



# ON GUARD

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY GROUP 2

Group 2's  
Quarterly  
Magazine



Photo Credit: C/TSgt Agibail Fukuhara

## Happy Holidays from On Guard

*Foreword by Assistant PAO of Group 2,  
1st Lt Jose G. Alvarez*

Welcome to the Volume 3, Issue 3 of **On Guard**.

Over the course of the past year, Civil Air Patrol, Group 2 has achieved noteworthy milestones that underscore its commitment to excellence and service. From search and rescue mission to disaster relief operations, our dedicated members have displayed unwavering dedication in face of adversity. On-Guard serves as a testament to their resiliency and organization's continue pursuit of excellence. Furthermore, On Guard will spotlight the achievements of our cadet's program, emphasizing the development of leadership skills, aeronautical knowledge, and civic responsibility among our youth. Through captivating stories and stunning photography, we aimed to capture the spirit and enthusiasm that defines the Civil Air Patrol experience for our young members.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of accomplishments and aspirations that define Civil Air Patrol in this edition of On Guard. As we reflect on the past and prepare for the future, your support and engagement are pivotal in ensuring the continued success of our magazine.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence and your shared vision for a safer and more resilient tomorrow.

Happy Holidays from all of us in On Guard.

**Article Submissions.** This is your magazine, and we welcome all your contributions to it with short stories, photos, and short videos of your Squadron or event. We are looking for articles for the **2024 Spring edition**. [elisa.muresan@cawgcap.org](mailto:elisa.muresan@cawgcap.org) or the **editors to the right**.

Don't forget to spread the words about YOU and CAP. Please tag Group 2 on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and we will collect posts, stories, and reels there. Tag us on **Instagram** and **Facebook** as **@civilairpatrolgroup2**. Tag us on **Twitter** as **@CAPGroup2CA**.

Just a reminder that we have a **YouTube** channel for the group so send us any videos that you want to share with the world!

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Photo Credit: 2d Lt Elisa Muresan



# ON GUARD SAN FRANCISCO BAY GROUP 2

What's inside this issue



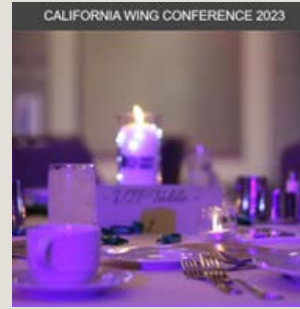
01

Welcome



02

What's Inside



03-04

Major Event



05-06

Special Interviews



07

Message from Group 2  
Commander



08-11

Cadet Programs



12

Emergency Services



13-14

Mission - 2023 APEC



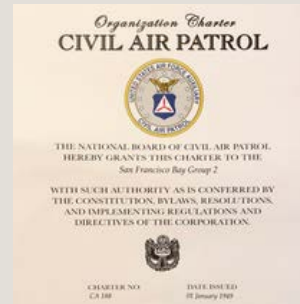
15-18

Aerospace Education



19-22

Education & Training



23-24

Announcements



25-29

End of Year 'Things'



**MAJOR EVENT****2023 CALIFORNIA WING CONFERENCE****BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN**

*All Photos in this article are published by the Public Affairs team at: <https://photos.caf.gov/Pacific-Region/California-Wing/Conferences/2023-CAWG-Conference> and Courtesy of Lt Col Luneau, 2d Lt Alvarez and 2d Lt Muresan*



The picture above was taken at the very end of the banquet. Some members from Group 2 have left to fly out or drive away very early the next morning.

California Wing (CAWG) Conference provided a great opportunity for members to advance their professional development. They learned best practices from fellow members, celebrated achievements of the wing throughout the year, networked and socialized with like-minded individuals from other squadrons. It has always been a blast for attendees. In 2023, CAWG Conference was attended by almost 300 senior and cadet members, 40 of them were from our Group 2. There were two prominent sets of courses (schools) being held at the conference. The Aerospace Education Officer School, organized by Maj Mark Fridell and Maj Cathy Collom; and the Squadron Commander Course, organized by Lt Col Shawn Lawson.

This year's conference was also special because we had the change of command for our Wing Commander. We thanked and bid the best for our outgoing Commander Col. Ross E. Veta, and we looked forward to working with our incoming Commander Col. Craig E. Newton. Even more special for Group 2, we congratulated the outgoing Commander of our group, Lt Col Shawn O. Lawson for taking up the Vice Wing Commander position, and welcoming our new Commander, Maj Richard West.

Group 2 also celebrated the following "CAWG of the Year" award recipients:

- Lt Col Elsie Lam for Safety Officer of the Year
- Maj George Gadd for Communications Officer of the year
- Maj Richard West for Education & Training Officer of the Year
- Capt. Luis Rivas for Finance Officer of the Year
- 1st Lt Kai Chen for Character Development Officer of the Year
- 2d Lt Elisa Muresan for Public Affairs Officer of the Year
- Squadron 86 for CAWG Cadet Squadron of the Year and CAP Squadron of Merit 2023
- Squadron 80 for Senior Squadron of the Year

### MAJOR EVENT

## 2023 CALIFORNIA WING CONFERENCE

... Continued



Group 2 also celebrated the Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) Speech Contest winner, C/SMSGT Inca Stienhans, who had the honor to deliver her speech at the CAWG Conference banquet on the topic "Aspire to inspire: Why we do what we do in Civil Air Patrol". The speech contest was a legacy from the 2022-2023 CAC CAWG Chair, C/Maj Samitha Srivatsan, also from group 2.

Capt Hockel received the Cadet Squadron of the Year Award for his home squadron. Squadron 86 is also the recipient of CAP Squadron of Merit 2023.



The new California Wing Commander, Col Newton, took over the commandship from Col Veta.



C/SMSGT Stienhans gave her CAC award winning speech at the banquet.



Thank you for your service to Group 2, Lt Col Lawson.

We are ready to support your mission for Group 2, new commander, Maj West.



Congratulations to Group 2 "CAWG OF The Year" Award recipients, Maj Gadd, Lt Col Lam, Capt Rivas, 1st Lt Chen, and 2d Lt Muresan.





### SPECIAL INTERVIEW

## LT COL SHAWN O LAWSON IS (NOT) LEAVING GROUP 2

BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN



This picture depicted the favorite place of Lt Col Lawson (also MSgt USAFR as shown here), to be amongst cadets, mentoring them and listening to them, sharing opinions and experience.

Photo by 2d Lt Elisa Muresan

Lt Col Lawson was appointed as our Group 2 Commander in 2021. A handful of cadets I interviewed gave me one unanimous word to describe Lt Col Lawson: **Dedication**. In general, Group 2 members would recognize Col Lawson as the former commander of Squadron 18 and when he assumed the Group Commander duty, many cadets would appreciate his effort to visit all of our 10 squadrons at least once every year. He was not a new face in Civil Air Patrol (CAP), having joined CAP when he was 15 years old.

I wrote this article after talking to several members who asked the question: “**Why did Col Lawson leave?**” This is my special interview with him at the 2023 California Wing Conference, after a few weeks of relentless preparation to organize the Squadron Commander Course, and a long 2-days of teaching and grading the assignments of the course’s participants. Behind the scenes, Col Lawson has also been preparing to hand-over his baton to the new Group 2 Commander, and shadowing his new position as the Vice Commander of the California Wing.

#### 1. **What got you interested in leading Group 2 in the first place?**

I believe I was successful in leading my squadron, so I wanted to scale up my influence to a higher level. I believed that I could make a difference and be a conduit for progress. I have been a part of CAP for over 20 years and started as a cadet, so I had the know-how of the program, which would undoubtedly be an asset in my new role as a group commander.

