



NEWS

Putnam County Composite Squadron
Public Affairs Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Putnam Cadets Among First Awarded sUAS Training Certification

CARMEL, New York – April 19, 2022 – The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Putnam County Composite Squadron was invited by Westchester Cadet Squadron 1 and New York Wing to participate in a small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) Primary Flight Training weekend at the Camp Smith Training Site (ARNG) in Cortlandt on April 2-3, 2022. Cadets arrived in Airforce Battledress Uniform with lunches in hand and an anticipation of an exciting weekend of drone training.

The weekend exceeded the expectations of everyone involved, from new skills developed, old skills renewed, leadership skills enhanced, and new friendships made by all the cadets. The comradery developed enabled the expertly skilled staff to conduct a flawless weekend of training, both indoors and out. Aside from the occasional bump into a wall, training proved to be highly successful with an outpouring of support by all participants towards each other.

The program was developed and led by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas S. Vreeland, New York Wing sUAS Program Manager. The training, which consisted of classroom and “stick time,” including pre- and post-flight tasks, was guided by certified flight instructors. The top-notch program graduated CAP Cadets who are among the first in the nation to attain sUAS Primary Training Certification through New York Wing.

Participants trained and conducted orientation flights on various types of drones including the Phantom 3, Phantom 4 Pro and the expensive, but amazing, autonomous X2D. sUAS safety considerations and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 101 regulations for recreational sUAS flying were an integral part of the program. Each participant had to earn the FAA Trust Certificate, which provides important safety and regulatory information for recreational drone flying, as a prerequisite for the course.

The following Putnam County Composite Squadron members successfully completed the course and are among the first in the nation to be awarded CAP's sUAS Primary Flight Training Badge: Cadets Airman Sharik Bose, Senior Master Sergeant Erik Hanson, Senior Airman Jane Hanson, Airman Ken Lin, Airman Michael Strang and Second Lieutenant Corinne Taylor. Senior Member Allison Sywyk-Hanson and Major Peter Milano also received certification.

Civil Air Patrol provides extensive experience in aerospace education, including cyber competitions, orientation flights, pilot training and drone training for cadets ages 12-18, as well as adult senior members who volunteer their time to ensure the success of these programs.



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For information about the Putnam County Squadron, contact Major Elena MacDermant at elenamac@aol.com, (845) 216-5433, or visit www.ny033.cap.gov.

Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 555 single-engine aircraft and 2,250 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of all search and rescue operations within the contiguous United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Often using innovative cellphone forensics and radar analysis software, CAP was credited by the AFRCC with saving 108 lives last year. CAP's 56,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. As a nonprofit organization, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace education using national academic standards-based STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education resources. Members also serve as mentors to over 23,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs.

Visit www.CAP.NEWS or www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com for more information.

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