



Milwaukee Composite Squadron #5

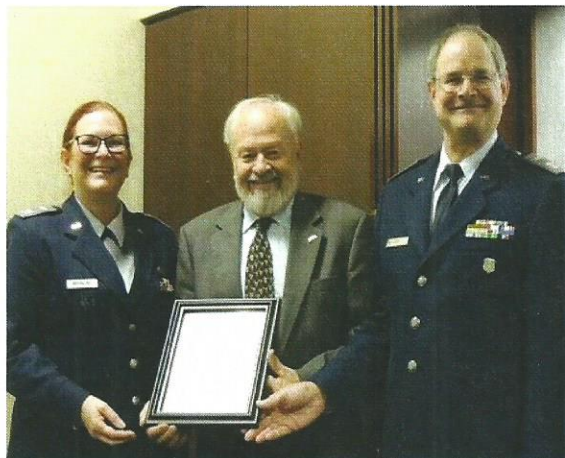


Building Leaders for 65 Years

1952 - 2017

Building Leaders for 65 Years

In 2017, Milwaukee Composite Squadron 5 celebrated its 65th year, just as Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program completed its 75th year. It's staggering to think that during that time, hundreds of young people have benefited from the leadership instruction, community service, and mentorship provided here. You'll learn more about six of those cadets in this booklet. During the last 65 years, our members have been poised to respond to the call of our community, state and nation and will continue to do so. The images on these pages show that commitment. --Stephen Michaels, Lt. Col., CAP



State Representative Ken Skowronski is welcomed into CAP by Squadron DCOC Capt. Michelle Michalski and DCOS Capt. Gregory Turdo (left). Mr. Skowronski was briefed on CAP by Squadron 5 members at his Madison office last March during Wis. Wing's Legislative Day.



1Lt. Victoria Rathbone guides C/CMSgt. Hannah Stys during the Cyber Defense Academy, held at JBSA-Lackland AFB, Tex., last summer (AFA Magazine photo). Our Squadron's Cyber Patriot Team advanced to the Gold Tier State Round in 2017.



Squadron 5 hosted a Region Cadet Leadership School (RCLS) on October 20-22nd. C/CMSgt. Austin Ast (back row, third from right) and C/2Lt. Alec Stys (row 2, second from right) were among the graduates.

On the cover—Color Guards have always been an important part of our squadron. On the left, our color guard leads the unit in the 1968 South Shore Frolics Parade. On the right, our color guard, which had just placed third at the Great Lakes Region Competition, leads the unit in the 2017 Greendale Memorial Day Parade. Photos inside by Lt. Cols. Jo Stys, Danielle and Stephen Michaels.

Honoring Our Local Heroes



Our unit is committed to honoring our nation's veterans. For the fifth year, we helped Cudahy VFW Post 2895 with its annual poppy drive. Our cadets organized a memorial service for Capt. Lance Sijan at Arlington Park Cemetery, held May 25th (left). Our cadets marched in both the Greendale Memorial Day Parade and Milwaukee's 54th annual Veterans Day Parades. We were joined by Timmerman, Walco, and Waukesha Composite Squadrons.

We welcomed home WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans from five Stars & Stripes Honor Flights (lower right). And we provided a color guard and wreath bearers for the Wreaths Across America program at Wood National Cemetery (below).



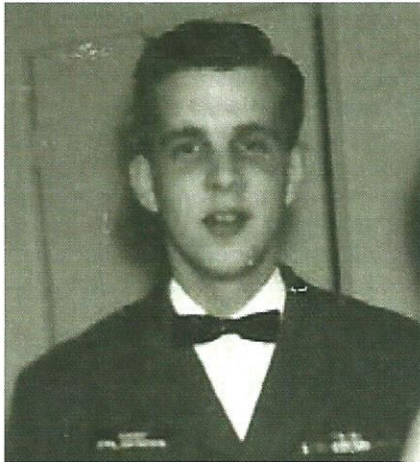
B & W Inset: Squadron 5 marches in Milwaukee's 1968 Armed Forces Day Parade.



