



WINGTIPS

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Wing, Civil Air Patrol

March 2011

Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC)

Maj Susan Blessman
Cadet Commander, MN Wing

Thirteen seniors from Bemidji to Cedar Rapids, IA, braved the winter road conditions on January 14-15 to increase their knowledge and understanding of leading cadets and administering the Cadet Program at the squadron level. The Training Leaders of Cadets course was held at the 934th Airlift Wing on Friday night and all day Saturday. A variety of instructors led discussions and shared information from strategic goals to the basics of running a weekly meeting. The following seniors served as session instructors: Alan Trombley, Norine Olson, Don Helgager, Brian Freseman, Don Mikitta, Nash Pherson, and James Garlough. Col Thomas Thisis was present to add a Wing perspective and lead in an update of the new CAPR 52-16.



Attendees of the 2011 TLC. Photo by Maj Susan Blessmann

Minnesota Wing members climbing the walls this winter

Maj Richard J. Sprouse
Public Affairs Officer, Group 2 Headquarters

(St. Cloud, Minn.) A winter season of record snow, wind and cold couldn't keep nearly 260 Minnesota members of the Civil Air Patrol and their guests from enjoying themselves March 5-6 at the Minnesota Wing's annual volleyball tournament and the St. Cloud Squadron "Lock-in" events held at St. Cloud State University.

"Events like these are good opportunities for the new members of the Civil Air Patrol to meet new cadets from different squadrons, and senior cadets to reunite with old friends from Encampment or other past events," said Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Justin Crow of Southeast Minnesota Squadron in Rochester.



Photo by Maj Richard Sprouse

The fun began when about 20 volleyball teams from squadrons around the state took to the court in competition. St. Paul Squadron took first place honors with the Ft. Snelling Cadet Squadron and the Viking Squadron coming in at second and third place respectively. The Southeast Minnesota Squadron took the consolation prize.

A special highlight during the volleyball awards ceremony was a surprised Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Joe Brown of Anoka Squadron being delivered his letter of acceptance at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point by his proud parents.

The Lock-In, which included rock climbing, basketball, dodge ball, board games, age/content appropriate movies. and much, much more, followed.

There was also tons of food donated to the event.

Lock-in organizer, Major Pat Cruze, St. Cloud Squadron commander, said the Wing volleyball competition and the Lock-in were not the result of any one person, but everyone who stepped up and worked tirelessly supporting the events.



2011 Winter Lock-in Volleyball Champions – St Paul Squadron pose with Wing Vice-Commander Lt Col Michael Moen. Photo by Maj Richard Sprouse

“It is the support staff that makes such activities successful. I'm so proud of all the parents, Senior Members and Cadets that put so much time and effort into their respective tasks. I'm truly grateful for all those with whom I serve, whether here in St. Cloud or across the state of Minnesota. With the talents of these members, and the generosity of local businesses in Becker, Elk River, Monticello, Princeton, St. Cloud, Waite Park, and Woodbury, this activity was a breeze to put on. I want to say thanks to all involved.”

Cadet Captain Matthew Frame gains unparalleled access to nation’s capital through Civil Air Patrol academy

Capt George Supan

Public Affairs Officer, Anoka County Composite Squadron



Photo by Capt George Supan

Cadet Captain Matthew Frame, of Ramsey, MN will participate in the Civil Air Patrol’s Civic Leadership Academy from Feb. 26 to March 5 in Washington, D.C., one of 24 top cadets selected for this activity.

The CLA, an academically intense, interactive study of U.S. government in action, provides participants the opportunity to grow as citizens and young leaders through lessons in persuasive leadership, federal government, public service careers and American heritage.

Frame, a member of the MN Wing, Anoka County Composite Squadron, has distinguished himself in numerous ways. Recipient of the Amelia

Earhart Award, the third highest Cadet Award in CAP along with be promoted to Cadet Captain, Billy Mitchell Award and promoted to Cadet 2d Lt., winner of a essay scholarship, Leader in the MN Encampment the past four years and again selected to be on the staff in 2011 along with being a strong leader on the Cadet Staff at the Squadron and is a Squadron Cadet Adviser Council Representative to the MN Wing Commander. Frame, has been a CAP cadet since 2006.

