



# WINGTIPS

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Wing, Civil Air Patrol  
April - May 2011

## **Cadet Presentation to the Air Force Association Meeting**

Maj Janelle Gates  
Chief of Staff, MN Wing

Cadet 1st Lt (C/1 Lt) Lydia I. Wiff of Viking Squadron (pictured right – photo by Maj Janelle Gates) gave an informative presentation about the Cyber Patriot program to the General E. W. Rawlings Chapter Air Force Association of the Twin Cities area, #213. April 12, 2011.



The members were very impressed with her presentation and professionalism. C/1 Lt Wiff did an outstanding job in researching the program and was able to provide the AFA members with a global overview of this program as well as bring it back to how the local units in Minnesota performed.

As an added highlight, Viking Squadron had an outstanding performance, making it to the third round.

## **St Croix Color Guard Presents the Colors – Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame**

Maj Janelle Gates  
Chief of Staff, MN Wing



The St. Croix Color Guard was privileged to Present the Colors at the Twenty Second Annual Induction Ceremony for the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame on Saturday April 30, 2011.

The Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame is a nonprofit Minnesota corporation, recognized by the State of Minnesota as a means of honoring its pioneer and historic aviation persons in a lasting and significant way. It is a vehicle for putting their names and careers

before the public so that citizens of Minnesota may become familiar with the contributions made by those who helped promote the healthy aviation climate we are so proud of today.

The Hall of Fame is proud to sponsor a flying scholarship for a young student pilot, recognizing the responsibility to provide an educational opportunity for the generation of the future. Minnesota Wing cadets have been given the opportunity to participate in this scholarship program, please ask Major Gates for details.

Each guest also received an autograph copy of the One Step Forward: The Life of Ken Dahlberg.

## MN Wing Members Participate in First Girls with Wings-Aviation Inspiration Day

C/1st Lt Lydia I. Wiff  
C/Cadet Commander

For many of us the Memorial Day weekend is spent with family and friends enjoying the unofficial start of summer. Not for six members of the MN Wing Civil Air Patrol. The weather was perfect to take a trip out to Fleming Field in South Saint Paul to recruit at the first ever Aviation Inspiration Day hosted by Girls with Wings.

According to a news release, “Girls With Wings, Inc., is a nonprofit organization that uses aviation to encourage girls to reach their full potential by introducing young girls to their role models in aviation-related careers and hobbies.”

Commemorative Air Force (CAF) MN Wing Leader, as well as activity coordinator, Amy Lauria said, “The purpose of our event was to give girls the opportunity to explore their love of aviation and inspire them to pursue their dreams and to bring to the community the opportunity to experience it as well. “

This activity was a unique opportunity for girls of all ages to discover the possibilities in aviation related fields. Women in aviation were invited from all over the Metro area to speak on their occupations in hope that it would encourage young women to get involved early in life. The speakers ranged from Air Force mechanics to Air Traffic controllers, as well as a female Cadet from the MN Wing Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

In addition to the special speakers, there were also many booths from organizations such as the MN CAF Wing, Girls with Wings, Young Rembrandts, the EAA Chapter 1229, and MN Wing CAP.

In keeping with the “girls-only” theme, MN Wing had 5 female members, as well as one male member, that hosted a booth to spread awareness and raise an interest in CAP.

When asked what her favorite memory of the day was, Maj Janelle Gates replied, “It was so great to see so many young girls just pushing the envelope to be better, do more than dream.”

In addition to the special speakers, there were airport fire engine rides as well as Young Eagles “First Flight” rides provided by the local EAA chapter.

A recruiting booth cannot recruit without any recruiters. Many thanks to Maj. David Coates(Viking), Capt Colleen McArthur(Viking), 1st Lt Deb Gailloux(Viking), C/2d Lt Jenna Ernst(St Cloud), and 1st Lt Sheila Benson (Redwing) for donating their time. A big thank you also to Amy Lauria for inviting MN Wing and to Maj Janelle Gates for coordinating between the CAF and MN Wing.



C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Lydia Wiff shares her experience with prospective recruits. Photo by Capt. Colleen McArthur

## Minnesota CAP members join Iowa Air Guard on refueling mission

Maj. Richard J. Sprouse

Public Affairs Officer, St. Cloud Composite Squadron

Forty members of Minnesota's St. Cloud Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol are now among the very few to witness an aerial refueling mission thanks to the 185<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard.

