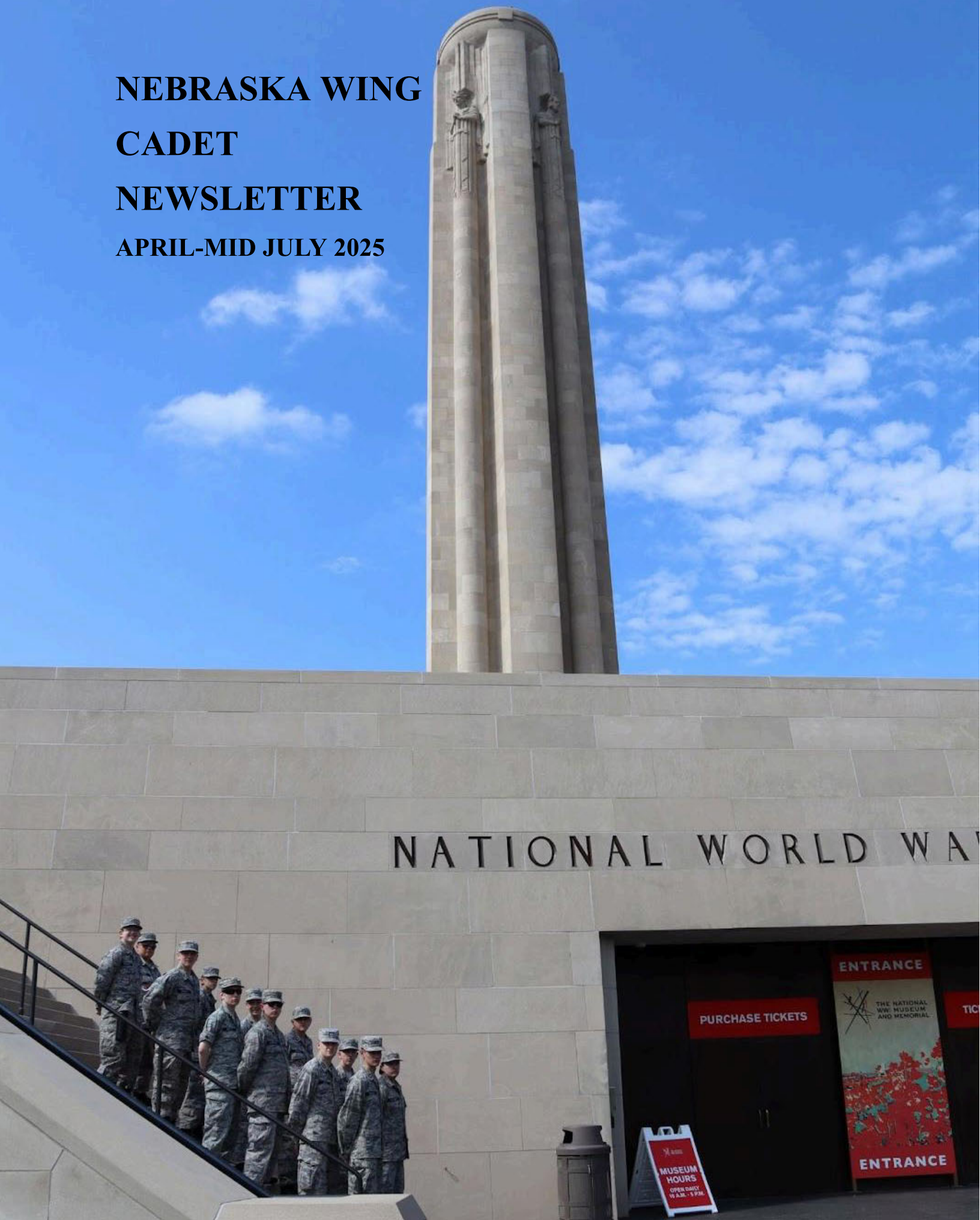
NEBRASKA WING CADET NEWSLETTER

APRIL-MID JULY 2025



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Senior Advisor: Lt Col Gary Gross

Cover image: June 2025 Nebraska Wing (NEWG) cadets at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, MO. *Photo credit: Maj Gerena*

A WORD FROM OUR TEAM

Greetings Airman!

You have now laid your eyes upon another Nebraska Wing Cadet Newsletter! This is a continued project of the Cadet Advisory Council (CAC). Our team has put in countless hours writing & editing articles, finding information & formatting this newsletter once more so we could get you this second volume.

Though most of these articles are written by our team, there are several written by cadets around the Wing. So, look out because your name may or may not appear in this article, and who knows, maybe you're the author!

In the group effort to put this article together, I would like to say thanks to Lt Col Gross, Maj Gerna, 1st Lt Smith, and C/2nd Lt Nimneh. This would not have been possible without all this help. Thanks!

Semper Vigilance,

C/CaptRSeamann

C/Capt Seamann
Editor-in-Chief

P.S. I would encourage everyone who reads this to try to create an article for the next edition. We did not have a lot of cadets outside of this team submit articles. Thank you for your continued help making this newsletter better with every publication!

CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES:

CAC Business:

This is CAC business so… Classified? Not really we haven't met since May so we don't really have anything to share. You should check out “Project Updates” though because that's where ALL the cool stuff is.

Project Updates:

- **NEWG Discord Project** - In progress.
- **Flugtag -** On Hold. Currently being planned for the winter season.
- **Recruiting & Growth -** This project is still ongoing with numerous Public Affairs events planned for the summer, including four local parades in the Omaha-Lincoln area and an aerospace event at the SAC Museum in August. We’re hoping these events will help bring in more prospective cadets to the Nebraska Wing. Progress is being made on developing new Public Affairs materials and improving recruiting tactics.
- **Wing Newsletter –** 100% complete? Not quite sure because it will hopefully continue for many, many years. The second volume however is complete… And you are kind of reading it…
- **Renaming Achievement 5 –** 95% Complete. The work that needs to be done inside of the Wing has been completed and it is now on its way to the Region CAC. The person that we selected for Achievement 5 is a former Certificate of Proficiency Cadet from the Offutt Composite Squadron in Nebraska!

A Word from The Chairman

C/SMSgt Hooper, CAC Chairman

The CAC is moving forward in ways I never thought I would see. The cadets, Maj Piper, and Lt Col Gross have propelled the CAC forward in its goals, with hard work and perseverance. In this article I'll get into this, more, and get into ways you can add, play a part in, or even join the CAC.

First off, I would like to take time to give my admiration for the cadets in the CAC. They have made the CAC **projects a reality**. Some of the most amazing progress is from the CAC cadets, making things like this newsletter an attainable product, and producing quality work with their time. The squadrons should be proud. I would also like to commend Maj Piper and Lt Col Gross for their guidance in CAC. Without them we wouldn't have the council and direction we needed to do what we have done.

