



# ALABAMA WING CIVIL AIR PATROL

**NEWSLETTER**

**August 2008**

**Col. Mike Oakman  
Commander**

**Lt. Col. Dave Boswell  
Vice-Commander**

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## Lt Col Johnny Ward A Member of CAP for 50 Years



Lt. Col Johnny Ward stands in front of his 1946 ERCoupe that he owns with his son and another partner.

In August 1958, Lt. Col. Johnny Ward joined Birmingham Squadron 34. Among his first assignments was Deputy Commander for Cadets. His love for

cadets is shown by his attendance at seven encampments, POC for International Air Cadet Exchange twelve times, and serving on staff at the National Glider encampment. Ward traveled to Norway and the United Kingdom as a CAP Escort Officer for Civil Air Patrol cadets in the IACE program.

Lt. Col. Ward served as Squadron Commander and led the squadron to earn a "Squadron of the Year" Award, by leading active, involved members in squadron and wing activities. He has earned three Commander's Commendations, two Meritorious Service awards and two Exceptional Service Awards.

He commanded Shelby County Squadron and once again led the members of that squadron to earn a "Squadron of the Year" award. He has participated in many search and rescue activities, actual and practice exercises. Under Wing Commander Col. John Tilton, he was in charge of the Wing Glider Program. He has also served as the Recruiting and Retention Officer for the Wing.



Lt. Col Ward learned to fly as an Aviation Cadet in the United States Air Force (60-

H) and currently has over 3000 hours of flying time in more than 50 different types of aircraft.

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## TWO SPAATZ CADETS

### C/Col Erinn Scott Ceremony June 8, 2008

Erinn Scott, Second Class Cadet at the United States Air Force Academy became Cadet Colonel Erinn Scott in the Bessemer Squadron in the Alabama Wing at a ceremony held on Sunday, June 8, 2008, in the Hoover Public Library Theater. On average, only two cadets in one thousand (0.16%) earn the Spaatz Award. The award was established in 1964 and Civil Air Patrol awarded the General Carl A. Spaatz Award number 1676 to C/Col Erinn Scott.



The Bessemer Squadron Color Guard posted the colors before Capt. James Smiley of Bessemer Squadron reminded the audience of the accomplishments of C/Col Scott, including leading the Bessemer Color Guard to multiple wins in competition.

Col Michael Oakman, Commander Alabama Wing, congratulated her on her

achievements and thanked her parents and grandparents for supporting her and the Civil Air Patrol. Col. Russell Hodgkins, USAF, CAP-USAF Commander and Senior Air Force Advisor, attended the ceremony, spoke to those attending and stressed the difficulty of achieving the Spaatz Award while attending the USAF Academy. C/Col Scott has maintained a 3.89 GPA in mechanical engineering while being a leader among the Second Class Cadets, the junior year in civilian universities.

Capt. Scott Howard, Director of Cadet Programs, Mississippi Wing, recalled the first time he met Cadet Scott and how much progress she made throughout the years. He emphasized that cadets qualify for this prestigious award after devoting an average of five years to progress through sixteen achievements in the CAP Cadet Program. Along the way they develop self-discipline, a strong sense of personal responsibility, the ability to lead and persuade, and the foundation necessary for pursuing a career in aviation, space, or technology.

Finally, a cadet must complete to earn the Spaatz Award is a rigorous four-part exam consisting of a challenging physical fitness test, an essay exam testing their moral reasoning, a comprehensive written exam on leadership, and a comprehensive written exam on aerospace education. Upon passing the Spaatz Award exams, the cadet is promoted to the grade of cadet colonel. Spaatz Cadets are expected to serve as role models for junior cadets, and become leaders in their communities as they enter adulthood.

After presenting the award, Capt. Scott asked Col. Oakman to assist in replacing

the shoulder boards with ones designating her as Cadet Colonel Erinn Scott.

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### **C/Col Morgan Bennett earn Spaatz Award in June 26, 2008**

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Morgan Bennett, a member of Pell City Squadron, has earned the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, number 1702. THE GENERAL CARL A. SPAATZ AWARD is Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor. It is presented to cadets who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace education.



