

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION



# ALTIITUDES

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF CIVIL AIR PATROL'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION HEADQUARTERS

**URMR Class of 2019**

**Spring 2020**

In This Issue:

- ▶ RMR Wings Celebrated and Active
- ▶ 2019 RMR "Of the Year" Awards
- ▶ Overdue Silver Medal of Valor Awarded at URMR
- ▶ RMR at HART Ceremony in Canada



**HART 2019**



rmr.cap.gov

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**Rocky Mountain Region Commander**

Col. Jeffrey L. Johnson, CAP

**Editor-in-Chief**

Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP

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**Headquarters**

Rocky Mountain Region, Civil Air Patrol  
P. O. Box 9507  
F.E. Warren AFB  
Cheyenne, WY 82003  
Phone: 303-674-7070

**ON THE COVER:**

*(Top) The URMR Class of 2019 assembled for their class photo with the USAFA Chapel in the background wearing their respective college, school or academy distinctive colored shirts. (L-R) URMR Staff (blue), Chaplain Corps RSC (Green), RCLS (Grey), PCR-RMR E-Tech Robotics Academy (Black), PCR-RMR Honor Guard Academy (Red), RMR RSC (Green).*

*(Bottom) Group photo of all attendees of the 2019 HART (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together) ceremony in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada including representatives from all five RMR wings.*

# Commander's Comments

*Col. Jeffrey L. Johnson, CAP  
Commander, Rocky Mountain Region*

Greetings, Rocky Mountain Region! My name is Colonel Jeff Johnson and I'm the new Rocky Mountain Region commander. My term began on the 22nd of February, 2020 and previous to that I was the Wyoming Wing commander. Many of you know me and for those of you who don't let me begin with a very brief bio. I joined CAP in 2003 as a chaplain. I served as a squadron, group and wing chaplain in



Colorado and as wing chaplain in Wyoming. I was a mission chaplain and was active in emergency services and cadet activities and was granted a sabbatical to take command of the Wyoming Wing. My current qualifications include MRO and CUL. My major awards include National Chaplain of the

Year, the Gill Robb Wilson Award, Distinguished Service Medal and the Silver Medal of Valor.

My vision/philosophy for the region is summed up in two documents: the Core Values and the "Code of the West." If we live by these two philosophical concepts, we will do well. Some of our challenges include continued growth, asset usage, funding, internal and external communications and developing leaders. Members of the region will see a paradigm shift by region staff. The first includes frequent and



New RMR Commander, Col Jeff Johnson received the guidon from Gen Mark Smith at a Change of Command Ceremony in Salt lake City, UT on Feb 22nd. Photo by Lt Michelle Carey, WYWG.

improved communication. This extends from me through the individual staff positions. The region exists to support the wings and champion their success. Region staff

*continued on page 27* ➤





# KEEP CALM

AND

# CAP

(CARING & PROACTIVE)

# ON

*Mark E Smith*

[GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://GoCivilAirPatrol.com)

