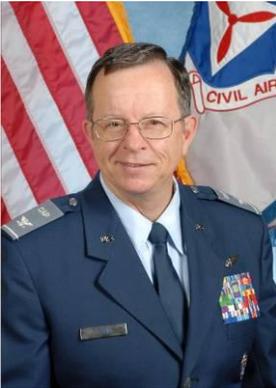




WINGTIPS

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Wing, Civil Air Patrol

December 2010



From the Commander

Col Thomas B. Theis
Minnesota Wing Commander

With the coming of the new year, it's time to reflect on some of the accomplishments we experienced in 2010.

Each of our 1256 members and 23 squadrons made significant and important contributions to aerospace education and cadet programs, and at the same time, continuing to provide vital emergency services support at the local, state, region and national levels.

While CAP's primary missions of aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services is distinctly unique, attitude, professionalism and dedication is a common bond throughout each.

We assisted our communities and neighbors' communities in disaster relief operations such as those in the Red River Valley, where Minnesota Wing aircrews accumulated more than 100 hours of flight time and 85 ground team members providing more than 3,000 hours of service. Fifty members who just graduated from Minnesota Wing's Ground Team Academy at Arden Hills Army Training Site were called into action 75 miles away after severe storms went through the St Cloud area. During an Air Force evaluated mission, Minnesota Wing received Successful, Excellent and Outstanding ratings after the US Air Force evaluation in April at Mankato. Nearly 120 members and 12 aircraft participated which evaluated our preparedness and ability to perform to the standards and expectation of the Air Force evaluators.

We actively supported our aerospace missions by conducting several rocket launches and supporting air shows throughout the Wing. Our Aerospace Directorate sponsored a Aerospace Education Member (AEM) Contest wherein 18 free teacher memberships at \$35 each were provided. Squadrons have increased the frequency of first-time orientation flights, providing the motivation of our youth to get more involved in aviation and aerospace careers. Approximately 70 cadets and senior members from the Anoka, Crow Wing, Hutchinson, St Cloud and St Paul squadrons assisted with the Great Minnesota Air Show at the St Cloud Regional Airport which drew nearly 70,000 people in addition to the air shows at the Duluth and Anoka Airports. Minnesota Wing continues support of its glider operations at the Mankato Airport, which is part of the North Central Region's Glider Center of Excellence program.

Our summer encampment at Camp Ripley attracted 164 cadet and senior members. Thirty four cadets completed the Minnesota Wing Leadership Academy which provided academic study and practical exercises focusing on improving communications and interpersonal skills. The North Hennepin Squadron's Color Guard and drill team took top honors at the Minnesota Wing Cadet Competition and will be representing the Wing at Region Cadet Competition this summer.

Our safety program has shown great improvement this Fiscal Year (FY) with a minimum number of reported incidents. This reduction can be attributed largely to the focus of our operations section who have been promoting safe operations

of our aircraft and vehicles, being mindful of situational awareness and remaining focused on what it is we're doing at all times. Our members are our most valuable asset. Without your support and involvement, it will be difficult to accomplish our goals and missions.

Accolades to Maj Janelle Gates, Lt Col Paul Adams, Lt Col Brent Hollenhorst and Lt Col Brent Halweg for attaining Level 5 and earning the coveted Gill Robb Wilson Award, the highest achievement in the senior program.

A huge effort was accomplished by our Communication folks in updating, maintaining our radio gear and installing 15 new small refrigerator sized repeaters throughout the state. Many antennas had to be updated or repaired on water towers and roof tops. A monumental task!

We've been fortunate enough to update several of our worn out vehicles with brand new ones. Several of our aging units' computers and accessories have been upgraded.

Early this summer, Minnesota Wing received an overall assessment of "Successful," evaluating Aerospace Education, Emergency Services, Cadet Programs, Mission Support and Command areas of our program. "Performance met mission requirements. Available resources and programs were efficiently managed..." The sections which were attained the highest ratings of the inspection, "Highly Successful" was Aircraft Management, Cadet Program, Chaplain Corps and Supply.