Joining Civil Air Patrol in January 2003, C/Col Bennett's Civil Air Patrol activities include being awarded the Cadet of the Year Award for the year 2007-08. Among a great number of other CAP activities, she has attended Cadet Officer School in 2007, Air Force Space Command Familiarization Course at Patrick AFB in 2007, Engineering Technologies Academy at Auburn University in 2005, and Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course at Columbus AFB in 2008. She was the Alabama/Mississippi Wing Summer

Encampment Executive Officer in 2008, and has served on the Cadet Advisory Council for the Alabama Wing as the 2008 Vice Chairman. C/Col. Bennett completed the requirements to be a Search and Rescue Ground Team Leader, an Urban Direction Finding Team Member and an Air Crew Mission Scanner and she holds an Amateur Radio Operators' Technician License.

A 2008 graduate of Oxford High School, C/Col Bennett will be attending Auburn University in the fall on an Air Force ROTC scholarship, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Selected as an Elite Scholar, she received a Spirit of Auburn Presidential Scholarship and a Dean of Engineering Scholarship from the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

A formal ceremony presenting the award to C/Col Bennett is pending final preparations.

Cadet Squadron. He talked to the cadets about the future of aviation. Cadets were given a chance to think about their own futures and to learn about the options that will be available in the Aviation field when the Aviation Center is finally open.

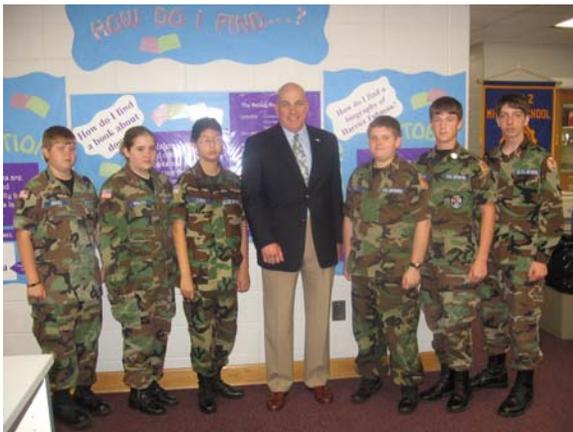
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### **Mobile Squadron Attends South Alabama Search and Rescue Seminar**

The Mobile Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol participated in the South Alabama Rescue Search and Recovery (SARSAR) Education Conference on 30 June 2008 sponsored by the Mobile County Health Department (MCBH). The MCBH has been sponsoring such events usually every six months for the purpose of educating and assisting local Rescue and Public Service organizations.

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### **John Marshall speaks to Boaz Cadets**



John Marshall with Boaz Cadets

John Marshall, President of Workforce Alabama came to meet with the Boaz



The program consisted of the following subjects:

- Crime Scene Investigation - Lt. Richard Cayton - Mobile
- County Sheriff's Office
- Dead Bodies in the Water: Science of Body Recovery -
- When do they float? - Kenneth S. Snell, M.D. - Interim

- Chief State Medical Examiner - State of Alabama.
- Sonar - Capt. Paul Stewart - Mobile County Sheriff's Flotilla

An opportunity was given for each organization to speak on 2008 lessons learned about Search, Rescue and Recovery.



Maj. Tony Whiston inspects a remote underwater camera at the conference.

Twenty one agencies attended this Conference:

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Marine Resources Enforcement  
 Alabama Department of Forensic Science  
 Alabama Port Volunteer Fire and Rescue  
 Civil Air Patrol  
 Daphne Search and Rescue  
 Daphne Island Police Department  
 Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue  
 Fowl River Volunteer Fire Department  
 Georgetown/Fellowship Volunteer Fire Department  
 Lillian Volunteer Fire Department  
 Lower Alabama Search and Rescue  
 Mobile County Health Department  
 Mobile County Sheriff's Flotilla  
 Mobile County Sheriff's Office  
 Mobile Police Department - Underwater Search and Recovery  
 North Baldwin Sheriff's Search and Rescue

Semmes Volunteer Fire Department  
 Southwest Panhandle Search and RescueK-9  
 Tanner Williams Fire Department  
 Underwater Investigation Technologies  
 Volunteer Mobile - Medical Reserve Corps

2 Lt Emmett Farnell  
 Mobile Squadron, PAO

## 2008 Summer Encampment



As the guests of the Mississippi Air National Guard 186<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, the combined Alabama/Mississippi encampment was held at the Mississippi Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC with fifty basic cadets, twenty cadet staff members, and fifteen senior members participating. Before the week was up, many staff members had made the comment that this year's group was the best class of basic cadets that they had ever seen.



