



ILLINOIS WINGMAN

Information from Illinois Wing members, for Illinois Wing members

Illinois Valley Cadet Squadron participates in Avenger Air Show, Salute to Veterans

Several cadets from Illinois Valley Cadet Squadron volunteered at the TBM Avenger Reunion & Salute to Veterans at Illinois Valley Regional Airport in Peru, Illinois, May 19 & 20. 1st Lt Gary Farral, IL-334; C/1st Lt Morgan Montgomery, IL-274; C/2d Lt Benjamin Zielinski, IL-274; C/CMSgt Landon Arthur, IL-284; C/Amn Jacob Arthur, IL-284; C/Amn Clayton Herz, IL-284; C/Amn Bailey Oliver, IL-284; C/A1C Aidan Taylor, IL-284; C/TSgt Robert Templeton, IL-284; and C/Amn Niles Tremper IL-284 volunteered their weekend to contribute to a successful event.



From left: C/A1C Aidan Taylor & C/Amn Clayton Herz



From left: C/1st Lt Morgan Montgomery, C/Amn Clayton Herz, C/Amn Bailey Oliver, C/Amn Niles Tremper



Civil Air Patrol | Illinois Wing
ILLINOIS WINGMAN

Email: pa@ilwg.cap.gov

Web: ilwg.cap.gov

Editor-in-Chief: SMSgt Frank A. D'Angelo, Jr., CAP

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- AND MUCH MORE**



Thrilling Day of Orientation Flights Soars High for Cadets at Bult Field

2d Lt Patrick L. Emmons, CAP

Magnus Composite Squadron Public Affairs Officer

Monee, IL, May 7, 2023 — Magnus Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol, in collaboration with Illinois Wing and Bult Field, proudly organized a fantastic day of cadet orientation flights for aspiring cadets, soaring to new heights of excitement. Under the expert guidance of Captain Gabe Benavides, cadets embarked on an unforgettable airborne adventure above Monee, Illinois. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed Lt. Col. George Roy, the Group 2 Commander, who joined in on the activities, adding a touch of prestige and leadership.

Orientation flights are pivotal in the Civil Air Patrol's mission to educate and inspire young aviation enthusiasts. These exhilarating flights provide cadets with a hands-on opportunity to gain insight into the aviation industry, develop a deeper understanding of flight operations, and ignite their passion for aerospace.

Lt. Col. Roy, a distinguished member of the Civil Air Patrol, shared his thoughts on the event, stating, "Participating in the day of orientation flights was a true honor. Witnessing the dedication and eagerness of these young cadets was a testament to the bright future of aviation. The Civil Air Patrol plays a vital role in nurturing and developing the next generation of leaders in aerospace, and I am proud to be a part of this wonderful organization."

Col. Roy also shared his personal story of taking his first flight, "Cadet Orientation Flights, O-Rides for short, is one of the highlights of a cadet's life in Civil Air Patrol. I still remember my first Cadet Orientation Flight. I couldn't sleep the night before because I was so excited. When the pilot let me take the controls, I was in heaven; it was a dream come true for me. Some 9,000 hours later, as a Corporate Pilot, I still remember that first flight. Thank you, Civil Air Patrol!"

Capt. Gabe Benavides, the seasoned flight instructor who led this extraordinary event, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "It was an absolute privilege to introduce these bright cadets to the thrilling world of aviation through orientation flights. Witnessing their enthusiasm and unwavering desire to learn was truly inspiring. I firmly believe these experiences will shape their future journeys in aviation and beyond."

Cadet Maj. Aneesh Bargaje, one of the cadets who took part in the orientation flights, shared his awe-inspiring reflections on the day's events. He exclaimed, "Soaring through the skies with Captain Benavides was nothing short of extraordinary. Today's orientation flight exceeded my wildest dreams as someone with an insatiable passion for aviation. It solidified my unwavering commitment to pursuing a remarkable career in aerospace, and I am immensely grateful for the transformative opportunities provided by the Civil Air Patrol."

Cadet Airman 1st Class Brandon Rodrigo, another participant in the orientation flights, couldn't contain his excitement. He enthusiastically declared, "It's amazing to be able to control and fly this plane with so much ease and freedom. Today was an absolute dream come true! It's like you're a bird; the air is your playground. It's exhilarating to be so high up in the sky and see so far in every direction. Capt. Benavides proved to be an exceptional instructor, imparting invaluable knowledge and allowing me to enjoy the flight comfortably. He's keen on flying, and safety was evident throughout the entire experience. Flying a plane has always been one of my dreams, and now that I've experienced it, I'll continue to strive harder to pursue and eventually fly solo."

The Civil Air Patrol sincerely appreciates Capt. Gabe Benavides' invaluable expertise and unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of aviators. The organization also expresses heartfelt gratitude to Illinois Wing and Bult Field for their generous support and for providing the perfect backdrop to make this electrifying day of orientation flights an immense success.



