



# ALABAMA WING CIVIL AIR PATROL

**NEWSLETTER**

**May 2007**

**Col Mike Oakman  
Commander**

**Lt Col Dave Boswell  
Vice-Commander**

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## Contents

Boaz Middle School Color Guard	
Todd Awarded AFROTC Scholarship	2
Byford receives EAKER Award	3
Boaz Cadets take Orientation rides	3
Col. Rushing SER Vice Commander	4
Joint training in North Alabama	4
National Staff Change Announced	5
Alabama Wing Glider Available	5
Shelby County Squadron of the Year	6
2007 Encampment Press Release	6
KC 135 for Shelby County	7
Madison County K-9 at	
Huntsville Squadron	8
Aerial Radiological Monitors trained	9
Boaz Cadet fire rockets	9
Aerospace Physiological Training	9
Conference Awards	10
Bessemer Mission	11
Professional Development Weekends	13
Iron Man Competition Postponed	14
Wing Conference 2007 Pictures	14
Preparedness Websites	15
Inspector General	17
Public Affairs	17
Quiz	17
Encampment Flyer	18

## Boaz Middle School Guard Leads Ceremony

The color guard led the opening ceremonies of the Marshall county Special Olympics which was held at the track located behind the Boaz Middle School. All color guard cadets are age 12 thru 14 and grades 6 - 7 and 8.



The Color Guard led the march around the track followed by the Boaz High School Band, teachers and hundreds of special Olympic kids, observed by the entire Middle School which attended the opening ceremony. After completing the march the color guard executed a right face towards the audience, rendered the colors to the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the band playing the National Anthem. They then, as the entire crowd looked on, marched away retiring the colors. The color guards outstanding job drew comments from the Boaz Mayor Tim Walker as well as the school officials and students alike.

Color Guard Student members were from Left to right when facing the color guard from the front:

Cadet Airman 1st Class Sam Gore,  
Cadet Airman 1st Class Adam Smith,  
Cadet Airman 1st Class Ryan Erskine &  
Cadet Airman Katie Young

*Officer Larry Smith  
Boaz Middle School Squadron*



## AFROTC Cadet Sarah Todd



Sarah Rachael Todd, 18, has been awarded a Type 2 scholarship by the United States Air Force. She is a sophomore at Auburn University pursuing dual degrees in Professional Flight Management and Criminal Justice, and is a cadet in AFROTC, Det. 005. A licensed pilot, she is also a member of Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 113. She took her Oath of Office on April 23 in a ceremony at the Auburn University ROTC Nichols Center. Sarah is the daughter of Donnie and Ellen Todd of Pell City, and a 2006 graduate of Pell City High School.



**Airman Robert Byford**

C/Col Byford was presented The General Ira C. Eaker Award on Jan 24, 2006. Joining Civil Air Patrol in May 2001 and progressing through the ranks, Cadet Byford has always been a team leader in Emergency Services, educational training and squadron activities. He was a member of the ground team that deployed to Wiggins, Mississippi as directed by the Incident Commander. He displayed maturity beyond his years in dealing with the situations the team faced. He has enlisted in the United States Air Force, continuing a record of service to his country.



### **Boaz Cadets enjoy Orientation Rides in March 2007**



The Civil Air Patrol Middle School program is alive and well at Boaz Middle School. Some of the cadets participated in an orientation fly-in on March 3, 2007. Orientation pilots, CAP officers and cadets arrived at Albertville Airport for the flights.

Picture: From Front to Back and Left to Right

Cadet Alex Thompson, Cadet Sam Gore, Cadet Casey Jones, Cadet Zach Thomas, Cadet Katie Young, Cadet Ryan Erskine, Cadet Timothy White, Cadet Adam Smith

## **Col. Jim Rushing, New Region Vice Commander**

It is my pleasure to announce that Col. James Rushing, current Tennessee Wing Commander will be the new Southeast Region Vice Commander, effective 24 March 2007.

