



7-6 Air Cav rē-CAP

Group 13, Texas Wing, South Western Region, Civil Air Patrol, USAF Auxiliary

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Civil Air Patrol is
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7-6 Air Cav rē-CAP is
the newsletter of the:
7-6 Air Cavalry Civil Air
Patrol Composite
Squadron, Group 13,
Texas Wing.
Commander:
Capt. S. Dicker
4724 S. Parkway
Conroe, TX 77303-4355

Cell Phone:
(713) 504 7154

Pager :
713-684-8385

Fax:
(713) 218-5560

E-mail:
stephen.dicker@cityof
houston.net or
cap76aircav@hotmail.
com

We're on the Web!
www.7-6aircav.com

November News

November was another very active month for the Squadron with a lot of ES and training activity. Our thanks to all those Cadets and Seniors who gave up their time to support the activities, and participate in their training!

FTX-Woodville by Capt Ted Tessitore

7-6 Air Cavalry Composite Squadron left for Woodville, Texas the evening of 14 November for an Emergency Services Field Training Exercise (FTX). Capt Hooper flew the CAP aircraft to Woodville (Tyler County Airport) to provide orientation rides during the FTX while Capt's Dicker and Tessitore, trailer in tow, proceeded by road to the airport. A number of orientation flights were performed but the FTX was cut short due to pending bad weather.

ELT UDF Ground Search- CXO

by Capt Ted Tessitore

An ELT mission (number 03M2676) was conducted 18 November 2003. The ELT search was initiated about 2015 following a call from Col. Jan Hays the Incident Commander (IC). An ELT was reported by the AFRCC as active in the vicinity of Montgomery County Airport, Conroe. This was during a regular squadron night, while the cadets were out doing PT. A ground team was mobilized comprising cadets; Tessitore, Kurtz, and M. Brown. Seniors on the team were Capt's Tessitore, Brown, Taylor, and Dicker, LtCol's Fruchtnicht and Williams, and 1Lt Ayre. The target was found in record time!

An aging Piper on the ramp at Holley's FBO was the culprit. With all the rain the previous day, the aircraft was rather wet inside, and it's possible that the dampness and humidity caused the ELT to activate. Holley's obtained permission from the owner to enter the aircraft and turn off the ELT until it could be looked at during the day. Another find for the 7-6 Air Cav. team!

ELT Air Search-Mays by Capt Max Taylor

The following day on 19th November an ELT had gone off but the ground team had been unable to locate it in the vicinity of Mays Airport west of Hooks. Our aircraft, N235TX was launched crewed by Capt Taylor as Mission Pilot and Lt Col Williams as Trainee Observer to confirm that the ELT was still active and to guide the ground team closer. The crew accomplished this task giving them a find.

Any comments, news or information to communicate? Please contact 1Lt D. Ayre, the editor, and Public Affairs Officer via email at ayrefam@sbcglobal.net

Groups 3, 11, and 13 SAREX

The weekend of November 22 and 23, was a multi-group funded SAREX hosted by Group 13 at West Houston airport (Mission Number SWLR04-0023). We had seven aircraft and several ground teams. The Ground Teams were given a real mission due to the unfortunate tragedy that occurred earlier that week, when a T-34 Mentor belonging to Texas Air Aces crashed near Lake Conroe. The NTSB requested that CAP provide ground teams in order to search for and help recover critical components of the aircraft which were required to complete the crash investigation. Cadets Tessitore, Joncyk, Fruchnicht, Kurtz, and Walls were involved in the NTSB search on Saturday and Sunday. Our cadets were instrumental in finding one of the aircraft's main wheels, and a wrist watch. The NTSB was very complimentary in the way our cadets handled themselves and their tasks, which brought credit to the squadron. Capt Tessitore was the Ground Branch Director for this activity.

Other squadron members involved in the weekend's activities were Lt Col Williams who completed his Mission Observer and Slow Scan TV training. 1Lt Ayre completed his training as Air Operations Branch Director. Capt. Hooper completed his training as Urban Direction Finder and passed some of the Ground Team Member requirements, he also participated in the NTSB search. Capt's Dicker and Laughlin participated as Communications Director and Mission Pilot respectively.

The new Wing Commander attended the SAREX holding a commander's call there, and visiting with all members present.

TAMU JCAP by Cadet Chase Ewing

A couple of weeks ago I went to the Junior Cadet Achievement Program (JCAP) at Texas A&M University. JCAP is an opportunity for Civil Air Patrol and JROTC cadets that are Juniors and Seniors in high school to see what life is like in the Corps of Cadets.

