

Vol. 7, No. 1
WINTER 2008-2009



**LEARNING
TO LEAD
AND EXCEL**

**LEADERSHIP
ENCAMPMENT**



Wheels Up!

WINTER 2008-09
New York Wing
Civil Air Patrol
U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Commander

Col. Kenneth Andreu

Vice Commander

Lt. Col. Mark Caiello

Chief of Staff

Lt. Col. Tom Carello

Editor/PAO

1st Lt. Robert Stronach

Wing PA Director

Capt. James A. Ridley Sr.

Wing Headquarters
Westchester County Airport
24 Loop Road, Bldg 1
White Plains, NY 10604-1218
Phone: 914-683-1000
Fax: 914-683-10056
www.nywg.cap.gov

To advertise in this publication,
or to submit story/photo, contact:

Robert Stronach,
EditorRob@yahoo.com,
315-796-9468.



Col. KENNETH ANDREU

In the Left Seat

FROM FLYING TO FUNDRAISING

Flying 249 hours in fiscal '08, New York Wing led the Northeast Region in Average Flying Hours per aircraft (13.3) -- and this is our second year breaking the 200-hour threshold and beating the national average.

New York placed 6th on the national scene in 2008 -- up from 14th in 2007, 33rd in 2006 and 45th in 2005 -- out of 58 flying units (Wings and Regions). Keep up the great work. Thanks to everyone making a concerted effort.

With sights on our annual Wing Conference 24-26 April 2009, we've launched a second annual fundraiser to assist both wing and unit finances. In 2008 the prize of a Harley Davidson motorcycle was awarded at the Wing Conference. In 2009 there are three prizes, starting with a luxury Caribbean cruise for

two (\$3,000 max. value, incl. airfare). Imagine escaping New York's winter! With the second prize, you can chill out watching a favorite show on a 32" flat screen HDTV. The third prize will leave you dancing to the music -- a 16GB iPod Touch.

Tickets are \$10 each, or 3 for \$25. This makes for a great squadron and Group fundraiser, as proceeds will be evenly split between the selling units and the wing. That's \$5 per ticket to the unit. (Cadets under 18 are not allowed to sell or buy tickets.)

Our nine Groups each received an initial batch of 50 tickets. So get to your Group commander.

Drawing for prizes will take place on the Lac du Saint Sacrement, Saturday night, April 25, during the Wing Conference dinner cruise. The Wing Conference will again be at Fort William Henry Resort and Conference Center, Lake George, NY.

COVER: FUN CHALLENGE

Cadet Colleen Casey tackles the rock wall, one of many challenging activities aimed at building skills and confidence at the New York Wing Leadership Encampment, held at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, NY.

Photo by 1st Lt. ROBERT STRONACH



ABOVE: Teen Beth Nearing was first to solo. TOP: Teens Adam Henery, Jacob Miller and Jim Ridley II lead the encampment. BOTTOM: Prepping the glider before being towed and sent soaring.



LEARNING TO LEAD AND EXCEL

A 17-year-old young man supervises a major week-long event involving 200 people. Other teenagers carry out numerous other supervisory roles throughout the week.

A 17-year-old young woman solos in a Cessna 182 after an intense week-long flight academy – the first of three teenage pilots to solo the same day.

Then there's the 15-year-old girl and 14-year-old boy who spend a week learning how to soar, piloting a glider through thermal lifts reaching up to the clouds.

Where do youth not only learn about leadership, but excel at taking on challenges such as these? At New York Wing's annual Leadership Encampment, held last July 19-26 at Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, NY.

"The goal we cultivate right from the beginning, is to build leaders," said Maj. **Randy Anger**, who has commanded the last three encampments.

The activities for both cadets and cadet staff are aimed at broadening their horizons, he said, noting: Every cadet should leave the encampment being a little bit better leader.

This issue of *Wheels Up!* is a tribute to the encampment experience.



