



Michigan Wing



Heads Up

VOLUME II, ISSUE VIII

August 2004

August Upcoming Events

- ◆ Form 99's at Wing HQ
- ◆ Evaluated SAR
- ◆ Monthly Vehicle Utilization Reports due at Wing HQ
- ◆ **Unit Commander's Course**
- ◆ Monthly Aircraft Utilization Reports due at Wing HQ
- ◆ Wing Staff Meeting
- ◆ Practice SAR
- ◆ CD Operations
- ◆ Walk in Woods Orientation



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Testing, Improving, and Fun experienced during Adrian SAR/DR Evaluation

The weekend of August 6th, 2004 found many Michigan Wing Civil Air Patrol personnel in Adrian, Michigan. It was an opportunity for Michigan Wing to display to the Air Force our skills of emergency services through an Air Force evaluated SAR / DR mission. Teams from both sides had a busy weekend ahead of them, with both air and ground sorties.

At the end of the first day however, the Air Force pointed out some important errors and called a halt to the mission as an evaluation. The main error noticed was overall communication. Yet, it was said this should not be mistaken as errors made only by the Communication Department. What is meant are the errors in communications between teams and base and communication errors amongst the different departments at base. Both Civil Air Patrol and Air Force personnel decided not to give up and go home; instead to continue the weekend mission under a training status.



From evaluation status to training status, the attitude of the cadets stayed positive. One Civil Air Patrol senior mentioned, "I consider them [cadets] to be very well focused and willing to go the extra mile." This attitude quickly spread to the seniors as everyone kept open minds and their patience as new procedures were tried out. As the mission continued, personnel overcame some unplanned obstacles as well as the planned sorties. Some of these obstacles included self-extraction from mud pits and field repair of locked up brakes.

In the end the Air Force personnel offered another opportunity for an evaluated mission. Yet, before that second chance, Michigan Wing will be having a tabletop exercise on September 12th, 2004 at Selfridge and a training mission from October 22nd to 24th, 2004 in Adrian. This training will then be put to the test with the redo SAR EVAL from October 29th to 31st, 2004 also taking place in Adrian.

Any questions should be directed to Lt Col Carol M. Heeringa, Michigan Wing Emergency Services Officer. Special thanks are due to quite a few groups for this past SAR EVAL. First, thanks to all the Civil Air Patrol and Air Force personnel that came out to donate time and effort. Second, thanks to the Adrian Squadron for providing food and use of their squadron building. Finally, thanks to the Adrian local airport for use of their facilities.

Article & Photos by: 1Lt Rick Lauterbach

Vice Commander (Support) Comments on Mini Wing Conference 2004



Lt Col Ronald Padavan

Michigan Wing will be holding a mini-conference at the Alpena CTRC **8-9-10 October, 2004**. We are trying to keep the cost of this event down for the members and we anticipate that we will be charging no more than \$35.00, which will include all meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. We have made arrangements to have rooms available **ON BASE** at a greatly reduced cost from the local hotels. Double occupancy rooms will be about \$10 per night and a private room will be about \$20 per night. Please remember, males will have to be billeted separate from females. You are of course free to use the local hotels.

Registration will be open from 8 AM on Saturday with the first seminars starting at 11 AM. We anticipate being done and released around 1 PM on Sunday. Formal registration information will be sent out shortly, but I wanted to give you all a heads up so you could clear your calendars. The project officer for this conference is 2Lt Melony Buford, her email address is mbuford@miwg.cap.gov Lt Buford is also the project officer for the 2005 Wing Conference, which will be held in Claire, Michigan the end of April, 2005.

I am sure that Lt Buford is looking for assistance from anyone who would like to help with either conference. These events need your help and participation. You all have a lot of experience and ideas concerning conferences so please share them with her.

SAFETY NOTES

For your summer safety and a good Operational Risk Management tool.

Heat Stroke:

Heat Stroke occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature. The body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. Body temperature may rise to 106 degrees F or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat Stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not provided.

