



WINGTIPS

Minnesota DNR helicopter visits St. Cloud Civil Air Patrol squadron

By Maj. Richard J. Sprouse, Public Affairs Officer, St. Cloud Composite Squadron

Members, families and friends of the St. Cloud Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol got an amazing view of natural resources flying when a helicopter and aircrew from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) visited Monday, August 20.

Conservation Officer/Pilot Tom Pfingsten, among the DNR Division of Enforcement's seven pilots, said DNR's fixed and rotary wing aircraft provide cost-effective platforms to gather information that no other means can provide.

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quickly, representing a significant savings in time, manpower, vehicles, and other resources that would be required if the same information would be collected from the ground," Pfingsten said.

DNR airframes fly natural resources enforcement, research, and resource management missions. Their hangars include four Cessna 185s, two American Champion Scouts, an Enstrom 480B helicopter, and two Bell OH-58 helicopters.

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Pfingsten earned his private pilot’s license 20 years ago and joined the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) at that time to get more flying time.

“I like to say that the ink on my private pilot’s license wasn’t even dry when I joined the Crow Wing Squadron in Brainerd. Thanks to CAP I was able to earn my pilot instrument and commercial ratings,” said Pfingsten, who later learned how to fly helicopters.

Many DNR missions require that pilots fly at very low altitudes, often well below 500 feet, at slow airspeeds. The pilot must be able to gather and record information, such as the number and species of waterfowl on a body of water. While flying this low, the pilot must also avoid obstructions, other aircraft, and often communicate by radio with personnel on the ground or air traffic control.

“The DNR pilot keeps their attention ‘outside the aircraft’ and the pilot’s skills must be at a level that they can safely operate the aircraft in this environment and still accomplish the mission,” Pfingsten said.

The assistance of DNR Enforcement aircraft is important to Conservation Officer (CO) Tim Collette of Pequot Lakes, whose 650 square mile field station includes Crow Wing County in central Minnesota. Conservation officers and CO/Pilots are fully qualified and licensed Minnesota law enforcement officers.

“The CO/Pilot provides an aerial platform to detect violations and activity for the field conservation officer and directs the officer to these areas by radio,” said Collette who is trained to operate the helicopter’s FLIR (Forward Looking



DNR CO/Pilot Tom Pfingsten talks aviation with the parent of a St. Cloud Squadron cadet.



DNR conservation officer Tim Collette explains the FLIR system to members of the St. Cloud Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

Infrared Imaging) system. The thermal imaging system is used by the military and law enforcement for surveillance, monitoring, tracking, and search and rescue missions.

Most flying done by conservation officer/pilots is resource management “survey and census” missions, locating and counting wildlife from the air, or locating radio-collared wildlife using aerial telemetry. CO/Pilots also perform search and rescue missions. Enforcing natural resources laws is also important.

“Locating illegal fishing, hunting, or other regulated recreational activity from the air would be an example of much of a CO/Pilot’s daytime flying while night flying detects poachers using spotlights to take game,” Pfingsten said.

Minnesota’s nearly 150 field officers utilize aerial photography to document violations or provide an officer with access information to a given location.

“We are often asked to check certain areas by air to detect and sometimes photograph illegal activity,” Pfingsten added.

Angie Steffens, a cadet parent, was among the nearly 60 squadron members, family members, and friends to attend the event. She enjoyed Pfingsten’s and Collette’s presentations.

“What they do is unique. It exposed the cadets in the squadron to something completely different, something they probably weren’t aware of as a career option,” Steffens said.

1st Lt. Paul Wentler, St. Cloud Squadron’s aerospace education officer, agreed. “Definitely good for kids to see different aspects of aviation instead of just military and airline flying. Also, good to show how CAP can benefit you realizing goals in aviation.”

“Very cool and interesting, awesome,” said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. John Dvorak, cadet leadership officer.

“I want to thank the DNR for providing the experience!”



Cadet Airman Johnathan Sowada of the St. Cloud Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol is all smiles behind the controls of DNR’s Enstrom 480B helicopter.

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CADET PROGRAMS

Female leaders power Anoka squadron

By 1st Lt. Mary Albright, Deputy Commander for Cadets, Anoka Composite Squadron

When you walk into the Anoka Composite Squadron, you are hard pressed to not see the girl power that exists there. Anoka has certainly fostered leadership for both male and female cadets and it shows. The largest squadron in the Minnesota Wing (and in the North Central Region) has 20 female cadets on its roster. At its most recent awards ceremony, Anoka recognized five new Cadet 2nd Lieutenants with Mitchell Awards. Four of those five cadets are female. When you add Cadet 1st Lt. Mikayla Frey, you have what Anoka's Deputy Commander of Cadets refers to as, "The Fab Five."

