



WINGTIPS

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Wing, Civil Air Patrol

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Minnesota members help with storm clean up

Major Richard Sprouse, Group II PAO



3 members of the Mankato Squadron remove debris from the storms

(St. Cloud, Minn.) Civil Air Patrol members from across Minnesota spent the weekends of August 15th and 22nd in the St. Cloud area assisting with clean up efforts after tornados and straight line winds snapped or uprooted hundreds of trees, toppled silos, and cut power to several thousand homes.

Strong winds on Thursday evening led to an initial request for CAP to provide aerial photos to assess storm damage, but the mission was delayed by weather. Less than 24-hours later severe storms and winds rocked the area again causing reported damage in three central Minnesota counties.

Aircrews from 130th, Brainerd, and North Hennepin squadrons provided the National Weather Service with aerial photographs of the storm's path.

"The aerial photos CAP provided verified that tornadoes and straight line winds in excess of 80 miles per hour blasted through the area," said Major Paul Pieper, Minnesota Wing emergency services director. "It's a miracle that no one was seriously injured or killed."



C/Amn Anthony Miller of Mankato Squadron



Clean up over both weekends brought ground team members from 130th, Grand Rapids, Hutchinson, Mankato, Northland, St. Cloud, St. Paul, and Viking squadrons to the area.

The two groups' worked together removing dozens of felled trees from neighborhoods in Rice, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, and St. Cloud.

C/Amn Travis Fisher of Mankato Squadron

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Civil Air Patrol Plane amazing during Great Minnesota Air Show

Major Richard Sprouse, Group II PAO

Members of the Minnesota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol joined the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, the U.S. Air Force F-22 demonstration team and numerous performers receiving high marks during the Great Minnesota Air Show, June 26-27, at the St. Cloud Regional Airport.

“The flight line marshalling by Civil Air Patrol was flawless, fantastic, smooth as clockwork” said Bill Towle, St. Cloud Regional Airport manager. “We couldn’t have pulled this event off without CAP’s help.”

Nearly 70,000 people witnessed the different aerial acts, but the F-22 Raptor piloted by Minneapolis native, Major Dave “Zeke” Skalicky, caught everyone’s attention.



Cadets from Anoka, Crow Wing, Hutchinson, St. Cloud and St. Paul

“I was really looking forward to coming home,” said the demo pilot. “The St. Cloud show was an awesome opportunity to showcase the best aspects of the Air Force, technology and teamwork.” Teamwork was crucial for the nearly 70 cadet and senior officers from St. Paul, St. Cloud, Hutchinson, Crow Wing and Anoka squadrons assisting at the event, said Major Pat Cruze, St. Cloud Squadron commander.

This was the first time that the St. Cloud Squadron was the host unit at a major air show.

“With an air show of this scope we were constantly barraged with last minute changes and without batting an eye we adapted and overcame any obstacle placed in front of us,” Cruze said.

“I can’t tell you how many positive comments I heard from air show organizers and staff, as well as the general public, who were amazed to see cadets confidently and professionally marshalling multi-million dollar aircraft. I am very proud of all of our cadets.”

Cadet Captain Lydia Stone, St. Cloud Squadron cadet commander, admits to being a little nervous when marshalling a U. S. Marine Corps Osprey aircraft.

“I put the butterflies aside and did my job; all the flight line training leading up to the air show just kicked in,” Stone said. “When it was over I said to myself, ‘I just parked an Osprey, what a rush!’” She then confidently moved on to the next aircraft.

The work of the cadets was also noticed by Air Force Master Sergeant Greg Gappert, F-22 maintenance crew team chief, who along with two other crew members, visited the St. Cloud Squadron the day following the event.



Capt Shawn Warneke of St. Cloud Squadron

“CAP impresses me with its discipline,” Gappert said. “During our travels I’ve seen cadets addressing other cadets on what I thought a minor uniform infraction that even had me going ‘whew’ they take themselves and their organization pretty seriously.”

1st Lieutenant Amy Pahr of St. Paul Squadron said despite the intensity and volume of work, Minnesota Wing members also got to enjoy the air show, and something unexpected.

“We were able to get up close to the aircraft and speak with Major Skalicky and the Blue Angels pilots as they signed autographs, and were pleasantly surprised when people started asking for our autographs!”