Col. Rushing has been a member of CAP since 1992 and brings with him a wealth of knowledge about the program. He has risen through the ranks and has held command posts from Squadron to Wing level.

Replacing Col. Rushing as Tennessee Wing Commander will be Lt. Col. Barry Melton, also effective 24 March 2007. Lt. Col. Melton has been a CAP member since 1986 and also has filled all command positions up to Group Commander. He has most recently served as the Tennessee Wing Vice Commander under Col. Rushing.

## **North Alabama Squadrons Hold Joint Training**



Muscle Shoals Squadron, Redstone Squadron and Huntsville Squadron have been holding joint training exercises during the first quarter of 2007. The first exercise was a simulated ELT Search and practice communication between ground teams and air craft using panels.



2 Lt Paul Deaver, Lt. Col. Jim Harris, and 2 Lt Pierre le Roux were part of the team which found the “campers” who had placed the panels found by the CAP aircraft and directed their ground team in for a successful exercise. All squadrons were sent to find the simulated lost campers, and to locate a practice ELT placed in Limestone County. Lt. Col. Dave Boswell attended as a representative of the Wing and Maj. Matt Barker, USAFR, represented the Air Force.



## Change in Structure of National Staff

1. Colonel Larry Kauffman, CAP, has resigned from the position of National Chief Staff to accept another opportunity with the corporation. Colonel Kauffman's tenure on the National Board and National Executive Committee has spanned over 20 years and we are grateful for his outstanding contributions to the organization. Effective 1 January 2007, Brigadier General Amy S. Courter will assume the responsibilities of the Chief of Staff as an additional duty.
2. The vacancy in the Chief of Staff position has given us the opportunity to fully review the structure of the National Staff and to make some changes that we believe will increase effectiveness and better prepare our organization for the future. . . . This new structure replaces the previously appointed committees, councils and special advisors and creates a reasonable span of control for the command staff. Detailed information regarding assignments of new directors, committees, and advisors will be announced as the information can be made available. We thank everyone serving on the National Staff for their great service and dedication to CAP.
3. Four deputy chief of staff positions have been created to streamline and deepen volunteer engagement in national-level issues and opportunities as well as provide a closer partnership between the national staff (volunteer

structure and the National Headquarters staff. These deputy chiefs of staff will also serve as focal points for the Region and Wing Commanders. This will allow for enhanced strategy and planning along each of the areas of responsibility. The Chief of Staff and deputies will work as a team to align strategies and plans, while allowing their directors the ability to move forward with speed. ....this is a step toward an integrated version of the existing CAP national structure that better facilitates mission execution. CAPM 20-1, Organization of Civil Air Patrol, is currently under revision and this change will be reflected in the new version.

-excerpts from a letter forwarded to Col. Oakman In January 2007 from Maj Gen Pineda to the National Board. Forwarded at Mr. Rowland's request.



Glider fights -2006

## GLIDER PROGRAM UP AND OPERATIONAL

Cadets can receive up to five (5) glider Orientation flights FREE along with their five (5) power Orientation flights. Officers (senior Members) may

get glider flights but they must pay \$30-\$35 for the tow to altitude and \$10 per hour for the glider. You may arrange for your Squadron to come to the Flying X Ranch in Shelby County (next to a nice lake) or we can bring the glider operations to you if you are within about 80 miles. We'll air tow the glider there if you have enough Cadets to fly. We must have an airfield with at least 4,500' and not too busy so we won't interrupt the local air traffic. If you come to the Flying X, we can make arrangements for you to camp out with prior approval, as several Squadrons have done, also, at the Flying X we can make one or two canoes available for recreation.

