

- Check out upcoming events on Page 2
- Explore Cadet Programs on Pages 1-4
- Learn about Aerospace Current Events on Pages 5 & 6
- Read this month's Safety Article on Page 7
- Achievements & Accomplishments on Page 8

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

Wreaths Across America	1
January Calendar	2
February Introduction	2
Cadet Commander's Corner	3
Cadet Programs Conference Flyer	4
NASA's Kepler Program	5
Aerospace Current Events	6
Safety	7
Accomplishments & Achievements	8

# Squadron 144



## News



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

PCR-CA-441

JANUARY 2012

### CAP Supports Wreaths Across America



**On Saturday, 10 December 2011**, members and families of Squadron 144 participated in the laying of wreaths through the Wreaths Across America program at Fort Rosecrans. Here's what two of our cadets had to say about their experience.

C/2dLt Hanna Olson shared her thoughts on the experience: "While many may have chosen to spend their sunny Saturday morning in their shuttered bedrooms, a top-notch group of volunteers around the country chose to give back a little. These individuals awoke early on the morning of December 10th to participate in what has become a national program-- Wreaths Across America. Wreaths Across America is a program which gives volunteers the opportunity to lay wreaths upon the graves of those who once served our nation. For me, Wreaths Across America is an undoubt-



edly moving experience which makes me feel close to some of our nations great who have

fallen. I cherish the opportunity to be able to support such a great cause and the feeling of giving back. In the coming years, I hope to see both the number of wreaths and volunteers grow exponentially. "



C/MSgt Ian Rigg shared his thoughts on the experience: "The entire morning was a stark realization of what has been given up in order acquire and maintain our freedom. The event started with a presentation of the wreaths for all the services and POW/ MIA where the groups who volunteered their time for the event were present. When the ceremony concluded we made our way, in formation, to the far end of the

ceremony where several thousand wreaths were available. We proceeded to place several hundred wreaths



throughout the cemetery saluting each individual tombstone we laid a wreath at. After the event had concluded Chief Costello, Sergeant Hodson and I were each asked to present a wreath on the graves of the Medal of Honor awardees that rest in the cemetery. It was a great honor to place the wreaths on each of the service members and it is something that I will never forget.

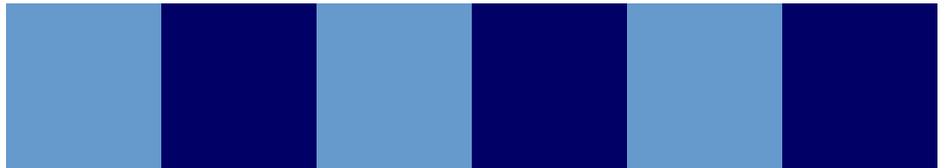
Major Dennis Ammann gave a full account of the day in his article on the Squadron 144 website. Check it out at <http://www.sq144.com>. Photo Credits: Reggie Angquico, Mark Krause, Dennis Ammann

## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ December 26-January 2  
Cadet Officers' Basic Course  
NAS Leemore, CA  
Cost: \$150 & Meal Money
- ⇒ January 13-16  
CAWG Cadet Competition  
Vandenberg AFB, CA
- ⇒ January 14  
A-STEM Day (non-CAP)  
Gillespie Field, CA  
Cost: FREE, Bring Lunch
- ⇒ January 15  
NCSA and Scholarship Application Deadline
- ⇒ January 21  
Sqdrn 144 Awards Banquet  
Carmel Mountain Ranch, CA  
Cost: \$35
- ⇒ January 27-29  
BCS and ATS  
Camp Pendleton, CA  
Cost: \$40
- ⇒ February 17-20  
Cadet Programs Conference  
Camp San Luis Obispo, CA  
Cost: \$115-125
- ⇒ February 24-26  
Winter Survival Bivouac  
Near Big Bear, CA  
Cost: TBD
- ⇒ July 21-28  
CAWG Encampment  
Camp San Louis Obispo, CA  
Cost: TBD

# JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Weekly Meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Weekly Meeting	11	12	13	14 A-STEM Day
15 NCSA Deadline	16	17 Weekly Meeting	18	19	20	21 Sq 144 Banquet
22	23	24 Weekly Meeting	25	26	27	28 BCS & ATS
29 BCS & ATS	30	31 Weekly Meeting				



# FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Weekly Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Weekly Meeting	15	16	17	18 Cadet Programs Conference
19	20	21 Weekly Meeting	22	23	24	25 Winter Bivouac
26 Winter Bivouac	27	28 Weekly Meeting	29			

## Cadet Commander's Corner

Greetings San Diego Cadet Squadron 144,

Happy new year! A couple days ago I reviewed the 2011 calendar, and I was just blown away by how much we accomplished in just 365 days. For the most part, every weekend had something related to CAP on it, and in some cases was the dreaded conflict between two events.

I could talk all year about what we have done, but I would much rather focus on what we are going to do. In the coming months we are already seeing events for lovers of all missions. SAREXes, ILPs, and numerous air shows and AE opportunities await us. The NCSA's are all starting to fill up with applicants, and all we have to do is take advantage of these events.

But why is it important to be involved in these activities? The simple answer is this. CAP is driven by active participants. This corporation of professional volunteers demands the support of the members. Without your involvement, these events have no future. And who knows, maybe you will find a future career in one of these activities.

The very fact that you show up to our squadron meetings shows us that you are what makes this squadron great, so showing up to a national, or wing activity, shows the world that you are what make CAP great. So get out there and go do stuff!

Semper Vi!

C/2nd Lt. Jesse O'Keefe

Cadet Commander

San Diego Cadet Squadron 144

## Cadet Programs Conference is Coming in February!

By: 2dLt Alexander Lange



It's the most wonderful time of the year...for CAP cadets that is. "Why?" you might ask. WELL. On the 17th of February through the 20th of February, 2011 (Presidents Day weekend (unless you go to SDSU you likely have a 4 day weekend)), the California Wing will be holding it's annual Cadet Programs Conference at Camp San Luis Obispo. Cadet Programs

Conference, being my favorite activity, happens yearly and serves to educate cadets on all the great opportunities the Civil Air Patrol has to offer. Activities include, but are not limited to, aerospace education courses, emergency services courses, swing dancing classes, and many more. This event is a great way

to reconnect with all the great people that you met at encampment or just



haven't seen in a while and gives you the chance to get your dance on at the end-of-conference banquet on Sunday night. Overall, this activity is one of my favorites; its social nature combined with the rare stress-free environment of this activity makes it one of my yearly "must make" events.



Photo Credit: Alexander Lange from CPC 2011

California Wing – Civil Air Patrol

# Cadet Programs Conference 2012

Meet new friends and visit with old ones. Learn new and interesting things about CAP.  
Push your CAP career forward!

**APPLY TODAY!**

*Special events happening at Conference:*

**\*\* ANNUAL CADET BANQUET AND MILITARY BALL \*\***

**\*\* CADET PROGRAMS DIRECTOR'S RECEPTION \*\***

**\*\* SEMINARS ABOUT EMERGENCY SERVICES, AEROSPACE EDUCATION, CADET LEADERSHIP TOPICS, CAREER AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES, SWING DANCING, HOW TO HAVE FUN IN CAP – AND MANY MORE\*\***

**Camp San Luis Obispo, CA**

**Dates: 17-20 Feb 2012**

Report time: Fri 17 Feb 2012 – 1800-2300

or Sat 18 Feb 2012 no later than 0800

- Dinner will not be served on Friday -

**Application Deadline: 01 Feb 2012**

**Cost:**

**01 Feb 2012 or before: \$115**

**After 01 Feb 2012: \$125**

*Includes meals, billeting, activities, and banquet*

**Banquet Only: \$50.00**

For more information call Capt Jeff Buentgen at (310) 951-6235 or email [jbuentgen@gmail.com](mailto:jbuentgen@gmail.com)

