



Missions for
America
Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!

The Coastwatcher

Publication of the Thames River Composite
Squadron
Connecticut Wing
Civil Air Patrol
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20 March, 2018

24 or 25 MAR-First Air Course-New Haven
24 MAR-Rocket Building (0900-1400)
27 MAR-TRCS Meeting
03 APR-TRCS Meeting
6-8 APR-NER Cadet Competition
07 APR-CTWG TRANEX
10 APR-TRCS Meeting
17 APR-TRCS Meeting
19 APR-State Capitol Tour
21 APR-Rocket Building (0900-1400)
24 APR-TRCS Meeting
28-29 APR-Corporate Leadership Course
07 MAY-Special Wing Exercise (USAF)
19 MAY-Commander's Cup Rocket Contest
29 SEP-Glider Flights-Springfield, Vt.

CADET MEETING/SENIOR MEETING

13 March, 2018
Cancelled-Snowstorm

CADET MEETING

20 March, 2018

Capt Guilliams led a character development seminar.

A promotion and award ceremony was held. See "Missions, Training, Activities, Achievements" section.

SENIOR MEETING

20 March, 2018
Commander's Call

Maj Noniewicz briefed the seniors on a spring home safety checklist: CO and fire monitors, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors.

Maj Farley filled in some details about from the recent pilot's meeting.

An orientation flight schedule was discussed. The April/May calendar was reviewed.

Awards

MISSIONS, TRAINING, ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS

Orientation Flights

Maj Farley took Cadets Kelly on her first orientation flight and Cadet Burton on her second flight. The trip was from Groton to Windham and back to Groton.

*Cadet Kelly
observes Cadet
Burton checking
the fuel*



Achievements

Lt Richards has completed training and been rated as a mission scanner.

Cadet Promotions

Eight cadets were promoted. Their stripes were pinned on by Maj Farley, parents, and siblings.



C/Amn Daniel Donovan



C/SrA Daniel Martin



C/SrA Jack Race



C/SSgt Owen Guilliams SM Thornell accepts on behalf of her son Rhys Thornell.



C/TSgt

Cameron Wischman



C/SMSGt Cameron Munzner



C/CMSgt Daniel Ramsey

Thirty-one members of Thames River were presented with the Air Force Organizational Award Ribbon. The citation which accompanies the award makes note of CAP's "exceptionally meritorious service during the period from October 1st, 2012 to August 31st, 2016.

During the time CAP flew 34,367 operational sorties, 2,943 rescue missions saving 272 lives, provided 158,000 damage assessment photos in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, conducted 1,950 flights as targets during Air Force intercept training, and totaled 29,395 flight hours assisting law enforcement in the seizure of 2.9 billion dollars worth of illegal drugs.

The award also recognized CAP's aerospace education program which is aligned with the national science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum. As well as training its 25,000 cadets, CAP reaches out public education and is credited with reaching 20,000 elementary school children as part of its STEM outreach.



(l-r) Lt Schmidt, Maj Farley, C/CMSgt D. Ramsey, Maj Borque, Maj Peske, C/CMSgt B. Ramsey, C/CMSgt H. Ramsey, C/Col Hollingsworth, C/TSgt Wischman, C/2dLt Schantz, Lt Col Rocketto

Senior members not present for the photo are Lt Cols Bright, Kinch, Doucette, Bergey, Majs Neilson, and Noniewicz, Capt Miller, Lts Simpson, Heard, Drost, Pineau, Humes, Scanell, Crandall, and Richards and SM Alexander deAndrade.

Cadets absent are C/Col Schultz, C/MSgt Eichelberg, C/SSgt Pineau, and C/SrAmn Hallahan.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHECK LISTS AND APPROACH PLATES

Last week's feature entitled "Before Electronic Navigation" attracted the attention of Charlie Levandoski, one of the pterodactyls from ye olde days who may, from time to time, still be founding roaming the skies out of Westerly.

Charlie pointed out that either Cap'n Steve's memory has failed or that he failed to carefully read his "Little Black Book." On the marginal visual flights from Fishers Island (0B8) to Waterford Airport (7B8), there was the final approach fix (FAF), the Jordan Village Baptist Church at the head of Jordan Cove and a mile short of the runway.

The church passage guaranteed that the aircraft would not encounter full immersion in the waters of the Jordan. The sporty flights from 0BE to 8B8 required that the pilot have hubris, stick and rudder skills, and all the divine help he could get.

AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY & HISTORY

MAR 14, 1945– On this date, the first of two prototypes of the Cornelius XFG-1-CR crashed killing test pilot Alfred Reitherman.



In an effort to increase the range of bombers, the Spartan Aircraft Corporation builds two prototypes of the Cornelius XFG-1-CR fuel glider. The glider, with its forward swept could be towed at the cruise speed of the bomber. At the appropriate time, almost 700 gallons of fuel can be transferred and the glider will be cut loose to crash. The novel idea was abandoned at war's end.

MAR 15, 1916– The First Aero Squadron begins operations in Pershing's punitive expedition against the Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa.



Lieutenant C.G. Chapman prepares for a scouting expedition at Casa Grande, in one of the squadron's new Curtiss JN-3s. (Library of Congress)

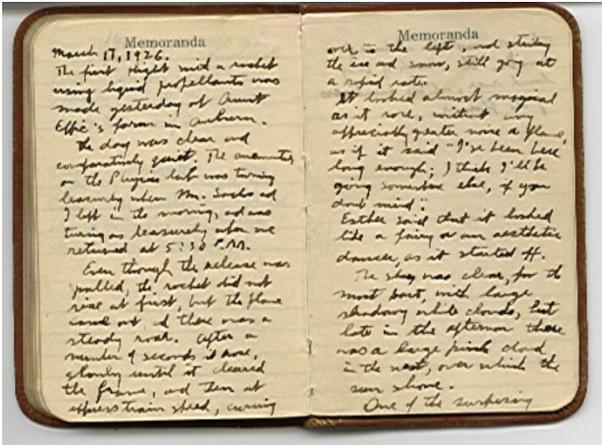
The First Aero Squadron, now known as the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron is the oldest US military flying unit. The Squadron is now based at Beale AFB, California from which they operate the Lockheed U-2S and the Northrop-Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk.

MAR 16, 1926 – Robert Goddard launches the first liquid-fueled rocket. The site is a National Historic Landmark and the markers are on the 9th fairway between the Tee and the Green of the Pakachoak Golf Course, 20 Upland St., Auburn, Massachusetts.



(Credit: Lisa Shay)

(Credit: Esther Goddard)



Notes Taken the Day After the First Launch
(Credit: Clark University)

The first flight with a rocket using liquid propellants was made yesterday at Aunt Effie's farm in Auburn. The day was clear and comparatively quiet. The anemometer on the Physics lab was turning leisurely when Mr. Sachs and I left in the morning, and was turning as leisurely when we returned at 5:30 pm. Even though the release was pulled, the rocket did not rise at first, but the flame came out, and there was a steady roar. After a number of seconds it rose, slowly until it cleared the frame, and then at express train speed, curving over to the left, and striking the ice and snow, still going at a rapid rate. It looked almost magical as it rose, without any appreciably greater noise or flame, as if it said 'I've been here long enough; I think I'll be going somewhere else, if you don't mind.' Esther said that it looked like a fairy or an aesthetic dancer, as it started off. The sky was clear, for the most part, with large shadowy white clouds, but late in the afternoon there was a large pink cloud in the west, over which the sun shone. One of the surprising....

MAR 17, 1966 - A hydrogen bomb, lost on the 17th of January when a B-52 collides with a KC-135 is located. The collision occurred over the fishing village of Palomares, Spain on the Mediterranean coast. Three of the bombs landed on shore and were recovered. The fourth bomb landed in the ocean and the USAF requested naval assistance.

The Navy deployed 23 surface ships and five research/recovery submersibles. After 80 days, The DSV Alvin located the bomb at a depth of 2,5550 feet and attempted a recovery but the bomb was dropped and lost again.

Two weeks later, a torpedo recovery submersible, CURV-1 grappled the bomb and brought it up to a point where divers could attach cables so it could be hauled aboard the *USS Petrel*.



Drawing of CURV-1 grappling the bomb.



Recovered bomb, the *USS Plymouth Rock*, and *Alvin*. (Credits: US Navy)

The Coastwatcher has identified seven other events in which nuclear weapons were contained in aircraft which crashed or were accidentally dropped!

MAR 18, 1965 – Cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov, leaving his spacecraft Voskhod 2 for 12 min, becomes the first person to walk in space.



