NINER magazine

serving NER's nine wings

WINTER 2009

NORTHEAST REGION

CIVIL AIR PATROL

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NI**NER** Magazine is an unofficial publication of the Civil Air Patrol's NorthEast Region (**NER**). It is by, for and about the **nine** wings that the region encompasses: **Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey,** and **Pennsylvania.**

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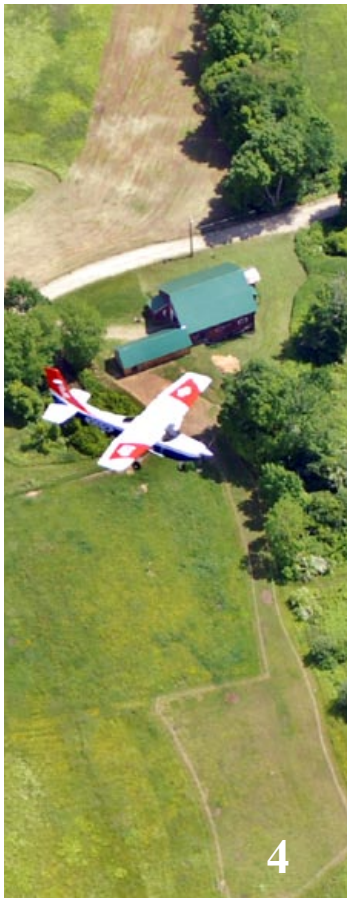

THE COVER
NY Wing's Leadership Encampment at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia included a flight academy, where Cadet Beth Nearing, 17, was one of three cadets to solo in a Cessna 182 or a Cessna 172.
Photo by 1st Lt Bob Stronach

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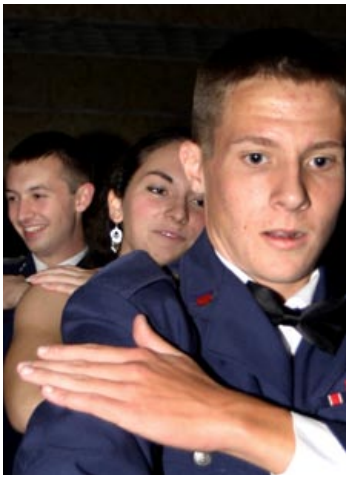
HUNDREDS ATTEND NER CONFERENCE IN NEWPORT, RI

From 'Fashion' Show to USO 'Liberty Belles' to Annual Awards

by 1st Lt. Mark Swanson

The USO 'Liberty Belles' performed at the banquet, which also featured a fashion show of shirts.



Cadets kicked up their heels after the banquet.

Hundreds of Civil Air Patrol members took part in the Northeast Region Conference in Newport, RI, over the Oct. 17-18 weekend.

Featured were an assembly, moving presentations and awards, CAP history displays, seminars and a very entertaining evening banquet, featuring the USO "Liberty Belles." The banquet also had a surprise: a commanders' "fashion show" hosted by emcee Lt Col Van Don Williams and featuring many wing commanders in shirts designed to match their evening wear and personalities.

Conference attendees had an opportunity to enjoy an afternoon seafood fair along the Newport waterfront, as well as shopping and other activities.

Northeast Region Commander Col Robert Diduch hosted the morning assembly with help from emcee Col Rick Greenhut, former region commander and current CAP national director of marketing. Standing in for CAP National Commander Maj Gen Amy Courter was the new vice commander, Brig Gen Reggie Chitwood, who helped confer awards and make presentations.

The featured speaker was Peter Dalton, principal of Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy (KAPPA VI) in Far Rockaway, Queens, NY. Dalton, former US Air Force officer, has used the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program as a model for the charter school.

Like any CAP conference, everyone's interest focused on the morning awards ceremonies. A number of "Of the Year" Awards were conferred for outstanding service to units, wings and Region; among them were NER Chief of Staff Lt Col Joe Sirois who received the NER Staff Member of the Year Award, 1st Lt. Mark Swanson of NJWG who was named PAO of the Year, and Lt Col Richard Clifford of MAWG, named Chaplain of the Year.

Besides the "Of the Year" awards, there were two Exceptional Service Awards, three Meritorious Service Awards and ten Region Commander's Commendations handed out; two were presented to Major Bob Taylor of the NER staff. Cadet Stasia Rogacki from NJWG was presented with the General Ira C. Eaker Award.

SEARCH-AND-RESCUE COMPETITION IN MAY 2009

Time for Wings to Start Preparing Teams for Region's 2nd SARCOMP

The Northeast Region will once again conduct a Search and Rescue Competition (SARCOMP) at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, MA, on Memorial Day weekend 2009. Leading the effort as Incident Commander will be Lt Col Joe Abegg, who held the same position during the last SARCOMP.

The last time the NER held this competition was in May of 2007. Six of the nine wings which comprise the Northeast Region participated at that time and the competition was covered by ABC, CBS and the *Springfield Republican.* The dates for the 2009 competition are 22-24 May.

CAP planes from participating wings at the 2007 SARCOMP.

The first "SARCOMP allowed teams from six of the nine wings within the Northeast Region to not only compete against one another but to learn from each other as well and build camaraderie and esprit de corps among their brothers and sisters from other states," commented Lt Colonel Abegg. He hopes all nine wings will participate in this SARCOMP, a desire that is echoed by senior NER staff.

The SARCOMP will include many of the 2007 events such as the aerial (Image Capture Problem) and ground search competitions, line search, ELT search, wilderness rescue (medical triage) and table top exercise. All of these events will take place over a three-day period and culminate with an awards ceremony.

Wings should begin preparing for these events and selecting teams, Lt Col Abegg said. Cadets may be included as part of ground team events. Cadets and senior members from Massachusetts Wing provided flight line support for the CAP aircraft which flew in for the competition, and volunteers will again be sought for the upcoming SARCOMP from all the wings.

"We accomplished a lot and hopefully our success will lead to two things: First, provide the incentive for us to hold this event on a national scale in 2009 or 2010 and second, to motivate all nine of the NER Wings to compete in the next competition," said Abegg. He believes that the lessons learned from the first SARCOMP not only proved invaluable to those who participated but will also serve the planners of this event as well.

Westover ARB is home to the 439th Airlift Wing and a squadron of C-5 A and C-5 B Galaxy aircraft. The base and the reservists stationed there were great hosts at the last SARCOMP; for many it was the first time they worked with CAP, something that many said was an eye-opening and positive experience.

ELT searches and medical triage will be part of the NER SARCOMP, headed by Incident Commander Lt Col Joe Abegg *(far right).*

RI CADETS GET FIELD FIRST AID, MEDEVAC EXPERIENCE

Squadron Participates in Shadowing Program with Army National Guard

by Col. Anthony Gagliardi

RHODE ISLAND -- Twelve cadets and five senior members from Rhode Island Wing received expert instruction and training Aug. 16 in field first aid and helicopter Medevac procedures, thanks to a shadowing program with the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

Rhode Island Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Doug Hall served as the primary instructor, and the UH-1 "Huey" Medevac helicopter was provided by the Rhode Island National Guard's Detachment 1, 249th Medical Company.

