

# **KEYSTONE WING SLIP**

## **Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol**

### **News Magazine**

#### **May 2006 - Vol. 23**

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**FEATURE STORY**  
**THE SEARCH FOR**  
***CARLY'S* GRANDFATHER,**  
**(See story on page 1)**



To: The PAWG membership,

Once again you have demonstrated what a powerful force the Pennsylvania Wing is in the Civil Air Patrol. During the recent mission for Mr. David Weiss of the Congressional Flying Club, you came through in force. Supporting the Maryland Wing by opening a ground base in St Thomas, Pennsylvania with over 150 ground search members participating in this week long operation. Captain Bill Kees and Major Bret Stemrich probably responded the furthest distance. Joining ground teams from West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland a force of approximately 250 went on the hunt under the direction of Lieutenant Colonels; Richard Runyan, Tom Jensen, and Majors, Herb Cahalen and Jeff Riley. Our own Captain Ogdon brought new technology to bear on the situation, using cell phone tower information he developed the high area of probability that lead to the find.

The air operation was impressive; I arrived late Saturday morning to a flight line of over 35 CAP aircraft. Greeted by the friendly face of Captain Chris Comly of Squadron 907, on flight line duty, the PAWG presence was felt immediately. During the week, hundreds of CAP aircraft flew into the Hagerstown, MD airfield. CAP operated the GA-8 with the archer system, for the first time in the North East Region, on a mission. Only days after it's arrival the new system was pressed into service. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Meinert, Captain Arnie Andresen and Captain Bruce Russell aided in air operations and mission management during the week long mission. The CAP effort was aided by the Maryland State Police aviation division and the ground troops were aided by Maryland State Troopers.

The two adult sons of Mr. Weiss made the find on Sunday afternoon concluding the most intense search since the loss of Mr. Scott Crossfeild in the Georgia Wing. Unfortunately Mr. Weiss did not survive the initial impact of the crash. The heavily wooded area was impossible to see from the air and barely visible from the ground. Major Stemrich the Group IV Commander said "this was some of the most difficult terrain he had ever searched". (He had searched the top of the "Punch Bowl" with Group IV personnel early in the operation.)

This mission was by no means flawless but, the PAWG effort was superior. From the youngest ground team member to the most experienced senior pilots, your efforts can only be described as "Herculean."

I would also be remiss if I did not CONGRATULATE our newest Spaatz Cadet; Cadet Colonel Erin Nelson of Captain Bob Frost's Squadron, (the Golden Triangle Composite Squadron 603). The first PAWG Spaatz award recipient in the last 2 years. C/Col Nelson received "the big check" for a \$1,000 scholarship for education after graduation from High School.

Congratulations PAWG you have demonstrated "what you are made of" once again!

M. ALLEN APPLEBAUM, Colonel, CAP  
Commander

**"Service before Self"**

# Searching for Carly's Grandfather

*(Story as reported by CAP Press Releases)*

**Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA - April 27, 2006** - the Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air, sent ground teams and air crews to join in on extensive searching for an overdue airplane in the area surrounding a cell phone tower in St. Thomas, Pa.

The search area is based on a suggestion from Verizon, because the cell phone belonging to the pilot of the missing aircraft is believed to be in that area.

CAP aircraft will be operating in the air today over St. Thomas, PA., and the ground teams will be continuing ground searching in the same area.

The search, which has been ongoing throughout since Tuesday evening, April 25, is being conducted with aircrews and ground teams from CAP's Maryland and Pennsylvania Wings. Virginia Wing has also now joined in on the search.

The air search was halted around 9:00 PM due to loss of daylight but was scheduled to resume searching this morning.