#### 2. **How did you think you do?**

I think I did pretty well even if I didn’t complete all four years. I know there were still more that I could do, but I stepped up to the challenge at the wing level. I have revamped several squadrons to help them get to their current positions, and I have mentored many members to take leadership at the group level.

#### 3. **How do you approach decision-making, and what factors do you consider when making tough decisions?**

Making decisions that affect people is always challenging. At the group level, issues often have to be escalated beyond the squadron. There is sometimes a disconnect between what a squadron commander wants and what is best for the group. Every decision I make is intended to benefit the members and the organization, even if it is not ideal for a certain individual. I am comfortable with people being unhappy with my decisions.

#### 4. **What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow your leadership path in CAP?**

Ensure balance in your life. Whatever you want to do in CAP, make sure your work – life balance can support it, especially to get support from your family. Everything you do has the potential to take away from your family.

### SPECIAL INTERVIEW

## LT COL SHAWN O LAWSON

... Continued

### 5. *How do you balance your personal life with your professional responsibilities and CAP duties?*

I was fortunate to be able to choose an employer who supported the fact that I was leading an organization of 750 volunteers in the Bay Area. Maintaining a positive relationship with my boss and colleagues has been very helpful. It is important for the person I work for to share my passion, especially given my role in the Air Force Reserve. As for my family, my wife and I met when I was a squadron commander, so she understands my position.

### 6. *What's next for you?*

I will serve as the Vice Wing Commander under Col Newton and directly mentor eight Group Commanders while continuing to serve all Civil Air Patrol members. I believe that we have made significant progress in Group 2, and we can do more by including other groups in the process. Our volunteers must have intrinsic motivation to be here and want to be part of a high-performing team that is included in the decision-making process, especially since incentives can be limited in a volunteer organization.

### 7. *The trolley dilemma*

Making difficult decisions that negatively affect certain people is sometimes necessary. All the decisions I make are aligned with what is best for the organization and the people. In reality, I would try to save the person on the track and not derail the train. I take pride in the fact that my members, especially the cadets, can come to me to talk about their issues. Perhaps my experience as a cadet and my relatively younger age help me connect better with them.

Going back to your question: **"Why did Col Lawson leave?"** I believe the answer is: *"He never left. He just became more hands-off and has passed on his baton to our new commander to directly lead us to soar higher."*

Thank you for the past two-and-half years, Lt Col Lawson.



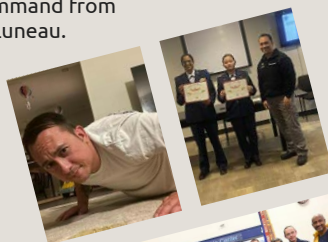
Aug 2021, Lt Col Lawson assumed command from Lt Col Noel Luneau.



Oct 2023, Lt Col Lawson relinquished command at the California Wing Conference.



Oct 2023, Lt Col Lawson made his final visit to a squadron as the Group 2 Commander.



Lawson visits to various squadrons in the San Francisco Bay Area Group 2, and actively participated at wing-level challenges on behalf of Group 2.



2021 California Wing Conference



2022 California Wing Conference

Photos are courtesy of Lt Col Lawson, Lt Col Noel Luneau, Col Craig Newton, PAOs of Squadron 36, 18, 10.

### MESSAGE FROM THE GROUP 2 NEW COMMANDER

## MAJ RICHARD J. D. WEST - THE INCOMING COMMANDER

BY MAJ RICHARD J.D. WEST

California Wing vision under the commandship of Col Craig E Newton.



*Vision photo by Maj Richard West. Change of Command photo by Lt Col Noel Luneau.*



Group 2 vision under the commandship of Maj Richard West.

At the California Wing Conference 2023, **Col Craig E Newton** expressed his vision for **California Wing** in three words: **Educate**, **Motivate**, and **Accelerate**. In essence, Col Newton wants us to **educate** ourselves and others about both the opportunities offered by and the responsibilities serving within CAP; to **motivate** ourselves to progress, achieve our goals, and lead by example to further motivate others to do the same; and to **accelerate** our growth, excellence, and capabilities by building upon momentum built since the pandemic.

As the Commander of **San Francisco Bay Group 2**, I have two main roles: promote and implement Col Newton's vision at our group's ten squadrons, and represent our group's diversity and achievements at wing. My vision for the next four years has been molded to align with Col Newton's: **Anticipate**, **Facilitate**, and **Innovate**.

To **anticipate** means to be proactive and prepared. We must know the key dates and requirements for everything we do, be it personal or corporate, and plan ahead accordingly. We must learn from our experiences and anticipate the challenges our members may face so we may offer support and guidance. If we encounter or anticipate any concerns, we must communicate them early and avoid letting them escalate.

To **facilitate** means to enable and empower. We must provide opportunities for our members to succeed in their personal and professional development. We must facilitate networking to build meaningful relationships with our peers and counterparts. We must facilitate training required to provide qualified personnel to California Wing allowing us to execute our current and future missions in service to our communities and our nation.

To **innovate** means to be creative and adaptive. We must not be stuck in the mindset of "we've always done it that way" but rather seek means to improve our processes and outcomes. We must continue to lead the way in developing new tools and capabilities for our missions and members. We must develop relationships with for-profit, non-profit, and government entities for mutual benefit and collaboration.

Civil Air Patrol is not only about the mission, but also about the people. San Francisco Bay Group 2 is a benchmark of excellence and leadership for California Wing, and we consistently excel across multiple metrics of success. I have full faith and confidence in each member of this group to uphold the high standards that we are known for. Everyone can contribute and voice their opinions, but I ask that you do so **constructively and responsibly**. If you have any criticisms or problems, please also **propose a solution**. If you have any ideas, please also **provide some details and be prepared to take ownership**.

You, the members, are the driving force of our success, and it is an honor and privilege to be your commander.



### SUPER INTEGRATED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## SUPER INTEGRATED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (SILP)

TEAMS CHAT: C/CAPT PRESTON KWOK & 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

On **September 1-4, 2023**, California Wing held the Super Integrated Leadership Program (SILP) at Tustin Army Reserve Center. This program combines the first four schools of the Integrated Leadership Program - Basic Cadet School (BCS), Airman Training School (ATS), Non-Commissioned Officer School (NCOS), and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer School (SNCOS). It helps cadets in Phase I and II learn and practice leadership skills such as drill and ceremonies, physical training, public speaking, Non-Commissioned Officer roles, customs and courtesies, and more in a cooperative setting. The Commandant for 2023 SILP was a former cadet, **Capt Jagger Osseck**, and the cadet commander was **C/Capt Preston Kwok**. This article is C/Capt Kwok's take on the event.

**1. "You must be busy at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. What made you come back to lead SILP?"**

Civil Air Patrol is very important to me. After my service as the cadet deputy commander of my home squadron 192, I wanted to contribute on the wing level. I was lucky that Capt Osseck's email came at the right time. I had enough time to prepare while completing summer school, and was looking forward to expand my network and get out of my comfort zone as a leader.

**2. "What did you learn most from organizing this event?"**

I learned how time management and prioritization skills could help my team and I use our time and resources effectively, focus on the most important and urgent tasks, and achieve our goals. We avoided unnecessary stress, confusion, delays, and failures in our work together.

**3. "So, do you think this 2023 SILP is successful?"**

Yes. This is the second SILP ever in California Wing. We had 120 students graduated from ATS, NCOS, and SNCOS, many of whom just went to the encampment in summer. We picked up the momentum set by the encampment.