May 30, 2023 — The Regional Cadet Drill Competition held at Grissom Air Reserve Base, May 20-21, featured a total of seven teams from the Great Lakes Region. Teams from Springfield Composite Squadron (IL-036) and Lewis Composite Squadron (IL-329) proudly represented Illinois Wing.

Two teams from the Indiana Wing finished in first and second places and will represent the Great Lakes Region at the 2023 National Cadet Drill Competition. This was a great opportunity for teams from all participating wings to see what it takes to advance to the national level. It was also excellent to witness the positive connections made between team members from Springfield and Lewis Composite Squadrons that carried forward from the wing to the regional levels.

The Lewis Composite Squadron team finished in fifth place and included C/2d Lt Christian Micetich, C/MSgt Arda Akman, C/MSgt Gavin Blakemore, C/SSgt Luke Gantz, C/SSgt Cassandra Marvitz, and C/SrA Olivia Jackson. C/SSgt Cassandra Marvitz received a medal for finishing in second place on the written exam.

The Springfield Composite Squadron team finished in seventh place and included C/CMSgt Rae Jones, C/TSgt Krista Allen, C/TSgt Braidyn Gardiner, C/TSgt Lucas Staley, C/SSgt Joey Heiple, and C/A1C Braiden Wilson.

If you have any questions regarding the competition, please contact Maj Dan Johnson (IL-329) at djohnson@ilwg_cap.gov or 1st Lt Kelly Jones at kjones@ilwg_cap.gov.



Information for Cadets

Illinois Wing

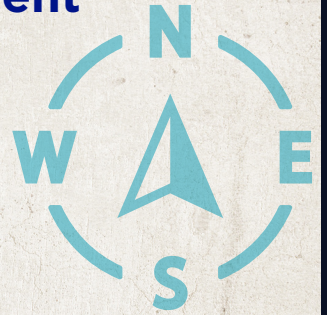
Summer Encampment

20 - 29 July 2023

Marseilles Training Center
near Marseilles, Illinois

Register online at

<https://ilsummer.cap.gov>



Cadets: Interested in Journalism, Photography, or Graphic Design?

Be a Contributing Writer,
Photojournalist, or Graphic
Designer for Illinois Wingman

Email SMSgt Frank D'Angelo
for more info

Interested applicants should have
some experience in

- Interviewing, writing, & editing
- Digital photography & editing
- Digital Graphic Design

and be passionate about telling readers
about Civil Air Patrol

Ways to Give

goodshop

You shop. We give.

When you sign up to use GoodShop, you are automatically signed up with GoodSearch, too.

When you shop at your favorite stores online, sign in to GoodShop first. Select the participating retailer of your choice, and shop away!

Create your account and adopt "Illinois Wing Civil Air Patrol" as your cause.

 **goodsearch**

GoodSearch is a Yahoo!- powered search engine that donates half of its revenue to a charity designated by you, the user. The exact amount varies based on advertiser prices, but the typical amount is approximately a penny per search. Use Goodsearch for everyday activities like searching the web and shopping online.

Adopt "Illinois Wing Civil Air Patrol" as your cause.

Ways to Support Those Who Serve

New ways to donate to Illinois Wing have been added to the wing website's "Donate" page.

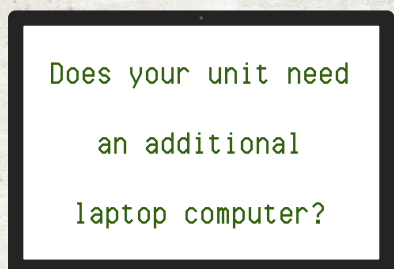
Even *more* ways to support our wing will be added in the near future.

Share the webpage to expand our reach & do the most good. Check frequently for new ways to help those who serve America's communities, save lives, and shape futures!

<https://ilwg.cap.gov/donate>



Announcements



**Older laptop computers
are available on
request**

**Contact Maj Ed Danley
by email**

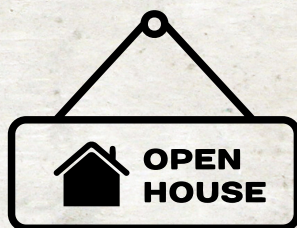
edanley@ilwg.cap.gov

**LIST YOUR UNIT'S
IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL
OPEN HOUSES & OTHER
RECRUITING EVENTS
ON THE WING WEBSITE**

RECRUITING EVENTS WEBPAGE

Send details to PA@ilwg.cap.gov

- **Host Unit Name**
- **Name of Event**
- **Date(s) & Time(s)**
- **Event Address &/or Virtual Event Link**
- **Additional Details & Instructions**