The good weather is here so now is the time to schedule your glider flights. To do this contact Shelby County Squadron's Operations Officer-Gliders Capt. Bill McAbee 334/281-0235 or [bmcabee@aol.com](mailto:bmcabee@aol.com)

## **Shelby County Squadron – 2006 Squadron of the Year**

At the Alabama Wing Conference held March 31, 2007, the Shelby County Squadron was selected as the 2006 Squadron of the Year for the Alabama Wing. The Shelby County Squadron is only three years old. In addition to the normal Civil Air Patrol activities of Search and Rescue, Disaster Relief, Aerospace Education and the Cadet Program, the Shelby County Squadron heads up the Alabama Wing Glider program and for several years has supported the Nation Flight Academy

Gliders in Rome, GA with a glider, tow plane, glider instructors and tow pilots.



Col Oakman, Lt Col Ward, Col Levitch

Earning this award was one step in the stated goal to become "the premier squadron in Alabama," according to commander Lt. Col. Johnny Ward.

## **2007 MS/AL JOINT WING ENCAMPMENT**

The Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program is simply great, hands down. Sometimes, however, it seems rather complex: new cadets have to learn so much about uniforms, drill, military bearing, aerospace, and CAP regulations. All of that can seem so overwhelming. Your local squadron is an excellent place to learn these things, but what could be more fun than learning a lot of them in one energy-charged, action-packed week? The 2007 MS/AL Joint Wing Encampment will be just such a week.

Held at Ft. McClellan, AL, this year's Wing encampment begins with In-Processing on 24 June and ends with the traditional Pass and Review on 30 June. During this exciting seven-day period, cadet basics will learn a variety

of things from Drills & Ceremonies and the history of CAP to how the chain of command works and how to wear uniforms. Of course, there will be the competitive volleyball games and the traditional banquet at the end of the week. Last summer's encampment featured special events such as O-Flights, a KC-135 flight, and a tour of Stennis Space Center, so anticipate a lot of equally exciting events this summer as well. Cadets should also keep in mind that attending a Wing encampment is a prerequisite to the Billy Mitchell Award and also to the National Special Cadet Activities.

Parents can stay informed about cadet activities through the official MS/AL Wing Encampment website: [www.almswgenccampment.rubiz.com](http://www.almswgenccampment.rubiz.com). Moms and dads can access driving directions, view photos of the cadets, and participate in discussion forums on this site during the encampment.

Basic Cadet Application deadline is 21 May 2007. This year's activity cost will be \$150.00 per cadet. Download applications at [http://level2.cap.gov/documents/u\\_101503101606.dot](http://level2.cap.gov/documents/u_101503101606.dot). For more information, contact Lt Justin Smith, Encampment Commander, at [justinsmith32931@aol.com](mailto:justinsmith32931@aol.com) or JUSTIN SMITH, 4615 County Road 41, Clanton, AL 35046.

## Shelby County Takes to the Air in a KC-135



Thanks to Capt Bill Compton, Shelby County Squadron, and Capt Angelia Rogers, Alabama Air National Guard, sixteen members of Squadron 127 took a flight on a KC 135 on Friday, March 9, 2007. The tanker departed Birmingham, flew to the Gulf and returned. During the flight, our members were able to observe refueling operations from the tail, next to the boom operator.



Capt Angela Rogers and Capt Bill Compton

## Huntsville Squadron learns to work with Sheriff's K-9 unit.

Huntsville Composite Squadron spent time with Madison County Deputy Craig Wells.

He brought his dog with him and went over the details on what CAP members should do when working with his dog, which is trained to apprehend people, as well as search for them.



The best advice that he gave was to stay at least in visual contact with them, from well behind so that he could work efficiently. Once out of the vehicle, his dog was ready to find someone for Deputy Wells.



Squadron members then worked on Ground Team training and mission planning.

## Muscle Shoals and Huntsville Squadron Members Train as Aerial Radiological Monitors with Madison County EMA

On April 6-7, 2007, Huntsville Composite Squadron and Muscle Shoals Composite Squadron completed training to qualify as Aerial Radiological Monitors.

