

OPEN COCKPIT: JAN-MAR 2011

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Government Relations Consultant: Col John Swain – dcoffice.cap@verizon.net

Legislative Team Leader: Lt Col Jeffrey Wiswell – jeff.wiswell@wiswellgroup.com

Initial Legislative Day Details: Wings should be scheduling 3 March 2011 meetings with members of Congress; the deadline for reporting meeting details to CAP's Washington, D.C., office is 28 February. Meeting details will be compiled into a master list for the National Commander and other CAP leaders. Wings unable to schedule meetings are still responsible for delivering a Legislative Day package to all of their state Congressional offices by 3 March. Those wings wanting a photographer to record one or more Congressional visits on 3 March should submit advance requests to the CAP Washington office. POC: John Swain – dcoffice.cap@verizon.net.

Pre-Legislative Day Meeting: Wing Commanders and key staff should plan to attend a mandatory meeting the evening of 2 March from 8-930 PM at the Marriott Crystal City, near Reagan National Airport to review this year's legislative agenda, expected changes in Congressional operating procedures and the status of CAP bills to refine our message to our legislative leaders. CAP's 2011 legislative agenda, approved by the Board of Governors in December, includes three key items: Restoration of \$4.5 million to the CAP FY12 O&M budget; additional funding for aircraft, vehicles and/or communications equipment; and the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to CAP. POC: John Swain – dcoffice.cap@verizon.net.

Appropriations: The FY11 Defense Appropriations Bill, which includes CAP's operations and maintenance (O&M) and procurement budgets, has yet to be passed by Congress. The government, including DOD and CAP, is operating under a continuing resolution through 4 March 2011. This means most government agencies will be funded at their FY10 funding levels during this period. It is unclear what Congress will do by March, but another continuing resolution is a possibility. In September 2010, the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee restored \$4.5 million to CAP's FY11 O&M budget as part of the FY11 Defense Appropriations Act, but that bill was not voted on before the close of the last Congress. POC: John Swain – dcoffice.cap@verizon.net.

CAP Congressional Gold Medal: Though bills to award a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of CAP's volunteer service during World War II failed last year for lack of sufficient legislator sponsorships, they will be re-introduced later this month. A large number of co-sponsors (2/3rds of the House and the Senate) is needed for both bills before either will be considered by the relevant committees. If CAP is to get this recognition, members must be encouraged to contact their two senators and representative to ask them to be co-sponsors. Contact tips and sample communications are available at www.capmembers.com/goldmedal. Please make this a priority and push Legislative Action on Congressional Gold Medal to Honor Early CAP Members. POC: John Swain – dcoffice.cap@verizon.net.

This site also contains a link to register the names of those senior members, alive or deceased, who served CAP during World War II so that they or their families can be honored when this legislation passes. To be eligible, CAP members must have served the organization at least part of the time between 1 Dec 1941 and 15 Aug 1945 when they were at least 18 years old. POC: Holley Dunigan – hdunigan@capnhq.com or 877-227-9142, ext. 236.

MISSIONS DIRECTORATE

Interim Director: John Desmarais – jdesmarais@capnhq.gov

Senior Advisor/Operations: Col Michael J. Murrell – mmurrell@cap.gov

Operations while under Continuing Resolution: The current continuing resolution provides CAP very limited funding until 4 March 2011, obligating CAP to operate with a constrained budget until the final appropriations bill is approved. For Operations, this means we have only been able to provide very limited funds for flight training, cadet orientation flights and other missions. We will release funding for the rest of the fiscal year as soon as it is available. POC: John Desmarais – jdesmarais@capnhq.gov.

Aircraft scheduling module: The aircraft scheduling module is now available within the Web Mission Information Reporting System (WMIRS) along with instructions on how to use it. As planned, support for Flight Schedule Pro will be discontinued at the end of February now that this module is available. This allows units using Flight Schedule Pro to transition their schedules to WMIRS over the next several weeks. Access to Flight Schedule Pro from e-services will be removed on the 1st of March. If you have any questions about the WMIRS aircraft scheduling module please contact the CAP National Operations Center at opscenter@capnhq.gov.