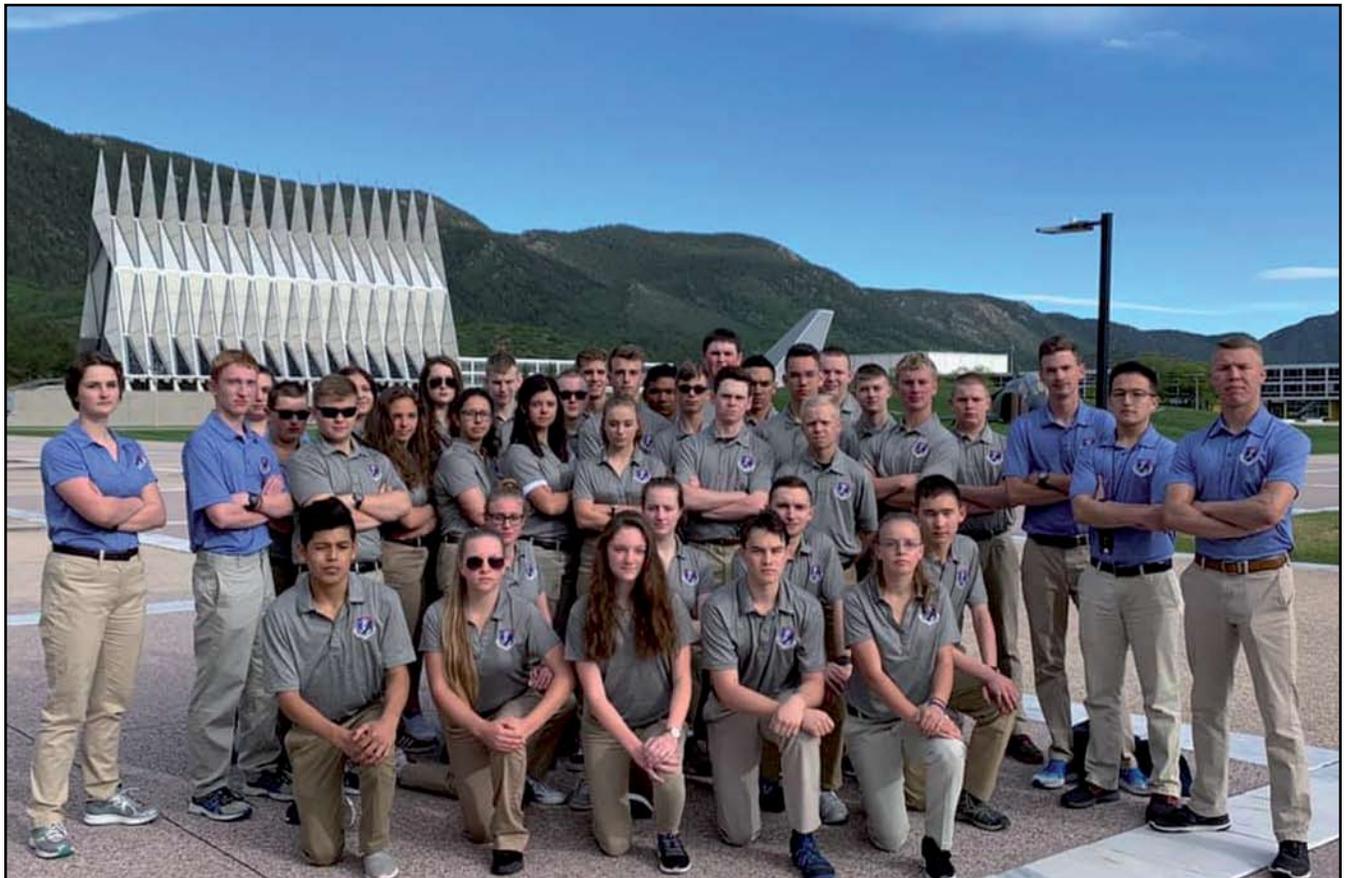




## ***IMAGES FROM THE URM R CLASS OF 2019***

*(Top) 2019 URM R Honor Guard Academy cadets in their distinctive red T-shirts.*

*(Bottom) 2019 URM R Region Cadet Leadership School class photo with USAFA Chapel in background.*





## **IMAGES FROM THE URMR CLASS OF 2019**

*(Top Left) Former CAP National Commander, Maj. Gen. Amy Courter and Lt. Col. Robin Vest, RMR Staff member and IDWG Vice Commander, presented a long overdue Spaatz Award certificate to URMR Commandant and RMR Vice Commander, Col. Alisha Cope.*



*(Top Right) Three of the leaders of the 2019 URMR RCLS were presented with their Eaker Awards (L-R) C/Lt. Col. Jonah Wilhelm, C/Lt. Col. Jett Hawk and C/Lt. Col. Isaac Stone.*

*(Bottom) Former NASA Astronaut and Vice Commander of the 50th Space Wing of the Air Force Space Command, Col. Jack Fischer, regaled the URMR Class of 2019 with an outstanding presentation on his time aboard the International Space Station (ISS) in 2017.*

*Photos by Col. Alisha Cope, Lt. Col. Mike Daniels and Maj. Audrey Digiantomasso*





## **IMAGES FROM THE URM R CLASS OF 2019**

*(Top Left) URM R Honor Guard Cadets provided a formal welcome to the URM R Class of 2019 and guests as they entered the Dining In Graduation and Awards banquet.*

*(Top Right) Featured URM R speaker, General Stephen Lorenz, USAF (Ret), former Commander of Air Education and Training Command gave an inspirational presentation on leadership.*

*(Bottom) The URM R Region Staff College Class of 2019 just prior to graduation.*





HEADQUARTERS ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
P.O Box 9507  
F.E. Warren AFB  
Cheyenne WY 82003



15 Mar 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

FROM: RMR/CC

SUBJECT: 2019 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

It is with great pleasure that I announce the winners of the 2019 Region “of the year” Awards. These recipients represent the finest members in each category from our five-wing region for their volunteer service during the previous year.

These members were selected from submissions presented from each wing/region and were already honored by their home wings for the work that they do.

Please join me in congratulating the following award winners:

Squadron of Distinction

- **Parker Cadet Squadron** of Colorado Wing

Cadet of the Year

- **Cadet Isaac N. Stone** of Colorado Wing

Senior Member of the Year

- **Lt Col Michael T. McNeely** of Colorado Wing

Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year

- **Capt Mary S. Meyer** of Idaho Wing

AFSA Cadet NCO of the Year

- **Cadet Zackary Neal** of Idaho Wing

Cadet Programs Officer of the Year (Sorensen Award)

