

# MAGNOLIA MESSENGER



## MSWG

ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2026



Greetings and best wishes for a productive and constructive 2026 to all members of the Mississippi Wing! Thanks to everyone for all the hard work and successes in 2025.

I continue to stress communication as our best tool for attaining our Senior and Cadet goals this year. We have and will continue to face challenges in Cadet Programs, training and Emergency Services and membership to name a few. All of which are definitely attainable!

Again, best wishes in the New year and keep up the great work!

Very respectfully,  
Gary G. Hornosky, Col USAFAUX, CAP



# CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE STAFF

## MSWG AND SER REGION

Cadet Captain Lydia Crepps is the current Mississippi Wing Southeast Region (SER) Primary Representative and has been a member of Civil Air Patrol for three years.

She has served in several leadership roles at encampments, squadron activities, and events across Mississippi Wing, Southern Region, and other wings.



In her home unit, SER-MS-072, she currently serves as the Cadet Officer Acceleration OIC and previously served as Cadet Commander in her previous squadron. Outside of CAP, she is a student at her local community college majoring in psychology and plans to commission as a U.S. Army officer through ROTC after completing her education.

# CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE STAFF

## MSWG AND SER REGION

Cadet Senior Master Sergeant (C/SMSgt) Ava Dupont has been a member of the Mississippi Wing, Civil Air Patrol, for the past three years and is currently assigned to the Pine Belt Composite Squadron (MS-072).

During her CAP career, C/SMSgt Dupont has held several key leadership positions, including Cadet First Sergeant, where she was responsible for cadet discipline, mentorship, and unit cohesion. She currently serves as the Chair of



The Mississippi Wing Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) represents cadet interests across the Wing and advises senior leadership on matters affecting the cadet program.

C/SMSgt Dupont is committed to personal development, leadership excellence, and service to her community through Civil Air Patrol. Her long-term goal is to earn an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, where she hopes to continue her pursuit of leadership and service as a commissioned officer.

# CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE STAFF

## MSWG AND SER REGION

C/2nd Lt William Mann has served as First Sergeant for his home squadron, MS-111, and for MSWG Encampment 2025. Additionally, he has served at NESA SE and SER Encampment as Support Staff. His current roles include serving as the CAC Vice Chair and the Mississippi Alternate Regional Representative.



Cadet chief master sergeant (C/CMSgt) Garrett Logan is the newly appointed MSWG CAC Recorder. This is his first year serving in the Cadet Advisory Council (CAC). C/CMSgt Logan has been in CAP for three years, held the position of Flight Sergeant, and now holds the position of First Sergeant. He is also Leadership NCO for his squadron, SER-MS-099. Cadet Logan has received multiple awards throughout his CAP career, and attended 2025 MSWG Summer Encampment.

# CHAPLAIN POLLOCK RETIRES AFTER TWO DECADES OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO CIVIL AIR PATROL!



For two decades the chaplain has walked the CAP halls.  
A gentle presence answering silent calls.  
In a world of logistics, of flight plans, and drill,  
A quiet reminder of peace and good will.  
From the earnest new cadet with a question held deep,  
To the seasoned old officer with promises to keep,  
The chaplain has listened, a confidant true,  
For twenty long years, steady, strong, and new.  
No uniform patch on a sleeve can quite show,  
The depth of the seeds that their service did sow;  
A comforting word when the mission went wrong,  
A prayer for the fallen, a hopeful new song.  
The blue CAP uniform has changed its design,  
But steadfast, unchanging, the chaplain's divine  
Mission remains: to guide and to light,  
Serving with honor and all of their might.  
So here is a salute to the twenty years given,  
To a life by example, in service well-driven.  
The wings are well-earned, though perhaps not for flight,  
But for lifting up souls in the dark of the night.

- Author Unknown

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# UNIT YEAR IN REVIEW

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## MS-048 COL BERTA A EDGE COMP SQ

MS-048 Col Berta A Edge Composite Squadron's year was nothing short of outstanding. During 2025 the cadets and seniors got up to many different events and opportunities.

During the summer, MS-048 who cleverly nicknames their members "Dragons" sent several students and staff to Summer Encampment at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, MS. One Cadet also staffed SER Winter Encampment and one student attended FLWG winter encampment. Our Color Guard has started regularly practicing again after a while off, they have been learning avidly and welcomed several new members to the team. They participated in several events, including the local WAA Ceremony in December and performed amazingly! Several cadets attended the first NCOA for cadets at Mathies NCO Academy on Keesler AFB in July named project whetstone.