Photography on AFAMs: National Headquarters is currently reviewing guidance from AFNORTH for photography missions. An AFNORTH briefing titled *AFAM Photography 13 Dec 10* was released to the field prematurely, and it should not be disseminated further at this time. Several questions have been brought up from the operations and public affairs staff that need answers before we can coordinate and release proper guidance (including an updated briefing) to the field. POCs: John Desmarais – jdesmarais@capnhq.gov and Colonel Mike Murrell – mmurrell@cap.gov.

Stan/Eval: Welcome aboard Mike Moyer, our new HQ CAP/DOV, to replace Pete Kalisky who recently retired. Mike comes to us with many years of experience as a CAP pilot, airline pilot and Wing DOV.

New training courses: An online training course for transition to the refurbished C172 with the Aspen EFD 1000, GNS 430W and GMX 200 avionics suite is in the final stages of development. When complete, the course will include modules for all three units for both VFR and IFR operations. Development is also underway for a CAP version of the Cessna FITS G1000 training course, including train-the-trainer materials. We expect it will present all of the information in the current Cessna course, but from a CAP perspective. The overwater survival and reconnaissance requirements, referenced in CAPR 60-1, have been updated in the DOV reference section of the Stan/Eval website. POCs: Lt Col Leslie Vazquez – dov@leslievazquez.com and Mike Moyer – mmoyer@vcapnhq.gov.

Communications: The CAP narrowband transition is more than 97 percent complete, with 506 of 525 repeaters online. Work continues on HF/ALE systems frequency suite assignments for each of the regions. Tactical use of these systems in missions will greatly enhance communications capabilities, and the communications team is encouraging wings to start the transition into their SAR/DR exercises. POC: Lt Col Michael Marek – michael@themareks.com.

Mission Operations: Coordination continues between the FAA, CAP and DoD on the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) project to establish mission parameters and assessment of current risk and operational limitations. POC: Lt Col Ernie Bilotto - caphns@verizon.net.

ARCHER: In an effort to meet mission requirements and maintain adequate mission capability, the number of ARCHER systems is being reduced to six. Other systems will enhance efforts to update the six systems and ensure parts availability. An ARCHER Geosharpen resolution test was recently conducted in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport in Colorado with test patterns painted on an inactive runway and tests conducted at varying altitudes; final results are expected soon. POC: Capt Paul Carter/ARCHER Team Leader – paulacarter70@yahoo.com.

Surrogate Predator Program: The Operations Plan Memorandum of Agreement between Air Combat Command, Civil Air Patrol and First Air Force has been renewed. CAP members continue to support monthly missions for both Green Flag East and West in a superb manner.
POC: Col John Varljen – john.varljen@swr.cap.gov.

NESA: The main schools of the 2011 National Emergency Services Academy (NESA) will be conducted in one-week sessions from 23 July through 6 August, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Training in all mission areas will be offered. Personnel interested in attending as either a participant or staff member should check out the NESA website, www.nesa.cap.gov and register as soon as possible. Slots are managed on a first-come first-served basis. POC: NESA Administrative Staff – NESA-ADMIN@nesa.cap.gov.

SAFETY

NHQ Safety: Frank Jirik – safety@capnhq.gov

National Safety Officer: Col Bob Diduch – safety@capnhq.gov

Safety Officer College: The first CAP Safety Officer College — full of education on mishap investigations, photography, human factors, crash lab work, safety philosophy, risk mitigation and regulator learning — will be held 6-10 June 2011 at Kirtland AFB. Watch your upcoming *Safety Beacon* for information on how to apply. POC: National Safety Team – safety@capnhq.gov.

CHAPLAIN CORPS

Chief of Chaplain Corps: Ch, Col Whit Woodard – wwoodard@cap.gov

Chaplain Corps Personnel: 543 chaplains and 335 Character Development Instructors

Flight Time: Values for Living (CAPP 265-2, Vol. 3): This new publication is now available online at http://capmembers.com/forms_publications_regulations/pamphlets.cfm.
POC: Tracy Harris – tharris@capnhq.gov.

