



NEWSLETTER

Orange County Cadet Squadron

January 2021

New Year. New Possibilities

Captain Michael Mazanec, Commander
Captain Ezra Kuliszewski, Dep Commander



Last year taught us all about adapting to change and building resiliency. Now matter how anyone envisioned the year to unfold, our individual and squadron plans met unforeseen adversity.

When the pandemic pushed us indoors, we adapted to online meetings. Clearly, this wasn't as ideal as in-person meetings, but it kept us together and we learned volumes about fulfilling parts of our mission in a virtual environment.

While it is natural to think of 2020 as a major setback, it was still a year of growth. We all learned so much about the importance of communication, teamwork and even empathy.

As we kick off 2021, we want us all to embrace one thought – despite the pandemic, the mission of CAP hasn't fundamentally changed. We still exist to serve our communities and provide abundant opportunities for cadets to grow into leaders.

Thriving in 2021 will require us all to consider new possibilities. We must resist the temptation to give up on our goals and aspirations. While the mission hasn't changed, our tactics and approach to thriving in a pandemic will look different than years past.

Key to our shared success this year is our interdependence on each other. This squadron, like any other team, depends on full participation from every member. Literally, it is up to us all to go the extra mile this year.

So, what does "going the extra mile look like? It can take many forms, actually. Here are a few thoughts to get us thinking and talking about possibilities to act on in 2021.

By the end of 2021, we...

- Attract additional cadets and senior members to our squadron.
- Welcome new members – showing them they are welcome and helping them to off to a great start.
- Retain most of our members – finding opportunities to match people with activities that motivate them.
- Increase engagement in aerospace and emergency services activities.
- Seek creative new ways to serve our communities.
- Create opportunities for cadets to take on meaningful staff assignments.

Semper Vigilans

Capt Mike Mazanec and Capt Ezra Kuliszewski

Cadet Change of Command

Captain Ezra S. Kuliszewski, Deputy Commander

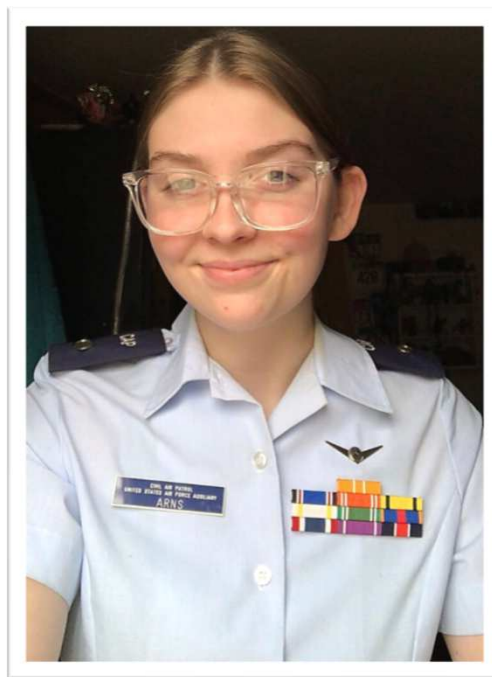
The Orange County Cadet Squadron is pleased to announce new cadet personnel assignments.

Effective 01 January 2021, the following personnel changes are made. The term for these changes will be 01 Jan 2021 to 30 Jun 2021 unless altered by the commander.

- **C/2d Lt Riley Arns** is assigned as Cadet Commander
- **C/2d Lt Stephen Racite** is assigned as Deputy Cadet Commander
- **C/TSgt Allyson Kittel** is assigned as First Sergeant
- **C/CMSgt Isabel Borges** is assigned as Mission Support Officer
- **C/1st Lt Brian Connell** is assigned as Aerospace Education Officer
- **C/1st Lt William LaCombe** is assigned as Leadership Officer and Guest Speaker Program Project Officer
- **C/2d Lt Ivy Aniello** remains Alpha Flight Commander
- **C/CMSgt Bryghton Narain** is assigned as Bravo Flight Commander and Assistant Safety NCO
- **C/MSgt Marco Martini** is assigned as Alpha Flight Sergeant
- **C/MSgt Jia Fu Phang** is assigned as Bravo Flight Sergeant
- **C/CMSgt Ian Hines** is assigned as Safety NCO

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” —

President John Quincy Adams, former U.S. President



Cadet Commander's Message

C/2d Lt Riley Arns

When I joined Civil Air Patrol four years ago I never would have imagined that I would eventually become Cadet Commander. After being Mission Support Officer I realized just how much work goes into each meeting and each activity.

My goal as Cadet Commander is to get more cadets involved in each meeting and have more people start teaching classes on a wider range of topics. It is also my goal to increase our recruiting efforts. While we still live in the world of Covid and getting permission to do activities is difficult, I hope that we can be together soon, and I will work my hardest to make that possible.

Cadet Colonel Flynn Earns Spaatz Achievement

SM David LaCombe, Assistant Public Affairs Officer

Please join us in congratulating C/Colonel Sean Flynn on achieving the General Carl A. Spaatz Award – Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor. It is presented to cadets who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace education. On average, only five cadets in one thousand earn the Spaatz award.

We recently interviewed C/Col Flynn to ask questions about his CAP journey. Here is what he had to say.

When and why did you join CAP? I joined in January of 2014 because the program looked like fun, and I was interested in learning about aviation. I also had friends in the program.



What are the achievements you are most proud of and why? I'm most proud of earning the Spaatz award because it's the culmination of my time in the cadet program. All the lessons and tests over the years helped prepare me for the leadership and aviation parts, and I trained very hard for the physical part of the test. The journey through the cadet program has been rewarding every step of the way, but I was proud to finally accomplish a personal goal I made early in the CAP program to earn the rank of Colonel.