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 01 FEB 2012 FOR EARLY PRICING**

**To Apply:** Send CAWG Form 150 with ALL required signatures and a check or money order made to "Civil Air Patrol" to:

Tammy Sturgill, Capt, CAP  
Attn: CPC  
1384 Tulip Way  
Livermore CA 94551-1327

**HAND CARRIED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT ADVANCE EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECT OFFICER - NO EXCEPTIONS.**

For further information [www.cawgcadets.org](http://www.cawgcadets.org)

**Don't wait! Apply today & SAVE!!!**

## NASA's Kepler Mission Finds Three Smallest Exoplanets

By: Michele Johnson from [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/kepler/news/smallest-exoplanets.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/kepler/news/smallest-exoplanets.html)



Mini Planetary System: This artist's conception illustrates KOI-961. Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Astronomers using data from NASA's Kepler mission have discovered the three smallest planets yet detected orbiting a star beyond our sun. The planets orbit a single star, called KOI-961, and are 0.78, 0.73 and 0.57 times the radius of Earth.

The smallest is about the size of Mars.

All three planets are thought to be rocky like Earth, but orbit close to their star. That makes them too hot to be in the habitable zone, which is the region where liquid water could exist. Of the more than 700 planets confirmed to orbit other stars -- called exoplanets -- only a handful are known to be rocky.

"Astronomers are just beginning to confirm thousands of planet candidates uncovered by Kepler so far," said Doug Hudgins, Kepler program scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "Finding one as small as Mars is amazing, and hints that there may be a bounty of rocky planets all around us."

Kepler searches for planets by continuously monitoring more than 150,000 stars, looking for telltale dips in their brightness caused by crossing, or transiting, planets. At least three transits are required to verify a signal as a planet. Follow-up observations from ground-based telescopes also are needed to confirm the discoveries.

The latest discovery comes from a team led by astronomers at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. The team used data publicly released by the Kepler mission, along with follow-up observations from the Palomar Observatory, near San Diego, and the W.M. Keck Observatory atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Their measurements dramatically revised the sizes of the planets from what originally was estimated.

The three planets are very close to their star, taking less than two days to orbit around it. The KOI-961 star is a red dwarf with a diameter one-sixth

that of our sun, making it just 70 percent bigger than Jupiter.

"This is the tiniest solar system found so far," said John Johnson, the principal investigator of the research from NASA's Exoplanet Science Institute at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. "It's actually more similar to Jupiter and its moons in scale than any other planetary system. The discovery is further proof of the diversity of planetary systems in our galaxy."

Red dwarfs are the most common kind of star in our Milky Way galaxy. The discovery of three rocky planets around one red dwarf suggests that the galaxy could be teeming with similar rocky planets. "These types of systems could be ubiquitous in the universe," said Phil Muirhead, lead author of the new study from Caltech. "This is a really exciting time for planet hunters."

The discovery follows a string of recent milestones for the Kepler mission. In December 2011, scientists announced the mission's first confirmed planet in the habitable zone of a sun-like star: a planet 2.4 times the size of Earth called Kepler-22b. Later in the month, the team announced the discovery of the first Earth-size planets orbiting a sun-like star outside our solar system, called Kepler-20e and Kepler-20f.

For the latest discovery, the team obtained the sizes of the three planets called KOI-961.01, KOI-961.02 and KOI-961.03 with the help of a well-studied twin star to KOI-961, or Barnard's Star. By better understanding the KOI-961 star, they then could determine how big the planets must be to have caused the observed dips in starlight. In addition to the Kepler observations and ground-based telescope measurements, the team used modeling techniques to confirm the planet discoveries. Prior to these confirmed planets, only six other planets had been confirmed using the Kepler public data.

NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif., manages Kepler's ground system development, mission operations and science data analysis. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., managed the Kepler mission's development.

