

Staying Connected



2020

Milwaukee Composite Squadron #5



On March 16th, masks, social distancing, sanitizing, and staying at home became the perennial practices. Despite these, our unit was determined to stay connected and move forward. Many of our initiatives and program transitioned to online offerings.

Leadership Change



On September 3rd, Lt. Col. Stephen Michaels (left) turned over command of the unit to Maj. Gregory Turdo. Southeast Group Commander Maj. Peter Bianco presided over the ceremony.

The last four years has included overnight field trips, a Region Cadet Leadership School, Wing Color Guard Clinic, Winter ES Weekends, a nationally acclaimed color guard, a new van, a Unit Citation and other accolades. Many more opportunities await, as we remobilize and rebuild in the wake of the lockdown. Everyone's active participation and support will be needed in the coming months.



Sister Squadron Adopted

During 2020, we established a connection with Texas Wing's newly chartered Bell County Composite Squadron. The unit is commanded by Lt. Col. Allison Pollitt, a former Squadron 5 cadet officer and Deputy Commander for Cadets (below left). The unit's area was under Remobilization Phase 2, during the outdoor fundraiser shown below. Virtual visits between our two units have been common.



On the cover: Cadet discussion during a January 2020 Character Development session. Learn more about our squadron. Visit us on Facebook or our website (milwaukee5cap.org) or email mke5cadets@gmail.com

CADET PROGRAM



In 2020, the Cadet Program's four elements, Leadership, Aerospace education, Character Development and Physical Fitness were modified to accommodate an online format. While relevant in-person activities were not permitted, online activities and presentations became more common place.

Color Guard

Our Color Guard team, which had begun practicing and performing in October 2019, continued its preparation for competition until the mid-March lockdown. The cadets practiced seven events: Outdoor Practical (at left), Indoor Practical, Physical Fitness, Uniform Inspection, Written Exam, Group Leadership Problem, and Standard Drill. C/2Lt. Aleksandr Wellner led C/CMSgt. Lydia Stys, C/MSgt. Zachary Cecchini, C/TSgt. Ethan Wenzel, C/SSgt Ryan Whitney and C/Amn. Roxana Alamilla-Cruz. Coaches included 1Lt. Jon Micheal, Lt. Cols Stephen and Danielle Michaels, and Maj. Gregory Turdo.

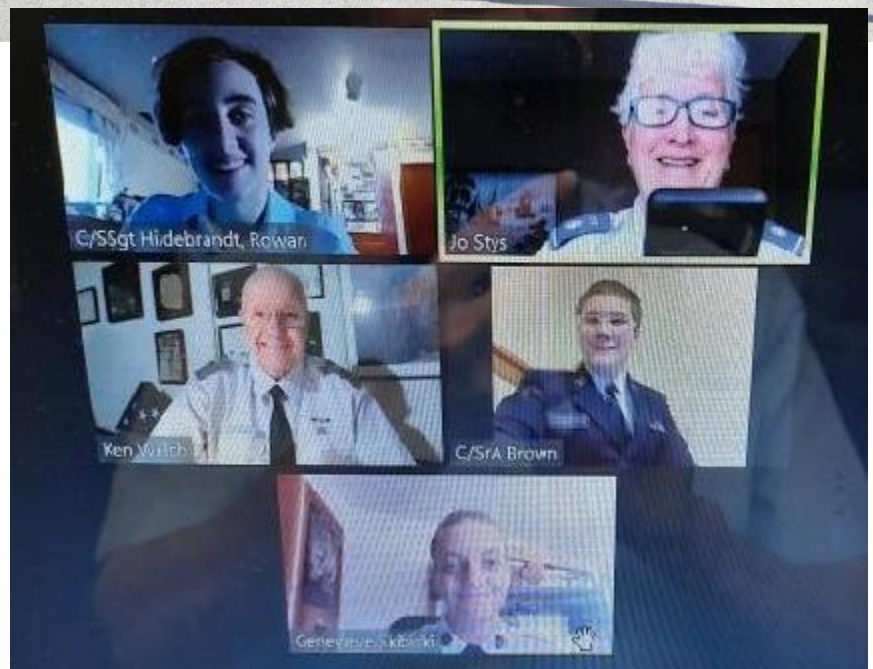
Remobilization

While most of 2020 was under COVID lockdown, the unit enjoyed a brief Phase 1 Mobilization (small group outdoor meetings authorized) period in September. Two groups from B Flight (right) undertook some remedial training, as several cadets had joined just prior to or during the lockdown. Their first in-person training included drill, physical fitness and compass work.