Alpha Flight

The basic cadets arrived June 14, 2008 nervous, disorganized and loaded down with the multiple bags necessary to contain everything on the required gear list. They began a week of high-intensity training, guided by members of the line staff.



As they navigated the inprocessing maze, cadet staff members and Tactical Officers kept the pressure on to move quickly from station to station and come to attention when officers passed by. Flight Sergeants waited for the cadets at the barracks to teach them how to make their beds and organize their lockers.

The encampment's first official formation took place in the parking lot of the Medical Training Facility at 1530 hours. Squadron and Flight Commanders reported to the Cadet Commander, C/Lt.Col. Stephanie Petelos to formally assume command of their units and receive their guidons. The cadets marched back to their barracks to prepare their equipment for the week ahead. Later that evening the cadet command staff briefed the basic cadets on what was expected of them for the rest of the week.

Every morning at 0500 the flight staff caused chaos in the barracks and the

tactical officers played Guns 'N Roses for reveille. A confused gaggle of cadets streamed from the barracks, only to go back inside to get their canteens and PT belts. The flight sergeants called the cadets into formation so that the Encampment Command Chief, C/CMS John-Anthony Jimenez, Could lead the encampment in morning PT regimen consisting of stretches, calisthenics, running and team-building exercises.



After breakfast, cadets were given personal time to take showers, prepare the barracks for inspection, and prepare their gear for the day ahead. After the flag detail, a group of support staff cadets, raised the flag at morning formation, the flight staff marched the cadets to their morning classes.

Some days, these classes would be at the Medical Training Facility, others they would be at the Auditorium, and occasionally classes would be conducted on the grass outside the barracks or under the pavilion. Early in the week, the Cadet Deputy Commander, C/Lt. Col. Colby Hester of Mississippi Wing, gave the cadets classes on the proper wear of their uniforms, teaching them how to roll their

sleeves and how to properly blouse their pants over their boots. Other classes included Drug Demand Reduction, highlighting new energy drinks containing alcohol, recruiting briefs, Base History, and a class on CAP-USAF Relations.

The cadets were also introduced to Emergency Services on Days 1 and 2. Delta Flight Commander, C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jonathan Allen taught Electronic Direction Finding class, where cadets learned how to use an L-Per to find the ELT. Many of the basic cadets this year were already qualified as ground team members in emergency services, and their experience allowed them to help their teammates when they went on a practical exercise. C/Col. Tyler Todd of Mississippi arrived at the CRTC to be the guest instructor for the land navigation class, followed by a competition between the flights to see who could navigate a compass course in the least amount of time.



In between all the fun classes, the cadets spent countless hours with their flights perfecting their drill and ceremonies movements. The flights cycled through Stations set up around the barracks to expedite their training. Guidon bearers were selected and trained for each flight

and squadron, and the cadet staff began learning their parts in the pass-in-review ceremony that was to be performed after graduation at the end of the week. At the end of the week, the flights' drill skills were put to the test in a drill competition that tested both the flight sergeants' abilities in controlling the flight and the cadets' abilities to perform the movements correctly.

On Day 3, cadets participated in Project X—a series of exercises designed to improve teamwork within the flights and give cadets a chance to develop their leadership skills. Each exercise consisted of a goal, an obstacle that must be overcome to reach the goal, and restrictions on methods the teams could use to overcome the obstacle. Cadet staff members who were not proctoring an exercise or serving on public affairs staff for Project X were formed into a staff team and rotated through the stations and attempted the exercises. While the cadets remained serious and determined to complete each task in Project X, the staff team was a little less determined to finish and a little more determined to have a good time. Nevertheless, they finished three of the exercises and then returned to work.