For information about the Kepler Mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/kepler>

## Aviation Chief Says Army Needs 'Revolutionary' Technology by 2030

Article from: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/blog/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=638>



### NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. —

The Army's top aviation officer says "revolutionary change" in vertical-lift aircraft must happen by 2030 to prevent the current helicopter fleet from becoming technologically obsolete. The search for new technology to modernize Army helicopters must begin immediately so that replacement aircraft can be fielded before the current fleet reaches obsolescence, said Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, commander of the Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, Ala. "You cannot deny that resources are being reduced, that the Army, as we speak, is being reduced," Crutchfield said at the Association of the United States Army Aviation Symposium Jan. 12. "But conflict in the world is not being reduced and I don't see a time when we will use less Army aviation in the future."

Most of the Army's rotary-wing aircraft will be outdated by 2040, regardless of how many upgrades are bolted on or how much money is poured into existing platforms, Crutchfield said. There has to be "revolutionary change, not evolutionary change."

For the foreseeable future, however, funding for new systems is expected

to shrink. As a result, Army aviation will be "flying on instruments," said AUSA President Gordon R. Sullivan. "I have

two words of advice for the future: 'Steady, troops,'" he said.

Though the Iraq war has ended, Army aviators are still fighting in Afghanistan. How Army aviation will achieve a technological revolution will be outlined in a vision plan that should be published later this year. Crutchfield offered few details about the plan, but said it will include sustaining a seasoned corps of pilots, identifying tactics and technologies that enemies can exploit and a plan for "rebuilding, retraining and redesigning for the future."

For decades, the Army has been incrementally upgrading and enhancing its airframes. It has been without a new helicopter design since the introduction in the 1980s of the Apache attack helicopter built by Boeing. In November, the company rolled out the first Apache Block III aircraft, which sport composite rotor blades, new engines and other technologies that boost power and performance. Four of those have been delivered so far, with another two scheduled for delivery this month.

But Crutchfield would like to see advances beyond the Apache Block III, which will end its service life in 2040.

Another model-series Apache is not what the Army needs, he said.

"We should not and cannot plan for an Apache Block IV," Crutchfield said. Whatever aircraft results at or before the self-prescribed 2030 deadline, it "must not follow current norms," he said.

"It has to be a totally new way forward," he added.

The same goes for the Army's other rotorcraft. The Apache is the youngest rotorcraft design in its fleet.

The OH-58D Kiowa Warrior will be outdated by 2025, and the CH-47F Chinook by 2035. The recently upgraded UH-60M Blackhawk will join the Apache in 2040.

Twice the Army has failed to find a suitable replacement for the Kiowa. Whatever path the Army heads down, he warned of past pitfalls.

"We cannot repeat the Comanche history ever again," he said. "The Army can't afford it."

Going forward, the Army will have to work with industry to design and field new technologies, but the relationship may have to change, Crutchfield said. "We need to define what we need," he said. "We need industry to stop telling us what we need and start listening to what we say we need."

Those needs, as already expressed in the Army-led effort to find a future vertical-lift technology, include faster, more maneuverable aircraft. Moreover, in an era of "reduced economies," it will have to be affordable both up front and over its service life, Crutchfield said.

"It has to reduce the overall footprint of the aircraft by reducing overhead and using commonality of parts."

**SAFETY**

# Internet Safety

By: 2nd Lt David Veta

These days, most of us have become familiar with Social Networking sites, posted or sold something on line or even had a conversation with a complete stranger via a chat room or message board. While surfing the web may seem like a harmless activity, you have to ask yourself; what information am I really giving away? The Internet can be entertaining and a great tool to expand your knowledge of the world, but without practicing basic security, you may find yourself in a situation that you never expected.