Now let's get into what the CAC is and how you can join. The cadet advisory council is an organization within the CAP that makes the ideas and opinions of the common cadet a reality and brings it to the attention of NEWG. PLEASE get in touch with your CAC representative and give them your ideas. If you have more interest, talk to your commander about joining, so you can become part of this amazing community.

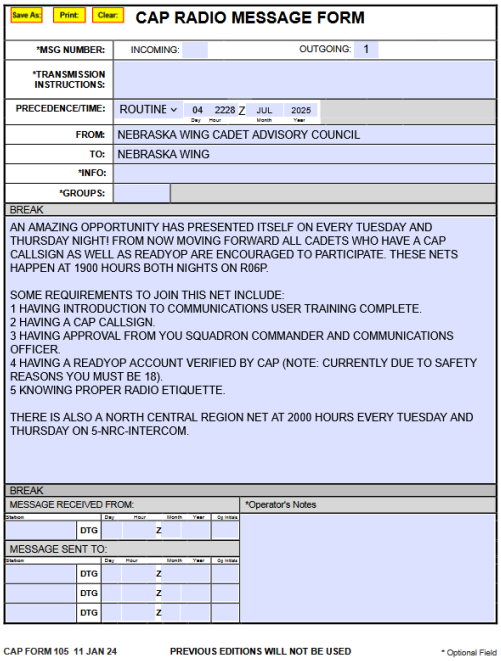
UPCOMING EVENTS

Communication, Radio Nets

C/Capt Seamann

"Red Cloud opening this net session." It continues: "This is a directed training net using abbreviated procedures." "This net is at alert level 3. Are there any stations with traffic? Over." And so it happens that every Tuesday at 1900 I get an opportunity to hear this. This is the directed training nets on ReadyOp, a communications system that CAP uses to communicate throughout the Nebraska Wing and the Nation. On Tuesday nights we use ReadyOp on a PC or tablet to communicate like you would when using one of the CAP Handheld Radios, in fact, you can use a handheld radio instead of ReadyOp at least for this net. All you need to do is switch to channel "Romeo 06 Papa" (R06P) on your radio (This is only for CAP issued VHF or HF radios) and wait for 1900 on Tuesday night.

The purpose of this training net is to help with your radio communications skills whether that be keeping a communications log on CAPF 110 or sending and receiving messages and then writing them down on CAPF 105.



Save As | Print | Clear | **CAP RADIO MESSAGE FORM**

*MSG NUMBER:	INCOMING: OUTGOING: 1
*TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:	
PRECEDENCE/TIME:	ROUTINE 04 (Day) 2228 (Hour) Z JUL (Month) 2025 (Year)
FROM:	NEBRASKA WING CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL
TO:	NEBRASKA WING
*INFO:	
*GROUPS:	

BREAK

AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY HAS PRESENTED ITSELF ON EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHT! FROM NOW MOVING FORWARD ALL CADETS WHO HAVE A CAP CALLSIGN AS WELL AS READYOP ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE. THESE NETS HAPPEN AT 1900 HOURS BOTH NIGHTS ON R06P.

SOME REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THIS NET INCLUDE:
1 HAVING INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATIONS USER TRAINING COMPLETE.
2 HAVING A CAP CALLSIGN.
3 HAVING APPROVAL FROM YOU SQUADRON COMMANDER AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER.
4 HAVING A READYOP ACCOUNT VERIFIED BY CAP (NOTE: CURRENTLY DUE TO SAFETY REASONS YOU MUST BE 18).
5 KNOWING PROPER RADIO ETIQUETTE.

THERE IS ALSO A NORTH CENTRAL REGION NET AT 2000 HOURS EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY ON 5-NRC-INTERCOM.

BREAK

MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM: (Station)		(Day)	(Hour)	(Month)	(Year)	(Sy Initials)	*Operator's Notes
	DTG		Z				

MESSAGE SENT TO: (Station)		(Day)	(Hour)	(Month)	(Year)	(Sy Initials)
	DTG		Z			
	DTG		Z			
	DTG		Z			

CAP FORM 105 11 JAN 24 PREVIOUS EDITIONS WILL NOT BE USED * Optional Field

There are a few requirements to be on these nets:

1. Have the Introductory to Communications User Training (ICUT) Complete.
2. Have a callsign. It would be something like "Red Cloud 384" or "Red Cloud 753."
3. Have permission from your Squadron Commander/Communications Officer.
4. Have a ReadyOp account verified by CAP. (Note: currently due to safety reasons you must be 18).
5. Know radio etiquette.

These nets happen every Tuesday & Thursday at 1900 on R406P. There is also a North Central Region Net at 2000 every Tuesday and Thursday on 5-NCR-Intercom (Note: this is a ReadyOp only net).

Renaming Achievement 5

The RNACH5 Team

What does a WWII Ace, a WASP Pilot, Nebraska's only astronaut, three 1900s inventors, a WWI delivery pilot & the 16th Chief of Staff USAF have in common? **You'll find out in the next edition!**

PAST EVENTS

Beyond Expectations: Nebraska Cadets Reflect on Joint Dakota Encampment

C/2d Lt Nimneh Jr & C/SMSgt Fudge

This summer, twelve cadets from the Nebraska Wing joined over 150 others from across the country at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, South Dakota, for the 2025 Joint Dakota Encampment. Over the course of eight days, these cadets didn't just learn how to lead—they discovered just how far they could push themselves, how deeply they could connect with others, and how much they could grow in such a short time.



Every day started early, packed with physical training, drill and ceremony, aerospace education, and leadership challenges. Cadets faced obstacle courses, team-building problems, and the high expectations of their cadre. But between the marching and the sweat, there were moments that stuck: quiet breakthroughs, shared laughter, and friendships that will last long after the uniforms are packed away. They visited Mount Rushmore, toured Ellsworth Air Force Base, and flew orientation flights over the Black Hills. And through it all, they learned what it really means to lead and serve.

C/SMSgt Molly Fudge from Omaha Composite Squadron said she was surprised by just how much she loved it. "My staff was awesome. I have great memories of them," she wrote. She came away realizing she's more empathetic than she thought and enjoys helping others while still being a team player. "It was way better than I thought it would be. Be willing to learn and act with confidence. Focus on doing your best and enabling others to do their best, and you will go far."

Several cadets reflected on how much their perspective shifted over the course of the week. C/Amn Jackson Como noted how his flight started out scattered, but by the end, they were working in complete sync. "We were working together with hardly any communication. I realized that my limits are mental, not physical." C/MSgt Bella Mealey shared that she expected it to be tough, maybe even miserable, but it turned out to be the opposite. "I ended up having so much fun. I cried when I had to leave. I miss my flight a lot—I grew so much as a person."