Ground teams have conducted interviews of several potential witnesses, who called in with information. Ground team members will be lodged overnight at the Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pa. The ground teams were expected to begin their search again around 7:00 A.M. Major Herbert Cahalen and Lt Col Richard Runyan have been pleased with the number of CAP volunteers that have joined the ground search teams. "We have at least 100 members report yesterday and another 100 volunteers from several states are expected to join us today", said Major Cahalen, Pennsylvania's Ground Search Team Director. "It is a good solid effort with Pennsylvania and the neighboring states," said Colonel M. Allen Applebaum, Commander of the Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol. "I am impressed by the numbers of volunteers from our Wing," continued Colonel Applebaum.

The search was activated by the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base after contact was lost with David K. Weiss, 72, of Bethesda Md., who took off shortly after noon on Tuesday, April 25 from Gaithersburg Airport in Maryland, and was due back at 2:30 p.m.

He was flying a blue and white Cessna 172, operated by the Congressional Flying Club. Last contact with the pilot was when the aircraft was leaving the Washington Air Defense Identification Zone at 12:17 P.M. on April 15. Weiss was seen conducting a pre-flight inspection of the aircraft by himself, so it is believed that he was the only person on board.

Weiss, a member of the CAP, was not flying a CAP airplane or participating in a CAP activity.

## **Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Reports Find on Missing Aircraft But Saddened by Loss of Life.**

**Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA - May 1, 2006** - members of the Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol were part of a multi state effort in the search for a missing aircraft. Missing since Tuesday, April 25, 2006, pilot and CAP member, 72 year old David K. Weiss, was found deceased in the missing aircraft around 12:45 p.m., yesterday in an area called the "punch bowl" just north of the Pennsylvania state line.

Mission planners designed a search area focused on all faces of the "punch bowl" mountain formation in Maryland and Pennsylvania. The body of David Weiss was discovered in the wreckage of the Cessna he was piloting. The pilot's sons, Steve and Mark Weiss, located the crash site and were joined by the CAP's Ground Team Alpha already at the top of the mountain and descending to search the steep western slopes of "two-top mountain" leading into the punch bowl.



*Pilot and CAP member,  
David K. Weiss, of  
Bethesda, Maryland*

*(story continued on page 2)*

## Searching for Carly's Grandfather continued

"Thanks to all the CAP personnel from the many wings that participated in this search. It was a taxing challenge," said Lt. Col. Kevin Redman, CAP's incident commander for the mission. "Right now, please direct your thoughts and prayers to the family", he said.

The pilot's cell phone was tracked by a Verizon tower in the area of St. Thomas. FAA radar plot indicated it is where he was flying, and witnesses had reported seeing or hearing something consistent with an airplane crash. Weiss took off shortly after noon on April 25 from Gaithersburg Airport in Maryland, and was due back at 2:30 p.m. He was flying a blue and white Cessna 172, operated by the Congressional Flying Club. Last contact with the pilot was when the aircraft was leaving the Washington Air Defense Identification Zone at 12:17 p.m.

CAP used the Airborne Real-time Cueing Hyper spectral Enhanced Recon (ARCHER) system in its newest aircraft -- the Gippsland GA8 Airvan -- which has the capability to identify specific objects or substances when light that is reflected from an object matches a spectral signature that is identified as an anomaly. A Maryland State Police Helicopter also flew in support of the search and rescue mission, coordinating assistance from a search and rescue mounted team provided by Trail Riders of Today and a ground team from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

