



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL CADET NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by The Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Advisory Council Newsletter Team

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# Introduction

A Note from the Editorial Staff

The Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Advisory Council - Cadet Newsletter Team consists of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers from across The Rocky Mountain Region. The team works closely with the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Advisory Council, and is tasked with reporting on stories of the Cadet Program from across the region.

C/Lt Col Cooper Eisman currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Newsletter, he is joined by C/Capt Lachlan Piper and C/1st Lt Zachary Davis as editorial staff. Reporters for the team consist of C/CMSgt Mateo Pope, C/SMSgt Caitlyn Miller, C/MSgt Emma Swan, and C/MSgt Jayden Higby-Siderfin.

If you have any questions, comments, or feedback... reach out! Shoot an email to [ceisman@cap.gov](mailto:ceisman@cap.gov) to reach out.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Newsletter!

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# SIXTY FIVE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION CADETS EARN SUAS WINGS

By: C/MSgt Emma Swan

Utah Wing hosted sixty-seven cadets and twenty-three senior members at the sUAS Academy from the fifth of July to eighth of July 2023. Attendees came from all over Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming Wings and were given the choice between two tracks: Aerospace Education or Emergency Services. The main goals of the

academy was: creating synergy in the Rocky Mountain Region for sUAS, incorporating sUAS into all three mission areas of Civil Air Patrol, training students in academics, teamwork, and flight operations, preparing for and conducting a mission scenario exercise, providing opportunities for members to become

certified as a Civil Air Patrol sUAS Technician and/or Mission Pilot, and awarding new cadets sUAS badges for completion of the sUAS Academy workshop. The next sUAS Academy will be held from the 8th of July to 12th of July 2024 in Price Utah at the Utah State University Eastern Campus.



CAP TSgt Neil Reinhart, the newest sUAS Instructor in Utah Wing and 2022 sUAS Academy graduate, instructs cadets how to launch and fly a X2D Cap Drone for a lost person scenario, with a thermal camera to locate missing hikers.



Lt Col Ray Atanacio, Utah Wing Director of Aerospace Education, serves as a visual observer for SM Joseph Byers acting as pilot with Dallin Grant, USU Aggie Drone Academy instructor on a fixed wing drone.



At the end of the event, sixty-five Rocky Mountain Region Members earned the new CAP sUAS Wings.

## WEBER MINUTEMAN COMPOSITE SQRN HOSTS O-FLIGHTS

By: C/MSgt Jayden Higby-Siderfin

Cadets from Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron were able to view and observe a Glider aircraft during a Glider O-ride on August 26, 2023, using the quintessential skills learned in the wing runner course. During the Orientation flight, the cadets were able to experience powerless flight and take control of the glider. Are you ready to experience a powerless flight? Find out more on the RMR website:

Visit [rmr.cap.gov/staff/mission-support/operations/glider-ops](https://rmr.cap.gov/staff/mission-support/operations/glider-ops).

Photos C/O The Weber Minuteman Composite Squadron, Facebook



## O-RIDE SPOTLIGHT

By: C/SMSgt Caitlyn Miller



Congratulations to C/Amn Hart from Selkirk Squadron on his very first orientation flight in a Cessna 182! His O-Ride was completed on September 22nd with Major Kamiab out of Boundary County Airport.



# Cadet Spotlight: Spencer C. Hola

By: C/Capt Lachlan Piper

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Spencer Hola is a dedicated and accomplished cadet whose exceptional service and leadership have left an indelible mark on the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) community. With a passion for excellence and a commitment to service, Hola has risen through the ranks, earning numerous awards and taking on pivotal roles within the organization.

Born with an innate sense of duty and a love for aviation, Hola's journey in the Civil Air Patrol became prominent in 2021 when he participated in the COWG Group 3 Type B Encampment, where he displayed a keen aptitude for learning and collaboration as a student. This initial experience paved the way for a series of subsequent achievements that would solidify his reputation as an outstanding cadet leader.

In 2022, Hola's capabilities were further recognized as he assumed the role of Echo Flight Commander at the COWG Summer Encampment. His leadership skills shone through, demonstrating a remarkable ability to inspire and guide his peers. This success was followed by his role as Mess Staff Lead at the NVWG "Silvers Edge II" Encampment later that year, for which he was awarded the Achievement Award for his excellent service.