FACES OF ENCAMPMENT

Photos by CADET PAO STAFF, JIM RIDLEY, BOB STRONACH



LEADERSHIP ENCAMPMENT GRADUATES OVER 120 CADETS

By Capt. JAMES RIDLEY, SR.

SCOTIA, NY -- 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 at Stratton Air National Guard Base.

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 who attended the encampment's powered and glider flight academy received



Cadet Staff Sgt. Bethany Roczen, encampment honor cadet, is congratulated by Air National Guard Col. Anthony German, 109th Airlift Wing commander.

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.

Awards included:

- Encampment Honor Cadet



Cadets march in review to close the graduation ceremonies.

Photos by 1st Lt ROBERT STRONACH



Guest Speaker Col. Anthony German
109th Airlift Wing Commander



Col. Ken Andreu
NY Wing Commander



Maj. Randy Anger
Encampment Commander

- Cadet Staff Sgt. Bethany Roczen, Utica Cadet Squadron.
- Alpha Flight Honor Cadet -- Cadet Staff Sgt. Sarah Schreiber, Syracuse Cade Squadron.
- Bravo Flight Honor Cadet -- Cadet Airman 1st Class Austin Sheeley, Vedder Composite Squadron.
- Charlie Flight Honor Cadet -- Cadet Master Sgt. Jesse Lippolt, Nassau Cadet Squadron 8.
- Delta Flight Honor Cadet -- Cadet Master Sgt. Austin Pearce, Syracuse Cadet Squadron.
- Echo Flight Honor Cadet -- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Andrew L'Hommedieu, Suffolk Cadet Squadron 9.
- Foxtrot Flight Honor Cadet -- Cadet Staff Sgt. James Grippe, Suffolk Cadet Squadron 10.
- Golf Flight Honor Cadet --

- Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Ronald Marciszyn, Suffolk Cadet quadron 10.
- Hotel Flight Honor Cadet -- Cadet Staff Sgt. Bethany Roczen, Utica Cadet Squadron.
- Honor Command Staff -- Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Trina Smith, Condor Composite Squadron, training noncommissioned officer.
- Honor Executive Staff Officer -- Cadet 2nd Lt. Mark Teubi, Ulster County Composite Squadron , logistics officer in charge.
- Honor Executive Staff Noncommissioned Officer -- Cadet Tech. Sgt. Adam Montfort, Dutchess County Composite Squadron, medical noncommissioned officer.
- Most Improved Cadet -- Cadet

- Airman Samuel Hugg of the Schenectady Composite Squadron.
- Warrior Flight -- Golf Flight (Cadet 2nd Lt. Zachary Myers, James P. O'Connor Composite Squadron, commander; Cadet Master Sgt. Tatyana Lopez, Col. Francis S. Gabreski Squadron, flight sergeant; and Sr. Mbr. Thomas Jacobs, Rochester Composite Squadron, training, advising and counseling officer).
- 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).



Photos by 1st Lt ROBERT STRONACH

ENCAMPMENT BOASTS ‘AWESOME’ FLIGHT ACADEMY

By 1st Lt. ROBERT STRONACH

SCOTIA, NY -- “It’s pretty darn awesome!”

That was 17-year-old Beth Nearing’s response to fellow cadets who wanted to know how it felt to solo in a high-performance Cessna 182.

Nearing, a cadet chief master sergeant with Schenectady Composite Squadron, said her instructor got out of the plane after a series of practice landings, and told her to go for it.

The student pilot was the first of three cadets to solo and one of eight cadets in a Flight Academy that was part of the New York Wing Leadership Encampment, July 19-26, at Stratton Air National Guard Base (located on one side of Schenectady County Airport in Scotia). Six cadets learned how to pilot Civil Air Patrol powered aircraft (there were two Cessna 172s in addition to the Cessna 182), and two learned how to soar in a Super Blanik Glider. The week-long flight academy included an intense ground school, nearly 10 hours in the Cessnas and up to a dozen flights in the glider – despite the fact that a series of thunderstorms limited their time in the cockpit.

The ground school took place at the Air National Guard Base, with powered flights occurring on the general aviation side of Schenectady County Airport, and the glider flights at Saratoga County Airport about 16 miles north.

