



The Fly-By

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
LA CROSSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON



COMMANDER'S NOTES

I know it seems early, but it is already time to start thinking about the 2018 Wisconsin Wing Conference! This year the conference will be held at Three Bears Lodge in Warrens (which is located 15 miles east of Tomah). One reason for holding the conference at Three Bears Lodge is to make it more attractive to cadets and families as Three Bears Lodge has a fairly extensive indoor waterpark!

The conference runs 18-20 May. The price isn't finalized yet, but typically is around \$40 for cadets and \$80 for adults. That price includes meals each day and the awards banquet.

During the conference, members have the chance to learn more about Civil Air Patrol, find out about new initiatives and programs, and meet new friends and old acquaintances.

To encourage cadet participation, the squadron is again going to help defray the cost of the hotel room for cadets. Cadets can plan on their room cost being \$40. That will cover the hotel cost for both nights (equaling \$20/night). Cadets who are Technical Sergeant or higher are strongly encouraged to attend. If cadets need additional financial assistance they should contact Major Mandel.

This year our Wing Conference will also serve as the Region Conference, and will feature a Change of Command. Colonel Rose Hunt's term is ending and a new Wing Commander will be installed. Colonel Hunt has been a big supporter of the Cadet Program as well as our squadron, so let's have a great turn out to thank her for her past four years of service!

All the latest information on the conference can be found at <http://wicap.us/wingconf>.

Major Todd Mandel, Commander

SQUADRON AWARDS NIGHT!

Please Join Us!

This year we will be doing a potluck event on Friday, 2 February 2018 at the Myrick Park Center. There will be no cost to attend, but each family that registers will be asked to bring a dish.

Please register at www.facebook.com/lacrossecap.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Our aircraft just returned from a compliance inspection in Madison for the Wing. Preliminary reports indicate everything was in compliance.

Scanner/Observer familiarization and Preparatory training will conclude on Thursday, 1 February at 6 p.m. People who have completed the training and those who have expired scanner or observer status will have the opportunity to complete the two exercises in the next couple of months. ESO is requesting funded monthly training for ground team and air sorties to complete the needed exercises for the qualifications. Check your SQTR's for any needed tasks to complete AND any prerequisites needed prior so you can participate in those exercises. GES, IS-100 and IS-700 are prerequisites for scanner, and ICUT is needed to complete Observer. This is a good time to get them done as winter allows for more inside learning. Aircraft Ground Handling Training video and quiz also needs to be completed.

After 1 February please address any aircraft maintenance concerns to 2dLt. Zach Fronk or 2dLt. Chad Von Ruden. They are assuming duties of Aircraft Maintenance Management on that date.

If you have any questions, please contact me at sharic27@centurytel.net.

Major Richard M. Martin, Operations

SQUADRON FINANCE

Our Squadron balance is currently \$2133 -- a healthy spot for winter heating bills.

The CentryLink issues were resolved, thanks to Maj. Mandel. Therefore, we no longer have that monthly expense. All Wreaths Across America money is accounted for at this time. Please remember to purchase Kwik Trip gift cards from Maj. Mandel as it helps our squadron.

2dLt. Sara Zittlow, Finance Officer

FEMA COURSES ONLINE TRAINING FOR GT

There are 4 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses for Ground Team that can be taken online. First, focus on IS-100 and IS-700, then you can take IS-200 and IS-800 later as you advance.

IS-100.b is an Introduction to Incident Command System
Complete this one first!! **IS-700.a is the National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction.

How to find these tests in eServices --

1. Login to eServices and click on "Learning Management System" on the left menu.
2. Scroll down to and click on "FEMA Courses". This link will take you to the FEMA website.
3. First, select **IS-100.b** *Again, complete the IS-100 course first, as it is the foundation course on which the others are built.
4. When the course page opens, click on "Download Classroom Materials" and then select "Visuals". These are PowerPoint presentations and are much easier to follow. Review all PowerPoints.
5. Create a Student ID (SID) to take the test. Be sure to record your password! You will need it for all other FEMA courses.
6. Take the online exam. It is open book.
7. Upon successful completion of the exam, you will receive an email from **Independent Study** (check your spam). This email contains a link to your certificate.
8. **Forward** this email to zimmermanll@yahoo.com. Maj. Zimmerman will upload it in eServices for you.
9. Follow the same process for IS-200, 700 and 800.

By completing these online courses you will significantly speed up your GT training!

Major Linda L. Zimmerman, ESO

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

CAP is working hard to position itself as a leader in STEM education for middle and high schoolers. What is STEM? STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It is an effort to focus today's students on these four areas to better prepare them for the career opportunities our nation will have when they are adults. Additionally, ensuring that America has an educated workforce able to fill these critical jobs is crucial from both an economic and national security perspective.

Our squadron just received its next STEM kit which includes four mini-drones! We will be using these drones to teach cadets about rotary-wing aircraft and drone technology. These drones are designed to be used indoors, and the sessions will end with an indoor drone race.

Local schools can also receive these kinds of STEM kits at no cost. All that it requires is that the teacher becomes a CAP Aerospace Education member. This type of membership does require regular attendance, staff positions, etc. If you know of a teacher who may be interested please have them contact Major Mandel at tmandel@cap.gov.

Major Todd Mandel, Commander

CADET UPDATE

The Cadet Advisory Council is a statewide council of cadets that works on improving and changing the CAP Cadet Program. Currently our squadron has an opening for both a primary and alternate representative for the Council. Being a representative means attending conference calls and/or meetings once a month, being willing to work on special projects, and talking to your fellow cadets about what changes they'd like to see. Cadets who serve on the CAC are awarded the CAC ribbon once they have completed their term.

If you're interested in serving on the CAC, please contact C/Maj. Gilliam or 2dLt. Tiedeman.

Major Todd Mandel, Commander