



# NEWS

Putnam County Composite Squadron  
Public Affairs  
39 Seminary Hill Road  
Carmel, NY 10512  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Gonzalez Assumes Command of Putnam Civil Air Patrol Cadets

CARMEL, New York – August 26, 2020 – Cadet Second Lieutenant Eduardo Gonzalez accepted command of Civil Air Patrol's Putnam County Composite Squadron Cadets in a recent online change of command ceremony.

Gonzalez joined the Putnam County Squadron in February 2017. "My interest began about a year earlier when I learned about this unique program that could help me achieve my goals," said Gonzalez.

Serving as a cadet commander is the ultimate challenge of a cadet officers leadership skills and Gonzalez comes well prepared. He has advanced through the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, earning the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award and promoted to cadet second lieutenant this past February. The Mitchell Award recognizes cadets for sustained excellence in leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character.

Gonzalez put his knowledge into practice by serving in positions on the cadet chain of command with increasing levels of responsibility. Beginning as an element leader, he has progressed to deputy cadet commander, instructing and leading younger cadets along the way. Gonzalez commanded cadets as a ground team leader at Stewart International Airport in New Windsor, NY during the 2018 and 2019 New York International Air Shows and represented the squadron on the Cadet Advisory Council, also serving as CAC Recorder for South Eastern Group (NY-118).

Graduating from the 2017 New York Wing Encampment, Gonzalez returned in 2018 to serve as an encampment flight sergeant. He attended the Pararescue and Survival Orientation Course at Kirtland AFB, in Albuquerque, NM in 2019 and was one of 20, out of 60 students, to graduate from the demanding course.

Recognized for outstanding performance by other organizations, Gonzalez received the New York State Assembly Certificate of Achievement, New York State Senate Certificate of Merit and Air Force Association NCO Cadet of the Year Award in 2019.

Major Elena MacDermant, Putnam County Squadron Commander, presided over the atypical online change of command. "I am confident that Cadet Second Lieutenant Gonzalez will do an outstanding job as cadet commander of our squadron. He understands the principals of leadership including one of the most important, to lead by example," noted MacDermant.

Gonzalez believes the online meetings are necessary due to COVID-19 but are not an equivalent replacement for face-to-face meetings. "My goal as the new cadet commander is to build off of my predecessors achievements, to make the squadron more adaptive, make online classes more informative and a better stop gap for the temporary lack of in-person meetings," said Gonzalez.

For information about the Putnam County Composite Squadron contact Major MacDermant at (845) 216-5433, email [elenamac@aol.com](mailto:elenamac@aol.com), or visit [ny033.cap.gov](http://ny033.cap.gov).



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*Civil Air Patrol is the longtime auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a valued member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 single-engine aircraft and 1,550 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). It performs about 90% of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 82 lives annually. CAP's 66,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Operating as a nonprofit organization, CAP also plays a leading role in STEM/aerospace education, and its members serve as mentors to 28,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs.*

Visit [www.CAP.NEWS](http://www.CAP.NEWS) or [www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com) for more information.

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