The JCAP program is four days long, starting on Thursday and ending on Sunday. The first day is a free day except for a couple of presentations about the corps. On Friday, cadets are given the chance to take the ISAT or IACT in the morning, and in the afternoon the host cadets from the corps take the JCAP cadets around to show them the different ROTC programs available at Texas A&M. Friday night is the JCAP Banquet, where the cadets receive a Corps scholarship. After the banquet the host cadets give tours of the campus and then go to midnight yell practice.

On Saturday the JCAP cadets march into Kyle Field in front of the Corps before the football game. Even though the dress uniform is worn during the game, this is probably the most fun part about JCAP. After the game there is a meeting where the closing remarks are made, and then the rest of the day is free. JCAP is an excellent program for anyone who wants to go into the Corps of Cadets, or just wants to go to Texas A&M. It is very competitive to get in. About one thousand cadets applied this year, and only about two hundred and seventy made it in. The JCAP program is being changed a little bit so they can take more cadets every year. They are going to have one in the fall for Seniors, and one in the spring for Juniors. I had really good time at JCAP, and I would encourage everybody in the squadron who can, to go to it.

CTEP by Capt J. Hooper

During the weekend of November 8, Cadets William Walls, Kyle Joncyk and myself attended the Cadet Training and Education Program (CTEP) at Camp Mabry in Austin. CTEP consists of four schools; cadets attend the school corresponding to their current level of progression in CAP. The four schools are the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy (NCOA), Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Academy (SNCOA), Officer Training School (OTS), and Cadet Command Staff College (CCSC).

Cadet Walls attended OTS and Cadet Joncyk attended NCOA while I participated in discussions with all four schools. Camp Mabry was a good experience for the cadets (and myself as well, since it has given me more insight into the cadet program). They learned a great deal about leadership skills and theory, including an excellent presentation on Colin Powell's leadership philosophy as well as practical problem solving scenarios.

It is my expectation that they will benefit even more as they put their new skills to practical application in the squadron as they train our younger cadets. I also expect more cadets to attend in the future and participate in this leadership laboratory; I don't want a single empty seat in the van!

CTEP: NCOA by Cadet M/Sgt K. Joncyk

When I first heard about CTEP I had no idea what it would be like. I had done a Basic Encampment and an NCO training day at Squadron with Capt. Mabry. I assumed that CTEP would be like a short encampment but with more leadership classes. I was, however, wrong. Unlike encampment, at NCOA (Non-Commissioned Officers Academy) I was treated like a leader instead of a "follower". Officers, who I was scared to death of at Basic Encampment, now suddenly became more approachable.

Another difference was the mental stress. I thought it was tough at encampment but at NCOA it was worse. We woke up at 5:00 am and did PT. The day got rolling with classes, drilling, and more classes. I found myself expecting dinner to come shortly, yet it was only 2:00 pm! When we weren't taking notes on a leadership PowerPoint, we were outside drilling. The staff would randomly pick one of the NCOs and put them in charge for a while to see how they handled it. We were all exhausted yet we were being tested constantly. They gave us a half hour to plan a two minute speech that we each gave to our cadet commander and the rest of the NCOA. Two minutes was easy but getting up in front of everybody was hard.

During the weekend we heard talks from military veterans about their careers. An Air Force Chief put into perspective how other countries feel when men in U.S. uniforms come and join a fight in their country that may have been going on for years. Another speaker had just come home from a year in Iraq.

Overall CTEP was nothing like what I thought it would be. It was much better. I recommend attending if you plan to hold a staff position in the 7-6, because the things I learned there have helped me tremendously.

Glider O-Flights: Glider O-Flights were cancelled this month due to bad weather on Nov 8th. Our Next Glider O-Flights are scheduled for Saturday 3rd January 2004

Powered O-Flights: Powered O Flights were conducted this month at the FTX with Capt. Hooper flying Cadets Ben Magby, Kathleen Cadwallader, Shaun Taylor, and Zach Cadwallader. Cadets Dana Magby, Scott Ehrgott, Art Formanek, and James Sumner also had back seat rides.

Squadron Commander's Call

by Capt. S. Dicker

The 7-6 Air Cavalry Composite Squadron held its third FTX of the fall 2003.

