



**ALABAMA WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2004**

**Col John Tilton
Commander**

**Lt Col Mike Oakman
Vice Commander**

Birmingham, AL. – The Alabama Wing, Civil Air Patrol, held a SAR Management Course in Birmingham Alabama, June 19-20, 2004. AFRCC staff members, SGT Busbee and SSGT Walker were the instructors for the group of volunteers who met to learn, upgrade, or renew their skills in Search and Rescue Management techniques. The class session of the course allowed Sgt. Busbee and SSgt Walker to provide the students with the latest information that was available.

The students were divided into groups for the second half of the course and presented with an exercise to find a simulated overdue aircraft. As the teams worked through the scenario and presented a press conference of each team's progress during the exercise, the instructors were able to evaluate and provide assistance to those attending. The final evaluation by both instructors and students was that this was time well spent.

Alabama Wing members completing the course were 2 Lt Robert Arnold, Maj Jean Spruill, Maj Dennis South, Maj Benton Gup, Maj Mike Long, Maj Pat Mitcham, Maj Henry Decker, Lt Col Glen Rush, Lt Col Stephen Howard, Lt Col Mike

Husband, Lt Col Dennis Flowers, and Lt Col Gene Mitcham.



Lt Col Stephen Howard, Maj Dennis South, and Lt Col Benton Gup point to the location of the missing aircraft at the SAR Management Course.

Huntsville, AL—

Redstone Composite Squadron hosted a practice SAREX for squadrons in North Alabama on 19 June 2004. Composite Squadrons from Redstone, Huntsville, Gadsden, Muscle Shoals, and Shelby County participated in the exercise. Lt Col Dan Riley, from Redstone Squadron, served as Incident Commander.

COL John Tilton, AL Wing Commander; Lt Col Mike Oakman, AL Wing Vice Commander; and TSgt Ed Schmelzer, CAP-USAF Liaison NCO observed as CAP volunteers practiced searching for an overdue aircraft on a simulated flight from Fayetteville TN to Decatur AL.

Opening the mission base at Madison Executive Airport at 0800 hours, Lt Col Riley dispatched flights to complete route searches. Aircraft and ground teams completed activities to locate the simulated crash site and the ELT signal by 1300 hours. Several sorties were sent on similar missions so that all aircrews and ground teams could review the procedures necessary for finding a missing plane. An aircraft silhouette with a 35 foot wingspan near Harvest and a practice Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) southeast of Capshaw Mountain allowed volunteers to practice those skills which would be needed in the event of a real missing aircraft.

Lt Col Dan Riley

Redstone Arsenal, AL—

Lt Col Larry Becker and Lt Col Daniel Riley of Redstone Composite Squadron of the Alabama Wing, Civil Air Patrol were called out to investigate and Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) signal reported to be in the southern area of Redstone Arsenal on 29 June 2004.

The investigation found that the signal was an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) on a boat at Erwin Marine on South Memorial Parkway. Huntsville Police Officers assisted Civil Air Patrol in acquiring access to the boat, so that the signal could be turned off.

Redstone Composite Squadron— Redstone Cadets toured ARNOLD AFB, TULLAHOMA, TN on 7 Jul 2004.

Approximately 10 cadets and four senior members from the Redstone Composite Squadron had the opportunity to tour Arnold Engineering Development Center at Arnold AFB, Tullahoma, TN.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by representatives from the public affairs office. Cadets and senior members then boarded a 15 passenger van for the tour.

The first stop was at the wind tunnels where aircraft models are tested for aerodynamics. Our guide explained the entire wind tunnel system how wind speeds can reach transonic and supersonic speeds. He explained how months and years of preparation takes place for a test that may last 10 seconds. After the briefing and explanation of the wind tunnel model, we were able to go inside the wind tunnel to get an idea of its size. Our guide further explained how the walls of the wind tunnel can be moved to direct air flow. After the wind tunnel tour we were taken to the J5 and J6 solid rocket engine test stands. The guide explained how in years past an accident had demolished the J5 test stand. We then moved on to the J6 test stand to see how solid rocket engines are tested and to see the tunnel where exhaust gasses are released and tested.

