

CALL THE BALL

The Newsletter of the 130th Composite Flight

<http://www.mnwg.cap.gov/farmington>

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Commanders Corner-Goals 2001

I was recently asked what my Vision is for the unit. Number one is to continue the recruitment drive that will bring us back and maintain us at the Squadron Status. I would like to see earning the recruiter ribbon a goal of every single member of the unit. And of course bringing in only the best new members. So far I like what I see. When cadets enter the

program it is imperative that our new cadets get a complete and proper uniform and are taught how to keep it that way. Thus a support staff is essential. Our cadets NCOs need to help new cadets with this and introduce these new cadets to the Civil Air Patrol way of life. I want to see our unit's cadets working their way up the ranks quickly. I want to see our cadets maxing tests and being ahead of promotions so that we see steady promotions every two months. The 130th needs more cadet NCOs and Officers. I'm looking forward to seeing our CAC and deputy CAC promoting our interests all over the wing and bringing the concerns of 130th cadet to the Wing/National level. I want to see participation by all members of the unit in outside activities. It is my wish that all members qualify for Basic ES and have the credentials to prove it. This has never been easier what with on line testing. In addition I would like to see those that have an interest in participating in the Emergency Services program hold the coveted Ground Team Badge and our senior members be working for the Ground Team Leader badge. For those interested in communications I expect to see another large crop of ROA advanced holders. For our senior members I want to see them participate in the Aerospace program and get our cadets (And other unit's cadets) flying in orientation flights. We have not had this resource in 6 years my hope is we can make flying a regular part of the program at the 130. This year my vision for our senior members is increased training and hopefully a lot of Yeager award winners. It is my wish that we continue to maintain our reputation as competitive and determined in the athletic and drill competitions and as a top notch ELT hunter team. Our unit has a fine tradition of being Johnny on the spot in ELT hunts. We need to continue this. We need to build good relationships with members of other units. We rarely work alone! I look forward to more educational field trips and want to see our senior members doing presentations to classrooms about our program. Funding will become more of an issue as we look to our future. It will be important as we grow.

AWARDS:

The question of the unit Citation ribbon was brought up at our last meeting. To say we are confused about this is an understatement. The upshot is that there is a straight scoop. Reference the

following from the Wing Inspector General. Before you ask YES, you may wear the Unit Citation. In fact every member of Minnesota Wing is entitled to wear the green unit citation! How? Why? Those members of Minnesota Wing, who participated in a search and rescue operation at four miles Northwest of Comfrey MN regarding the crash of a B-47 bomber. The crash occurred on Wednesday, February 20th, 1963 at 2:15pm. The impact of the bomber left a 25' foot deep, 50' wide crater, leaving three airmen found dead with a fourth missing. Three CAP planes and 100 members assisted in the search for the missing airman in temperatures ranging in double digits below zero. One of the six engines was found one and a half miles from the crash site. The SAC bomber, stationed out of Lincoln (Lincoln Air Force Base), NE, was conducting a low-level training mission at about 500' to a radar bomb scoring site near Heron Lake. Douglas Wall, the only eye-witness, stated the aircraft was flying at a 45 degree angle with all four engines spewing black smoke. Wall estimated the aircraft to be flying at 800 to 1000 feet when the nose of the bomber suddenly dropped and crashed in almost a vertical position. Had the aircraft been configured in a war-situation, the aircraft would have been carrying an H-bomb. It was the efforts of all the Minnesota Wing HQ members AT THE TIME, who earned the unit citation award as a PERMANENT AWARD. Those of us who join Minnesota Wing after the fact, are allowed to wear the ribbon as long as we are members of the Wing. If a member transfers out of Minnesota Wing - the unit citation ribbon comes off! Unless of course, you have earned your own! So - every member of the wing is eligible to wear the basic ribbon. And if your unit has earned its own unit citation, it would be a second award (basic ribbon with an attachment), etc. As an example: Members of the Valley Squadron would have three awards: The first award (basic ribbon) for the B-47 crash; the second award (the first attachment) under the command of Lt Col Theis and the third award (second attachment), under the command of Maj Steve Miller. **ANYONE CHOOSING TO WEAR THE RIBBON, IS FAIR GAME TO BE QUESTIONED BY THE WING IG AND OTHERS, AS TO HOW YOU "EARNED" IT. HONOR THOSE WHO WORKED IN THE FREEZING TEMPERATURES BACK IN 1963 BY KNOWING AND REMEMBERING THE HISTORY BEHIND IT.** I am sure Col Gerald Quilling and Lt Col Tom O'Connor would be more than honored to provide a first-hand account of the operation if asked!