For others, the memories came in flashes—laughter during inspections prep, conversations with their wingmen, or the first time they really nailed a drill move. C/SrA Dash Dusek ran his fastest mile yet and pushed through tough days he never thought he'd get through. C/TSgt Courtney Luttkus said the obstacle course was a highlight, but the bigger takeaway was realizing that sometimes leadership means stepping back and letting others take the lead. Even first-time cadets like C/A1C Delaney Moeller came out with new insight. "I can push myself farther than I thought. I can work through it." And C/MSgt Alex Duff summed up what many cadets discovered: "Leading isn't easy—but it's worth it."

For the Nebraska Wing, this encampment was more than a training event. It was a milestone for twelve young cadets, each of whom showed courage, commitment, and the willingness to grow. They arrived uncertain and left with a deeper sense of purpose—and with memories they'll carry into their squadrons, their communities, and whatever comes next.

Nebraska Wing Cadets Earn Honors at the Joint Dakota Encampment

Nebraska Wing cadets demonstrated their personal leadership and were awarded the following:

Cadet Courtney Luttkus: Female Physical Fitness Award.
Cadet Alex Duff: Support Personnel.
Cadet Lindsey Martinson: Support Personnel.
Cadet Molly Fudge: Honor Cadet of the Week, Support Personnel (behind the scenes) (challenge coin) Outstanding Core Values.
Cadet Tyler Suing: Honor Cadet of Operations Staff.

Whiteman Air Force Base Tour

C/CMSgt Morrison

On June 6, 2025, Nebraska Wing cadets had the opportunity to go on a tour of the Whiteman Air Force Base (AFB) in Missouri. The morning of the event, all CAP members who signed up arrived at the rendezvous spot on time to get ready to be bussed over to the base. There were cadets and senior members from Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, and even South Dakota, all in eager anticipation of the tour. Some of the people seemed tense because of last-minute schedule changes, but we all were able to have some good fun before the tour and relax a bit. We did some drill and marched around before the buses finally pulled up to grant us access and bring us over to the base.



Once inside the base gate, we were given a wonderful history of the base, including key points about the origins of the base squadron (the 509th Bomb Wing). Including their start in World War II with the nuclear bombings in Japan, giving them the right to be the only

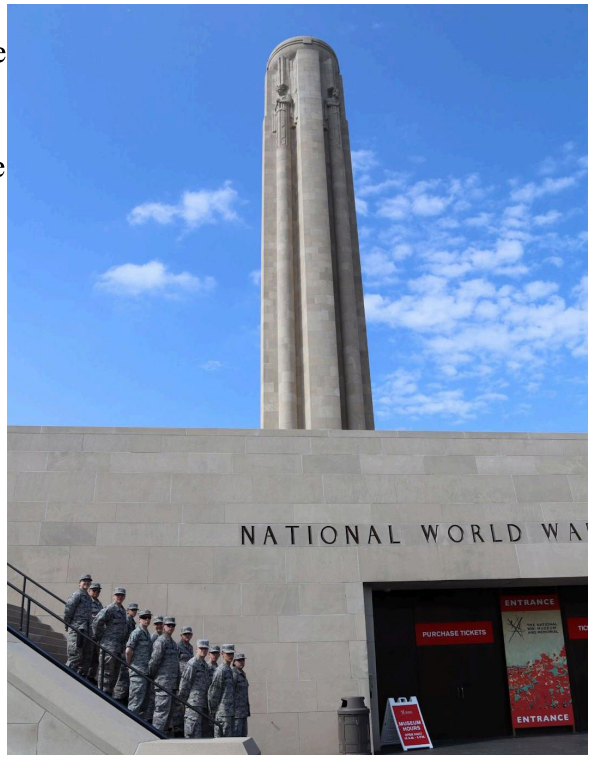
squadron with mushroom clouds on their patch. While also having many stories told from both a Lt Col. B-2 Pilot and Maj. who was an A-10 pilot and now pilot for the MQ-9 Reaper.

We had a Q&A's session with those speakers about their experiences and the sectors they work on base.

Unexpectedly to those of us attending we were given the opportunity to watch the commander of the base (Col. Keith "Ghost" Butler) fly his final sortie in the B-2 and final flight in the Air Force as a whole. The Col. spoke to those in attendance about his time in CAP and how he became a pilot for not only the B-2 but also the F-117, F-16, and B-21. Col. Butler was very encouraging, giving us the example of his son who is a Spaatz Cadet, and was imploring us Cadets to push for our goals. The Col. then gave us permission not only to look inside the cockpit of the B-2 he had just flown, but also touch it. Excellent activity, I would do it again every time.

NEWG Cadets Visit WWI Memorial

Maj. Gerena



As part of a North Central Region level Aerospace activity on 5-6 June, Nebraska wing cadets from the 155th Comp. Sqdn., Omaha Comp. Sqdn., Offutt Comp. Sqdn. and Fremont Cadet Sqdn. joined together for an inspiring and educational experience they won't soon forget.

The National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, was the first stop. The visit was powerful and impactful. Cadets commented on how well the exhibits were laid out, the immersive visual effects, and the way the exhibits flowed as they told the story of the Great War.

The next day, our Nebraska group was joined by cadets and seniors from Kansas and Iowa Wings to visit Whiteman Air Force Base, where they attended an in-depth briefing on the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber and the MQ-9 Reaper. The briefing provided an opportunity to learn about the roles and capabilities of these remarkable aircraft.

The highlight of the day was witnessing the approach and landing of Colonel Keith J. Butler, Commander of the 509th Bomb Wing, during his ceremonial final flight (fini-flight), marking the end of his command tour and the last time he flew the B-2. After the military celebration, Colonel Butler took a moment to address the cadets personally, thanking them for being part of such a memorable occasion. He shared that he, too, was once a Civil Air Patrol cadet. His overall message was simple and powerful: "You never know where your career path might lead."

Pointing to his own position, he said, “This could be you one day". Further inspiring cadets with the message to stay committed, stay on track, and study hard.

Cadets and seniors then had the extraordinary opportunity to walk around the B-2 Spirit bomber Butler flew, walking beneath its bomb bay, around its iconic wing design, and taking in its impressive scale and structure. Many stood in awe; this was an experience they won’t soon forget.

Due to flight line security protocols, cell phones and cameras were not allowed. Additional group photos will be shared soon.

We’re proud of our cadets and grateful to the Air Force personnel at Whiteman AFB, especially Colonel Butler, for making this unforgettable experience possible.