**4. "What was the most rewarding part of organizing this event?"**

Servant leadership is a concept I take to heart. Being able to serve others that weekend was a reward in it of itself. When I had students came up to me and said that they learned a lot from this event, and I saw an accomplished smile on their faces, that was very rewarding. I mean SILP was a big event to pull off, so I had to stretch myself between tasks, but at the end, the goal of the program was to improve cadets' leadership skills. And when they 'get it', that was my reward.

Photos Credit: C/Capt Preston Kwok

Right after SILP, C/Capt Kwok flew back to his campus in Arizona, to complete his Instrument Rating and continue his studies. He will be back.





### (ADVANCED) DRILL & CEREMONIES SCHOOL (A)DCS

## (ADVANCED) DRILL & CEREMONIES SCHOOL (A)DCS

BY C/CAPT KAYLIN PHAM  
& CAPT JAMES HOCKEL

Photos Credit:  
(A)DCS Public Affairs Team



California Wing offers many opportunities for training cadets. DCS and ADCS aim to provide in-depth training on the **Cadet Program's primary leadership laboratory, drill and ceremonies**, with the advanced students focusing on topics such as color guard and complex drill that are critical for success as a cadet NCO. The last time, (A)DCS was organized was in 2019. This year, on **9-10 September 2023**, 19 and 36 students graduated from DCS and ADCS respectively. These cadets should be ready to lead in their respective squadrons and will hopefully follow the steps of 36 cadet cadre of the event, who received training on how to manage a successful wing-wide event. The school's cadet commander, **C/Capt Kaylin Pham**, and commandant, **Capt James Hockel**, shared their thoughts about the schools.

#### 1. "How did Capt Hockel manage to successfully execute this DCS/ADCS?"

He's been in CAP as a cadet since 2010, then turned into a senior in 2018. He's very experienced in finding and managing senior members to help execute a successful program.



Survey after survey, cadets say that the #1 factor affecting cadet life is their having access to **well-trained, highly-committed adult leaders**.



#### 2. "How do you measure the success of the event?"

We give them a test before and after the event and see how much they improved. We also have a competition where each flight shows their drill skills and teamwork.

#### 3. "What feedback did you receive from this event?"

Many students had insightful feedback on which classes were great, which ones needed reformatting, and overall feedback on the facilities. I am looking forward to implementing this feedback at future events.

#### 4. "What was the most rewarding part for you?"

I get to watch some of the most brilliant young people in the country as they develop into the next generation of leaders. The unique aspect of CAP's Cadet Program is that it is, a **cadet-led** program. At DCS/ADCS, that philosophy was in full force. C/Capt Pham and her staff took charge of the event and made it happen while I monitored the progress and provided feedback.

#### 1. "As a pre-med at UC Davis, how did you find the time and energy to successfully execute this DCS/ADCS?"

Civil Air Patrol changed my life by giving me new skills and meaningful connections. I was inspired by the cadet staff who cared about developing future leaders. I want to create the same environment for other cadets and help them achieve their goals.



#### 2. "How do you measure the success of the event?"

We used tests, quizzes, and competitions to measure drill knowledge and skills at the event. We also looked at how the cadre and students applied what they learned here at future events.

#### 3. "What feedback did you receive from this event?"

The students gave us feedback on the school curriculum and event logistics. We will use this feedback to make things better and help future cadet leaders run a more successful DCS/ADCS.

#### 4. "What was the most rewarding part for you?"

To watch students excitedly explore areas of drill and ceremonies that they haven't gotten the opportunity to try at their squadrons. I'm honored to have a role in that experience, and to work with an amazing cadet staff who helped make a clear impact on the students.



CHECK OUT  
THE  
WEEKEND  
BOOK OF  
(A)DCS [HERE](#).



# ON GUARD

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY GROUP 2

### ULTIMATE BEAR AND WINGS CHALLENGE (UBWC)

### ULTIMATE BEAR AND WINGS CHALLENGE (UBWC)

#### TEAMS CHAT: C/CAPT THOMAS DURLING & 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

UBWC is one of the most sought after cadet events in California Wing (CAWG). Many squadrons prepared for the challenges up to one year in advance. On **6-8 October 2023**, **Capt Jagger Osseck** and **C/Capt Thomas Durling** teamed up to deliver the 12th UBWC, scoring the largest number of teams in UBWC's history, with 38 teams attending. The annual competition always focuses on six core events: Ground, Emergency Services, Aerospace Education, Leadership, Volleyball, and Aquatics.

Durling said that the specific challenges of these six core events vary every year. Durling himself was a competitor in 2022, lifting up squadron 44 team, fondly dubbed as 'Los Diablos', to be the grand champion for four years in a row. This year, he took up a higher level challenge, commanding UBWC to take his CAP professional development to the executive level, and to give opportunity to other squadrons to win (thank you, Durling).

The event always take place at a remote camp area in the majestic Sierra Mountains. The camp offered diverse facilities and landscapes that suited participants to challenge their abilities as well-rounded CAP cadets. Durling emphasized that UBWC is a distinct activity from SILP, (A)DCS, and NCOS, because it allows cadets to interact more casually, while still requiring them to uphold the core values of the institution.



Photos Credit:  
<http://www.sierrachristiancamp.org/facilities.html>



Photos Credit: SM Nicholas B. Teddleton, 2d Lt Elisa Muresan,  
2d Lt Julia Firnkoess.



Seeing the smiles from all participants made it all worth it, according to Durling. He expressed his gratitude to his staff members who created unique challenges for the contestants, that were unprecedented in UBWC history. His appreciation extended further when his staff members had to recreate new challenges in just a few hours because the aquatics facility 'suddenly' became unavailable. He added that CAP is about staying calm amidst chaos and always prepare for the unexpected. #SemperGumby.

As his final remark, Durling advised future cadre that a crucial aspect of the backstage work was managing time and setting deadlines. It was challenging to supervise different departments, which had different plans, to coordinate as one and meet strict deadlines. As for future competitors, he emphasized 'respect' as the keyword, because competition can get in the way of people enjoying the 'why' of UBWC. He added that the 'why' should come from the sense of friendship and teamwork of fellow CAP cadets who participate in UBWC.

Congratulations to the following squadrons for winning awards: Squadron 10 (Grand Champion), Squadron 86 (Volleyball), Squadron 44, and Squadron 156. See you in 2024 UBWC.



See you in 2024  
UBWC!





# ON GUARD

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY GROUP 2

### NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SCHOOL (NCOS) NORTH

### NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SCHOOL (NCOS) NORTH

2D LT ELISA MURESAN

NCOS North was held on **November 17-19** at the **home base of Squadron 86**, the San Francisco National Guard Armory at 100 Armory Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132.

In his email invitation, NCOS Cadet Commander, **C/Capt Daniel P. Burke**, wrote that NCOS intended to lay a foundation on which cadet leaders could build their own leadership style, giving them a solid understanding of what it means to be an NCO, as well as the practical skills and knowledge to back that up. Further, Burke promoted that NCOS is an awesome opportunity for any NCO to build on their skills and learn to excel at whatever position or project they take on.

The event ran smoothly and well attended. **Thirty-five** cadets received advanced training and experience as members of the cadet cadre, and **eighty-five** students graduated from the school. NCOS Commandant, **Capt James J. Hockel** attested that these NCOS graduates received training on the fundamentals of cadet non-commissioned officership, including public speaking, teaching, and giving feedback.

We are looking forward to hearing more achievements from these cadets, volunteering at and leading more events in Civil Air Patrol.