Among the topics covered were field first aid treatment, helicopter landing procedures and litter placement in the aircraft.

The shadowing program is a monthly event organized by 2nd Lt. Amanda Avila, deputy commander of the Bristol County Composite Squadron. It has exposed the wing's cadets to various occupations and opportunities in both the Army and Air National Guard, greatly enhancing the cadet program.

Rhode Island Wing cadets gain first-hand experience in field first aid and helicopter Medevac procedures as part of a shadowing program with the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

20-22 March 2009—MAWG Conference
Clarion Hotel & Conference Ctr, W. Springfield, MA

24-26 April 2009—NYWG Conference
Ft. William Henry Conference & Resort Center, Lake George, NY

22-24 May 2009—NER SARCOMP
Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, MA

22-24 May 2009—NER Cadet Competition
Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, MA

16-17 October 2009—CTWG Conference
Nathan Hale Inn, UCONN Campus, CT

NY, RI MEMBERS SHARPEN GROUND SAR SKILLS

Academy on Long Island Open to Units in Northeast Region

by 2nd Lt. Michele Wuestman

Members of the New York Wing's Long Island Group and the Rhode Island Wing participated this past July in the fourth semi-annual Ground Search and Rescue Academy on Long Island, undergoing training designed to boost their emergency skills.

Maj. Daniel Rogers of New York Wing Headquarters and 1st Lt. Josh Lebenns of Brian M. Mooney Cadet Squadron established the academy in 2005 because of what they felt was a need for an in-depth training exercise that would allow senior members and cadets to get quality emergency services training outside their squadrons.

"Prior to this year our focus was strictly on Long Island members," Rogers said. "We realized that the quality of the training is such that we should offer it to every cadet and senior member with in our region."

The five-day academy was held at Sear Bellows County Park in Hampton Bays, N.Y.

Courses taught included advanced land navigation, compass and map reading, emergency locator transmitter search techniques, building emergency shelters and field first aid. Training was designed to enable cadets and senior members to complete requirements for their next emergency services qualification.

Cadets trained on challenging land navigation courses and participated in numerous missions to search for a training ELT unit hidden in the dense brush of the park. They were under the supervision of the academy staff, along with cadets who were training as ground team leaders.

The training produced two new ground team leaders, as well as nine qualified ratings of Ground Team 3 and four of Ground Team 2, one of Mission Radio Operator, two Ground Branch Directors and one K9 unit (official mascot of the academy).

The weekend's highlight was the surprise mission that usually ends the training week. Awakened at 3 a.m. to a mock mission, the participants were told that a plane had gone down in the area with two aboard.

Exhausted and dirty, the trainees stumbled out of their tents and assembled into their flights. Armed with maps, compasses, 24-hour packs, direction-finding and first aid equipment, they filed out of camp into the dark to search for the downed aircraft, pilot and passengers.

After searching for four hours the trainees were able to apply all of their skills and accomplish the mission.

Members who attended the training had very positive things to say.

"This week will be remembered for a very long time" said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Michael Pannhorst of New York Wing's Suffolk Cadet Squadron 7. "We were taught all the skills needed to survive and track victims."

Trainees engage in map reading exercises.

BELOW: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Michael Comolli of the New York Wing's Brian M. Mooney Cadet Squadron leads his team on an ELT search exercise.

Rogers and Lebenns hope to make the academy one of the best emergency services training schools in the region. They plan to hold camps twice a year -- once in the winter, once in the spring or summer -- to give participants a feeling for what it would be like to go on real missions during any time of year.

"There are many obstacles in either time of year," Lebenns said. "The trainees need to understand how to overcome them and protect themselves."

MASS. UNIT TRANSPORTS HANGAR BACK IN TIME

Squadron Fundraiser Creates World War II Dance

by Capt. Andrew Buck

MASSACHUSETTS -- For four hours the east side of Beverly Municipal Airport was transported through time and space, back 65 years to the setting for a World War II bomber base. The occasion was the Beverly Composite Squadron's World War II Hangar Dance, held Sept. 20 as a fundraiser for the unit.

In a hectic six-hour period that afternoon, the airport's Hangar III was emptied of airplanes, cleaned up and decorated, a bandstand erected and a table-edged dance floor created.

While most of the squadron's senior members were inside racing against the clock to send Hangar III back in time, cadets filled the traditional role of providing air show perimeter security.

The bandstand was still in the final stages of construction when the members of the Compaq Big Band arrived and started setting up their music stands and instruments.

ABOVE: ***World War II re-enactors camp at Beverly Municipal Airport the day of the dance. (Photo by Maj. Thomas Lyons)***

LEFT: ***The dance is in full swing. (Photo by Maj. Gregory Carter)***

BELOW: The setting sun provides a picturesque setting for the dance.

People lined up at 5 p.m., two hours before the doors were to open for the dance. Ticket sales were brisk.

When 7 p.m. finally arrived, the squadron's commander, Maj. Tom Lyons, asked bandleader Al Saloky if he wanted an introduction to get the music started.

"We'll take care of it," Saloky assured him, and on his direction the band began playing Glenn Miller's signature standard, "In the Mood." Two measures into the song, the dance floor was crowded with dancers dressed in period uniforms and civilian attire, and within another measure the transformation was complete.

The night was clear and cool as the big band sounds provided the appropriate audio complement to the three large green bombers and the smaller silver P-51 Mustang forming the visual backdrop. The right music, the right decor and the vintage aircraft right outside the hangar made for a magical night. "We've played a lot of 1940s music at a lot of venues," Saloky confided to Lyons, "but this is just awesome."

During the day World War II re-enactors had camped out near the airport diner, dressed in the work clothes of American and German soldiers and airmen of the era. For the dance they changed into more formal uniforms and put the finishing touch on the ambiance for the evening. It was even rumored that Mata Hari was spotted on the dance floor.

At 8:30 p.m., as part of the Beverly squadron's fundraising activities, a B-17 ride donated by the Collings Foundation was raffled off. The winner, Bill Hefler of Exeter, N.H, was present and seemed to take the announcement in stride. Following his flight the next morning, though, the beaming smile on his face as he exited the aircraft told observers how he really felt.

Four nights later Lyons addressed the squadron members at the unit's regular Wednesday night meeting. "In 1996, when I first saw the Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom airplanes on the Beverly airport tarmac, I started telling everyone that we should sponsor a World War II hangar dance," he said. Shortly after assuming command of the squadron in November 2007, Lyons started to plan such an activity in earnest. His dance committee -- Lyons and his top two staff members, Maj. Gregory Carter, deputy commander of cadets, and 1st Lt. Daniel Parsons, deputy commander for seniors -- worked many long hours making plans and addressing concerns.