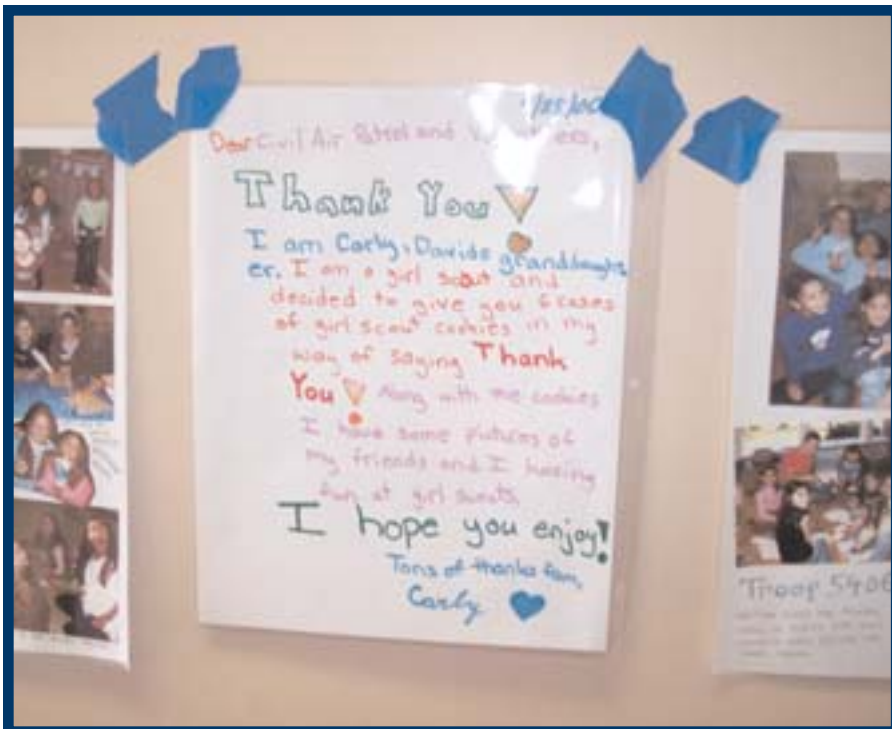
In addition to Pennsylvania Wing members, CAP members from its wings in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, National Capital, and North Carolina participated in the mission, as well as units from CAP's North East Region and the Congressional Squadron. Participants in the search received meals from the Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross and lodging from the Maugansville-Goodwill Fire Co.

*Editor's note: I would like to thank the following for their contributions to this story:*

*Article information/background - Captain Steven Solomon, CAP, Maryland Wing Public Affairs.*

*Photography (cover and page 2) - James J. Colgon, III, TFO, CAP*

*And to the Weiss family, on behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol, we send our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your loved one and regret that we could not have done more. We wish to thank Carly, David's granddaughter, for being so brave and for supporting the searchers. Her desire in wanting to help in some way, touched this editor. (See photo below.) We respectfully send our final salute to CAP member, David Weiss.*



*Message posted at mission command post.  
Given to the volunteers by David Weiss' granddaughter, Carley.*

<b>TUESDAY MAY 30TH</b>		<b>Time: 7:30 P.M.</b>
		
<b>OPEN HOUSE</b>	<b>FORMER BLUE ANGELS PILOT CAPTAIN FRED STANKOVICH GUEST SPEAKER</b>	
<b>AND FREE BBQ</b>	<small>THE QUAKERTOWN SQUADRON OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL INVITE EVERYONE TO BE THEIR GUEST AT A SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE COME LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CIVIL AIR PATROL AND HEAR OUR SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER</small>	
	<small>SQUADRON 994 CAP HANGAR MILFORD SQUARE PIKE QUAKERTOWN AIRPORT</small>	
	<small>FOR MORE INFORMATION: 215-538-0555</small>	

**REGIONAL CADET LEADERSHIP SCHOOL  
FORT INDIANTOWN GAP  
JUNE 17-24**

**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING EXCEPTED**

**COST IS  
STUDENTS \$175 STAFF \$150**

**APPLICATION PACKETS INCLUDE  
CAP Form 31 CLS application - (2 copies)  
(please omit page 2)**

**CAP Form 60 Emergency Notification (2 copies)  
Ft. Indiantown GAP Hold Harmless Agreement  
PA Wing Medical Emergency Parental Consent Form**

**Deadline is MAY 31 2006**

**Send application and check made payable to;  
"PA Wing Civil Air Patrol."**

**PA Wing Civil Air Patrol  
Attn: CLS  
Building 3-108, Fort Indiantown GAP  
Annville Pa 17003  
or  
Captain Kim Makins  
716 2nd Ave  
Royersford Pa 19468**