Photos Credit: NCOS Public Affairs Team



**EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWS RELEASE****CIVIL AIR PATROL SAN FRANCISCO BAY GROUP 2 TO CONDUCT  
INTENSIVE DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING EXERCISE****BY LT COL NOEL LUNEAU****Press Contact:**

Lt Col Georgios Michelogiannakis, incident commander (trainee),  
Email: [georgios.michelogiannakis@cawgcap.org](mailto:georgios.michelogiannakis@cawgcap.org)

**Livermore, CA.** (November 18, 2023)

Civil Air Patrol San Francisco Bay Group 2 announced a comprehensive training exercise slated for Sunday, November 19th, designed to hone crucial skills in disaster response and search and rescue operations.

The exercise involved the deployment of four airplanes focusing on visual and electronic searches. Additionally, the training integrated Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) teams collaborating closely with Urban Direction Finding (UDF) and ground teams.



With an impressive turnout, 63 participants signed up for this crucial training initiative, with the majority being dedicated trainees eager to enhance their expertise in disaster response scenarios.

The simulated scenario for this exercise immersed participants in a disaster involving a wildfire and the subsequent search for missing airplanes attempting to flee the area. This multifaceted exercise tested the readiness and efficiency of CAP in responding to complex, real-world emergencies.

Moreover, this joint training exercise marked a collaborative effort among four groups, underlining the significance of cohesive teamwork and intergroup coordination in managing and resolving high-stress situations.

"Training exercises like these are pivotal in ensuring our teams are well-prepared to respond effectively to emergencies," said Lt Col Georgios Michelogiannakis. "By simulating real-world scenarios, we can refine our skills and coordination to better serve our communities in times of need."

Group 2 thanks all participants and collaborating groups for their dedication to improving emergency response capabilities across the San Francisco Bay area.



### MISSION

## CIVIL AIR PATROL HELPED ENSURE AIR SAFETY FOR THE 2023 ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) IN SAN FRANCISCO

BY  
2D LT ELISA MURESAN  
AND  
MAJ MARC SOBEL

Contribution by Capt Louise Mateos



Photo Credit: 2d Lt Elisa Muresan



Photo Credit: <https://www.apec2023sf.org/>

On **November 11-17, 2023**, San Francisco hosted **The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Week**. This APEC Leaders' Week brought presidents, ministers, their deputies, and other dignitaries from 21 APEC Members around the world. President Biden, Vice President Harris, and many American political and economic leaders were also in attendance. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a statement: "At the request of the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Aviation Administration will establish airspace restrictions over the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation convention, hosted in San Francisco, CA, from November 13-18, 2023."

When the FAA received such a request, it issued a **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)** with a "Special Security Instruction" on **Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR)** to be implemented. **Civil Air Patrol (CAP)** was honored to help the FAA with a mission to spread awareness of the TFRs for the 2023 APEC. Incident Commander Major Marc D. Sobel explained that the goal of this CAP mission is to keep pilots from accidentally flying into the TFR which would last for three days. All public airports within 100 miles of San Francisco would have to be visited and notified about the TFR.

**Forty six members in California Wing** were involved in carrying out **63 sorties**, and CAP pilots logged in **almost 50 flight hours** to complete the mission. The mission required a team led by Major Richard West to assemble a package that contained posters, flyers, and kneeboard cards that must be delivered to the airport locations that the FAA requested, including Fixed-Base Operators (FBOs), flight schools, airport restaurants, and terminals/lounges. Normally, missions require a qualified Mission Pilot and crew, but this mission only required *Transport Mission* pilots and the *crew did not have to be specifically qualified*. This allowed for more members to become involved. This was also an opportunity for members to meet the public and talk about what CAP does.

The mission was carried out successfully, as per the request of FAA. As far as Civil Air Patrol's concerned, there were no violations reported. *Civil Air Patrol has once again helped keep the air space safe.*



Civil Air Patrol airplane landed at one of the mission-designated airports.

Photo Credit: 2d Lt Elisa Muresan

**MISSION****2023 APEC AIR SAFETY MISSION....**

... Continued

Photos Credit: 2d Lt Elisa Muresan



Package containing posters, flyers, and kneeboard cards

Capt Louis Mateos checked the purity of the fuel of CAP airplane.



2d Lt Rares Vernica and Capt John Heldt pushed the airplane out of the hangar at OAK.



L-R: 2d Lt Rares Vernica, 2d Lt Elisa Muresan, Capt John Heldt.



Pilots of the mission, L-R: 2d Lt Rares Vernica, Capt John Heldt, Capt Louise Mateos.





**AEROSPACE EDUCATION****LIVERMORE AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE****BY 1ST LT JOSE G ALVAREZ**

On October 8, 2023 in the heart of Livermore, CA a group of dedicated individuals from squadrons, 188, 156, 18, 192, 36 and 44 participated at the Livermore Airport annual open house.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) plays an indispensable role ensuring the safety, security and well-being of Livermore airport. One of CAP's most significant contributions to the community is its role in emergency service and disaster response. CAP has a well-trained team of volunteers ready to assist during natural disasters, search and rescue operations and other emergencies. Our dedicated members provide critical support to local authorities, bolstering any city's resiliency.

Livermore airport, a hub of activity in the city, benefits immensely from its close partnership with CAP. The airport serves as the base of operations for Livermore Composite Squadron, provides a convenient and strategic location for training and emergency response service. Moreover, the CAP's presence at the airport fosters a sense of community and collaboration. Livermore Airport hosts events, airshows, and education programs in conjunctions with CAP, promoting aviation awareness and engagement among residents.

The Civil Air Patrol is much more than an aviation organization; it is a lifeline for the Livermore community and other communities around the San Francisco Bay. Through its unwavering commitment to emergency service, youth development and aerospace education, CAP has woven itself into the fabric of San Francisco Bay's identity. The Civil Air Patrol remains a steadfast partner, ensuring our Bay's safety, nurturing its youth, and helping communities soar to even greater heights.

Photos Credit: 1st Lt Jose G. Alvarez



**AEROSPACE EDUCATION****A MEMORABLE DAY AT THE AIRPORT****BY C/SRA EMILY WONG AND C/SSGT ALLISON LEE**

Since joining Squadron 36, we've attended almost every event together, most notably being the annual Reid-Hillview Airport Day. The open house is a community event that not only highlights local music groups and organizations, but also provides families with an opportunity to learn about aviation. Squadron 36 cadets give back to the airport by volunteering during the event, arriving early in the morning and working late into the afternoon. This year we participated as the Public Affairs NCOs, but our positions gave us the opportunity to do much more than just taking photos. Due to the flexibility of our role, we were often asked to assist with different jobs, extending our support far beyond our initial responsibilities.

Weeks before the event started, we created several flyers and informational posts for the Squadron 36 Instagram. We meticulously chose fonts and used photos we took of the airport to create a post that would not only encourage community engagement, but also inform the public about the activities for that day. On the day of the event, we quickly inspected each cadet to make sure that everyone looked their best while representing the squadron. We made sure to focus on the color guard members as they were not only assisting in the event, but were going to be presenting the colors. Our primary role throughout the event was to photograph the activities that cadets partook in. Taking photos gave us the opportunity to walk around and observe the roles of other cadets at the event. In addition to documenting events, we worked at the recruitment booth where we interacted with the public directly, one of our favorite activities at events. We always learn something new by speaking with new people and hearing their life experiences. A particularly memorable conversation we had was with a CAP alumni who also happened to be a veteran. During his time in the military, he flew planes that used acoustic sensors to identify different types of submarines. His eyes would light up and he spoke with an infectious passion as he answered our questions.