With the date for the dance nailed down and fast approaching, Lyons continued, "Parents answered the call to help with setup, support during and cleanup after the dance. Posters went up all over town and tickets were sold. You, the members of the squadron, cadets and seniors, turned a dream into a reality, and what a reality it was!"

Paul Vitale, Beverly Airport Commission chairman, told the squadron that "we are very fortunate to have the Civil Air Patrol a part of the Beverly airport family. On behalf of the entire airport commission, I wanted to come down here tonight to congratulate you, and thank you for a wonderful and memorable event."

MASS. MEMBERS SHOVEL SNOW, CLEAR AIRPORT'S LANDING LIGHTS

by Capt. Andrew Buck

MASSACHUSETTS -- Pilots flying into Beverly Municipal airport at night were able to see all the landing lights, thanks in part to elbow grease supplied by members of the Civil Air Patrol unit based there. After the airport's manager asked if Beverly Composite Squadron members could wield some old-fashioned snow shovels and clear some of the obstructed landing lights, three members answered the call Dec. 22 following double-whammy snow storms that hit the area the weekend before Christmas.

The three – 1st Lt. Bill Frisbee, 2nd Lt. Bill Frank and Sr. Mbr. Guy Simmons -- cleared some 25 lights that had been covered by snow as the airport's heavy equipment worked to finish clearing the edges of the runways.

"The airport has been good to us, and one way we can show our appreciation is to pitch in and help when and where we can," the unit's commander, Maj. Tom Lyons, said.

"We want the Beverly Squadron to be a part of the solutions around the airport, and I'm very happy we could get some people down here on short notice to assist the manager in cleaning up after a significant event."

Photos by 1st Lt. Larry Scherer

Cadet Ken towers over onlookers during the "Big E" daily parade.

BELOW: ***Maj. Richard Werman talks to a visitor at the CAP booth.***

MASS. SQUADRON MAKES IMPACT AT THE 'BIG E' FAIR

by 1st Lt. Lawrence Scherpa

MASSACHUSETTS -- The "Big E," New England's largest fair, ran Sept. 12-28 and drew more than one-million visitors. A Civil Air Patrol booth, organized by Maj. Richard Wermassn, Westover Composite Squadron activities officer, featured colorful posters and displays explaining the three primary missions of CAP – aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services -- to the public at large as well as prospective cadet and senior members.

In addition, Cadet Ken, the 10-foot-tall manned inflatable CAP mascot, proved to be very popular with fairgoers of all ages as he waved to the crowd during the "Big E" daily parade and greeted the throngs on occasional strolls through the fairgrounds.

The booth was staffed 12 hours a day for the entire 17-day run of the fair, thanks to the efforts of Westover squadron senior and cadet members. Special thanks go to the Col. Frederick Belden, commander of the squadron, as well as to Lt. Col. Robert Seaton, Majs. Glenda Beldon and Richard Werman, Capt. Ray LaRose and 2nd Lt. Kevin for their many long hours of service.

MASS. CADETS JOIN TRIBUTE TO VETERANS AT BOSTON CHURCH

by 1st Lt. Chad Murphy and 1st Lt. Michael Sherrod

MASSACHUSETTS -- Cadets from the Hanscom Composite Squadron performed color guard duties at a veterans' memorial service Nov. 9 in Boston at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England. The service, held the Sunday before Veterans Day, opened with the presentation of the American and Prisoner of War flags by the color guard members Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Kaitlyn McSweeney, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Joseph Sievers, Cadet Staff Sgt. Eric Leitzke and Cadet Airman 1st Class Julianne Braden.

Cadet Airman Basic Larry Ramdin presented a wreath in honor of all those being remembered and Flight Officer Charlie McNeil played taps in remembrance of U.S. service members. The squadron's deputy commander for cadets, 1st Lt. Michael Sherrod, narrated the folding of the American flag, noting the significance of each fold. The memorial service featured the dedication of a plaque commemorating the sacrifices of 819 veterans of conflicts from World War I to Iraq and Afghanistan.

2nd Lts. Kathleen Vogel and Jeni Leitzke and Master Sgt. Shane Leitzke provided logistical support for the event. WHDH, the local NBC television affiliate, aired a report on the memorial service accompanied by footage of the color guard and the flag folding.

‘SINK THE KATE’

Maine Members Monitor Response to Simulated Sinking of Pleasure Ship

by 1st Lt. Mary Story

Photo by Capt. Ray Hanson

A Civil Air Patrol plane passes above the steamship Katahdin on Moosehead Lake during the exercise.

MAINE -- Maine Wing members this past August participated in an exercise dubbed “Sink the Kate,” simulating the sinking of a historic pleasure ship on Moosehead Lake to gauge how well officials would respond to such an emergency.

The exercise involved a simulated fire aboard the 94-year-old steamship Katahdin, affectionately known as “Kate.” Personnel from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries, the Piscataquis County Sheriff’’s Department, the Greenville Police and Fire Departments, Mayo Regional and C.A. Dean Memorial hospitals, ham radio operators and units from Waldo, Washington and Hancock counties were involved.

Members of the Maine Wing, which provided two aircraft and the command and communications trailer, camped overnight at Greenville Municipal Airport before the exercise began, then had to wait for a very damp fog to clear before they could take off. By 10:30 a.m. conditions cleared and a plane was aloft, reporting the location of the Katahdin and looking for survivors in the water, on the shoreline and on a small island. Moments later another flight was in the air and beaming images of the scene back to the incident command post.

Participating were:

• Maine Wing Headquarters: Col. Chris Hayden, commander, and Majs. Ken Knightly, inspector general, and Andrea Hayden, critical incident stress management officer.

• 36th Composite Squadron: Maj. Dale Fellows, commander, and 1st Lt. Nate Fellows, deputy commander for cadets.

• 77th Composite Squadron: Capts. Mark Libbey, aerospace education officer, and Ray Hanson, deputy commander.

FORMER NY MEMBERS CELEBRATE MEMORIES IN NATION’S CAPITAL

by Retired Lt. Col. Sid Birns
Former Commander, Brooklyn Group, New York Wing

NEW YORK -- Thirty-nine former members of the New York Wing’s Brooklyn Group gathered this past summer in Washington, D.C., to celebrate 55 years of wonderful memories of their time as Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members.

They came from as far as California, Arkansas, Texas, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Florida and Canada to keep an appointment to visit the White House. After that tour, the group split up to visit places like the World War II memorial, the Holocaust Museum and other historical areas of the nation’s capital.

During and after dinner, there was a lot of “hangar flying,” with many funny stories told and many fond memories brought back to mind of such activities as bivouacs, summer encampments and orientation flights.

Brooklyn Group was rather unusual in a number of ways, one of which was that many cadets met their future spouses while they were in the group. The group also included a number of brothers and sisters as well as three sets of twins, all at the same time.

Maj. Harold Frankel of PENNSYLVANIA WING’s Reading Composite Squadron 811 and his wife Judy, both former members of the Brooklyn Group, were presented with a plaque of appreciation for all the work and effort they put into arranging the reunion.

