



January Issue 2007



Five New Officers by 2008

How do we do it?

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So you want to be an officer. What does that really mean? When you become an officer you will be entering phase III and IV of the Cadet Program of the Civil Air Patrol. Most of you are at the beginning or in the middle of completing Phase I or Phase II. Phase I is known as The Learning phase, and it begins with the Curry achievement. When you accomplish the Curry, you are able to wear the Airman insignia. Phase I concludes with the Staff Sergeant position and the Wright Brothers Award.

Phase II is The Leadership phase and picks up with the Rickenbacker Achievement and carries you on to the Mitchell Award. Upon attaining the Mitchell Award you are promoted to the rank of 2d Lt. Once at this level, you will receive your "Cadet Officers Kit" at no cost. This kit includes your Aerospace Education Textbook called "The Journey of Flight". Also included in your kit will be a CD called "The Next Step" which will explain some of the new requirements for your next promotions. The Last item in the Kit is your new Leadership Manual.

Phase III is The Command phase and covers achievements 9, 10 and 11 culminating in the Earhart Award and promotion to Cadet Captain. The Executive phase is the final phase requiring an in-depth look at staff duties, and it ends with the Eaker Award. The Eaker Award takes you to the rank of Cadet Lt Colonel. This brings to a close the progression through the Cadet Program phases. The Civil Air Patrol's last and highest Cadet award is the General Carl A. Spaatz award. Achievement of this award brings with it a promotion to Cadet Colonel. Since 1964 only 1621 cadets have achieved this level in the Civil Air Patrol. That is only 38 cadets per year for the last 42 years. Not even one per State, per year. So how motivated are you? If you have the desire to achieve greatness in the Civil Air Patrol, it can be done. You have to set goals and ask for help. If you need help setting goals or understanding the process, your command staff and Senior Officers will be glad to help you.

Aim high and you will achieve great things.

Remember, you control your own career in Civil Air Patrol.

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Cadets!

Please have your parent or guardian sign here to indicate that they have received and read the FIREBALL.

Parent Signature:

Cadets should bring a signed FIREBALL with them to the first drill after they receive it.

Lewis County Commissioners Designate Dec. 4th - 8th As Civil Air Patrol Week

By 2d Lt Ruth Peterson



**CIVIL
AIR
PATROL**

***Drug
Free and
Proud!***



The Civil Air Patrol, or CAP, the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, was founded on December 1, 1941. To recognize the 65th birthday of CAP, the Lewis County Commissioners signed a proclamation designating the week of December 4th through the 8th, 2006, as "Civil Air Patrol Week" in Lewis County. The Lewis County Composite Squadron cadet commander, Cadet Major David Peterson of Curtis, read the proclamation at the Commissioner's meeting today. Lewis County Commissioner Ron Averill, himself a retired Army Colonel, said, "CAP, in my estimation, is an important opportunity for our young people to learn about service to their country. I have had the privilege to sit on the military academy selection committee where CAP cadets from our county have done very well. This program is outstanding."

CAP is a non-profit volunteer organization with nearly 57,000 members nationwide. This includes over 75 members in the Lewis County Squadron who can be called upon to assist government agencies on the national, state or local levels during emergency situations.

Founded in 1941, just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, CAP initially planned on flying only reconnaissance missions on the east coast and the southern border. But the mission grew when German submarines began to prey on American ships. During an 18-month span, CAP aircrews, flying light civilian aircraft, reported 173 U-boats sighted and sunk two.

Since WWII, the mission of CAP has been focused mainly on search and rescue, with over 95% of all inland searches being performed by CAP members. However, Lt Col Larry Mason, commander of the Lewis County Composite Squadron, noted that the organization and its volunteer members have been heavily involved in other emergencies. The first aircraft to fly over the wreckage of the World Trade Center after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 was a CAP aircraft. CAP members, both adult and cadet, also logged thousands of hours of service after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In Lewis County, CAP members have provided flood relief services including filling sandbags and building temporary dikes. During most the recent floods in Lewis County, the CAP flew reconnaissance aircraft and provided radio relay communications to CAP Headquarters and the WSDOT. After the waters receded, several cadets worked providing emergency supplies and food to displaced homeowners in the Randle and Packwood areas of the county.

The Lewis County Squadron, and its predecessor, the Fire Mountain Squadron have been serving our county since 1982. Their members train in the field of emergency services but are also involved in serving the community in a variety of other ways. During the recent Walk 'n Knock weekend, the cadets and officers were at the Salvation Army in Centralia, organizing the donated food. That same day, a CAP cadet color guard led the Napavine Christmas Parade while others helped the Army National Guard decorate for their Christmas dinner to be held the next day.