After the tour we were privileged to meet BG Stringer, Commander of Arnold AFB and AEDC. General Stinger was present to speak to us and present awards to cadets of the Smyrna, TN Squadron. After General Stringer's remarks, we then assembled at the Arnold AFB Officers Club for lunch.

The cadets and seniors really enjoyed this tour. It was very informative and educational. A much longer tour is offered on the weekends. I would highly recommend this tour to all cadets and seniors.

Capt Les Barnard

Shelby County — July 3, 2004

Col John Tilton soloed in the Blanik glider at the Flying X field. Congratulations, Col Tilton. “Glider flight brings back all the basic VFR skill and excitement that sometimes gets lost in the high-tech cockpits of today’s aircraft,” he said when asked about flying gliders as he is a certified instrument and flight instructor.

In addition to being a corporate pilot, Col Tilton holds airline transport pilot and commercial seaplane pilot ratings. He is a certified flight and instrument instructor in both airplanes and helicopters and is an airframe and power plant mechanic.

Col Tilton is from Sterrett, AL in Shelby County and has been commander of the Alabama Wing for two years. He is retired as a Lt. Col. in the United States Army Reserve and served in Vietnam.



Col Tilton and Roger Lewis

Huntsville Composite Squadron—

Maj. Robert Jaques, a member of the Redstone Squadron and NASA historian, presented a program about the Wright Brothers historical flight. He brought models, autographs, and other artifacts to enhance his presentation.

Major Jaques also provides the Wing with historical memorabilia in a display case in the hall at Wing Headquarters. Be sure to stop and see what is there.

Maj Pat Mitcham

New Commanders

AL 118 Pell City: CAPT Donnie Todd

AL 075 Gadsden: CAPT Talmadge Butler

Autauga-Elmore Cadet Squadron

The Autauga-Elmore Cadet Squadron had a test run on recruiting. Cadet Clark tried her hand at organizing and running a recruiting booth at one of the malls in Millbrook. She got volunteers from the squadron cadet corps as well as senior members. She made a recruiting board with pictures of activities of the cadet squadron, gave out brochures and talked to teenagers as well as adults about the CAP programs. All the squadron members who were involved believe the project was a success. Cadet Clark is planning to have more booths in the Autauga-Elmore area malls in the near future.

*Ed Wilson, Lt Col
DCC Autauga-Elmore Cadet Sq.*

Gadsden— The Springville flight assisted the ANG 225th Combat Communications Squadron in Gadsden at their 50th Anniversary Celebration and

Open House on 12 June 2004. Cadets split their time between the Pepsi booth handing out free soft drinks and a recruiting booth where they were able to explain the cadet program to visitors.

Lt Col Al Jackson

STAFF NOTES

Commander's Comments

The National Curator has requested updates for the National Archives insignia collection. The collection will be on display at the National Board meeting in Tampa with special emphasis on the South East Region. If you have a patch and have not sent a copy to him, please do so ASAP. He will reimburse you if it creates a hardship on the unit.

You can e mail him at awmschil@juno.com.

His name is Lt. Col. A William Schell.
(410) 273 1842.

The investigation into the prop strike has been completed. The findings sustain the fact that it was an accident. The pilot will pay the deductible and receive additional training. The main cause was improper recovery from a nose low landing. All the rumors about all the extra events associated with the event were unfounded. The incident brings up the problem of C182 transitions. We need to look at our upgrading to the 182. The future looks like we are only purchasing new 182s.

We need to realize that the next new ac will replace either a 172 or a 182. Some squadrons may have to loose their 172 and pick up a 182.

Emergency Services

7 Aug 04: DR Exercise at Dothan.

28 Aug 04: SAREX at Tuskegee

25 Sept 04: Guided Training

Practice at Gadsden

8-9 Oct 04: Guided Training

Evaluation at Gadsden

Practice SAR Evaluation and SAR Evaluation are now known as Guided Training.

