



December Issue 2008

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Capt Dan Whalen

I am writing this with hope and anticipation for a great new year for each and every one of you. Looking into the new year, I am hoping that we continue to work well together as a team, and that we strive to achieve great things and that each and every member of our team is working hard toward a goal or set of goals.

With the snow and extreme cold weather that has just passed and winter just barely here according to the calendar it is easy to think that we are through the worst of the weather. The fact is we may have much worse to deal with in the next few months.

A goal of mine is to ensure my vehicles are ready for the winter driving and they are tuned up, topped off and ready to go! Another goal is to be sure that I have my 24 pack with me in the car if I am driving any further than the corner store. We as a team need to always be training to be rescuers and not to become victims in the case of a flood, earthquake or other disaster. Are you ready?

Think proactively and be prepared.

2009 will be a busy year and I look forward to all the activities that are coming our way.

Basic Marksmanship Encampments (BME), Washington Training Academy (WTA), Search and Rescue Conference, Field Training Exercises (FTX) Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX), air shows, orientation flight days, field trips and overnight training activities. These are just a few of the activities we will be involved in as a unit.

Make a habit of checking the squadron web site (www.lewiscountycap.org) often and especially the calendar section. Communicate with your teams and if you are not getting information. Be proactive and call or email. Be tenacious about getting information and also about giving information.

Thank you for being the best. I appreciate your efforts and your willingness to work hard, give of yourselves and think of others first. I enjoy the following quote "*Only a life lived for others is worth living*", by Albert Einstein.

Senior Drill schedule is being changed some and should be finalized soon. Seniors will meet on the 8th of January to start off the year and I will see everyone at Cadet Drill January 10th at Napavine.

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Are You Missing Something, Cadet?

Capt Eric Corder, AEO

Volumes have been written on how to be a “good leader”. Don’t bother reading one more word – not one - on leadership until you can master a subtle quality called “followership”. Let me give you some quick examples of followership: Cadet Airman Noclue *always* volunteers for the tough assignments – it’s easy when he knows he’ll be thanked in front of the other cadets. Another example: Cadet Staff Sergeant Notsobrite often has good ideas and isn’t afraid to challenge her leaders at any time it makes sense to her. These are examples of followership – BUT THEY ARE EXAMPLES OF BAD FOLLOWERSHIP!

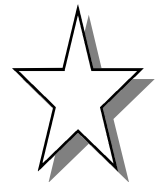
You are unprepared to lead if you haven’t a clue how to follow. WE ARE ALL FOLLOWERS – every one of us. No one is at the top...we must all take our place in the pecking order (look it up). We will all spend the majority of our time in CAP...and in life in the follower role, at some level. So why not be good at it? Here are some starting points. These are ten rules to point you toward good followership. Think long and hard about whether you do these things. If not, get started right now. Here they are:

1. Don't blame those above you for an unpopular decision or policy; your job is to support, not to undermine ...“yeah, it’s a dumb idea but they want us to do it anyway”.
2. Disagree with those above you if necessary; but do it in private, avoid embarrassing situations, and never reveal to others what was discussed...“Sergeant York, I understand what you were trying to accomplish, but may I offer another solution?”
3. Make the decision, then run it past the boss; use your initiative...“Sir, the ground was wet and cold so I decided to keep them on their feet with extra calisthenics vice the exercises we talked about”.
4. Accept responsibility whenever it is offered...“Chief, I am really nervous about leading the color guard, but if you believe I can do it I am willing to step up to the challenge”
5. Tell the truth and don't quibble; your boss will be giving advice up the chain of command based on what you said...“Honestly Captain, I have seen this done this way before and it didn’t work. I suggest doing it this way”.
6. Do your homework; give your boss all the information needed to make a decision; anticipate possible questions...“First Sergeant, I looked into this situation and found the Air Force has a regulation detailing the situation. I have it right here for you”.
7. When making a recommendation, remember who will probably have to implement it. This means you must know your own limitations and weaknesses as well as your strengths...“Sir, Drill and Ceremonies actually must be done a little differently in this instance. I have some experience and I can fix the situation” (or...“I am willing to look into the right way to do it and fix it”).
8. Keep your boss informed of what's going on in the unit; people will be reluctant to tell his or her problems and successes. You should do it for them, and assume someone else will tell the boss about yours...“Captain, the thing you don’t see about Airman Snuffy is that he is having a tough time at home. Maybe we should talk to he parents” (or...“Sir, you probably aren’t aware of how Sergeant Pyle handled the lost child situation at the fair – it was brilliant!”).