- **Major Scott C. Heins** of Idaho Wing

Character Development Instructor (CDI) of the Year

- **Capt Cristel Houston** of Colorado Wing



Col (Bud) Payton PAO of the Year Award

- **Maj Trevor A. Munson** of Colorado Wing

Col David Kantor Operations Staff Officer of the Year

- **Capt Robert K. Waterman** of Colorado Wing

Communicator of the Year

- **Capt Brian P. Foltz** of Colorado Wing

Director of Finance of the Year Award

- **Lt Col Robin Vest** of Idaho Wing

Frank Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award – Cadet Category

- **Cadet Thomas A. Zapel** of Colorado Wing

George Texido Legislative Officer of the Year

- **Col Gary H. Tobey** of Colorado Wing

Historian (HO) of the Year

- **Lt Col David L Ellis** of Colorado Wing

Lt Col T. Keith Riddle Aircrew Member of the Year

- **Capt Randall S Settergren** of Colorado Wing

Major General Dwight H. Wheless Legal Officer of the Year

- **Lt Col Thomas N. Scheffel** of Colorado Wing

Professional Development Officer of the Year Award

- **Capt Kenneth R. Prince** of Utah Wing

Squadron Chaplain of the Year

- **1Lt Camile Barlow** of Utah Wing

Property Manager of the Year

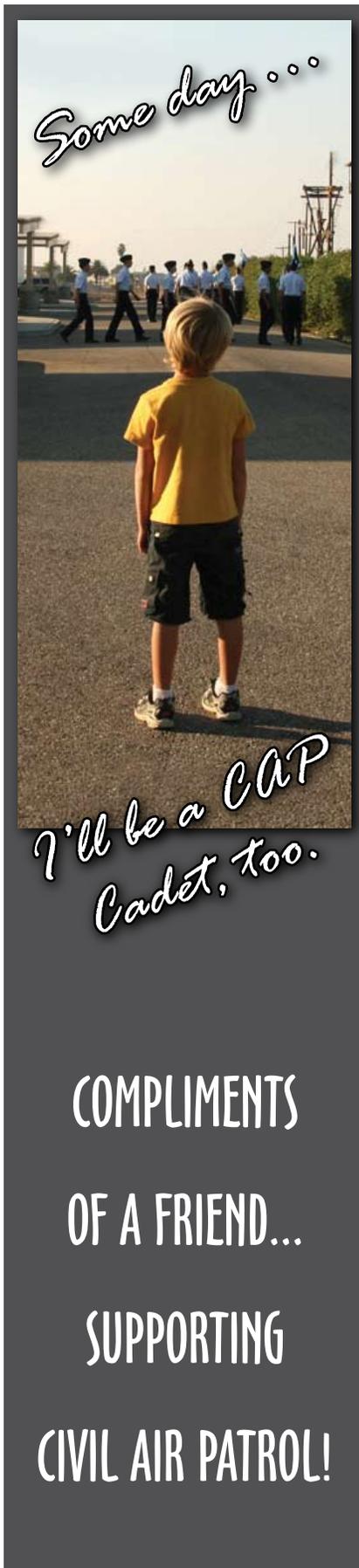
- **Major R. Todd Gamber** of Colorado Wing

Safety Officer of the Year

- **Major Matthew A. Flanders** of Colorado Wing



Jeffrey L. Johnson, Colonel, CAP  
Rocky Mountain Region Commander



COMPLIMENTS  
OF A FRIEND...  
SUPPORTING  
CIVIL AIR PATROL!

# Wyoming Wing Encampment Conference Remembrance



*By Cadet Col Adam Carey, CAP*

*I had the rare fortune to observe and participate in both wing events.*

The Wing encampment was a bustle of activity with new cadets, staff cadets, and senior members that both taught lessons and acted as senior staff in various positions.

Cadets from different states came together to learn the basic instructions of cadet programs in a militaristic setting at Camp Guernsey, located at Guernsey, WY. Camp Guernsey is a National Guard training facility that conducts training for our guardsmen/women in various roles as well as other services such as Wyoming Highway Patrol.

This setting is utterly foreign to most cadets/seniors not from a military background and serves to reduce the comfort zone to the basic requirements such as barracks, food facility feeding tens of hundreds over a span annually, quadrangle to allow sports, physical training and of course graduation.

Cadets learn basic aerospace recognition of planes, terminology, leadership by reading and example, sanitation of maintaining cleanliness, wingman dynamics of watching over others, competition in completion of tasks assigned while being kept safe from overexuberance.

Graduation is accumulation of their hard work plus the development of their character individually.

Wyoming Wing Conference was a planned party where various wings meet with their members and explain new regulations or tweaking of older regulations or requirements to meet the changing world of Civil Air Patrol. Civil Air Patrol has escaped the closet of being anonymous and with a new marketing concept is being taken seriously by LEO, other enforcement entities, media and communities.

Col. Jeffery Johnson delegated Lt. Col. Mike Daniels to make arrangements concerning accommodations, food services, swag and press releases to social media. This conference was centered in Casper, a middle place in Wyoming, at the Ramkota Hotel/Conference with spacious meeting rooms,



sleeping accommodations, and delicious food.

Wing directors and officers presented their specialties with updated information and cadets were busy with their activities. Of course, everything began after the meet and greet of old and new members both cadet and seniors on Friday. Saturday was a full day of meetings ranging from the general assembly to the final banquet of appetizing entries, great dessert and naturally the award ceremony.



This ceremony is the culmination of a year's work as witnessed by those around us, cadets and seniors alike. Command Chief Dandridge was the national representative, an impressive personality exemplifying persistence as well as patience through his many trials.



Photographs taken show only a very small part of the festivities and respect paid to leading individuals. Awards were preceded by

tokens donated by Lt. Col. Daniels, of course you needed to have a ticket to collect them.



The major point is that others see actions above and beyond normalcy that is recognized by peers and brought to the attention of others. My part in this was the observing of this recognition.



# HART 2019

*By Cadet 2nd Lt. Khyber Lee, CAP*



On November 17, 2019 cadets from the Utah wing of Civil Air Patrol started their 13 hour long drive to Lethbridge, Alberta for the annual HART ceremony. We started in the afternoon and drove until late that same night. Stopping at Fort Harrison a military base in Montana, cadets and senior members spent the night inside the separate dorms.