**Any questions please feel free to call me at 610-792-0956 or email  
me at Makins812@earthlink.net or on the web at  
PAWG.CAP.GOV  
Cadet Leadership School**

**It is a requirement that cadets complete the school prior to  
serving on staff at other PA Wing schools such as Encampment.  
All cadets who wish to attend CLS must have first completed  
an Encampment.**



Yes it's that time of year for **Mid Atlantic Air Museum WWII weekend**, held on the grounds of Reading Airport, Reading Pa. Step back in time to 1944, and witness P-51 Mustangs flying over head along with a Fairchild-24, markings defining it as a CAP coastal patrol airplane. It's one of the most memorable history lessons you will ever experience.

This year our encampment will be located along side Civil Defense (in the American Home Front area) look for our GP small tent with a pried CAP flag flying under the U S stars & stripes. Joining our CAP garrison, we are excited to have Roger Thiel a renowned historian on CAP Coastal Patrol and CAP National Curator, Lt. Col. William Schell.

Mark these dates on your calendar, June 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 2006! For more information, check the web site at [www.maam.org/maamwwii.html](http://www.maam.org/maamwwii.html)

Looking forward to see you their!

*George Brizek, CAP S/M*



*Colonel Applebaum,*

*Thank you for the very nice letter inviting me and family members to the 50th anniversary of the Hawk Mountain Training Center. For sure my husband and I will be able to attend and I feel several of dad's grandchildren. I had rotator cuff surgery a month ago and am still not able to write so I am answering via email. The article and celebration are very exciting to us since the CAP meant so much to dad and it's continuing growth is marvelous.*

*Also, thank you for mailing hard copies of the very well written article and picture of dad. I passed copies on to my sister and brother who thoroughly enjoyed reading the article and having the picture which we had never seen. Eagerly looking forward to meeting you and attending the celebration.*

*Sincerely,*

*Louise Neuweiler Furst*

# CAP DAY AT THE CAPITOL

## TWENTY-ONE CAP MEMBERS SPEND A DAY VISITING PENNSYLVANIA'S LEGISLATORS



*Major Richard Gray presents Representative, (Major), Richard Geist with his Certificate of Membership for the PA Legislative Squadron*

Members in Attendance for CAP Day  
in the Capitol:

### CADETS

Edwin Forteza  
Tom Stern  
Ryan Edwards  
Kevin Meinert  
Emily Rentschler  
Patrick Roach  
Jeannie Tso  
Donald Floyd  
Michael Doyle  
John To  
Andrew Gracey  
Mike Bilz  
Michael Williams  
Sterling Coerna

### SENIOR MEMBERS

Maj Reginald McDonald  
1Lt Dale Williams  
Capt Robert Frost  
1Lt Linda Irwin  
Major Richard Gray  
Lt Col Robert Meinert &  
Capt Harold Roach  
*(Capt Roach is employed  
as a guard for the House  
of Representatives and  
offered directions to the  
offices of certain  
Legislators that the mem-  
bers wanted to visit.)*

Lt Col Robert L. Meinert and twenty other members of the Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol spent the 25th of April visiting the Legislators in the Capitol.

Lt Col Meinert presented members of the Legislative Squadron their personal membership certificate and spoke to the group on Civil Air Patrol's gratitude for their continued support. With the aid of cadets, he assembled everyone in front of the stairs in the main Rotunda where he called upon those representatives that attended, to step forward and receive a Certificate of Commendation for their support.

A special presentation was made to Representative Richard Keller, which included a replica of a 1940's Civil Air Patrol Piper Cub.

The representatives were also invited to a luncheon that the PA Wing provided.



*Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol Cadets pose in front of the display they assembled in the main Rotunda of the Capitol.*

# CAP DAY AT THE CAPITOL

## MANNING THE CAP DISPLAY AND VISITING WITH THE LEGISLATORS, CREATES A BUSY DAY FOR MEMBERS

CAP Day was planned for weeks, choosing April 25, 2006, to be the day for the CAP visitation. It was a “session” day, so all members of the General Assembly were expected to be in Harrisburg.

Activities for the day included setting up a CAP display and meeting and greeting all those that passed by; handing them CAP literature, pens, pencils and copies of the Wing Slip. A luncheon was prepared and all Legislators that were greeted as well as the Keystone Legislative Squadron, were invited to have lunch with the cadets.

During the luncheon, Senator (Lt Col) Robert Robbins, spent time visiting with the cadets. He asked them where they attended school, what grade they were in and what goals they plan to pursue after graduation. He spoke to them in length and shared valuable career information. He thanked them for serving the Commonwealth and expressed how proud he was of them.



*A special presentation was made to Representative Richard Keller, which included a replica of a 1940's Civil Air Patrol Piper Cub, by Pennsylvania Wing's Executive Director, Lt Col Robert Meinert.*

Senator Robbins also interviewed the Cadets and Senior Member, Captain Robert Frost for his Public Television show. With the camera rolling, he went about and interviewed every cadet that was present at that time.

Captain Robert Frost and Major Reginald McDonald escorted cadets to visit with Legislators and many of them spent quite a deal of time talking with the Cadets about the CAP Program. Assisting and escorting as well, was 1Lt Dale Williams.

It was hoped that the Cadets would be able to recognize the former Speaker of the House, Representative Matthew Ryan, but with the session going on “hot and heavy”, he was unable to join CAP, but plans are in the works to visit with him in the near future.



*Lt Col Robert Meinert presents Representative, (Major), Ronald Marisco with a Certificate of Commendation for his support of the Civil Air Patrol.*

### MATING SEASON?

1. Reference PAWG Staff Meeting last month - we were shown pictures of a birds nest found under the cowl- ing of a CAP A/C. This was a potentially dangerous situation and required maintenance personnel to have it removed.
2. This is the mating and nesting season for many birds, rodents, squirrels, and etc. While cowl plugs may not entirely prevent contamination, it can certainly make it more difficult for some pest creatures. You are reminded to always install provided **Cowl Plugs and Pitot Covers** when the A/C is un-attended. If your A/C is NOT equipped with plugs, call Harold Aaron immediately for a replacement. These are standard equipment on ALL CAP AIRCRAFT.
3. Here are some tips to spot nesting materials:
  - A. Always give the A/C a thorough preflight looking into all access holes in the cowl- ing and tail sections (always carry a small flashlight and maybe a small inspection mirror to make the job more thorough).
  - B. Examine the area around the aircraft for signs of nesting material directly under and around the A/C.
  - C. Listen carefully for movement or chirping sounds from un-welcome guests.



**THERE WERE NO COWL PLUGS INSTALLED  
IN THIS AIRCRAFT!**

- Lt Col Ray Whetstine, Director of Safety PAWG

### 74 Thousand Emergency Room Visits Caused by Lawn Cutting

Apr. 21, 2006 - In today's *Health Journal*, it's lawn cutting season, and believe it or not, that means more trips to the emergency room. The study of 9-years of data, published in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, found that lawn mower injuries were cause for an average of about 74-thousand emergency room visits each year. The number one reason? Flying debris from under the mower hitting a body part or entering an eye. For older adults, it was also the over-strain of mowing along with slipping or falling down while pushing the mower. So, if you want to stay out of those crowded emergency rooms, use safety goggles, wear protective gloves, and don't mow your grass when it's wet. (Credit; WKBW Buffalo, NY)



- Lt Col. Joseph Pelletier, CAP, PAWG Ass't Safety Officer

### Middle School Students Visit Space Day At Penn State

Middle School students participated in this weekend's seventh annual Space Day at Penn State University. "Space Day is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium in partnership with the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Earth and Mineral Sciences, Education, Engineering, and Health and Human Development, and the Eberly College of Science.

