

## Civil Air Patrol, Maryland Wing



### Carroll members tasked and trained at squadron SAREX

**03/13/2011** – WESTMINSTER , MD – Carroll Composite Squadron designated two (2) Saturdays, March 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, as task and sortie based training days for over 30 cadets and officers wanting to get involved in Civil Air Patrol's (CAP's) Emergency Services (ES) mission. With a focus on Urban Direction Finding (UDF) and Mission Base Training, the Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX's) were organized for the squadron by Carroll's ES officer, First Lieutenant Cole Brown, who coordinated classroom instruction at the Carroll Non-Profit Center, with field and aircrew elements taking place at the Westminster and Clearview airports, as well as other points around the county and state.

During Day 1, trainees, both youth (cadet) and adult (officer), were first assessed for their ES Level and assembled into training groups accordingly. An overview of CAP's ES Program followed, and trainees learned their options for supporting a mission as part of a Mission Base Staff, Ground Team (GT), Flight Line, or Air Crew.

A tutorial was given on meeting pre-requisites for ES training, and members were introduced to CAP's e-services, where they were guided through on-line tools for recording tasks, skills, qualifications, and currencies. This included obtaining their 101 cards (cards that verify their most current training status or level of qualification), uploading their photos, and printing Specialty Qualification Training Records for UDF, Mission Staff Assistant (MSA), and Mission Radio Operator (MRO) qualifications. CAP's Introduction to Safety Course, as well as pre-requisite ES tests were made available to those who needed them. Topics such as keeping a log, preparing UDF individual equipment, inspecting a vehicle, locating a point on a map using the CAP grid system, and conducting a phone alert were all a part of the morning schedule.

Members learned about Carroll Squadron's new ES alerting system, implemented by Senior Member Tyler Czarnowsky, which will use SMS text messaging through a cell phone list service created by Captain Tim Bowen, to rapidly alert all qualified ES personnel of an incident. This will allow the efficient assembly of a ground team and aircrew to serve their local, Group, and Wing communities.

Sortie based training was conducted in the afternoon for members who completed their familiarization, preparatory, and advanced training. The squadron's airplane, van, and Mission Base were integrated into functional operations. Ramp checks were conducted, ground signals and a training beacon were placed at strategic locations within Carroll County, and qualified Mission Base, GT and Aircrew personnel communicated and coordinated the finds. Members holding trainee status participated through observation at Mission Base.

While new trainees embarked on their first tasks, several experienced members took time to re-qualify and renew their ES ratings. Some trained in new areas, to increase their versatility on a mission. For example, cadet/First Lieutenant Katie Kerr renewed her currency as an MSA and MRO, positions essential for serving at Mission Base during an actual emergency. She also assisted with training beginning level Ground Team Member (GTM) students, and completed some tasks toward increasing her own GTM qualification level, which would make her an asset out in the field. SM Rick Stuart, a former CAP cadet who recently turned 18 and joined Carroll's senior member ranks, trained in the skills necessary to become a Ground Team Leader.

Czarnowsky, Carroll's ES Training Officer and former CAP cadet, explained that while the first day of training was conducted primarily for members of Carroll, the second day was held in conjunction with other squadrons from around Maryland, in an effort to "advance our ground team's knowledge, and begin to develop a team chemistry that is essential for search and rescue operations." He added, "I feel very good about the progress we made during these exercises. We all had a great time while still accomplishing our goal."

Lt. Brown agreed that these events were very successful. "We are growing our personnel to be ready to serve in CAP's ES Mission. Our senior members and experienced cadets are leaving a legacy by passing on the skills and knowledge they've acquired over the years. Should an emergency arise, our community will be better served because of this."

The Carroll Composite Squadron is Maryland Wing's fourth largest squadron with more than 90 members and was named the Maryland Wing Squadron of the Year for 2010 at the Wing Conference in November. The squadron meets at the Henry Evans National Guard Armory on Hahn Road in Westminster, Md., on Tuesday evenings. Prospective members and their families are always welcome. Additional information can be found on the squadron's website: [www.carrollcap.org](http://www.carrollcap.org).

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 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 113 lives in fiscal year 2010. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the more than 26,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 69 years. It is the largest sponsor annually of Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. For more information on Civil Air Patrol, visit [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com) or [www.capvolunteernow.com](http://www.capvolunteernow.com).

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](http://www.mdcap.org).

Photo credit:

(Photos 1 through 10) Stacey Bowen, First Lieutenant, CAP

(Photos 11 & 12) Cadet Second Lieutenant Joshua Bowen, CAP

Respectfully submitted by,

Stacey Bowen, 1st Lt., CAP  
Assistant Public Affairs Officer  
Carroll Composite Squadron, MD