The following morning, cadets awoke bright and early, anxious to finally arrive in Canada. After roughly a four hour drive, we made it. The Utah wing had reached Lethbridge. First order of business was to check into the hotel and store our gear. Next, we hit the mall. It was definitely an experience, being able to observe the differences in what you would see in a mall in Utah. After a few hours of exploring it was time to move over to the armory for parade practice.

Once you step foot into the door, the amount of activity that is already taking place is almost overwhelming. Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, and Montana wings from the Rocky Mountain Region were already there to accompany us. Cadets were selected to be wreath bearers, and to present flags. Those that did not have a specific role in the ceremony stood in formation. After a few hours of practicing, we left back to our hotels for personal/

down time.

The ceremony took place the following morning. It was easy to spot the cadets that were nervous. We went through a dry run to make sure that everyone knew exactly what they were doing. After a near-perfect run through it was time to do it for real. It started off smooth, cadets looked sharp, flag bearers presented well, and speakers spoke strong. As speeches went on, a few cadets had to fall out of formation before they passed out. (Which was caused by locking their knees.) After about a half an hour it was time to present the wreaths to the family members of the fallen soldiers. While introducing one of the families, one of the Canadian flag bearers passed out. (Luckily one of the rifleman was behind him and caught the cadet before he hit the floor.) The wreaths were presented as a symbol that fallen soldiers will not be forgotten, a few more speeches were given, and the ceremony concluded.

Afterwards, the American and Canadian cadets joined together to traditionally mingle and trade trinkets amongst one another before the drill competition. It consisted of basic and advanced drill competitions. The basic competition was first. It consisted of a flight sergeant calling out drill movements as the flight marched on. The

Canadians won that portion. The advanced has no one calling out movements, cadets are supposed to remember them as they go in silent drill. The American cadets won the advanced drill competition. After the celebration of both the winning teams, all cadets were sent back to their respective hotels to change into civvies for the dance.

This year was the first year that there was an official dance. There was a cadet dance committee taking care of the playlist, so we had newer and more popular music. The room was full of up-beat energy and almost everyone seemed to be having fun. There was a photo booth so everyone that wanted, could take pictures to remember the great night. After all was said and done, we cleaned up and moved back to our hotels for down/personal time.

The next morning we all ate breakfast. We socialized as long as we could before we had to get back into the vans for the long ride back home, but no matter how much we avoided it, it was inevitable. We said our last goodbyes and headed home. The ride home was a lot quieter than the way there,



it seemed to go by a lot slower. When we stopped to eat the couple times that we did, cadets had to be drug out of the vans. When we arrived in Utah, some cadets got out at the wing building, but the Raptors still had more to go. After what felt like forever, we made it home at approximately 2300 hrs. ★





# Utah Wing attend 2019 National Cadet Competition

*Capt. Jen Setera*



Two Utah cadet teams competed at Wright State in Dayton, OH from June 28th to July 2nd for the Air Force Chief of Staff sweepstakes trophy at National Cadet Competition. Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron, representing Rocky Mountain Region and Thunderbird Cadet Squadron - who was able to attend after the North East Region team dropped out - each sent 6 cadets and 2 senior members to compete in 3 days of rigorous competition with 14 other teams, all seeking to win the Air Force Chief of Staff sweepstakes trophy. Cadets competed in multiple categories ranging from CAP knowledge, drill, robotics, physical fitness and uniform compliance. With what little down time they had they studied and even managed to visit the National Museum of the US Air Force! After 3 long days of competition Utah wing teams both placed in the top 10 with Weber Minuteman placing 9th and Thunderbird placing 10th. Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Grant Lee also won the male Fleet Foot award. Great job Utah Wing!

## **Representing Weber Minuteman:**

Cadet 1st Lt. Faith Christiansen  
Cadet 2nd Lt. Gage Nelson  
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Grant Lee  
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Gideon Lee  
Cadet Staff Sgt. Mallorie Anderson  
Cadet Staff Sgt. Kaipoi Naihe  
Maj. Cory Setera  
Lt. Matt Leckman

