



High Flight

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of
Albuquerque Heights
“Spirit” Composite Squadron
New Mexico Wing, Civil Air Patrol



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Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred), or as a document attached to an e-mail (a text file, or if generated on a word processor, saved to .RTF format. **Images** must be in JPG format, unretouched, un-cropped and at least 1200 by 900 pixels. **Credits:** In all cases, please give full name, grade and unit assignment of the article's author; the photographer, and anybody mentioned in the article.

Send submissions to the Editor at:

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Message size limit: 15M

Promotions and Awards Round Out Change of Command Ceremony

By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Promotions and awards played a prominent role in the recent change of command ceremony at Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron on March 5, 2015, when the reins of command passed from Maj. Michael E. Eckert to Maj. Lloyd J. Voights.

Cadet James G. Johnson was promoted to cadet master sergeant, and the squadron's aerospace education officer, Mary A. Fox, was promoted to captain. Johnson has been a member of CAP and the squadron since September 2013, Fox since March 2011.

Cadet 2nd Lts. Bailey E. Little and Ella C. Freimanis received their Gen. Billy Mitchell Awards from New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith, who presided over the change of command ceremony. Both cadets have received appointments to the federal service academies.

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Above: Maj. Lloyd J. Voights (left) accepts command of Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron from New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith. (All Photos: Capt. Nicki L. Voights, CAP)

**Albuquerque Heights
“Spirit” Composite Squadron
Meeting Schedule**

The squadron meets Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The squadron operates on a four-week meeting schedule, with each week having a different area of focus.

FIRST THURSDAY

Uniform of the Day: Class A's/Class B's (blues)
Cadet Training: Aerospace Education, Safety, Drug Demand Reduction, Promotions
Senior Training: Admin

SECOND THURSDAY

Uniform of the Day—Cadets: PT Gear
Uniform of the Day—Seniors: Any approved CAP uniform
Cadet Training: PT (Physical Training)
Senior Training: PT/Admin

THIRD THURSDAY

Uniform of the Day—Cadets: BDUs
Uniform of the Day—Seniors: Any approved CAP uniform
Cadet Training: Emergency Services, Drill
Senior Training: Admin

FOURTH THURSDAY

Uniform of the Day: Class B's
Cadet Training: Character Development, Drill, Promotion Board
Senior Training: Admin

FIFTH THURSDAY

Commander's discretion (as needed)

ABOUT THE SQUADRON

Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron is a unit of the Civil Air Patrol, the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Its threefold mission includes voluntarily using its resources to meet emergencies, encouraging aerospace education of the general public, and motivating young men and women to ideals of leadership and service through aerospace education and training.

Cadets may join from age 12, up through their 18th birthday, and may remain in the cadet program until age 21. Senior members may join at age 18, with no upper age limit. For more information, please visit our squadron website: www.abqspirit.com.

**Promotions and Awards
Round Out Change of Command
Ceremony**

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Outgoing commander Maj. Michael E. Eckert received Civil Air Patrol's Exceptional Service Award for his outstanding service as squadron commander.

Finally, the moment arrived that has been passed down from one commander to another since the beginnings of organized military units: the squadron's color bearer, Cadet Master Sgt. Mark Chappell, presented the squadron flag to Maj. Eckert, who in turn passed it to Col. Smith, signifying Eckert's relinquishment of command. Smith then presented the flag to Maj. Voights, signifying Voights' acceptance of command. Voights then returned the flag to Chappell, who resumed his post with the color guard.

The new commander emphasized that although Maj. Eckert is no longer in command, he will continue to contribute to the squadron in many ways. “This is not like the military, where when there's a change of command, the old commander leaves,” Voights said. “Maj. Eckert will still be here, and we look forward to his support.”

Taking a leaf from National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez, who emphasized that CAP units should not forget to have fun, Voights said that he wanted to re-introduce the element of fun into the squadron. “I want us to be the squadron that not only does things right, but also has fun in the process,” he said.



Top Left: New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith presents outgoing squadron commander Maj. Michael E. Eckert with Civil Air Patrol's Exceptional Service Award.

High Flight – April, 2015 February Promotions



Top Left: Jacob Hensley is promoted to cadet airman first class at the February 5 meeting. Hensley has been a member of CAP and the squadron since August 2014.

Top Right: Joseph Burkett receives his promotion to cadet senior master sergeant. Burkett has been a member of CAP and the squadron since April 2012.

Bottom Left: Davis Little (left foreground) and his sister, Bailey E. Little, promoted each other: Davis Little to cadet airman, and his sister Bailey to cadet second lieutenant. Ella Freimanis (not shown) was also promoted to second lieutenant, and received her Mitchell Award the following month, along with Cadet 2nd Lt. Little. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP) 🇺🇸

Cadets Receive Mitchell Awards, Academy Appointments



By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP

Cadets Bailey E. Little and Ella C. Freimanis were honored at the March 5 meeting, when they were presented Civil Air Patrol's Billy Mitchell Award by New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith.