Lincoln’s ROTC/CAP Partnership

C/Capt Seamann



Have you ever wondered what it would be like if CAP partnered with ROTC to do color guard training? Well, a squadron in Nebraska Wing got a chance to do just that. Cadet Captain Seamann of the 155th Composite Squadron in Lincoln, NE, and Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Stevens from the ROTC Detachment 465 based out of the University of Nebraska Lincoln met on Friday, 16 May for a special awards ceremony in which C/Capt Seamann awarded C/Lt Col Stevens and her deputy challenge tokens and certificates. Since 27 February, 2025, the 155th Composite Squadron has been working with the University of Nebraska Lincoln ROTC squadron to improve the 155th Color Guard as well as ROTC relations. ROTC met with the 155th twice for training exercises that happened before the 155th squadron meetings. Once on 24 March and on 14 April. The training went well both times with lots of information being shared between the two units.

The First exercise on the 24th went well overall with the main focus being indoor posting of colors with some Color Guard standard drill. The training was split between the 155th’s Homeschool Color Guard and the Cadet Competition Color Guard.

The second training session on the 14th also went well, focusing on Color Guard Drill. This training was slightly harder and included strong wind blasts that made it nearly impossible to stand still while holding a flag. The team ended up putting the flags inside so they could drill properly. C/Lt Col Stevens said that the 155th’s Color Guard had improved since she had first seen it.

Members of the 155th's Color Guard included: C/Capt Seamann, C/CMSgt Pageler, C/CMSgt Morrison, C/SMSgt Morrison & C/TSgt Pageler. The ROTC members were C/Lt Col Stevens & C/3rd Class Briseno. Special thanks go to the ROTC cadets for participating and assisting us.

Lee Bird Composite Cadets Distribute Poppies

Maj. Gerena



North Platte, NE: Cadets from the Lee Bird Composite Squadron partnered with their local American Legion post to distribute poppies in honor of Memorial Day. The red poppy, officially designated by the American Legion as the flower of remembrance for World War I soldiers, symbolizes the sacrifices made by fallen service members. In addition to handing out poppies, cadets collected donations on behalf of the Legion to support local veterans' organizations.

For more information visit:
https://www.knopnews2.com/2025/05/23/poppies-distributed-throughout-north-platte-national-poppy-day/

NASA Weather Mission

Maj. Gerena

Nebraska Wing cadets from various squadrons recently participated in a national Civil Air Patrol mission in partnership with NASA to support aviation weather research. As part of the 2025 NASA Contrails Mission, cadets collected real-time atmospheric data, including cloud observations, aircraft tracking, and contrail photography to help scientists study high-altitude humidity and improve aviation weather forecasting. The hands-on mission allowed cadets to apply aerospace education skills in a real-world setting, contributing valuable data to ongoing NASA research while building STEM experience and national mission awareness.

Celebrating Freedom and Service: Omaha Area Cadets March on the 4th of July

C/2d Lt Nimneh Jr

On Independence Day, cadets and senior members from the Omaha Composite Squadron and the 155th Composite Squadron proudly participated in the Field Club of Omaha's annual 4th of



July Parade. With eleven cadets and five senior members representing Civil Air Patrol, the event was a vibrant display of patriotism, teamwork, and community spirit. The parade featured a sharp and professional color guard, which carried the American and Nebraska State flags with pride. Along the route, other cadets handed out candy and recruitment flyers, taking the opportunity to connect with families and young people who may decide one day to join CAP. Marching on the Fourth was about honoring the freedom we celebrate on this day and showcasing how CAP continues to serve with excellence. For many spectators, seeing young cadets in uniform was a powerful reminder to the sacrifices made before us and the possibility of wearing the Air Force style uniform one day. The parade was a great success for both the Omaha area squadrons. With plenty of positive interactions and interest from the public, asking questions and expressing interest in Civil Air Patrol, local members are hopeful that some of the day's conversations will turn into future prospective cadets.

The Omaha Composite Squadron is already looking ahead, with two more parades planned for the summer. If the 4th of July turnout is any indication, the momentum is strong and the enthusiasm is growing. As cadets continue to serve their communities while honoring their country, events like these show exactly what Civil Air Patrol is all about—service, leadership, and appreciation for the country.

155th Composite Squadron Holds Open House in Beatrice

C/CMSgt Morrison

On June 30, 2025, the 155th Composite Squadron had an open house at the Beatrice airport. The unit had tables featuring CAP programs. We had two drone simulators as well as the X-plane flight simulator, which were big hits and got a lot of attention. Lt. Col. Mike Eisenhauer from the Capital City Flight flew the Cessna 182, N2693CP, which served as a static display, drawing increased attention from those who visited. There were tables representing the cadet programs and Cadet Life, which showed the Cyber Patriot program and others. Also present was a table for our color guard and special activities we have participated in, which had a good bit of attention due to the color guard gear.

It seemed to have been received well by those who came, with seven families showing up and expressing their interest. The 155th had multiple cadet and senior members attend to run the

tables. They delivered wonderful “elevator speeches” that often became longer due to multiple questions from the attendees. The event was covered by the local newspaper with an article and a video blog entry in the News Channel Nebraska outlet. So far, one attendee came to our weekly meeting this week for PT and said she really enjoyed it.

All in all, it was a wonderful opportunity to expand the reach of Civil Air Patrol. Hopefully, it will bring more cadets and senior members into the fold.

April’s SAREX

Lt Col Gross

Air crews, ground teams and incident management team members all met in Fremont on 12 April for a Wing Search and Rescue Exercise (SAR EX). Aircrews used the Fremont Cadet Squadron Headquarters Operations building to obtain their briefings, while the ground teams used the training building for their briefings. Overall Incident Commander (IC) was Maj. Laine Carstensen; Lt Col Gary Gross served as an IC Trainee. Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD) was Col Darrell Nelson with Maj Tom Pflug as the AOBD Trainee. Lt Col Jim Kuddes served as the Ground Branch Director (GBD).

Air operations had their challenges that day. The Chadron air crew would not be flying CAP2675 to Fremont; instead, they will be performing local training in western NE. The AOBD received a call indicating that CAP2652 in Millard would not start. The only CAP airplane on site was CAP2693 from Lincoln. Around 0830, Col Nelson and Maj Pflug briefed the Lincoln air crew so they could depart and return before winds were expected to increase beyond the CAP limitations. The first sortie of the day involved the air crew searching for a simulated missing airplane. The Lincoln ground team was briefed to forward deploy to the town of Winslow. When the air crew picked up the training beacon signal, they were to rendezvous with the ground team and lead them as close as possible to where the air crew noted the beacon location.