THE NCO'S CREED

I am a Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer, a leader of cadets. As a Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time-honored Corps, which is known as "The Nucleus of the Civil Air Patrol Program." I am proud of the Corps of Cadet Non-Commissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Civil Air Patrol, and my Country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my cadets. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer. I will fulfill

my responsibilities inherent in that role. All cadets are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my cadets and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my cadets and will never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment. Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will learn their respect and confidence as well as that of my cadets. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; Seniors, Peers, and Subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are Professionals, Cadet Non-Commissioned Officers, Leaders!

LEADERSHIP FROM A GOOSE?!

FACT: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front. **LESSON:** *If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go –and be willing to accept their help as well as give our help to the others.*

FACT: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies at the point position.

LESSON: *It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership with people, because as with geese, we are interdependent on each other.*

FACT: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. **LESSON:** *We need to make sure honking from behind is encouraging– and not something else.*

FACT: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, either joining with another formation or catching up with the flock. **LESSON:** *If we have as much sense as geese, we, too, will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.*

FACT: As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if the bird flew alone. **LESSON:** *People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.*

The current cadet program is split into four phases:

- The Learning Phase (Achievements 1-3)
- The Leadership Phase (Achievements 4-8)
- The Command Phase (Achievements 9-11)
- The Executive Phase (Achievements 12-16)

To pass an achievement a cadet must do the following:

- Pass an Aerospace test at 70%
- Pass a Leadership test at 70%
- Pass the Cadet Physical Fitness Test
- Attend a Moral Leadership briefings
- Participate in squadron activities

Phase I: The Learning Phase (Achievements 1-3)

Achievement 1 (Curry) Expectations: Cadets should have a uniform that doesn't violate any regulation. (IE: A Wing patch, rank insignia that is on, a belt, etc.) Cadets must have a serviceable uniform in order to be promoted to C/Amn. In addition, Cadets should know who Curry is and the day CAP was founded. A Cadet Airmen should be able to go out in public and represent CAP without causing major embarrassment. They are not expected to be experts in anything.

Point to Find out: Cadet Basics are expected to mess up, goof up, foul up, and not know what's right. C/Amn's are expected to know better. If the cadet is promoted, will the CO regret it later?

Achievement 2 (Arnold) Expectations: Cadets who complete achievement 2 should have a uniform that actually looks right, be able to articulate basic military skills, and be able to articulate the principles of followership. They should also have an understanding of the squadron chain-of-command. (Some idea of the role of the assistant element leader is also good.)

Point to Find out: While a Cadet Airmen is just "one of the guys", and a 1C is beginning to be an example. Make sure the cadet knows that, and that he'll be a good one.

Achievement 3 (Wright Brothers) Expectations: Earning Achievement 3 is completion of the Learning Phase. Cadets should have mastered the skills of followership, uniforms, customs and courtesies, and the Military Environment. Cadets who are promoted to C/SRA should know and understand the responsibilities of the element leader position, and be prepared to step into the breach.

Point to Find out: By this time, Cadets should have some idea of what the cadet program offers. They should be able to set a realistic goal and work toward it. For example "I want my Mitchell by the time I graduate high school!", "I would like to command a



drill team at Region Someday" or "I would like to attend IACE." are good goals. Cadets should also either attend encampment or be thinking about it. **-CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!**

Hang loose Dude?

Cadet Brett Johnson is promoted by Capt "CrasWaki" in an unforgettable and hopefully never to be repeated 5th week