Unfortunately, severe weather forced the units return a day early. Most of the projected training was accomplished with some testing and sign-offs yet to occur. We had allot of newer Cadets with little or no camping experience and, based on weather predictions by the National Weather Service, I detemined that remaining at Woodville in the severe weather, would not have been in the best interest of our newer Cadets. Our aircraft was sent back mid day on Saturday and ran into thunderstorms and had to divert to Huntsville until the storms passed. Had we had a more experienced Cadet membership, we may have continued with the training. However, the health of our membership was also a concern. This is a prime example of why we must carry a poncho in our rucksacks on our field gear.

We utilized five of our new 10 man tents at this FTX and they worked out well. We placed eight members in each tent of the two male tents, the four female Cadets in another tent, and the Cadet Staff and Senior members each had a tent. Two of the tents sustained minor damage during this FTX. One of the male tents received an approximate 8 inch slice in the floor. Due to the straight edge on the cut across the grain, it leads me to believe the tent was accidentally cut by a knife. **THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!** No Cadet shall carry a knife who has not attended a knife safety course taught by either Capt. Paul Brown or Capt. Ted Tessitore, Emergency Services Trainers, and received a certificate for the course completion, which the Cadet will bring to the Squadron Commander who will sign the certificate approving authorization to carry a knife. If the Squadron Commander feels the maturity and responsibility level of the individual is wanting, he may decline authorization. The authorization to carry a knife at CAP activities is not a right, but an additional responsibility.

The second male tent had some sort of tear which I did not get to see in the tent floor. We must make great efforts to keep from damaging these tents as the are: #1) expensive; #2) not going to be replaced and; #3) CAP property. This includes the zipper doorways. Please insure that you also unzip the bottom zipper when coming in and out of the tents to prevent crimping the zippers or dislodging them altogether.

Now that the holidays are upon us, we must all be a little more careful. Holidays are a time of joy and happiness, but some folks go overboard and drinking and driving irresponsibly occurs. This places all of us in danger. This means that we must be very conscious and alert when crossing the streets and for those of us driving, being more cautious of the other drivers. Here's wishing you and your entire extended families, the best this holiday season!

- O-Flights
- ES Training
- Winter Encampment

Quote of the Month: "Experience is not what happens to you; it's what you do with what happens to you." - [Aldous Huxley](#)

Upcomming Events & Activities

Glider O-Flights: Our next scheduled Glider O-Flights are January 3rd. Our Gliding activity is run by CAP members of the Soaring Club of Houston at their Gliderport between Magnolia and Hempstead. Cadets should sign up for this activity on the Squadron's bulletin board or contact 1Lt D. Ayre by phone at 281 367 0519 or via e-mail at ayrefam@sbcglobal.net. Information about the club and its facilities can be found at www.scoh.org. Cadets are encouraged, and SM's are required, to take the Soaring Society of America's (SSA) Wing Runner course which is available on the national website www.capnhq.gov. Typically we assemble at the US Army Reserve Center Aviation Support Facility (USARC ASF) at 0730 for a 0800 hrs departure, returning around 1800 hrs.

Powered O-Flights: There are no o-flights scheduled so far in December. Any changes in this will be announced during regular meetings and posted on the Calendar.

Winter Encampment (Camp Swift, Bastrop): Cadet Staff has already been selected for the Winter Encampment. Positions for Senior Staff members are still open. Applications and payments for Cadet Basic and ATS attendees must be received no later than Dec 15th.

ES Training

Group 13: by Maj. Rand Woodward

The next unfunded SAREX is scheduled on January 24th and 25th at IWS (West Houston.) This is open to Cadets and Seniors who wish to attain ES qualifications. Both Cadets and SM's must have taken and passed the CAPT 116 100 question test and have a CAPF 101 card to participate, and the respective CAPF 101T for the qualification they wish to obtain. They must have sent in a TXWG F17a to Chuck Bremholm or Rand Woodward as soon as possible. Cadets wishing to attend should contact Captains Tessitore, Brown, Hooper or 1Lt Ayre for further information.

