



**HEADQUARTERS ILLINOIS WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL**
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
DuPage County Airport
32W581 Tower Road, West Chicago, IL 60185



7 March 2016

Operations Newsletter

March 2016

Upcoming Activities

Peoria Sq to Help Train ILANG

The Peoria Squadron has been working with the Illinois Air National Guard and will assist in the training of some of their members with search and rescue. This is a great example of our continuing partnership with Team Air Force and growing ES role all over the Wing.

Group 2 Training

Group 2 holds a monthly training exercise, their Midlevel exercise will take place in August. This event will be held at the Lansing Airport.

Wing Level SAREX

The Wing Level SAREX is scheduled for May this year and will be held in Bloomington, IL. This year we will be practicing for our Air Force Guided Mission in September.

Operations News

IL Wing Flies 1st Angel Flight

The following story was submitted by Capt Don Johnson of the Fox Valley Composite Squadron:

CAP continues to find new ways to serve our communities. When a family member develops a serious illness, it is a major family crisis in many ways. Often treatment of these families involves frequent travel between locations poorly served by airline services and regional and national medical centers. The Angel Flight organizations provide a linkage between these patients and pilots who are willing to provide this transport at their own expense.

Until recently this service was largely provided by pilots who own their own planes. In an important development, CAP now allows members to use it's aircraft fleet to fly charity transport flights at their

own expense. These flights are approved on an individual basis by National Headquarters. Fox Valley Composite Squadron member Lt. Robin Blakkolb is a long time member of Angel Flight Central, and has flown many of these missions in his Cessna 210. With the recent availability of CAP aircraft for these missions, Capt. Don Johnson and Capt. Gary Brown have also joined Angel Flight Central.

After a planned flight the previous week was scrubbed because of adverse weather, the inaugural Illinois Wing Angel Flight took place on March 2, 2016. Capt. Johnson, and Lt. Blakkolb flew a 300+ mile flight to St. Cloud Minnesota, and picked up Kristen and Conner Rhode. They returned with Kristen and Connor to Dupage, where they met up with Tony Schmidt of Angel Flight Mid America. Tony then transported them to the Lunkin Field, Cincinnati Ohio where Connor is getting advanced cancer treatment at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

As with all CAP activities, safety is paramount. Because of the significance of the flight, Illinois Wing commander Col Jerry Scherer served as the Flight Release Officer. Col Scherer was intimately involved in the planning of the flight, and made sure that all aspects of the flight were correctly planned and executed, and that risks were anticipated and mitigated. Wing Director of Operations, Lt. Col Joe Long has been supportive of this effort, and instrumental in coordination of the program with NHQ and setting up facilities within the Wing for planning and approval of the flights.

For Capt. Johnson, the Mission Pilot, this flight was not only very rewarding on its own merits, but also provided valuable experience in planning and executing a long, multi-leg cross country flight in a challenging weather environment, to a demanding schedule. Serving as Mission Observer, Lt. Blakkolb shared his long experience in these types of flights, and used the opportunity to practice on the G1000 system. Along the way, we got to see some F-16's practicing intercept techniques with Wisconsin Wing CAP aircraft.

The photo shows Capt. Johnson and Lt. Blakkolb with Kristen and Connor.



New Wing Website

Very soon, the Wing website will be transferred from the old domain to a new one. ILWG.CAP.gov. This new one will be in compliance with NHQ requirements. The Operations page has already begun to be built. If you take a look there are several subpages that contain this newsletter, aircraft information and locations along with weight and balance info. If you're looking for an instructor or check pilot go to the Stand Eval page. You'll see it is password protected. This is because I have the names and contact information on our check pilots, mission check pilots and instructors. Contact your Squadron Commander for the password. I will be sending that out soon. We are continuing to build the site and it will be updated as often as need be.

Mission Reimbursement

We have had a number of issues with receipts. Mostly on Ground sorties. Please do not submit your own e108s. This does not allow us to audit them for required information and causes more work for my staff and I, and the timeliness of reimbursement is delayed.

Update: Receipts looking a lot better this month, thank you all for your attention to detail.