The Minnesota unit departed very early May 5 for the five-and-a-half hour drive to Sioux City. There they joined Iowa Air Force Junior ROTC cadets boarding three KC-135 Stratotankers scheduled to refuel six F-16s from Des Moines' 132<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing.

The flight was a first for many of those attending the event, as well as the 185<sup>th</sup> ARW.

"This is our first event of this type and we hope to do more in the future," said Col. Mark Foreman, 185<sup>th</sup> ARW vice commander.

"A very small percentage of people will ever have the experience of looking out the window on an Air Force tanker and watch an F-16 take on fuel. It's a testament to what air power is all about, and a pretty cool experience for the cadets."

For more than 50 years, the KC-135 Stratotanker has provided the core aerial refueling capability for the U. S. Air Force.

The KC-135 is also capable of medical missions, with the 185th recently evacuating wounded U.S. soldiers from Afghanistan to hospitals in Germany.

Nearly half of the unit's 800 members deployed for missions around the world last year.

At 21,000 feet above northwest Iowa, refueling of the F-16s began with the St. Cloud cadets taking turns observing the process while lying beside the refueling boom operator.

"Crawling to the back of the KC-135 we laid on our stomachs watching through the boom operator's window as they refueled the F-16s. I've never seen anything like it. It was awesome," said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Hollingsworth.

Once the refueling had been completed the F-16's flew near the wings of the KC-135s while prized pictures and video were snapped by the St. Cloud group.

Squadron members were also free to move about the aircraft, with everyone spending some time with the pilots on the flight deck. From that vantage point they witnessed the other KC-135's refueling jets, with "unbelievable" being the common response.



Members of Minnesota's St. Cloud Squadron pose for a picture at the conclusion of an air refueling mission with the Iowa Air National Guard's 185<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing. Photo by Maj Richard Sprouse



After nearly two hours the KC-135s and their “crews” returned to the Sioux City Airport for a debriefing by Lt. Col. Sean Mason, one of the mission pilots.



St. Cloud Squadron members watched in awe during the refueling of an F-16 over northwest Iowa. Photo by Maj Richard Sprouse

“It’s people like you coming in that make me appreciate my job even more, because to me it seems pretty routine, but when I see your reaction I realize that what I do for a living is pretty neat.”

Many CAP cadets go on to pursue careers in aviation, space or the military. The St. Cloud Squadron is Minnesota’s leader when it comes to exposing cadets to the possibilities.

Maj. Pat Cruze, St. Cloud Squadron commander, spent nearly a year arranging the KC-135 flights.

“The most beneficial part of the trip was taking these teenagers at a decision point in their life and allowing them to see the men and women, in many instances only a few years older than themselves, working with cutting-edge technology,” Cruze said.

“The tour also exposed the cadets to some of America’s finest, the Air National Guard, and hopefully the lasting impression the cadets get is ‘I can do that, too!’”

### **MN Squadron has Tuskegee Airman present Awards at Change of Command ceremonies**

Capt George Supan  
Public Affairs Officer, Group 3

Lt Col Robert Ashby, a Tuskegee Airman, presented the Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Awards to Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members at the MN Wing, Anoka County Composite Squadron on 7 June 2011. Col Ashby lives in Arizona and came to Minnesota for the presentations.

Col Ashby presented the Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Awards to Maj Bill Menkevich, Capt Richard Sevenbergen, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Don Raleigh of the Anoka County Composite Squadron and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Scott Richardson of the St. Croix Composite Squadron. Ashby thanked them for their service. Maj Menkevich served in the military and was on the flight crew of the B-45 that Col Ashby piloted in England. They have stayed in communication over the years so when Bill asked Col Ashby if he would present the Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Awards he said, “he would if it was warm in Minnesota”. It was a very hot day with the temperature over 100 degrees and the evening was hot. Col Ashby said, “it was just fine and a great honor to be able to be in Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Squadron and how to present his award to a fellow serviceman along with other CAP members”.