"These young women have all worked together and pushed each other to achieve through the CAP Cadet Program. They are the epitome of both personal achievement and team building," said 1st Lt. Mary Albright.

Of the 17 total female cadet officers in the entire Minnesota Wing, a third belong to Anoka Composite Squadron.

What is the squadron's secret? "We believe in giving every cadet the opportunity to advance at the pace they choose," said Albright. "So while we stand ready to support our cadets, it's their personal goals that motivate them to achieve. We provide the tools and environment to achieve. They bring their own talents to the table."

Though each of the cadets joined Civil Air Patrol at different times, but all were similarly aggressive in how they began working toward their goals. Frey had earned her Mitchell earlier in 2012, but Albright, Heath, Quist and Raleigh were quick to follow near the beginning of the summer.

Albright said they have been outstanding in all areas of Civil Air Patrol, but isn't surprised to see the variety in their achievements. "When you look at their accomplishments and activities, it's amazing how these young women have worked to better themselves, Anoka Squadron and the Minnesota



Anoka Composite Squadron's "Fab Five." LEFT TO RIGHT: Cadet 2nd Lt. Arden Heath, Cadet 2nd Lt. Zophia Raleigh, Cadet 1st Lt. Mikayla Frey, Cadet 2nd Lt. Ellen Quist, Cadet 2nd Lt. Caitlin Albright. Photo by 1st Lt. Mary

Wing. They have been on Encampment Staff, participated in Color Guard, CyberPatriot, Honor Guard, Drug Demand Reduction, graduated from the Minnesota Leadership Academy and more."

Each of the girls has found her a place for herself in Cadet Programs, though they all came to Civil Air Patrol from their own unique paths and have different goals in life.

Cadet 1st Lt. Mikayla Frey joined Civil Air Patrol in 2010 after hearing about it at school. "CAP has provided me with the opportunity to develop into an effective leader. It has also afforded me opportunities to participate in CyberPatriot, Honor Guard and flight staff. Each of these has allowed me to see what it would be like to work in that type of area." Frey is the overall commander for Anoka's Honor Guard program, currently in qualification. Her job is to manage all the elements of the Honor Guard as it prepares to be recognized at this year's Minnesota Wing Cadet Competition in November. Her overall goal in CAP is to earn the Spaatz Award and become a Cadet Colonel. She is a high school

junior, attending Anoka Ramsey Community College as a post-secondary student. Frey plans to apply to the U.S. Air Force Academy and would like to serve as a Foreign Area Officer with the U.S. Air Force.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Caitlin Albright joined Civil Air Patrol in 2010. She'd been looking for something to be involved in that felt like a good fit for her. After expressing an interest in flight and astronomy, an Internet search turned up the Civil Air Patrol. She considered it fate that Anoka met only four miles from her house. Once she joined, she never turned back. "I love CAP. Encampment and MLA (Minnesota Leadership Academy) have been some of the best experiences of my life. I used to be shy and quiet. Now, I'm confident and willing to take command in any situation."

Albright's overall goals in CAP include making Encampment staff again next year, being selected for IACE and going to New Zealand, and earning the Spaatz Award. Albright is a sophomore at Forest Lake High School. She isn't sure which college she'd like to attend yet, but is interested in studying astronomy, engineering and linguistics.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Arden Heath is the veteran of this group, having been in CAP for four years. "I was a slow promoter early on. Now I keep going because I want to achieve." Heath also can't imagine her life without CAP. "CAP has done amazing things for me. I've met so many people and experienced things I couldn't have dreamed of — everything from discovering my potential as a leader and individual to gaining more confidence in my work and more."

Heath wants to be a commander at a future CAP Encampment and wants to earn the Spaatz Award before the end of her CAP career. She is currently a junior at Maple Grove High School. She hopes to be accepted into an ROTC college program and would like to serve as a military doctor in the U.S. Air Force.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Ellen Quist checked out CAP on the urging of her neighbor, fellow Anoka CAP Member Andy Erickson. "I was interested in aviation," said Quist. "My favorite CAP activities are