After quite some time of not hearing from either the air crew or the ground team, the IC requested the Comm team to attempt to contact both teams. The feedback received was that the ground team was having issues with their communications equipment. The GBD advised the ground team to move to the Logan View School. The ground team was using a cell phone with ReadyOp to communicate with Comm. Subsequently, the GBD advised the ground team to proceed north on Highway 77 and perform a vehicle search for the training beacon signal. With the winds picking up, the AOBD advised CAP2793 to return direct to Lincoln. The ground team located the training beacon but was advised to leave it there and to return to base (RTB) A second ground team from Fremont was deployed to assist the simulated Dodge County Sheriff’s office with a missing person search in the Fremont Area Lakes neighborhood. The ground team discovered a vehicle that matched a description from the simulated sheriff’s deputies and proceeded to search on foot. About that same time, the Lincoln ground team returned from their training beacon search. The team completed a debriefing with the GBD. Soon, the Fremont team found the missing person and were requested to RTB, while the Lincoln team was being briefed

for the missing person search. After the Lincoln team departed, the Fremont team returned and completed their debriefing before being assigned to the training beacon sortie. When both ground teams returned to the incident command post (ICP), the IC completed a general debriefing with everyone. Overall, there were some communications challenges with both the airplane and the vehicle. The comm team needs to verify the receive frequency of the DF unit before needing it on the next mission. The two ground teams did fairly well for not having practiced in many months and having many new ground team members.

May's SAR EVAL

Lt Col Gross



Nebraska Wing personnel again met in Fremont for an Evaluated Search and Rescue Mission (SAR EVAL) on 10 May. Due to a coincidence of multiple events, no ground teams were able to participate that day. Graduations, previously scheduled CERT training and the North Central Region Cadet competition all were competing for cadets' and seniors' time that weekend. The incident management team decided to proceed with the SAR EVAL using only aircraft (which could be a high likelihood in a real-world disaster scenario).
The day's scenario consisted of performing aerial imaging as requested by the simulated State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) following simulated severe storms including tornadoes over northeastern Nebraska. See the photo with the orange cord marking out the affected area. The IMT, CAP2693 from Lincoln and CAP2652 from Lincoln all rallied at the Fremont Cadet Squadron Training facility to conduct the mission. The communications team of Lt Cols Schaeffer and Kirwan were operating out of the Fremont Cadet Squadron's Comm Room in the Operations Building. In all, 14 personnel supported the mission. Mr. Golda Eldridge, NCR USAF Director of Operations, was on site evaluating Nebraska Wing's emergency services response to the simulated State EOC requests. CAP2652 drew the first sortie, A0006, an aerial photography sortie with the following targets: the Water Tower in Tekamah and the bridge across the Missouri River in Tekamah. CAP2693 drew the second sortie, A0007, a simulated overdue airplane on a flight from Manhattan, KS to Sioux Falls, SD. The air crew was tasked to search for the missing plane.

Sortie A0008's targets were the Pilger water tower and high school.
Sortie A0009's targets were the packing plant in Schuyler and the airport in David City.
Sortie A0010's targets were the water tower in Howells and the water tower in Wayne.
Sortie A0011's targets were the cheese plant south of West Point and the water tower in Pender.

The Airborne Photographers for these sorties were Maj Wilma Gerena and Capt Leonard LaPorte. Mission pilots had a variety of sorties to keep them busy. The photographs were uploaded via the FEMA uploader to the CAP Training Imagery website.
Overall, the day was a success. Mr. Eldridge shared lots of positive feedback during the final debriefing and wished there would have been ground teams participating in the mission.

Emergency Services Qualifications

Congratulations to Lt Col Dan Kirwan, Wing Communications Training Officer, for completing his FEMA IS-300 Course, which was the final requirement to be a fully qualified Communication Unit Leader (CUL).

Congratulations to Maj Tom Pflug for renewing his AOBD Qualifications and for performing in an outstanding manner for the May SAR EVAL. Congratulations to both.

NCR/NEWG Operation Yellow Apron

Lt Col Gross

Another activity added to the array of Emergency Services support by the wing was our participation in Operation Yellow Apron. This was a FEMA exercise that involved 4 FEMA regions, 2 CAP Regions (Rocky Mountain Region and North Central Region (NCR)) and each of the seven states in NCR. The scenario was based on a failure of the Garrison Dam in North Dakota (being in FEMA Region 8). That failure caused downstream issues with other dams in North Dakota, South Dakota and 2 with close proximity to Nebraska: the Fort Randall Dam and the Gavins Point Dam.

> "EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE
> Civil Air Patrol has been tasked by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through Headquarters Air Force to provide Airborne Photography Reconnaissance over all dams, power plants, major bridges, river ports, and railroad complexes throughout the NCR and RMR areas of responsibility."



This was the warning order sent by Lt Col Rick Larson who was the North Central Region Incident Commander (IC). North Dakota took part in Operation Chastise from 9 thru 12 June. The remaining NCR Wings took part in Operation Yellow Apron from 13 through 15 June with one extra day of flying being granted on 16 June.

The objective of the exercise was to take aerial images and upload them to the FEMA

Uploader. According to Col John Seten, this was the largest exercise of its type that CAP has done. He indicated that the eyes of FEMA, other federal agencies and the National Headquarters team would all be focused on the region's operational response.

Nebraska Wing chose to perform their assigned aerial imaging on Saturday, 14 June. Aircraft and personnel again rallied at the Fremont Airport. APs were Maj Gerena and Capt La Porte with newly qualified 2d Lt John Troy having the opportunity to practice his new skills. The NCR Mission staff provided their list of targets within the state. This caused some concern because of where the wing's airplanes are based. There would be lots of "windshield time" just to get to the targets and back. The AOBD and others on the IMT prepared what they felt was the best set of targets to a) photograph as many targets as possible while flying a roughly 1.5 -hour sortie. Two sorties were completed: one taking photographs in central Nebraska north of Grand Island, the other to the south of Lincoln. Both sorties took longer than expected and both required in-flight target reassignments. "The in-flight reassignments went surprisingly well, were acknowledged by the air crews and properly executed," stated Lt Col Tom Schaeffer, mission CUL who was supported by Mission Radio Operators 1st Lt Alex Smith and C/CMSgt Katharine Smith of the Offutt Composite Squadron.

"We had the opportunity to fly one more day, Monday the 16th of June," commented Lt Col Gross, who served as the mission IC. "I made some phone calls and was able to contact Lt Brent Blythe and Maj Gerena, who were both able and willing to fly an aerial imaging sortie that day." The targets selected for that flight were Branched Oak Lake Dam, Bluestem Lake Dam, Wagon Wheel Lake Dam, and finally the Highway 92 bridge over the Platte River (west of Omaha on Center Street). Several members of the Incident Command Team successfully tested their ReadOp connectivity. The MRO discovered that his cell phone microphone did not work, and the Mission Safety Officer discovered he could not hear any audio when the other team members were talking. "Thankfully, we found those issues during a training mission so they can be corrected should we need to use ReadyOp for a real mission," noted Maj Laine Carstensen, Wing Assistant Emergency Services Officer.



Operation Yellow Apron's goals from the Region view were to a) conduct a multi-region (RMR and NCR), multi-wing exercise in support of Homeland Security and FEMA Disaster Response; b) exercise Region Command and Control with the respective wings; exercise liaison with FEMA and c) understand the ability and the processes of the NCR wings to respond to a large-area disaster if one should occur "real world".

