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NEWSLETTER OF
LEWIS COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON PCR-WA-110
WASHINGTON WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

The Job of a Lifetime

By C/CMSgt Jonathan Peterson

It may have been a long drive to Portland, but the trip was well worth it. On October 13th, 2007, members of the Lewis County Composite Squadron visited the Oregon Air National Guard. During our tour of the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 'The Red Hawks', F-15 base at Portland International Airport, we looked at F-15s, equipment, and even sat in on part of an actual briefing.

Our tour guide, Lt Col Jeremy "Weed" Baenen, first took us to the monitoring station. The people in this room monitor the weather and the flight line. They have weather monitors on their computers just like you would at home on the Internet. However, the flight line watch was nothing like your standard home equipment. It was much more complex than anything a common citizen would use in their home. The cameras used for flight line watch are hidden; you cannot see them even if you know where they should be. But the cameras can see everything you do.



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The next part of our tour was a briefing room where the pilots were currently getting briefed on the day's drill. This is your standard classroom setting. A briefing is where the pilots learn about their missions and are told about changes and corrections to different procedures and regulations.

We then went to the suit-up room, which is the room where G-suits and helmets are stored. We were taught about how the suits work and how they are hooked into the aircraft. As G-forces occur, the suit applies pressure to the legs and pushes the blood back to your head so that you do not black out. If you experience negative Gs, the suit helps to bring the blood out of your head so that you don't red out.



The last part of the tour was the flight line where the F-15 Eagles are kept. This was the best part of the tour; actually being able to stand under the wing and see the inside of the engines is an amazing experience. We saw how ammo is fed into the guns, and we saw the Sidewinder missiles and fuel tanks. At last we got to see them start their engines and take to the skies. It is an awesome feeling to see and hear them, but that is nothing compared to tremor you feel when the shock waves hit you. You can actually feel the afterburners on takeoff. Working with this awesome team would be the job of a lifetime.

COMMUNICATIONS

by 1st Lt Ruth Peterson

Good communication skills are necessary for a squadron to run successfully. However, we all know that communication is probably the hardest task to accomplish in any organization, and Civil Air Patrol is not an exception. Too often, cadets are told about an event or given important information, only to have the information lie forgotten in a notebook or backpack. There are also many times that officers, too, are guilty of forgetting. This is an issue that we all need to work hard to improve on a regular basis. There are a few methods used for communication within our squadron.

The "chain of command" is used to pass on information about issues of an immediate nature (i.e. An emergency change to the meeting or a last-minute check on who can attend a weekend event). Your element leader or flight sergeant may call to find out if you are planning on attending an activity or meeting (we call that process a calling tree).

Lewis County Composite Squadron also has a website. It can be found at online at <http://www.lewiscountycap.org>. We will be working to make the website better and more informative as time goes on, but it is already filled with information that is just a click away: contact information for cadets, a T.O. (table of organization), photos from previous events, a calendar, past newsletters, forms that are needed for events and scholarships. There is also basic information about Civil Air Patrol in general and our squadron in particular. Be sure to visit the website and bookmark it so that you can have that information at your fingertips when you need it. The National Headquarters website also has many useful links like lists of national activities, CAP regulations, and every CAP form you will ever need. So, take a look and visit <http://www.cap.gov>.

We also use email to pass information back and forth if cadets have email addresses. We also try to send as much information to parents as possible via email. Email is a great tool for this because it just takes a few minutes to get the information out to many people. However, the fact is, for you to get the information, you have to read the email. Often, it seems as if our email inboxes are overloaded with information, but communication and coordination is very important to the smooth running of any organization. Please take the time to read emails and respond. If there are any cadets or parents who are not on the email list, please send an email to Whalenworks@gmail.com and we will add you to the list. Very often we use email to request help or participation for events. It would be helpful for the sake of communication for everyone to respond to the emails, even if it is with a negative. That way, we know that at least everyone got the information.

