



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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Viking Squadron Members Enjoy Flight in CH-47

2nd Lt. Erik Lindquist

Cadet and Officer members of the Viking Composite Squadron were privileged to do what they enjoy most, fly and have fun.

Members of the Minnesota Air National Guard from Company B 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) took Viking Squadron under their wings (rotor blades to be exact). Company B 2-211th GSAB is based at St. Paul's Holman Field. Pilot CW3 Adamson, Co-Pilot 1LT Nelson, and Flight Engineer SFC Hance made sure the experience was a most memorable one.

The flight exhibited the extreme power and agility of the CH-47 Chinook. It was also a great demonstration of the ability to get into and out of a landing zone with great speed and efficiency. Lastly, the aircrew showed Viking squadron the in-flight maneuverability of the CH-47, which left everyone on board in awe and looking for more. The excitement and satisfaction level was extremely high. All members on board were sorry to see it end and look forward to perhaps another opportunity. Viking Squadron cannot thank the CH-47 aircrew and Air National Guard enough for the wonderful opportunity of flying with them in the CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

Experiences like these are beneficial to the cadets who range in age from 12 to 18 years old. They start to experience aviation and leadership opportunities at an early age. That experience helps shape them into the leaders of tomorrow. They also start to form interests and build confidence that will direct their life choices for the future. Lastly, it enhances their knowledge of aviation and how they can make aviation a part of their lives.

Special congratulations to C/AMN Nathan J. Eastling from Chaska. C/AMN Eastling picked the correct number, which earned him the honored jump seat position directly behind the pilot and co-pilot at the front of the helicopter. There were no complaints heard from C/AMN Eastling for his special bird's eye view, only a very large smile, and thumbs up.



Viking Squadron members prepare to board the CH-47 at Holman Field.



Viking members prepare for flight with Flight Engineer SFC Hance in background.



Company B 2-211th GSAB CH-47 Chinook getting ready for take off from Holman Field.

Basic Cadet Training School Held at 130th is “A Weekend Well Spent”

C/1st Lt. Billy Hoffman

Cadet staff of the 2008 BCTS (L to R) C/MSgt. Mark Pohl, C/AMN Anastasia Smith, C/SSgt. Dan Schumann, C/1st Lt. Billy Hoffman, C/A1C Matt Eishens, C/AMN Seth Patrin, C/SSgt. Scott Gabert and C/TSgt. Jake Fliehr.



On the evening

of May 9, cadet staff of the 130th Composite Squadron stood at parade rest in front of the squadron hanger at Airlake Airport in Lakeville, MN. The cadet staff prepared themselves to greet the new cadets of the squadron on the first day of the 130th Squadron Basic Cadet Training School.

Basic Cadet Training School, or BCTS, is an activity that was developed during a large recruiting push in the Spring of 2007. Cadets that newly joined Civil Air Patrol at the 130th had become frustrated with the fact that they were unable to understand the material used at the weekly squadron meetings. Cadet staff of the 130th did not have a problem presenting the information to new cadets, the problem arose with the different levels of experience of the cadets' training. With the level of experience being separated by flight in the squadron much of the same information was being constantly presented.

Since there were only a couple of weeks before the Spring 2007 Encampment Preparatory School and many of the new cadets were planning on attending, the cadet staff of the 130th decided to plan a weekend activity that would introduce materials used in the weekly squadron meetings. In addition, it introduced basic knowledge of encampment and material used there. The weekend concluded with all graduates promoted to the grade of Cadet Airman.

The third and most recent BCTS of the 130th Composite Squadron began May 9. The van carrying the BCTS students slowly pulled up in front of the twelve 130th BCTS cadet instructors waiting outside the squadron's hanger. The staff snapped to attention,

opened the doors of the van and ushered the cadets out.

The cadets exited the van to line up for in-processing in order that bags could be checked for any unauthorized items at BCTS. After in-processing, the students attended the welcome briefing. After the welcome they immediately began drill instruction and that marked the beginning of their weekend of training.

Early Saturday morning the BCTS cadets were awoken by the voices of the instructors urging them to prepare for physical training lead by C/A1C Brent Maki. Physical training consisted of running, push-ups, sit-ups, stretching and more.

Throughout the day cadets were instructed on the many aspects of being a member of Civil Air Patrol. That included proper uniform wear, inspections, jodies, cadet life, available activities at all levels and completing the first chapter of the Leadership: 2000 and Beyond manual.