Former Squadron

5 Cadets Give Back as Senior Members

Our squadron is fortunate and unique in that half of its senior officers began their CAP experience as cadets. Most were mentored by former cadets who served before them. They then used their leadership skills to excel in CAP, as well as in the military and civilian life. Today, those same lessons in leadership, coupled with an emphasis on teamwork, aerospace, fitness and character development remain steadfast in Milwaukee Composite Squadron #5.



In 1955, when **1Lt. Lawrence Tomaich's** parents built a home in Southeast Wisconsin, they changed parishes too. He was having difficulty in school and his choirmaster, who was a Squadron 5 member, saw that he was drifting in the wrong direction and thought that CAP might be a good fit for him.

"My father, a WWII U.S. Navy vet, felt that some military training might benefit me. My parents agreed to support my efforts and I joined at age 14, just as I was entering a new high school. Our choirmaster mentored me through the entry level.

"Civil Air Patrol was very different in the mid-1950s. We wore the Army Air Force khaki uniforms and the curriculum included tough military discipline with little concern about 'feelings'. My first orientation flight was in a C-119.

"Fast forward. Civil Air Patrol is 75 years old and so am I. Looking back, it's easy to see how CAP affected my growth. I learned to conquer my stage fright and get up in front of my peers to speak and teach. As a cadet, I taught the Principles of Flight, First Aid and Advanced First Aid. I advanced to flight commander and drill instructor. My patriotism soared and I made the Air Force my career goal. Two military balls further honed my social skills. In 1960, I attended the

International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE), trading places with cadets from the Belgian Air Cadet Program."

Lt. Tomaich then enlisted in the USAF. His Air Force career was really an extension of his CAP training.

"I was fortunate to serve as a Jet Aircraft Crew Chief during the Berlin, Cuban, and Kennedy crises with simulated combat conditions in Europe and North Africa. I was a team leader for all types of aircraft maintenance specialists. I also married and started a family."

In early 1965, with the advent of Vietnam and his enlistment coming to an end, he and his wife decided to return to the family business in the U.S. The business didn't work out, so he began a 47-year banking career. He returned to Squadron 5 as a senior in 1966, but family and career demands made continuing stressful, so he stepped away.

"Throughout my career I relied on skills I learned in CAP. Military discipline helped me stay organized and maintain a positive attitude," he said. "I taught banking for 25 years and administered five banking school campuses. CAP's core values followed me through life. One of the most important lessons learned was that everything I accomplished I worked hard and earned. I didn't need handouts. You only 'deserve' what you earn."

Lt. Col. Jo Stys joined CAP in October 1964 after attending a squadron open house. She was invited by a cadet who was in one of her classes at Pulaski High School. She became A Flight (females only) commander, then Cadet Executive Officer, and achieved the Earhart Award in 1968. She performed administrative duties with the senior staff until becoming an adult and transitioning into the senior program. She was active with the ground team for several years, attending training and going on active missions throughout the state. She drove the squadron bus, "Priscilla", and any other vehicles needed. She was also mission photographer.

Lt. Col. Stys married then Capt. Larry Stys, becoming inactive when their three children arrived. She returned in 1991, when the Wing Commander requested the help of Group 12 members to come onto Wing Staff and get the Wing moving again. She served as Wing Historian and then joined Racine Comp. Sqdn. with her teenage children for several years. She joined Wing Cadet Programs staff in 2004 thru 2008 and was involved with the Cadet Color Guard competition, running it as Project Officer from 2006-2008 and taking it from a one day 3-4 squadron entry event to a weekend at Volk Field, attended by as many as two drill teams and six color guard units.

In 2006, Col. Stys rejoined Squadron 5 as PAO and Recruiting Officer. For several years, she was a major contributor to the Wing Newsletter. Also in 2006 she got our squadron and Wisconsin Wing involved in Wreaths Across America. She attended Regional Staff College in 2006 and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2007. In 2009, she coached Squadron #5's (and Wisconsin Wing's) first Cyber Patriot Team. In 2011, she completed Observer Training and received her Observer Wings. In recent years, she became the squadron's AE Officer and took on Administrative and Personnel tasks while turning over PAO to others.