From the Wing view, the goals were to a) support the region with assets and personnel resources to accomplish the requested taskings; b) demonstrate our ability to provide those aerial images in

a timely and professional manner; and c) exercise our Incident Management Team in preparation for potential future large-area, multi-state disaster response. According to FEMA, large-area disasters are becoming more prevalent in the U.S.

17 JUN '25 KC-135 Incentive Flight

Lt Col Gross



Nine lucky members of the Nebraska Wing were able to enjoy a KC-135 refueling flight, courtesy of the Nebraska Air National Guard. "We were notified by Mr. Golda Eldridge, our NCR CAP/USAF Director of Operations, that there were 10 seats available on a KC-135 Orientation Flight (Incentive Flight)," noted Wing Director of Cadet Programs, Lt Col Gary Gross. "We scrambled to put together an announcement to the entire wing early Tuesday, June 10, and by about 10:30, we had over 20 applications. After looking at timestamps of the e-mails, we narrowed our list to 10 primary and 4 wait list participants."

Several issues were discovered as the vetting process continued. Cadets with incomplete uniforms and/or grooming standards not met. Senior members who were not currently with Cadet Protection Training. Cadets and senior members with paperwork not filled out correctly (lesson learned – ask the National Guard contact for a sample form). There were also cadets whose timestamps would have placed them in the top 10, but they never responded with their paperwork. One cadet did not have a Social Security Number, and his means of identification did not meet the Air Guard regulations for this type of flight, which was very unfortunate for this deserving cadet. Finally, late Friday afternoon, the list of 10 names for the 10 seats and 1 individual on a waiting list was complete and sent to Mr. Eldridge to forward to the Air Guard.



On the day of the flight, the following members enjoyed a beautiful day in a KC-135, which incidentally, was flown by the father of one of the Omaha Composite Squadron cadets: Tyler Suing, Mathias Richert, Cianan Smith, Dylan Madrakas, Lindsay Martinson, Molly Fudge, and Courtney Luttkus. Senior Members: Illia Antonov and Brent Blythe. 1st Lt Stan Smith of the Omaha Composite Squadron served as the CAP liaison to the Air Guard for the day.

“Two very generous members, one cadet and one senior member, volunteered to give up their seats so that two other members of the wing could have the opportunity for this incentive flight. That showed amazing generosity and consideration for others,” commented Lt Col Gross.

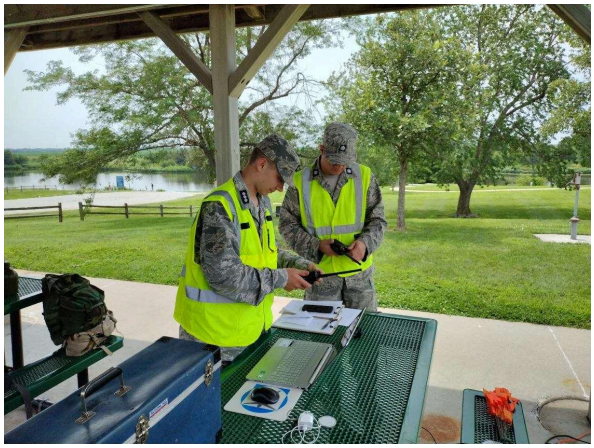
Advice for possible future incentive flights: ensure you have a full uniform, confirm your haircut meets the CAP grooming standards, check your email for notifications from Wing HQ, and be prepared to respond quickly with the requested information.

Cadets & Seniors Gather in Central Nebraska for SAREX Training

C/Capt Seamann

“Now the needle says to take a hard right. It’s about centered now.” Lt Col Gross continues during an L-Per training session, “Now it is pointing to the left a little bit.”

About 5 Cadets and 15 Senior Members gathered on 12 July, 2025 for July’s SAREX. These numbers were split between Grand Island, where the aircrews and mission base were, and Aurora, where the remote base was located. During this event the cadets at the remote base did several training events mostly focusing on the Ground Team Member 3 (GTM3) qualifications, these events included carrying a litter (stretcher), line searches & L-Per training to locate a black box on a downed aircraft.



At the beginning of the SAREX Lt Col Gross who was the Incident Commander delivered a safety brief and also helped assign mission assignments to everyone. He also made sure that everyone checked into the mission base on a physical piece of paper so the cadets would know how to do so on a real mission. After checking in the cadets and senior members alike donned their safety vests and additional gear and “headed into the field.” Once in the field 1st Lt Zimmermann who was ground team leader (GTL) set up our search line and started us forward. Our goal was to find the pencils that had been scattered about the field and, after a couple stops to check our “2-O’clock, 4-O’clock, 6-O’clock, 8-O’clock, 10-O’clock and noon” (This is slowly turning around to see if the item you are looking for is in a position where it can only be seen from a certain angle), we found our first “clue.” After are first clue was spotted C/2nd Lt Nimneh who was the Ground Team’s Mission Radio Operator (MRO) called up the MRO at the remote base and told him that we had found the first clue. After about 30 more minutes we found the other seven clues and radioed them into the remote base. We then asked and were granted permission to return to base on one condition: We pick up the orange markers and pencils.

After our return to base, we settled down for lunch and then hopped back into the field and did a litter carry. We alternated who we carried so everyone could get a chance to be carried and to carry. During this training, we found that “You have to lift at the same time, otherwise the person on the litter could fall off.” We also found this out the hard way after accidently dropping a senior member (sorry sir!), well, more like the one side never lifted so he more less rolled off. We continued our litter carry though until we got back to base at which time we switched our two MROs (C/2nd Lt Nimneh & C/SMSgt Evans) so that C/SMSgt Evans could get some GTM3 training.



Our next training exercise was with the L-Per which is a device used to locate the black box on an aircraft. Sadly, however, the training Black Box’s battery died so Lt Col Gross had to act as if the Black Box was still going to demonstrate how to use the L-Per. The cadets being trained learned how to use the L-per & how to triangulate a signal using a compass. The best part about the L-Per training was after the Black Box died because then Lt Col Gross, using his experience with this training, guided the cadets to where the “signal” was coming from. “I can see the needle is now pointing to the right.” Lt Col Gross continued a couple seconds later, “Now it’s pointing to the left.”

I think the best part of this SAREX was the part where we actually received the training instead of just being assigned to do something. I recommend that all cadets (and seniors) interested in Emergency Services attend a SAREX. They are fun and help you advance more with your ES skills.



