



## Civil Air Patrol - United States Air Force Auxiliary

*Semper Vigilans - Always Vigilant*

# Bowie Composite Squadron News



**MER-MD-052**

**May/June 2007  
Volume 1, Issue 1**

## Upcoming Events

- **May 18, 19 & 20**  
Joint Services  
Open House  
Andrews AFB
- **May 26**  
Bowie Memorial  
Day Parade
- **June 2**  
Bowiefest  
Allen Pond Park
- **July 7-15**  
Hawk Mountain  
Ranger School  
Kempton, Pennsylvania
- **July 28 - Aug. 5**  
Tri-Wing  
Encampment  
Camp Frettered, MD  
(Apps. Due June 30)

## Squadron Media Coverage; Local and National

Our squadron is getting some well deserved "face time" in the media. Bowie members have made it into print three times in the last several months.

In late March, our commander 1st Lt. Jeff Welch and C/1st Lt. Erich Welch appeared in a picture and short story published in the Bowie Blade.

The Story: Bowie Composite Squadron members traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with Congressional lawmakers on behalf of CAP. They were joined by Civil Air Patrol officers and cadets from across the country.



**1st Lt. Jeff Welch and C/1st Lt. Erich Welch featured in Bowie Blade Newspaper in March for trip to Capitol Hill.**

In April, C/Capt. EJ Vazquez was featured in two different publications, the Bowie Blade and CAP News Online. The Stories: Both highlighted the fact that Vazquez, an Air National Guard member, received CAP's

Commanders Commendation award for a search and rescue mission in which he participated in April of 2006.



**C/Capt. EJ Vazquez featured in Bowie Blade and CAP News Online for his Commanders Commendation Award.**

## Middle East Region Conference Experience by 1st. James Holderbaum

First Lt. James Holderbaum is back from a recent trip to the Middle East Region Conference. The event was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Richmond, Va.

He offers the following account of the experience:

This was a three day event consisting of a Drug Demand Reduction seminar, guest speakers, CAP Historical displays, Cadet Activities, other "break-out sessions" and a member banquet and dance.

Most arrived Friday evening for the DDR "rodeo reception" which I did not attend. However, I was told that it was fun and very entertaining. There were lots of cowboy hats and country music.

Saturday began at 0730 with breakfast and a general session which included speakers from the head table. Most notable were the CAP National Commander Major General Antonio Pineda, **Continued on page 4**

## PAO's Corner

### Calling all writers and photographers

All squadron members are encouraged to submit stories to the newsletter.

In addition, if you take a picture of a CAP event and you think it would make a great addition to the newsletter, send it in.

Email all materials to:

[jholley.bowiecap@gmail.com](mailto:jholley.bowiecap@gmail.com)

In the subject line, please type, "Newsletter Submission."



## New "Sniffer" Equipment Assembled and Ready to Go

Ground Team Members should find it easier to locate beacons and transmitters during search and rescue missions with the squadron's new "Sniffer."



**VK3YNG Sniffer**

The VK3YNG Foxhunt Sniffer, as it is officially called, was designed by a ham radio operator in Australia. Bowie

Squadron member and fellow ham radio operator, 2nd Lt. Nicholas Yokanovich, assembled the device into the final usable product using an assortment of pvc pipes, pieces of metal measuring tape, wires, Velcro strips and tape.

The sniffer is expected to offer a more precise reading

of the location in which a signal is emanating.

Yokanovich says the equipment our squadron is currently using is very good at identifying a signal from longer distances. However, he says this new device will do a better job of narrowing down the signal's direction more effectively within a one mile radius of the beacon.

In addition, users no longer need to use their bod-



**1st Lt. Jeff Welch displays new "Sniffer" to Squadron members.**

ies to shield the device from picking up false readings from behind. A built-in gadget takes care of that.



## Bowie Squadron - Meet A Cadet —Abigail L. Williams—



**Squadron Positions:**

Cadet Commander

**Rank:** Cadet 2nd Lieutenant

**Length of membership:** 4 years

**Age:** 16

**Grade:** 10th

**High School:** (Home Schooled)



**Why did you join CAP?**

Because I was interested in flying and CAP gives a young adult that chance. My father had also been part of CAP and he told me it was a wonderful organization. So, I joined.