## **Representing Thunderbird:**

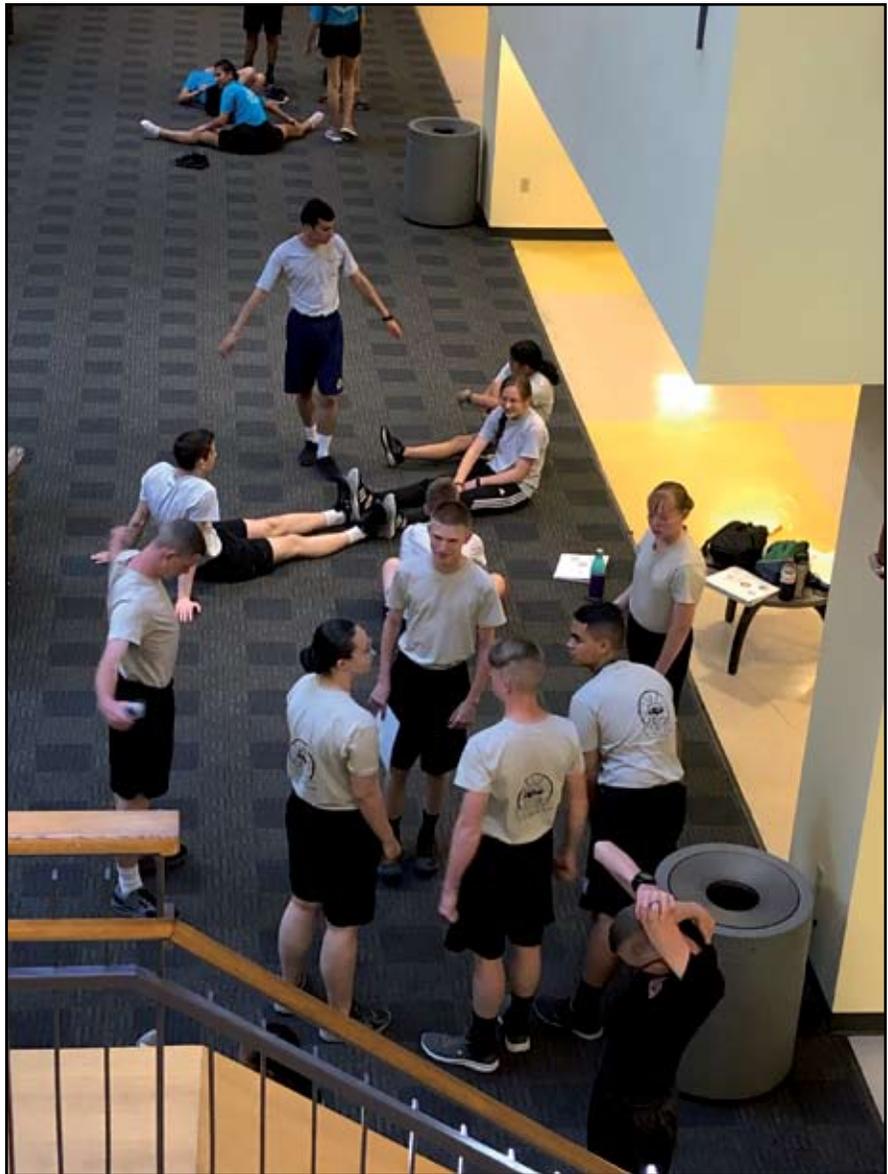
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Monica Martinez  
Cadet 2nd Lt. Zane Dunn  
Cadet Master Sgt. Zacehry Janeish  
Cadet Staff Sgt. Conner Davenport  
Cadet Staff Sgt. Brock Bunker  
Cadet Airman Kyla Bunker  
Lt. Col. Scott Carlisi

## A little about NCC...

Civil Air Patrol National Cadet Competition (NCC) program was redesigned into a new format combining both drill team and color guard aspects into one competition. Core Events include: Inspection, Written Exam, Physical Fitness, Team Leadership Problem(s), Standard Color Guard Drill, Standard Element Drill, Indoor Posting of the Colors, and Outdoor Posting of the Colors.

The mission of NCC is to showcase the full range of challenges in cadet life experienced at the squadron level, and new areas of learning that are important to America. Besides the standard Drill and posting of the colors, NCC added several new elective competitive components to reflect the CAP Cadet Program, such as: rocketry, public speaking (extemporaneous, impromptu), geocaching, robotics, community service project, Jeopardy, Panel Quiz, Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAS), and Obstacle courses. Elective Components differ from year to year and are chosen at the discretion of the Activity Director.

To qualify, all 52 Wings and 8 Regions host a Cadet Competition each year in order to decide which team will ultimately represent their Wings and Regions respectively. Specifically, the winning team, and their runner up for each Wing, represent their respective Wing at the Region competition. At the Region competition the winner and runner up receive a slot to represent their Region at National



Cadet Competition. NCC continues to be the most prestigious and elite competition Civil Air Patrol has to offer.

To participate, the NCC program is open to all cadet and composite squadrons. There are no special age or cadet grade requirements. Teams consist of six cadets with one Cadet serving as Team Commander. No Alternates. Must also have two escorts, with one eligible to drive a CAP vehicle. ★



# The Road to National Cadet Competition

*By Capt. Ryan Navin, CAP  
Boise Composite Squadron*

Cadet Competition tests the skills and abilities of cadets in several different areas. A common misconception is that Cadet Competition is simply color guard competition but it is so much more than that. Cadets compete in the following categories

- Physical Fitness
- Panel Quiz (Cadet Knowledge of Aerospace and Leadership)
- Written Test (Cadet Knowledge of Aerospace and Leadership)
- Team Leadership Problem
- Uniform Inspection
- Indoor Colors Posting/Retrieval
- Outdoor Colors Raising, Lowering and Flag Folding
- Standard Outdoor Color Guard Presentation
- Robotics (National)
- UAS FAA 107 knowledge (National)



**Uniform inspection continues for the Boise cadets.**

Boise Composite Squadron has competed at the Wing and Regional Cadet Competition off and on for many years, but 2019 had its own struggles. This year, most members were fresh to competition and only knew what to expect because of the CAP Regulations along with the first-hand knowledge of their primary coach (Cadet Lt. Col. Caleb Bryant). A meeting was held with all mem-



**Boise cadets during uniform inspection. Team consists of: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Shihara Fernando (Team Lead), Cadet Chief Master Sgt. John McConnell, Cadet Master Sgt. Grace Davis, Cadet Airman 1st Class Alexander Van Auker, Cadet Maj. Caleb Bryant and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jacob Nice.**

bers along with the coaching staff to determine if everyone was willing and able to put in the time, effort and energy that it would take to re-establish a competition worthy team capable of competing at the Wing, Region and National level. After much discussion, the team was unanimous and began to develop a training plan.