"Neither high school nor college gave me the skills to be successful as an Aerospace Education Officer or in my job as Assistant Project Manager/Project Coordinator with Heartland Retail Construction. CAP did. The leadership training I received and practiced as a cadet flight commander led to success later as a Wing project officer and as PAO. I learned



to speak before strangers and give CAP recruiting presentations. I formed friendships with many CAP members that endure to this day. The core values I learned and the Cadet Oath's 'to be of service to my community, state, and nation' inspired me to be part of the Caledonia Conservancy, to lend my support to medical and veteran groups, and to pass on those values to my children and grandchildren. Volunteer service, excellence, respect, and integrity continue to support me and will show me new ways to help others in the future."



"I joined CAP because I was interested in planes and flying," said **Lt. Col. Stephen Michaels**, who joined Squadron 5 in 1969. "I was also extremely introverted and as a cadet; I gained confidence and public speaking skills. I learned to organize and lead." Michaels served as Cadet Commander, rose to the grade of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel, and achieved the Eaker Award. He edited and published the squadron newsletter for three years, as well as recruiting and training materials. He attended the National Cadet Officers School, the International Air Cadet Exchange (Netherlands), and the first Wisconsin Cadet Academy (Staff Training School). He was the unit's Cadet Ground Team Leader.

While Deputy Commander for Cadets, he helped organize the first Group Cadet Officer School and Advanced COS.

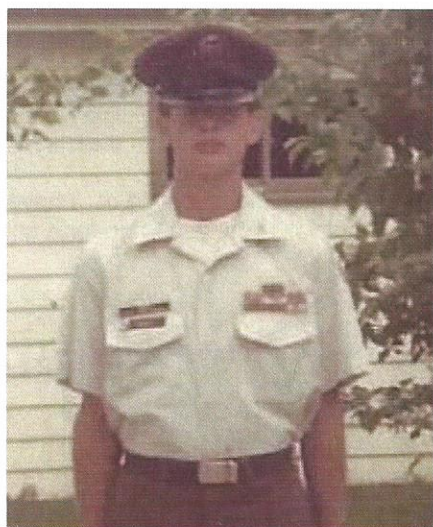
As Wing Director of Cadet Programs, he served as Encampment Commander and organized the Wing Flight Encampment. During his tenure, the Wing's cadet membership rose from 450 to over 675. He received the Exceptional Service Award for the fifth best Wing program in the nation. While serving as Wing Inspector and Wing Chief of Staff, the Wing moved from 39th to 11th nationally.

After a 13-year hiatus, Col. Michaels returned to the squadron in 2007. He reorganized the cadet program, promoted recruiting and Encampment attendance, implemented field trips and participation in the Wing cadet competition. He was the Wing and Region 2011 Cadet Program Officer of the Year. He was the Wing's 2012 Senior Member of the Year and organized the first TLC in southeast Wisconsin. In 2013, 2015, and 2017, he organized a Wing-hosted RCLS. He graduated from CAP's National Staff College in 2015 and became Squadron Commander in 2016.

Col. Michaels holds a Master rating in the Emergency Services, Supply, and Cadet Program specialty tracks. He is a rated Mission Observer and Ground Team Leader.

During his hiatus, he rose to lead the 6500-member national Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, another patriotic and public service organization. Afterwards, he edited their national magazine for nine years.

Col. Michaels is a UWM graduate and worked in radio for over 24 years and in retail for nearly 30. He is married to Lt. Col. Danielle Michaels. They have four grown children, including Maj. Allison Pollitt.



Capt. Gregory Turdo joined Milwaukee Comp. Sqdn. #5 in May 1972 and progressed through the ranks to cadet first lieutenant and became our squadron's cadet commander. He was a member of the squadron color guard, ground team, and participated in many activities. He completed his solo flight training in 1975 at Mitchell Field.

He helped build the squadron ground team, which became certified in 1975. He attended Wing encampments for four years, graduating from the Wisconsin Cadet Academy in 1975. He went on to serve as an encampment squadron commander and later, in 1977, on WCA staff.