After lunch cadets moved from the training to testing phase. Testing was utilized to establish the amount of knowledge gained over the weekend. They received a PT test, a drill test, a review board and finally a knowledge test.

To close the BCTS, cadets and staff worked together in a final team building exercise that brought them closer together. Following that activity was graduation.

The graduation was attended by all BCTS staff, students and nearly 50 proud parents. C/1st Lt. Billy Hoffman, Cadet Commander, and C/MSgt. Mark Pohl, Cadet Deputy Commander, presented the graduates of BCTS their certificates of completion.

One of the graduates, C/AB Christen Furlong, said, "For me BCTS proved to be an indispensable tool for my progress as a cadet, as well as for the preparation for harder tasks yet to be achieved. Gaining that, I would say it was a weekend well spent."

April Encampment Preparatory School is a Success

C/CMSgt. Kristin Young

"Cadets, are you motivated?!" "Motivated, dedicated, outright fired-up, HOOAH!!!!!!!" was merely one of the chants being shouted by cadets that attended the Encampment Preparatory School [EPS] April 18-20. The EPS was staffed by the 19th Cadet Training Squadron (CTS) staff for encampment. One of the purposes of the EPS is to prepare the basic cadets for what is expected to succeed at the encampment; another is to give all staff hands-on experience in working with basic cadets in the encampment setting.

Cadets arrived for the in-processing between 1800-1900 on Friday, April 18, most of them not knowing what to expect. The few days of training the cadets had were utilized to the fullest;

educating them through classes that included encampment orientation, Cadet Programs, proper wear of the different uniforms and chain of command. There were many hours of drill practice and instruction, physical training, and two detailed inspections.

At 1130 on Sunday morning a graduation ceremony was held for the cadets to recognize their achievements, to show many proud parents just what they could accomplish, and to recognize all the staff members, Cadet and Officer, for their hard work and amazing job. Cadets left shortly after cleanup around 1400-1430 on Sunday to return to their various homes around the state. The EPS Cadet Commander, C/1st Lt Haylee Fosterling, said: "Like George Patton said, 'Accept challenges, so that

you may feel the exhilaration of victory.' I hope to see all the graduates at Encampment!"



Cadets in the midst of training while at the April EPS at Camp Ripley.

Minnesota Wing Honor Guard are Twins' Biggest Fans

C/Col. Charles Cox

The Minnesota Wing Honor Guard recently performed during the pre-game ceremonies for the Minnesota Twins on two separate occasions. The Honor Guard marched out behind home plate and presented the colors while the National Anthem played. Getting out on the field was a much enjoyed opportunity for these die-hard Twins fans.

"Meeting TC Bear and being just feet away from the Twins players might be the coolest opportunity I've ever had in CAP," C/1st Lt. Andrew Puckett said.

The Honor Guard members were able to enjoy the game after their presentations, although the Twins suffered a hard 0-1 loss against the Angels and a disappointing 1-3 loss

against the Royals. "The outcome of the game doesn't matter, we still love these guys no matter what," C/Capt. Josh Woodard said of the Twins.



Minnesota Wing Honor Guard members prepare to present the colors before the Minnesota Twins take on the Los Angeles Angels. From left to right are C/CMSgt. Stefan Hall, C/1st Lt. Andrew Puckett, C/Col. Charles Cox and C/Maj. Mike Kenny.

Minnesota Wing PAO Receives Award from MAGC

Capt. Erich Praud

For the second year in a row, a member of the Minnesota Wing was honored with an award from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC).

Capt. Richard Sprouse, Group 2 Public Affairs Officer (PAO) received an Award of Merit in the Public Information Projects – Media/Press Kit category from MAGC. Capt. Sprouse's efforts showcased the air-to-air refueling efforts of the world-renowned US Air Force Thunderbirds to CAP members and Minnesota news media. Group 2 includes squadrons in Anoka, Brainerd, Hutchinson, St. Cloud, and Willmar.

Capt. Sprouse had accompanied members of the St. Cloud Composite Squadron to Grand Forks Air Force Base last September on what was supposed to be a routine refueling mission by the USAF 319th Air Refueling Wing. Things changed once the tanker was airborne and word passed that the mission had been scrapped.

"Obviously, we were disappointed," Sprouse said, "but the mood soon changed when we heard we would be refueling the Thunderbirds."