“You hang there, and find thermals going down,” noted 15-year-old glider student pilot Caitlin Sippel. “I think it’s pretty cool. You hear the wind rushing past you.”



Cadet Master Sgt. Beth Nearing of the Schenectady Composite Squadron and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Michelle Mudge of Suffolk Cadet Squadron 7 give a “thumbs up” to flying Cessnas at the New York Wing Leadership Encampment.



Cadet Chief Master Sgts. William Stahl of Rochester Composite Squadron and Michelle Mudge of Suffolk Cadet Squadron 7 perform a preflight check on a Cessna 172 at the Leadership Encampment’s Flight Academy. Later in the day both soloed.

Photos by 1st Lt. ROBERT STRONACH

Sippel, a cadet 2nd lieutenant with Rochester Composite Squadron, said she was surprised at how quickly the glider responded to the controls. “It turns on a dime,” she said.

William Stahl, 17, who soloed in a Cessna 172, said they “started out with four basic maneuvers – climbing, descending, steady flight, and turning.” Ground school became more meaningful, he said, as they began to apply things they learned to actual flying. “In more advanced flights, we started to work on stalls, steeper stalls, and slow flight,” said Stahl, a cadet chief master sergeant with Rochester Composite Squadron.

Also soloing in the Cessna 172 was Michelle Mudge, 18, a cadet chief master sergeant with Long Island’s Suffolk Cadet Squadron 7. She was heading to University of North Dakota on a scholarship in the Army ROTC Helicopter Flight Training Program. The Flight Academy “provided a good confidence boost before taking off for school,” she said. “I never thought that in less than six days I could feel completely comfortable soloing in a Cessna 172... It was one of the greatest feelings in my life to know that I was flying an airplane unassisted.”

Three cadets received pre-solo wings: Cadet Maj. Caleb Irwin, 17, of Rochester Composite Squadron; Cadet 2nd Lt. David



Cadet 2nd Lt Caitlin Sippel in the glider cockpit with instructor Lt. Col. Malcolm Dickinson.

Gillette, 18, of Canandaigua Composite Squadron, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Ian Jones, 16, of Schenectady Composite Squadron. The other glider student pilot was Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Brian Lefloch, 14, with Dutchess County Composite Squadron.

Flight Academy Director was Lt. Col. Diane Wojtowicz, commander of Finger Lakes Group. Flight instructors included: Maj. Howard Kravitz of South Eastern Group; Maj. Brian Benedict of Schenectady Composite Squadron, Capt. Luke Yetto of Albany

Senior Squadron, and Capt. Shane Lipson, wing assistant safety officer. The glider instructor was Lt. Col. Malcolm Dickinson, wing director of safety. Piloting the tow plane was Lt. Col. John Hosp, wing director of glider operations.

Ground school instructors included Lt. Col. Bill Hughes, wing director of operations; Capt. Mark Riddell of Mid-Eastern Group, 1st Lt. Todd Cameron of Rochester Composite Squadron, and 2nd Lt. Max Kravitz (academy assistant director), Westchester-Hudson Composite Squadron.



Tow plane and glider at Leadership Encampment.

Photos by 1st Lt BOB STRONACH

CADET STAFF MAKES ENCAMPMENT A SUCCESS

By JAMES RIDLEY SR.

There is a group of young men and women who make the NY Wing Leadership Encampment a success every year -- the cadet staff corps.

These cadets spend two full weekends prior to the encampment, and free time in between, making preparations. They're on site two days before any in-flight cadet arrives.

This year 17-year-old C/Lt. Col. Jacob Miller led the encampment, with the help of his command staff and a corps of more than 40 cadet officers and NCOs. His command staff included Deputy Cadet Commander C/Lt. Col. Adam Henry, Cadet Executive Officer C/Lt. Col. Jim Ridley II, and Group First Sergeant C/1st Lt. Heather Nelson.