Through these experiences we came to appreciate the value of teamwork. Our role as Public Affairs NCOs made it possible for us to explore the various moving parts that went into operating a large event, which taught us that creating a successful event requires the support, cooperation, and enthusiasm of all the cadets, senior members, vendors, and airport staff.

Photos Credit: C/SrA Emily Wong and C/SSgt Allison Lee





## AEROSPACE EDUCATION

## CYBERPATRIOT COMPETITION STATE ROUND

BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

Air Force Association states that CyberPatriot's core activity is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, where middle and high school students act as new IT professionals who have to manage a small company's network. In different online competition rounds, teams work on virtual operating systems and try to secure them from cyberattacks while keeping essential services running.

Group 2 has had a few squadrons participating in CyberPatriot since 2017. Major Joseph Spears has been the coach for many Group 2 squadrons, thanks to his tech-savvy background and dedication to the Aerospace Education mission in Civil Air Patrol. Moreover this year, 1st Lt Larry Wong and 2d Lt Elisa Muresan also offered Basic Cybersecurity Camp in summer, resulting in more participation of cadets from squadrons 10, 18, 36, 86, and 156.

3575 teams made it to the Round 2 competition in November. Two hundred fourteen teams competed for Civil Air Patrol worldwide, and fifteen of them were from California Wing. Out of these 15 CAP CAWG teams, 9 were placed at the Platinum level, 3 in Gold, and 3 in Silver. These placements were based on the scores that each team gained in each round. For the state round on December 7-11, teams must compete in Server 2022, Windows 10, Ubuntu 20, and Cisco NetAcad Challenge Networking quiz modules 12-15 and Packet tracer modules 1-15. The top 30% of the all 3575 teams will be placed at the Platinum level, middle 40% at the Gold level, and bottom 30% at the silver level.

Good luck, CyberPatriot competitors.

Photos Credit: 1st Lt Larry Wong, 1st Lt Teresa Fontanilla, and 2d Lt Elisa Muresan



Good luck, Squadron 86



Good luck, Squadron 18



Good luck, Squadron 10

### AEROSPACE EDUCATION

## GLIDER ORIENTATION RIDES IN FALL

BY C/MSGT ABIGAIL FUKUHARA

Did you remember Maj Henson's article on "CAP Gliding is back!" in the On Guard August edition? Yes, indeed. This fall-winter, Group 2 held a few more gliding orientation rides at Byron airport. On Saturday, November 25, glider pilot Maj Van E Henson, CAP, took C/Capt Chen, C/CMSgt Chan, C/TSgt Fukuhara A and C/TSgt Fukuhara N for multiple glider flights at Byron Airport. Although it was a little breezy, the cold temperature proved perfect for both the glider and the tow plane.

Squadron 10's Cadet Commander, C/Capt Esme Chen, got her first three glider rides that day. She shared that "Glider Orientation Flights are incredibly exhilarating, and having the opportunity to experience them is only possible because of the amazing people in this program."

Special thanks to the Squadron 10 Commander, Capt Michael Gross, CAP, for flying 9 flights as a tow pilot, 2d Lt John Soliz, CAP, for helping with ground operations for the glider flights, and 2d Lt Jeffrey Ho, CAP, for managing the logistics of the orientation flights.

For cadets interested in Glider Orientation Flight, keep an eye on emails sent to you about upcoming O-Rides at your respective squadrons.

For parents wondering how your cadets can take advantage of such opportunities in CAP, check out the following document: [https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/OFlight\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_for\\_Parents\\_14C1B62017257.pdf](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/OFlight_Fact_Sheet_for_Parents_14C1B62017257.pdf)

Photos Credit: C/TSgt Abigail Fukuhara



C/TSgt Nadia Fukuhara got ready to glide.



Maj Van Henson gave a safety briefing pre-flight.



C/TSgt Abigail Fukuhara ran along the glide to help it took off.



Capt Michael Gross attached the rope to tow the glider.



C/CMSgt Meiling Chan waited for her glide to be attached to the tow plane.



C/Capt Esme Chen got ready to glide.



**EDUCATION AND TRAINING****FOOTWEAR IN GENERAL AVIATION: A SAFETY PERSPECTIVE****BY CAPT ORHAN BASER****Introduction**

General aviation, which encompasses a wide range of non-commercial aircraft operations, plays a vital role in today's transportation landscape. While safety is always a top priority for aviation enthusiasts, there are certain aspects of safety that might be overlooked, and one such aspect is the choice of footwear. In this article, we will explore the importance of proper footwear in general aviation and the potential consequences of neglecting this essential safety consideration.

**The Neglected Safety Aspect**

It's not uncommon to witness pilots and passengers strolling on the tarmac in flip-flops or sandals on their way to or from an aircraft. Such casual choices may seem harmless, but the reality is quite different. Aviation safety should extend beyond the confines of the cockpit, and this includes the attire of those in and around aircraft.



Photos credit:  
<https://www.vanemag.com/wearing-high-heels-at-the-airport/>  
and  
<https://mirvary.com/the-things-that-you-should-not-wear-during-a-flight/4/>

**Safety-First Mindset**

I personally adhere to a safety-first mindset when it comes to aviation, and this extends to my choice of footwear. When I embark on a ferryboat, bus, or plane, I assess my surroundings and consider how I can aid in an emergency. Equally important is the attire I select, particularly my choice of shoes, which should facilitate swift and safe movement in any weather condition.

Photo credit: <https://www.istockphoto.com/illustrations/think-safety-first>

**Regulations and Responsibility**

Curiously, there are no specific regulations pertaining to footwear in general aviation, and the same applies to commercial airlines. However, aviation regulations stress the importance of safe and responsible operation. According to 91.13 (a) - Careless or reckless operation: "No person may operate an aircraft in a careless or reckless manner so as to endanger the life or property of another." This regulation should be the guiding principle in all aspects of aviation safety, including attire.



Photo credit: <https://sassofia.com/tag/air-operations/page/2/>

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## FOOTWEAR IN GENERAL AVIATION...

... Continued

**The Main Message: Dress for Crash**

The central message in this discussion is simple but critical: Dress for Crash.

In a potential aircraft incident, clothing, including footwear, can make all the difference. Here are several reasons why the choice of footwear is of utmost importance:

1. **Protection from Falling Debris:** In the event of an under-panel furl or oil leak, bare skin can be susceptible to injury or burns. Adequate footwear can provide essential protection.
2. **Avoiding Entanglement:** Footwear should not dangle or impede movement, as it may lead to dangerous situations, such as getting caught during an emergency exit.
3. **Protecting Against Hot Surfaces:** When stepping onto hot pavement, the choice of footwear or bare feet can have a significant impact on your safety and comfort.
4. **Preventing Falls:** Any dangling footwear can be a tripping hazard, especially when climbing a ladder or navigating rough terrain.
5. **Preparing for Emergencies:** In case you need to walk long distances over uneven terrain following an accident, appropriate footwear is essential. This is particularly true if you plan to fly over snowy areas.
6. **Cabin Fire Safety:** Statistics reveal that approximately twenty percent of fatalities on US transport airlines between 1981 – 1990 were due to fires. In such situations, even sneakers can melt, potentially causing severe burns.

**The Takeaway**

In conclusion, the choice of footwear in general aviation should not be taken lightly.