The first test was the Idaho Wing Cadet Competition. This year, Pocatello Composite Squadron sent a great team and it was obvious right away that both teams had been working very



**Boise cadets salute the flag during the outdoor presentation.**





**Boise and Pocatello Composite Squadron.**

hard to hone their skills. The wing challenge was a lot of fun this year and some great friendships were forged.

Both Boise and Pocatello Squadrons were selected to represent Idaho at the Regional level that took place at Hill AFB, Utah in April. Nine teams were represented (2 teams from every Wing except WY which sent one team). Region Competition was an eye-opener as there were a

lot of smart, fit, and well-prepared teams and it was a nail-biter back and forth between each of the events. Pocatello took top honors in 2 areas (Physical Fitness and the Written Exam). Boise struggled in some areas but managed to sweep all Color Guard events which landed them a second-place overall finish and a spot to compete at the National Cadet Competition in Dayton, OH.

One of the team members from Boise



**Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Smith answers a question during the panel quiz. (left to right) Cadet Senior Airman Aurianna Littleford, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Eden West, Cadet 2nd Lt. Jayson Haddon, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jasbir Smith.**



**Pocatello Composite Squadron put their hands in for a group cheer. (left to right) Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Eden West, Cadet Senior Airman Aurianna Littleford, Cadet 2nd Lt. Austin Andrews, Cadet 2nd Lt. Jayson Haddon, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jasbir Smith, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ariel Brit West.**



**RMR Cadet Competition Cadets**

Composite Squadron was not able to attend the National Cadet Competition because of a scheduling conflict so the Boise team extended an offer to Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Austin Andrews from the Pocatello Squadron to join the team to represent Idaho at the National level. Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Andrews has impressed members of the Boise team going back to the Idaho Cadet Competition. Idaho will be very well represented and we are excited to raise the bar on both sides of the Wing. Next year's competition should be very exciting to be a part of as we watch what these cadets learn and implement from their competition experience.

If you or your squadron would like to learn more about forming a team to compete in 2020 please contact Maj. Scott Heins (Idaho Wing DCC) or Capt. Ryan Navin (Boise Composite



**Pocatello Composite Squadron outdoor presentation. (left to right) Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jasbir Smith, Cadet 2nd Lt. Austin Andrews, Cadet 2nd Lt. Jayson Haddon, Cadet Senior Airman Aurianna Littleford.**

Squadron). Each squadron is highly encouraged to have a team represent them at the Idaho Wing Cadet Competition in March of 2020. ★





# Boise Cadet Wins National NCO of the Year Award

*By Capt. Ken McConnell, CAP  
Boise Squadron Commander*

Cadet Ivy Denen was selected by her squadron commander to receive the Air Force Sergeants Association award, in no small part due to her leadership, and her participation in Squadron and Wing activities. In March of this year she was selected as the Rocky Mountain Region’s AFSA Cadet NCO of the Year. A high honor and fantastic achievement for the young woman from Idaho. Winning the RMR award put her in contention for the National version of the award.

Time passed, and Ivy earned her Mitchell award becoming a Cadet Second Lieutenant. She was then picked to be the new Boise Squadron Cadet Commander; a huge responsibility that she had only just come to terms when a letter came in the mail for her from CAP National Headquarters.

Ivy was at school when her mom called her to find out if something was wrong. Ivy told her that she was pretty sure nothing was wrong, go ahead and open the letter. Her mom read it to her over the phone. Even though it didn’t quite register with her mom what had happened, Ivy knew. She had been selected as the recipient of the National Air Force Sergeants Association Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year!



**SUPPORT OUR CADETS . . . . .**  
**. . . . . THEY ARE OUR FUTURE!!!**



## ◀ Commander's Comments

*continued from page 1*

members are subject area experts. That means knowing the appropriate regulations, how best to mentor individuals, and maintaining open and frequent two-way communications. I envision the wings looking at us through the lens of expertise and caring. Region staff is not here to direct wing operations. That belongs to the wing commanders. We have two guiding principles: the answer is yes unless it is about safety or regulations (safety can often be mitigated) and problems get solved at the lowest level possible. We will hold with the chain of command. Most importantly, we will recognize each person has value and we will respect their choices. I look forward to serving you in your CAP career.

Covid-19 has affected the region and wings to a great extent. As of the writing of this article, we are holding no meetings in person. All meetings and trainings are being done virtually using the various platforms available to us. Virtual squadron meetings, region meetings, various training opportunities have shown us the efficacy of using technology. Some wings have reported increased attendance at the online meetings. That indicates the strategy is more than successful in a general sense. For those wings with great distances between squadrons, there is room to explore the continued value of online meetings. Many wings are involved in serving their communities by moving material by air or land, being involved with relief efforts and even making masks at home. Safety is our number one concern, even after the limitations are lifted, we will still be well aware of the issues involved in being safe. Risk management tools, specific pre-activity briefings and cleaning of planes and vehicles on a regular basis are some of the ways the wings are implementing safety measures. As this pandemic unfolds, we will continue to serve our members and communities using all the tools at our disposal. Stay safe and stay well. ■

## Missoula Cadet Awarded EAA Scholarship



Cadet Capt. Zielinski's interest and drive for flight has led him to becoming a recipient of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Ray Aviation Scholarship.

