”, said Niemann.

The three of them were about to get some refreshments at the terminal while the aircraft was being refueled when they noticed a person standing near the beverage area with a MN Viking football jacket. Being the day before the big playoff game between MN Vikings and Dallas it could be anyone. Much to their surprise it was Zygi Wilf, the Vikings Owner.

“I could see the surprise on the Cadets faces as I told them who this man was”, said Col Adams.



Cadet Niemann said, “She was excited to meet and talk to him”. Mr. Wilf was very nice and joined them for some pictures as they shared with him their “O” flight experiences. “The “O” flight was great but meeting Zygi was out of this world,” said Caitlin.”

She was not the only one, as Col Adams was acting like a kid”, said Niemann. “It was good to see Col Adams have some enjoyment and relax after spending his day to provide them an experience they won’t forget”, said Caitlin.

As they parted ways “Skoal Vikings!!!” I shouted this to Mr. Wilf as we headed for the plane and he responded back “Go Vikings!!!”, said Col Adams. It must have worked as the next day the Vikings defeated Dallas.

The experience you get during an “O” flight might be just the beginning.

St. Cloud Squadron Cadets Earn Earhart and Mitchell Awards

Major Richard J. Sprouse
Public Affairs Officer
Group 2, Minnesota Wing

Cadet Captain Lydia Stone, of the St. Cloud Composite Squadron, was awarded Civil Air Patrol's Amelia Earhart Award at a ceremony on January 11 at the National Guard Aviation Facility. Lieutenant Colonel Mike Moen, Vice Commander of Civil Air Patrol's Minnesota Wing, presented the award to the Becker resident.

The Amelia Earhart Award is given to cadets who have completed the first eleven achievements of the cadet program. Cadets must pass a comprehensive exam covering aerospace topics and leadership theory. In addition, they must complete staff duty reports, mentor other cadets in aerospace training, pass a physical fitness exam, and lead moral leadership discussions.

Cadets earning the Earhart Award are promoted to the rank of Cadet Captain. Only three percent of the 28,000 CAP cadets nationwide earn this award.

Major Don Sorenson, Minnesota Wing Group II commander also presented four other cadets with awards. Cadet Second Lieutenants Derek Cash of Sartell, Ben Leaf and Korben Weidenborner, both of Princeton, and Daniel Miasek of St. Cloud received the Mitchell Award.

Only 15 percent of all cadets ever receive the Mitchell Award. To receive the award, the cadet must complete a comprehensive exam covering information about leadership and aerospace, pass the Cadet Physical Fitness Test, and receive instruction in character development.

Mitchell Award recipients are eligible to receive the grade of E-3 upon enlistment in the U.S. Air Force. They may also receive credit toward AFROTC's General Military Course. The service academies look favorably upon cadets who have earned the Mitchell Award. Other benefits include eligibility for CAP scholarships, and participation in Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributed Learning programs.



C/2LT Daniel Miasek



C/Captain Lydia Stone



C/2LT Korben Weidenborner



C/2LT Ben Leaf



C/2LT Derek Cash

Government on Display at the Mall of America

Captain David Coates
Aerospace Education Officer
Viking Squadron, Minnesota Wing

On Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31 the U.S. Government was on display at the Mall of America. Civil Air Patrol was just one of over 30 government agencies on display. As invited guests, four squadrons joined together to promote the Civil Air Patrol. This joint effort by St. Croix, North Hennepin, 130th, and Viking squadrons promoted to the public the three missions of the Civil Air Patrol as well as recruited new members.

During this two-day event, the Civil Air Patrol got to show off the elite award-winning North Hennepin Color Guard Team. Cadet Staff Sergeant Jasmine Sands, Cadet Airman First Class Garan Williams, Cadet Master Sergeant Kristian Grimaldi, Cadet Senior Airman Samuel Kessler, and Cadet Technical Sergeant Caitlin Albrecht performed the opening flag ceremony on-stage in the rotunda. The guest speaker was CAP Lt. Col William (Bill) Menkevich, who spoke of his adventures in the military and in Civil Air Patrol. Lt. Col Menkevich also made special mention of the Veterans Administration and the work that they do. 130th members Emily Heimerl and Mary Hagar displayed “Maggie”, a Search and Rescue Dog. 1st Lt. Emily Heimerl spoke about Maggie’s abilities and introduced the handler, Mary Hagar. Mary and Emily are with the 130th Composite Squadron and members of the NORTHSTAR Search and Rescue Dog Association. The Civil Air Patrol concluded the presentation with the retrieval of the colors by the North Hennepin Color Guard.

The Civil Air Patrol occupied a small space between the Veterans Administration and the 934th Airlift Wing – Air Force Reserve on the east side of the Mall of America. Captain Scott Slawson of North Hennepin, Captain David Coates of Viking Squadron, Major David Keenan, Cadet Airman First Class Ryan Malcolm and Cadet William Martinez of the St. Croix Squadron answered questions about the Civil Air Patrol and informed people about the volunteer opportunities available.

Special thanks to Pat Lawler and Scott Slawson for being the coordinators, and to the VA of Minnesota and to the 934th for allowing the CAP to squeeze in between them. This enabled us to share the Civil Air Patrol with the public for the Government on Display weekend.