Once refueled the Thunderbirds flew off the wings of the tanker providing some once in a lifetime photo opportunities for Capt. Sprouse and members of the St. Cloud Composite Squadron. Once back in St. Cloud he produced a media kit containing a news release, pictures, and other support materials that were heavily used by media and praised by MAGC judges.

"It was an honor to receive recognition from a professional organization outside of CAP that recognizes and appreciates good effort and quality work," Sprouse said.

MAGC judges gave the media kit high marks for creativity, content, presentation, cost effectiveness, and overall quality.

"The pictures of the refueling are great, and the description of the challenge in photographing them was interesting," wrote one of the MAGC judges. Another judge wrote, "The media kit was well organized and contained information that would have made it easy for a reporter or editor to do a story. Still another judge wrote, "This was a great opportunity to pro-

mote the squadron, and Capt. Sprouse took the correct steps to do that."

Capt. Sprouse said the kudos should actually go to event organizer Capt. Pat Cruze of St. Cloud Composite Squadron.

"I just happened to be in the right place at the right time in order to capture a great story with some great pictures, thanks to Capt. Cruze, someone who understands the value of good public relations and the importance of including and communicating with a PAO. He's the guy more commanders should emulate when it comes to utilizing a PAO," Sprouse said.

Capt. Richard Sprouse has over 30 years of public relations and news experience in the public, private, and military sectors. He was the 2006 Minnesota Wing Public Affairs Officer of the Year. His work frequently appears in *Minnesota CAP WingTips*, *CAP North Central Region News*, *CAP News On-Line* and CAP's national magazine, *The Volunteer*, as well as in Minnesota media. His feature article on Minnesota Wing's flight academy received an award of excellence last year from MAGC.

Sprouse works as the public information officer for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Division of Enforcement. His popular "*Cuffs and Collars*" and "*Conservation Officer Tales*," appear in numerous newspapers in Minnesota, as well as the Midwest.

Capt. Richard Sprouse was presented the Award of Merit during MAGC's awards banquet held at the Minnesota History Museum in St. Paul.



Pilot Patter

Lt. Col. Nick Modders

This column is the first in what will become a regular series in WingTips. It is an attempt to bring to the pilots, observers and scanners in Minnesota Wing a regular delivery of information that will be useful to you in your CAP aviation duties. You will also notice that some of the information that you see in this column you may see in e-mail announcements from the Wing. Repetition is a great way to insure that you have received information and makes it easy for you to remember it.

Things are changing on the flying scene at Minnesota Wing. We now have a new head of flight standardization at Wing Headquarters. Maj. Alan Matson has been appointed as the Standardization and Evaluation Officer (Stan/Eval) and will provide guidance to Minnesota Wing pilots, instructors and check pilots on the proper way to operate CAP aircraft. Maj. Matson is a long time participant who started out at Viking Composite Squadron. His CAP career has taken him beyond Viking Squadron with his most recent assignment as Commander of Group 2.

He learned to fly at Wheeler Air Force Base in Hawaii while he was serving in a U.S. Army Air Cavalry unit attached to the 25th Infantry Division. Maj. Matson holds a commercial pilot certificate for airplane, single engine land with an instrument rating. His certified flight instructor certificate also has ratings for airplane single engine land and instrument. In addition, he holds an Advanced Ground Instructor certificate, which allows him to instruct up the Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) rating. He is employed at Northwest Airlines as an Aircrew Training Instructor on the DC-9 fleet, where he trains pilots on systems and procedures. He has been involved in the CAP pilot standardization program as an instructor and check pilot for several years.

Maj. Matson's philosophy for flight training and standardization is that it will be a continuous, positive experience, aimed at developing a high degree of skill and confidence in the individual pilot. Training will be a continuing process that will keep pilots proficient all year. Check rides will be standardized. What you see on the Form 5 or Form 91 is what you will be expected

to be proficient in. As mentioned previously, training will be a continuing process with pilots expected to participate fully in the FAA Wings program, which will provide a solid basis of aeronautical knowledge and automatically keep their Flight Review Date more than a year in the future.

Maj. Matson, being a good manager, realizes that the best way to get a lot of work done is to get others to help. To that end he has enlisted the services of your faithful scribe, Lt. Col. Nick Modders, of the 130th Squadron to put together the Pilot Patter articles for WingTips. Lt. Col. Modders is a retired USAF pilot with experience in the KC-97, C-133 and C-130. He was employed by Northwest Airlines for 31 years, retiring as a Boeing 757 captain instructor. Since 1965 he has held an FAA flight instructor certificate and has an FAA ground instructor certificate with advanced and instrument ratings.