Kirk Paradise, Plans Coordinator for Huntsville-Madison County, Emergency Management Agency, was the instructor for the classroom the activities held in Huntsville, AL. He also was the instructor in the use of the monitor, simulation equipment and other testing equipment used in the practical exercise portion of the class.



Kirk Paradise, Madison County EMA

The flights simulating monitoring of radiation fallout was conducted over Northeast Madison County, flying out of Madison County Executive Airport on

Saturday morning. Alabama Wing Vice-Commander Lt. Col. Dave Boswell attended the Saturday practical exercise. As a result of the training, those completing the course will be the only certified members of airborne radiological monitoring teams in the state of Alabama and possibly the United States.



**Capt Jerry Ford, Muscle Shoals Squadron**

Completing the course were the following: Lt Col Eugene Mitcham, Maj Johnny Davidson, Maj Alford Boyd, Capt Jerry Ford, Capt Carl Foster, 1 LT Anthony Beresford, 1 LT Jerry Tignor, 1 LT James Hensley, 1 LT Ian Johnston, 2 LT Pierre le Roux, Officer Ernie Blair, Officer Arnold Massey.



Left to right Front row: le Roux, Tignor, Zahrain, Blair, Hensley. Back Row: Boyd, Mitcham, Johnston, Beresford, Boswell, Paradise, Foster, Davidson, Massey. Not pictured Capt Ford

## **Boaz Middle School Students Launch Rockets**



Boaz Middle School cadets successfully launched rockets in an aerospace exercise as a part of the very successful middle school initiative.

## **Alabama Wing members participate in Aerospace Training at Columbus AFB, MS.**

A one-day Aerospace Physiology Training course was held at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. The course included classroom sessions on high altitude physiology, the use of the oxygen system, emergency procedures

and concluded with a “flight” to 25, 000 feet where each trainee experienced the effects of hypoxia.

Simple exercises demonstrated the loss of mental acuity and all saw their own and other’s physical reactions. Thanks to the Montgomery Squadron for setting it up.



Thanks to the Shelby County Newsletter for the pictures and the article.



## Awards given at Alabama Wing Conference

### Commanders Coin

TSgt Ed Smelser – Air Force Liaison



### Cadet of the Year

Keith Conway – Auburn Composite Squadron



Col Oakman, Lt Justin Smith, C/Lt Col. Keith Conway, Col Levitch

**C/Lt Col Conway** has been an active member of CAP since 2000. He has attended four Alabama Wing encampments, as well as NESAs and other national activities. He has been awarded the Mitchell, Earhart, and Eaker awards. He is a member of the Auburn Squadron.

## Squadron Commander of the Year

**Major Meddie Clark**, Commander of the Mobile Squadron, has been a member of CAP since 1996. An instrument rated private pilot, he has been DCC before accepting the command in Mobile. He works for the Army Corps of Engineers and has been given many awards for his humanitarian service in the community.

### Finding an Aircraft can be Difficult and Tiring

Jean Spruill, Jerry Lusk, and I departed Tuscaloosa approximately 6:00 a.m. February 5, 2007.

There had been a hit on a cell phone tower in the Hueytown area from the cell phone of the passengers in the missing aircraft. We started an expanding square search from the tower area. We searched for two hours with no sighting of the target.

We returned to base and immediately upon arrival, we were given another mission in the same area we had just searched. On this sortie we had a fourth crew member, Chris Iddins from the Pell City Squadron.

After two more hours of searching we found nothing. When we returned for lunch, we were instructed to return to the air with new information from the Birmingham radar facility. Birmingham picked up a 1200 squawk at 1,100 feet descending when they lost contact. We

were given the coordinates of their last radar contact with the aircraft.

Jerry, as acting Mission Pilot, Chris as Scanner, and me as the Observer, returned to the air. After one more hour of flying and seeing nothing, I began to pray under my breath that God would let us find the aircraft if it was in the area.