He left CAP in 1980 to become a construction electrical apprentice and graduated in 1984 as a journeyman electrician.

Capt. Turdo says, "Civil Air Patrol has helped me in my career in leadership, problem solving, and most of all, working with the construction trades to come to a common ground to complete the projects. I have worked my way from apprentice to general foreman and have completed my 39th year as an electrician."

Capt. Turdo rejoined the squadron in 2010 and since then, has completed Squadron Leadership School, the Officer Basic Course and served as Logistics Officer at seven encampments. He's not only managed the squadron's supply needs, but has kept track of color guard and drill team uniforms and equipment. He's risen from Squadron Supply Officer to Logistics Officer to Squadron Deputy Commander. He also serves as the Squadron's Finance Officer.

Since returning to Civil Air Patrol, he's received an unprecedented four CAP Achievement Awards and three Commanders Commendations for his squadron and encampment service.

1Lt. Michael Leggett originally heard about CAP from a family member, who was a first lieutenant at Timmerman's 10th Senior Support Squadron at the time. After calling Milwaukee Composite Squadron #5 and getting information, he attended his first meeting on March 26th, 2008, and was impressed with what he saw.



"I joined as soon as I could," says Lt. Leggett. "Back then, the squadron was much smaller, in both size and membership, the 'indoor drill pad' was much smaller than the current briefing room."

"Early on, I was highly motivated to promote, quickly rising through the ranks, but with that came added responsibility. During my whole cadet career, I went to as many activities as I could: two encampments, Blue Beret, and many others. I was soon on cadet staff, and in what seemed like no time, I was cadet commander of the squadron. I earned my Earhart Award and was promoted to Cadet Captain in 2013. Shortly after that, I took a break from CAP to focus on college."

In August 2016, 1Lt. Leggett returned to the squadron, hoping to use the experience he gained as a cadet officer. Since coming back, he's completed Squadron Leadership School, the Aerospace Education Program for Senior Members, renewed his Ground Team Member 3 rating and served as an Encampment Training Officer, and hopes to do a lot more.

"CAP helped shape me in the best way possible, as I grew from a 12-year old kid into adulthood. I'm grateful for the experiences it's given me. I couldn't imagine myself without the influence of CAP."

In June 2011, 2Lt. Jon Micheal explored the possibility of attending a service academy after graduating high school and found out about CAP from an academy representative. He still remembers coming to his first meeting, nervous and shy, but enamored with the uniforms, sense of unity, and pride that he found to be characteristic of all CAP cadets.

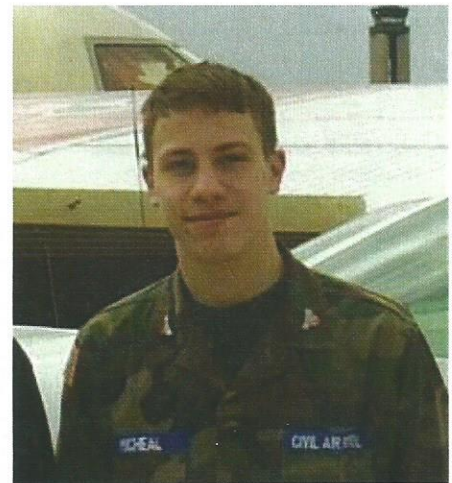
"The minute I stepped into the uniform, I could not imagine the places I would go, the people I would meet, and things I would do," he said.

"My journey really began when I was heckled by senior leadership to try out for the unit color guard. I was reluctant at first, but I joined a highly trained team that made it to the 2012 National Cadet Competition, an activity that Wisconsin Wing had not been represented at in many years. From there, the rest was history. Three more cadet competitions, five encampments, National Flight Academy, and countless Wing activities. I served in every staff position at our unit, finishing my cadet tenure at the grade of C/2Lt, as the unit cadet commander. Though I struggled with reaching cadet officer grade, thanks to the selfless dedication of the senior and cadet leadership, I was able to realize my full potential."

Lt. Micheal has been a senior member for six months and assists in personnel, aerospace education, and cadet programs. He says that the intense focus on self-study and personal development instilled in him as a cadet, gave him the drive to seek more learning opportunities as a senior. The intense leadership training also set him apart from dozens of others entering the workforce.