Heat Exhaustion:

Heat Exhaustion is a milder form of heat-related illness that can develop after several days of exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Those most prone to heat exhaustion are elderly people, people with high blood pressure, and people working or exercising in a hot environment.

Signs of Heat Stroke:

An extremely high body temperature (103 degrees F orally); red, hot, and dry skin (no sweating); rapid, strong pulse; throbbing headache; dizziness; Nausea; Confusion; and unconsciousness.

Signs of Heat Exhaustion:

Heavy sweating; paleness; muscle cramps; tiredness; weakness; dizziness; headache; nausea or vomiting; and fainting.

** The skin may be cool and moist. The victim's pulse rate will be fast and weak, and breathing will be fast and shallow. If heat exhaustion is untreated, it may progress to heat stroke. Seek medical attention immediately if any of the following occurs:

-Symptoms are severe.

-The victim has heart problems or high blood pressure.

What to do for Heat Stroke:

Get the victim to a shady area. **COOL THE VICTIM RAPIDLY USING WHATEVER METHODS YOU CAN**. Monitor body temperature, and continue cooling efforts until the body temperature drops to 101 to 102 degrees F. If emergency medical personnel are delayed, call the hospital emergency room for further instructions. **DO NOT** give the victim alcohol to drink. Get medical assistance as soon as possible.

A final note about Heat Stroke -- If you see any of these signs you may be dealing with a life threatening medical emergency. Sometimes a victim's muscles will begin to twitch uncontrollably as a result of heat stroke. If this happens, keep the victim from injuring himself, but do not place any object in the mouth and do not give fluids. If there is vomiting, make sure the airway remains open by turning the victim on his or her side.

What to do for Heat Exhaustion:

Assist the victim in cooling off. Cool, non-alcoholic beverages as directed by your physician. Rest. Cool shower, bath, or sponge bath. Lightweight clothing and an air-conditioned environment will help.

Stay Safe this Summer,

Think safe - Be safe - Stay safe

1Lt Joseph Buford, Safety Officer



Former MIWG DC Comments from New DCE position



New job as Comm Engineer

I would first like to thank all of you for helping and supporting me while I held the DC position. Michigan is very blessed with the caliber of it's members and I am VERY proud of the Comm members we have now. No one can boast of more ACUTS than Michigan has per capita! I will not be going away at all. I promised I would remain a team member and support Capt Cook. I have started a lot of technical projects only to see them wither on the vine due to lack of manpower in the technical arena. I am going to change this fact. Most of you know I can and will do this! I will also be hosting our now "looks to be" annual, Dayton Hamvention trip. The plan at present is taking shape now for a bigger presence at Dayton than we did last year. I am working with National and the Region DC's to support this endeavor. I will be looking for Michigan Wing support also. That will include help from both Seniors and Cadets. Much more on this later. It is held in May every year.

I will be taking over the reins of the Comm Tech Committee and I will be looking for recruits in the technical arenas for this group. (I especially want to see our ham members on this) I will be putting out the Comm Tech topics I used to do on e-mail more often now. I am concentrating my efforts on these major projects to get them rolling again first before going on to other projects:

- ◆ Vehicle and Aircraft trackers
- ◆ A new SSTV system (smaller, better, cheaper, etc)
- ◆ Digital modes on Hf study

I will be holding Comm Tech meetings around the State as appropriate with the members of this Committee. If you would like to volunteer your services please E-mail me with contact info and any expertise you may have or wish to volunteer to the group. I REALLY need someone with radio repair experience to fix the Neutecs we need for the Tracker project. I have a Communication monitor to aid in this endeavor which can be checked out. I also need APRS experienced people. We have a good start on the PSK 31 initiative with several volunteers already with a couple of them ready to rock and roll already. More on this on a regular basis.

Thanks Again for your support both past and present!
1Lt. William Chesney, MIWG DCE, RR43

*P*ride
Proficiency
Professionalism

U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, naturally!

Accountability for All in 2004!