The cadet staff arrives at Stratton Air National Guard Base on the Thursday before the encampment and immediately begins the preparation for receiving the in-flight cadets. Barracks are set up, training schedules created, provisions are secured and vehicles inspected. The administrative staff prepares all the in-processing paperwork. The med staff ensures that they are ready for any medical emergency. "Flight



operations" is busy planning for cadet orientation flights in CAP Cessna aircraft. The public affairs team begins to document and photograph all activities. "Operations" prepares all the meals. "Communications" sets up the communication net and disperses the radios. The logistics department makes sure that encampment personnel have everything they need, including vehicles to get them from point A to point B.

In the background are the Standards and Evaluations team (SET) and Training staff, who organize the In-Flights' week while squadron, flight commanders and NCOs prepare for

the task of teaching these young cadets the fundamentals of Drill and Ceremonies and other valuable lessons.

The job for these cadets doesn't end when the last of the In-Flight cadets exits the base's main gate. The afternoon after graduation is set aside for encampment breakdown and cleanup. Everyone, including the cadet commander, rolls up the sleeves and digs in.

The final Saturday evening of the encampment is reserved for these cadets and the senior members who advised them for the past ten days. The entire encampment staff sits down at a local country club for a fine

meal and a little bit of silliness. The cadets switch rank, ribbons, qualification badges and such with senior members in what has become an annual ritual. When the staff returns to Stratton they put away the uniforms, get into their blue jeans and everyone converges at the mess hall for cake and the handing out of gifts in appreciation of a job well done.



After a successful encampment, cadet staff (including C/2nd Lt. Hannah Hatch) exhibited a little silliness, such as wearing more ribbons than Generals MacArthur, Spaatz, Arnold and Patton combined!

THANK YOU TO...

...the encampment public affairs team: C/Capt **D'lana Blauvelt** (Cadet PAO OIC); C/1st Lt **PJ Argeno**; C/CMSgt **Erica Culver**, & Capt **Mike Kieloch**, PAO mentor.



ENCAMPMENT STAFF LETS 'HAIR' DOWN

SCOTIA, NY, July 26, 2008 -- With the last in-flight cadet safely on the way home and the Air Base clean and tidy, staff cadets and seniors got together for an evening of dinner and frivolity. Traveling once more in a downpouring of rain, the remaining encampment staff drove to the Eagle Crest Country Club located in nearby Clifton Park near Ballston Lake for one final night together.

Before dinner could be served the cadets began trading rank, ribbons and other insignia with senior members and signed each other's encampment year-books. Before long the room was filled with 16-year-old lieutenant colonels, captains and majors and others like c/ 2d Lt Hannah Hatch were

decorated with more ribbons than Generals MacArthur, Spaatz, Arnold and Patton combined! Even ties were not to be spared with girls wearing their male counterpart's neck-wear and vice versa.

The group returned to Stratton for some cake and one final annual ritual, the presentation of gifts. Mentors to mentees, OICs to subordinates and commanders to flight sergeants. Some were comical while others more serious. Encampment XO Capt Mike Johnson presented his "mentee" cadet XO c/Lt Col Jim Ridley II with his own personal encampment challenge coin and cadet colonel diamonds which he believed Ridley would earn in the fall when he finishes his Spaatz exam.

The ceremony in the mess hall went a little longer than anticipated but the cadets didn't care, it was a night they didn't want to end and one which almost didn't!



Encampment cadets put their mark on newly assembled picnic tables -- a gift to the air base.

PICNIC TABLES: A GIFT AND A GREAT TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

By Capt JAMES RIDLEY, SR.

SCOTIA, NY, July 27, 2008 -- Each year the encampment cadets thank the members of the Stratton ANGB for their generosity through a variety of activities such as painting buildings or building picnic tables.

During the 2007 and 2008 encampments, the in-flight cadets built 16 picnic tables, 8 each year and 1 per flight. Plus, it served as a team-building exercise. Two flights at a time gathered together and built their tables

seeing who could finish first. They were furnished with the parts, the tools and instructions. When the tables were completed each team would turn them over and add their signatures and comments to the underside, thus each leaving their mark on the flight's new creation.