The opportunity was a one of a kind event held by USAF NCOs designed to teach CADET NCOs valuable lessons that are taught to real USAF members. In September, several cadets got the opportunity to attend the USAF Ball for Keesler AFB, C/MSGT Venning was invited to sit at the head table. During December, the squadron held an awards and change of command ceremony. Cadet Commander C/1st Lt Jilliane Hart handed over command of the squadron to C/1st Lt Eli Venning. The same night, several awards and ribbons were given out, including one Community Service Ribbon for C/SrA Baird for completing 1,149 hours of service to his community. Several cadets were also recognized for completing their first orientation flight during the year. Over the year we have welcomed an astonishing amount of new cadets, and have had a lot of milestone promotions compared to previous years. This year has been incredibly fruitful for the Dragons and each member looks forward to the opportunities to follow in the upcoming year.

# PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR

## MS-048



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# UNIT YEAR IN REVIEW

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## MS-072 PINE BELT COMP SQ

MS072 Pine Belt Composite Squadron celebrated an outstanding 2025!

Highlights of the year included the transition to a new Cadet Commander. Early in 2025, C/Maj Grace Barton handed over command to C/Capt Sean Beard, who has already proven himself to be a confident and innovative leader. Additionally, we welcomed a new Squadron Commander, Capt Jonathan Decker. Under Capt Decker's leadership, MS072 cadets and adult members have flourished, achieving new heights together!

One of the highlights for cadets in Civil Air Patrol is the orientation flights. MS072 enabled eight cadets to experience flight firsthand. Several adult members also participated in Sundown Patrols and flight opportunities.

Pine Belt welcomed 11 new members in 2025, seven cadets and four adult members. We also gained two cadets and one adult member transfer.

Our Color Guard practiced drill and movement regularly throughout the year, and their dedication was evident. They performed admirably at the Cadet Competition and look forward to competing again in 2026. The MS072 Color Guard has also been honored with invitations to present the colors at numerous community events and is proud to represent our squadron.

C/Maj Grace Barton was selected as one of MSWG's representatives for National Legislative Day. She traveled to Washington for a once-in-a-lifetime tour and an action-packed weekend with several other cadets and adult members from MSWG.

# PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR

## MS-072



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# UNIT YEAR IN REVIEW

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## MS-096 DESOTO COMP SQ

While the year included leadership transitions, the squadron remained strong and focused.

Our cadets continued to perform well, take responsibility, and represent Civil Air Patrol with professionalism and integrity. One of our most significant accomplishments this year was earning the Quality Cadet Unit Award.

This was a meaningful milestone for our squadron and reflects sustained excellence across the cadet program and a full year of disciplined effort by both cadets and senior members. The squadron also completed the CAP-NASA Aviation Weather Mission. During this project, cadets studied upper-atmosphere weather by tracking real aircraft flights and observing contrails. They learned to use flight-tracking tools, take accurate measurements, and keep detailed documentation on the flights they observed. This mission required attention to detail and accuracy and gave cadets a practical understanding of how weather impacts aviation and aerospace operations.

During the summer, cadets participated in an aerospace activity that included touring the Memphis Air Traffic Control Tower, Memphis TRACON, the FedEx Global Operations Control [GOC], and using FedEx flight simulators. These experiences gave cadets exposure to aviation careers and real-world operations. The squadron hosted two Open House events during the year, both of which resulted in new cadet enrollments and helped strengthen the unit. Our Color Guard represented Civil Air Patrol at several high-visibility events, including presenting the Colors at a Memphis Redbirds baseball game and participating in Memorial Day and Veterans Day events and a local parade.

# PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR

## MS-096



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# UNIT YEAR IN REVIEW

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## MS-099 TUPELO EAGLE COMP SQ

Throughout the year, the squadron experienced a wide variety of meaningful activities, accomplishments, and leadership milestones that strengthened both cadet and senior member engagement. In February, two cadets received distinguished recognition when Southeast Region Commander Colonel Garrett personally presented Eaker Awards to C/Lt Col Long and C/Lt Col O'Gwynn, marking a significant achievement within the Cadet Program.