**How do you feel about being cadet commander and what do you hope to achieve?**

It is a wonderful experience. It is a huge job being in charge, but it is a great exercise in leadership.

As to what I would like to achieve, I would like to have two flights of cadets. I would also like to see the cadets attend more special

activities. It would be great if we could send a team to the Cadet Competition and the Drill Competition. I want all the cadets to get the most fulfilling experience in CAP they can get.

**For cadets who aspire to be in your position some day, what do you think it takes to be a good cadet commander?**

Good time management. There are numerous tasks a cadet commander must do. I am working on some CAP task almost every day of the week! Also, the cadet commander must continue his/her progression in the program and keep their grades up at school. This is not including responsibilities at

home.

It's a juggling act that one must learn in order to do well in this position. Leadership skills are also a must. There are several cadets that the cadet commander is in charge of. He/she needs to effectively lead them in order to complete different tasks.

One leadership skill is "leading by example." The cadet commander is the person that all the cadets look up to. The cadet commander must be a good example for the others to follow.

These are just two traits of many that a cadet commander must have.

**When you graduate from high school/college, what do you want to be? Why?**

A lawyer in the Air Force. Civil Air Patrol has taught me the ways of the military. As a result, I would like to go into the Air Force and be a lawyer.

Why a lawyer? Because I like the job that a lawyer does. Law in general interests me.

**How do you think CAP will contribute to your future success?**

Civil Air Patrol is a road for young people that leads to the military. Civil Air Patrol trains you for it and that information helps you lead a successful military career.

**What is your favorite color?**

Blue, for two reasons. One, water in a pool looks like it's blue. I am on the swim team in Chestertown with my brothers. Swimming is my favorite sport.

Two, it is the color of jeans, which is my favorite article of clothing.

**If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?**

The ability to fly. Then I could experience the wonders of flight as a bird does. I would not have to be in an airplane to experience the sensations of flight.

**Is there anything else you would like to add about yourself?**

I like to read "manga" (Japanese comics); I am a huge Star Wars fan; I like to watch cooking shows (especially Good Eats with Alton Brown); I also like to watch CSI, 24, House, Bones, and American Idol (all of these shows, except for CSI, are on FOX).

# Promotions and Awards

January through April 2007



**Harrison Redd** promoted to.....Cadet Airman



**Edward McEnderfer** promoted to.....Cadet Airman First Class



**John H. Brennen** promoted to.....Cadet Master Sergeant



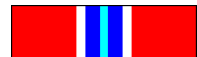
**Sarah E. Thomson** promoted to.....Cadet Master Sergeant



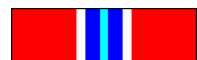
**Joshua Williams** promoted to.....Cadet Chief Master Sergeant



**Erich M. Welch** promoted to.....Cadet First Lieutenant



**2nd Lt. Bert Crevier**.....General Chuck Yeager Award



**1st Lt. James Williams**.....General Chuck Yeager Award

## Flying Free in CAP by C/1st Lt. Erich Welch

When I attended my first Civil Air Patrol meeting I was expecting to be able to fly through the program because it has "air" in the name. What I was not expecting was for it to be free.

All cadets in the Civil Air Patrol can get 10 free one-hour flights called Orientation Flights or "O-Flights."

Five of those are in gliders and the other five are in powered aircraft. Maryland wing has thirteen planes available for O-Flights.

Before I went up for my first flight the pilot, Maj. Timothy Hahn, explained most of the aerodynamics of the Cessna 182. After I assisted him with the pre-flight inspection, we took off. I was able to sit in the front right

seat with the controls at my reach.

After we were clear of the secured airspace, he told me "you may take control of the aircraft now." Throughout the flight, he showed me points of



**View from inside the cockpit of a typical Cessna 182.**

interest on the ground below and taught me basic maneuvers such as climbing, diving, and turning. It was the ride of my life. Since then, I have been on three more flights in 172s and

182s in which I have experienced stalls, tight spirals, landings, takeoffs and more.

On March 21st, the Bowie squadron held an O-Flight day at Easton airport. After one of the five flights, I had the chance to interview Cadet Airman Basic Aimee Welch to get her thoughts on the flights.

She said, "I think it's pretty amazing that an organization allows kids as young as twelve years old to fly an aircraft when they can't even drive a car." She also stated that, "Civil Air Patrol has a lot of trust in their cadets and I appreciate that."