Cadets traveled to Keesler Air Force Base. The trip on Day 4 provided the cadets with an opportunity to visit a variety of facilities on base. They took a tour of the Keesler AFB Hospital, where they were shown specialized equipment and even a human head. They visited the 53<sup>rd</sup> Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, better known as the *Hurricane Hunters* where they were briefed on the unit's history and mission, and given the chance to see one of the unit's aircraft, a WC-130J. Among the other stops of the day was one to the base fire department, where the personnel were kind enough to raise the ladder and turn on the water to cool off the cadets. Other tours and activity briefings followed box lunches known as "box nasties."



Day 5, the beginning of the end of the 2008 AL/MS Encampment, was flying day. Thirty basic cadets, selected from their flights, flew on a KC-135 refueler with six staff members flying as chaperones.

Those thirty-six cadets and staff members were perhaps the luckiest ones at the encampment: rather than witnessing the tanker refuel F-16's or B-52's like so many other groups have in the past, this group witnessed the refueling of eight F-22 Raptors from Tyndall AFB in Florida.



The cadets who were not selected to go on the KC-135 flight spent the day in CAP Orientation Rides instead. While the basic cadets were off flying, cadet staff members were given a much needed break—two hours to themselves to shower, sleep, and relax. Of course, they went right back to the grind afterwards; under afternoon sun, they were spotted on the flight line conducting pass-in-review practice under the watchful eye of the encampment Training Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Keith Conway.

The final requirements for graduating encampment happened on Day 6: a final barracks inspection, a final exam testing cadets on the knowledge they were supposed to have learned over the week, a drill and ceremonies competition, graduation practice, and a combat dining-in. The dining-in was the most popular of the day's events, and Cadet Rachel Shurbutt considered it the best part of her basic encampment. Cadets painted each other's faces with green and black war paint and flights battled it out in a tug-of-war and water balloon fights.

Throughout the week, an honor flight was selected each day. This was the flight that had been the most outstanding in motivation, timeliness to formations and inspections the day before. Basic cadets

each day who demonstrated the best attitude, were the most team-oriented, performed well in classes and drill, and had the best inspection results were challenged each night in Honor Cadet Boards. An Honor Cadet was selected each day and given special privileges. At the end of the week, an overall Honor Flight was chosen, and the week's daily Honor Cadets returned to the Honor Boards for a final interview. After dominating the other flights three days in a row and being selected as the daily honor flight a total of four times (out of six days), it was no surprise when Alpha Flight was selected as the Encampment Honor Flight. Cadet Evan Nicholl of Alpha Flight was selected as the Encampment Honor Cadet.



Saturday finally arrived, and the cadets prepared to go home. They packed their bags, dressed in blues, and returned their canteens and PT belts. Before breakfast at the Medical Training Facility, they were in the auditorium going through the final practice before graduation. At 1030 they lined up, prepared to march in for graduation. Before we knew it, it was all over. Each flight had been presented their certificates, the individual awards had been passed out, and we had marched to the flight line and passed-in-review despite the threatening weather.

As the cadets stood in line waiting to out-process and go home, the walls of the barracks echoed with the sound of their jodies, chants, and dances. Their motivation was unmatched. According to C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Anna Shurbutt, "Being able to see a group of cadets come together as a team and do so well," was the best part of this encampment, while "how to work as a team" was the most important thing that Cadet Rachel Shurbutt learned. That teamwork was the basis for the friendships that formed and the motivation that energized the air on Saturday afternoon.

This year's encampment was an outstanding success, but it was only a building block of a bigger goal: giving cadets the tools they need make the cadet programs in Alabama and Mississippi Wings among the best in the nation. Pictures documenting the activities at the encampment are found on the web at [www.almseencampment.com](http://www.almseencampment.com).

It is our hope that all participants in this year's encampment will take what they learned back to their home squadron and build with it. We hope that they would inspire the other cadets in their units to make small but necessary improvements in PT, drill and ceremonies, and motivation. These small improvements add up, and over time, such excellence will be the standard.