Promotions - Awards - Appointments

Captain William Dumont - Promotion - Major

Captain Joseph Balmas - Appointment - Deputy Group Commander - SE MI Group

Captain Charles Cook - Appointment - Wing Director of Communications

1Lt Peggy Milby - Appointment - COMM Licensing Officer

1Lt William Chesney - Appointment - COMM Engineering Officer

2Lt Melony Buford - Appointment - Administration & Personnel Officer - SE MI Group

2Lt Ronald Parmenter - Appointment - COMM Supply Officer

MICHIGAN WING
HEADS UP

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<http://www.capnhq.gov> & the Michigan Wing website at: <http://miwg.cap.gov/newsletter/>
This publication is also available on-line on the Michigan Wing website.

Editor's Note

In order to ensure that all members are informed of Wing events and important information. We are asking all members to assist us. Members with articles, announcements, photographs, information on events, promotions, awards, new members or other forms of information of interest to Wing members are encouraged to submit their material for publication in the newsletter. Submit photos with full descriptions please.

Please send your submissions/questions via email to the Newsletter Editor, 1Lt. Joe Buford at jbuford@miwg.cap.gov **no later than the 15th of the month** for inclusion in the next scheduled issue. Thank you.

Cadet Calendar



Events and Activities

6-8 August 2004

Evaluated SAR - LOC - Adrian - POC - LTC Carol Heeringa

7-8 August 2004

Yankee Air Force Museum Air Show - LOC - Willow Run - Cadet POC - C/Lt Jeff Lucas

13-15 August 2004

Practice SAR - LOC - Escanaba - POC - Captain Don Poe

August 2004 Calendar of Events

5- Form 99's to Wing Headquarters

6-8 – Evaluated SAR- Location TBA-POC - Lt Col Carol Heeringa

7 - Monthly Vehicle Utilization Report due at Wing Headquarters

7-8 – Unit Commander's Course - LOC - Oakland County Sheriff's Training Room - Lt Col Pam Saile

10 – Monthly Aircraft Utilization Report due at Wing Headquarters

14 – Wing Staff Meeting - LOC - Wing Headquarters - POC - Lt Col Ron Padavan

13-15 Practice SAR - LOC - Escanaba - POC - Captain Don Poe

15-22 – CD Operations

22-Walk in Woods Orientation for Seniors - LOC - Pontiac Lake Recreation Area - POC - Maj R. Kothari

MI Wing's Newest Members

This space has been reserved to welcome our new members to Michigan Wing



Welcome new members to Michigan Wing!

VACANT STAFF POSITIONS AT WING HEADQUARTERS

Wing Headquarters is currently seeking personnel to fill the following staff positions:

Plans and Programs Officer

All interested members should contact Lt. Col. Ronald Padavan, Vice Commander (Support) via email at rpadavan@miwg.cap.gov or by phone at (586) 774-6644 for further information.



Air Force

Print News **Today**

Air Force news from around the world



Academy engineering ranks sixth in the nation

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFPN) -- The Air Force Academy's engineering programs all rank among the top 10 in the nation, according to the U.S. News and World Report's annual America's Best Colleges 2005 rankings.

The U.S. News and World Report rankings were released Aug. 20.

The rankings are separated by which universities offer graduate education programs, and those which have only undergraduate programs, such as the academy. Overall, the academy's undergraduate engineering program ranks No. 6 in the nation this year.

Rankings are compiled by the magazine, using a weighted combination of factors, starting with peer assessment and continuing through faculty resources, retention, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation-rate performance and finally the alumni-giving rate.

Engineering programs at the academy use a hands-on approach, balancing teaching with an active undergraduate research program. Current and ongoing academy engineering projects include: building homes for the Navajo Nation, launching rockets to 100 kilometers, developing and verifying computational and electromagnetic codes used to reduce the radar cross section of modern aircraft, studying ways to extend the life of aging aircraft and designing a satellite for a 2005 launch.