About The Rank: Achievement 1 & 2

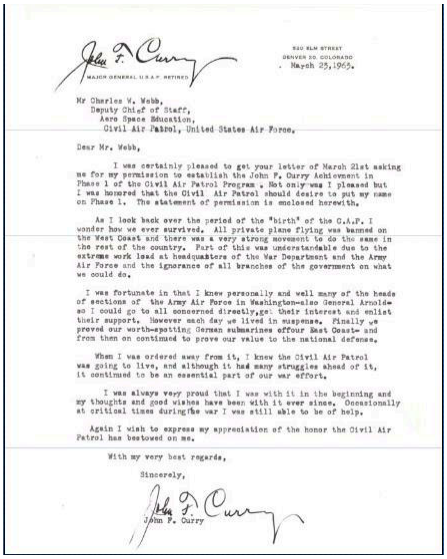
C/Capt Seamann

Welcome to a new series of Articles in the NEWG Newsletter! In these About The Rank articles you will learn about how each rank got their name along with some fun facts. In this first edition we will be covering Achievement 1 and Achievement 2, so dig in because you might just learn something new!

Achievement 1: Cadet Airman



I figure it best we start this series from the beginning with Achievement 1 which is also known as the Curry Award. The *Curry Award* replaced the *Red Cadet Training Ribbon* in 1964 and is named after CAP's first National Commander: Major General John F. Curry!



John F. Curry
MAJOR GENERAL U.S.A.F. RETIRED

820 ELM STREET
DENVER 20, COLORADO
March 25, 1963.

Mr Charles W. Webb,
Deputy Chief of Staff,
Aero Space Education,
Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force.

Dear Mr. Webb,

I was certainly pleased to get your letter of March 21st asking me for my permission to establish the John F. Curry Achivement in Phase I of the Civil Air Patrol Program . Not only was I pleased but I was honored that the Civil Air Patrol should desire to put my name on Phase I. The statement of permission is enclosed herewith.

As I look back over the period of the 'birth' of the C.A.P. I wonder how we ever survived. All private plane flying was banned on the West Coast and there was a very strong movement to do the same in the rest of the country. Part of this was understandable due to the extreme work load at headquarters of the War Department and the Army Air Force and the ignorance of all branches of the government on what we could do.

I was fortunate in that I knew personally and well many of the heads of sections of the Army Air Force in Washington-also General Arnold so I could go to all concerned directly,ge: their interest and enlist their support. However each day we lived in suspense. Finally we proved our worth-spotting German submarines offour East Coast- and from then on continued to prove our value to the national defense.

When I was ordered away from it, I knew the Civil Air Patrol was going to live, and although it had many struggles ahead of it, it continued to be an essential part of our war effort.

I was always very proud that I was with it in the beginning and my thoughts and good wishes have been with it ever since. Occasionally at critical times duringthe war I was still able to be of help.

Again I wish to express my appreciation of the honor the Civil Air Patrol has bestowed on me.

With my very best regards,

Sincerely,

John F. Curry

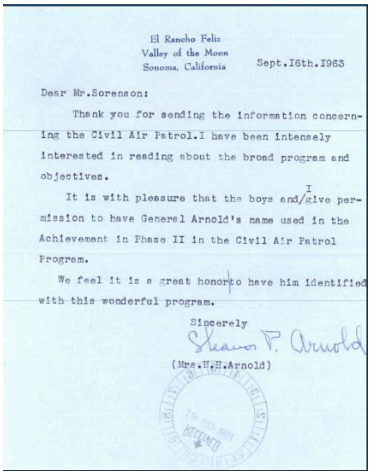
General Curry earned his commission as a 2nd Lt in the United States Army on 14 February 1908 from the United States Military Academy at West Point. From 1908 to 1941 he served in many places including Cuba (1908), New York (1909) California (1916), Mexico (1917), Texas (1918), France (1918), Hawaii (1920), Ohio (1923), Virginia (1928), Kansas (1930), Alabama (1931) and Colorado (1941). He was assigned as CAP's National Commander from December 1941 to March 1942.

In 1963, Civil Air Patrol's Charles Webb reached out to General Curry asking permission for CAP to use his name and establish the John F. Curry Achievement. In Gen Curry's letter giving permission, he stated, "I was always very proud that I was with CAP in the beginning." And so, since 1964, Achievement 1 has been named the John F. Curry Achievement.

Achievement 2: Cadet Airman 1st Class



As I just covered Achievement 1, I figure it's best we move on to the next Achievement, that is of course, Achievement 2, which is also known as the General "Hap" Arnold Achievement. This Achievement is named after the first (and so far, only) 5-Star General of the Air Force: General Henry H. Arnold! General Arnold earned his commission into the Army from West Point in 1907 (a year before Maj Gen Curry). In 1911, Gen Arnold earned his wings and became one of the first military aviators. In fact, Gen Arnold was taught to fly by the Wright Brothers themselves! Gen Arnold even knew General Billy Mitchell and testified for him during his 1925 court-martial (Arnold liked the idea of an independent Air Force and lived long enough to see it established). During World War II, General Arnold became a four-star general and the commanding general of the



El Rancho Feliz
Valley of the Moon
Sonoma, California

Sept.16th.1963

Dear Mr.Sorenson:

Thank you for sending the information concerning the Civil Air Patrol.I have been intensely interested in reading about the broad program and objectives.

It is with pleasure that the boys and I give permission to have General Arnold's name used in the Achievement in Phase II in the Civil Air Patrol Program.

We feel it is a great honor to have him identified with this wonderful program.

Sincerely

Shaun P. Arnold

(Mrs.H.H.Arnold)

Army Air Forces (AAF). In this position, he expanded the AAF from 22,000 men to 2,500,000 men!

In 1963, CAP's Mr. Sorenson reached out to Gen Arnold's wife, asking permission to use her husband's name as part of the Cadet Program. Mrs. H. H. Arnold approved and, in her letter, giving her permission, she said: "We feel it is a great honor to have him identified with this wonderful program."

And, just like Gen Curry, since 1964 Achievement 2 has been named after the General of the Air Forces Hap Arnold.



SQUADRON UPDATES

99th Pursuit Squadron: Current membership is 11 Seniors and 9 Cadets.

155th Composite Squadron: Frequently doing ES training to get cadets signed off on GTM3, MRO & UDF. We have also performed several color guard presentations. Two of the 155th's cadets soloed at the Flight Academy in Fremont. We had 39 cadets on the roster and promoted over 12 cadets in three months, including two cadets who earned their Earhart's. We also have some C/CMSgts who are hoping to get their Mitchells soon.

Burke Cadet Squadron: Membership is at 10 Cadets and 4 Seniors. On summer break with a few cadets meeting with the Omaha Composite Squadron.

Columbus Composite Squadron: The roster currently has 8 Senior members and 5 Cadets. Currently working on expanding the squadron.

Fremont Cadet Squadron: Currently has 23 Senior Members and 19 cadets. Working on getting back into rhythm with the squadron meetings.