Safety should always be the primary concern. A simple decision to wear appropriate footwear can make a substantial difference in the event of an emergency. With this in mind, flip-flops and sandals are not ideal choices. As aviation enthusiasts, it is our responsibility to be well-prepared for any situation. Consider the story of a 7-year-old girl who survived a plane crash in Kentucky and walked a mile to seek help. Such remarkable resilience underscores the importance of being adequately equipped for unforeseen circumstances.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2015/01/03/7-year-old-girl-survives-ky-plane-crash-walks-mile-to-house-for-help/>

In addition to appropriate footwear, consider other safety equipment, such as leather shoes or boots that are flame-resistant, lighter for starting fires, spare batteries for your devices, clothing suitable for extended waits, and essential supplies for survival. When flying over water, buoyancy devices can be a lifesaver. In general aviation, safety is a shared responsibility, and making the right choices regarding attire and equipment can significantly enhance your chances of a safe and successful journey.



Photo credit: <https://www.insidehook.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/hero-16.jpg?fit=1200%2C750>



**EDUCATION AND TRAINING****ROLE OF THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER  
FOR SENIOR MEMBERS****BY 1ST LT DAVID MCCROSSAN**

We are all familiar with the role of the noncommissioned officer (NCO) in the cadet side of CAP.

Less well known, but equally valuable to Civil Air Patrol, is the experience that prior adult NCOs bring from their prior years in the Service to CAP today. Around one-quarter of CAP Sq 44 senior members have prior experience in a branch of the service.

One such example is new member T/Sgt (ret.) Steve Lowery of Sq 44. With a 28-year career in the U.S. Air Force, Sgt Lowery has now been tapped to provide NCO guidance and training within the squadron for senior members.

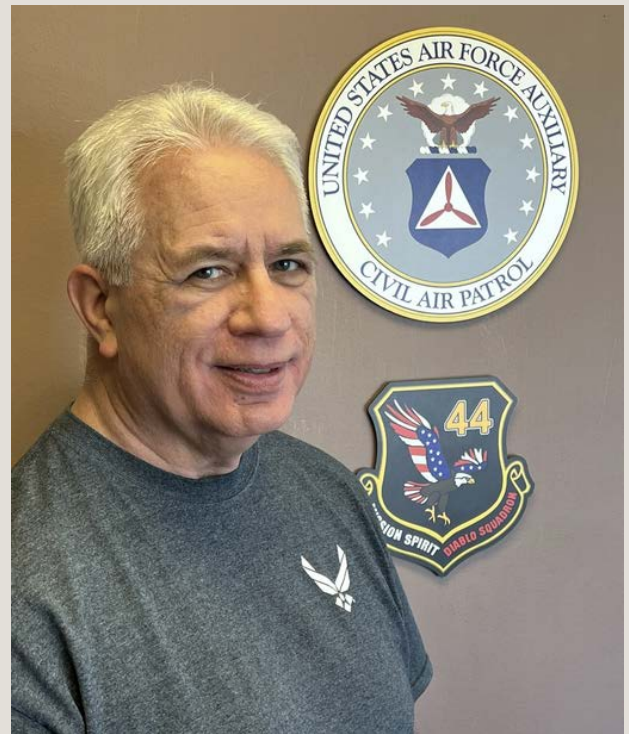
Speaking with members at the squadron in Concord in 2023, he explained: "In the Air Force, the NCO was both a resource and guiding hand for junior officers as they developed in their future leadership roles.

Members asked: "What did you learn as a leader in the NCO cadre in the Air Force that would be applicable to CAP?"

"Firstly, NCO are often the keepers of the corporate knowledge and they are also leaders in their own right, not just for the enlisted folks but as mentors to the junior officers in their own quest for improvements in their leadership skills.

With the influx of new senior members to our squadron after the pandemic years, there's clearly a role for senior member NCO in developing the unit's effectiveness and team cohesion. I'm looking forward to applying those skills here at Sq 44."

Sgt Lowery performed several roles during his Air Force service. After five years in parachute search and rescue, he became a maintainer on multiple aircraft types for over two decades. Those included several variants of the B-52, C-5, C-41 and C-130. The B-52 he was assigned to is now on static display at Travis AFB.



PT/ Sgt Steve Lowery  
Buchanan Field, Concord, CA

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## GROUP 2 EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS

BY MAJ RICHARD WEST



### Grover C Loening Award (Level 3)

Capt Hurst, Lumen (535383) [Sq18]  
2023-10-02  
Capt Breton, Keith H (634505) [Sq156]  
2023-11-23



### Benjamin O Davis Award (Level 2)

Certificate only, no Ribbon

2d Lt Vernica, Rares (697702) [Sq10]  
2023-10-03  
2d Lt Darby, Sean M (685246) [Sq13]  
2023-11-15



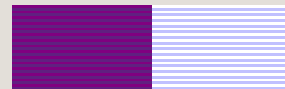
### Specialty Track Senior Rating (Silver Star on Leadership Ribbon)

1st Lt Pons, Miguel E (668506) [Sq13]  
Aerospace — 2023-11-27



### Specialty Track Senior Rating (Bronze Star on Leadership Ribbon)

Capt Mateos, Louise M (589244) [Gp2]  
Aerospace — 2023-09-12  
2d Lt Muresan, Elisa (686153) [Sq10]  
Aerospace — 2023-10-15



### Specialty Track Technician Rating (Leadership Ribbon)

SM Foster, Mary E (566393) [Sq192]  
Cadet Programs — 2023-09-25  
2d Lt Vernica, Rares (697702) [Sq10]  
Emergency Services — 2023-09-26  
1st Lt Salimi, Margaret (633943) [Sq188]  
Command — 2023-10-08  
2d Lt Darby, Sean M (685246) [Sq13]  
Aerospace — 2023-11-14

Sep, Oct, and Nov



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GROUP 2 EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS  
BY CAPT RICHARD WEST



Membership Ribbon (Level 1)

- SM Owen, Elise L (679500) [Sq13]  
2023-09-07
- 2d Lt Selder, Andrew T (711592) [Sq192]  
2023-09-27
- SM Towyenis, Sean T (710132) [Sq44]  
2023-10-02
- SM Laxman, Chandrashekar (702790) [Sq18]  
2023-10-04
- SM Foster, Mary E (566393) [Sq192]  
2023-10-22
- SM Wilkins, Penny (708470) [Sq18]  
2023-11-03
- SM Cochran, Scot R (677362) [Sq36]  
2023-11-28
- SM Jayaraman, Dwarak R (713433) [Sq18]  
2023-11-28
- SM Vu, Thienkhai H (712474) [Sq86]  
2023-11-28
- SM Chan, Gabby (682478) [Sq156]  
2023-11-29

Sep, Oct, and Nov

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA GROUP 2 TURNING 75 !