In 2007 eight tables were placed in the pavilion area of the encampment where many of the cadets gather in the evenings. In 2008 tables were placed appropriately where they can be used the most, outside the mess hall on the patio.

EVENING MISSION: MOTIVATION CHECKS

By Capt JAMES RIDLEY, Sr.

SCOTIA, NY, July 27, 2008 -- They've been awake since before sunrise and have just completed another long day of classes, drill and other activities, yet these encampment cadets still have more energy to expend on a very popular and fun exercise...nightly motivation checks.

C/MSgt John Shakeshaft, Jr., Charlie Flight Sergeant, said he "loved the motivation checks; it gave the in-flights and staff a chance to listen to other's ideas."

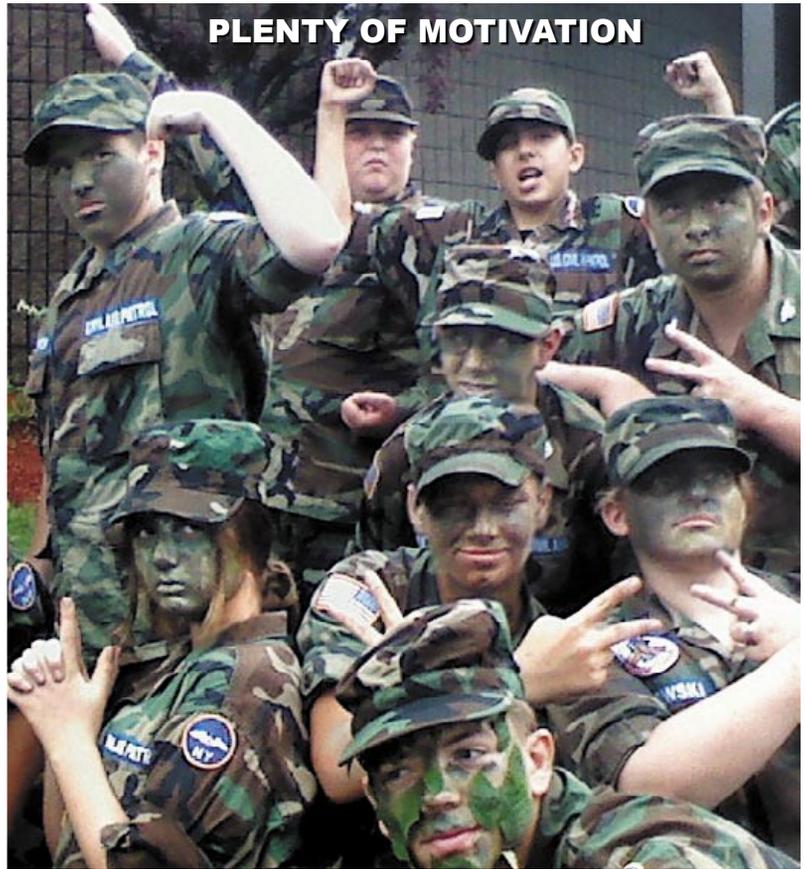
Motivation Checks are comical in nature and it was often hard for the cadet command staff, the recipients of these checks, to keep a straight face while viewing them.

"It's a great team building exercise," stated the encampment group 1st Sgt, c/1st Lt Heather Nelson, "and a way to burn off the in-flight's excess energy before they head off to bed for the night". In reality, it is a way for each of the eight flights which make up the encampment's group structure to compete with one another and show their spirit and

enthusiasm while at the same time letting off a little steam.

Alpha Flight Commander c/2d Lt **Christopher Fisher** saw motivation checks as “a way for the in-flights to get together on a project, work as a team, and experience the results of their work.”