"Not a single day goes by without using the wisdom that I have gained from my days as a cadet in blue. In a sense, I relive those days every time my leadership and teamwork skills are put to the test."

"The cadet experience leaves behind a memorable legacy in which you will always look back and be proud of. I have no doubt that all CAP cadets will go forth and do great things, but the magic of being a cadet will allow you to go forth and inspire greatness in others. Semper vigilans, cadets."



Our Unit's Recent Honor Roll:



C/Capt. Roman Ruud
AFA Class of 2018



C/2Lt. Sam Grayson
AFA Class of 2019



C/1Lt. Jordan Garivay
AFA Class of 2020



C/2Lt. Monte Koerner III
AFA Class of 2020

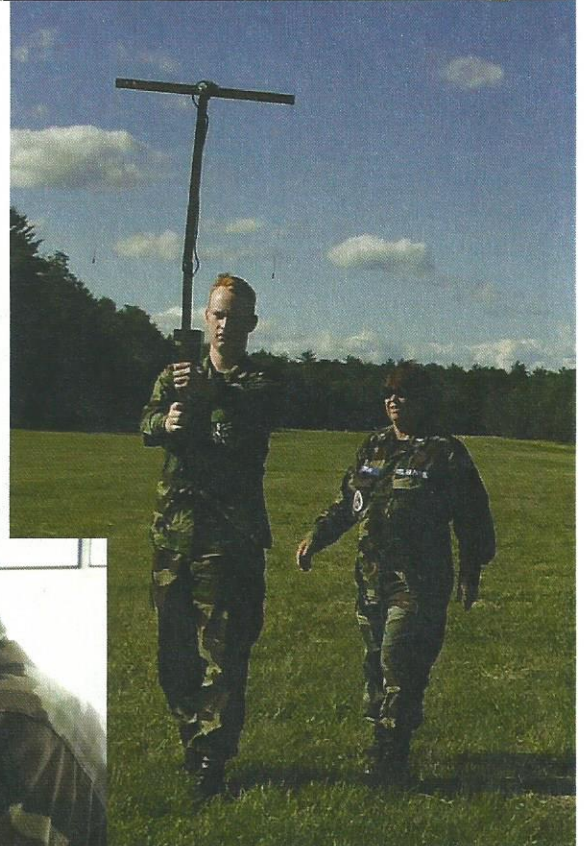
EMERGENCY SERVICES



Once a member has attained their General ES rating, they are encouraged to participate in Squadron, Group and Wing ES activities to advance their skills. Squadron ES classes are held as part of each quarter's training. Our squadron trained in search and rescue techniques during its Winter Survival Weekend on 5-6 March, the Wing Evaluated Mission on 2 May; Completing requirements for Ground Team 1,2, and 3 ratings, our members worked as radio operators, ground team members and staff assistants.

Additionally, Lt. Col. Danielle Michaels, flying as a CAP observer during the EAA Precautionary Mission, received a "Find" for locating the source of an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT).

Members learned from an orienteering course, held at Summer Encampment and a first aid and CPR class, taught November 26th in conjunction with the Orientation Flight Day.



B & W Inset: Squadron 5 cadets during a 1969 winter search and rescue exercise.



AEROSPACE EDUCATION



In 2017, our members gained an understanding of the complex forces that cause an aircraft to achieve lift, as well as engine hydraulics, aviation history and industry. They enjoyed a field trip to Scott AFB, Ill., St. Louis' Air & Space Museum and Boeing Aircraft Co. Our cadets flew orientation flights in CAP aircraft at Summer Encampment, Aerospace Education Weekend, and our Orientation Flight Day. And they took a turn at indoor skydiving at IFly in Rosemont Chicago.

B & W inset: Squadron members take a tour of the Air National Guard in 1958.