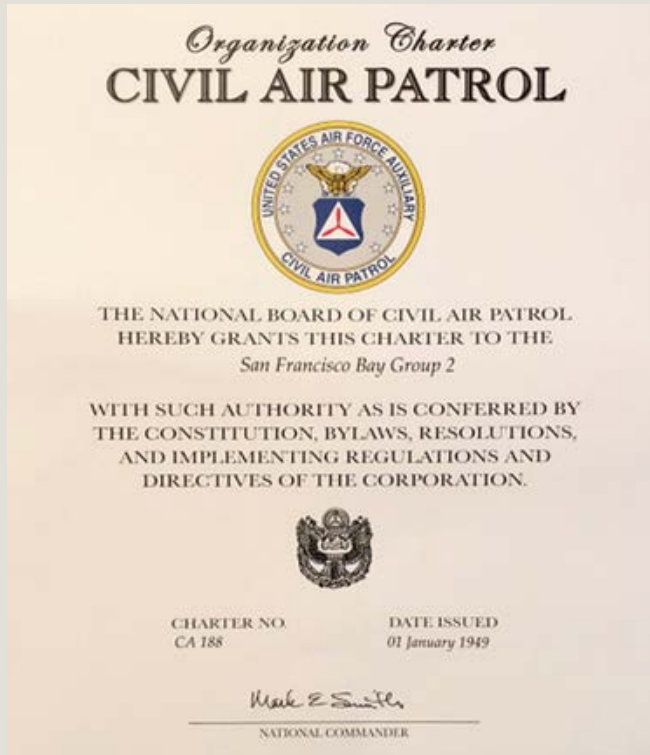


Photo credit: <https://group2ca.cap.gov/about/group-history>

Immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the entrance of the U.S. into World War II, the first wings and groups of the Civil Air Patrol were formed nation-wide. In **Northern California**, *Leonard B. Daniels* assumed command of the **nine counties of San Francisco Bay Area**. By 1944, there were enough squadrons in the San Francisco Bay Area to justify the creation of separate groups. The first two groups in the Bay Area were the Second Group located on the Peninsula and the Fourth Group located in the East Bay. Second Group was under the command of Captain Thomas Fair Neblett, and the Fourth Group was under the command of Captain Ray P. Bowman.

In December of 1945, Captain Neblett assumed a staff position at the California Wing Headquarters and command of Second Group was transferred to Captain Victor Rubon. In 1947, Captain Rubon turned over command to Major Edmund C. Fey.

**In January 1949**, Second Group was renamed **Group 2** and this was reflected in the first CAWG Unit Locator. Major Fey would serve as the Group 2 Commander into the 1950's. In 1953, Major Frank P. Amo was in command and would serve in the role until 1957.

In 1955, Group 2's name was changed to Peninsula Group 2. This name would remain until **1983** when the group was consolidated with others to form the current **San Francisco Bay Group 2**.

Let's organize a **Jubilee Party** for all Civil Air Patrol San Francisco Bay Group 2. Interested in helping out? Contact **2d Lt Elisa Muresan**, Group 2 Public Affairs Officer, [elisa.muresan@cawgcap.org](mailto:elisa.muresan@cawgcap.org)



### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### CAP Scholarships

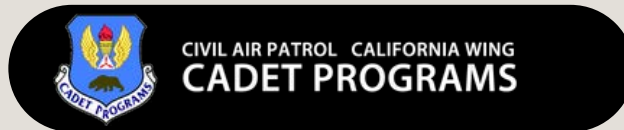
Application window VARIES



Many other excellent scholarship opportunities exist for CAP cadets. Though not affiliated with CAP, many CAP cadets have benefited from these opportunities.

Details: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/cadetinest/other-scholarship-opportunities>

Application windows vary



There are some scholarships exclusive to cadets in PCR or CAWG also available. Some include money for flying.

Details: [https://cawgcadets.org/wp/?page\\_id=35](https://cawgcadets.org/wp/?page_id=35)

#### EAA Scholarships and Ray Foundation Scholarship Funds

Application window is November 1st - varies



The Experimental Aircraft Association has two types of ways to fund flight training. One is more traditional scholarships available through their website to both members and non-members. The other for the Ray Foundation is specific to EAA members who are very active in their local chapters. The chapter must initiate the process. The Ray Foundation will generally award about \$12,000 which is usually a lot more than the other scholarships.

EAA Scholarships: <https://www.eaa.org/ea/learn-to-fly/scholarships>

Ray Aviation:

<https://www.eaa.org/ea/ea-chapters/ea-chapter-resources/chapter-programs-and-activities/ray-aviation-scholarship-fund>



**AOPA You Can Fly High School Scholarship** - Application window is September 5th - February 9th

This scholarship is for high school students aged 16-18. AOPA membership is required but membership is free for ages 13-18. This scholarship requires a passing score on the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test before applying. This scholarship can award \$10,000 each. AOPA does have other scholarships available too for various ages.

Details and application:

<https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/students/aopa-flight-training-scholarships#scholarshipsListing>

Knowledge Test Resources for Cadets: <https://vimeo.com/696586554/e0313dfc07>

### END OF YEAR 'THINGS'

#### FIRST-EVER SQUADRON 86 EVENT BOOK!

BY C/CMSGT ZORIANNA MUI

In June, I introduced our original plans to create a yearbook, but this project has now transformed into an event book. I am incredibly grateful for everyone who has contributed to this project, including those who have submitted photos and especially our public affairs team (C/TSgt Izabella Y. Chan and 2d Lt Chanda R. Seymour).

And thus, I am pleased to announce the release of our first-ever Squadron 86 event book! This digital event book, linked on the front page below, covers cadet activities from July 2022 to July 2023.



Squadron 86 holiday party on 12 Dec 2023.  
Photo credit: 1st Lt Larry Wong

#### END-OF-YEAR MINI GOLF GATHERING - SQUADRON 10

BY C/CMSGT ABIGAIL FUKUHARA

On Saturday, 16 December 2023, Squadron 10 cadets and senior members gathered at Golfland to celebrate the closing of another wonderful year! There was a friendly golf competition with prizes sponsored by the Chen family along with a potluck. Among the attendees were a few distinguished guests: our former Squadron Commander, Lt Col Elsie Lam, and former Deputy Commander for Cadets, Capt Louise Mateos – thank you for coming to the party! A huge thank you to our current Deputy Commander for Cadets, 1st Lt Chen, for orchestrating this fantastic event. Looking forward to another amazing year!



Photos credit: 2d Lt Jeffrey Ho

#### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES - SQUADRON 188

BY 1ST LT JOSE ALVAREZ

As Amelia Earhart (Senior) Squadron 188 transition into a new year, we confront a set of challenges that demand our collective attention and strategic planning. Our Commitment to staying at the forefront of innovation will be crucial in optimizing our search & rescue capabilities and ensuring the safety of those we serve.

The dynamic nature of emergency response requires continuous training and preparedness. Squadron 188 is keenly aware of the importance of staying ahead of involving challenges, we are dedicated to enhancing the skills of our members to meet the demands of ever-changing emergency service landscape. Strengthening ties with the community is on going challenge that requires sustained efforts. Squadron 188 is committed to fostering relationships with local government and organizations and promoting a sense of unity that transcends the boundaries of emergency response.



Photos credit:  
1st Lt Jose Alvarez



### END OF YEAR 'THINGS'

## A SNAPSHOT IN SQUADRON 13

BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

Santa Cruz Composite Squadron 13 is based at the Watsonville Airport in Watsonville, California (in Santa Cruz County). The squadron consists of both Senior and Cadet Members working collaboratively toward meaningful projects and CAP missions in Emergency Services, Aerospace Education, and Cadet Programs. The cadets meet every Tuesday from 6:30 - 9:00 PM, while senior members meet on the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of every month, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

1st Lt Lynne Owen, Group 2 Cadet Programs Officer of Year, with 2 Honors Cadets and graduates of 2023 NCOS. L-R: Cadets Bossaert, Netter, Yuste, Caldwell, Cunha.

Mitchell Award recipient, C/2d Lt Samuel Low.

Pre-flight class by C/MSgt Nona Lily Netter.

Squadron 13 proudly celebrated the Eaker Award of C/Lt Col Liam McKinnon.

L-R: C/CMSgt Isaac Garcia at USMA and USAFA C1C Cliff Owen with his parents at USAFA.

1st Lt Mike Pons flying one of the FREE engine-powered orientation flights for cadets Yuste and Brooks.