Throughout his tenure, Hola consistently demonstrated a commitment to public affairs and communication, serving as the Public Affairs OIC at the COWG Winter Encampment in 2022. His dedication to effective communication within the organization continued to be evident in his role as Assistant to the Director at the 2023 Gubernatorial Governor's Inauguration.

Notably, Hola's contributions extend beyond official CAP activities. He played an instrumental role in the unofficial cadet staff for the 2022 and 2023 United States Air Force Academy Graduations, showcasing his dedication to the broader Air Force community.

Recognized for his exceptional achievements, Hola has received a host of awards that reflect his unwavering commitment to excellence. Noteworthy among these are the Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) Ribbon with a bronze star, the Air Force



*Below: C/Lt Col Hola gives the safety brief to personnel supporting the 2023 United States Air Force Academy Graduation Ceremony. Photo by 1st Lt Tamara Clements.*

Association Award to Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year, and the General Ira C. Eaker (C/Lt Col) Award, which attests to his outstanding leadership qualities.

In addition to his accomplishments, Hola has held a range of crucial positions within CAP. Notably, as Cadet Commander of the Highlander Composite Squadron since June 2023, he has overseen the training and development of cadets, leaving an enduring impact on the unit's culture and capabilities. Hola's current position as Chair of the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Advisory Council further showcases his ability to lead and influence at a broader level.

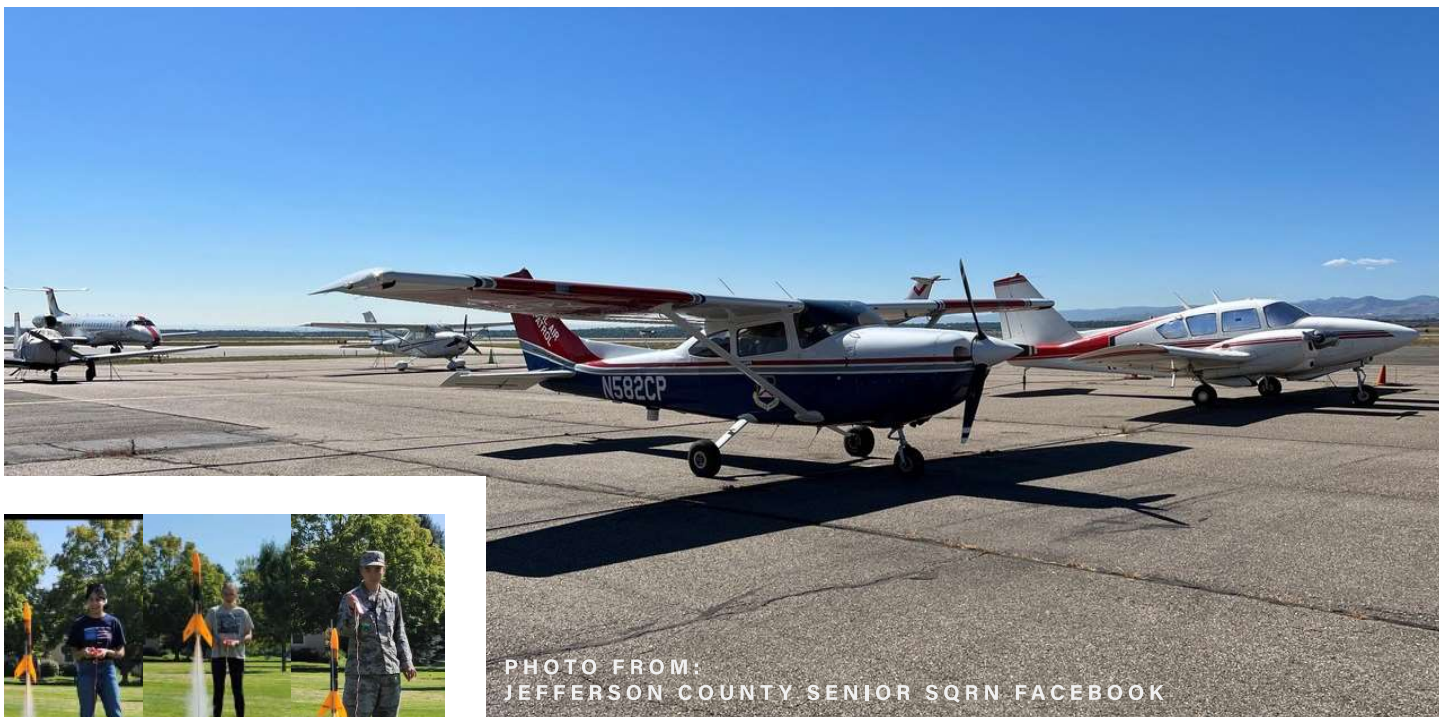
With an impressive list of achievements, awards, and positions of responsibility, C/Lt Col Spencer Hola stands as a shining example of the kind of dedicated, capable, and passionate cadet that the Civil Air Patrol seeks to nurture and develop. His legacy within the organization will undoubtedly inspire future generations of cadets to strive for excellence in service and leadership.