The scholarship is valued at \$10,000. He is one of up to 100 students nationwide to receive this scholarship to obtain their private pilot's license. In addition, the Lightspeed Aviation Foundation will award a Lightspeed Zulu 3 headset upon successful completion of his first solo flight and ground school.

Cadet Capt. Michael Zielinski of Missoula Composite Squadron is also an Eagle Scout, 2 Silver Palms. His first merit badge was the Aviation Badge. He was mentored in this by an EAA pilot. An EAA Young Eagles flight also served to help satisfy the requirements of the badge.





# 2019 Montana Wing Conference

*Cadet Capt. Michael Zielinski, CAP  
Squadron Cadet Commander  
Missoula Composite Squadron 018*

May 19, 2019

MISSOULA, MONTANA - This past weekend I had the opportunity to attend the Montana Wing Conference. I was very pleased with the seminars offered and my experience. The conference included seminars on the new DAART certifications, communications planning, leadership, aerospace, finance, WMIRS data entry, and more. I attended the communication seminars, the leadership seminar, and the WMIRS seminar. All of these were beneficial for “advancing my education and training” as the Cadet Oath says. My favorite was most likely the leadership seminar, whose presenter was very enthusiastic and taught in a fun manner, using stories, music, and humor to get his points across.

During the conference, I also had the amazing opportunity to be the National Commander of CAP, Maj. Gen. Mark Smith’s aide. General Smith is a very quiet, kind-hearted soul and told me right after I met him that he really wanted to meet more Montana CAP members and learn about what they have to say about CAP as a whole. Throughout the weekend, the General was all over, meeting cadets and senior members alike and getting to know them and how they thought the program was doing. Gen. Smith is very approachable and considerate and never once acted like he was above anyone else. His expectations of me as an aide were very few. He required me to take care of his two star flag, to make sure that the proper honors were rendered to it and that it returned to him undamaged at the end of the day. He also requested that I assist him with where he needed to be and when, which was a relatively easy task with the small layout of the conference. He was very amiable and polite at all times and not once did he cause any inconvenience to anyone. Once he was settled in his chosen seminar, he released me to go to the session of my choosing and never made



**Senior Member David Mosley (1 SGT Ret) gave a fantastic presentation on Leadership, for both cadets and senior members.**

a big deal out of not having his aide in the same session. In general, he was very easy-going and did not impose himself on anyone. I am honored that I was chosen to be his aide and I will never forget that experience.

My overall experience was really good. The cadet ball on Saturday night was highlighted by our Region Commander Col. Kettell’s melodious song and Cadet Col. Peterson’s outstanding karaoke skills. The banquet previous was very tasty and entertaining remarks by Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn who gave us all some things to think about. The banquet was also where Cadet Col. Shelby Peterson received her award, presented by the National Commander himself.

To anyone thinking about attending next year’s Wing Conference, I highly recommend it. There really was something for everyone. I had a great time and will hopefully do it again next year! I hope to see you there!



# Montrose Cadet Reflects on his International Air Cadet Exchange Experience in the Netherlands

By Cadet Col. Matt Lajoy, CAP

I never thought that I would be given the opportunity to participate in the 17-day International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) Program. Of the 2,000 cadets that apply each year only 38 are selected to visit a foreign country; that's a 1.9% acceptance rate. I have spent eight years in the Civil Air Patrol, learning about leadership, aerospace, character development, Air Force customs and courtesies. It was eight years of dedication and work, goal planning and looking

for the next step, pushing myself and learning what I could do, getting the highest promotion I could, before I felt ready to apply for IACE.

The Civil Air Patrol is the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and focuses on three missions: Emergency Services, Cadet Programs (youth development), and aerospace education. Other nations have their own cadet aerospace programs,



IACE Cadets with their Dutch hosts.

which are intended to educate and inspire youth to pursue aerospace careers. Through the International Air Cadet Exchange, youth from up to 18 different countries come together to further cultural exchange, foster international goodwill, and learn about their host country and that country's aerospace industry.

We learned about and visited each of the major players in the Dutch aerospace industry such as: The Dutch Royal Airlines (KLM), National Aerospace Research Laboratory (NLR), European Space Research and Technology Center (ESA-ESTEC), Airbus, and the Royal Netherlands Air Force. Some of the neat things we did there were: flying the KLM 747 and A330 training simulators, learning about how the ESA-ESTEC thinks moon bases should be built, and seeing how the NLR was experimenting with ATC flight routing to reduce noise complaints and increase fuel efficiency.

There were cadets from Canada, Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and of course, the United States. Even though we all had different backgrounds, we were all united through aerospace. Five of us were pilots, two wanted to serve in their air force, six wanted to be career pilots, one had an internship at Airbus as a mechanic, and one wanted to be an air traffic controller, not bad for 16 people under the age of 21.

Throughout our stay, we constantly exchanged cultural insights, from Korean ramen to French music, and Australian Vegemite to the Backstreet Boys. I also found it very interesting to get different perspectives on the world, asking Hong Kongese how they felt regarding the current protests, and the British how they felt about Brexit. Personal stories and perspectives mean a lot more than highly generalized news reports. The experience is something



*Cadet Lajoy and fellow IACE cadet fly a Boeing simulator.*

that I will always value.