The bottom line is that good communication is critical to our squadron. However, the buck starts and stops with every cadet. If a parent or cadet does not get a phone call about an event, or they need more information about something, they should contact their element leader (using the "chain of command") to get more information. Parents are also free to call the Senior Members of the squadron. There are some famous words that were spoken to Paul Newman in the movie Cool Hand Luke. "What we have here is a failure to communicate". Let's try to make that an obsolete concept in the Lewis County Composite Squadron.

**CIVIL
AIR
PATROL**

*Drug
Free and
Proud!*





Recent Promotions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zack Hail to A1C • Jake Madaris to SrAmn • Karrie Hoksbergen to SMSgt • Elizabeth Witt to CMSgt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordon Bell to A1C • Andrew Martin to SrAmn • Taylor Kenny to SMSgt • Alix Hamilton to 1st Lt |
|--|--|

Annual Awards Banquet

Cadets and Officers! It will soon be time for our annual awards banquet. This is an important occasion when we recognize the efforts of our members. Included in this newsletter is a ballot that lists the different awards and explains the criteria that the recipient should fulfill. Please take the time to carefully read each award and think about what the award means. Many of our cadets and officers work hard to make this squadron successful in many different ways. As you consider each award, think of which cadet and/or officer deserves that award and place their name on the ballot. Do not put your name on the ballot, but turn it in to the office at drill sometime in the next couple of weeks.

SQUADRON GOAL UPDATE

At the beginning of the year, cadets and officers got together during drill one Saturday and came up with some goals that they wanted to achieve by the end of 2007. These goals were set very high, but through hard work and dedication, we are close to achieving almost all of those goals. We are very close to having 2 complete ground teams and 2 ground team leaders. Most members of the squadron have completed their GES (emergency services), CPR (first aid), ROA (Radio operation), and OPSEC (operational security) certifications. Five members have or are working toward their advanced radio operations certification.

In the Aerospace Education program, Lewis County Squadron was awarded an Aerospace excellence award this year, and we were able to provide many glider and O flights this summer. We will be working toward providing more over the next year. In March of this year, twenty-two cadets were able to complete the requirements for their rocketry badge, and most cadets have completed one or more Aerospace modules as they advance in the cadet program.

We began the year with only two officers and very few NCOs in the squadron. As we head toward the end of the year, that number has grown to surpass our goals. By the end of the year, we should have at least seven officers and many more NCOs. We have also gained new Senior Officers, and they have been working hard to help the squadron grow on its way to becoming the top squadron in the state. These achievements show that our squadron continues to fulfill our motto - "110% ALL THE WAY". Kudos to all our members for a job well done!

November Birthdays

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - Cadet David Zifka • 7 - Cadet David Peterson • 12 - Cadet Philip Zandecki • 23 - Cadet Karrie Hoksbergen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - Capt Mark Greenman • 10 - 1st Lt Bill Tibbits • 19 - 1st Lt Ruth Peterson • 29 - 1st Lt Roger Shea |
|---|---|

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: www.lewiscountycap.org



OFFICER DRILL SCHEDULE

THURSDAYS IN NOVEMBER

6:30 pm— SCOUT LODGE

At 3rd and Adams
Chehalis, WA

DATE	TOPIC
Nov 1	End of Fiscal Year
Nov 8	Operations Training
Nov 15	Senior Training
Nov 22	Cadet Programs

Note: Occasionally the Officers meet at the Chehalis Airport so call Lt. Whalen to confirm meeting place.

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. If you have any questions about events (price, how to apply, etc) call your 'higher-ups', and they can help you out!

16 - 18 November BME - Submit your form 23's and 24's along with \$75 to attend. Be sure to send letters to both the squadron and ASH for scholarships.

16 - 18 November WTA - Subjects that will be taught at the WTA this month will be Senior Member Professional Development, Air Crew Ground School Observer class, and for the cadets - Ground Team Training, Culinary Arts (feeding a crowd), and Digital Cameras and how to use them. If you wish to participate in any of this training, please contact your element leader and sign up for the WTA.

24 November - There will be an opportunity for cadets to participate in a community service. We will meet where the Chronicle is printed in Centralia early in the morning and we will stuff paper bags into all the newspapers in preparation for Walk n Knock.

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.