



Carroll cadets complete aircraft ground handling course

Carroll Composite Squadron cadets practice moving the squadron aircraft on the flight line at Carroll County Regional Airport as Capt. David Alexander keeps a watchful eye. (Photo credit: Maj. Brenda Reed, CAP)

TWO PART SAFETY PROGRAM CONDUCTED AT CARROLL COUNTY AIRPORT

By **Maj. Brenda A. Reed, CAP** -- Commander, Carroll Composite Squadron

7/21/2010—**WESTMINSTER, MD**—Cadets from Civil Air Patrol Maryland Wing's Carroll Composite Squadron recently completed a two-part safety series in proper ground handling of an aircraft held at the Carroll County Regional Airport in Westminster, Md. The course, led by 1st Lt. Joe Manning, squadron safety officer, provided a foundation for cadets to continue their training in flight line marshalling and was part of the monthly safety training courses Manning provides to all squadron members.

During part one of the training, all members viewed the Civil Air Patrol's aircraft ground handling video followed by a discussion led by Manning and the pilots. Topics such as flight line safety, precautions to avoid accidents with other aircraft or buildings, and results and consequences for carelessness when moving an aircraft on the ground were discussed.

Part two was a practical portion with cadets physically moving the squadron's aircraft on the flight line at the airport. This part, led by Capt. Dave Alexander, Carroll's aircraft maintenance officer and former US Air Force pilot, gave a hands on approach for the cadets to build on the video and discussion.

"My hope is to avoid costly accidents as our members continue in their training to become flight line marshallers," said Maj. Brenda Reed, squadron commander. "Each year we assist the airport with fly-ins and this training will prove to be a valuable tool at these events and during CAP missions."

Cadets rotated through different positions in the flight line crew, learning what they could and could not touch while pushing or pulling the plane. Alexander showed the cadets how to use the tow bar at the front of the plane and what to call out as the plane was in motion.

The Carroll Composite Squadron is located in Westminster, Md., and meets weekly on Tuesday nights at the Westminster Armory on Hahn Road. The squadron's website is www.carrollcap.org.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 72 lives in fiscal year 2009. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 68 years.

More than 1,500 members of CAP serve in Maryland. Last fiscal year wing members flew 42 search and rescue missions and were credited with 31 finds. For more information, visit www.mdcap.org.