CAPP 221 Series: (Includes 221, 221A, 221B and 221C) Updated pamphlets will be published soon.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE

Director: Jim Mallett – jmallett@capnhq.gov

Senior Advisor/Support: Col Joseph “Skip” Guimond – jguimondjr@verizon.net

Aerospace Education POCs: Dr. Jeff Montgomery/ NHQ Deputy Director – jmontgomery@capnhq.gov
and Lt Col Mike McCardle/National AE Advisor – michael.mcardle@att.net.

New AE Youth Development Partnership: CAP has established a partnership with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) to combine resources and personnel to perpetuate interest in and knowledge about remote control aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (remotely piloted aircraft) for CAP cadets. On 8 January 2011 at the AMA's 75th anniversary Expo in Ontario, Calif., Maj Gen Amy S. Courter signed the Memorandum of Agreement with AMA. For more information about the AMA, see <http://www.modelaircraft.org>.

Aerospace Dimensions Modules: The six Aerospace Dimensions modules have been updated to offer cadets a modernized, expanded text. The revised second edition will continue to provide the introduction to aerospace education for Phases I and II of the cadet program. The new modules are included in the cadet new member packet and have been distributed to CAP units. For information on the transitional plan from the old to the new modules for cadets and associated achievement tests, please visit

http://www.capmembers.com/aerospace_education/general/aerospace_textbooks.cfm. Considering the ever-changing field of aerospace, this revision will be an improvement not only for CAP cadets but also for classroom students across the country who use this National Academic Standards-aligned product. AEMs and teacher senior members will be receiving this revised set of modules to help them as they continue to promote AE as a school science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subject and career motivator.

Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) Program: The K-6 ACE program continues to grow — from 6,500 students last year to more than 11,000 students this year. This number represents more than 400 elementary educators in 83 schools and 27 states who have implemented this aerospace-themed, grade-specific program, which focuses on academics (emphasizing STEM subjects), character education and physical fitness — in alignment with National Academic Standards of Learning. The ACE Program is endorsed by the Air Force Association (which promotes elementary STEM programs through the AFA chapters) and the ROTC Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Elementary STEM Orientation (ESO) Joint National Program. For more information contact ace@capnhq.gov, or visit the ACE website at the following link.

http://www.capmembers.com/aerospace_education/aem_specific/ace_aerospace_connections_in_education_an_elementary_k6_program.cfm

POCs: Angie St. John – astjohn@capnhq.gov and Susan Mallett/AFA/ESO – smallett@capnhq.gov.

Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) Flights: For CAP teacher members, FY11 TOP Flights are off to a high-flying start; orientation flights are accompanied by an AE workshop intended to motivate the teachers to promote aviation education to their students. By February, 140 are expected to have participated, courtesy of 12 wings. Wings are encouraged to take advantage of TOP Flight opportunities with current or newly-recruited AE members. Top Flight guidelines are posted at www.capmembers.com/ae. POC: Judy Stone – jstone@capnhq.gov.

Aerospace Education Excellence (AEX) Award Program: The hands-on AEX program, which annually promotes AE to more than 40,000 CAP adults, cadets and students across the country, is available to CAP units and teacher members. Each unit or AEM wanting to participate must register through eServices at <https://www.capnhq.gov>; select “AEX.” The application, award completion report plus general information on the 2010-11 program are posted at the AEX links at www.capmembers.com/ae. POC: Debbie Dahl – ddahl@capnhq.gov.

Aerospace Education Newsletter: The AE Newsletter, published quarterly, contains AE news, current and upcoming events, member articles and lesson plans/activities. Submissions about outstanding CAP members and programs, as well as “Region to Region” AE-related events, are welcome. For more information or to download the latest editions, see http://www.capmembers.com/aerospace_education/stay_informed/index.cfm. POC: Judy Stone – jstone@capnhq.gov.

