



Navigator



✧ U. S. Air Force Auxiliary ✧ Civil Air Patrol ✧ Squadron 153 ✧ Charter No. CA345 ✧ Vo3 Jul/Aug/Sep 2005 ✧

WORDS FROM THE TOP Squadron Commander Maj. Michael Skullr

Lt. Col. Bragg has been a friend of mine for many years and I have learned so much from him. I hope all you cadets will remember the things he said and the knowledge that he has imparted to us over the years. He has been truly devoted to our squadron and he will be missed. I know I will miss him.

Life is what you make of it! If you work hard at what you want to accomplish, chances are you will realize your goals. If you lay back and wait for something to come your way, it probably won't happen. This applies to everything in life, relationships, family, friends, school, work and yes, CAP. If you have set goals for yourself, start working on them. If you have no goals, it is time to start thinking of some. Don't wait until you are old and

gray and wished you had done more with your life.

My First "O" Flight By: C/A Campbell

It was a sunny Saturday morning at Long Beach airport, where Sq153 cadets gathered to receive their "O" flights from the pilots of Sq150.

We cadets went to the tie down area where we met the pilots. We then waited a while for the senior members and pilots to decide where we would be going and who would be paired up for each aircraft. I was paired up with cadet Farrel and our instructor pilot was Capt. Russel. We did a walk-around of the aircraft and Capt. Russel explained the instrument panel and controls. Our destination was El Monte airport. I was seated in the front seat, so I would fly first. We taxied to the run-up area to complete our pre-flight procedures. We then taxied to the runway and took off. After we leveled off I was given control of the aircraft. I was shown

how to climb, turn and descend the aircraft and also was shown how to trim the aircraft. After landing at El Monte, I switched seats with cadet Farrel, and he got to fly back to Long Beach. This was one of the most exciting things I have ever done and I look forward to doing it again.



Cadets on 30 July "O" Flight

July 4th Duty By: C/A Visnyei

On July 4th I started my parking duty on the left side of the tarmac. We were then told that we were not to direct cars to that side, but direct them to the right side. I started directing cars to this area along with two other cadets and some young marines.

While directing cars we were also able to view the army parachutists jumping from a Blackhawk helicopter, which was cool.

I was surprised that in the middle of our job directing parking, that the young marines were pulled from duty by their leader, leaving all the work to the squadron cadets. After the fireworks, everyone started to leave at once which created a big traffic jam. When the FA-18's left we saluted the pilots and got a return salute back from them.

By the time I got back to the building, my arms were sore and I called my parents to come get me. It was an exiting and fun day!

My First Year at Sq153 By: C/A Galati

My first year at Sq153 has been full of events. I have made new friends and developed new leadership skills. I originally joined CAP at Sq107 located in Torrance. After 2 years

there I transferred to Sq153. Lt. Col. Laisure and 2nd Lt. Galati also transferred at the same time. I have enjoyed my time here more than I ever did at Torrance. I've gone on an FTX to Calico, the birthplace of Knott's Berry Farm. I've flown in a Cessna 172, participated in air shows and the big 4th of July event here at Los Al and I have obtained my rocketry badge.

I really enjoy coming to the squadron meetings. The cadet staff is really great. The current cadet commander is outstanding along with the previous commander. We have very friendly senior members who make the classes fun. For me this is the best squadron I've been in and I believe Sq153 is one of the best in California. Any of you cadets that think the cadet staff is hard on you, it is because they want you to grow in the cadet program and be much better than when you entered the program. The cadet staff wants you to surpass them in the program and for you to become part of cadet staff. This is what makes for a good squadron experience in CAP.

Flying Over So. Calif. By: C/A Galati

On July 30th I went for an "O" ride out of Long Beach airport, given by Sq150. I got to fly in a CAP Cessna 172 out of Torrance airport. We flew around the Long Beach and L.A. harbors. Having traveled on the ground all my life around the area, I always wondered what it looked like from above. I was able to help the pilot on takeoff and I was able to make a left turn which brought us out over the harbor. It's amazing how small huge cargo ships and tankers look from four thousand feet. Also the streets and freeways that I have traveled on for years looked so small. After about 45 minutes we headed back to Long Beach airport and as we got closer everything became bigger and bigger. I felt like I was Rober the Conqueror out of Master of the World. This experience was a real E ticket ride. If you don't know what an E ticket ride is, ask me!

My "O" Flight By: C/TSgt Martinez

My orientation flight given by Long Beach Sq150 was a great experience. I learned so much during this flight. I was able to make a 180

degree turn, which was cool. I thought I would never get to fly an aircraft, but the next thing you know I was flying a Cessna 182. I really enjoyed controlling something so big. I'm glad to have been able to have this experience with my fellow cadets. I'm sure this won't be the last time we get to do this. I would like to say thank you to Sq150 for taking their personnel time to provide us with this experience.

NASA'S Future Plans By: C/A Campbell

President Bush recently announced plans for manned space exploration to the moon and Mars. Presently, the best way to get to Mars is to use a nuclear powered rocket, since normal chemical powered rockets require longer trip times that expose the crew to long zero gravity time and danger from solar flares. The more efficient nuclear rocket provides acceptable trip times of 150 to 180 days. For background, in the early 1960's and 1970's the U.S. was developing a nuclear engine and this project was called NERVA for which my grandpa was Chief Engineer. NERVA stands for Nuclear Engine Rocket for Vehicle Application.

The project was cancelled however, in 1972, for lack of space interest following the Apollo missions and budget problems from the Vietnam war.

Currently the new project is evaluating manned missions in 2033, because planet alignment provides the best mission conditions in this year. Now before they can get to that they hope to finish the space station by 2010 using the space shuttle. They will then retire the space shuttle between 2010 and 2014. NASA plans to have a new shuttle by 2014, called Space Derive, this however is still in the discussion stage. What this new shuttle is, is parts from the existing shuttle, like the boosters and whatever else they need to make the new shuttle. The new shuttle can be configured to either carry cargo or people, supposedly by changing either the nose or whatever else they might want to change out, such as the type of fuel or the boosters. They want to start using this new shuttle before they go to the moon or Mars. They want to use it to make supply trips to the space station. They will next use it for manned missions to the moon. In order to go to Mars they would assemble earth launched vehicle

components in space orbit and transitioning to Mars in 150 to 180 days. These first missions to Mars will be unmanned. These unmanned missions will provide the facilities and power on the Martian surface for eventual landing of the astronauts. Before they send any people they will do a final unmanned system reliability and safety check mission.

In order to get to Mars faster they will use a nuclear powered rocket. Instead of using combustion the nuclear reactor heats up hydrogen giving it the power it needs to get it going. It is hoped that this new power source will give NASA the capability to explore Mars and the distant planets. Right now there are only about fifty people working on this project, since it is in the very early planning stage. This new project is called Nuclear Thermal Propulsion, one of a family of systems using safe nuclear energy for space exploration and habitation.

**A BIG THANK YOU
TO SQUADRON 150
FOR THE CADET "O"
RIDES IN JULY!!**

Future Event Dates

OCT. 23 Wings, Wheels
& Rotors
OCT. 26 Haloween Party
NOV. 11-13 Rocstock

The Navigator,
July/Aug./Sep. 2005
Publication produced by:
CAP Squadron 153
Major David Walters
Publisher/Editor