*Above: C/Lt Col Hola works with Maj. Borchelt during a Highlander Composite Squadron Emergency Services Exercise. Photo by 1st Lt Tamara Clements.*



*Above: Cadet Hola receives his certificate of graduation from Maj. Gen. Phelka at Cadet Officer School. Photo via [photos.cap.gov](https://photos.cap.gov).*



## COLORADO WING ENHANCES EMERGENCY READINESS

By: C/CMSgt Mateo Pope

The Colorado Wing has been very active in the Emergency Services (ES) aspect of the Cadet Program. Recently, the wing has held events providing cadets the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of Emergency Services -- while also hosting a couple of friendly competitions.

From the 18th to the 20th of August, cadets across Colorado participated in a SAREX focused on gaining proficiency in coordinating units from different locations across the Wing. The Incident Command Post was located in Grand Junction with various positions ranging from Mission Staff Assistant (MSA) to Ground Branch Director, including a rare opportunity for flight line marshaling! Outside of the ICP, cadets participated as members of ground teams and UDF teams, coordinating with senior member aircrews above, to accomplish the mission objective.

From September 16th and 17th, Five Sortie Aircrews attended a two day event where they were challenged to demonstrate their operational abilities; prosecuting a Practice Beacon and performing a number of other emergency services related-tasks. They

were evaluated on metrics including briefing accuracy, radio procedures, and sortie execution. This training allowed for effective evaluation of mission capability. This friendly competition between fellow pilots resulted in an enhanced comradery and mission readiness.

Special shoutout to the aircrew of Martin Kelly (MP), Randy Settergren (MO), and John Mitchell (MS/AP) of Jefferson County Senior Squadron, who were declared winners of the 2023 ES Aircrew Competition.

Cadets aided the competition, serving in Incident Command Post positions, earning qualifications as Mission Staff Assistants.

Coming up during the Columbus Day weekend, Colorado Wing will be hosting a 2-day emergency services training event out of Centennial Airport. Both Cadets and Senior Members will have the opportunity to participate in this event. Training will be held 0800-1600 on October 7th and 8th. Look for an email from Major Munson of Valkyrie Cadet Squadron for the sign up link and more information.

### MODEL ROCKETRY DAY IN COEUR D'ALENE

By: C/MSgt Caitlyn Miller

- While a majority of this squadron was all over the country for various CAP events this summer, a few cadets from the Coeur d'Alene Composite Squadron recently had the opportunity to launch model rockets.
- This Squadron Saturday activity was a great chance for Coeur D'Alene cadets to start to learn about model rocketry.
- This event served as an introduction for cadets seeking to earn their model rocketry badge.
- If you are interested in earning your Model Rocketry Badge, or learning more about model rockets, reach out to your Squadron Leadership!



# MONTANA WING CADETS DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE AT NATIONAL BLUE BERET

By: C/MSgt Emma Swan



C/Col Gary Petro and C/2d Lt Nathaniel Turnbull represented the Montana Wing at the National Blue Beret Cadet Special Activity, from 17 July to 31 July 2023. During this period, Cadets Petro and Turnbull distinguished themselves – displaying the dedication and leadership skills Montana Wing prides themselves on. Both C/Col Petro and C/2d Lt Turnbull earned recognition at graduation, being named Honor Graduates of the activity.

National Blue Beret (NBB), is a National Cadet Special Activity that spans two weeks. The second week of this program coincides with the annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh event. Participants in the program are selected through a competitive national selection process to attend the event. The program serves as one of several mission bases for the AirVenture Search and Rescue Mission assigned by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, and participants are required to meet specific Emergency Services qualifications to partake in this mission.

# TWENTY-TWO RMR SQUADRONS RECOGNIZED

By: C/Lt Col Cooper Eisman

Congratulations to the Twenty-Two Rocky Mountain Region Cadet and Composite Squadrons who received the Quality Cadet Unit Award (QCUA) for the 2022-2023 year.