In my experience, Civil Air Patrol has been fun, rewarding, exciting and educational. In the next year, I will have the opportunity to assist in running the Glider Academy and start flying lessons to get my pilot's license.

## Question of the Month



### During World War II, CAP pilots were credited with sinking two \_\_\_\_\_.

**The first three squadron members to send in the correct answer win prizes.**

**Email answer to: [jholley.bowiecap@gmail.com](mailto:jholley.bowiecap@gmail.com)**

**"...climbing, diving, and turning. It was the ride of my life."**

**-C/1st Lt. Erich Welch**



## Bowie Squadron - Meet An Officer —Edward M. Vazquez—



**Squadron Positions:**

- Homeland Security Officer
- Asst. Emergency Services Officer
- Ground Team Leader
- Rank:** 1st Lieutenant
- Length of membership:** 4 years



**Why did you join CAP?**

To spend time with my son EJ doing something that he enjoys.

**What do you do in your squadron positions?**

Homeland Security Officer - Keep the squadron aware of Homeland Security issues and CAP related policies. In the future once the CAP HS mission is established I will plan and organize training and en-

sure the squadrons compliance with HS regulations.

Assistant Emergency Services Officer- Assist the Emergency Services Officer with training, planning, and managing the squadrons emergency services functions.

**How does your work in these positions help our Squadron/CAP?**

My work in both positions ensures the squadron is in compliance, trained, and ready to execute missions for America.

**What is your job outside of CAP?**

I am an active duty member of the U. S. Coast Guard with 24 years of service. My job is that of a Logistics Manager of which I hold a Level One certification in life Cycle Logistics through the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard.

I am also a Contracting Officer Technical Representative. Prior to this position I spent 20 years in the operational side of the Coast Guard. My Operational time consisted of two

small boat stations, Icebreaker, Buoy Tender, Cable Boat, Aids to Navigation Team and a Medium Endurance Cutter. This is my first "Cubicle Commando" job.

**What are your hobbies ?**

Reading, bike riding, running and horse back riding.

**What is your favorite color?**

Red

**If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?**

I am happy being a mere mortal. I leave the Super Hero stuff to "Lefty" and "Lurch".



**MER CONFERENCE**

*Continued from Page 1*

CAP National Vice Commander Brigadier General Amy Courter and the Senior AF Advisor for CAP NHQ, Colonel Russell Hodgkins.

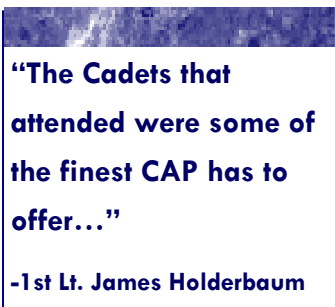
Also present were members of the Middle East Region staff and other dignitaries along with commanders or representatives from all of the CAP Regions throughout the United States.

The cadets participated in the MER's annual Speak-Off and Quiz Bowl. Other CAP Cadets at the conference made up the Honor Guard and the Color Guard.

The Cadets that attended were some of the finest CAP has to offer and I think they represented the MER very

well.

In addition to the cadet activities, there were a couple of informative lectures . They mainly included CAP-USAF related briefings, an



**"The Cadets that attended were some of the finest CAP has to offer..."**

**-1st Lt. James Holderbaum**

aircrew lecture and information about using the new MER website.

The day ended with the cadet and senior member banquet and dance. Music was provided by the CAP

Maryland Wing Band.

Cadets were recognized for their accomplishments during the day's activities. We even got to take part in the marriage proposal of two former Cadets.

The conference ended fairly early Sunday with MER staff meetings and committee meetings. Overall it was a fun and informative weekend.

For those looking for a really great time, the 2007 CAP National Board and Annual Conference is going to be held:

**Nat'l Conference  
August 8th to 12th  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**BOWIE COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

**Commander**

1st Lt. Jeff Welch

**Deputy Commander, Seniors**  
Capt. Michael Allen

**Deputy Commander, Cadets**  
Maj. Harry Everest

**Newsletter Editor/PAO**  
SM Julie Holley

**SQUADRON CONTACT INFORMATION**

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PHONE: (301) 805-8200

MEETING SCHEDULE  
THURSDAYS, 7-9 PM

LOCATION  
BOWIE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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BOWIE, MD 20715