Profiles: Capt. Stephen Dicker

by Chaplain (Major) George Klett

Captain Stephen R. Dicker, our squadron commander, joined the CAP in January of 1999, and put on the squadron commander's hat in November of that same year! He hails from Detroit, Michigan, born there in April 1959, and entered the US Army in 1978 as a military policeman. He served in Pusan, Korea, from 1978 to 1980 as a K-9 handler, then on to Fort Bliss, Texas, where he became a military police investigator with the rank of E-5 (sergeant). In 1982 he left the military to join the ranks of the Houston Police Department, where he serves today as a senior police officer in the Major Offender Division. On his CAP uniform he displays a chest full of ribbons, including the Army Commendation Award, the Humanitarian Award, the Good Conduct Medal (really!), and the Overseas Service Award. In the CAP his awards include the Yeager ribbon. He and his wife Karen, along with their 17 year old son William, a firefighter, live in Conroe. Stephen's interests include, of course, a wide range of CAP activities, and riding his quarter-horse

Natashia! We lift our caps to squadron CO Stephen Dicker, and honor him for his sense of duty -- as well as for his sense of humor!!

Two other new members in October include Rebecca "Becky" Capps, 19, a senior member, and her 17 year old brother Shaun Taylor, both of Conroe. Becky is a sales rep with Foley's in The Woodlands and enjoys sketching, photography and the writing of fictional stories. She and her husband Shawn, along with her cadet brother Shaun, are lifelong members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Becky's plans include her enrollment in Montgomery Community College.

We welcome these two new members into the CAP and look forward to their dutiful contributions to the life of our squadron!

Flight Ops

Senior Member Spin

Flight Operations by Capt Jeremy Hooper

There I'm keeping this month's column relatively short, since I'm addressing you from the sunny Florida beaches on Thanksgiving vacation! First of all, I wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving and a relaxing holiday season. Despite the fact that our aircraft, N235TX, was this month's hangar queen, she did manage to fly approximately 25 hours thanks to the O-flights we did at the November FTX, as well as a funded SAREX and one actual Air Force assigned mission.

As I close, I remind all pilots to get their data into MIMS, and fly safely!

Funding in 2004 for ES Ground and Flight activities will be based on the number of members (cadets and seniors) we have qualified as Ground Team / UDF, and Mission Observers and Pilots, hence our push to get all our member's qualifications into MIMS

Communications

Communications

Permission for the erection of the new communications tower on the ARF property has been given a verbal go ahead, and we are awaiting written confirmation before proceeding further.

Aerospace Ed.

Aerospace Education

The first chapter of module 6 on Space Environment was presented by 1Lt Ayre on November 4th.

Logistics

Logistics

A kind benefactor has come forward and allowed us to acquire Chaplain Riddle's enclosed trailer for ES and other activities. We are waiting for approval from the Wing Commander to allow the donation to occur and for permission to be able to tow a trailer with the van.

Maintenance
Hanger

Maintenance Hanger

Our aircraft had its tachometer cable replaced and its fire extinguisher recertified. The FM radio now works. All that remains is the DF Equipment which should be fixed at the next 100 hour inspection.

Cadet Programs

Congratulations to C/1Lt's Kurtz and Walls who made staff at the winter encampment. Congratulations also go to C/M/Sgt Joncyk who has just been awarded the Bronze Congressional Certificate. He is already on the way to completing his Silver Certificate, which will earn him his Community Service ribbon. Joncyk also plans to join the Advanced Training Squadron (ATS) at the winter encampment.

The Congressional Award Program dovetails well with CAP activities, and many Cadets could earn their Congressional certificates and Medals without much extra effort. It is also an excellent supplement to college and NCSA applications. Any cadets interested in this program should contact 1Lt Ayre.

Cadets are encouraged to also go into the MIMS (FMS) Qual/Cert area on the National HQ website, and input their Curry achievement. Those who have completed CAPT 116 (online) – a requirement for ES qualifications, should enter this on the same area also. This will allow the cadets to print their own CAPF 101 cards, required for participation in ES activities.

Applications for National Cadet Special Activities should be formulated and submitted no later than Dec 31st. Maj Brooks Cima has issued some guidelines to help cadets through this application process. Cadets who want help with their resume should ask any senior member to review it and make constructive suggestions.

Safety by Capt Clyde Domengeaux

The Sterile Cockpit

Sterile in this case doesn't mean a clean antiseptic environment, but, everything to do with a pure mental environment. As pilot's we pride ourselves on the ability to multitask. Doing several things at once, though, may mean that something important falls through the cracks. Obviously, distractions can lead to accidents. It happens every day in the non-aeronautical pursuits. A contemporary example is the use of "cell" phones while driving. Many recent studies indicate a strong correlation between using these phones and the increased probability of a crash because of distraction. There are similarities in Aviation. The concept of the sterile cockpit has been around for decades & got its start in the airline industry. Most people know when they're busy and distractions are noticeable. We can improve our safety record significantly by reducing distraction. How does this correlate to us in the CAP?