To transfer the motivation and perseverance that we witnessed at the encampment level to the squadron level would provide both wings with cadet corps capable of performing at the national level: more milestone awards, more cadets applying for and attending national special activities, perhaps even

challenging some of the established powerhouses at National Cadet Competition in Drill Team and Color Guard. The possibilities are endless, if cadets will apply what they have learned. Alabama Wing Cadet Programs is at a critical point: the Senior leadership is supportive and ready to help, the Cadet leadership has never been better, and the Cadet Corps is primed to set a new standard of excellence.

Senior Members who work with Cadets—give them room to work, encourage them to continually improve, and drive them to activities.

Cadets—step up to the plate and become leaders, motivate your peers, attend wing cadet activities, and surpass expectations. You will make mistakes, but do not let that deter you. The Alabama Wing Cadet Program is ready and waiting for your motivation, creativity, and leadership.

*Pictures by Encampment PA Staff  
Article by C/Col Morgan Bennett*

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## **Fly a Teacher in Montgomery**

Capt Ladde Mayer and 2nd Lt Dawson Moore from Squadron 132 and 1st Lt John Hawkins from the wing staff flew to Montgomery Commercial Airport for a Fly a Teacher event.

When we arrived, Lt Hawkins met with the FBO officials who were extremely helpful allowing us to use a conference room, Moore cleaned the aircraft and Mayer met with FBO personnel relative to safe areas in which to fly the teachers.

Mary G. Gurley, Teacher of the Year, kindergarten and aerospace coordinator,

Taylor Road Academy; Janine Brouillette, Principal, Taylor Road Academy; Nikki Alford, Second Grade Teacher, Taylor Road Academy; George Rogers, Technology Teacher, McMillan Academy were the teachers who came to fly



Introductions, an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance began the program.

Lt. Hawkins explained the Fly the Teacher mission for today, some background on the program and how it relates to aviation as a career field. He then gave the history of CAP and explained what our modern mission is and which agencies we support with our efforts.



Using the example of the photos taken by the Alabama Wing of the lake water levels taken in support of AEMA and Governor Riley, he covered the recent gulf coast

exercise relative to the defense of our national capitol and how the wing participated in our nation's defense. 2nd LT Moore, using visual aids he had developed for the Young Eagle program for the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) he explained what makes a plane fly and how the control surfaces work and why. Capt. Mayer used a sectional chart to lead a discussion on how it is used for aviation navigation.



2nd Lt Moore using the a/c again explained the control surfaces, how they are used and why, along with how a plane uses the different wing surfaces to create a vacuum and create lift. Mayer, our Director of Flight Operations gave the pre-flight in the presence of all and then took the first two teachers for a 30 minute ride, landed, changed their seating so that each could fly up front, gave a second 30 minute flight.

We met in the conference room where the flight was discussed, lessons learned and questions asked. The teachers remembered what altitude, direction and speed they flew and sights, including their school. Other teachers had a similar response.

Mayer, using hand drawn diagrams, explained lift and how the lift is always perpendicular to the top of the wing. He demonstrated this using triangles and parallelograms to give resultant force. We then asked the teachers to each name three aviation career jobs and the answers were very good, ranging from pilot, weather, control tower and FCC.

We then asked them to tell us which education subject was important to the aviation career field and it was interesting to see them name math, geography, English, history and finally they said all subjects were important and could be used as illustrations in the class room.

A total of 5.9 hours were flown. Utilizing the three man cockpit rule flight training was accomplished, teachers were flown, education given and fun was had.

*1st Lt. John Hawkins  
Alabama Wing DP*

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## **Squadron 34 Honors Col. John Tilton**

On June 19, 2008 members of CAP Squadron 34 gathered to honor Col. John Tilton as he prepares to move from Birmingham to Jackson, Mississippi. Col. Tilton, a former member of Squadron 90, is currently serving as a member of the CAP National Board of Governors. Col. Tilton's close friend Col. Harold Coghlan was present at the gathering and offered remarks on Col. Tilton's background and experience. Col. Coghlan noted the following: John Tilton has over 16,500 hours of flight time and ATP ratings in both airplanes and helicopters. He is also a dual qualified CFI in both airplanes and

helicopters. His experience as a helicopter pilot was once put to the test when his Jet Ranger's tail rotor failed during a flight over the Gulf of Mexico. He deployed the floats and landed the helicopter safely in the water with no injuries to himself or his passengers.