Minnesota Wing Color Guard In Action

C/SMSgt Jasmine Sands, North Hennepin Squadron



From left: C/Samuel Kessler, C/Jasmine Sands, C/Garan Williams, C/Mitch Hanson

Minnesota Wing Champion Color Guard Team from North Hennepin Squadron departed Crystal Airport on Friday morning, May 14, 2010 for a 10 hour drive to the North Central Regional Competition at Fort Crowder, Neosho, Missouri. The Minnesota team competed against teams from Nebraska, North Dakota and Missouri

Cadet project officer Joshua Carr explained that the purpose of color guard competitions was not just to win, but also to benefit all teams by increasing esprit de corps. There are also benefits to the cadet's career by increasing leadership, aerospace, and uniform knowledge; improving drill skills; and providing opportunities to serve.

The Color Guard Competition entailed the following elements:

- Standard Drill - to protect and proudly display the flag of the United States of America while marching in perfect unison.
- Panel Quizzing - aerospace information from the aerospace modules and current aerospace events.
- Indoor Practical - the color guard team's ability to quickly assess a room setting, develop a plan, and present and retire the colors professionally.
- Outdoor Practical Drill- Because of the absence of a flagpole, competition focused on the flag folding aspect of the event.
- Written Examination – based on leadership manual and many other CAP documents.
- Mile run
- Inspection



The Minnesota Wing Color Guard took first place in the Mile Run, the Panel Quiz, In-Ranks Inspections, and Standard Drill. The team took second place in Outdoor Practical, Written Examination, and Indoor Practical. Individual awards also went to C/MSgt Jasmine Sands for the Fleetfoot Award, and the Outstanding Cadet Award.



The MNWG Color Guard presents the colors at Government on Display at Mall of America

Color Guard members:
C/SSgtr Jasmine Sands,
C/A1C Garan Williams
C/SrA Samuel Kessler
C/MSgt Kris Gimaldi

From The Squadrons

Anoka Composite Squadron

Captain George Supan, Anoka Squadron

Federal Legislative Representatives, Local Officials, friends and family members attended the flag pole dedication by Minnesota Wing, Anoka Composite Squadron, at the Anoka-Blaine Airport on July 20, 2010.

Army, Private First Class, Matthew Birr carried the U.S. Flag and presented it to Anoka Composite Squadron, Commander, Capt Shelly Supan who presented it to 1st Lt Don Raleigh in turn presented it to the Color Guard Commander, C/CMSgt Don Raleigh.



PFC Birr from Fridley MN was a Cadet at the Anoka Squadron before joining the Army. Last summer PFC Birr was seriously injured in Afghanistan. Matt was given the flag that flew over the area in Afghanistan the day he was injured. He in turn donated the flag to the Anoka Squadron along with a contribution to start the fund raising for a new flag pole.

Viking Squadron, Eden Prairie

C/SMSgt. Matthew A. Johnson, Viking Squadron

On the evening of the 29 June, 47 cadets and seniors of Viking Composite Squadron met at Flying Cloud Airport to participate in an aerial adventure. The Minnesota Army National Guard Aviation flew a pair of UH-60 Blackhawks to the airport, where Viking Squadron had gathered in preparation for their flights. After a safety briefing and introduction to the aircraft by the crew, the squadron divided into five groups for the flights. The first group donned ear protection and boarded the aircraft. The flights lasted approximately twenty minutes each and followed a route that went in a large rectangle around the airport. Many of the flights flew over the Lake Minnetonka area, St. Bonifacius, Waconia, Cologne, Shakopee, and Valley Fair.



Viking Squadron, Eden Prairie

Congratulations C/CMSgt Alex Bee on obtaining your private pilot license! And thank you Lt Col Alan Matson and all the other instructors in our Wing who dedicate their talent, time and money in support of our cadets, our aerospace education and flying programs. This is what it's all about!

130th Lakeville/Airlake

Congratulations Lt Tom Fitzhenry new commander for the 130th. The Change of Command Ceremony took place 6 July 2010.