Aerospace Education E-Newsbrief: The AE E-Newsbrief provides monthly updates about current and upcoming AE events, contests, awards and grants, plus useful websites to assist AEOs, AEMs and senior members who are working on AE programs in their units, schools and communities. A one-stop AE resource, the E-Newsbrief is easily shared with other youth development organizations. Submissions are always welcome, and the latest editions are available at http://www.capmembers.com/aerospace_education/stay_informed/ae_newsbriefs.cfm. POC: Judy Stone/AE E-Newsbrief Editor – jstone@capnhq.gov.

Air Force Association/CAP Aerospace Grants: The AFA provided \$5,000 in the December grant cycle for CAP members to conduct projects that promote STEM subjects and careers in aerospace. To find December cycle unit grant award winners, visit http://www.capmembers.com/aerospace_education/general/announcements.cfm. Grants of \$250 are awarded in four cycles during the year. For more information, go to the AFA Partnership link at www.capmembers.com/ae. POC: Susan Mallett – smallett@capnhq.gov.

Cadet Programs POCs: Curt LaFond/NHQ Deputy Director – clafond@capnhq.gov and Col Craig Treadwell/National Cadet Programs Advisor – Col.T@maine.rr.com.

CAPR 52-16, *Cadet Program Management, 2011 Edition:* The latest edition of the cadet regulation takes effect on 1 February 2011. A slide presentation summarizing the main changes is available online at www.capmembers.com/library. POC: Curt LaFond – clafond@capnhq.gov.

National Cadet Special Activities: More than 30 exciting activities are planned for summer 2011. A full listing is at www.ncas.com. POCs: Joe Curry – jcurry@capnhq.gov and Maj Joe Winter NCSA Advisor – winterjoe@msn.com.

- **Cadet Applicants:** Although the deadline to apply for a primary NCSA slot has passed, cadets still may apply through eServices for alternate status until the activity begins.
- **Senior Member Volunteers:** Senior member escorts and support staff are still needed for some activities. Interested seniors should complete an application via eServices.
- **Wing Approvals:** Between 15 January through 15 February, wings evaluate their cadets who have applied for special activities. The top 10 percent of applicants, as ranked by the wings, are ensured of being admitted into at least one of their preferred activities. Details on the slotting process are available at www.ncsas.com.

Drug Demand Reduction's *Fit for Flying Book:* Both the book and instructor's guide are complete. Geared for upper level cadets and high school students, this learning module focuses on the human element of flying, explaining how drugs, alcohol and over-the-counter medications seriously affect flight performance. Copies of the book, with instructor's guide, are being mailed to DDR coordinators and administrators, DCPs and AEMs. POCs: Mike Simpkins – msimpkins@capnhq.gov and Lt Col Jett Mayhew, National DDR Advisor – JettM14@aol.com.

Civic Leadership Academy and Legislative Day: Twenty-four of our best cadet officers are preparing for the annual Civic Leadership Academy to be held in Washington, D.C. 26 February through 5 March. CLA cadets will be coordinating with their wing commanders to schedule meetings with their congressional representatives. As has been the case in years past, the CLA cadets work in teams during their Legislative Day meetings on Capitol Hill, with the CLA senior staff serving as chaperones and ensuring the cadets join wing commanders at the pre-arranged locations and times. POC: Steven Trupp – strupp@capnhq.gov.

CyberPatriot III: In this competitive education program, sponsored by the Air Force Association to nurture the next generation of cyber warriors, CAP's participation has increased from 50 teams in 2009 to 150 teams for 2010-11. CAP has 4 of the 12 teams remaining in the competition, now in its fourth stage. Winners of this stage, held in conjunction with the AFA Warfare Symposium, will advance to the fifth and final stage, which will be held at the CyberFutures Conference in Maryland in early April. Stay tuned to www.capmembers.com/cyber for news and program updates. POC: Steven Trupp – strupp@capnhq.gov.

Cadets Take-Off: This draft publication is being designed to further motivate prospective cadets to join CAP, while also getting them started with training for Achievement 1. *Cadets Take-Off* will serve as a second-tier recruiting resource, bridging the gap between the "Learn, Lead & Serve" one-page recruiting brochure intended to get prospects to their first CAP meeting, and the new cadet kit, given to cadets shortly after they join CAP. Squadrons that use the Cadet Great Start program will find *Cadets Take-Off* especially helpful. To review this draft publication, please see the entry in the Cadet Blog at www.capmembers.com/cadet_programs. We welcome your feedback! POC: Curt LaFond – clafond@capnhq.gov.