Cyber Patriot

Our Cyber Patriot team represented our unit in the Air Force Association-sponsored online competition. The competition is designed to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. During fall 2020, the team advanced through the nation's largest cyber defense competition in two rounds. The cadets were placed in charge of securing virtual networks. Shown are C/SSgt. Rowan Hildebrandt, coach Lt. Col. Jo Stys, escort S/M Kenneth Welch, C/SrA Evan Brown and C/MSgt. Genevieve Skibicki.



AEROSPACE EDUCATION



C/TSgt. Sarah Martens (above) achieved one of her short-term goals, her powered flight solo! She said, "Two of my main long term goals are to graduate from USAFA, and then become a military pilot. These goals led to my joining CAP, where I learned that kids my age can actually take flight lessons and become private pilots... It took me about 20 hours in a Grumman American AA1B to reach my solo flight, which I flew at Hartford airport on December 5th!

"The CAP aerospace tests we take for promotions helped me a lot along the way to my solo, with basic aerospace knowledge and science. Also helping me move towards my solo was Maj. Pretsch's summer CAP aviation discussion group, which deepened my interest and knowledge in aviation.

"A big thanks to CAP and all of its volunteers for helping me reach this milestone, and get one step closer to my goals!"

Meanwhile, C/Capt. Collin Nuss achieved his powered flight solo in a Cessna 172 on October 8th.

On February 27th, our members conducted a successful after-school Aerospace Education presentation during an annual STEM Fair. C/SSgt. Ryan Whitney (above right) helps a young student with his paper CAP aircraft (photo by Lt. Col. Jo Stys).

Our members gained an understanding of the complex forces that cause an aircraft to achieve lift, as well as navigation, engines, aerospace history. In 2020, cadets and seniors enjoyed learning both in-person and online. Our in-person Model Rocketry project (right) was soon replaced by weekly online aviation discussion groups (mentioned earlier) and an online Air Navigation project .

Our efforts garnered the Aerospace Education Excellence Award.



EMERGENCY SERVICES



Eleven members attended our eleventh annual Emergency Services Weekend (March 6-8)! Our members traveled to the Oman Farm in Wonewoc, Wisconsin, where they learned basic compass and search skills, map reading and field operations. They learned how to do ramp checks and complete an ELT search during a training mission. They also enjoyed great camaraderie while experiencing life on a working farm!

Performing a ramp check during the practice mission (at right) were C/Amn. Roxana Alamilla-Cruz, C/CMSgt. Lydia Stys, C/SSgt. Kicker Romero and C/A1C Emerald Cechini.

Our unit responded to a non-distress Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) mission, which took the squadron's ground team to Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, on the night of May 5th.

Beginning during the summer months, our squadron was one of several in the Wing, which responded to a state-wide call to participate in COVID-relief missions. As a result of their service, the following were authorized to wear the Disaster Relief ribbon with "V" clasp:

Lt. Col. Stephen Michaels

Lt. Col. Danielle Michaels (far right)

Maj. Jeremy Konetz

Maj. Richard Pretsch

Maj. Gregory Turdo

Capt. Javier Correa

Capt. Michelle Michalski

1Lt. Jon Micheal

C/Capt. Collin Nuss

C/2Lt. Jordan Vallee

C/MSgt. Genevieve Skibicki

C/MSgt. Derek Zeng

C/TSgt. Sarah Martens (near right)

C/TSgt. Elaina Rautio

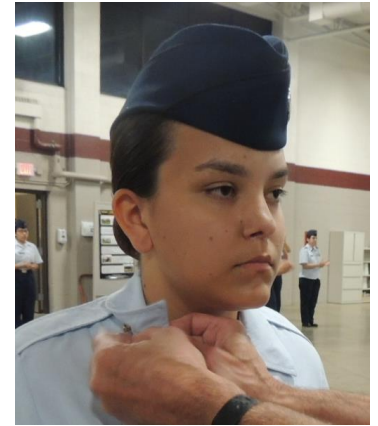
C/Amn. Henry Glazewski



Recognition



This past year, we welcomed into our unit:
 Cadets Jhadan Gayle, Luke Gerlach, Ryan Johnson, Sarah Martens, Fernando Reyes-Lopez, Kamryn Riestra, Jakub Roslaniak (at left), Colemin Sibila, Austin Trapp, and Moises Valdes-Garcia.