Col. Tilton served his country for 28 years in the U.S. Army in active duty, the Guard, and the Reserves. He was a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in combat, eight U. S. air medals, as well as the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Star, as well as other medals and awards.

Col. Tilton's service to the Civil Air Patrol began when he became a member of Squadron 90. He went on to the Alabama Wing as Maintenance Officer (he is an A & P mechanic as well) and check pilot. He became Commander of the Alabama Wing, and then Commander of the Southeast Region. From there he served as National Safety Officer before being asked to join the National Board of Governors.

Squadron 34 is proud to honor Col. John Tilton for his outstanding achievements in aviation, his heroic service to his country, and his continuing service to the Civil Air Patrol.

*1st Lt David Smith  
Public Affairs Officer*

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## Huntsville Squadron Supports Open House at Madison Executive Airport

Members of the Huntsville Composite and Redstone Composite Squadrons supported the Open House at Madison County Executive Airport on June 21, 2008. They assisted the FBO with set up, cooking hamburgers, and clean up, as well as showing off the squadron aircraft and passing out recruiting material, including CAP Fact Sheet.

The open-house featured new Cessna Aircraft so the flying community and others could see the planes up close and ask questions about them. Huntsville Squadron meets at the Madison County Executive Airport and the open-house was an opportunity to support them as they have supported Civil Air Patrol during practice exercises, classroom training and regular meetings.



(L-R) Lt. Col. Otha "Skeet" Vaughan (back to the camera), 1st Lt. Ernie Blair and Capt. Carl Foster at the Madison County Executive Airport Cessna Open House. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jerry Tignor, Huntsville Squadron)

The staff at the airport provides invaluable assistance for Alabama Wing when there is an actual mission in progress and allows the Alabama Wing to

use their facility as a base for search and rescue operations.

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## Boaz Cadets visit 117th Guard Unit



On 27 June 2008 the Boaz Civil Air Patrol Squadron Commander 1LT Sonya Erskine, Cpt. Toney, Lt Young, Lt White, three senior members and sixteen cadets visited the 117<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard Refueling Wing located in Birmingham, Alabama. Upon arrival, the Boaz squadron was met at the air passenger terminal by Captain Angela Rogers, the 117<sup>th</sup>'s PAO Officer. Captain Rogers welcomed the cadets, presented a slide show and outlined the 117<sup>th</sup>'s Mission and some of its many accomplishments.

Afterwards MSgt Cynthia Young, the Wings Recruiting NCO, briefed all the cadets on many of the various Air Force jobs available both for active duty and guard duty, the benefits, the pay, job training, education and college funds. The information provided by the recruiter seemed to greatly interest the majority of the Boaz cadets.



Captain Rogers escorted the Boaz Squadron to the flight line where Pilot Major R. J. Smith and Tech Rep/Boom Operator TSgt Wayne Creel briefed the Boaz members on the exterior functions of the KC135 Refueler Aircraft, the tail, wings and the boom.

The cadets were then allowed to enter the KC135 and were briefed about the Aircraft's interior, the Cockpit, and the boom operators' pad, the boom controls and how it operates. The day, spent on an active duty base, the meeting of the members of the Air Force Guard unit, the briefings and the boarding of the KC135 aircraft left a definite and positive impression on all the cadets and senior members as well.



This was one day the cadets will remember for a long time. Many thanks to

Captain Rogers, Major Smith, MSgt Young and SSgt Creel for a job well done. Thanks also to MSgt William Garrard of the 117<sup>th</sup> maintenance section for helping to coordinate the visit.

*SrMbr Larry Smith  
Squadron 801  
Public Affairs*

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Maj. Rick Phillips – Birmingham ANG Squadron  
Capt. Jim Goznell – Pell City Squadron  
Capt. Jerry Lusk – Tuscaloosa Squadron  
Capt. Glenn Wilson – Bessemer Squadron  
Capt. Ian Johnston – Huntsville Squadron  
1Lt. Pierre la Roux – Huntsville Squadron  
1Lt. Dale Chambers – Bessemer Squadron  
1Lt. Mark Gurganus – Tuscaloosa Squadron

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### **SDIS Training Held at Bessemer**

An intensive two day ground school for Satellite Digital Imaging System (SDIS) was held at Bessemer Operations Center on July 19-20, 2008.