Even though our program was focused on aerospace, we had our fair share of classic Dutch culture. We learned about how the Dutch deal with water, considering that 23% of their country is under sea-level. We ate raw herring, a meal that allowed the Dutch navy to sail farther than the competition before refrigeration, and, of course, seeing classic art from Van Gogh, Rembrandt, and Vermeer.

The International Air Cadet Exchange is not like taking a family trip to Europe. The Dutch hosts intend to show the best of the aerospace industry as well as the culture of The Netherlands. We talked with Joba van den Berg, a sitting member of Dutch Parliament, and had behind the scene tours on Dutch military bases that ranged from a lab that specialized in increasing the ability of the human body, to bases operating modern military hardware.

Through the IACE program, I learned the value of different perspectives and the power of diverse thought, the importance of international cooperation, and that even though we are all coming from different countries and continents, that we are all closer than we think. 🇺🇸

# WHEN THE AIR FORCE CALLS A PRACTICE GAME

*By Maj. Mike Fassi, CAP  
PIO, Thompson Valley Composite Squadron, COWG*

On Thursday, October 10th both Lt. Col. John Mitchell and I received a call from the Colorado Wing Emergency Services Officer and were asked to be part of an air crew which involved three Wing aircraft and eleven CAP members. We were asked to participate in an exercise that not only tested CAP and their air and communications abilities but also Air Force pilots from Buckley Air Force Base who were qualifying for a very important mission.

Since 9/11 the Air Force and CAP units across the country have been playing a game of “Cat & Mouse”. The goal is clear. Make sure that an event similar to 9/11 never happens again.

That said, on a peaceful fall morning in October three CAP aircraft from the Colorado Wing headed out to play the role of mice. One of the aircraft was designated as “High Bird” an airborne communications platform coordinating communications between the CAP aircraft and mission base.

As Mission Observer in one of the aircraft working the radios and the G 1000 my heart started pounding and the adrenaline started flowing as radio chatter increased. Soon we reached the initial designated point and heard that the fighters had been scrambled. “Game On”. Our heads were on a swivel looking for the approaching F-16’s. In a matter of minutes, which seemed like forever, they were on us and giving us “very clear and precise” instructions. Needless to say, we followed them and were given orders to depart the area. WOW! What a rush.

While flying back to our base for lunch and a debrief we reviewed our responsibilities, objectives, and what went right and what went wrong. As it turns out according to our Air Force Observer, John Macklin, these missions are very important to Air Force pilots as they qualify annually to fly these intercept missions.



CAP and the USAF are truly Total Force partners. Without the help of highly trained and committed citizen volunteers working with our Air Force partners these missions and their successes would not be possible.

On a personal note, it was an honor and a privilege to have been asked to participate. I was surrounded by a pilot and friend with over 12,000 flight hours, and an Air Force Academy graduate who could fly a bus if asked. THANK YOU for the opportunity! I encourage all CAP members to remember what Lt. Col. Scott Snyder, CAP-USAFRMLR Commander, said at our last SAREX in Greeley. “Practice like you fight”. Always keep your skills sharp and practice because like me, you never know when you’ll get the call and be put in the game. The stakes are high and as CAP “professional volunteers” it’s our duty to be ready.

Thank you for all you do for CAP!

# Former COWG Commander Honored as 'Best Flight Instructor'

*By Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP  
COWG Director of Public Affairs*

Lt. Col. Dave Novotny, a Civil Air Patrol pilot and a former COWG Commander who now serves as the Rocky Mountain Region's standardization/evaluation officer, was recognized in October by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association as Best Flight Instructor in the Northwest Mountain Region.

The award process followed by AOPA, the world's largest civil aviation organization, involved an evaluation of 972 flight schools and 1,876 individual flight instructors.

The 2019 awards were drawn from flight students and pilots



who voluntarily reviewed their flight training experience this past summer through an AOPA online customer satisfaction survey.

The awards were presented in October at the Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight at Centennial Airport in Denver during the Redbird Migration annual conference for flight training professionals.

Novotny joined CAP in December 1986. He has served as interim commander of the Colorado Wing, as the wing's vice commander, as wing communications engineering officer and as Pikes Peak Senior Squadron communications officer.

# Young Awarded Silver Medal of Valor for Colorado Rescue

*Article and Photos by Lt. Col. Mike Daniels, CAP  
COWG Director of Public Affairs*

Lt. Col. Mark D. Young was honored with Civil Air Patrol's top award, the Silver Medal of Valor, for actions he took Feb. 17, 2005, in locating a downed aircraft and helping rescue the sole survivor in very rough terrain.

Young received the award in June 2019 at the University of Rocky Mountain Region Graduation Banquet at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The medal recognized his actions in contacting the Montrose County Sheriff's Office to report the downed plane and then leading sheriff's ground teams into the area at their request amid freezing weather, deep snow, the threat of avalanches and steep, uneven terrain as darkness approached.



The final 600 feet proved inaccessible with either snowmobile or snowcat, so Young and three search team members used ropes, climbing gear and handmade snowshoes to extricate the hypothermic and dehydrated pilot at more than 10,000 feet in altitude.

Now commander of CAP's National Radar Analysis Team, Young received the award from Col. Tom Kettell, Rocky Mountain Region Commander, and Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, former CAP National Commander.