the air shows, where we get to flight marshal." She added, "I've enjoyed my staff positions both at the squadron and at Encampment. I've had the opportunity to grow personally and to train the next generation of cadets, to keep the program going through continuous improvement." Her CAP goals include making Encampment staff next year, achieve the rank of Cadet Captain or higher, attend IACE or Blue Beret, and continue to be involved at the squadron and wing levels. Quist is a senior at Anoka High School. She plans to attend a college out of state and will likely study in a field related to chemical engineering.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Zophia Raleigh comes from a dedicated CAP family, following her brother and father into Anoka. But she struck out on her own to make her own mark on the world. Joining on her 12th birthday, Raleigh marched fairly quickly through the ranks, achieving the grade of Cadet Chief Master Sgt. before her 14th birthday. She could have easily plowed ahead, but she had another goal in mind: to serve as Command Chief Master Sgt. at the 2012 Minnesota Wing Encampment. To have that chance meant staying an NCO for up to another year. She blew away the selection board and reached her goal. Her CAP career goals include being on staff for the Minnesota Leadership Academy and future Encampments. Raleigh will be freshman at Centennial High School. Her goal is to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and become a Combat Intelligence Officer with the U.S. Air Force.

Collectively, they all agree that Civil Air Patrol has something for everyone. Cadets who love to fly, love the Aerospace program. Many enjoy being of service to our communities by being on Emergency Services teams and participating in Search and Rescue and disaster relief. You learn more about discipline and effective leadership through CAP. If you are interested in computer security, drug demand reduction, doing skits/plays, performing military honors at funerals, or marching in a parade while carrying the colors, CAP has a program for you.

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Emergency Services

Minnesota's Ground Team Academy enhances skills

Maj. Richard J. Sprouse, Public Information Officer, 2012 Ground Team Academy

Nearly 65 officers and cadets from the Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin wings of the Civil Air Patrol turned out for Minnesota's annual Ground Team Academy held August 23-26 at Camp Ripley.

Training covered a variety of topics required to qualify for ground team levels (GTL) one, two and three. Breakout sessions included a compass course, in-depth map training, performing a litter carry, conducting search lines, and working with search dogs. Members spent an overnight in the field in

self-constructed shelters before being GTL1, GTL2 and GTL3 evaluated by GTA instructors.

Minnesota's Ground Team Academy was established in 2007 to standardize ground team training across Minnesota Wing.

Last year, Minnesota Emergency Services participated in 18 actual missions totaling 1,737 hours, as well as 50 training missions totaling 17,656 personnel hours. Minnesota Wing also participated in 35 Homeland Security missions since 2005 with the peak being 12 missions in 2011.

Photos courtesy of Maj. Richard J. Sprouse, Public Information Officer, 2012 Ground Team Academy



L-R) C/TSgt Caleb David (Southeast), C/2nd Lt. Roberts Jesse Roberts (Anoka), and Capt. Tim Bjur (Hutchinson) during a map reading session during the 2012 Minnesota Ground Team Academy held August 23-26 at Camp Ripley.



2d Lt. Kristan Davis (Southeast Minnesota Squadron) and team utilize the "cheesebox" direction finder during a training exercise during the 2012 Minnesota Ground Team Academy held August 23-26 at Camp Ripley.



Cadet 1st Lt. Noah Hall (Red Wing) and Cadet 2nd Lt. Jesse Roberts (Anoka) get ready to spend overnight in a self-constructed shelter.



1st Lt. Matt Hooper of Eau Claire Squadron, Wisc., provides cadets some tips using a Direction Finder unit.



Cadet Technical Sgt. Grace Johnson (Red Wing) marks the edge of a search line during the 2012 Minnesota Wing Ground Team Academy.

Townsend's smooth moves

New commercial pilot helps keep fleet maintenance schedule on track

By Maj. Paul Van Brunt, Public Affairs Officer, 130th Composite Squadron

On Aug 14th, 2012, Lt. David Townsend passed his commercial pilot license and is now working on his CFI airplane. David is part of the 130th squadron Lakeville, MN and even a bigger part of the airplane relocation crew helping the Minnesota Wing.

Have you ever wondered how Wing planes get changed out when they need maintenance or how they to and from flight academy? Townsend is one of the dedicated pilots who take their personal time to move your squadron's assigned plane and even put it in your hanger for you.

It's a win-win for both the Wing and pilots like Townsend. For the pilot, relocation flying is a great

way to build cross country experience and flight time. And working with wing maintenance to change the planes out helps the entire Wing get the planes were they need to be, allowing maintenance to focus on maintenance. It ensures planes have minimal downtime.

Lt. Townsend and Capt. Tom Fitzhenry take on the bulk of this task with help at times from others in the squadron.

So the next time you see Lt. Townsend at your airport or other CAP function, congratulate him on the Commercial license and thank him for the airplane moves.



Lt. David Townsend, 130th Composite Squadron of Lakeville, is currently working toward airplane flight instruction certification (CFI-airplane). He is one of the dedicated pilots who take planes to and from their squadron assignments to receive maintenance at Wing headquarters.