Lt Col Don Sorenson, Group 2, Commander presided over the Squadron Change of Command and Capt Shelly Supan, in her

Lt Col Ashby addresses the Anoka Squadron . Photo by Capt Geopraq Supan



last official duty as Squadron Commander, presided over the Cadet Commander change. (pictured right – photo by Capt George Supan)

C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Dane Bjorkman relinquished his Command as Cadet Commander to C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Mark Farrand. Capt Shelly Supan relinquished her Command as Anoka County Composite Squadron Commander to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Don Raleigh. (pictured left – photo by Capt George Supan)



A Senior and Cadets were promoted with the following promotions to: 2d Lt Mary Albright, Cadets to: C/Maj Matt Frame, C/1st Lt Dane Bjorkman, C/CMSgt Joe Brown, who is going to West Point Academy, C/MSgt Andrew Erickson and C/Amn Eric Walter.

Lt Col Sorenson presented Achievement Awards to Capt Shelly Supan for her service as Squadron Commander and to C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Dane Bjorkman for his service as Cadet Commander.

Col Ashby shared stories of his military experience as a black pilot and how he was treated. Ashby retired from the U.S. Air Force with 21 years of service in 1965. Ashby went on to be the first black pilot hired by Frontier Airlines from which he retired in 1986 while flying as Captain of the Boeing 737.

Attending the Ceremonies was MN Wing, Commander, Col Tom Theis, all members of the Wing Command, Wing Staff members along with Special Guests Tom Ryan, Blaine Mayor; Joe Harris, Anoka-Blaine Airport Manager.

Col Theis thanked both Capt Supan and C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Bjorkman for their service of Commanding the largest Squadron with the most Cadets in the State and the 2010 Unit Citation Award winner. Col Theis said, to the new Squadron Commander Raleigh, “the bar has been set high”. Mayor Ryan complemented CAP and Capt Supan for the fine young people who are being mentored. “The growth of the Squadron over the past few years is fantastic and to view the activity of the Cadets is great. Each time I ask about the Squadron, membership is increasing and the need for more space is evident”, said Ryan.

Joe Harris, Anoka-Blaine Airport Manager thanked the CAP members for an outstanding performance on May 22, 2011 at the airport during an air show when a tornado hit. CAP members were marshalling aircraft and crowd control on the tarmac. Harris said, “you had 10 minutes notice and you cleared the area of over 600 people along with the aircraft which were on the tarmac. There was a calm feeling in the big Museum Hangar that people were directed to for cover. Your professionalism showed through with your swift, but calm directions to get everyone to safety. No one was injured due to CAP Seniors and Cadets actions”.

Capt Shelly Supan gave Special Recognitions Awards to Lt Col Kevin Dunlevy, pilot for O flights and Maj Sherri Herzfeld for coordinating the O flights. “The flights are so important to the new Cadets”, said Supan.

Capt Supan gave each of her staff and the Wing Command and Staff personalized and signed cups with two pictures of Anoka County Composite Squadron members on ES missions during flooding with the words, “in appreciation for all you do”. A personalized cup with the same words and pictures was signed and presented by Col Tom Theis, Commander, MN Wing to Capt Shelly Supan. Thank you gifts were also given from the Seniors and Cadets to Capt Supan.

## Wing Conference 2011

Maj Al Pabon  
Public Affairs Officer, NCR

Over 300 members and guests of the Minnesota Wing came together in April at Breezy Point Resort for the wing's annual conference. The conference was a weekend full of learning, growth, camaraderie and recognition of individual and unit excellence within the wing. The conference's theme was —Everyday Heroes ... Every Day!||



They were joined by dignitaries such as North Central Region Commander Col Sean Fagan and North Central Liaison Region Operations Officer, Major Jeff Peterson, (pictured left) who recently returned from a year-long tour in Afghanistan. Members participated in social activities including receptions and a Military Ball. They also took part in many break-out sessions put on by the Minnesota Wing Staff and guest presenters

The highlight for many members was Army Brig. Gen. Gerald Lang's (pictured right) memorable keynote that paid tribute to the courage, loyalty, leadership and patriotism of the National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol. General Lang is the Assistant Adjutant General - Army of the Minnesota National Guard



Members of the wing were recognized for their excellence in accomplishing the Civil Air Patrol's missions as indicated below:

**Minnesota Wing Squadron of the Year** Anoka County Composite Squadron

**Squadron of Merit** North Hennepin Composite Squadron

**CAP Quality Cadet Unit Award** North Hennepin Composite Squadron

**Minnesota Wing Cadet of the Year** - C/Major David Nelson, Red Wing

**CAP-USAF Torch Award** – Capt. Susan Blessman, Minnesota Wing Headquarters

**Minnesota Wing Senior Member of the Year** - Major Aron Leavstrom, Owatonna

**CAP Family of the Year** - The Jents Family, St Croix

**Aerospace Education Awards**

**Unit with the most Yeager Awards** - North Hennepin Composite Squadron (95% completion)

**Brewer Awards:**

**Civil Air Patrol Senior Member** Major Paul Prior, St. Croix  
**Organization outside of Civil Air Patrol** Cirrus Aircraft Corporation of Duluth, Minnesota