I was hesitant to pray out loud because I didn't know what the other crew members might think. But I finally prayed out loud, "Father, if the aircraft is in this area, let us find it." Jerry and Chris both agreed out loud.

Within 5 minutes, I spotted some debris, and one piece looked like the tail of an airplane. I asked Jerry to circle around for a closer look, and that's when we confirmed the N number on the tail of the missing aircraft.



When I did make contact with mission base and told them "Yellow Ribbon", they asked how I confirmed it, and I told them by the N number on the tail of the plane.

Base operations had given me the frequency of the pilots with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. I radioed them with the coordinates of the downed aircraft and they were able to direct the ground team in to the site.

*Capt Ray Harkey, Tuscaloosa Squadron*

As a crew member in the STAR One helicopter that assisted in today's mission, I want to personally thank you and the other members of CAP on YOUR find today.... As a member of the CAP for many years, I certainly know the dedication, service, loyalty, and sacrifice that each volunteer and cadet makes in these types of events; as well as the thousands of hours and dollars each squadron spends in preparation for the call. Gregory Turley



Alabama IC, Lt. Col. Dennis Flowers, discusses possible search sites with Bessemer Mission Base Staff.



Lt. Col Finney and crew confirm their search coordinates with Lt. Col Dennis Flowers.

### **Official Release from Bessemer as approved by overall IC -- Lt. Col. Harry Jones, SER CAP**

The U.S. Civil Air Patrol has found the location of a missing Cessna 172 on a flight from Hornersville, Missouri to Marathon, Florida. The plane was reported overdue by family in Florida. The site was located by a Civil Air Patrol aircraft and confirmed by the Jefferson County Sheriff's department.

The Cessna 172 that has been the object of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol search and rescue mission, coordinated by Lt. Col. Harry Jones of the Southeast Region Civil Air Patrol in conjunction with the AFRCC, was found in Jefferson County Alabama. Additional information can be obtained from the Jefferson County Sheriff.

The Florida Wing had two aircraft assigned to do ramp checks in the Panhandle. The Alabama Wing flew three air sorties on 4 February 2007. Seventeen air sorties have been briefed and dispatched to fly route searches, complete ramp checks and fly search

patterns over the flight path in Alabama.

Three Alabama Wing Ground teams were staged at various sites along the flight path in Alabama. Forty-eight volunteers signed in at Bessemer Mission Base in Alabama. The Jefferson County Alabama helicopter was used in the search effort on various ridge lines.

Arkansas dispatched four aircraft and coordinated with the Arkansas EMA and the Sheriff's Department in Mississippi County, Arkansas. Thirty volunteers in Arkansas have participated during the two days of the search, completing ramp checks.

Other states involved in the search are Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi Civil Air Patrol volunteers are signed in.

### **Professional Development Weekends Successful**

The Alabama Wing held two Professional Development Weekends in March, with a third weekend for prospective students in the southern area of Alabama and the northern part of Florida.



*Consulting over an aerospace activity*

The first of the two weekends was in Montgomery where seventeen officers graduated from SLS, six from CLC and thirteen from UCC. The following weekend SLS and CLC were held in Birmingham where twenty members attended SLS and eighteen completed CLC.



The three weekends were designed so that no one had to travel extensively to attend the courses. Several members attended both weekends to obtain the required training. Most graduates agreed that this was an excellent way to handle professional development.

**Iron Man  
Competition  
postponed  
until August  
2007. Web site  
will have  
additional  
details as they  
become  
available.**



Sharing stories during the dinner



Capt Chris Tate at the Grog Bowl

### Alabama Wing Conference Pictures



Col Oakman speaks at the Banquet.



Lt Col Stephen Howard with display



Col. Dan Levitch at the banquet



Lt. Col. Jean Spruille at the reception.