Frankel tracked down more than 50 percent of the group’s members from 1953 through 1966. Through the couple’s hard work, people who hadn’t seen each other in more than 40 years were reunited, making for a fun time and memories never to be forgotten.

As of today, four of the former Brooklyn Group members older than 60 have rejoined Civil Air Patrol in the states where they live.

MASS. UNIT CELEBRATES NEW HQ WITH OPEN HOUSE

Beverly Squadron Aims to Be Good Airport Neighbor

by Capt. Andrew W. Buck

MASSACHUSETTS -- The Beverly Composite Squadron held a successful open house during Beverly Municipal Airport's Cystic Fibrosis Family Day, with all involved having fun as the unit opened its new headquarters to the public and celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Present for the ceremony were the Massachusetts Wing's commander, Col. David Belcher, and administrative officer, Lt. Col. Jackie Jones, as well as State Reps. Ted Speliotis and Brad Hill. Both lawmakers spoke about Civil Air Patrol's programs and the work that cadets and senior members perform for the community. Each has presented Gen. Billy Mitchell awards to Beverly Composite cadets in the past.

The Beverly Airport Commission was well represented at the ceremony as well.

Maj. Tom Lyons, squadron commander, commended 1st Lt. Dan Parsons and his son, Cadet Airman Kent Parsons, for their work in preparing the headquarters the week before the open house and attending to last-minute details. Lyons also cited great support from cadets' parents.

He noted the importance of being a good airport family member, too. "Helping out here today with the Cystic Fibrosis Day is just one of the ways we try and assist the airport and the aviation community."

TOP: ***A pair of CAP Cessnas on the Beverly Municipal Airport flight line.***

LEFT: ***(From left) State Rep. Brad Hill; Col. David Belcher, Massachusetts Wing commander; Maj. Tom Lyons, Beverly Composite Squadron commander; and State Rep. Ted Speliotis.***

RIGHT: ***Maj. Tom Lyons (third from left) cuts the ribbon with a little help from his friends – (from left) 2nd Lt. Dan Parsons, State Rep. Ted Speliotis, Col. David Belcher, Lt. Col .Jacqulyn Jones and Maj. Gregory Carter.***

CT WING PILOT SETS AVIATION RECORD

CONNECTICUT -- The National Aeronautic Association recently approved a record claimed by Col Frederick G. Herbert of Preston, CT, on a flight from Hartford, CT, to York, PA, on June 25, 2008. Herbert made the flight in a Cessna 177B, in 2 hours, 3 minutes, averaging 125.89 mph (202.60 km/h) over the route. This record represents the fastest speed of any piston engine land plane weighing between 1,102 and 2,205 pounds over the course.

Herbert, who will be 60 years old in February, originated his record flight from Hartford to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the death of 2nd Lt Andre E. Mave. Mave served as a pilot with the CAP's Courier Service, Bradley Field, CT. The Courier Service utilized civilian aircraft transporting personnel and priority cargo during the beginning of WWII before the Army and Navy were trained and equipped to perform the missions.

-- NAA News Release, October 29, 2008

NY WING CADETS PARTICIPATE IN AFA COMPETITON

50 Cadets from Long Island Squadrons Compete

by 2nd Lt. Robert J. Calviello

NEW YORK -- More than 50 cadets from five Long Island Group squadrons gathered in September at Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton for the Air Force Association's Fourth Annual Cadet Competition.

Members of Suffolk Cadet Squadrons 7, 9 and 10 and the Brian M. Mooney Cadet and Francis S. Gabreski squadrons squared off in team events including drill, a "Jeopardy"-style quiz, foot races, tug-of-war and an emergency locator transmitter search. Senior members oversaw each event, while AFA volunteers officiated and kept score.

Long Island cadets await the start of the tug-of-war competition.

The New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing not only hosted the event but also provided a venue and supervision for one of the contests -- the fire department hose carry-and-sprint. The 106th also offered tours of base security forces and a HC-130 Hercules aircraft.

The day's events concluded with a barbecue and trophy award presentation. Suffolk Cadet Squadron 9, led by Cadet 1st Lt. Emmett Ceglia, won the competition, marking consecutive victories for Capt. Andean Pisanounit, the unit's commander.

This was only Round 4, and more Long Island Group history remains to be be written – the cadets rousingly responded to the AFA's offer to sponsor a fifth annual event in 2009.

LONG ISLAND GROUP PROVIDES SUPPORT AT CANCER WALK

by 2nd Lt. Robert Calviello

NEW YORK -- More than 80 cadets and senior members from New York Wing's Long Island Group assembled before dawn Oct. 19 to lend support to the fight against breast cancer. They reported to Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh to provide logistical support for the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk.

Maj. Lou Fenech, Col. Francis S. Gabreski Squadron commander, led the Civil Air Patrol contingent. The members provided security and parking details, manned relief stations and also walked the five-mile route to aid participants in distress.

Long Island Group cadets man the communications station during the American Cancer Society's walkathon.

The cadet staff, headed by Cadet Lt. Col. James Ridley II and Cadet 1st Lt. Stephanie Filiberto, both Gabreski squadron members, managed shift assignments throughout the walk-a-thon.

Although unseasonably cold weather was a concern, with temperatures dipping below 40, cadets rotated in on breaks and were able to warm up with hot chocolate and a bowl of Fenech's homemade "stewp" – a longtime squadron recipe.

Despite the high winds and low temperatures along the Atlantic shoreline, 50,000 walkers – including cancer survivors, loved ones, relatives and friends of deceased cancer victims and those who came out to support the cause – helped raise more than $3 million to fund breast cancer research, education and advocacy.

The day was also special for several CAP members in attendance, as they too walked in honor of friends and family members.

MASS. WING GRADUATES 74 FROM ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

'This Was the Most Amazing Experience,' Cadet Staffer Says

by Lt. Col. Thomas H. Williams

Cadets scramble through the obstacle course.

A UH-60 Huey awaits its cadet passengers.

Cadets are already undergoing physical training as the sun rises over the encampment.

A physical training run takes encampment participants through Fort Devens.

MASSACHUSETTS -- Following a group pass-in-review and the awarding of two Commander's Commendations and one Meritorious Service Award, the Massachusetts Wing graduated 74 cadets Aug. 17 at its annual encampment at Fort Devens.

"I've got five encampments under my belt and I can honestly say that this was the most amazing experience to date," said Cadet Capt. Matthew Cole of the Westover Composite Squadron, commander of one of the cadet training squadrons. "Good job, everybody," he told his three flights.

This year's encampment served as a leadership laboratory, with emphasis on cadet-level decision-making and accountability. Senior members, from the encampment commander on down, served as mentors and coaches only.

"This is the way it's supposed to be," noted encampment commander Maj. John Flaherty. "But it's easier to say than to do." Flaherty explained that it was more important to create a climate that permitted mistakes and fostered learning than it was to "get the vans from Point A to Point B on time."