The Quality Cadet Unit Award (QCUA) is a recognition bestowed upon Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet and Composite Squadrons that have exhibited a strong, active, and healthy cadet program during the previous year. The award emphasizes a culture of learning, growth, and cadet development – as well as retention. Some of the criteria for this award include achieving specific milestones and demonstrating a commitment to the core program fundamentals and activities; fostering a positive environment for cadet development. The QCUA aims to encourage squadrons to pursue a balanced cadet program and recognize the efforts of those that excel in providing a vibrant and dynamic cadet experience.

The 2023 Rocky Mountain Region Recipients of the Award are as follows:

RMR-CO-072 BOULDER COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-CO-098 FREMONT STARFIRE CADET SQDN  
RMR-CO-163 HIGHLANDER COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-CO-173 PARKER COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-CO-183 VALKYRIE CADET SQDN  
RMR-CO-805 COLORADO MILITARY ACADEMY CADET SQDN  
RMR-ID-015 NAMPA COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-ID-069 JOE ENGLE COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-ID-073 BOISE COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-ID-083 COEUR D'ALENE COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-ID-096 POCATELLO COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-ID-097 EAGLE ROCK COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-ID-098 SELKIRK COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-MT-031 BUTTE COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-MT-053 FLATHEAD COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-UT-027 WEBER MINUTEMAN COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-UT-048 PHOENIX CADET SQDN  
RMR-UT-049 CACHE VALLEY COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-UT-051 CEDAR MUSTANGS COMPOSITE SQDN  
RMR-UT-067 THUNDERBIRD CADET SQDN  
RMR-WY-002 492ND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMP SQDN  
RMR-WY-075 YELLOWSTONE REGIONAL COMPOSITE SQDN



# OPERATION NOBLE SKYWAVE

By: C/Lt Col Cooper Eisman

In a world where digital communication has become the norm, high-frequency (HF) radio communication holds a special place, especially in the military domain. It is an arena where the skill to establish robust and reliable communication links can potentially be a game-changer. This prowess is what Operation Noble Skywave seeks to nurture and celebrate among radio operators globally.

Initiated in 2013 by the Canadian Communications and Electronics branch, Operation Noble Skywave has morphed into a distinguished military-led HF competition. It's not just a contest... but a confluence where hundreds of teams from dozens of nations come together to test, hone, and showcase their HF communication expertise in a friendly yet competitive ambiance.

The premise of Noble Skywave is simple yet profound. It's a test bed where participants, be it HAM, CFARS/MARS, or Military Radio Operators from around the globe, engage in a battle of wits to establish voice and data contacts under varying conditions. The underlying objective is to strengthen the HF radio communication skills among the participants, allowing them to refine their skills, learn from each other, and raise the bar of excellence in this domain.

Each year, the event brings in more participants, more challenges,

and more learning. The competition isn't just about who fares well, but about collective learning, shared experiences, and a shared pursuit of excellence in HF radio communication. Every participant, regardless of their team's standing on the leaderboard, takes back a ton of knowledge and experience.

If you or your squadron are interested in competing in events like this, reach out to C/Capt Daniel Moser at [dmoser@idwgcap.org](mailto:dmoser@idwgcap.org). Cadet Moser was selected as the National Communicator of the Year, and currently serves as the Recorder of the Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Advisory Council.



Senior Airman Jesse Lee, 776th Expeditionary Air Base Squadron radio and satellite communications technician, talks to another player in Latvia using high frequency (HF) radio calls during Noble Skywave Global HF competition at Chabelley Airfield, Djibouti, Oct 27, 2021. Noble Skywave is an annual competition hosted by the Canadian Armed Forces to test and strengthen expertise in HF radio communications. (U.S. Air Force Courtesy Photo)



The U.S. Air Force 22nd Special Tactics Squadron's Tech. Sgt. Jacob M. Sinovic and Sgt. Vuthy Var erect an antenna mast during exercise Noble Skywave at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Oct. 23, 2019. A team of 7th Infantry Division Soldiers, 1s... (Photo Credit: U.S. Army)

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Rocky Mountain Region Cadet Advisory Council Newsletter Team Needs your help! If you have stories, information, tips, or photos that we may be able to implement in a Future Edition, please reach out!

You can reach our Editor-in-Chief at [ceisman@cap.gov](mailto:ceisman@cap.gov), and your email will be forwarded to a Reporter or Editor for review.