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**Hurricane Season Begins June 1, 2007.** The Summer 2005 newsletter is archived on the Alabama Wing Website. This may not be the quiet summer of 2006. As an Information Officer, I'm preparing for the new season. These are the websites listed in that newsletter. Better yet—go to [www.alwg.cap.gov](http://www.alwg.cap.gov) and read the entire newsletter to refresh your disaster preparedness for you, your family and your work.

**FEMA Hazard Preparedness URLs**

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm>

Preparing for Hurricanes. Multiple links

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/heat/index.shtm>

Summer heat can be a problem in the south

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/index.shtm>

Disaster Information Page: Includes information on mitigation, maps and much other information

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Alabama Emergency Management Agency/Disaster Web Site. Press releases. Reports and images when available are at this URL.

<http://207.157.116.10/disaster/>

United States Preparedness URL

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

<http://www.disastercenter.com/> This is a non-government site with information on a variety of disaster situations. It appears to be a site run by an individual. Lots of information and additional links.

American Red Cross: Hurricane Awareness Page. General information about Hurricanes  
<http://www.redcross.org/news/ds/0305hurricane>

American Red Cross: Hurricane Safety  
[http://www.redcross.org/general/0,1082,0\\_587\\_1613,00.html](http://www.redcross.org/general/0,1082,0_587_1613,00.html)

For Children of All Ages: A multi-media site designed for those who work with and for children, although the information is good for all ages.  
<http://www.surfnetkids.com/hurricanes.htm>

From Insurance Information Institute On the left hand frame there is a spot to download a free home inventory list. This is a site done for and by the insurance industry.  
<http://www.iii.org/media/publications/brochures/hurricane/>

National Weather Service: The Hurricane Awareness Page. Historical hurricanes and current events.  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane/index.shtml>

National Hurricane Center website: Tropical Prediction Website. Where is the hurricane going? What is the predicted timeline? For those who like “graphics.”  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Hurricane News and Tracking (Non-government)  
<http://www.hurricanetrack.com/>

Weather Service – a variety of maps available: This has a variety of forecast maps. Watches and Warnings nationwide.  
<http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/iwin/graphicsversion/bigmain.html>

National Weather Service **Birmingham**  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx/>

National Weather Service **Huntsville**  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hun/>

National Weather Service **Mobile**  
<http://www.srh.weather.gov/mob/>

National Weather Service **Tallahassee**  
<http://www.srh.weather.gov/tlh/>

Plymouth State Weather Site:  
GOES Satellite maps Tropical Weather Maps. A wealth of Scientific Information.  
[http://vortex.plymouth.edu/home\\_no\\_frame.html](http://vortex.plymouth.edu/home_no_frame.html)

The Weather Underground: Current Weather and predictions. One page contains the computer models, which are estimates, but when “they” all point the same way....  
<http://www.weatherunderground.com/>

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**The Wing IG Col Joey Owens** can be contacted at (cell) 256-312-3397, at his home number is 256-492-4762, or email [jowens@gadsdenwater.org](mailto:jowens@gadsdenwater.org)

**Public Affairs**—I have had a major computer problem—not because of the Wing Server problem—if I have lost an article that you sent to me, please resend and I'll get another newsletter out in June, 2007. Please send articles that are new to me as well.

Do you know the following names????

Andrea  
Barry  
Chantal  
Dean  
Erin  
Felix  
Gabrielle  
Humberto  
Ingrid  
Jerry  
Karen  
Lorenzo  
Melissa  
Noel  
Olga  
Pablo  
Rebekah  
Sebastien  
Tanya  
Van  
Wendy



*Hint: Andrew, Ivan, Charlie, Wilma, Katrina*



# 2007



## Alabama/Mississippi Wing ENCAMPMENT

**Fort McClellan, AL**

**Commander**

Lt Justin Smith, CAP  
justinsmith32931@aol.com

**June 23-30**

**Cadet Commander**

C/Lt Col Tyler Todd, CAP  
toddlynn@bellsouth.net



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