Personnel and Member Actions POC: Susie Parker/NHQ Chief of Personnel and Member Actions – sparker@capnhq.gov.

National Level Annual Awards: All national-level annual award nominations are due to the regions by 15 February, with region nominations due to National Headquarters by 15 March. One new award, DDR Member of the Year, was established at the September 2010 National Board meeting to recognize the senior or cadet member who has contributed the most in unique and innovative ways to CAP's Drug Demand Reduction program. Nominations should include a nominating statement that documents the nominee's innovative actions, results and impact on education, training and community outreach to achieve CAP's stated DDR mission, goals and vision for a drug-free world. Check CAPR 39-3 or the appropriate functional regulations for complete nomination requirements and details on other awards. Don't let your nominee be disqualified by a missed deadline. POCs: Susie Parker – sparker@capnhq.gov and Frances Sides – fsides@capnhq.gov.

eLearning POC: Don Hines/NHQ Chief of eLearning – dhines@capnhq.gov.

CAP Officer Basic Course (COBC) on Blackboard Learning Management System: Those who complete the COBC can advance through Level II of the Senior Member Professional Development program. More than 2,000 members have completed the course since it was launched in January 2010. Enrollments during the early months of this program have slowed, and the wait time is now less than two weeks, with sections of the course starting on the 1st and 15th of each month. Those in Level II training who want to enroll in the course can simply e-mail their names, CAP IDs and e-mail addresses to officerbasiccourse@capnhq.gov, which will generate a response within two days with the anticipated course start date. POC: Ron Olienyk – rolienyk@capnhq.gov.

CAP Knowledgebase: In 2010, CAP Knowledgebase experienced more than 1.27 million hits, more than 320,000 searches and more than a half million separate sessions (a 45 percent increase over 2009). Since its inception in 2002, Knowledgebase has been available 24/7, 365 days per year, and activity has grown from an average of 240 sessions per day to an average of more than 1,375 sessions per day, an increase exceeding 500 percent. CAP Knowledgebase currently has 1,875 active answers, which are reviewed and updated on a six-month schedule or even more frequently as regulations and policies change. Thanks to inputs from members, broken links or links to outdated material are repaired on a timely basis. CAP members are commended for establishing CAP Knowledgebase as a reliable resource and for submitting questions for answers not currently included. If you want to know more about how to do your CAP job, Knowledgebase also has a quality job performance skills capability.

LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE

Director: Gary Schneider – gschneider@capnhq.gov

Team Leader: Maj Christopher Klein – cklein@cap.gov

Vehicle Fleet: The annual vehicle buy allowed the purchase of 37 new vehicles, and, for the second year in a row, the Air Force provided end-of-year funding to purchase an additional 62 vehicles, bringing the total buy for the year to 99. Last year's buy replaced a large number of vehicles identified as too costly to repair in addition to a number of vehicles from the 100-oldest list, thereby reducing the average vehicle age to 10 years and improving the overall safety and reliability of the CAP vehicle fleet. For the first time, we have seen two consecutive quarters with 100 percent vehicle utilization. These results can be credited directly to the efforts of Maj Chris Klein. POC: Duane Schultz – dschultz@capnhq.gov.

Aircraft Fleet Modernization: Twelve Cessna 182T aircraft, equipped with Garmin G1000 equipment, were added to the aircraft inventory in November and December. Three of these were turbo 182Ts assigned to the Rocky Mountain, Southwest and Pacific regions. The refurbishment of some of our older aircraft continues. While initially we focused on Cessna 172 aircraft, last year we also completed one Cessna 182 and have two Cessna 206s in the program, bringing the total number of aircraft in our refurb program to 11. During the recent Board of Governors meeting at Maxwell AFB, Board members were given an up-close look at a refurbished aircraft, which was on station en route to Texas.