#### **Communications Awards**

**Best HF Net Participation** Northland Composite Squadron  
**Best VHF Net Participation** St Croix Composite Squadron

#### **Operations Awards**

**Highest Completion Rate of Orientation Flights by Unit** - Hutchinson Composite Squadron  
**Orientation Flights Flown by a Single Pilot Glider** - Capt. Bill Pagel, Minnesota Wing Hq  
**Powered** - Capt. Allen Alwin, 130th Composite Squadron completed 30 powered orientation flights  
**Recruiting and Retention Awards Top Individual Recruiter** - 1st. Lt. Lois Kriegh, Crookston Composite Squadron who recruited 7 new members in 2010.

**Specialist Awards** - These awards are given to one individual for their performance in that duty at the unit or wing level. Each member who earns one of these awards received an Achievement Award.

**Administration** - 2nd. Lt. Patricia Schrader, Northland **Aerospace** - Major Paul Prior, St Croix  
**Cadet Programs** - Major Jared Scribner, Viking  
**Chaplain** - Major Curtis Martin, Southeast MN  
**Character Development** - Lt. Col. Anna-Marie Bistodeau, Wing Headquarters.  
**Emergency Services** - Lt. Col. Tony Tarpy, Viking  
**Finance** - 1st. Lt. Thomas Simonet, St Croix  
**Historian** - Capt. Norine Olson, Valley **Logistics** - 2nd. Lt. Deborah Gailloux, Viking  
**Operations** - Major Carl Hallum, Worthington  
**Professional Development** - Capt. Mario Fabrizio, Viking  
**Public Affairs** - 1st. Lt. Scott Richardson, St Croix  
**Recruiting & Retention** - Lt. Col. Barney Uhlig, Viking  
**Safety** - 1st. Lt. David Winters, Viking

#### **Emergency Services Awards (CAP Achievement Awards)**

**Col Edwin Lewis Jr. Incident Staff Member of the Year** - 1st. Lt. George Anderson, North Hennepin  
**Col Dion E DeCamp Ground Team Member of the Year** - Capt. Don Helgager, Northland

#### **Group Level Awards (CAP Achievement Awards)**

**Group 1 Senior Member of the Year** Capt. Robin Helgager, Northland  
**Group 1 Cadet of the Year** C/Capt. Ethan Sundquist, Northland  
**Group 2 Senior of the Year** Major Michael Bordonaro, St Croix  
**Group 2 Cadet of the Year** C/SRA Jessica Holmes, Crow Wing  
**Group 3 Senior of the Year** Capt. Tommy Hiebert, Ft Snelling  
**Group 3 Cadet of the Year** Cadet 1st. Lt. Lydia Wiff, Viking  
**Group 4 Senior of the Year** Capt. Gail Kephart, Southeast Minnesota  
**Group 4 Cadet of the Year** C/2nd Lt Anastasia Smith, 130th

#### **Commander's Commendation Awards:**

Lt. Col. Tom Woods, St Paul Composite Squadron for his organizing MN Wing's C-182 Glass Cockpit Training.  
Capt. Paul Van Brunt, 130<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron, Superior Pilot Award

**50 Year Life Membership** - Major Linda Soderman

#### **Gill Robb Wilson Awards –**

Lt. Col. Thomas Hollenhorst, North Hennepin Composite Squadron.  
Lt. Col. Brent Halweg, Wing Headquarters

#### **Exceptional Service Award –**

Major Wayne Sherman, (above center) Minnesota Wing Headquarters for his work on the narrowband transition project.

**Dorothy Sindelar Memorial Award** – Capt. Don Helgager, Northland

**Wilbur Coffin Memorial Award** - Cadet Sponsor Member Carla Hansen, 130th

**Dunbar Award** - 1st. Lt. Thomas Stinar, Northland

Photos by C/1st. Lt. Lydia Wiff & C/Capt. Ethan Sundquist

- all Wing Conference photos can be found on the at [MNCAP.org](http://MNCAP.org)