The summer months brought major training and fellowship opportunities, beginning in June with encampment participation by eight cadet cadre members, seven of whom had prior cadre experience, along with three senior member staff and four cadet students. In August, members enjoyed a squadron kayak trip to Tennessee, fostering teamwork and camaraderie outside of regular meetings.

September marked an important transition with a Change of Command ceremony, welcoming 2d Lt Patrick Wooten as Squadron Commander, 2d Lt Tammy Long as Deputy Commander for Cadets, and C/Maj Long as Cadet Commander. That same month, the squadron launched its official newsletter, The Tupelo Takeoff, enhancing communication and outreach. October was highlighted by C/2d Lt Dillard earning the Billy Mitchell Award, participation in Night for Nonprofits where the squadron was awarded a grant, and a flag retirement ceremony paired with a cookout. The fall season also saw the Color Guard present the colors at Tupelo Christian football games and a Veterans Day ceremony, while members volunteered extensively with organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, 7 Days for the Troops, Salvation Army, and Wreaths Across America. November and December continued the momentum with social and service events including an outdoor movie night, CPR certification, a Christmas parade, a retirement ceremony for Chaplain Pollock, a Christmas party, and a bowling outing, rounding out a highly active and successful year.

# PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR

## MS-099



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# UNIT YEAR IN REVIEW

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## MS-111 MADISON CADET SQ

In 2025, the Madison Cadet Squadron [MS-111] had many notable events, achievements, and participations. Throughout the year, the squadron continued its volunteer and outreach activities, including such events as the Aviation Discovery Day and Hangar Hangout with the Commemorative Air Force, educational outreach with Madison Public Libraries, YMCA events, as well as Color Guard participation at the Mississippi Agricultural Museum and Parade participation at the Mississippi State Fair.

In February 2025, two cadets and one senior member from the Madison Cadet Squadron were selected to represent the Mississippi Wing during National Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. MS-111 had a strong showing at the Mississippi Wing Encampment at Camp Shelby with 18 total participants, equating to approximately one-third of the squadron. Four members of MS-111 attended NESAs during the 2024-2025 cycle. MS-111 squadron members were honored with various awards at the Mississippi Wing Conference.

Additionally, MS-111 continued to participate in various SARX events around the state. Our Cadet Competition team advanced from the Mississippi Wing Competition to the Regional Cadet Competition at Maxwell Air Force Base in August with a strong showing in overall standings. One cadet received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Another attended an intensive in-residence flight training course over the summer, earning his private pilot's license, bringing our current count of cadets with private pilot licenses to three.

# PHOTOS FROM THE YEAR

## MS-111



# WRIGHT BROTHERS AWARDS 2025



LUKE MCKISSICK SER-MS-000  
ALEXANDER BOUCHARD SER-MS-048  
ZACHARY GETTER SER-MS-048  
CLARENCE PUJOL SER-MS-048  
RACHAEL VENNING SER-MS-048  
TRISTIAN WARREN SER-MS-048  
BENJAMYN BYRD SER-MS-056  
BRENTLY DOUCETTE SER-MS-056  
JESSICA PENNINGTON SER-MS-056  
JOHN TOMLINSON SER-MS-056  
OLIVIA CLAY SER-MS-057  
CHASE CUCCHIARA SER-MS-057  
NICKOLAS GRAHAM SER-MS-057  
JONAH HONEYCUTT SER-MS-057  
DANIEL MCGEE SER-MS-057  
AVYNN SCHALLER SER-MS-057  
COOPER BERGER SER-MS-072  
MATILDA DECKER SER-MS-072  
BRYCE WATTS SER-MS-072  
DIEGO AGUADO-NAVARRO SER-MS-096  
CLARK BERGSTROM SER-MS-096  
ELIJAH BOORD SER-MS-096  
CLAIRE DEROCHE SER-MS-096  
BRODI LICHLITER SER-MS-096  
TYLER MOORE SER-MS-096  
JEFFERSON COPLIN SER-MS-099  
CARTER FORTENBERRY SER-MS-100  
PARKER HUFF SER-MS-100  
NOAH SHORES SER-MS-100  
AIDEN WHITE SER-MS-100  
TORRIANNA BATTLE SER-MS-109