In recent years, Social Networking sites like Facebook and Twitter have given people the ability to share information with their friends and acquaintances at an unprecedented level. You can post pictures of your activities, check into locations and give up to the minute updates on your status. But what are you really giving away by posting the information on line. Sure, you can set your privacy settings so only your friends can see your information, but have we all done that? And more importantly, do you know everyone on your friends list personally? The information that you give away on a Social Networking site, even if you don't realize it, can give people indications to where you live or your current location. Think hard, have you ever posted "Headed out to the mall in Mission Valley, feel like hanging out a while"? Maybe you took a picture in front of your house with the address and street name showing. Information like that can be used to find where you live, or where you are going. Do you really want everybody knowing your every step every day?



Have you ever had an old bicycle that was just laying around and you figured "Hey, I bet I can sell that on eBay or Craigslist." Sites like that can be a valuable tool in selling old and unwanted stuff, or finding that item you have been trying to find for months. But, without taking basic steps to protect yourself, these sites can become a tool for people trying to take advantage of you or rip you off. Some of us may have heard stories of people getting ripped off from posting something on line. These people probably didn't practice basic Internet safety. You should absolutely never tell someone where you live or have them come by your house to check an item that they are interested in purchasing from you. It is best to meet in a crowded place like a coffee shop or fast food restaurant, and try not to go alone.

The Internet can be a place of great knowledge, but it can also be very dangerous when not treated with caution. It is unfortunate, but there are some people out there who use the Internet to take advantage of people not being careful with the information they give out. Never give anyone information about where you live. Never meet with anyone that you meet on line, to sell them something or otherwise, in person until you absolutely know you will be safe (bring a friend to come with you and meet in a public place). And the most important thing that you need to know about on line safety: Once something is posted on line, its there for good. People can copy and save pictures, and everything you post is stored in a database and can be brought back for later review. By practicing basic Internet safety and using common sense, you can avoid being a victim of someone trying to take advantage of you.





Citizens Serving Communities  
*Above and Beyond*

**Civil Air Patrol  
San Diego Cadet Squadron 144**

Direct questions, comments, and submissions to:  
1st Lt Sonya Petty, Newsletter Editor  
Phone: 918-361-6730  
E-mail: smmrinkrat@yahoo.com

For more information about CAP visit:  
<http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com>  
<http://www.capmembers.com>  
<http://capnhq.gov>

## Civil Air Patrol

### Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond

Civil Air Patrol was founded in December 1941, one week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, by more than 150,000 citizens who were concerned about the defense of America's coastline. Under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Forces, CAP pilots flew more than one-half million hours, were credited with sinking two enemy submarines and rescued hundreds of crash survivors during World War II. On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman established CAP as a federally chartered benevolent civilian corporation, and Congress passed Public Law 557 on May 26, 1948. CAP was charged with three primary missions – aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services. With the passage of Public Law 106-398 in October 2000, Congress provided that "The Civil Air Patrol is a volunteer civilian auxiliary of the Air Force when the services of the Civil Air Patrol are used by any department or agency in any branch of the federal government."



# Achievements and Accomplishments

### December Promotions:

- Calvin Amos was promoted to C/MSgt
- Edmund Kapelczak was promoted to C/Amn
- Christian Blanco was promoted to C/Amn
- Michael Jurkoic was promoted to C/Amn
- Jesse Short was promoted to C/Amn
- Derek Fei Ta was promoted to C/Amn
- Caleb Woodson was promoted to C/Amn
- Ryan Ziegler was promoted to C/Amn

### December Accomplishments:

- C/Amn Edmund Kapelczak, C/Amn Chris-

tian Blanco, C/Amn Michael Jurkoic, C/Amn Jesse Short, C/Amn Derek Fei Ta, C/Amn Caleb Woodson, and C/Amn Ryan Ziegler graduated from the Basic Training Flights in November and December!

- Welcome to our new member: Dakota Eustaquio! Congratulations and keep up the good work recruiting enthusiastic new members for our squadron!
- Congratulations and great job to everyone who contributed to the Squadron 144 News throughout 2011!

*Did we miss a promotion, achievement, or accomplishment? Send submissions to 1stLt Sonya Petty no later than three days before the end of the month.*