The following received the Wright Brothers Award, completing the Learning Phase of the Cadet Program: C/TSgt. Cameron Blood, C/TSgt. Madeleine Blood, SSgt. Rowan Hildebrandt, C/TSgt. Sarah Martens, C/TSgt. Elaina Rautio (right), C/SSgt. Ryan Whitney, and C/SSgt. Devin Zeng.



The following received the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award, completing the Leadership Phase of the Cadet Program: C/2Lt. Isabel Jimenez, C/2Lt. Jordan Vallee (left), and C/2Lt. Aleksandr Wellner.



The following received the Amelia Earhart Award, completing the Command Phase of the Cadet Program: C/Capt. Collin Nuss (at right) and C/Capt. Michaela Snead.

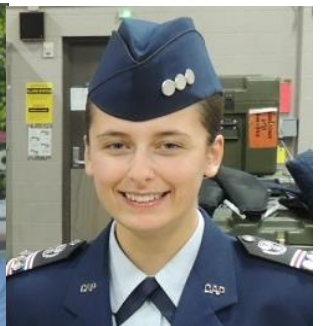


We also welcomed the following senior members:
 1Lt. Robert Roslaniak (transfer from Florida Wing), S/M Kenneth Welch (rejoined), and S/M Brett Bartoshevich (cadet to senior transition).



Senior Promotions & Awards

The following received the Grover Loening Award, completing Level III (Management) of the Senior Program and was promoted to: Capt. Javier Correa (left) Former Cadet Major Hannah Stys was promoted to 1st Lieutenant (right).



C/2Lt. Sam Grayson
 AFA Class of 2019

C/1Lt. Jordan Garivay
 AFA Class of 2020

C/2Lt. Monte Koerner
 AFA Class of 2020

C/2Lt. Isabel Jimenez
 USCGA Class of 2024

C/Capt. Katelyn Budzisz
 AFA Class of 2024

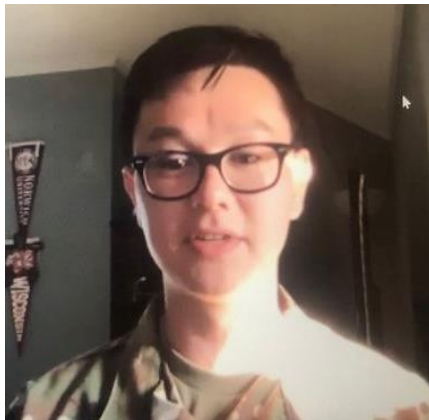
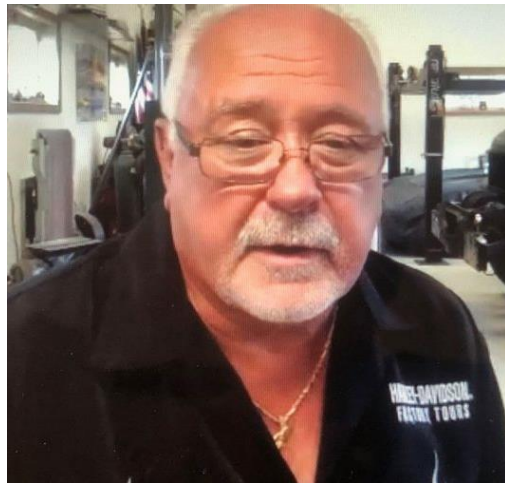
Distinguished Visitors



On March 3rd, safety officer Capt. Lawrence Tomaich, extended our thanks to the Franklin Police Department for their support of our Risk Management Day in February. At left, Police Officers Adam Graf, Amy Hempe and K-9 Rex accepting a Certificate of Appreciation!