As a consequence, the decisions cadet leaders made through the week got better, and their confidence soared.

"There were times when we could have easily solved training or logistics problems that popped up, but we allowed the cadets the freedom to create their own solutions," Flaherty said. "We taught them processes and gave them models for problem-solving, and guided them as necessary, but they felt the weight of responsibility."

During the nine-day encampment, the cadets trained in activities carefully designed to follow the Civil Air Patrol curriculum as well as to meet the training goals and objectives that the cadet commander, Cadet Maj. Erica Tremblay of the Phoenix Baypath Composite Squadron, had set out in her vision statement.

They attended classes on leadership fundamentals and aerospace history, learned about Air Force missions and opportunities, conducted emergency services training, flew in UH-60 Blackhawks and ran both an obstacle course and leadership reaction course.

Tremblay was nominated for a Meritorious Service Award for her work leading up to and during the 2008 encampment. Cole and his fellow squadron commander, Cadet 1st Lt. Nichole Gura of the Brockton Composite Squadron, were awarded Commander's Commendations from the Massachusetts Wing commander, Col. David Belcher.

In addition to the cadets from Massachusetts, this year's encampment included cadets from six other wings -- Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, National Capital, New Jersey and New York.

NY WING ENCAMPMENT GRADUATES 120 CADETS

3 Cadets Solo in Powered Flight Academy

By Capt. James Ridley, Sr.

NEW YORK -- After a week of challenging weather, over 120 In-Flight cadets graduated from their first New York Wing Leadership Encampment July 26 on a picture-perfect day. Surrounded by the encampment cadet and senior staff, New York Wing Command staff, group commanders, family and friends, these cadets marched on a tarmac normally reserved for C-130 aircraft.

Precisely at 10 a.m. the cadets, led by their officers and NCOs, proudly marched into the main hanger where they took their seats and listened to their encampment commander, Maj. Randy Anger, as he spoke of the CAP core values and his pride in their accomplishments. Major Anger heaped special praise on his cadet staff, over 40 young men and women who were primarily responsible for running the encampment. These cadets held squadron and flight leadership posts as well as staff positions in areas such as administration, logistics and operations, among others. Several of these staff cadets were singled out for individual and group honors.

Three cadets in the encampment's powered and glider flight academy received their solo wings from the New York Wing Commander Col. Ken Andreu. The guest speaker for the day was Col. Anthony P. German, who commands the 109th Airlift Wing which calls Stratton home. Less than an hour after taking their seats the cadets formed up on the tarmac and provided the spectators with an orchestrated military pass-in-review before heading off to the base mess hall and out-processing.

Among the awards:

• Encampment Honor Cadet -- Cadet Staff Sgt. Bethany Roczen, Utica Cadet Squadron.

• Honor Flight -- Bravo Flight (Cadet 1st Lt. Raymond McGowan, Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10, commander; Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Kerri Sheridan, Sullivan County Cadet Squadron, flight sergeant; and 2nd Lt. Diana Hyatt, Batavia Cadet Squadron, training, advising and counseling officer).

The three cadets who soloed in the encampment's flight academy were Cadet Master Sgt. Beth Nearing of the Schenectady Composite Squadron and Cadet Chief Master Sgts. Michelle Mudge of Suffolk Cadet Squadron 7 and William Stahl of the Rochester Composite Squadron.

Photos by 1st Lt Robert Stronach

The encampment's rock wall was a fun challenge, as Cadet Colleen Casey demonstrates.

C/Lt. Col. Jacob Miller** (center) **led the encampment, along with Deputy Commander C/Lt. Col. Adam Henery** (left) **and Cadet Executive Officer C/Lt. Col. Jim Ridley II.

C/MSgt Beth Nearing soled in a Cessna, along with C/Chief MSgts Michelle Mudge and William Stahl (shown with one of the instructors, Capt. Luke Yetto).

THE SEARCH FOR CHARLZ

MA Wing Gets Unique Experience Assisting Horse Rescuers

by MA Wing Public Affairs

Kneeling: ***Maj Flaherty, Lt. Col Schillhammer, Cadet Walsh***
Second Row: ***Maj Johanson, Lt. Jack Forman, Lt. Col Tensfeld, Col Belcher, Lt. Col Meskill, Lt. Col Hume, Rescuer Coordinator Susan Correia, Maj Ross, Rescuer Kelli Anne Kenney, Lt. Walsh, Cadet Ghiz.***

MASSACHUSETTS -- Saturday November 1, 2008 started at 0730L with the arrival of the Mission Staff at the Freetown-New Bedford State Forest. Mission Base was set up in the fire station. Ground teams from Camp Curtis Guild and Worcester arrived and aircrews were checking in to Taunton Airport. And so began the search for "Charlz", a 17-year-old 800-pound Arabian Gelding.

Massachusetts Wing (MAWG) has never had a search of this nature. CAP had been asked to assist in finding a missing, roaming 4-legged target within a 1-1/2 square mile area. Making it more difficult was the fact that the Charlz was not looking to be rescued.

The mission was to provide air surveillance and ground search to assist teams of "horse rescuers" to look for Charlz and then get the rescue teams to the site.

Teams were briefed by their team leaders and then all personnel involved including CAP were briefed by Lt. Col Bill Meskill. Safety was a primary issue as it was bow hunting season. All personnel were required to wear orange hats and vests.

Mission base consisted of Col. Dave Belcher, Lt. Col Bill Meskill, Lt Col Everett Hume, Lt. Col Earl Shepard, Lt. Col Bill Schillhammer, Lt. Col Jeff Tensfeld, Maj. Steve Ross, Maj. Pavlik Minsk and Maj. Ron Johanson. Two ground teams went out with the rescue groups, led by Capt Peter Goebel with four members (Captain Joyce and cadets Walsh, McNeill, Hughes and Wolfe) and Maj David Oriol with six members (Lt. Walsh and cadets Walsh, Swensen, Teague and Ghiz). Fifteen aircrew members worked from Taunton Airport led by Lt. Col Jack Forman.

The aircraft flew north south and east west grids. By noon there had been no sightings. Cover in the forest was still significant. At 1500L there was a reported sighting, but it turned out not to be Charlz. With darkness approaching the return-to-base order was given at around 1600L.

The mission gave CAP the opportunity for learning lessons about working with the public on a mission. The leader of the horse rescue group, Susan Correia, said she did not realize how difficult it was to coordinate a search and that it would have been impossible without the type of resources Civil Air Patrol is able to offer.

VT UNIT CONTINUES PARADE TRADITION

by 1st Lt. Robin E. Law

VERMONT -- Members of the Capital Composite Squadron continued their annual tradition of marching in the Labor Day Parade in Northfield, Vt. This year the theme of the parade, the largest in Vermont, was "American Heroes." An estimated 6,000-8,000 flock to the small town each year to watch the procession.