Little has been a member of CAP and the squadron since July 2013, Freimanis since September 2013. Little received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, Freimanis to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Above: At the March 5 meeting, following the squadron change of command, Cadet 2nd Lts. Bailey E. Little (left) and Ella C. Freimanis (right) receive the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award from New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith. Both cadets have accepted appointments to federal service academies. (Photo: Capt. Nicki L. Voights, CAP)

The Mitchell Award represents completion of Phase III of Civil Air Patrol's four-phase cadet program. Recipients of the Mitchell Award may earn advanced placement upon graduation from basic training, as well as flight and academic scholarships and grants. 🇺🇸

Squadron Boasts Record Seven Officer Trainees

By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – For 2015, Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron will have a record seven cadets or former cadets appointed to officer training, either through the service academies or ROTC—the most cadets the squadron has ever had appointed as officer trainees.

Haley Barela, former cadet commander of the squadron, will graduate from the Air Force Academy this spring with the class of 2015. Nicholas Martin, another former Spirit cadet, was admitted to the Academy last year and will be finishing his fourth class year when Barela graduates in May.

Joel Montoya, who was nominated to the Air Force Academy last year, was offered a scholarship by the Academy to New Mexico Military Institute’s Service Academy Preparatory School. Montoya received his appointment to the Air Force Academy earlier this year.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Bailey E. Little has received appointments to both the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Military Academy. Ella C. Freimanis, who received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, makes a record five cadets appointed to service academies.

Additionally, Jaclin D. Sidden, former cadet commander of Spirit Squadron, will receive her second lieutenant’s commission in May, after completing four years of Air Force ROTC at the University of New Mexico. Cadet Captain Michael R. Eckert, a junior at UNM, is also enrolled in Air Force ROTC and will pin on his lieutenant’s bars in May 2016, making a grand total of seven cadets appointed to officer training.

The squadron’s commander, Maj. Lloyd J. Voights, was extremely impressed with the number of officer trainees the squadron has produced. “This is awesome,” he said. “This is a perfect example of what right looks like.”



Above Left: Cadet 2nd Lt. Nicholas R. Martin (left), who was appointed to the United States Air Force Academy in 2014, receives his Gen. Billy Mitchell Award from New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith at the squadron’s 2013 end-of-year awards dinner on Dec. 19. **Above Right:** Cadet 2nd Lt. Joel Montoya, who received his appointment this spring and will report with the Academy’s incoming fourth class in June, receives his Mitchell Award from Col. Smith on Feb. 13, 2014. **Below Left:** Cadet 2nd Lts. Ella C. Freimanis (left), who received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and Bailey E. Little, who received appointments to both the United States Air Force Academy and the U.S. Military Academy, receive their promotions on Feb. 5, 2015. (All Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

March Promotions and Awards



Top Left: At the Mar.5 meeting, Mary Fox was promoted to captain, assisted by her husband John (left) and her daughter, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Juana R. Fox. Capt. Fox has been a member of CAP and the squadron since March 2011. **Top Right:** At the Mar. 26 meeting, Cadets Mark Chappell (left) and Marshall Banks were promoted to cadet senior master sergeant and cadet airman, respectively. Chappell has been a member of CAP and the squadron since September 2013, Banks since February 2015. **Bottom Left:** Cadets Shelby Webb (left) and Hahn-en H. Cheng were promoted to cadet airman first class. **Bottom Right:** Cadet Airman 1st Class Davis Little (right foreground) receives his certificate for participation in Civil Air Patrol's CyberPatriot program for the 2014-2015 school year. In the background (from left) are fellow recipients Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Mark Chappell and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. John LeGalley. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

Radio Remote, Balloon Glow Round Out Squadron Open House

By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - A remote radio broadcast and a balloon glow helped entice visitors to the Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron Open House on April 30, 2015. The Open House was a way to introduce the general public to CAP's three missions of aerospace education, emergency services and the cadet program.

The evening started outside, with a demonstration by New Mexico K-9 Search and Rescue, and how they use search dogs to find lost hikers, or even victims of an aircraft crash. Inside, the squadron had a number of tables that displayed memorabilia from CAP's earlier days, as well as computers to showcase the squadron's participation in the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot program; equipment needed to survive in the field for 24 hours; and fun and interesting aerospace experiments.

Broadcasting remotely from the squadron's headquarters was oldies radio station KDSK, Rio Rancho, 1240 AM and 92.7 FM. The remote

broadcast was possible through the efforts of one of the squadron's newest members, Cadet Sponsor Member Linda Murillo.



Above: Squadron commander Maj. Lloyd J. Voights (left) tells KDSK sales manager Kyle Sanchez about CAP's three missions. (All Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

Between music sets by station owner Derek Underhill, KDSK sales manager Kyle Sanchez interviewed members about the opportunities available through CAP.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for anyone who wants to join," said squadron commander Maj. Lloyd J. Voights. Cadet

2nd Lt. Bailey E. Little, who received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, agreed. "I learned a lot in CAP that I would never have learned anywhere else," she said.

As night fell, visitors witnessed a balloon glow of New Mexico Wing's hot-air balloon *Phoenix*, on loan from LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, which oversees the wing's hot-air balloon program. Attendees were also treated to a drill demonstration by the squadron's color guard, whose members answered questions about the Cadet Program. 🇺🇸



Above Left: Evan Carlisle of New Mexico K-9 Search and Rescue puts his bloodhound, Sadie, through her paces in the field outside squadron headquarters. **Above Right:** Personnel from LBJ Middle School Cadet Squadron, assisted by a cadet crew from Spirit Squadron, put New Mexico Wing's hot-air balloon *Phoenix* through a balloon glow in the squadron parking lot.