Capt. Wilson also demonstrated the beta version of his SDIS Assistant software which he developed reduce the amount of time for image processing.

Lt. Gurganus, the SDIS Coordinator for the Wing stated, " This software will greatly reduce the workload of the operators by automating several tasks".

The operators will fly two check out sorties to complete their training.

Attending the training were the following:  
Maj. Jimmy Mitchell – Bessemer Squadron

### **Tuscaloosa Mayor Declares Civil Air Patrol Day**



1st Lt. Gary Bishop Jr, Maj. Ray Harkey, Capt. Roger Bennett, Mayor Walter Maddox, 1st Lt Henry Glaus, Squadron Commander Capt Jerry Lusk, 2nd Lt Mike Carr.

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## Northport Mayor Declares Civil Air Patrol Day



Maj. Ray Harkey, Maj. David Mauritison MD, Capt Claude Poole Jr, Mayor Harvey Fretwell, Capt Jerry Lusk, 1st Lt. Gary Bishop.

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## National Check Pilot School

Pell City hosted the NCPS (National Check Pilot School) May 2<sup>nd</sup> thru May 4<sup>th</sup>. Once again it was a huge success. Capt Todd (Wing Standards and Eval officer) planned a full weekend which included a day and a half of presentations and ground schools. On Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup>, the practical tests were issued. It was an opportunity for CAP pilots to acquire their initial form 5 or form 91 check rides. It was also an opportunity for the wing to qualify some new form 91 and form 5 check pilots. This is the second year that Capt Todd has conducted this school. This year included a “pinch hitter” course for those in the CAP who are not pilots. It was also well-attended. This is an on-line course offered by the AOPA- ASF (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association- Air Safety Foundation).



Aircraft from each AL squadron participated. The event recertified some existing check pilots while others attended to “refresh” their training and to benefit from the “networking” opportunity offered when pilots from across the state get together. Additionally, three new Form 5 and two new Form 91 check pilots were certified.

Approximately 75 people attended the two check pilot programs and 15 attended the Pinch Hitter program.

There were also a significant number of mission pilots who sat in the Saturday class for Mission check pilots. This provided them an opportunity to refresh some mission skills as well.

Also attending was the SER Standards and Evaluation Officer, Col Joe Brown, and the SER Operations Officer, Col Harry Jones.

Saturday lunch was provided by the Bessemer Squadron cadets. Saturday’s events were topped off by a dinner held at the Pell City Airport.

*-Capt Donnie Todd*

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## From Chaplain Hyde

Chaplain David Smelser's article on "Skill Development for CAP Chaplains" can be read at

[http://level2.cap.gov/visitors/programs/chaplain\\_clergy\\_program/chaplain\\_newsletter.cfm](http://level2.cap.gov/visitors/programs/chaplain_clergy_program/chaplain_newsletter.cfm)



**Chaplain Raymond D. Pettit** of the Autagua-Elmore Squadron will be attending the US Army Chaplain Officer School and upon graduation may be stationed in Germany as a US Army Chaplain.

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## FLY – IN BREAKFAST FLY – IN LUNCH FLEA/FLY MARKET

Shelby County Squadron held our fund raiser on May 03, but was rained out right after breakfast. Thanks to Sanders Flying Service, we were able to cook breakfast. Our Chef par excellence, Johnny Ward Jr. cooked bacon, eggs, sausage and pancakes in Sanders' kitchen and everyone who came ate in Sanders' meeting room.

We tried again on May 31, and the weather cooperated. We served breakfast, including Bill Compton's grits. Johnny Ward Jr. again cooked eggs, bacon, sausage, and pancakes.



Lunch was cooked by several members, including Joe Graffo, Bill Compton, Johnny Ward Sr. and Mike Ridge. Attendees enjoyed hot dogs and Black Angus Burgers, along with drinks and chips

*1st Lt Mike Ridge Public Affairs  
Shelby County Squadron*

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## Wing Finance Information

We are very excited to announce that, as of 1 July 08, all aircraft maintenance fee billing will be handled by our Wing Director of Finance! What that means to you: The local unit will no longer be held responsible for collecting and paying the maintenance fees for the aircraft. This will take a huge financial burden off of you and your finance personnel.