A mix of exhibits, interactive activities and presentations, Space Day is an opportunity to let the mind wander into unknown realms in galaxies far, far away or experience a birds' eye view of our own planet."



**ONE OF OUR OWN, continued**

Colonel Neuweiler was presented with many awards during his tenure many of which included ribbons and should have worn, did not wear any on his uniform. He chose not to. He once told me but I cannot exactly recall, but it had to do with earning them under combat conditions for which they were reserved. It was some kind of personal thing with him.

Over the course of his tenure he entertained a number of local, national, Government and service dignitaries which included the infamous General Carl Spaatz. In 1955, he flew to Washington along with several other CAP members making President Eisenhower a member in the Pennsylvania Wing. Again another first and similar to what we do today on a State and local level, except in his case it was the President of the United States. Are you surprised? In many ways he was a pathfinder for CAP but most of all a visionary. It is ironic that CAP today has come full circle in its mission that is similar in scope when CAP was initially formed, the

mission of Homeland Security in which we are involved today, 65 years later. There is so much more that can be said about Colonel Neuweiler and it would take a couple of newsletters to tell the entire story. If the book is published on the 65th Anniversary Edition of CAP next year, hopefully there should be some photographs of his activities within the book and you can get a good idea as to the level of involvement and type man he was. His picture accompanying this article gives you a small depiction of a well disciplined and professional individual.



Colonel Neuweiler served as Wing Commander up until 1969. His departure as Wing Commander was a stormy as his CAP career. Those of us who were there the night he was to be honored for his outstanding and distinguished career in CAP, turned out to be the end of his stewardship and long reign as the Pennsylvania Wing Commander. To me it was a stunning event and those in the Wing that experienced it, felt it as well. Neuweiler did not stay for the event and left not to be heard from again. He developed cancer some time before this event and this was probably a factor in his behavior compounded by the fact the bankruptcy proceedings were closing the brewery which didn't make for a particularly good time in his life. His departure from an organization which he developed into one of the best wings in CAP which he loved so much was untimely. Many of us felt there should have been more consideration and discretion in the manner and timing of this particular event.

Colonel Neuweiler retired to his farm in Pike County Pennsylvania where he eventually passed away in 1975. At the time of his death he was a far cry from the man he was in stature, physically and financially. If anyone is a CAP Icon it is he. In a letter I received prior to his passing, he answered a lot questions that I had, having challenged him on a few issues and decisions he made while he was the Wing Commander which I felt needed to be cleared up only for my personal curiosity. He did. All I can say was he was tough. He always did what he had to do and just pressed on. He was an advocate of "full speed ahead and damned the torpedoes". Without that kind of attitude at that most formative time in our Wings history, we wouldn't be the Wing we are today. And, how did the Wing get there? His answer with which he left me was a good piece of advice and that was, "the formula for failure is to try and please everybody". I am passing that bit of advice on to you just as he passed it on to me, because it's true!

(Part three of a three part story by, Colonel Paul R. Kopczynski, Pa. Wing Historian. Parts one and two can be found in the March and April issues of the Pennsylvania Wing Keystone Wing Slip.)

*My thanks to Richard Ludwig, Herb Cahalen and Tom Jensen for filling in the blanks.*



## CADET MOSS EARNS HIS WINGS

"Cadet Nate Moss (361311) soloed in N99467 at Deck airport on Friday evening. In attendance were many family and friends. Nate performed 2 touch-and-goes followed by a full-stop landing. Waiting to greet him were his parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and friends. Also waiting for him was his instructor Maj Bruce Russell (Hq Group 2). Maj Russell congratulated Cadet Moss, addressed the assembly, and awarded Nate his CAP Solo Wings."