Photos credit: 1st Lt Lynne Owen, Col Craig Newton.

## SQUADRON 80 IN A THUMBNAIL BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

San Jose Senior Squadron 80 meets every Monday (except Federal holidays) from 1930-2100 (7:30pm-9:00pm) at the Reid-Hillview Airport. This squadron is one of only 2 squadrons for senior members only. In 2023, squadron 80 has hosted various missions for Civil Air Patrol successfully, through active participation of its senior members. This award winning senior squadron is looking forward to fly high in 2024.

Photos credit: 2d Lt Naga Prasad



Change of Command from outgoing squadron 80 commander, (then) Capt Richard West, to incoming commander, Capt Isaac Wilson.



2d Lt Kevin Le received an award for his outstanding service.



(Then) Capt Richard West received an award for his outstanding service as the outgoing squadron commander.



Capt Isaac Wilson is looking forward to cultivate collaborations with the USAF through Major Albert Ye, CAP-USAFA liaison in the Bay area.



End-of-2023 Holiday Party for squadron 80 members.

## LAST MONTH OF 2023 AT SQUADRON 44 BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

Diablo Composite Squadron 44 holds regular Cadet meetings every Monday (except major holidays) at 1845 (6:45pm local time), at the Buchanan Field Airport Clubhouse (200 Buchanan Field Road, Concord, CA). Senior Members meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday's of the month. The award-winning squadron 44 cadets provide Color Guard services for local events, participate actively in life-saving Emergency Services, and annually volunteer to respectfully place wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes. On Monday, December 18, Squadron 44 celebrated the end of 2023 with an Aerospace Education Jeopardy and Physical Training competition.





### END OF YEAR 'THINGS'

## A YEAR IN SQUADRON 192

BY MAJ IAN HARRIS

The West Bay Composite Squadron 192 is based at the San Carlos Airport and meets every Tuesday evening from 1900-2100.

As 2023 comes to an end, we are excited for 2024 and beyond. We are honored to have earned the **Quality Cadet Unit Award (QCUA)** for the second year in a row, as well as the **Aerospace Education Excellence Award**, in 2023.

Our cadet program has been outstanding and has brought us much pride. Our cadets have taken on leadership and staff roles at every major event in the Wing in 2023. They have also received numerous awards, such as the Meritorious Service Award, the Commander's Commendation Award, the Achievement Award, and the Aerospace Education California Wing Cadet of the Year Award.

We are off to a strong start in 2024 !



**CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
**WEST BAY COMPOSITE SQ 192**  
**CALIFORNIA WING**  
**2023**



Photo collage credit: 1st Lt Nicholas Pegis



### END OF YEAR 'THINGS'

## JASON M. DAHL CADET SQUADRON 36

BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

Squadron 36 is named after Jason M. Dahl. Jason M. Dahl was a member of Squadron 36 in the early 70's. Jason had a passion for aviation and worked fueling aircraft at Reid-Hillview Airport to pay for his flight lessons. Jason earned his Pilots license before he was 18. He worked his way up to being a commercial pilot. Captain Dahl was a check captain of United Airlines Flight 93 (N591UA) when hijackers stormed the cockpit on September 11, 2001. Flight 93 crashed in a Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania, field after a struggle between the hijackers, the passengers, and the crew. All 44 people on board died. While the hijackers' intended target is unknown, the 9/11 Commission Report cites the actions of the passengers and crew in preventing the destruction of the White House or the U.S. Capitol Building. On September 11, 2020, the 19th anniversary of the worse terrorist attack on American soil, San Francisco Bay Group 2 recognized one of their own: Jason M. Dahl, Captain, United Airlines Flight 93 (N591UA) November 2, 1957 - September 11 2001.

In **August of 2023**, Squadron 36 secured permission to change their name from the John J. Montgomery Memorial Cadet Squadron 36 to the **Jason M. Dahl Cadet Squadron 36**. We feel that Captain Jason M. Dahl's hard work ethic, passion for aviation and courage are a role model that our cadets can strive for.



Aerospace Education Community Outreach.



Change of command for cadet commander.

Photos credit: Public Affairs Team of Squadron 36



C/SMSgt Wallace working on his private pilot license.



Maj Steven Angus taught C/SMSgt Stefanioutine how to get CAP vehicle ready for any mission.



Aerospace Education activity at the squadron.



Drill training at the last meeting day of 2023.



Character Development on Patience.



Emergency Services training by Capt Welch.

2023 ESTA participation by squadron 36.



## TRI-VALLEY COMPOSITE SQUADRON 156 BY 2D LT ELISA MURESAN

Tri-Valley Composite Squadron is based in Livermore, California. Our adult members meet every Wednesday evening from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Livermore Airport Terminal Building, and our cadet members meet from 6:30 – 9:00 PM at Five Rivers Aviation.



Photos credit: Public Affairs team of squadron 156



### END OF YEAR 'THINGS'

## ANNUAL BANQUET - SQUADRON 18 - FIREBIRDS HERITAGE

BY 1ST LT TERESA FONTANILLA

Event Commander, **C/1st Lt Alexander Nouripour**, brought his vision of a Firebirds Heritage to life. The Color Guard team, emcee **1st Lt Nouripour**, and supporting staff cadets united to create a memorable night for approximately 130 attendees of the Firebirds Annual Banquet.

In a heartfelt tribute, they honored their Firebird brother, **Kenneth "K3" Sturgill**, whose inspiring story is shared at encampment each year since his passing in 2016.

Two distinguished guest speakers who represented the Firebirds' spirit spoke at the event. One of them was **Warrant Officer One Luke Beck**, a former high ranking **Firebird Spaatz cadet** and current CAP Adult Member, **Captain Luke Beck-Fridell**. He told his story of joining the Army National Guard, trained to be a Chinook helicopter pilot, and earned the rank and grade of Warrant Officer One, which signified a specialized and experienced individual holding a position of authority within his field. He credited Civil Air Patrol as the family who supported him through his highs and lows.

**LTC Marisol Chalas**, the first Latina Black Hawk helicopter pilot, shared her personal journey as a Hispanic from the Dominican Republic, who achieved the American Dream with the help of her family, friends, and mentors. As she parted, Chalas left the audience with a challenge. "We are stronger because of diversity. Volunteer more in your communities, and give back to those around you through volunteering, mentoring, and coaching. We must strive for equality."

Firebird commander, **1st Lt. Teresa Fontanilla**, expressed gratitude for the support of parents and adult members for cadets. She praised Squadrons 18 and 188's adult members for their pivotal roles in shaping the program. Celebrating cadet achievements, she encouraged them to explore beyond the squadron's walls, emphasizing untapped potential within everyone. Fontanilla concluded with a 2024 challenge, encouraging volunteering, aiding others, and exploring Aerospace and Emergency services. She emphasized the importance of unity: "We are better together than if we are alone."

Special Acknowledgement to Commander Curt Strommem, American Legion Post 837, the Building Manager of the Historical Niles Veterans Memorial Building, for making this happen.

### Soar high, Firebirds!



Squadron 18 received the Quality Cadet Unit Award for 7 consecutive years.



Awards for Capt Hurst and C/Capt Ava Fontanilla.



Presenting the Colors and Honoring the POW MIA.



Distinguished speaker LTC Marisol Chalas, the first Latina Black Hawk helicopter pilot.



Distinguished speaker Warrant Officer 1 Luke Beck, a former Firebirds' cadet captain.



Remembering "K3"





2024 WISHES



Educate



Motivate

Accelerate

Anticipate



Facilitate

Innovate