CADET PROGRAM

Cadet Program elements include Leadership, Aerospace Education, Character Development, Physical Fitness and relevant activities like field trips to the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Scott AFB, Illinois and Boeing Aircraft Corp. in St. Louis, and IFly Indoor Skydiving in Chicago. Social events like the Wisconsin Wing Military Ball (below), provide a break from academics and structure. Additionally, our Cyber Patriot Team competes against other teams across the country. And our Color Guard team took 3rd place at Region Competition and represented the unit at the Wisconsin Wing Conference, a ceremony (Healing Warriors' Hearts) and community events like the FBI Citizens Academy graduation and the Holiday Folk Fair International.



B&W inset: Our Squadron band, the Antiquas, ca. 1962





SUMMER ENCAMPMENT

Much has changed since cadets and seniors began going to Chanute AFB, Ill, in the 1950s. Since 1968, Wisconsin Wing Encampments have been held at Volk Field ANG Base, Camp Douglas, Wis. Personnel now stay in air conditioned, brick dorms instead of wooden barracks. Expanded training (two second year programs), a course on orienteering, orientation flights, and better food are all part of today's encampment experience. In 2017, the following attended:

Basic School (1st Year)

C/SrA Clay Amidon
C/SrA Katelyn Budzisz (upper right)
C/SrA Michaela Snead
C/A1C Antonio Alcala
C/A1C Hauser, Christopher
C/Amn. Ezekiel Imenez
C/Amn. Francis Lindsey
C/Amn. Maxwell Olson (lower center)
C/Amn. Salvador Rodriguez (lower right)

Wisconsin Cadet Academy

C/CMSgt. Brett Bartoshevich (upper left)
C/MSgt. Collin Nuss
C/TSgt. Carl Gordon

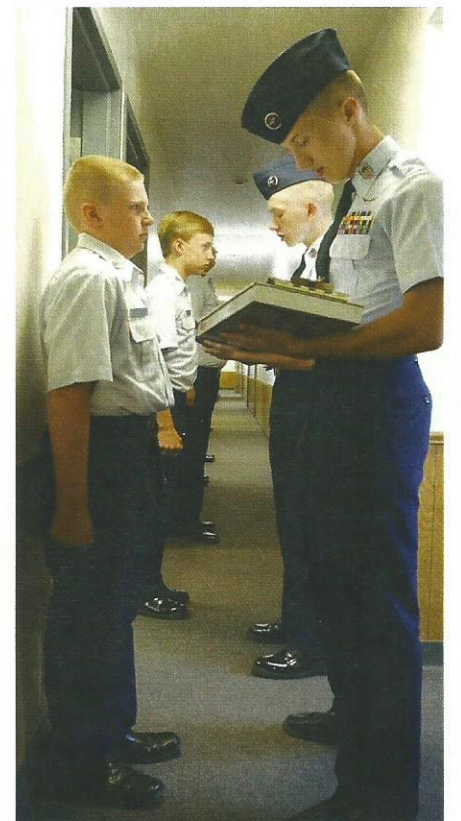
C/SSgt. Kin Mohillo

Cadet Staff

C/Capt. Zachary Klotz
C/2Lt. Sophie Thompson
C/CMSgt. Alec Stys (at right)
C/CMSgt. Austin Ast
C/SSgt. James Johnson

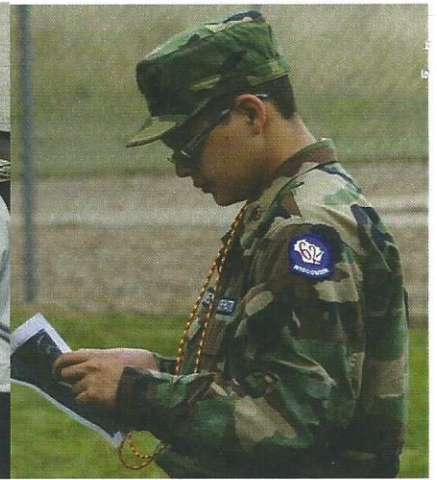
Senior Staff

Lt. Col. Danielle Michaels
Lt. Col. Stephen Michaels
Capt. Linda Berez
Capt. Michelle Michalski (lower left)
Capt. Gregory Turdo
1Lt. Michael Leggett
2Lt. Jon Micheal



The 2018 Summer Encampment will be held 23-30 June at Volk Field.