MIWG Top Color Guard Unit posts Colors at Bay City's first-ever Airfest at James Clements Airport

The skies above Bay City were alive with the roar of an F-16 "Viper" as it performed combat maneuvers each afternoon for the 23-25 July weekend. It was the first-ever Airfest at James Clements Airport. The F-16 performance highlighted each day's activities. Other aircraft featured in the local air show included a P-51 Mustang, AT-6, SNJ Texans, BT-13 "Valiant", Ryan PT-22, and various biplanes and helicopters. Thousands of local residents attended and witnessed the various activities about the airport.

The event provided a prime opportunity for Civil Air Patrol to get exposure and recruit for the unit. Armed with recruiting supplies that had arrived just weeks earlier, the unit was ready to go. The icing on the cake proved to be the arrival of the top color guard unit in Michigan Wing from the Sanilac Composite Flight Squadron MI-036.

The color guard posted the colors at the start of each air show during the weekend. A recruiting booth was set up in the main hangar from 0900 to 1400 hours each day next to the RC aircraft display. To enhance the F-16 performance, a scale model display of missiles carried by the fighter while in combat (Sidewinder, AMRAAM, Sparrow, HARM, and Maverick) and a few used in training (Smokey Sam and Jayhawk) were created by Lt Col Mark Sinicki. Lt Col Sinicki and 1Lt Bradley Stricker, assisted by cadets Robert Ownsby and Andrew Roethlisberger stayed busy talking to hundreds of visitors and handing out Civil Air Patrol literature.

Members of the unit also met with the local Air Force recruiter, TSgt Michael Schneider and provided CAP handouts for the Air Force recruiting trailer. The unit's M-16 style parade rifles and other color guard equipment were loaned to the Sanilac unit for the duration of the event. It was a great weekend with great weather.

Story and Photo by:

Lt Col Mark Sinicki, PAO
Bay City Cadet Squadron

Sanilac Composite Flight
Squadron MI-036
Cadet Color Guard members

Editor's Note

Story edited for content by
newsletter staff.



Attention Senior Members

Basic One-Day Orientation to Field Operations

Basic one-day introduction to field operations for Senior Members Only

Sunday, 22 August 2004 - from 0830 to approximately 1500
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area - Meeting at the Organizational Campground

This is a one-day basic orientation into CAP field operations. We will cover the basics of field operations as they apply to CAP. We will cover topics such as:

- equipment and packing your gear
- map and compass
- mess, field hygiene and sanitation
- moving through the field
- team leadership
- Q&A on other issues that members want to know

This is not a rugged gung-ho field training exercise. Instead it is an introduction to the basics of field operations for seniors who want to learn more about bivouacs, ground team or just the basics of operating in the field. While we will be doing some light hiking and navigating through the field, the objective is not to test our physical fitness. Pilots, aircrew members, mission base staff, and others who want to learn about field operations or potentially get involved in ground operations are ideal candidates to join us for the day. You do not need nor are you expected to have any ES qualification.

You will need:

- a good attitude
- Utility uniform (BDU's or Blue fatigues)
- Good well broken in boots
- Some sort of backpack
- 2 meals that can be heated (even if you don't like to heat your food)
- heater if you have one (or I will provide ways to heat you food)
- two filled containers of water
- rain gear of some sort
- mosquito repellent
- tent if you have one (you won't have to carry it, but we will discuss and actually set them up)
- pen and paper
- a compass if you have one (let me know if you don't)

If you are going to attend, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have questions, do not hesitate to let me know as well. I can be reach at rkothari@miwg.cap.gov or 248-320-2778.

Rajesh Kothari, MAJ, CAP

Oakland County enlists citizens for disaster aid County seeks 500 for training to aid emergency workers

Natural disasters like Florida's recent Hurricane Charley underscore the need for having residents trained in emergency response and the ability to come to the aid of family members and neighbors. Police, fire and EMS workers are often overwhelmed by the number of people needing help when disaster hits and response time can be critical. With that in mind, the Oakland County Citizens Corps Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program offers average residents skills to provide first aid or fight fires during disasters, be they natural or man-made.