Lee Bird Composite Squadron: 21 cadets in the system, zero new senior members, and 1 cadet loss. We had two promotions for the month of June, and we have been heavily focused on recruiting new cadets. Shortcomings are getting prospective in the system.

Offutt Composite Squadron: 21 Cadets and 27 Senior Members currently on the roster.

Omaha Composite Squadron: 13 cadets promoted in the past 2 months. Currently, 57 cadets are on the roster. Working on getting more cadets in the air for orientation flights. Focusing on Public Affairs by getting the squadron involved in more community outreach events. Such as local parades. Recently hosted a special meeting at Millard Airport. Cadets are working on gaining knowledge in emergency services by completing GES. Continuing aerospace education with engaging activities.

Tri-Cities Composite Squadron: 5 Cadets and 5 Seniors currently on the membership roster.

SCHEDULE

4th Quarter 2025

Month	Days	Topic	Length	Register via	Location	Name
JUL	18 thru 27	CP	8 Days	R Zone	Mexico, MO	Missouri Wing Summer Encampment
JUL	23	Chief of Staff	1 Day	Jot Form	Bellevue University	AE Drone Instructor Training (Recreation Pilot Form 5U)
AUG	2	CP/DO	1 Day	By Invitation	Camp Ashland	In-Person Commanders and Wing Staff Meeting
AUG	9	ES	1Day	ReadyOp	TBD	SAREX - ES Training
AUG	9	ES	1Day	E-Mail	SAC Museum, Ashland	HeroFest
AUG	14-16	CP	1 Day	E-mail	Offutt AFB	Arrows to Aerospace
AUG	23	CP	1 Day	R Zone	TBD	TLC Intermediate (Tentative)
AUG	30	CP	1 Day	E-Mail	Millard Airport	Aviation STEM Day - Millard Airport - Confirmed.
SEPT	6	CP/DO	1 Day		North Platte	O-Flight Day, North Platte
SEPT	5 thru 7	CP/DO	Wknd	R-Zone	Grand Island	Basic Cadet School; Camp Cosmo - Grand Island. Looking for Sr Staff.

PROMOTIONS

Cadets

Wright Brothers

C/SSgt Sutton Graham (NCR-NE-10) C/SSgt Emmett Helms (NCR-NE-019) C/SSgt Charles Strandquist (NCR-NE-019) C/SSgt Parker Ivey (NCR-NE-089) C/SSgt Jebediah Goad (NCR-NE-093) C/SSgt Landen Paulsen (NCR-NE-093)

Mitchell

Earhart

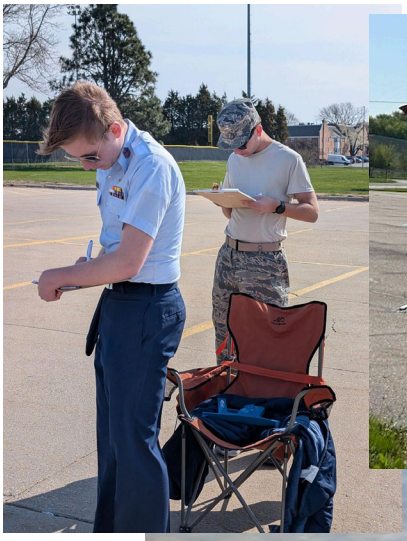
C/Capt Tyler Suing (NCR-NE-058) C/Capt Rowan Seamann (NCR-NE-058)

Eaker

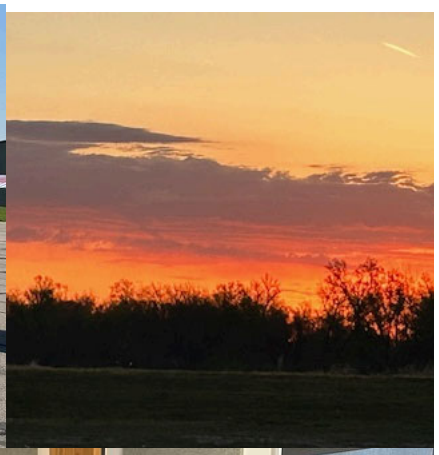
Spaatz

Seniors:

PHOTO ALBUM













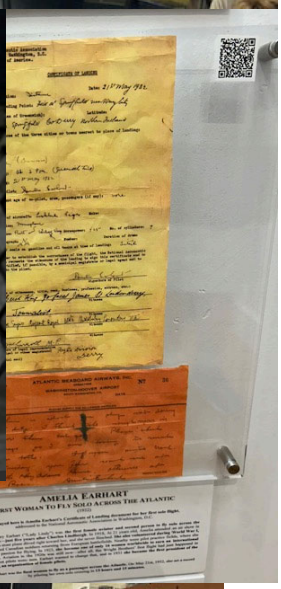





Atlantis






AMELIA EARHART
FIRST WOMAN TO FLY SOLO ACROSS THE ATLANTIC





CONTACTS

Wing Commander: Col David Plum

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Wing Primary: Maj Gerena
Wing Assistant: Open!

CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Chairman: C/SMSgt Hooper Vice Chairman: C/2d Lt Arizona Recorder: C/CMSgt Smith

155th Composite Squadron Primary C/Capt Seamann, Assistant C/MSgt J. Morrison

99th Pursuit Squadron Primary C/2d Lt Groven, Assistant C/SSgt Haroun

Burke Cadet Squadron Primary C/SrA Brown, Assistant TBD

Columbus Composite Squadron Primary TBD, Assistant TBD

Fremont Composite Squadron Primary C/CMSgt Debell, Assistant C/2d Lt Dunn

Lee Bird Composite Squadron Primary C/SMSgt Berol, Assistant C/TSgt Daniel

Offutt Composite Squadron Primary C/CMSgt Johnson, Assistant C/SSgt Turner

Omaha Composite Squadron Primary C/Capt Gonzalez, Assistant C/2d Lt Nimneh

Tri-Cities Composite Squadron Primary TBD, Assistant C/SrA Dygert

Fun Fact: This Newsletter is 5 pages longer than the previous edition.
Fun Fact: This Newsletter has 15 articles, compared to the 8 articles in the previous edition.
Fun Fact: This Newsletter has 45,019 characters and 7,618 words!

Photos:
Most pictures were taken by our amazing team. Pictures inside of the "About The Rank" article are from "The CAP website."

*On my **HONOR** as a* Civil Air Patrol Cadet *of Nebraska Wing,*
*I will not **LIE**, **CHEAT** or **STEAL***
*or commit any act of **INTENTIONAL** dishonesty*
*or **TOLERATE** those who do.*

Submit Feedback here: https://forms.gle/4pks6Dt2vJv1z8a47
Submit Articles here: https://forms.gle/GYdb27asNpT4MYFM8
Submit your milestone when you receive it. https://forms.gle/36B1otfmsyVyHJheA

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