“The Civic Leadership Academy provides cadets an unrivaled opportunity to gain a well-rounded understanding of leadership, public service and the principles that guide our nation,” said Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, CAP’s national commander and CLA’s founding director. “The activity empowers them to apply those principles in their lives and to be thoughtful participants in our nation’s future.”

In addition to a blend of field trips, lectures, seminars and assigned readings from historic and current sources, Frame and the other CLA cadets will visit the U.S. Capitol; the Supreme Court; the State Department; Arlington National Cemetery, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; the Central Intelligence Agency; the Pentagon; the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.; legislative offices; and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, as well as the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Women in Military Service and Lincoln memorials. They will also encounter VIP speakers at these locations who will provide insights designed to deepen their understanding of government in action. Their CLA tasks will culminate with a final project – a presentation on their CLA experience to their peers in their home squadrons and wings.

“The success of CLA has been to keep the cadets engaged in activities they could not do on their own,” said Lt. Col. Bill Brockman, CLA activity director and founding faculty member. “They are not just learning about government, but also how to interact with government, how they can be involved to make a difference, and how to look for internship opportunities.”

In recognition of the program’s outstanding academic value, the National Association of Secondary School Principals has again placed CLA on the National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2010-2011.

In addition to their activities, Frame and the other CLA cadets will participate in CAP’s 2011 Legislative Day on March 3 by working alongside their wing commanders and legislative officers to brief legislators on how CAP’s primary missions – emergency services, aerospace education and cadet programs – have benefited their communities.

Staff Training Weekends prepare cadet cadre, senior staff for Encampment

Maj. Richard J. Sprouse
Public Affairs Officer, 2011 Minnesota Wing Encampment

(Camp Ripley, Minn.) From Mar. 18-20, the Minnesota National Guard training center at Camp Ripley was home to nearly 50 cadets and senior members participating in the final phase of the Minnesota Wing’s Encampment Staff Training Weekend (STW).

The purpose of STW is to familiarize cadet cadre and senior staff with the operations and management of the 2011 Minnesota Wing Encampment being held here June 11-18. An earlier STW was held in Feb.



(From left) C/2d Lts. Libby Berg (Grand Rapids Squadron) and Rueben Miller(North Hennepin), finalize a presentation on inspections.

“Encampment is the stepping stone to the numerous opportunities available to a young adult in Civil Air Patrol, so we need to make sure that the cadet cadre and senior staff has the necessary training and skill set to ensure a positive experience for each basic cadet,” said Capt. Nash Pherson, 2011 Minnesota Wing Encampment commander.

Cadet Capt. David Nelson of Red Wing Squadron, commander of the Encampment’s associated 13th Cadet Training Group, agreed.

“The STWs are short and to the point, but manage to address a wealth of important information. For cadets and senior members who have served at an Encampment before, it’s a helpful ‘refresher.’ For those who have never served at an Encampment it provides a wealth of important information; it provides the skills to be more effective and gives them the tools and techniques needed to succeed. We owe it to them, as well as to the basic cadets attending Encampment.”

The STW’s cover topics including situational and persuasive leadership, mentorship and feedback, team building, practice inspections, drill, avoiding the hazing trap, legacy building, uniform standards, and so much more.

“I liked the situational leadership segments the best because they helped with really making you analyze what is needed for any situation you may encounter while working during Encampment,” said Cadet Staff Sgt. Mikayla Frey of Anoka Squadron, Encampment cadet logistics officer.



(Right) C/2d Lt. Caitlin Albrecht (North Hennepin practices drill with the Encampment’s cadet. Photo by Maj Richard Sprouse.

Staff Training Weekend also provided a platform to exchange best practices, as well as enhance teamwork.

“I found STW helpful to bounce ideas off of other Tactical Officers (TACs), along with getting to know the rest of the cadet and senior staff. I made new friends and met old ones, all of whom I’m looking forward to working with during Encampment,” said 1st Lt. Rachel Helgager of Northland Squadron, Encampment Alpha Flight TAC.

New this year was bringing the cadet and senior staffs together sooner, reinforcing the concept of the “flight team.”