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Free and
Proud!***





9. If you see a problem, fix it. Don't worry about who would have gotten the blame or who now gets the praise...“Sir, the younger cadets were under the impression that talking that way was acceptable. It has been taken care of.”

10. Put in more than an honest day's work, but don't ever forget the needs of your family. If they are unhappy, you will be too, and your performance will suffer accordingly...“Lieutenant, I am committed to the project but I need some time with my mother this weekend. Can I make it up next weekend?”

Just remember – you can not be an effective leader until you are an effective follower. This is true in CAP, life, and whatever endeavor you will undertake.

Adapted from *Ten Rules of Good Followership* By Col Phillip S. Meilinger, USAF
USAF Squadron Officer School

LEWIS COUNTY IS HOSTING ANNUAL SAR CONFERENCE!

Lewis County is hosting its 4th Search and Rescue (SAR) Conference this Spring on 15 - 17 May. During this event, over 1000 people from all over the world will gather to learn tasks and techniques associated with SAR. This year's SAR theme is “Dragon SAR,” and that theme will be incorporated throughout the conference, adding a little fun to all the learning and sharing of skills.

The last time a SAR Conference was held in Lewis County was Spring 2004, and CAP was an integral part of the operations that weekend. Cadets had the opportunity to attend classes of their own choosing, ranging from tracking skills to working with horse and dog teams, and a variety of others. Cadets also spent the nights guarding the Huey Helicopters that were used for several of the classes, keeping watch so nothing happened to them overnight, employing night vision equipment and tactical skills. The cadets and seniors also helped in the dining facility - serving to compliment the learning. It was a very motivating and enjoyable time to all the cadets who attended.

While there is usually a SAR conference every year, it does not always take place so close to home, so this would be a good time for us to attend with a large group. Working with the Sheriff's office is vital to our squadron so that we get comfortable working together as a team. When emergencies happen, it is much easier for the ES personnel in the County to request help from people they have worked with before. They need to know the knowledge and skill level of those who are helping in an emergency. The only way they can know about us is to work with us before an event might happen. This takes some work and dedication, but in the end, we will become a team that the Sheriff's office can depend on.

The weekend before the SAR Conference, we will join the Sheriff's office as they set up for the event. We will help them put up tents, get supplies unloaded and stored, and perform the innumerable tasks required to set up for an event like this. During the actual event, we will be working in several venues including traffic control, dining facilities, helping participants find their classes, and other tasks assigned to us by the Sheriff's office. The normal fee for attending this Conference will be waived for all cadets wishing to work to help make it a success. The idea is to spend one day of the event working and one day of the event taking classes. That way we combine the teamwork with the class work. So, put the two weekends in May on your calendar and plan to help set up on the first one and attend the conference the second. This is an opportunity not to be missed!

January Birthdays

• **CIAmn Philip Fisher**

• **CIA1c Zach Hail**

• **CIAmn Andrew Martin**

• **Cadet Chris Ruhnau**

• **CIAmn Mitchell Tompson**

• **CITSGT TJ Williams**

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/>



The LCCS squadron website is filled with pictures, articles, information, and important links. Check us out at:

www.lewiscountycap.org



OFFICER DRILL SCHEDULE

THURSDAYS IN JANUARY

6:30 pm— SCOUT LODGE

At 3rd and Adams
Chehalis, WA

DATE	TOPIC
Jan. 8	Business & Planning Drill
Jan. 15	Operations Training
Jan. 22	Senior Training
Jan. 29	Cadet Programs

Important Dates—Add to your Calendar TODAY!

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

24 January at 1800 - The annual Lewis County Composite Squadron will hold its annual Awards Banquet at the Bethel Church located at 132 Kirkland Road off the Rush Rd Exit.

28 January - 4pm to about 6pm the United States Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) will be giving demonstrations, training and some hands on simulator training when they visit the Centralia Rifle Club.

If you want to attend you MUST email Capt Whalen ASAP with your intent. There is no cost. Uniform is BDU's (You need to LOOK SHARP! Uniform, boots, hair, you get it?)

9 - 10 May - We will joint the Sheriff's office at the Packwood SAR Conference site to set up for the event that will take place the following weekend.

15-17 May - Lewis County will be hosting the annual SAR convention. We will be working with the Sheriff's department to help with preparations and we'll be able to attend many of the classes and lectures. It is a weekend that is full of fun!

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.