On March 12th, our Model Rocketry classes were supplemented by Capt. David Zander, 121st Field Artillery Training Officer, (top left below) who spoke on the military application of rockets and missiles.

Visiting us online (starting top center below) were retired Pharmaceutical exec William Reid, who spoke on corporate culture and ethics; Caledonia Village trustee and retired businessman Thomas Weatherston, who spoke on volunteer commitment; personal trainer Robert McDonal, who helped us create fun and challenging workouts; former Sqdn. 5 cadet NCO and Norwich University grad Brendan Lee, who described his AFROTC path to officership; former Squadron 5 cadet officer and Air Force Academy grad Capt. Niko Ruud, who spoke on CAP's importance, encouraging active participation; and former Sqdn. 5 cadet officers and recent Academy grads, 2nd Lts. Jordan Garivay and Monte Koerner (see previous page).



Also visiting our virtual unit was Wing Commander Col. Denese Helgeland, and during the Change of Command were: former Squadron 5 cadet, Col. Christopher Charney, USAFRet; CAP National Command Chief CMSgt. Robert Dandridge; former Wing Commander, former Squadron 5 commander and cadet, Col.

Lawrence Stys; new Oregon Wing Commander Col. William Ham; former National Flight Academy Director Lt. Col. Marcia Cunningham; Bell County Comp. Sqdn. (Texas) Commander and former Squadron 5 officer Lt. Col. Allison Pollitt; Air Force Association Chapter President Vick Johnson; Greenfield H.S. AFJROTC senior instructor Lt. Col. Andrew Davis; and Maj. Josh Risler, Lantana Cadet Sqdn. (Florida).

Squadron Financing

Our squadron normally undertakes an ambitious fund-raising program. In 2020, circumstances restricted efforts. Unit members were limited to selling greenhouse gift cards, poinsettias and wreath sponsorships for Wreaths Across America to immediate family and friends.

Squadron Senior Leadership

Squadron 5's activities would not be possible without the support of its dedicated officers, who ensure that CAP's missions are accomplished. COVID lockdown or not, they provide the leadership necessary to move the unit forward. These include: Lt. Col. D. Michaels, Lt. Col. S. Michaels, Lt. Col. C. Sims, Chap. Lt. Col. Marcia Strahl, Lt. Col. J. Stys, Maj. J. Konetz, Maj. G. Turdo, Chap. Maj. L. Berez (right), Maj. R. Pretsch, Capt. M. Michlaski, Capt. Javier Correa,



Capt. L. Tomaich, 1Lt. J. Micheal, 1Lt. R. Roslaniak, and S/M K. Welch. Our IT Officer, Maj. Berez made our weekly online meetings and quarterly staff meetings possible. Online presentations were enhanced by her expertise, assisted by that of Maj. Pretsch.

Following S/M Welch's lead, our officers organized a holiday food drive. In December, our members dopped off non-perishables, which were collected to benefit a local veterans' outreach program.

Final Salute



One of Squadron #5's first cadets, Janice Papke, passed away on June 11th, at age 80. The former Jan Goderski joined CAP in the early 1950s, shortly after our unit was organized. As a cadet, she participated in many activities, including at least two search and rescue missions, a couple of encampments, and military balls. She received the Certificate of Proficiency, the equivalent of the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award and the highest cadet achievement award at that time. She served as Cadet Commander and promoted to Cadet Major.

Her early experience as a cadet instructor in our unit inspired her career choice. She became a teacher and taught in the Oak Creek-Franklin School District for over 30 years, retiring in 1995. Lt. Col. Jan Papke often taught at the Wisconsin Wing Cadet Conferences.

Jan and husband, Melvin Papke, who passed in 1999, served together in our unit. Theirs was probably the first successful Squadron 5 romance. They married in 1962 and were a great team: he as Unit Commander, she as Commandant of Cadets (Deputy Commander of Cadets). After Mel's turn at

Squadron Commander (1960-64), they both served at the Group level, Mel as Group Commander and Jan as Administration Officer. They both retired from CAP in the late 1970s.