With Major Matson leading the way and Lt. Col. Modders doing the typing we propose to keep you continually exposed to what you need to know to make you and your crew a safe and proficient CAP flight contributor.

Luverne Airport is Site of Life Saving Training Exercise 2nd Lt. George Supan

On Saturday, April 4, Minnesota Wing members and members of a South Dakota Wing squadron converged on Luverne Airport for search and rescue exercise training (SAREX). The airport is located in Southwestern Minnesota, 14 miles from South Dakota and nine miles from Iowa.

Thirteen CAP aircraft and over 100 CAP volunteers gathered to continue their training in search and rescue along with learning new skills. "Training for today's missions will help you be ready for future real missions when called", said Capt. Paul Pieper, CAP Incident Commander. "Some of the scenarios today may be requests received from local authorities while others may not be real in order to provide training", Capt. Pieper said as he briefed the group of CAP members in front of an airport hanger on a windy Saturday morning.

"Safety is first. Your safety and safe operations of the aircraft and vehicles is of utmost importance", said CAP Safety Officer 1st Lt. Frank Jirik. He also shared safety tips about what items to look for on the airport surface and when the members are on a mission.

"I know how important training is in any setting and more importantly in saving lives", said Mr. Andy Steensma, Mayor of Luverne. "We are happy to have CAP do their training at our airport", said Steensma. "The next time your aircraft will have an extended airport runway for landing."

As the Stanford USD Medical Center Trauma 1 chopper landed the CAP members were waiting to receive the training provided by

the pilot and medical team. The CAP cadets (12-18 years old) were hoping for an opportunity to sit in the chopper. Pilot Pat Hall and the medical team, Jodi Dooyema and Bob Fickness, provided excellent training on accident site requirements, the capabilities of the chopper and accident site treatment.

Maj. Mark McCormick, Worthington Composite Squadron Commander hosted the event. The day's events also included single and tandem skydiving along with a large number of missions for the CAP members.



Mr. Andy Steensma, Mayor of Luverne, at the Luverne Airport for the CAP exercise.



Maj. Mark McCormick, Worthington Squadron Commander, briefs members before the mission.

Stanford USD Medical Center Trauma 1 chopper and staff. Left to right are Pat Hall, pilot; Jodi Dooyema and Bob Fickness, medical team.



Cadet David Peterson of Anoka Composite Squadron gets a front seat view from the Stanford medical chopper.

Eden Prairie Fire Department Meets with Viking Squadron

2nd Lt. Erik Lindquist

Over 80 members of the Eden Prairie Fire Department and U.S. Air Force Auxiliary (Civil Air Patrol) Viking Squadron met in two sessions at Flying Cloud Airport. It was a great opportunity for both groups to meet together formally and informally in order to get to know each other.

The main focus was to introduce both groups to the various search and rescue operations that each group vigorously trains for. One goal was to show how the local emergency responders could utilize the Civil Air Patrol as a resource during times of local emergencies.

Such areas as Civil Air Patrol's national communication network, coordinated air and ground search capabilities and aerial photoreconnaissance capabilities

could be used during times of local emergencies.

Lt. Col. Barney Uhlig and Maj. Ronn Winkler were presenters for the Civil Air Patrol, while fire department Lt. Jess Irmiter was the presenter for the EPFD. Present as well at the meeting was Assistant Fire Chief Steve Koering, and the new Airport Liaison Officer Ann Bogren from the EPPD.

The evening was a great success with continued opportunities for both groups to train together in mock emergency training sessions. The ultimate goal for both groups is to provide highly trained individuals to ensure a safer community.



Members of the EPFD view the abilities of CAP aircraft and get questions answered by Capt. Jason Suby (bottom photo in aircraft).



Awards and Promotions

Officer Promotions

Second Lieutenant

Daniel Dawson, North Hennepin
Shane Hjulberg, North Hennepin
Robert Swanson, North Hennepin
Ronald Fox, Saint Paul
Sidney Newman, Fort Snelling
Rachel Robbins, Red Wing
Thomas Farrell, Red Wing

Captain

Frank Jirik, Saint Paul

Major

Gary Workman, MN State Legislative



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**Members of
Viking Com-
posite Squad-
ron board the
CH-47 to pre-
pare for flight
at Holman
Field**



The views expressed, either written or implied, are not necessarily those of the U.S. Air Force, Civil Air Patrol or Minnesota Wing. Submissions should be sent to the above email address.

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