“It seems that many times issues arise because TACs and cadet flight staff haven’t trained together, worked together or even met before encampment starts. The push this year was to have all the TAC positions filled and require them to attend the staff training so they could work with their cadet counterparts,” said Maj. Brian Freseman, Minnesota Wing assistant director of Cadet Programs, and Encampment’s chief TAC.

Four situational leadership exercises included the entire flight team, allowing TACs and cadet flight staff an opportunity to train and work together.

“We are hoping that this will minimize TACs overstepping on flight staff’s duties and vice versa. We also wanted to encourage the TACs and flight staff team to start and build a positive working relationship,” Freseman said.

Encampment executive officer, 1st Lt. J.D. Teter of North Hennepin Squadron, was impressed by the personal growth, as well as the leadership development of the cadet staff that transpired in the four weeks between each STW session.

"I really like how we are integrating the training of the flight staff as a whole: TAC, flight commander and flight sergeant. This is a crucial element that has, for the most part, been overlooked or taken for granted at past Encampments. They are truly acting as a team after this weekend," Teter said.

Teter also praised the attitudes of both senior and cadet staff, and their willingness to listen and learn from each other.

The U.S. Navy veteran summed up STW and its application to the 2011 Minnesota Wing Encampment best. "As one of my shipboard security response team instructors used to say: 'I am pumped up, psyched up and motivated!'"

Cadet Present the History of CAP to American Legion Arlington, MN - 3rd District

Maj. Janelle Gates, MN Wing

Cadet Lt. Col. Billy Hoffman and Cadet 2dt. Lt. Annie Smith, On February 2, 2011 presented at the American Legion Mid Winter Conference in Arlington, MN .

There were eighty Legion members present for the conference .

The cadets presented on the history of Civil Air Patrol and how CAP serves the local communities .

The cadets had a great time and had the opportunity to review volume II War Stories - Further Accounts of Minnesotans Who Defended Their Nation by AL ZDON



Pictured are C/Lt Col Hoffman and C/2d Lt Annie Smith. Photo by Al Zdon

G1000 Training Session Recap

Lt Col Alan Matson, MN Wing Standardization Officer

Over the weekend of March 12-13 a training session was conducted for the G1000 equipped Cessna 182 aircraft. The leader of the weekend's training session was Lt. Col. Tom Woods, who was also largely responsible for development of a great deal of courseware and an excellent student study guidebook, as well as assembling several multi-screen simulators. Assisting Lt. Col. Woods in development of this material was Lt. Col. Greg Nastrom and Maj. Joth Blodgett.

All of the students in this training session were current CAP Instructors, who were either qualifying for VFR flight privileges in the G1000 equipped aircraft (in preparation for becoming G1000 Instructors), or currently qualified pilots observing for the sake of eventually being designated as G1000 Instructors (after all required training has been completed). This lays a strong foundation for greatly expanded training efforts in the G1000 equipped aircraft.

A big thanks goes out to all of those mentioned above, as well as to Lt. Col. Richard Johnson, Group III Commander for organizing this event. A thanks also goes to North Hennepin Squadron for hosting the training activity.

Riehle Retiring After 44 Years of Service

Things will be different at the Grand Rapids Composite Squadron of Minnesota. A major change is taking place. Major Jesse Riehle is retiring after 44 years, and an admirable record of service. One of the original founders of the squadron, Maj. Riehle joined CAP on February 28, 1967. He will be sorely missed by squadron members.

He is somewhat of a legend within his unit, having served in many different capacities throughout the decades including key leadership roles as Operations Officer, Finance Officer, and Squadron Commander. During his tenure as Commander, the Grand Rapids Composite Squadron received outstanding recognition with the National Squadron of the Year Award. In addition to serving in leadership capacities, he participated in countless missions as Mission Pilot and Mission Observer.



Maj. Riehle was dedicated and rarely missed a weekly meeting. As the squadron's Finance Officer, he was a key figure in the organization of the squadron's major fund raising event, a Father's Day Pancake Breakfast for over 30 years. Whenever the call for volunteers was made at a squadron meeting, everyone could count on him to be the first to stand up and be counted. His willingness to serve inspired fellow members.

A farewell party was held at the squadron in February. Maj. Riehle is leaving the Grand Rapids area to move closer to his family.