Recruiting and Retention

Lt Col Al Jackson email:

lcaljackson@msn.com

Lt Melody Compton email:

mcompton@uab.edu

Lt. Col Jackson and his assistant, Lt Melody Compton, were assisted by members of the Alabama Wing at the Maxwell AFB Air Show. Members of Fox News Channel 20 and members of National CAP, Ms. Kelly Riddle, Protocol Officer, and Ms Robin Hunt, Director of Membership Development were also there.

Squadron Recruiting and Retention Officers will be given the opportunity to attend a Recruiting class later in the year. Details will be announced.

Col Harry T Ford Jr. and Maj Carrol S. Woods, both Tuskegee Airmen, have become some of the newest Wing members. They join Tuskegee Airman Col Carter in promoting the Civil Air Patrol program. Speaking engagements for them can be scheduled through Lt Col Jackson or Lt Compton.

Public Affairs

The goal is to have a quarterly newsletter in PDF file format. The deadline for submission for the next Newsletter would be 15 November 2004.

If you are disappointed that your squadron or staff section is not represented in this newsletter, someone didn't send something to be printed. Write something; tell the Wing what your squadron or section is doing.

Send copies of articles submitted to local newspapers and CAP News or CAP News Online to me. If one is printed, clip it out and send it for a "scrapbook" notebook.

Email: pmitcham@sprintmail.com
Snailmail: P H Mitcham
1919 McDowling Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803

Finance

All 108s must be sent to Lt Col Lynn Hasha **no later than ten days** after the event which requires one for reimbursement of monies spent.

Lt Col Lynn Hasha
5980 River Road
Muscle Shoals, AL. 35661

Vice Commander Reports

New Mobile Command Center

It's been a year in the making. Last year 2003, the Vice Commander, Lt. Col. Mike Oakman secured this step van from a construction company, General Services & Construction. He had the outside repainted and an air conditioner was added. The second thing that was done to the van was to have the interior fitted-out.



New Mobile Command Center

It has two workbenches that run the length of the van. Two upright cabinets and two lateral file cabinets installed. Next, there were electrical outlets for electrical distribution within the van as well as outlets to receive power from a 110-volt exterior source or a gas generator. Then came the computer hub system and exterior outlets to receive a phone from any exterior source. The Van and work completed was done through contributions solicited and volunteer work from other companies. Currently the van is being checked-out and fine tuned with hopes of being used for the rest of the ALWG Activities for this physical year.

Hurricane/Disaster Preparedness

Three government web sites that address preparations for disasters of any kind.

<http://www.fema.gov/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/>
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency for statewide information.
<http://ema.alabama.gov/>

The Red Cross for lists and pamphlets for download.

<http://www.redcross.org/>

This last weather/hurricane web site is a private one, not connected with any government agency.

<http://www.hurricanewarning.net/>

Former Cadet Earns Two Awards from the US Coast Guard

Lt. Veronica Brecht Streitmatter, Cadet Commander of CAP Cadet Squadron 90 from 1993-1994, has earned two prestigious awards from the US Coast Guard. She earned the **CG Achievement Medal in April 2003** for outstanding civil engineering work in the Miami Florida area. One of the 57 projects she manages was to assist contractors in finding a solution to the renovation of the 120-year-old American Shoals lighthouse.

The 2004 Captain Dorothy Stratton Leadership Award was presented to her in July 2004. This award, named in honor of the Director of WWII SPARS, recognizes the inspirational leadership of a Coast Guard woman in a rank between warrant officer (CWO2) and Lieutenant Commander. Lt Streitmatter traveled from Alaska to Washington DC for the presentation. She is assigned to the USCGC ACUSHNET as the Engineering Officer.



Lt Veronica Brecht Streitmatter

Lt Streitmatter graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Ms Madelein Albright was the graduation speaker and presented graduates with their diplomas.

