



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

Little Named Civil Air Patrol's Cadet NCO of the Year

By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP

ORLANDO, Fla. – Cadet 2nd Lt. Bailey E. Little of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron was recognized by Civil Air Patrol as the Air Force Sergeants Association’s Cadet Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 2015, when the Air Force Auxiliary recognized its top members on Aug. 29 at its National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Little, who is now a cadet at the United States Air Force Academy, was chosen for the honor because of her many accomplishments, both in and out of CAP. She has been a member of CAP and Spirit Squadron since September 2013.

Her many accomplishments in CAP have included fundraising, Color Guard and emergency services training.

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Above (L-R): Civil Air Patrol’s Southwest Region Commander Col. Mark E. Smith, US Air Force Academy Cadet Fourth Class Bailey E. Little and National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Vazquez, following the awards presentation. *(Photo: Susan Schneider, CAP National Headquarters)*

**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.

**Little Named Civil Air Patrol's
Cadet NCO of the Year**

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She was also a top high school student and athlete, serving as captain of her school's water polo team and co-captain of the Albuquerque Water Polo Club team. She is currently a freshman at the Air Force Academy, where she is a member of Cadet Squadron 16. She is a recipient of Civil Air Patrol's Billy Mitchell Award, which signifies completion of Phase II of Civil Air Patrol's four-phase Cadet Program. Mitchell recipients can qualify for advanced placement upon completion of basic training, and service academies look favorably upon Mitchell cadets. Approximately 10% of all Air Force Academy cadets have had prior CAP experience.

Maj. Lloyd J. Voights, commander of Spirit Squadron, said that Little's leadership by example was "an inspiration for others to follow." He added, "Setting and maintaining high standards are her trademark. I was impressed with her ability to identify issues that needed correcting and stepping up to the plate to help others. I only expect the best from this fine, outstanding cadet."

New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mike Lee also had high praise for Little. "Cadet Little embodies the excellence we all strive to achieve in our organization," he said. 🇺🇸



Above: Cadet Little receives the award for Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. *(Photo: Courtesy of Ms. Leslie Little)*

July Promotions



Top Left: Marshall Banks is promoted to cadet airman first class at the July 9 meeting. He has been a member of CAP and the squadron since February 2015.

Top Right: Davis Little receives his promotion to cadet technical sergeant. He has been a member of CAP and the squadron since August 2014.

Bottom Left: Cadet executive officer Josias Valdez is promoted to cadet first lieutenant. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP) 🇺🇸

Banks Receives Certificate of First Flight

By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP

At the July 9 meeting, Cadet Airman 1st Class Marshall Banks received his Certificate of First Flight, certifying his first powered orientation flight as a CAP cadet.

Civil Air Patrol cadets are entitled to five free propeller flights, five free glider flights and five free balloon flights until their 18th birthday. 🇺🇸



Above: Cadet Airman 1st Class Marshall Banks poses with his Certificate of First Flight. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

From the Archives:

Guest Speaker Inspires Cadets to Achieve Their Goals

By Capt. Teresa M. LeGalley, CAP

Lt. Col. John Kanuch, USAF, who was Deputy Commandant of the United States Air Force Test Pilot School in Las Vegas, Nevada, and an experimental test pilot until July 2012, was a guest speaker at Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron on Jan. 29, 2015.

Kanuch, who was an F-15C pilot, encouraged the cadets to embrace the cadet oath as a means to achieve their goals in life: to "attend meetings regularly" (attend classes regularly), "participate actively in unit activities" (participate in those activities that would move him toward his goal), "obey my officers" (obey those above me in the chain of command), "wear my uniform properly" (self-explanatory), and "advance my education and training rapidly" (don't procrastinate), "to prepare myself to be of service to my community, state and nation" (It's not all about me). He shared how he desired to be an astronaut and went to the university where 11 astronauts had been educated - Purdue University.