B & W Inset: Squadron 5 females at the 1955 Encampment at Chanute AFB, Illinois.



Recognition



In 2017, we welcomed the following new members to our unit: CSM Patricia Snead and Cadets Amber Brellenthin, Aryella Barribeau, Katelyn Budzisz, Shania Cassanos, Zachary Cecchini, Lucy Corcoran, Joseph Duvall, Isabel Jimenez, Caleb Just, William Kochis, Valentina Loeder, Timothy Manzke, Noah Marks, Maxwell Olson, Benjamin Oman, Salvador Rodriguez, Michaela Snead, Jordan Vallee, Karla Vega, Zachary Whalen, and Derek Zeng.



The following received the Wright Bros. Award, completing the "Learning Phase" of

the Cadet Program: C/SSgt. Katelyn Budzisz, C/TSgt. Rachel Crissey, C/SSgt. James Johnson, C/SSgt. Kin Mohillo, and C/SSgt. Michaela Snead.

C/2Lts Alec Stys and Jessie Teddy completed Phase III, the "Leadership Phase" and received the Gen. Mitchell Award. C/Capt. Sam Luebbe completed Phase IV, the "Executive Phase" and received the Amelia Earhart Award (upper right).

C/SrA Michaela Snead (upper left) was recognized as the 2017 Wisconsin Wing Summer Encampment's Outstanding first year cadet. She was awarded a Commander's Commendation.

C/2Lt. Jon Micheal received the Air Force Association's Award for Outstanding Cadet.

C/Capt. Luebbe received the Daughters of the American Revolution Award for Outstanding CAP Cadet.

National Cadet Special Activities

C/Capt. Samuel Luebbe attended the Air Force Space Command Familiarization Course at Patrick AFB, Fla.

C/2Lt. Alec Stys attended the Great Lakes Region Powered Flight Academy at Oshkosh and received his Pre-Solo wings.

Lt. Col. Carol Sims served on support staff at the flight academy.

C/CMSgt. Austin Ast attended the National Air Force Civil Engineering Academy at Tindall AFB, Fla.

C/CMSgt. Hannah Stys attended the Cyber Defense Training Academy at Lackland AFB, Tex.

C/SSgt. James Johnson returned to the National Emergency Service Academy at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Senior Officers

In 2017, C/2Lt. Jon Micheal transitioned to senior membership and S/M Joseph Suchorski completed Level 1, the AE Program for Senior Members and Squadron Leadership School. Both were promoted to the grade of 2nd Lieutenant.

Capt. Linda Berez also completed the AE Program for Senior Members.

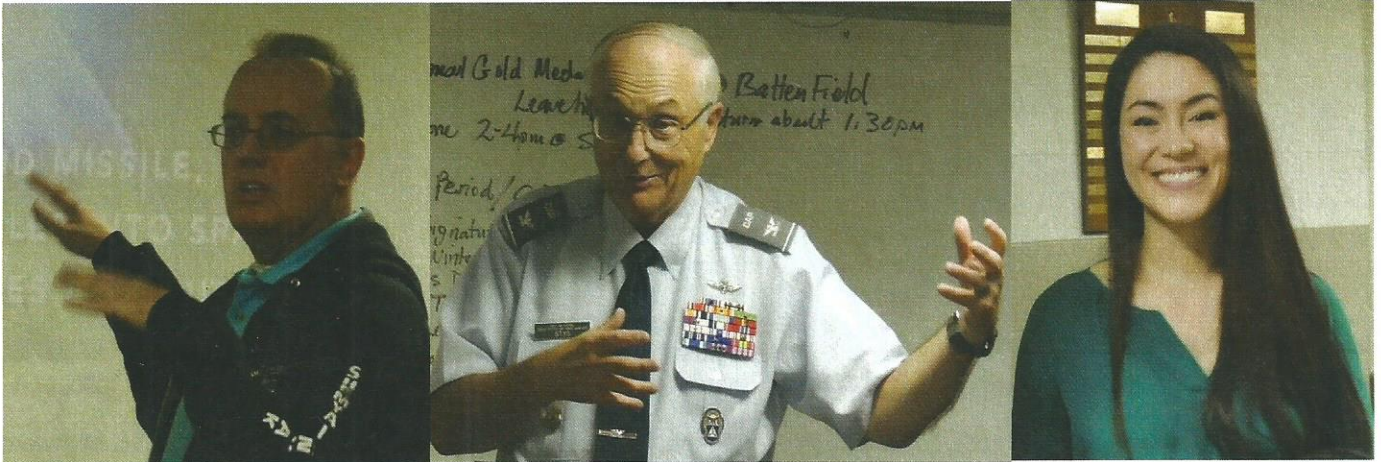
2nd Lieutenant Lawrence Tomaich was promoted to 1st Lieutenant (lower left).