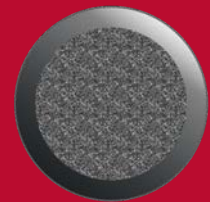
COLTON GIBSON SER-MS-109  
CAYDEN GIBSON SER-MS-109  
ISSABELLA HARTHCOCK SER-MS-109  
DAMIAH HEARD SER-MS-109  
CHRISTIAN HULETT SER-MS-109  
JASON ROBERTS SER-MS-109  
MELANIE STEVENS SER-MS-109  
JOSEPH WREN SER-MS-109  
LENA YATES SER-MS-109  
CALEB DENNISON SER-MS-111  
CALEB DREAPER SER-MS-111  
SAMUEL KEMP SER-MS-111  
TYSON MILLER SER-MS-111  
ZUKI PERKINS SER-MS-111  
ANDREW SMIRA SER-MS-111  
ALEC TURNER SER-MS-111  
RANCIN SHEPHERD SER-MS-601



# BILLY MITCHELL AWARDS 2025



ELI VENNING SER-MS-048  
TRISTAN BAYS SER-MS-056  
MAX JONES SER-MS-056  
GRAYSON NICKELS SER-MS-056  
BRODY GARRISON PARKER SER-MS-072  
ADA ULRICH SER-MS-075  
DYLAN BAKER SER-MS-096  
LANA COLE SER-MS-096  
VU NGUYEN SER-MS-096  
WILLIAM PATTERSON SER-MS-096  
VANSHIKA RAMAKRISHNAN SER-MS-096  
TRISTAN WILSON SER-MS-096  
ANDREW DILLARD SER-MS-099  
FELICITY GOSSWILLER SER-MS-099  
LANDYN HENLEY SER-MS-109  
AERIN VINZANT SER-MS-109  
ZACHARY CLARK SER-MS-111  
SIMON HARDEN SER-MS-111  
WILLIAM MANN SER-MS-111  
ERIK TURNER SER-MS-111



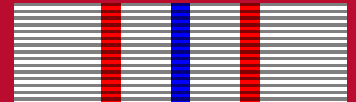
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## AMELIA EARHART AWARDS 2025

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GRAYSON NICKELS SER-MS-056  
JACOB FRANCOM SER-MS-057  
SEAN BEARD SER-MS-072  
LYDIA CREPPS SER-MS-072  
BRENNAN LONG SER-MS-099  
THOMAS PATTERSON SER-MS-111



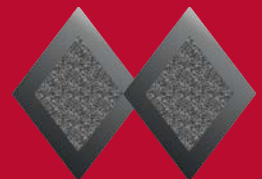
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## GEN IRA C. EAKER AWARDS 2025

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AVA MACDONALD SER-MS-056  
EVELYN O'GWYNN SER-MS-099  
NILS CROWE SER-MS-111



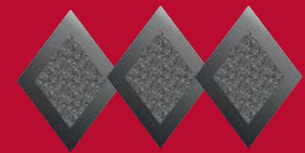
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## GEN CARL A SPAATZ AWARD 2025

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KODY BRUMLEY SER-MS-096  
AWARD # 2568



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Cadet Brumley exemplifies what it means to be an active and dedicated CAP cadet. He joined the cadet program in March, 2018, at the age of 13. Throughout his cadet career, he's attended eight encampments (seven as cadre), holding staff positions ranging from logistics to cadet commander of encampment. At his home squadron, DeSoto Composite Squadron, he's served as cadet commander, color guard and honor guard commander—once going with the color guard team to regional cadet competition in 2019. He was an attendee of the National Legislative Day in Washington D.C. on behalf of MSWG in 2024. He has served as the chair of the MSWG Cadet Advisory Council. In addition, he also served as a representative and recorder in his previous two years.

The advice he gives to cadets is “Take every opportunity you can, whether it's a trip or a leadership opportunity. You only get out what you put in.” - C/Col Brumley

# ATTENTION CADETS — VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Are you creative, curious, or love telling stories? The Messenger wants YOU! Join our youth team to help create the squadron's quarterly newsletter—snap photos, interview squadmates, write about awesome events, and share your ideas. It's a fun way to make friends, build real-world skills, and get your voice heard across the wing. Ready to make your mark? Email 1st Lt Lisa Crepps and Capt. Paul Crowe has more information about joining The Messenger crew!