*Cadet Moss is a member of the Jesse Jones Composite Squadron, 304, (Lancaster AP)*

**CONGRATULATIONS CADET MOSS!**

## GROUP 4 CADET OF THE QUARTER

It is my pleasure to announce that C/2nd Lt Adam Jones, of Bangor Slate Composite Squadron 807, has been chosen as the Northeast Pennsylvania Group 4 Cadet of the First Quarter, 2006.

The Group 4 Cadet of the Quarter is nominated by their Squadron Commanders through a "nameless" biography which is then submitted to the Group Cadet Advisory Council who then selects the award recipient. The four awarded Cadets throughout the year will then compete for the Group Cadet of the Year.

Congratulations Cadet Jones on your fine work not only in CAP, but in the community as well. You are a credit unto us.

Semper Vigilans,  
Maj Bret Stemrich, Group Commander

## 203 HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND



Squadron 203, the Hazelton Composite Squadron held a "Change of Command" within the Cadet status during a ceremony conducted by 203 Squadron Commander, Captain Dave Wilson.

From left to right; Captain Dave Wilson, Cadet C/MSgt Theresa Hildenbrand, Guidon Bearer and C/ 1Lt Jeremy Zanolini, incoming Cadet Commander.

**CONGRATS TO CADET COMMANDER JEREMY ZANOLINI**



*Left: Cadet Rentschler poses with Canadian Air Cadets.*

*Right: Mayor Anspach presents key to the city of Lebanon*



## 307 HOSTS ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

Civil Air Patrol Lebanon Squadron 307 had the distinction and honor of hosting approximately fifty members of the 734th Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, based at Alliston, Ontario, on Wednesday March 15th, at the Lebanon V.F.W. Post # 23.

Cadets and senior members from both squadrons enjoyed the camaraderie of being together, and exchanged items of their respective uniforms as a gesture of good will. Topics of discussion during this social affair included both squadron's roles in serving their communities, along with similarities in there Cadet Aerospace and Leadership Programs.

In another friendly gesture of good will, Lebanon Mayor Bob Anspach presented the Canadians with the key to the city of Lebanon, and a Pennsylvania State Flag was presented on behalf of State Representative Mauree Gingrich.

The 734th Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron came together with Civil Air Patrol Squadron 307 while staying at Fort Indiantown Gap during their tour of the USA which included the Gettysburg Battlefield and an overnight stay aboard the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown at Patriots Point, North Carolina.

*- contributed by Cadet Major Thomas Carr*

**PENNSYLVANIA WING CIVIL AIR PATROL ENCAMPMENT**  
**JULY 22-29, 2006**  
**FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, ANNVILLE, PA 17003**

## HAWK MOUNTAIN RANGER PROGRAM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

*(Part 2 of a 3 part story by, Major Anne Gibbons)*

### **HISTORY OF THE RANGER PROGRAM**

The program began in 1953, when a group of volunteers responded to the need to create a cohesive training program for ground support in air search missions. Through their efforts and dedication, a program was born. The earliest days of the PAWG Ranger School were not in Pennsylvania at all. It began with USAF Para- rescue and survival instructors training volunteers at Westover AFB, Massachusetts. Because of the student's dedication, motivation, and enthusiasm, the instructors called them Rangers. The name "Ranger" has remained ever since.

The driving forces for the development of this ground search and rescue training were the then PAWG Commander, Col. John Neuweiler, and Chaplain, Col. John Weaver. Col. Neuweiler was an entrepreneur who had several very successful businesses. Col. Weaver, who became the first Hawk Mountain Summer Survival School commander, was not the stereotypical quiet, humble preacher.

These men realized that search teams needed to live and train in the field. Col. Neuweiler owned a large tract of land that he would allow the CAP to use to conduct their training. It wasn't much good for anything else since it was in a pine swamp, in the middle of a box canyon, in the middle of "Nowhere", PA. There was a dirt road that wound a mile from the nearest country road and a half hour drive to the nearest town that only showed up on certain maps. In 1956 the school was moved to this property at the base of Hawk Mountain.