"Our first responders — police and firefighters — have extensive training to cover a wide range of emergencies, from tornadoes to terrorists," said Mike Loper, emergency management specialist and the coordinator for the Oakland County Citizen Corps. "But what about when they aren't available or have more than they can handle? That's when the average citizen can play a very important role." The program, funded by \$80,000 in U.S. Department of Homeland Security grants, seeks to train 500 citizens in Oakland County over the next year. There are currently 40 members of the Civil Air Patrol, including cadets as young as 12 years old.

Loper said classes cover subjects such as disaster preparedness, search and rescue and terrorism, and will eventually focus on people age 16 and older. But it is tailor-made for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and its young cadets, who have proven to be an emergency management system asset "for years." Almost all attendees at a recent Tuesday night class on fire safety were from the Civil Air Patrol's Oakland County Composite Squadron, based at Oakland International Airport. "The civil air patrol has been used in national emergencies or to help when a plane goes down somewhere in the woods," he said. "They were very involved in the Utah Olympics and helped patrol the sky over Philadelphia and New York City and report suspicious aircraft after September 11."

Vincent Gray, 40, a Blue Cross/Blue Shield manager from Waterford Township, is a captain in the Oakland County Composite Squadron. He joined because of his love of flying, and said emergency training adds an extra dimension to his desire to give back to the community.

"You can sit around and watch TV or you can commit yourself to something that can help your community," Gray said. And that's apparently what drives many of the more than two dozen young air patrol cadets, all with varying interests.

Geoff Gloceri, 14, a West Bloomfield High freshman, seeks certified training to search for downed aircraft or missing persons. Andrew Linn, a 17-year-old Rochester Hills Stoney Creek High senior, is interested in a public safety career and may enlist in the Air Force or Army. Jeff Lucas, 19, of West Bloomfield Township, is attending Oakland Community College studying computer information systems.

Katie Broyles, a 14-year-old Waterford Kettering sophomore, hopes to go to the Air Force Academy and the Air Force. She became interested in CAP three years ago when she saw people not much older than her helping out at an Air Show. Katie's interest and dedication prompted her mother, Nancy Broyles, a 42-year-old DaimlerChrysler trainer, to also join. "My daughter and a lot of other kids are very patriotic and they just want a venue to help out their community," said Nancy Broyles. "I'm proud of them." Loper said Farmington Hills, Rochester Hills, Southfield, Pontiac, Walled Lake and West Bloomfield Township have their own grants and programs. Others are in planning stages in Madison Heights, Royal Oak and Waterford Township.

To become a member of the Oakland County group, applicants must live or work in the county. All applicants are subject to a law enforcement background check and must complete 20 hours of instruction, normally in eight separate classes held on week nights or on weekends.

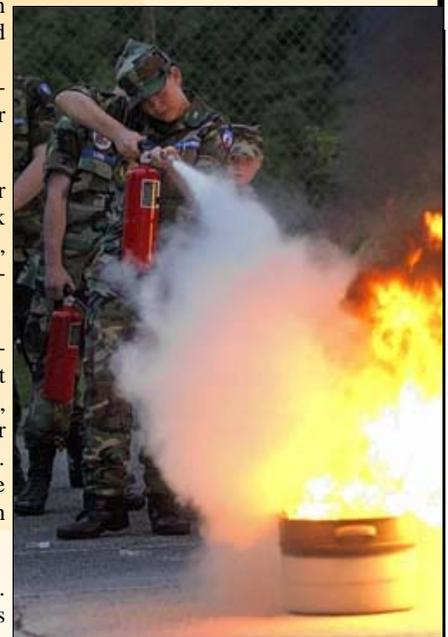
Classes can be adjusted for regions, such as paying special attention to earthquakes in California or hurricanes in Florida, Loper said. While Michigan has been spared such horrific natural disasters, it doesn't mean a tornado or killer blizzard can't strike again or even a massive power failure like the one that blacked out the region in August 2003, Loper said. "It's like all hazard preparedness," Loper said. "If you are prepared for this, you're more prepared for a blackout. How to have drinking water. The need to check on elderly neighbors. Family members having their own survival plan in case of a fire."