He earned his aeronautical engineering degree and Air Force ROTC training with great commitment to keep his grade point average near 4.0. Every choice of activity was weighed with concern to not over commit his schedule. He knew

by keeping his grades high he would have a better chance to be selected for astronaut training.

Lt Col Kanuch inspired our cadets to not give up on their dreams and to continue to fuel their passion. During his Air Force career, he has flown 35 different aircraft. He went through the cadet oath and shared how the core values have made him an ideal candidate to be a great Air Force officer. He lives in Las Vegas, Nevada and is very active in his community helping the homeless and teaching aerospace to local high school students. His students won an aerospace competition earning a trip to Boeing Corporation. 🇺🇸



Above: Lt. Col. John Kanuch (right), U.S. Air Force, uses Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Oath as a way for them to stay focused on their goals. (Photo: Capt. Teresa M. LeGalley, CAP)

Banks, Nassaux and Huskey Receive Redstone Rocketry Certificates



Above (L-R): Cadet Airman 1st Class Marshall Banks, Cadet Senior Airman Orián Nassaux and Cadet Airman Scot Huskey with their Redstone Stage Completion Certificates. (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)


By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP

At the July 9 meeting Cadets Marshall Banks, Orián Nassaux and Scot Huskey, from Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Composite Squadron received certificates of completion for the Redstone Stage of CAP's Model Rocketry Program.

CAP's Model Rocketry Program is divided into three stages: Redstone, Titan and Saturn. Completion of all three stages entitles the cadet to wear the Model Rocketry Badge. 🇺🇸

High Flight – January, 2015
August Promotions



Above Left: Jacob Hensley is promoted to cadet senior airman. Hensley has been a member of CAP and the squadron since August 2014. **Above Right:** James G. Johnson is promoted to cadet senior master sergeant. He has been a member of CAP and the squadron since September 2013. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP) 

September Promotions

Right (L-R): Cadets Marshall Banks and Scot Huskey are promoted to cadet senior airman and cadet airman first class, respectively, at the squadron's Sept. 3 meeting.

Banks has been a member of CAP and the squadron since February 2015, Huskey since June 2015. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)



Spirit Squadron Thanks its Members with Fractals, Food and Football

By Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On Aug. 22, 2015, Maj. Lloyd J. Voights, commander of Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron, thanked the cadets and senior members of the squadron for all their hard work with an afternoon of fractals, food and football.

The celebration was to thank the squadron membership for all they did, especially for their work in support of the Albuquerque Memorial Day Wine Festival, the squadron’s single largest fundraiser, which accounts for over 90% of the squadron’s operating income. The funds earned from the festival are used to purchase uniform accessories and insignia, and even to help fund cadet and senior member participation in squadron and wing activities.

The celebration began with a visit to the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Planetarium, where the squadron witnessed a show on fractals, presented by the Fractal Foundation of Albuquerque.

Fractals are geometric patterns that repeat themselves, such as spirals, circles, triangles, squares or even lines. They can be finite (such as the leaves of an aritchoke) or progress (or regress) to infinity. (The smallest measurable fractal is a millionth the size of an atom.)

Fractals can be found in geography (rivers and tributaries), nature (leaves and branches), architecture (columns and spires) and even the human body (blood vessels, capillaries and nerve endings).

Following the presentation, the squadron toured the museum, then ventured across the street to nearby Tiguex Park, for a pizza dinner catered by the squadron.

After dinner, cadets and senior members engaged in a game of Frisbee® football. (Frisbee is a registered trademark of Wham-O Corporation.)

Maj. Voights thanked the senior members and cadets for all their hard work.

“You are the reason we do what we do,” he said. 🍕



Above: An example of a fractal. (Photo: Courtesy of the Fractal Foundation of Albuquerque)



Above Left: Squadron members enjoy a catered pizza dinner. **Above Right:** Members burn off excess calories with a spirited game of Frisbee® football. (Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)