Aircraft Maintenance: Continuing to pursue the consolidated maintenance transition in earnest, we have all but one wing in the program, bringing the total number of aircraft included to 540. POC: Dan Daniel – ddaniel@capnhq.gov.

Web-Based Property and Accountability Management System: ORMS — CAP's program for tracking acquisition, control, management and disposal of CAP property — was successfully deployed in January 2010, with the first inventory using ORMS completed in January-March. Thanks to the ORMS emphasis on property control and management, survey audit and compliance inspection results have, for the most part, been good and show improvement since ORMS was implemented. The staff at wings, National Headquarters and CAP-USAF logistics continue to work reports of survey-pending action and retirements. The next property inventory cycle began 1 January 2011. New detailed guidance has been provided to communications and logistics officers to help with this year's inventory. POC: K.C. Jones – kjones@capnhq.gov.

PLANS AND REQUIREMENTS DIRECTORATE

Director: Johnny Dean – jdean@capnhq.gov

Senior Advisor/Support: Col Joseph “Skip” Guimond – jguimondjr@verizon.net

Member E-mail Addresses on eServices: It is very important to keep your e-mail address updated in eServices. To check or update your information, go to the "Review/Edit My Info" link at the top of the eServices homepage.

Modifications to CAPWATCH Download Table:

- The column size on “veh_type” of the Vehicles table has been corrected from 4 to 50. The column data type on “AuthByCAPID” of the MbrTasks table has been changed from integer to varchar (50).
- The length of the UsrID field in the AcfGrp table has been changed to match other fields of the same name in the download.
- The primary key notation has been eliminated on the CAPFit table. The data comes from a historic table, and there is no primary key on our historic tables.
- The Blood Type has been removed from the Member Characteristics table.

Cadet Online Testing Guide: Special thanks go to CAP member Dan Routier of NCR-MO-018 for creating the Cadet Online Testing Guide. For more information, see <https://www.capnhq.gov/news/Documents/Getting%20Started%20Cadet%20Testing.pdf>.

PUBLIC AWARENESS & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Director: John Salvador – jsalvador@capnhq.gov

Senior Advisor/Support: Col Joseph “Skip” Guimond – jguimondjr@verizon.net

Membership ID and Photo Card Information: The new CAP membership card policy is in effect per the CAP National Executive Committee. Senior members (including Fifty-Year and Life members) and cadets over the age of 18 will receive a new photo membership card at no cost when they join CAP or renew their membership. Senior members who do not have a photo on file will receive the new photo membership card with the words “Picture not available” printed on the card where the photo would have been. As of 1 January 2012, per the NEC, it will be mandatory for all CAP senior members to have a photo on file in eServices. Cadets over 18 without a photo will have their names printed on the cards in the same manner as non-photo membership cards, as their photo is optional. Members will be charged \$3.00 each for duplicate or replacement cards, which can be ordered online via eServices or by calling Membership Services toll-free at 1-877-227-9142 Ext 202. New membership cards will no longer be

distributed automatically when members are promoted or transfer units. The new gray CAP membership cards replace both the old blue CAP ID cards and the optional \$4 photo ID cards, both of which are no longer available. POC: Jim Tynan – jtynan@capnhq.gov .

Wreaths Across America: Wreaths Across America, CAP's largest community service project, continues to grow with CAP's help. In 2010, remembrance wreaths for veterans were placed at more than 500 cemeteries and memorials nationwide, as well as at 26 locations abroad. The total number of wreaths placed nationwide by various organizations went from 161,000 in 2009 to 219,000 in 2010. Thanks to early planning spearheaded by Col Dan Leclair, Maine Wing commander, several new sites were added to CAP's involvement with Wreaths Across America in 2010. Extensive coverage of CAP's participation in 2010 is provided in the current issue of *Civil Air Patrol Volunteer*, which can be accessed at <http://cap.imirus.com/Mpowered/book/vcap11/i1/p1>.

POCs: Julie DeBardelaben – jdebardelaben@capnhq.gov and Col Rick Moseley, National WAA Coordinator - r.moseley2@verizon.net.