Vermont's Capital Composite Squadron color guard leads the unit in the Northfield Parade while "Cadet Ken" picks up the rear. Photos by Sr, Mbr. Carrie Cannon.

NH WING PROVIDES AERIAL ASSESSMENT OF RARE TORNADO

Photos Downloaded in Real Time to Bureau of Emergency Management

by Maj. Penny Hardy

NEW HAMPSHIRE -- The New Hampshire Wing provided damage assessment to state officials after a rare tornado struck the southeast portion of the state July 24, killing one person and damaging or destroying about 150 homes.

While tornados have occasionally touched down in New Hampshire over the years, they are unusual. When a tornado warning was issued about noon and warning sirens were sounded at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, few expected a storm to actually materialize.

Just after torrential rains began falling under very dark skies, however, a tornado did form, touching down first in the Northwood Deerfield area around Northwood Lake south of Concord.

It traveled northeast for about 40 miles, cutting a path half a mile wide through Epsom, Barnstead, Ossipee, New Durham, Wolfeboro, Effingham and Freedom. The storm was over within an hour, leaving widespread destruction in its wake. Many people were at work when the tornado hit, lessening the death and injury toll.

Photos by 1st Lt. Richard Cox

NH Wing's aerial photographs show part of the 40-mile-long, half-mile-wide swath cut by the July 24th twister.

The next day the state Bureau of Emergency Management contacted the New Hampshire Wing to fly damage assessments. A flight took off July 25 from Concord Airport with Col. Donald C. Davidson, wing commander, serving as mission pilot and 1st Lt. Richard Cox of the Greater Nashua Composite Squadron operating the aerial imaging equipment. Daniel McElhinney of the Federal Emergency Management Agency was also on board.

Some of the photos Cox took were downloaded in real time directly to the the Bureau of Emergency Management.

The wing completed another damage assessment flight in the Ossipee area Aug. 1, with Donald Keeler, operations director of the state Emergency Operations Center, on board.

The Bureau of Emergency Management was very pleased with the quality of the more than 800 photos taken.

PA WING SEARCHES FOR MISSING HUNTER

by 1st Lt. Lynda Paulsen

PENNSYLVANIA -- More than 30 Pennsylvania Wing members participated in a search in the Nescopeck State Park for a hunter whose body was found nearly a day after he was reported missing.

The wing provided ground teams as well as aircraft for an aerial grid search for Anthony Yacowatz, 58, of Pardeesville. Yacowatz was reported missing about 6:30 p.m. Oct. 23. His body was found about 3:30 p.m. the next day.

Members of Wayne Composite Squadron 201 and Mount Pocono Composite Squadron 207 mobilized when they received notification of the search, many leaving work to volunteer their time, knowledge and expertise to the search, while CAP teams from Hazleton Composite Squadron 203 and Quakertown Composite Squadron 904 remained on standby in case they were called on to provide for relief or additional assistance

CAP's capabilities and resources didn't end with the ground teams and air crews.

Also on deck and ready to assist was the wing's ARCHER hyperspectral imaging team, as well as members of the Clarion Composite Squadron 504, who are training a canine search team in a pilot program spearheaded by the unit's commander, Maj. Ralph Timblin. Timblin aims to develop a CAP canine search team that not only meets but exceeds current standards.

Overall, hundreds of search and rescue workers from various organizations came together to assist with the search, including the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania State Police, local emergency medical service units, area parks and recreation forest rangers and a Medevac helicopter, as well as dog teams.

NJ WING HELPS TRAIN CERT VOLUNTEERS

50 Members Help Teach Search & Rescue Techniques

by 1st Lt. Mark Swanson

NEW JERSEY -- New Jersey Wing members last September provided training in search and rescue techniques to Community Emergency Response Team volunteers as part of a New Jersey State Police activity.

The day featured many training activities for CERT volunteers, who went to the seaside New Jersey State Police training facility in Sea Girt to meet Civil Air Patrol members and learn. About 800 CERT volunteers from throughout the state participated in live exercise scenarios at the New Jersey State Police Academy. The state Office of Emergency Management holds the event annually in conjunction with National Preparedness Month.

New Jersey Wing brought about 50 members trained in ground search and rescue to help. Led by the wing's director of operations, Lt. Col. Rich Olszewski, they participated in a search scenario that involved locating victims in locations such as a forest or woods. Volunteers from the Salvation Army and American Red Cross were involved as well.

Lt. Col. Rich Olszewski, New Jersey Wing's director of operations, talks with CERT volunteers as part of a special training day.

The CERT program trains people in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Participants can assist others in a neighborhood or workplace emergency when professional responders are not immediately available.

In New Jersey, more than 80 CAP members are now CERT-trained, helping to cement the organization's strong relationship with Office of Emergency Management and State Police.

Maj. Jose Avila, commander of the Gen. Jimmy Stewart Composite Squadron, works with CERT trainees.

PIONEERING NH MEMBER HONORED

by Maj. Penny Hardy

NEW HAMPSHIRE -- Col. Joseph Michael Verna, familiarly known as "Mickey" among Civil Air Patrol members, was recently honored for his service with the New Hampshire Wing's Seacoast Composite Squadron -- then called Portsmouth Squadron or the Blackcat Squadron -- during and after World War II.

Verna joined CAP on Dec. 3, 1941, right after the organization was formed. He served as a mission pilot during the war, flying out of Portsmouth Airport -- now the site of Pease Air National Guard Base -- before entering the U.S. Army in 1943 and serving as a radio operator.

After returning from the war, he again became an active member of the squadron. Verna retired from active membership several years ago after more than 50 years of service. Cols. Dale Hardy and Margie Sambold, former New Hampshire Wing commanders, recently visited Verna at his home to present him with a CAP lifetime membership, the organization's Distinguished Service Medal and a promotion to full colonel.

Cols. D. Hardy, J. Verna & M. Sambold.

NJ MEMBERS TRAIN IN URBAN DIRECTION FINDING

Activities Aimed at Both Cadets and Senior Members

by 2nd Lt. Robert Cann

NEW JERSEY – Ground team members from the Gen. Jimmy Stewart Composite Squadron recently held training exercises in urban direction-finding search techniques.

The day featured activities aimed at both cadet and senior members. Training included classes in map reading, proper compass use and keeping a team log, as well as becoming familiar with and using direction-finding equipment.

Emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs), emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) and personal locator beacons (PLBs) are tracking transmitters that operate as part of the Cospas-Sarsat satellite system.

When activated, the beacons send out a distress signal that allows the beacon to be located by the satellite system and search-and-rescue aircraft to locate the people, boats and aircraft needing rescue.

In the U.S., offshore beacons are investigated and victims rescued by the Coast Guard. On-shore beacons are investigated by local search and rescue services in Alaska.

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center is charged with land-based emergency signals, usually dispatching volunteer members from Civil Air Patrol.