We have been and continue to be a very active Wing. It is impossible to address all the things we have done and accomplished in this limited space. To those who are dedicated to their work in support of the missions of Civil Air Patrol, "Thank You for all you do!"

Col Tom Theis
Commander

Wreath Across America -Minnesota veterans honored
Maj Richard J. Sprouse
Group II, PAO



(Little Falls, Minn.) Frigid winds and blowing snow couldn't prevent members of the St. Cloud and Crow Wing squadrons of the Minnesota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol from helping place 1,765 wreaths at the Minnesota State Veterans' Cemetery near Little Falls, Minn., on Saturday, December 11, as part of Wreaths Across America.

"The weather conditions were difficult, but everyone did a fantastic job," said Major Pat Cruze, St. Cloud Squadron commander.

The St. Cloud Squadron sponsored 321 wreaths at the cemetery.

Spearheading the St. Cloud Squadron's Wreaths Across America efforts this year were Cadet Airman Matt Gruber with 66 wreaths, and Cadet Airman Rachel Lukkarila with 31 wreaths.

They were joined by brothers, Cadet 1st Lieutenant Korben Weidenborner and Cadet Senior Airman Hayden Weidenborner, with 47 wreaths.

Cadet Gruber bypassed social media venues and got his sponsorships the old -fashioned way.

"I knocked on doors in my neighborhood, asked family and friends, and even got people where I go to school to buy a wreath. When I explained that the wreaths would be placed on the graves of veterans they were more than happy to be a sponsor," Gruber said.

The St. Cloud Squadron was also privileged to join two Minnesota families placing wreaths at the resting places of their loved ones: Sergeant Kurt Kruize, who died in Iraq earlier this year, and Specialist George Cauley, who died in Afghanistan in late 2009.

Cemetery director Dave Swantek said the Wreaths Across America program has experienced phenomenal growth here since 2006.

“The first year we placed only 5 wreaths at the cemetery. Today the number is 1,765, or a 300 percent increase! Another example of the patriotism exhibited in Central Minnesota.”

Despite single digit temperatures, 5-7 inches of fresh snow on the ground, and winds gusting up to 35 miles per hour, the event was praised by the nearly 100 people who braved the weather to attend.

“By the time we were finished there was a wreath on about every third grave; the cemetery looked beautiful,” said Cruze.

The Little Falls ceremony was one of approximately 400 similar ceremonies held across the nation.



Cadet Competition

Capt Susan Blessman
MNWG, Director of Cadet Programs

Early on the snowy morning of November 13, 2010, cadets and escorts from the 130th, Owatonna, Viking and North Hennepin squadrons began their trek to Fourth Baptist Christian School, Plymouth, MN, for the 2011 Minnesota Wing Cadet Competition. As staff and competitors brushed snow off their uniforms, they had a look that said, “Is this such a good idea?”

The day passed quickly as the color guard teams competed in the written test, inspection, indoor presentation, outdoor presentation (improvised indoors), standard drill, and quiz bowl. The drill team performed standard drill and innovative drill plus completed a written exam and inspection. Then the teams waited for the final scores to be tallied and the award ceremony to begin.



Minnesota Wing Commander, Col. Tom Theis, presented these awards:

First Place, Minnesota Wing Color Guard: North Hennepin Squadron

First Place, Minnesota Wing Drill Team: North Hennepin Squadron

Event Awards:

Indoor Presentation: North Hennepin Squadron

Standard Drill: Viking Squadron

Outdoor Presentation: North Hennepin Squadron

Written Exam: Viking Squadron

Inspection: North Hennepin Squadron Panel

Quiz: North Hennepin Squadron

MN Wing Cadet Competition Project Officer, 1Lt. Alan Trombley

Individual Awards:

Highest Written Test Score: Matthew Dahlager,
North Hennepin Squadron Color Guard

Outstanding Cadet: Matthew Bruffey,
North Hennepin Squadron Drill Team

CyberPatriot Competition - Viking Squadron Advances to the 3rd Round

C/2dLt Lydia Wiff
Viking Squadron

Computers make up a massive part of the world's technology and they are everywhere. The United States military has integrated them into many weapons, vehicles, even the gear that soldiers carry. Computers are also a big part of the country's cyber defense protecting from cyber warfare.