How to handle beginning 1 July 08:

- For all flights conducted on or before 30 June 08, the unit assigned the aircraft will collect the maintenance fees and pay to Wing as before.
- For all flights conducted on or after 1 July 08, the unit assigned the aircraft will mail the aircraft log sheets (CAPF 1) to Col Bob Dorning at P. O. Box 2665, Birmingham, AL 35202.
- For units that have the PIC leave a check in the aircraft at the time of flight, these checks will be mailed to Col Dorning with the aircraft log sheets.
- Col Dorning will deposit the checks tracking the fees based on tail number and pay the fees to NHQ.
- Col Dorning will bill any unpaid flights directly to the member.
- The member will then pay their maintenance fees directly to Wing.
- The fees remain set at \$35 per hour for C172 and \$45 per hour for C182.

Moving to the future, the Wing Staff is looking into an on-line payment system that will allow pilots to pay their fees directly to Wing over a secure link on the internet. We are so excited to be able to offer these types of services to our members. The Alabama Wing is truly becoming the example for others to follow!

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### **ELT silenced at Posey Airport**

One of several ELT during July was located in an aircraft at the Posey (1M4) airport. The FBO and several aircraft had been severely vandalized during the

night. The remote switch for the ELT was turned to the ON position in one of the aircraft. It may have been bumped on while they were damaging the aircraft.



"I know what good work the CAP does and I was impressed at the response in this latest case," said Harry Bearden, who was the reporter/photographer on scene. A former USAF reservist, Bearden had been stationed at Maxwell AFB working as a PIO.

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### **Walker County Incident Photographed for AFRCC**



On Sunday, a twin-engine aircraft crashed after take-off from the Walker County airport, killing all four persons and the two dogs on board the aircraft. A Satellite

Digital Imaging System (SDIS) crew from the Tuscaloosa Senior Squadron photographed the crash site and area, for use by AFRCC.



A ground team from Birmingham Squadron 90 was also sent to the Walker County Airport on Tuesday to verify that the Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) had been de-activated in the wreckage. An ELT is a beacon that emits a signal that is picked up by a satellite known as a SAR-SAT; Search and Rescue Satellite.

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### From the Sentinel, July 2008

Gen Courter's Safety Program, Operation CAPSafe, is now online. Go to e-services and click on CAP Safety Suggestions on the left-hand menu. This should make entries easier for your Safety Suggestions as well as giving the Safety Team tracking capabilities for Operation CAPSafe entries.

I would also like to remind everyone that all prior CAP National Safety Programs, including the Safety Pledge, were terminated in December 2005. Your CAP/NHQ Safety Team requests that every member of every unit in CAP, both seniors and cadets, submit a Safety

Suggestion every month. Your suggestion may be the one that saves a CAP member from injury, the loss or damage of a CAP asset or someone else's property. Every CAP member is a Safety Officer and we need each of you to help keep CAPSafe.

*Col Lyle E. Letteer, CAP  
National Safety Officer*

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### Public Affairs

There are three major stories in this edition. We have two young women, Cadet Colonels Scott and Bennett, who are in the top 2% of all CAP cadets and who challenge us to make the Alabama Wing the best it can be for all of its members. We have a senior member who has stayed with CAP for fifty years, which says something is good about CAP and that Lt. Col. Johnny Ward has had the "stick-to-it-tiveness" to stay with us, when there probably have been times he could have thrown his hands up and left to do other things.

The wing is actively involved in a search as of August 1st at 3:00 CDT. Press releases are being posted on the SER Website and on the National Website. Maj. Neil, the IC, has been sending out emails to keep us in touch with the work that is being done. Capt. John Lartigue, the PAO from the Auburn Squadron, is serving as the Mission Information Officer. All information about the mission must come from Maj. Neil or Capt. Lartigue.

The next Newsletter will be October edition. The deadline for pictures and article will be Sept 25, 2008.