NJ MEMBERS MEET APOLLO 16 COMMAND MODULE PILOT

by 1st Lt. Sandra Kooker

NEW JERSEY – Members of Thomas B. McGuire and Cape May County composite squadrons recently enjoyed meeting former Navy Rear Adm. Tom Mattingly, command module pilot for the next-to-last Apollo mission.

Cadets and senior members from both squadrons were attended a Burlington County College of New Jersey presentation Nov. 18 featuring Mattingly. They listened from reserved seating in the second row of the auditorium as Mattingly spoke of his experiences as an astronaut.

Mattingly joined the space program in 1966. In addition to working on the development of the lunar space suit and backpack, he served on the support crews for Apollo 8 and Apollo 11. After being pulled from Apollo 13 for medical reasons, he flew as Apollo 16 command module pilot for the fifth manned lunar landing mission in April 1972.

After the Apollo missions Mattingly played an instrumental part in the space shuttle program, later being promoted to rear admiral in 1985 and retiring in 1989.

Mattingly took time to pose for photos and chat with cadets and senior members.

Former Navy Rear Adm. Tom Mattingly** (center) **with members of the Thomas B. McGuire and Cape May County composite squadrons.

PA WING CADETS HELP AT VA MEDICAL CENTER CAR SHOW

Photo by 1st Lt. Wilson Ballester

Members of Pennsylvania Wing's Lebanon VFW Cadet Squadron 307 look on during the fourth annual VA Medical Center car show Oct. 11 in Lebanon, during which cadets helped hospital staff push wheelchairs to the show, served individual patients and returned them to their rooms afterward. The squadron's color guard posted and retired the colors for the show.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Squadrons across the NorthEast Region honored fallen heroes and deceased veterans by laying wreaths on their graves. On the next two pages are some examples of CAP's participation in *Wreaths Across America.*

NJ WING PAYS TRIBUTE TO MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

by 1st Lt. Mark Swanson

Author Craig Burgess and Col. Robert McCabe, New Jersey Wing commander, pay their respects at Medal of Honor recipient Edward Benfold's gravesite after Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Beverly National Cemetery.

NEW JERSEY -- Among the many thousands of wreaths laid by Civil Air Patrol volunteers on Dec. 13 as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America observation was one for a veteran who very recently has become important to New Jersey Wing members -- Edward C. Benfold, buried in Beverly National Cemetery in Beverly.

For the first time, Benfold's gravesite received special honors from CAP members, who recently learned the Medal of Honor recipient had been a New Jersey Wing cadet in 1948-49. Benfold was a member of the Camden Cadet Squadron for two years, according to a newspaper clipping that recently surfaced.

Benfold's biographer, Craig Burgess, author of *"The Green Wave and the Navy: The History of the USS Benfold,"* was a featured speaker at the Wreaths Across America ceremonies at the Beverly cemetery. Benfold and Burgess are both natives of Audubon, a small Camden County town that can claim no less than three Medal of Honor recipients – World War I Army Cpl. Nelson Brittin, Korean War Army Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Sampler and Benfold.

Burgess, joined by New Jersey Wing commander Col. Robert McCabe, paid tribute to Benfold at his gravesite.

Benfold was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Korean War as Navy hospital corpsman third class. He was killed in action at age 21 while serving in the 1st Marine Division. He had entered the Navy in 1950, just months after leaving CAP and graduating from Audubon High School.

While wing members have not been able to unearth any records for Benfold, the newspaper clipping -- a photo identifying the future hero undergoing mobile radio unit training with three other Camden Cadet Squadron members -- unmistakably links him to membership in CAP in 1948-49, Burgess said.

McCabe said he was especially pleased the wing has been able to make the link with Benfold and his history.

"Not many wings can claim Medal of Honor recipients as CAP members," the wing commander said. "We are honored by his sacrifice, and I'd like to think that the CAP cadet program helped to prepare him for his Navy service."

Besides placing a wreath on the Benfold grave as part of the Wreaths Across America commemoration, members of the Jack Schweiker Composite Squadron paid their own tribute. The squadron, based in Cherry Hill, is believed to be the closest unit to the one Benfold belonged to, and members placed their own wreath on the grave with a salute.

WREATHS ACROSS NEW YORK

by Capt James A. Ridley, Sr.

Jamestown Composite Squadron Color Guard presents the colors at Lakeview Cemetery, Jamestown, NY

NEW YORK -- While over 10,000 homes in the Albany area were without electricity after one of the worst snow and ice storms in recent history, members of the Albany-based Mid-Eastern Group braved the elements and attended ceremonies at the Gerald B.H. Cemetery in Saratoga, NY, in support of the *Wreaths Across America* program. They were not alone.

All across the New York Wing, units supported this program, which began in 1992 when the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine donated wreaths to be placed on veterans graves at Arlington National Cemetery. In 2006 they took the program nationally. Today over 100,000 wreaths have been placed on the final resting places of our nation's heroes all across the country where this event has become a holiday tradition for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

Across the wing CAP units have raised funds for the wreaths, placed the wreaths and had their cadet color guards present the colors at ceremonies which took place simultaneously on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Calverton National Cemetey on Long Island, Lakeview Cemetery in Jamestown, St. Matthews Cemetery in West Seneca, Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira as well as Gerald B.H. Cemetery in Saratoga.

"The Wreaths symbolize our honoring those serving and those who have served," said Lt Col Joseph Goldman, the South Central Group commander, a sentiment echoed by 1st Lt Doug Justham, public affairs officer for Jamestown Composite Squadron who participated in the Lakeview Cemetery ceremony.

"Having this many of our cadets and senior members come out on a Saturday to honor our service men and women, living and dead, meant a tremendous amount to the veterans here today," Justham said.

Capt Joe Pizzo, commander of the Long Island Senior Squadron, along with members of Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 10, fund-raised and secured 500 wreaths which were placed in both Calverton and Pinelawn National Cemeteries on Long Island.

Cadets from Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 10 place wreaths and render honors at Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY

The Civil Air Patrol has become a partner in the Wreaths Across America program, with participation growing each year across the NY Wing and the country.

(Lt Cols Anita Martin and Charles Jones, 1st Lts Richard Fairchild, Bill Mcgee and Doug Justham, and 2d Lt Robert Calviello contributed to this story.)

PA CADET GOES TO ENGLAND IN AIR CADET EXCHANGE

Recounts Experience Flying Gliders, Visiting RAF Bases

by C/Lt Col Nichole McCandless

Cadet Lt. Col. Nichole L. McCandless with a glider instructor at Air Cadet Central Gliding School at Royal Air Force Base Syerston.

PENNSYLVANIA -- I decided I was going to apply for the International Air Cadet Exchange in hopes of ending my five-year career as a Civil Air Patrol cadet with an enjoyable and eventful summer. After answering many questions on the application and an interview at Fort Indiantown Gap, I was accepted to this prestigious National Cadet Special Activity.

On July 19, I departed from Pittsburgh International Airport for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C. The two-day "Washington Phase" was comprised of sightseeing, a trial-run formal dinner and meeting fellow IACE cadets and escorts.