1Lt. Michael Leggett completed Level II of the senior officer program and received the Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Award.



Three of our officers were recognized at the 2017 Wisconsin Wing Conference: Capt. Linda Berez (center) was named Chaplain of the Year; Lt. Col. Danielle Michaels (right) was named Senior Member of the Year, and Lt. Col. Jo Stys was named Aerospace Education Officer of the Year.

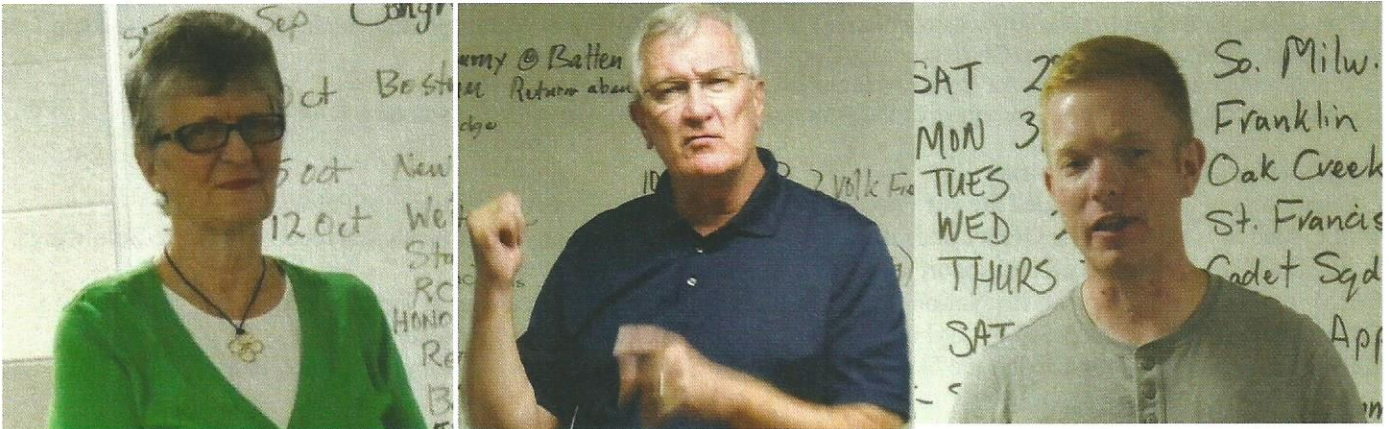
Former Cadets Were Guest Speakers in 2017



Mr. (C/1Lt.) Leonard Lindsey

Col. (C/Capt.) Lawrence Stys, CAP

1Lt. (C/MSgt.) Crystal Staszak, USAF



Mrs. (C/Capt.) Barb Ludka

Mr. (C/1Lt.) Tom Ludka

USAF Academy Cadet (C/2Lt) Monte Koerner

Where in the world... will our next cadet come from? Valentina Loeder spoke to C/SrA Michaela Snead in St. Francis last August. She was promoted to Cadet Airman at our December 21st Open House.



Do these images look interesting?

Can you see yourself or someone you know, as part of Civil Air Patrol? You're always welcome to take a closer look. We meet Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm at the Army National Guard armory, 8520 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Visit us on Facebook, at [Milwaukee5CAP.org](https://www.facebook.com/Milwaukee5CAP) or email mke5cadets@gmail.com