CAP National Conference
Registration Now Open

Register Here

Bellevue, WA | 18-19 Aug 2023



**ILLINOIS WING MAGAZINE
COMING SOON!**

Writers & photographers, visual graphics designers,
and editors needed

Email PA@ilwg.cap.gov for more info

- **Human interest stories**
- **Cadet programs**
- **Emergency Services**
- **Aerospace Education**
- **Cadet Life**
- **Exposés/biographies of CAP members & units**
- **Philanthropy (helping Illinois Wing)**
- **Joining CAP**
- **And much more**

The Wing Magazine will be written & designed for a public audience whereas the Wing Newsletter, Illinois Wingman, is written by & for members of the Illinois Wing

June
Month of June Awareness

- **PTSD Awareness** | Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- **Pride Month** | Library of Congress
- **National Safety Month** | National Safety Council

Announcements

The Passing of Colonel Michael Gaeta

Illinois Wing Members,

It is with great sadness to report the passing of Lt Col Michael Gaeta, CAP, a long-time member of our wing. He died at the age of 86. Col Gaeta served the wing as a group commander, director of the wing's Counter-Drug program, and Wing Deputy Commander. He had a large number of pilot-in-command hours in his V-Tail Bonanza, flying cadets and flying missions. His many years of service and dedicated membership provided invaluable support to our wing and to CAP nationally.

Col Gaeta served The Village of Hoffman Estates as a trustee. He also served, as village trustee, on the aviation committees of the Schaumburg and O'Hare Airports. His willingness to serve his community and nation will be greatly missed.

Find visitation & funeral information at [this link](#).

Sincerely,

Major Kalman J. Kahn, CAP
Director of Development



Illinois Wing,

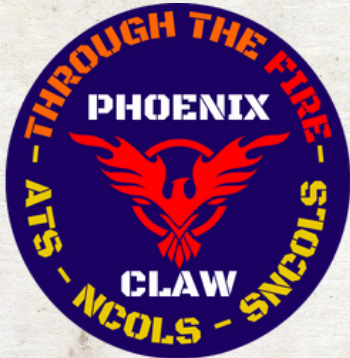
I am happy to announce the permanent appointment of Lt Col Brian Nielsen as the Group 4 commander. Please join me in congratulating him and wishing him the best.

v/r,

Colonel Loy

Education & Training Opportunities

Cadet Leadership Academy Weekend



This new annual event will...

- Promote cadet engagement, camaraderie, and leadership skills of Illinois cadets in all four phases of the Cadet Program
- Provide more cadet leadership opportunities in Illinois Wing
- Enable Senior Member progression in the Education & Training program.

[Information & Registration Here](#)

NESA 2023 Communications School

18 Jun - 2 Jul 2023

New Courses Offered
RADO | Week 1
COML | Week 2

Communications Staff
Members Needed, Too!

POC: Maj Scott Higgins, CAP



FEMA Public Information Officer Training Opportunities

<https://training.fema.gov/programs/pio/trainops.aspx>

Dates: 10-14 July 2023

Location: DuPage County OHSEM

418 N County Farm Road Wheaton, IL 60187

To Register:

Step 1: Register through the State's training system at: IEMA Registration

Step 2: To Apply with EMI to receive credit AFTER registering with the State:

<http://training.fema.gov/onlineadmissions/>

Course Code: L0388

Include the email of Training Site POC Kevin Sur as the Head of Organization for approval on the Online Application.

POC:

Kevin Sur, Training Contact,
kevin.sur@illinois.gov

Craig Dieckman, Onsite Training POC,
craig.dieckman@dupageco.org

Dates: 11-15 September 2023

Location: Virtual, 8:00 am- 5:00 pm EDT

Note: *You must have functional video and audio capabilities to attend this training. Your primary source may not be a mobile phone.*

To Register:

DHS-FEMA General Admissions Application

Course Code: K0388

Include the email of your Supervisor as the Head of Organization for approval on the Online Application.

POC: Nicole Shutts, Program Manager.
Nicole.shutts@fema.dhs.gov

Education & Training Opportunities

Illinois Wing Education & Training

The Wing ET webpage is your one-stop-shop for upcoming training & education opportunities.

Personnel who host training & educational events open to members of the wing should email details to Capt Julie Moses at et@ilwg.cap.gov. Those events will be posted on the ET webpage.

Education & Training Webpage

Expand Your Audience!

Use this newsletter to send your message to members across the wing...from Safety Tips to Training Events to Cadet Activities and everything in between. Expand your audience by sending your message's details to the Wing Public Affairs Officer. Illinois Wingman is published every month.

PA@ilwg.cap.gov

Virtual Office Hours

Public Affairs Virtual Office Hours

**2nd Thursday
of each month
1900-2000 hours
Central**

Email pa@ilwg.cap.gov
for link to Google Meet

**All PAOs & Cadet PAOs,
PAOs from other wings,
and all interested are
welcome**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

**3rd Wednesday
of each month
1915-2000 hours Central**

Google Meet