The first five days in the United Kingdom, our group stayed at Brunel University. Activities during our stay at Brunel included shopping in central London as well as guided tours of Buckingham Palace, Westminster Palace, Greenwich (Prime Meridian of the world), the Tower of London and the Imperial War Museum. At the conclusion of our "London Phase," we had the honor of having a group photo taken in front of the prime minister's house, No. 10 Downing St.

After departing Brunel University we traveled to the Air Cadet Central Gliding School at Royal Air Force Base Syerston. The visit was an all-day event, featuring glider flights and motorized glider flights, with each cadet receiving at least four separate flights. Gliding at RAF Syerston was once of my favorite activities in the U.K., because we had the opportunity to do aerobatics in the gliders and pulling 3G's is awesome.

While touring England's Southeast Region, we stayed at Fort Blockhouse in Gosport, which borders the English Channel and the Atlantic Sea. We visited several RAF bases, Arundel Castle and the Swanwick Air Traffic Control Centre. We also toured the HMS Victory and the Mary Rose in Portsmouth.

Our group returned to Brunel University for our last night in the United Kingdom, departing for London Heathrow Airport the following morning.

After joining CAP, I did my best to achieve rank and participate in as many activities as possible. While I loved my bond with my former Hawk Mountain Rangerss, and all the cadets and staff in my local squadron (Mercer County Composite Squadron 122), IACE is by far the best Civil Air Patrol activity I have ever participated in and I would encourage any cadet to achieve his or her cadet captaincy and apply.

Thank you to Pennsylvania's Group and Wing's Staff as well as National Headquarters for selecting me, among many applicants, to help represent the United States in the 2008 IACE.

Parachute packed, McCandless makes her way to the airfield at Royal Air Force Base Syerston.

NY SQUADRON TOURS AMERICAN AIRPOWER MUSEUM

Members Get WWII Ready-Room Briefing, Meet B-17 Pilot

by Sr. Mbr. Madeleine Cohen

North Castle Composite Squadron members and their American Airpower Museum tour guide pause before an exhibit.

Photo by Lt. Col. Johnnie Pantanelli

A 1944 Douglas C-47 Skytrain on display at the American Airpower Museum entrance.

NEW YORK -- North Castle Composite Squadron members recently gained a new appreciation for the role air power played during World War II and in subsequent conflicts and eras in American military history. The seven cadets and three senior members visited the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale on a field trip funded by a 2008 Air Force Associaton grant awarded through Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education.

The group was greeted by Guenter Bier, its flight-suited tour guide, who shared detailed stories from his own life. Bier grew up in Germany during World War II and described how often his community was bombed and what the residents did during those raids.

The North Castle group was seated in a replica of a World War II ready room, right down to wallboards, with curtains, hanging lights, a potbelly stove and wooden benches. In this exercise, the cadets and senior members were treated as American flight officers going through an actual mission briefing. (At the time, enlisted personnel got a separate, more general briefing.) During the session, an elderly man entered the room and sat with the group. He turned out to have been a B-17 pilot, and he showed off his binder with pictures and a list of all 33 of his wartime missions.

The tour proceeded to a dressing room, where cadets tried on lead flak jackets weighing up to 40 pounds and saw all the crew's gear -- electric heated underwear, oxygen masks, helmets, gloves, parachutes, etc. Temperatures inside the aircraft could get as low as 60 below zero. The group also toured the original control tower for the local air field, and found it amazing how little equipment the flight controllers had to work with in the mid-20th century.

The museum features many hands-on exhibits and lots of opportunities to get close up to historical planes and jets. Cadets were able to ask questions of the tour guide and museum staff, and the facility also offers an aviation-related gift shop.

The projected two-hour visit turned out to last a stimulating four hours. The squadron's aerospace education officer, Capt. Edward Miraglia, highly recommends the museum to other CAP squadrons in the tri-state area.

Along with Miraglia, making the trip were: Lt. Col. Johnnie Pantanellli, commander; Capt. Richard Johns, deputy commander; Cadet 1st Lt. Austin Rivera, cadet commander; Cadet Staff Sgt. Nicholas Miraglia, Cadet Airman Jack O'Brien, Cadet Basics Brendan Bonsignore, McKenna Fay, James Fulgenzi and Jonathan Reyes.

UPGRADES PLANNED FOR AGING CESSNAS

By Capt James Ridley

For many years now the Cessna 172 and 182 aircraft have been the mainstays of CAP's air fleet. Now they are getting a makeover.

Due to Cessna's decision to reduce production and the rising cost of new aircraft, CAP has initiated an Aircraft Refurbishment Program or ARP. All told, the cost of this project will enable CAP to upgrade an aging Cessna for what it would have cost to purchase a new 172 Skyhawk.

Any CAP aircraft with over 4,500 hours total time or less on the airframe with no corrosion or major history of damage are eligible for this upgrade.

All aircraft chosen for this program will be completely refurbished and made mission-ready.

Besides the engine and propeller as well as other components being overhauled, the upgrades may include all new glass including the windshield, new fiberglass wingtips, aileron tips if needed as well as a new paint job in CAP's current paint scheme.

The interiors will be done, including replacement of any plastic, and the aircraft will receive new brakes, tires, wheel bearings and an upgraded avionics panel. Any other worn out items will also be replaced.

New avionics panel is part of the upgrade.

As part of the new avionics package, the Cessna get an Aspen Avionics PFD 1000, Garmin GPS 530, an SL30 NAV/COMM transceiver and GMX 200 MFD as well as the Becker DF system.

The CAP fleet is getting a new makeover that will enable it to continue performing its missions for America for years to come.

NEW NY SQUADRON RECEIVES CHARTER

by 1st Lt. Richard Fairchild

Oswego Composite Squadron Cadets

NEW YORK -- The New York Wing's newest addition, the Owego Composite Squadron, received its charter from Lt Col. Joseph Goldman, South Central Group commander, in a ceremony Nov. 25.

In attendance were members and friends of the new squadron, along with local squadron representatives from the South Central New York Group.

In addition to the charter ceremony, 11 cadets received promotions and Cadet 2nd Lt. Jacob Brock was presented with the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award.

Having a unit in Owego, a city of some 4,000 people in south central New York, "fills an important gap for CAP between Elmira and Binghamton," said 2nd Lt. Don Quick, squadron commander.

"We accept this charter with a deep sense of responsibility," Lieutenant Quick said. "The Civil Air Patrol has a long and honored history and a reputation for excellence. We will strive to add to that honored history and live up to that reputation."

After the ceremony, members and guests enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to learn more about the CAP through cadet displays and presentations.

Cadets promoted: Cadet 2nd Lt. Jacob Brock; Cadet Master Sgt. Lydia Fairchild, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Austin Stoel, Cadet Airmen 1st Class Caleb and Joshua Stoel, and Cadet Airmen Sariah Griffin, William Gooch, Josiah McCarthy, Katarina McFadden, David Stuart and Anthony Whatley.