Longtime CAP member Ed Gibbons recalls the early days at the Hawk Mountain property where sixty acres of woodland, marsh, and swamp would be transformed into a parade field, parking lot, training area, obstacle course, and camping areas. "When I was there as a cadet, there was absolutely nothing there. No chapel, trailers, obstacle course, or buildings that you see today. They came in with pick up trucks, hand shovels, and even dynamite to clear the trees".

In 1974 Brig. General Westberg, the national Commander, attended the Hawk Mountain Ranger School, earning the proficiency of Ranger First Class. General Westberg tasked national headquarters staff to recognize and link together various related schools across the United States. Throughout the 1970's there were National Ranger Schools held at Hawk Mountain, PA; the Everglades, FL; Black River Mississippi; Washington Wing Challenger School, and Puerto Rico.

In 1996, the Hawk Mountain Summer Ranger School became a national cadet special activity. Brig. General Richard Anderson, CAP former National Commander, visited that year and recognized the programs lasting contributions. Many members often recall how the program helped to serve them in other areas of their life.

Ed Gibbons, LTC US Army, served 27 years in active duty, His experiences started as a cadet in CAP and moved on to ROTC, Special Operations, joint operations officer, and working in reconnaissance. "I chose to join the Army and the Special Forces and served in the Vietnam War. What I learned at Hawk Mountain helped to carry me through those experiences. The program influenced my life, in that it's the first time you realize that what you do affects whether others will live or die. You learned to put your own comforts second."

The school not only focuses on search and rescue, but has a medic training squadron as well. Ralph Jones was an early student of the medical program. He is currently a Captain in the US Navy; a surgeon at Bethesda Naval Hospital; and 3rd in command of the USS Comfort. "The ranger program and CAP firmed my interest in the military as a lifestyle. There is nothing that can replace my experience in CAP as a test for my future in the military. Nothing in high school or college came close in preparing me for my life like my experience at Hawk. Maybe that is why I have such close ties with the Mountain with occasional hiatus, but I always gravitate back."

### **THE RANGER STAFF PROGRAM**

In the 1960's, as the program expanded it became evident that there was a need for quality, consistent training of cadet leaders for the program.

Today's staff cadet training program consists of a series of eight weekends which run in the spring each year. Each prospective staff member begins their training cycle with an emphasis on small unit leadership. While the lessons are the same as the overall cadet program, the intensity of the training matches the intensity of the school. Staff candidates must also have the field skills to take care of themselves and to tutor their students.

Second year staff cadet Kara Smith represents the current generation. "Being a Ranger is about realizing you have no limits, realizing who you are and what you have the potential to become. It's about learning to do every little thing as a team, even when you don't like part of your team. The second you stop your car and step out you can smell the history, the generations of Rangers who have walked on that parade ground before you."

Throughout the training cycle, cadets are trained in several areas of emergency services, search and rescue, and leadership. Successful completion of the training cycle and qualification requirements will earn the first year staff candidate the "yellow scarf". These first year candidates typically fill the positions of Team Commanders (similar to flight commander) for the school.

Cadets then return for the second year of staff training, where they further develop their leadership and SAR skills. With successful completion of the requirements the "orange scarf" is awarded, making them a full fledged ranger staff member.

Julian Rivera recalls his days as a staff cadet; "I ate, slept, and breathed the program. It was incredible to be surrounded by peers that shared the same desires, thoughts, and dreams. Everyone wanted to be part of something bigger than themselves. The program really provided a testing ground for me to find my leadership style."

Alex and Ian Hanna came to Hawk as students, and went on to serve as staff cadets. They put their skills and training to use. Alex is a graduate of the USAF Academy, and is currently in pilot training with the USAF. Ian is a student at the US Coast Guard Academy.

# PA WING CIVIL AIR PATROL JOINS MARYLAND IN SEARCH FOR MISSING PILOT

(Cover photos; CAP Members and Aircraft Used in Search)



PENNSYLVANIA WING CIVIL AIR PATROL  
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