Each night after the motivation checks ended, one of the flights was chosen by the cadet leadership as the Warrior Flight of the day and eventually the encampment. Winning warrior flight built up morale, according to Foxtrot Flight Commander c/1st Lt **Rachel Campbell**. Golf Flight Sergeant c/MSgt **Tatanya Lopez**, whose flight won Warrior Flight twice during the week and for the entire encampment, said, “It meant so much to the in-flight to win this recognition, it built their confidence and showed how dedicated they were and how much fun they had at encampment.”



“Warrior Flight’s” Tatanya Lopez is congratulated by NY Wing Commander Ken Andreu.



ENCAMPMENT CHALLENGE COINS USED TO REWARD, BUILD MORALE

SCOTIA, NY, July 21, 2008 -- One military tradition whose origins are the subject of conjecture and theory is that of the “challenge coin”. The most commonly held view is that the tradition began in the United States Army Air Service (a forerunner of the current United States Air Force). Besides using coins for challenging, they are also used as rewards and as a tool to build morale.

Many military units from all services practice the use

of challenge coins and the New York Wing Leadership Encampment is no exception. Each year a number of encampment challenge coins are given to cadet and senior staff members and in-flight cadets as a means to reward them for a job well done or to recognize some other achievement. Each of the cadet and senior member executive staff receive a number of coins to distribute to those individuals they identify as meriting one.

This year the first cadet staff member to receive a challenge coin was the Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of the logistics department, c/2d Lt Mark Teubl. On the same evening c/A1C Aysha Ozyilmaz was the first in-flight cadet of the encampment to receive one as well.

Each night a number of cadets and seniors received the coins after the evening’s motivation checks from the encampment commander, Major Randy Anger. Others were given coins at the graduation ceremony where they were singled out for any honor. Several dignitaries such as the graduation’s key-note speaker, Col Anthony P. German, commander of the 109th Airlift Wing, received one as well. The coin symbolizes the encampment itself and achievements of those who performed exemplary work in pursuit of its success.

Logics OIC C/2d Lt Mark Teubl, shown with Public Affairs OIC C/Capt D’Iana Blauvelt, was the first cadet staffer to win a challenge coin.



Photo by Capt James Ridley, Sr

AN IN-FLIGHT CADET'S PERSPECTIVE

By Capt JAMES RIDLEY, Sr.

SCOTIA, NY, July 27, 2008 -- They came from all over the New York Wing, cadet airmen, sergeants and master-sergeants, over 120 of them who entered as individuals and left as a team. Many came to encampment with friends from their squadron or group but were quickly split up into separate flights in order to experience working with cadets from other groups less familiar.

These cadets arose to perform physical training (PT) before breakfast and experienced exercises like they had never seen before.

C/CMSGt Chris Rollins, the only cadet from Nassau Cadet Squadron Number 8 to come to the encampment, said that it was tough waking up early every day and thanked the entire

cadet staff for making this a great experience for him.

"The classes on moral leadership and the core values provided insight for everyday life and gave me material for future moral leadership lessons at my squadron," he said.

Most of the cadets three favorite activities were flights on C-130s, the rock climbing wall and the ranger push-ups. Each flight did everything together, every cadet was paired up with a 'battle buddy' and they provided each other with a support structure which helped them ease the home sickness for a few and the separation anxiety from those they were closest to.

As the week came to an end the in-flights signed each others encampment year books, traded cell phone numbers and email addresses and dreaded

the afternoon of graduation when several of them tearfully waved goodbye after a final hug or hand shake.

"Austin, James, Adam, Dimitry and Jesse," said Rollins, "made encampment one of the greatest experiences of my life and having them along for the ride was one of the best things I could have wished for."

C/SrA John Feulner from the Schenectady Composite Squadron added: "I made friends in my flight and in my bungalow; we became sort of a family". Feulner's parents loved the pass-in-review and he looks forward to coming back in 2009 as either a staff cadet or as part of the flight academy.

Cadet Feulner believes that the encampment was "life changing" for him and his fellow in-flight cadets.





A FAMILY THAT 'ENCAMPS' TOGETHER...