I can think of many ways that this happens in our realm of flying. We are on a "Mission", and being trained to perform this task, along with the "I can do this" attitude, we may get rushed and not run the check list as well if at first we did not brief the others traveling with us for this mission, so, we may have a quiet cockpit while taxiing out, listening to ATC instructions, listening to traffic at uncontrolled airports, etc. Taxiing is not a good time to be briefing the passengers. Sterile cockpits should be that way from starting engines till 1000' agl and on the return to the airport from 1000' agl to parking. All of this should be in the pilot's briefing pre-flight. Along these lines, you can certainly include

Admin

Membership 111
(72 Cadets)

Professional
Development

Questions &
Comments

- ARF Security

in the briefing, if during this sterile environment, if the see an emergency situation, such as another aircraft too close, a warning light in the cockpit, etc. please speak up.

If we do our briefing properly, we should have a better working environment in the cockpit, which in turn will assist us in having a "Safe Mission"

Admin / Personnel Matters by 1Lt. Brumlow

Squadron strength climbed back to 111 in late November, with 72 cadet members and 39 seniors.

We welcome the following new cadets whose membership cards were issued this month: C/Basics William Blackshear, Jeff Cadwallader (joining his sister Kathleen, and brother Zach), and Justin Young.

New Sr. Members / Promotions: Rebecca Capps joined 29 Oct 2003, and Alejandro (Alex) Tapia received his membership card this month. We are hoping to welcome back Mike (Loose) Cannon any day now.

Just a friendly reminder of membership renewals - you may renew on line <https://net.caphq.gov/OnlineRenewals>

Professional Development by Lt. Col. Bill Williams

ATTENTION CADETS: Any cadet that thinks they have sponsored a new member should contact me immediately. Cadets are missing out on a great opportunity to compete for the nice prizes to be given away for recruiting. All three of the prizes are valuable and some one will walk away with them. So far I do not have any names of Cadets who have sponsored a new member. The new member may be a Senior, Cadet, Cadet Sponsor, Business or Aerospace Member. Just make sure that your name and CAP ID appear on the application.

We have had several senior applications for membership. We have made tentative arrangements for a Level I Orientation Course to be held December 6th. December is a busy month so the earlier we can do this the better. All cadets 18 years and older and all senior members who have just joined or are in the process of joining should consider attending. Training will start at 0900 and end around 1300 hrs.

Most members have at least one Specialty Track they are working on. I have a master list of this information correct through November 25, 2003 from the Nat'l Headquarters. Please check with me if you want to know what's required for your rating or if you want to add another Specialty.

For more information on Senior Professional Development, contact Lt. Col. Bill Williams Tuesday evenings or e-mail at billbill9@hotmail.com

Seniors & Parent Power

Comments & Questions

Q. The guards will not let us into the facility sometimes to collect our children without signing in.



A. I need each of you to remember that the Civil Air Patrol program is a guest of the 7-6 Air Cavalry Squadron of the United States Army Reserves. Changing times and alerts come in daily to the facility and weekly there maybe changes in the procedure to enter the facility. Responsible for the facility's security are the Security Guards. They follow the instructions of their supervisors of the 7-6 Air Cavalry Squadron U. S. Army Reserves. If they request you to sign in, you must sign in, please DO SO WITHOUT ARGUMENT OR ADVERSE COMMENT. I cannot and WILL NOT allow any individual to disturb our agreement with the U.S. Army Reserve Center. If you fail to sign in after being told to do so and enter the facility, you may be subject to arrest. Do not expect me to try to intervene. This program, which supports some seventy of our children, is more important than any one individual. I would appreciate and demand your cooperation in this matter. Capt Stephen R. Dicker, Commander, 7/6 Air Cavalry Composite Squadron, CAP, USAF Auxiliary

Any parent having questions, concerns or suggestions should feel free to email the Squadron Commander, Capt. Stephen R. Dicker at stephen.dicker@cityofhouston.net . Capt. Dicker can also be reached on his cell phone at 713-504-7154 for immediate needs.

Calendar

Calendar We have placed the Calendar on the squadron website, with the expectation of keeping it more current and saving space in the newsletter. Go to <http://www.7-6aircav.com> it is also available directly at http://my.calendar.com/7_6aircav