Cadets are also trained to become leaders in their community. The adult officers fly search and other missions, as well as working with the cadets. The cadets, who range from 12 to 21 years old, have opportunities to learn leadership skills, learn to fly, teach other cadets, and earn scholarships for furthering their education. The service academies reserve approximately 10% of their admissions for former CAP cadets.

Lt Col Mason said, "The motto of the Lewis County Squadron is '110%, all the way!' As I've watched them operate in our county over the years, I'd have to say they certainly fulfill that motto."



January Birthdays

●24 - C/B Andrew Martin

●25 - C/Amn T.J. Williams

Community Service Ribbon Earned by Two Outstanding Cadets!

Cadets Tiffany Wehnau and Thomas Whalen have earned their Community Service Ribbons through their work with the Salvation Army over the Christmas Season.

110% All The Way

LCCS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By 2d Lt Ruth Peterson

Every once in a while, I am surprised by the thought that I really don't know the people I work with very well. Recently, I read an email that chronicled the events that led up to Lt Col Mason being awarded the Air Force Cross which is the highest award one can earn in the Air Force short of the Congressional Medal of Honor. I will include the text of his citation here. These events took place in Vietnam.



The Air Force Cross is presented to Larry B. Mason, Captain, U.S. Air Force, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force as an aircraft commander of a B- 57 tactical jet bomber on 15 March 1966. On that date, while attacking a heavily defended target, Captain Mason's aircraft was hit repeatedly by 57 MM and 37MM shells which set fire to the right engine and created extreme vibration in the left engine. One shell exploded in the rear cockpit, wounding the navigator and severing a section of wiring which deprived the crew of most electrical power. Wind, blasting through a large hole in the fuselage, scattered dirt and debris around the cockpit temporarily blinding Captain Mason. As he regained his sight, he realized that a safe bailout could not be affected because of the wounded navigator's condition. With one engine shut down and the other on fire, and with approximately 30 square feet of surface missing from the right wing, Captain Mason, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, attempted the return flight to his home base. Flight conditions were further hampered by inoperative radios, no hydraulic pressure or oxygen, severe airframe vibration, and no indication of gear position or fuel level. Through outstanding airmanship, he piloted his crippled aircraft to a safe landing in friendly territory. By his extraordinary heroism, superb airmanship, and aggressiveness in the face of the enemy, Captain Mason reflected the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

I have worked with Lt Col Mason now for over a year, but I had never known the stories about the awards and medals that he received. As Col Mason leaves us to work at the Wing level, I thought it would be good for all of us to know a little more about him. Be sure to express your gratitude to him for not only his work as our commander over this past year, but also for his service to our country during his career in the Air Force.



Civil Air Patrol

Websites of interest for Cadets:
 National CAP Website
 (Check out the National encampments! You must sign up for them by the end of Dec.)
<http://www.cap.gov/>
 Washington CAP Website
<http://www.wawg.cap.gov/>
 The Hock Shop (For Uniforms)
<http://www.thehock.com/>



We are working on a squadron website that will allow cadets to find information about upcoming events, forms, and other information. Check us out at:
<http://www.firemountaincap.org>



OFFICER DRILL SCHEDULE
THURSDAYS IN JANUARY
6:30 pm— SCOUT LODGE
At 3rd and Adams
Chehalis, WA

DATE	TOPIC
Jan. 4	Business & Planning Drill
Jan. 11	Senior Training
Jan. 18	No Drill
Jan. 25	Senior Drill

Important Dates—Add to your Calendar TODAY!

For More Info, go to www.wawg.cap.gov. Click on Members. Under Members, click on Cadet Programs. All the info is there! If you have any questions about events (price, how to apply, etc) call your 'higher-ups', and they can help you out! That's what they are there for!

12 - 14 January - Gray Falcon II at Camp Murray. This is a weekend of training for the Senior Officers. Great way to both learn new things and network with Officers from other squadrons.

27 January at 1700. The first annual LCCS awards banquet. This will be the first anniversary of our official charter as Lewis County Composite Squadron.

13 - 15 April - Spring Conference in Yakima, WA. This is a great learning experience and an opportunity to get to know cadets and officers from other squadrons. Maj. Houston Pye will be in charge of the conference, so there will be lots of excellent training sessions planned. There is also a banquet at the end of the event which is always fun! It would be great to have a huge number of cadets attend this event. Please put it on your calendar. More info coming up!

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for articles is on the 15th of the month.
 Schedules must be in by the 20th. Send to the editor at Grpete@centurytel.net
 The Fireball is an unofficial newsletter, published monthly in the interest of the members of Lewis Co. Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol. Opinions expressed by the publishers and writers are their own, and are not to be considered official expressions of CAP or the U.S. Air Force. Advertisements in this publication do not constitute an endorsement by CAP or the Dept. of the Air Force of the products or services advertised.