Recently the United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) has taken over the responsibility of protecting the nation's cyber system in a unified (joint) combatant command with its first commander U.S. Army General Keith Alexander. The U.S. Air Force also plays a critical role and formed the 24th Air Force in support of the cyber defense mission.

Three years ago, the Air Force Association started a competition called the National High School Cyber Defense Competition or "CyberPatriot". The CyberPatriot competition was created "to provide students the opportunity to gain hands-on, practical knowledge that prepares them for post-secondary education and jobs in the STEM career fields. *CyberPatriot* is designed to answer a critical national need by inspiring high school students to pursue a career of service to their nation in this vital career field."

With this objective in mind, the competition "tests the ability of the students to defend a simulated corporate network from external hostile attacks."

Over 575 teams from JROTC, CAP, high schools, and even from Japan compete in a total of 4 rounds. In each round, teams sign in and connect to the "Score Bot", a program designed to keep track of problems solved. A team is scored on the number of vulnerabilities found and how quickly they are solved. Each team starts by downloading a target computer system, then set to work finding and fixing flaws in the operating system. Problems include spyware, viruses, patches, and an overall goal of hardening the system.

Drug Demand Reduction Lock-in

2d Lt Nanette Berg
Grand Rapids Squadron



Braving the weather, unplowed roads and an impending storm was a challenge for participants that attended the Drug Demand Reduction Lock-In at the Grand Rapids Civil Air Patrol Squadron Campus on New Year's Eve, but the knowledge gained, and prizes earned made it all worthwhile.

Thirteen cadets and guests participated in informational sessions and competitive activities throughout the day. The goal of the event was to prepare the participants to serve in a leadership capacity to reduce the demand for illegal drugs in their community. By joining into competitive flights, (complete with their own battle standard, or guidon) the participants were given the opportunity to win the "stash" of prizes collected

from area businesses, as well. The activities complimented the topics of the sessions, and kept the event exciting and fun. The winning flight in each activity was awarded points, and in the end, the flight with the most points was the honor flight and winner.

An extensive informational session on tobacco, known as a “gateway drug,” was presented by 1Lt. Nanette Berg, DDRO for the Grand Rapids squadron. It included many visuals that were effective in assisting the participants to fully understand the dangers involved in tobacco use, as well as its far reaching effects on society through the burden of rising healthcare costs.

In another session, the competitive flights produced infomercials to demonstrate their views on substance abuse after listening to a presentation about the important role they play in forming a drug free society.

A session with Grand Rapids Police Officer, Sgt. Jeff Carlson, and Minnesota State Patrol Officer, Lt. Jason Engeldinger, utilized a powerpoint, a film, and information on various drug abuse and safety scenarios. The officers encouraged the participants to be proactive in Drug Demand Reduction.

“This is great! Assist your peers, through your positive actions,” said Trooper Engeldinger, “The choices you make do make a difference.” He encouraged the participants to keep on the right path and continue to make wise choices and to stay informed.

C/Benjamin Jokela, C/Aleksandr VanReese-Jasso, C/Abraham Berg, and C/Colleen Grotte formed the flight that called themselves “The Winners,” and when the competition was over, they were indeed the winners of the “stash” of prizes. However, C/Libby Berg won the door prize, a Pool Party donated by Timberlake Lodge, a local fun spot with an indoor water park.

By the end of the event, it was clear that all the participants were winners. They seized the opportunity to prepare themselves to be “*semper vigilans*” in the war on drugs, and paved the way for a substance abuse free community.



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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