Where was your biggest area for growth and who helped you through the growth? One of my biggest areas for growth in CAP was earning my pilot's license. When I first started working with my CAP flight instructor, I wasn't always as prepared for lessons as I could have been due to other obligations I had with school, etc. Through the process, however, I learned a lot about personal responsibility and taking ownership of the studying and training required to be a safe pilot.

What advice would you give to someone who is starting to rank up and take on new responsibilities? I'd advise anyone just taking on leadership roles to always do your best at every position offered to you, no matter how small, and to never stop learning. Some of my most valuable leadership lessons came from my time as staff at encampments as I worked my way up from safety officer to executive officer. Also, never be afraid to make suggestions if you have a good idea. I benefited a lot by volunteering to help out in areas where I had some experience.

What's next for you. Tell us about college, career goals and ongoing participation in CAP. I'm currently enrolled at Northeastern University in Boston working towards a degree in Cybersecurity. I'd like to work as a pilot for a major airline and either fly with the Air National Guard or work in cyber operations. I'm now transferring to senior member status in CAP, and I'll continue working with our squadron as well as with NY Wing as part of the IT staff and as an instructor for UAS pilots.

2019 Awards

Captain Ezra Kuliszewski, Deputy Commander

We checked and we checked again. In the cloud of 2020, we had not announced the winners of the 2019 cadet awards. We are so proud of our cadets and simply could not overlook their achievement.

Upon the recommendation of the Squadron Awards Committee, and approval of the Commander, we are proud to recognize the following cadets for their excellence.



Air Force Association Award to Outstanding Cadets

C/1st Lt Brian Connell



Air Force Sergeants Association Award to Outstanding Cadet NCOS

C/CMSgt Stephen Racite



Veterans of Foreign Wars Cadet NCO Award

C/CMSgt Isabel Borges



Daughters of the American Revolution Award

C/CMSgt Bryghton Narain



National Society Daughters of Colonial Wars Award

C/2nd Lt Ivy Aniello



Daughters of American Colonialists Award

C/MSgt Allyson Kittel

NY030 CAP Cadets Compete in Cyber Security Competition

SM David LaCombe, Assistant Public Affairs Officer

Cadets from the Civil Air Patrol Orange County Squadron recently tested their ability to defend a computer network against cyber-attacks.

The National Youth Cyber Defense Competition is known as CyberPatriot. It was created by the Air Force Association (AFA) to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future.



The Orange County cadets earned 212 of a possible 300 points in the competition. Our cadets placed in 3rd out of 9 New York Civil Air Patrol teams. Representing the squadron were C/1stLt Connell, C/CMSgt Narrain, C/CMSgt Borges, C/Amn J Racite, and C/A1C R Racite. Senior member 2nd Lt Connell provided support and coaching to the team

“Preparing for the competition taught us invaluable skills to protect our homes and squadron from cyber-attacks” said Team Captain and Squadron Cadet Commander C/1st Lieutenant Brian Connell.

CyberPatriot's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition challenges teams of high school and middle school students to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems. Using a proprietary competition system, teams are scored on how secure they make the system. Top teams advance through the online round of competition, and the best of the best advance to the in-person National Finals Competition.

The national youth cyber defense competition is an online, tournament-structured event in which teams of 2-6 students are scored on how well they identify and secure known vulnerabilities on a virtual network. Through a partnership with Cisco, they are also tested on a networking curriculum and are required to build secure, virtual networks. All rounds of competition, except for the National Finals Competition, take place online

Cisco defines Cybersecurity as the practice of protecting systems, networks, and programs from digital attacks. These cyberattacks are usually aimed at accessing, changing, or destroying sensitive information; extorting money from users; or interrupting normal business processes.

CyberPatriot, the nation's largest and fastest growing youth cyber education program, is AFA's flagship STEM program dedicated to strengthening cyber skills among students. The program features the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition for high school and middle school students, AFA CyberCamps, and an Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative.

5 Tips for Earning the Community Service Award

C/MSgt Allyson Kittel

Volunteer service is a Civil Air Patrol core value. We embrace the value through our service to others.

Are you interested earning the Community Service Ribbon as a result of volunteering in your community?

As someone who enjoys volunteering, and who has earned the award, I would like to share a few tips on getting started in community service.

1. **Follow your interests.** If you like hanging out with animals, you might want to volunteer at the SPCA.
2. **Find a free community service log sheet online.** There are hundreds to choose from!
3. **Jump in.** Don't be afraid to send emails or call the places you want to volunteer. Chances are, they need more volunteers.
4. **Log your hours.** This step is easily forgotten. Make sure, after you come home from your volunteer job, log your hours on your community service sheet.
5. **Don't give up.** Sixty hours of community service might take a while to collect, so keep working hard! To speed up the process, you could consider finding more volunteer jobs!

You should only be logging volunteer hours *outside* of CAP. I wish you all luck on your volunteer journey. Stay safe and have fun!

Places to volunteer in the Orange County area:

- Reenies Rabbit Rescue
- Animal shelter
- Any state park
- Bear Mountain Zoo
- Local libraries and churches



Community Service Ribbon – Awarded to members who complete 60 hours of community service outside of Civil Air Patrol.

The service must be verified by a volunteer coordinator. Community service projects conducted by CAP units do not qualify for this recognition. A bronze clasp may be added for each additional 60 hours of community service.

NY030 Volunteer Helps Rescue Food and Reduce Hunger



Throughout the pandemic, C/1st Lt Will LaCombe volunteers regularly at Second Chance Foods, an organization that rescues farm produce and grocery items to create delicious, nourishing food for food pantries and soup kitchens.

LaCombe also volunteers at the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. In total, he has logged over 270 hours of volunteer work.