Distinguished Aviator Award Nominee

Col Thomas Theis, Wing Commander



On Saturday, 19 JUN 10, Capt. Paul Van Brunt was providing flight instruction for a cadet. After conducting a normal start-up, taxi-out, and thorough run-up, a takeoff run was commenced. No unusual indications or sounds were noted during the takeoff until the aircraft reached 2300 ft. MSL (1400 ft. AGL), at which time the engine stopped producing power while the propeller continued to windmill.

Capt. Van Brunt reacted by immediately performing the **BOLD FACE** items on the red bordered emergency checklist, reestablished power by adjusting the throttle to a setting of less than full power, and turned back to the field to make a landing. Since he had reestablished partial power (somewhere near the bottom of the green arc) he

was able to maintain level flight, and he then completed the checklist items, including the PRECAUTIONARY LANDING checklist section.

Capt. Van Brunt's timely, appropriate actions, including his use of the checklist during a stressful situation, are a demonstration of superior judgment in action. He knew that he could do something about the situation, and that utilizing the checklist would be the best course of action. His decision to immediately turn back to the field to terminate the flight, rather than trying to solve the problem while airborne, was right on!

While Van Brunt *did* exhibit superior skill in this case, the need for this exhibition of skill was certainly *not* brought on by error on his part. After a thorough inspection of the aircraft engine it was discovered that the spark plugs were fouled. This may have been due to the number of recent cadet training flights in this aircraft, which typically involve many takeoffs and landings during which the mixture is not leaned. While hotter plugs were installed to make fouling less likely in the future, CAP Instructors might consider conducting precautionary run-ups (while leaning the mixture a bit) prior to conducting every other takeoff during initial training sorties. This will help to burn carbon build-up from the plugs, and may help us to avoid the need for another exhibition of superior judgment and skill.



Meritorious Service Award



Lt Col John Barsness of the Mankato Squadron receives the Meritorious Service Award at the Mankato Squadron on 15 July 2010.

LTC John E. Barsness has been an outstanding member of Minnesota Wing since 1996. He was Group 4 Commander from Sept. 2006 to Sept. 2009 as well as the Mankato Squadron Commander for six years from 1999 to 2005.

LTC Barsness' level of involvement in the functions of the Wing as well as Group 4 and Mankato Squadron has been far and above his assigned duties. He has been instrumental in the Region Archer program as a pilot and instructor in the Gippsland. He has provided mission support in the Gippsland to Minnesota Wing since December 2006. He has also been an instructor for the MN Wing Flight Academy for four years and is well known throughout the wing for providing CAPF 5 and CAPF 91 flight checks to not only our local squadron pilots, but to anyone in the Wing who requests a Form 5 or 91. He has also been a pilot in the Wing counterdrug program for over four years.

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LTC Barsness eagerly provides Cadet Orientation flights. He is the primary provider of cadet orientation rides for both Mankato and Owatonna Squadrons. He has given over 550 "O" flights and is eagerly looking forward to completing 600. He has been a Check Pilot and Mission Check Pilot for over five years and a Stan/Eval Pilot for over three years. He has recently been assigned to serve as the Group 4 Stan/Eval leader.

LTC Barsness received his Aerospace Technician in March 2004, Emergency Services Senior in May 2003, Flight Operations Master in October 2007, Operations Senior October 2006 and Standards and Evaluations Senior in April 2007. He also makes himself available for other duties as well, such as transporting aircraft to and from Wing Headquarters for maintenance.

LTC Barsness has always been a role model and inspiration for CAP members in Minnesota Wing. He has always performed above and beyond. With the above list of activities that he is currently juggling, he still steps up to perform additional duties when requested of him, all with a great deal of enthusiasm. He is well versed in CAP regulations and has been instrumental in the growth of MN Wing, Group 4, and Mankato Squadron by welcoming new recruits and guiding them through the maze of training, achievements, and specialty tracks.

Service Awards



Lt Col Anna Marie
Bistodeau
25 Years



Lt Col Blaze
Cunningham
15 Years



Lt Col Al Madson
10 Years



MINNESOTA WINGTIPS is the official newsletter of the Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol. The views expressed, either written or implied are not necessarily those of the U.S. Air Force, Civil Air Patrol of the Minnesota Wing. Submissions are welcome and can be sent to wingtips@mncap.org

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