Article by: Mike Martindale / The Detroit News (Friday, August 20, 2004)

Photos by: Rob Widdis / Special to The Detroit News (Copyright © 2004 The Detroit News.)



Rebecca Dino is a member of the Civil Air Patrol undergoing training. Training includes 20 hours of instruction, normally held in eight separate classes.



Brad Burns, 13, puts out a fire during training at the Oakland County Sheriff's office. Classes also include disaster preparedness, and search and rescue operations.

Traverse City Squadron Color Guard Cadets participate in Traverse City 4th of July Parade 2004



Traverse City Composite Flight Squadron MI-131 Cadet Color Guard from left to right
 C/SrA Tim Schramm - Color Guard leader
 C/MSgt Sean Leask - C/SSgt James Kozacek -
 C/Amn Seth Woolcott



Civil Air Patrol supporting Determined Promise with missions in Virginia; California on standby

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. — Civil Air Patrol members in Virginia and California supported the national Determined Promise homeland security exercise today with both aerial and ground support.

In Virginia, CAP provided aerial photography of simulated attack sites at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Included in those sites were the Hampton Roads, Monitor Merrimac and James River bridges affected in a simulated truck bomb explosion. Also included was the Richmond International Raceway, which was affected by a simulated Sarin gas attack.

To capture and transmit these images, CAP members used a satellite digital imaging system (SDIS). With this equipment, CAP members can capture images with a digital camera and then transmit them by laptop computer via a satellite phone connection to e-mail addresses on the ground. They are also able to transmit along with each image its description, the time when the image was captured, the altitude from which the image was captured, and the latitude/longitude of the location. California-specific activity related to Determined Promise has been dubbed "Golden Guardian." CAP is continuing to support Golden Guardian with more than 30 California Wing members. The wing has established a mission base for communications support and has three SDIS-equipped aircraft involved.

California Wing members are working in the exercise control room, where the flow of events is coordinated. They are also working with public information officers from a variety of agencies in the Joint Information Center.

The Determined Promise exercise will continue through August 10.

Updates on CAP's activity in Determined Promise 2004 will be provided as new information becomes available.

