



Flying High

The Official Newsletter of the
120th Composite Squadron, Arkansas Wing,
Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force Auxiliary



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Cadet Receives the John F. Curry Award

By 2d Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP

JONESBORO, AR – Cadet Airman Jackson O. Smothermon of received the Gen. John F. Curry Award.

The Curry Achievement is named after the first National Commander of Civil Air Patrol, and carries with it promotion to cadet airmen, the first enlisted grade that can be earned by a cadet.

Smothermon joined CAP because his father is a senior member. He said, “My father gave me the confidence to join and belong.” He stated his father’s influence was for him to serve his country. “I also joined to make new friends and learn more.”

(Continued on Page 7)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Cadet Receives Curry Award
- 2 Cadets Attend Training on Aerodynamics
- 3 Cadets Attend Training on Plane Safety
- 4 Members Ready Plane for Next Mission
- 5 Cadet Proud to be became Member of CAP
- 6 CAP Inspector General attends Luncheon



Lt. Col. Clark placing insignia onto Cadet Smothermon's uniform as his father looks on.

Photo: 2nd Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP

Cadets Attend Training on Plane Aerodynamics

By 2d Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP



At the March 13 meeting, **Above (R-L)** Cadet Airman Basic, Nathan Bell, Cadet, Tech Sgt. Jimmy White, Cadet, Staff Sgt. Ben Oliver, Cadet, Airman Jackson O. Smothermon and **(Back Row)** 1st Lt. Cary Smothermon **(Left Back Row)** and Cadet, Conner De Long **(Right Back Row)**, attend classroom training conducted by Deputy Commander for Cadets, Lt. Col Lee Clark on the aerodynamics of how a plane flies.

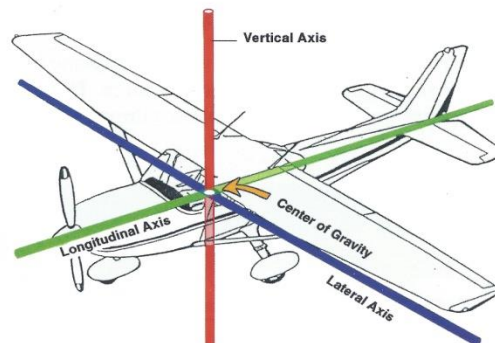
(Photo: 2d Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP)

THE THREE AXES

Imagine that you are an aeronautical engineer and one of your jobs is to suspend an airplane from a cable so that it will hang perfectly level in all directions. For the sake of illustration, let's say that you are going to do this experiment in a large building area, like a hangar or a gymnasium. Somewhere up high, you would hook the cable to one of the ceiling supports. The other end would be hooked to the airplane at precisely the right point where it would hang level. This cable line would be known as its **vertical axis** (the red line).

Now, visualize a line that goes from wingtip to wingtip and passes through the center where the cable suspends the airplane. This side to side line is called the **lateral axis** (the purple line). Imagine yet another line that passes through the nose and ends at the tail. This line also passes through the cable that is suspending the airplane. This nose to tail line is known as the **longitudinal axis** (the green line).

If you hooked your cable at the point where all three of these "axes" come together, that point is called the **center of gravity** (denoted by gold arrow). Refer to these axes, as we will continue to discuss them. (See associated **Activity One** at the end of the chapter.)



The Three Axes of an Airplane

Cadets Get CAP Training on Plane Safety

By 2d Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP



Photo: 2d Lt. Lightfoot, CAP

At the March 26 meeting, **Above (R)** Deputy Commander for Cadets, Lt. Col Lee Clark instructs Cadet Airman Basic, Nathan Bell, Cadet, Tech Sgt. Jimmy White, Cadet, Staff Sgt. Ben Oliver, Cadet, Airman Jackson O. Smothermon and Cadet, Conner De Long attend training regarding the inspection pre-flight and safety of the plane. Cadets are taught how to check the plane for defaults that may happen before and after a flight.

Cadet Commander explains the correct procedures of conducting a pre-flight inspection of the plane. He explains how the parts of the plane operate the plane in the air. He also explains how the look of the plane should appear. He explains the correct procedure to make sure the plane is cleaned and maintained for a flight mission.

CAP Members Ready Plane for Next Mission

By: 2d Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP



Photos: 2d Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP

(Upper L) Deputy Commander for Cadets, Lt. Col Lee Clark instructs Cadet, Tech Sgt. Jimmy White on the correct procedure on how to clean the front of the plane. **(Upper R)** IG Inspector, Lt. Col John Brandon converses with Cadet Commander regarding the next mission he may fly. **(Lower L)** Cadet Commander Lt. Col Lee Clark shows Cadet White the correct procedure to make sure all dirt is removed from the tail section of the plane. **(Lower R)** IG Inspector Brandon reviews the final touches the Cadet Commander and Cadet have on the plane.

Cadet Proud to be a Member of CAP and What it Means

By: 2d Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP

(Photo: 2d Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP)



Cadet Jim White has been a Cadet member with the 120th Composite Squadron for over a year. When he first heard of CAP from a friend whom lived in California that prompted him to check out CAP in Jonesboro. Cadet White stated he has always been interested in the military as a career of which he has not decided whether he wants to join the U.S. Army or the U.S. Air Force, but he is sure it would probably be the Air Force. Cadet White stated he has also always wanted to become an Astronaut as a dream. He is very interested in the military and aerospace aspect.

Cadet White would like to gain his leadership ability with new cadets. He enjoys watching the new cadets and gets involved in all aspects of CAP and he realizes cadets appreciate being members of CAP. He plans on working towards the SPATZ Award. This would be a big achievement as it would help towards the Military Academy. One his “goals” he states is to help in the recruitment of new cadets into the squadron. He would enjoy helping cadets improve and get the overall experience CAP has to offer. Cadet White stated, “Once I graduate high school, I would definitely go into the military to help my career for the future of becoming a police officer once I return home.” “Until such time, I plan to stay in CAP and make my contribution.”