Theme and logo contest: We invite you to submit your idea for a theme and/or a logo for the 2011 National Conference that will be held in Louisville, Ky., Aug. 17-20, as well as for the 70th anniversary of CAP's founding. The challenge is to tie your National Conference theme/logo to CAP's 70th anniversary, which will also be celebrated in 2011. Please e-mail your entry to paa@capnhq.gov no later than Feb. 15, 2011. Please type "theme/logo" in the subject line of the e-mail and include your full name, rank, CAPID, full mailing address and e-mail address in your entry. This contest is open to all CAP members. Members with winning entries will receive a free registration to the 2011 National Conference. The 2011 theme and logo will be announced on the VolunteerNow website by April 15.

Civil Air Patrol launches rejuvenated GoCivilAirPatrol.com site for prospective members: In our continuing effort to inform the general public about Civil Air Patrol and increase our membership to support our emergency services, cadet, and aerospace education missions, CAP launched a revitalized GoCivilAirPatrol.com Web site on 1 January. Our goal was to simplify the site's navigation and present tailored and compelling material about how CAP serves its communities and the nation. CAP also updated the materials available through the site, and sped up the site access time. The "new" site incorporates many suggestions sent in by members concerning the previous site and we'd like to say thank you to all those who helped make this change a reality! This is a dynamic site and it will continue to change based on the organization's recruiting needs and the suggestions and ideas we receive from the field so please keep that feedback coming in. CAP members can still access the members' site at www.capmembers.com. POC: Holley Dunigan – hdunigan@capnhq.com or 877-227-9142, ext. 236.

High-Tech Volunteer Magazine: Check out the new online version of "Volunteer" magazine. Powered by Imirus software, viewers can choose to directly access a particular article and can "turn" the pages of the magazine by clicking on the page's lower right corner. Links are live and selected stories have imbedded video. Click here to go directly to the current issue: <http://cap.imirus.com/Mpowered/book/vcap11/i1/p1>. POC: Steve Cox – scox@capnhq.gov.

Member Hotel Discount: CAP members and families can now enjoy 20 percent off all stays at any Red Roof Inn. For online reservations, please use this website: <http://redroof.com/partners/civil-air-patrol>. For phone reservations, please use discount code: VP # 604593. All member benefits can be found at www.capmembers.com/benefits. POC: Marie Vogt – mvogt@capnhq.gov.

PA Summit: A PA Summit, led by CAP National Commander Maj Gen Amy S. Courter, was held in October. The two-day event included a review of CAP's long term goals and objectives; analysis of key stakeholders, media sources and themes; and a review of CAP's national marketing plan. This information was used by participants to develop a comprehensive public relations plan with action strategies and timelines for implementation. POCs: Julie DeBardelaben – jdebardelaben@capnhq.gov and Maj Al Pabon, National PA Advisor - al.pabon@gmail.com.

National PAO of the Year Award: A memo was recently issued to region and wing PAOs outlining standards the National PA Team will use in recommending a member for this award to the National Promotions and Awards Team and, ultimately, to the National Commander for approval. This memo is available for review at the PA Essentials Blog, http://www.capmembers.com/cap_national_hq/public_affairs/pa_essentials.cfm/criteria_to_consider_for_national_pao_of_the_year_nominations?show=entry&blogID=291.
POCs: Maj. Al Pabon – al.pabon@mncap.org and Julie DeBardelaben – jdebardelaben@capnhq.gov.

PAO Training Event: A PAO Basic Training Course will be offered at the Wisconsin Wing Professional Development Weekend at Volk Field from 18-20 February 2011. The training will be conducted by the National PA Team Leader and the Wisconsin Wing Public Affairs Team. All are welcome; pre-registration is required. POC: Maj. Al Pabon – al.pabon@mncap.org.

VolunteerNow Hits: Since the site went live in late August 2009, it has accumulated more than 565,000 visitors and continues to trend upward. Over the past year, it has averaged 40,295 visitors per month, while over the past six months it is averaging 43,862 visits. In recent months, there has also been an upward trend in the number of 'direct' visits, meaning the number of exclusive users who access the website 'directly' through www.capvolunteernow.com POC: Steve Cox – scox@capnhq.gov.