Van Dyke Civil Air Patrol squadron named top in state

The Civil Air Patrol is an official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, formed after Pearl Harbor to take advantage of civilian aircraft in wartime, but its mission has grown since then, with its volunteer cadet program one of its key elements. According to its National Headquarters' Web site, "Civil Air Patrol builds strong citizens for the future by providing leadership training, technical education, scholarships and career education to young men and women, ages 12 to 21. "(About) 10 percent of each year's freshman class at the U.S. Air Force Academy is comprised of former CAP cadets." Not that you have to go into the Air Force if you're a cadet, or be a former cadet to be a senior volunteer. You don't even have to learn how to fly. The Van Dyke Squadron, for example, doesn't even have a pilot among its cadet or senior members. Nevertheless, on Aug. 31, the Van Dyke Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol will be officially named the top CAP unit in Michigan. It's only the latest of its many honors this year. While CAP missions and activities include Homeland Security, Search and Rescue, disaster relief, counter-drug missions and aerospace education, not every mission or activity is so glamorous. Last weekend, Van Dyke helped park cars at the Highland Games in Livonia. And once, its members trimmed some trees around a senior citizen's home to keep her from being burglarized. Maj. Pamela Paulin, a legal secretary in Mount Clemens, is commander for the cadets and seniors of Van Dyke Squadron. In one way or another, she has been with the Civil Air Patrol since age 12 in 1974. The Civil Air Patrol members are volunteers. "You have to pay to join, and you keep on paying," joked Paulin, who estimates her duties as commander take up 20-30 hours a week. She enjoys it more than most people enjoy their jobs. Paulin is very proud of her cadets and seniors. The members of Van Dyke Squadron include Cadet 1st Lt. John Padavan, and cadets Michelle Beyers, Joseph and Stephen Caron, Justin Frost, Josh Glantzman, Nicole Harper, Steffen Hill, Jonathan Looney, Chris Paulin, Roger Rich, Zachary Welsing, Alex Winfield, Rachel Wood, Revana, Revin and Revon Yousif. Senior members are Cathy Beyers, Joan Errington, Christine Frantz, Mark Hill, Keith Jones, Linda Kraft, Don Paulin, John Tennant and Bill Welsing. "We come from New Baltimore, Harrison Township, Macomb (Township), Utica, Sterling Heights, Shelby Township, Warren, Clinton Township, Roseville and Eastpointe," Pam Paulin said. The unit meets 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Clinton Township Police Department, but the members contribute much more than 2-1/2 hours per week to service. In the one year she has been commander, Paulin said the Van Dyke Squadron has received multiple awards as a unit, from Michigan Wing Squadron of the Year, National Squadron of Merit, the 2004 Michigan Week Community Achievement Award, a Silver Certificate from the President Physical Fitness Challenge (recognizing that the entire squadron is at the 60 percent level, the first entire squadron to be so qualified). At the end of the month, they'll be recognized as the top unit in Michigan, "the highest award an entire unit" can receive. It's the fourth time Van Dyke has been so honored. Paulin said, "I have absolutely the best cadets in the world." In addition, within the last year, one of the squadron's seniors, Maj. Christine Frantz, was named Senior of the Year. Paulin said that "our squadron received these awards because of the willingness of our cadets to establish a goal, our seniors to help guide them along the path to reach their goal, and the support of the 927th (Air Refueling Wing)," particularly "for the support and guidance of Lt. Col. Michael Cole, Lt. Col. Mark Meacham, Lt. Col. William Jenne, Col. Kenneth Suggs (and) Maj. Tom Cooper." Many of these awards come from within the Civil Air Patrol, from the national headquarters in Alabama, but some represent outside recognition -- fitting, because the CAP doesn't only assist the military. In fact, while cadets can and do learn to become pilots, flying missions aren't the only CAP duties. They often function as crowd control at events such as the Detroit Marathon, Utica's St. Lawrence Apple Fest or the Willow Run Air Show. One reason Paulin believes they were selected as the best unit was the number of activities they took part in: 24. "We've definitely been busy in the past six months," Cadet Rachel Wood, 14, said. She has been with Civil Air Patrol for about 14 months. She joined in part to experience "fitting in with a group" in a way that was different from competitive sports. With Civil Air patrol, she said, "It's more of a family." Most squadron activities are in the local community, but they also participate in national activities, occasionally even overseas. Seniors aren't necessarily former cadets or military, but come from all fields, Paulin said. All that's required to be a senior is that they be "people who care about kids," Paulin said. "We have a firefighter, a retired police officer, former and present military." Many are parents of current cadets who "join as a senior to be more involved with their children," Paulin said. Whole families get involved. "The little ones become mascots for the squadron." William Welsing, a machining supervisor in his professional life, was never a cadet but became involved in CAP after his son, Zachary, joined. Welsing enjoys his work with CAP because he's helping other young cadets as well. "It's a positive thing" for teens and pre-teens, Welsing said. Last weekend the squadron helped out with the Highland Games, basically parking cars. In return for the assist, the organizers of the games "will make a donation for our support." That support helps them with fun activities for the cadets, but also helps finance the boot camp-like encampment at Alpena, which the cadets must go through to advance. "It's like a modified Air Force boot camp," Welsing said. Paulin estimates 60 to 70 percent of cadets who stay for one year or more eventually go into public service, either the military, law enforcement or legal services.



Macomb Daily photo by Ray J. Skowronek

Civil Air Patrol Capt. (and U.S. Air Force Master Sgt.) Gary Mattiacci, second from left, and 1st Lt. Stephen Hopson, third, explain the pre-flight plan to the Van Dyke Squadron's cadets Monday at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The squadron is to be named the top Michigan unit in the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, later this

PUBLISHED: August 11, 2004

By Stephen Bitsoli Macomb Daily Staff Writer