Cadet White stated that he and Cadet Ben Oliver, Staff Sgt. would enjoy starting a recruiting campaign. Cadet stated with his leadership as a platoon leader in Junior ROTC, gives him the leadership and skills in CAP that helps in his everyday life.

CAP Inspector General (IG) attends Luncheon



*Photos by Fred Hargett,
Jonesboro Exchange Club*



CAP Inspector General (IG) attends Luncheon

Author: 2 Lt. Robert Lightfoot, CAP Public Affairs Officer

JONESBORO, Ark. Former FBI agent and the current Arkansas Wing Inspector General of Civil Air Patrol in Arkansas, gave a presentation to the Jonesboro Exchange Club Friday, March 25, 2018.

Lt Col John Brandon covered the History of Civil Air Patrol, CAP missions, and a general description of what CAP is about. He covered the aspects of his job and informed the public the mission of his office and how it supports CAP.

The meeting was attended by about 25 members and guests. Lt Col Brandon explained the origins of Civil Air Patrol and it had began in the late 1930's when several aviation enthusiasts began to share a common envision about mobilizing civilian aviators for national defense because of concerns over the actions of Germany, and the worry that the United States could become meshed in a war in Europe. Two organizations were organized and incorporated that led the way to the Civil Air Patrol being formed. The Civil Air Reserve (CAR) was formed in 1938, and other civilian aviation units were forming nationwide training for homeland defense.

In 1941, the Civilian Air Defense Services (CADS) was another Civilian aviation organization that was formed, but the Civil Air Patrol was approved by the Commerce Department, Navy, and War Department in November, 1941, and the two above organizations merged along with other interested aviation minded persons, and the Civil Air Patrol became an organization on December 1, 1941, just 6 days before Pearl harbor was attacked. Brandon did not go into great detail of the CAP during WW II because they have been discussed in other presentations about the activities of CAP when patrolling the east coast and gulf waters looking for submarines, and actually credited with the sinking of two submarines.

Brandon mentioned that CAP was transferred from the Office of Civilian Defense to the Department of War in 1943. He informed the group that the U. S. Air Force became a separate military force in 1947, and the following year, CAP was established as the official auxiliary of the Air Force. Next, he informed the group that the CAP is a 501 (c) 3 corporation as a civilian auxiliary of the Air Force, and that the Air Force furnishes the airplanes and other vehicles, etc for CAP use. He explained the 3 primary missions of CAP is about 3 programs: (Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services.) He advised that CAP has 52 wings, one located in each state and 1 each in Puerto Rico and Washington, DC.

He discussed some of the important missions that CAP has flown for FEMA including disaster relief missions after hurricane Katrina, Rita, & Harvey, and furnished photographs that were passed around the room that he took while flying missions in that effort. He passed around photographs regarding modern day glass cockpits that are becoming more and more common in CAP aircraft, and other general information regarding Civil Air Patrol.

With regards to Cadet Programs, he stressed the importance and life's lessons learned in that program, and how helpful the cadet experience can become to any youth. He spoke on the many educational opportunities offered to cadets, and how becoming a CAP cadet can lead to military service academy appointments, as well as other advantages should the member join the military. There were several questions which he was able to answer. Attendees asked about the Arkansas Wing, and he informed them the location of our squadrons and the missions that we fly around this area including ELT searches, searches for downed aircraft, looking for missing people and disaster relief after tornadoes, etc. He explained how we get involved in various missions, and he stressed that CAP volunteers have to be dedicated and committed to doing the job right and that we are always looking for members who share our goals. The questioning by the group reflected their interest.

Cadet Receives the John F. Curry Award

(Continued from Page 1)

Smothermon has hopes that as time goes by, he will have the capability to learn how to fly. "One of my ambitions is to join the Air Force to serve my country, learn to fly and protect others." He feels very proud of himself for obtaining the rank of Cadet Airman and feels as he gains more knowledge, it will not only make him proud, but his parents as well. "To me, it is always about the planes." "I feel at home with other cadets as they have made me feel welcome and have been very kind to me." "Cadet White has been a great inspiration and as long as others make me feel welcome, I will always attend meetings." Smothermon hopes that his contribution to the squadron will be a good one and whatever he can do to help, he hopes will be welcome.

He stated that in the time he has been a cadet, he feels he could help inspire other persons to join CAP and become productive members. "I feel that if others join CAP, we all could keep our country safe and proud as I am."

1st Lt. Cary Smothermon says of his son: "I am very proud of Jackson for pursuing his desire to join CAP and earning his first award, the Curry award. He has always been interested in flying and CAP is something that he and I can do together. Jackson has learned several things such as respect, leadership, mentoring, goal setting, and planning, just to name a few. He is very interested in growing his knowledge about CAP and the ways of the Air Force. I think CAP is a great experience and a must for preparing and teaching him for a career in the Air Force."

NOTICE!

FLYING HIGH is published monthly, on the third of the month. Deadlines for submissions for the publication are due by the 20th of each month. PLEASE – try to be on time.

TEXT may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred), or as a Word document attached to an email (a text file, or generated on a word processor, saved to **RFT** format. **IMAGES** must be in JPEG format; un-retouched, un-cropped and at least 1200 by 900 pixels. **CREDITS** in all cases, please supply full name, grade and unit assignment of the article's author; the photographer's name and anybody mentioned in the article. Thank you. **Forward submissions to the Editor at: lightfootrobert.cap@gmail.com**