



The Fly-By

The official newsletter of the
La Crosse Composite Squadron

COMMANDER'S NOTES

It takes a lot of people doing different things to make a Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron work. A squadron needs all the basics of any non-profit, such as someone to do the books, maintain personnel records, keep people safe, tell our story through press releases and social media, and more.

But a CAP squadron goes beyond that by having a need for people who are willing to have a passion and volunteer in unique ways. We need people who can fly orientation flights, fly SAR missions, and teach our cadets to fly. We need members who can serve as Mission Observers, Scanners, and Aerial Photographers. Radio communicators and mission operators are also a need.

Outside of the world of Emergency Services, a CAP squadron also needs adults interested in mentoring and teaching youth. It needs people who want to share the adventure and wonder of aerospace with our members and with the public.

In short...it takes a bunch of people all working together. We're blessed at the La Crosse Composite Squadron to have a great team, but that team can always use more people to constantly refresh itself. We've had some great additions of late, but we are always looking to add more committed people to our team.

Do you know a pilot who is looking to serve the community? Know someone who loves airplanes and wants to share that passion? Are you a parent with a skill or an interest and a few hours a week that you can give? If so, then spread the word and help us grow our team! It takes a lot to make a squadron awesome, but the more of us pulling together, the more we can accomplish!

Major Todd Mandel, Commander

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Our aircraft is back in the hangar and operational after a left rudder issue. We need at least 15 hours in the next couple weeks to get us to the oil change before it going to National Flight Academy (NFA) in Oshkosh. This needs to all be done prior to 9 June. Please reserve the aircraft and get some proficiency flying done!

The Search and Rescue (SAR) training on 13 May and the Communications exercise on 20 May went well and much was learned by the aircrew and ground teams alike. Remember that funded training under 17-T-4910 can be requested in the next months as well on a first come basis. Get in touch with the Incident Commander (IC) for the month and submit an ICS Form 201 to request using the monthly mission number.

- REMINDER -

ALL Pilots, Observers, Scanners and Airborne Photographers should attend the Pilot meeting at 0900 hours, prior to the general monthly Squadron meeting on Saturday, 3 June.

Fly and drive safely!

Major Richard M. Martin, Operations

NEW CADET STAFFING - BEGINNING 1 JUNE

Cadet Commander - C/2d Lt Andrew Zittlow
Deputy Commander for Operations - C/2d Lt Andrew Pfaff
First Sergeant - C/CMSgt Mattison Donaldson
Deputy Commander for Support - C/CMSgt Seth Tiedeman
A Flight Commander - C/MSgt Megan Zittlow
A Flight Sergeant - C/SSgt Elyas DeWitt
B Flight Commander - C/MSgt Dominic Janssen
B Flight Sergeant - C/SSgt Maggie Hass
Tango Flight Commander - C/TSgt Izic Janssen
Color Guard Team Leader - C/SSgt Elyas DeWitt

Congratulations to all!

SUMMER ENCAMPMENT

Are you going to Summer Encampment? This week-long summer activity is strongly recommended for all cadets who have not yet attended. During summer encampment you will learn what it means to be a CAP cadet. Through teamwork, dedication, and commitment you will become stronger at drill, become excellent at uniform wear, and realize you have abilities and skills you never realized you had. For Senior Members, Summer Encampment offers an opportunity to be part of an awesome team and be a mentor for some amazing young men and women as they develop and grow. Interested in learning about Cadet Programs? Then come volunteer as Senior Staff at Encampment! Seniors can volunteer for the whole week or part of the week.

First-year attendees must attend the Wisconsin Basic School. Besides working on cadet fundamentals, WBS cadets also have unique experiences such as training alongside law enforcement on taking down simulated high risk structures, seeing aircraft up close such as the F-35 Lightning or the A-10 Warthog, and experiencing Air Force life.

Cadets who have already graduated from the Wisconsin Basic School are encouraged to attend one of the second year schools such as the Cadet Development Course or the Wisconsin Cadet Academy. The Cadet Development Course is a good fit for Phase I or II cadets (C/A1C through C/MSgt). At CDC you will experience many facets of the Cadet Program such as rocketry, marksmanship, and small group leadership.

More advanced cadets are encouraged to attend the Wisconsin Cadet Academy. WCA is Wisconsin's premier officer development course. WCA will test a cadet like few other schools. But WCA cadets also grow and learn in a way that few other experiences can recreate.

The cost for any of the schools is \$200. That includes lodging and food for the week. Scholarships are available via the Cadet Encampment Access Program in eServices. All the details about the schools, costs, and financial aid can be found at www.wiwgencampment.org.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION UPDATE

Have you noticed some cadets in flight suits lately? Those cadets are part of our Squadron's Flight Training Program. Flight training is available to all cadets and it provides an opportunity to a cadet which is rarely equaled anywhere else. Cadets who want to learn to fly must be 16 years old and receive the approval of the Deputy Commander for Cadets.

To receive this approval cadets typically must be a Cadet Master Sergeant or higher and be a very active participant in the squadron. This usually means holding a staff position, participating in activities, and serving as a role model for other cadets.

Cadets also must have a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) lined up to instruct. This CFI must be a CAP member. CFIs instruct cadets on a volunteer basis and are not paid; therefore most CFIs have a limit on how many cadets they can instruct at any given time. If there are no available CFIs, then cadets may need to wait before they can start flight training.

Lastly, cadets are strongly encouraged to have at least \$1,000 saved before they try to enroll in the Flight Training Program. We encourage cadets to put this \$1,000 on reserve, either with the squadron or elsewhere. Having this much money saved means the cadet can continue to fly, usually all the way through their solo wings, without taking a break to save more money.

So if you want to learn to fly, CAP can help you! Start your learning with a conversation with either Major Todd Mandel or 2d Lt Scott Tiedeman!

Major Todd Mandel, Commander

SQUADRON FINANCE

The Squadron's forecasted operating balance is \$963 as of the end of May. We'll be entering our summer fundraising cycle soon and need everyone's support to make those efforts successful. The annual cost to operate the Squadron is around \$9,000. That equals about \$100 per member. Our unit does not levy an annual membership fee, so we need fundraising activities and donations to cover the gap.

We want to thank everyone for their support and help in making the squadron a fiscally sound non-profit!

HISTORY OF THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS

Six years after the creation of the United States Air Force, as a separate branch of service, their first official air demonstration team was formed. In 1953, the U.S. Air Force designated its new team the 3600th Air Demonstration Unit at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona.

The name Thunderbirds was derived from the Native American culture of the Southwest surrounding Luke AFB. Only 7 officers and 22 enlisted were selected for this first team, with 21 others to maintain the aircraft.

They flew the F-86G for a total aerobatic demonstration time of 15 minutes. Now years later, millions of people have seen the team's skilled demonstrations, and had the opportunity to witness first-hand the professionalism and skill of the USAF.

Source: <http://afthunderbirds.com/site/history/>

Captain Mary Beth Marx, Aerospace Education Officer