The largest number of encampment attendees from one family since moving the New York Wing Leadership Encampment four years ago from the U.S. Army's Fort Drum near Watertown to Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia occurred in 2008 with the arrival of the Reynolds family from the Long Island Group. Two were on senior staff, two on cadet staff, and one was an in-flight cadet. From left to right are: 1st Lt Gerard Reynolds, c/Capt Edward Reynolds, 1st Lt Christina Reynolds, c/TSgt Lori Reynolds and c/Capt Krystal Reynolds.



A C-130 equipped with skis at Stratton Air National Guard Base.



Encampment cadets aboard a C-130 at Stratton.

ENCAMPMENT SITE HOME TO 109TH AIRLIFT WING

By Capt. JAMES RIDLEY, Sr.

Since 2004 the New York Wing has held its annual Cadet Leadership Encampment at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia, NY. In fact Stratton is the eleventh site since the encampment began in 1955. Stratton, home to the 109th Airlift Wing, supports five primary Federal missions: Polar Airlift, Aeromedical Evacuation, Aerial Port, Combat Construction and Field Hospital contingencies.

Stratton is the only base in the Air Force that possesses the ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft and provides assistance to civil authorities during emergencies or disasters. The 109th was established in 1948 as a fighter unit. Through six different types of aircraft, the leadership of 10 commanders, and ever-changing missions, the men and women of the 109th have succeeded in deploying statewide, worldwide and from North Pole to South Pole.

The Wing's high operational tempo increased dramatically with the surprise attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The 109th provided immediate support deploying 49 Civil Engineers, Services and Public Affairs personnel to Ground Zero within the first 24 hours.

NEW YORK WING IN ACTION

WING ADDS NEW UNIT

New York Wing's South Central Group has added a new unit -- the Owego Composite Squadron, with Lt. Don Quick as commander.

The unit is headquartered at 1277 Taylor Road in the Washington Gladden Building in Owego and meets Tuesday nights from 6:15 to 8:45.

-- 1st Lt. Richard Fairchild



ASSEMBLYMAN HAWLEY JOINS LEGISLATIVE SQUADRON
New York State Assemblyman Stephen Hawley (2nd from right) of the 139th Assembly District has received a Civil Air Patrol appointment to the New York Wing Legislative Squadron, with the rank of major. On hand for the appointment ceremony were, from left, Maj. Gerry Marketos, wing government relations assistant; Lt. Col. Terry LeFeber, the wing's director of logistics, and Lt. Col. Andrew Liddle, wing government relations advisor.

NY WING RECEIVES NATIONAL PA HONORS

KISSIMMEE, FL, Aug. 6, 2008 -- The second CAP Public Affairs Academy ended with the presentation of the Major Howell Balsem Awards for Public Affairs in which five NY Wing members, three of them PAOs, received awards.

Top honors went to NY Wing personnel including those for newsletter, website and promotional brochure/poster/flyer. 1st Lt. Bob Stronach, editor of *Wheels Up!*, was honored for the best printed

newsletter, and a Certificate of Excellence went to 1st Lt. Peter Milano, South East Group PAO, for the newsletter, *Props and Foggles*.

Maj. Lou Fenech, Jr., commander of Col. Francis S. Gabreski Squadron of Patchogue won the Balsem Award for best website, and his deputy commander for seniors, Capt. Cheryl Dorfman, earned top honors for her recruitment postcard. Capt. James Ridley, NY Wing director of public affairs and Northeast Region

PAO, won a Certificate of Merit in the Writing for Media category for his story of a cadet who saved a life which ran in Volunteer magazine.

NY Wing academy attendees 2nd Lt. Rita Scheirer, 1st Lt. Bob Stronach, Capt. Susan Hartman, Maj. Kevin Barry, Capt. Peter Milano and Capt. James Ridley received certificates and challenge coins from National Commander Amy Courter and the keynote speaker, CNN Chief Technology Correspondent Miles O'Brien.



NEW GROUP COMMANDER

The new South Eastern Group Commander is Maj. Darren J. Cioffi, who has been commander of Long Island Group's Suffolk Cadet Squadron 7, as well as an incident commander and mission pilot.