The exercise required some simply photography but turned into a near disaster. His space suit had expanded and stiffened in the cold vacuum of space and was too large to allow Leonev to reenter the airlock. Leonev managed to partially deflate his suit, risking decompression sickness, and managed to get back inside.

MAR 19, 1964 – Geraldine Mock, in a Cessna 180, becomes the first woman to fly around the world. She flew 22,860 miles in 29 days with 21 stopovers.



(Credit: Sheldon Ross, Columbus Dispatch)



Spirit of Columbus at the National Air & Space Museum

MAR 20, 1991 – Cuban Air Force pilot Major Orestes Lorenzo Pérez defects and flies his MiG-23BN Flogger to Naval Air Station Key West.



The Flogger at Key West (Credit: Orestes Collection)

Lorenzo left his wife and two sons behind and personal and diplomatic efforts to have Cuba release them failed. Pressure was exerted on his wife, Victoria, to denounce him but she refused. Raul Castro was reputed to have said that “- "If he had the guts to steal one of my Migs, let's see if he has the guts to come and get his family."

After careful planning, Lorenzo did just that. Surreptitious communications between Lorenzo and Victoria set up a rendezvous. Late in the afternoon of December 21, 1992, Lorenzo flatbatted a Cessna 310 across the Florida Straits, landed on an active highway, picked up his family, and flew them to freedom.



(Credit: Orestes Collection)

MAR 21, 1987– Dean Paul Martin, Dean Martin's son, goes West. Martin was flying a California Air National Guard F-4C when crashes in the San Bernardino Mountains during a snow storm.



(Credit: California Air National Guard)

MAR 22, 1989 – An Antonov AN-225 carrying a Buran Orbiter sets a total of 106 world and class records during a 3½ flight. Take-off with was 1,120,400 pounds.



(Credit: Antonov)

MAR 23, 1965 – Gemini 3, the US’s first two-man spaceflight, launches carrying Virgil Grissom, John Young, and a smuggled corn beef sandwich from Wolfie's Restaurant in Cocoa Beach, Florida. NASA was not amused.



A corned beef sandwich, embedded in acrylic, is exhibited at the Grissom Memorial Museum in Mitchell, Ind., to "memorialize the infamous sandwich" on Gemini 3.
(Credit: Raymond K. Cunningham, Jr.)

MAR 24, 1986—U.S. carrier aircraft commence operations in the Gulf of Sidra. The late unlamented Libyan dictator, Muammar Ghadaffi has declared the Gulf territorial waters and established a “Line of Death.” International law established territorial limits at 12 nm. Libya claimed a 62 mile limit and the Navy exercised its right to conduct maneuvers in international waters.

International law sets territorial limits at 12 nautical miles from a coastal state. Libya claimed all of the Gulf as its territory.

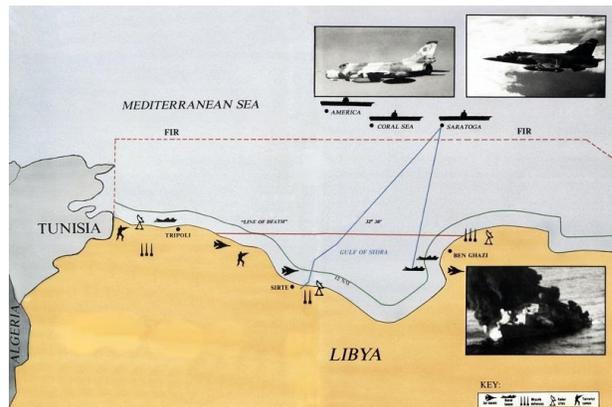
In 1981, Libya challenged the Navy sending two Su-22 Fitters 60 miles offshore where the Navy was conducting exercises. One of the Fitters fired a missile at a flight of two F-14 Tomcats. The missile missed and the Tomcats shot down both Fitters.

In 1986, the Libyans responded to a Navy presence in international waters, deploying MiGs and patrol boat and launched air to air missiles, and surface to air missiles.



A-6E Carrying four Harpoons.

The Navy honored the threat. By the end of the day, two Libyan patrol boats had been sunk, three damaged, and a number of radar installations had been disabled. This was the first combat use of the Harpoon missile in both the surface to surface and air to surface modes.



The Gulf, Libyan Su-22 and Mirage, and burning Libyan Corvette
(Credit: US Navy)

MAR 25, 1926 – Willie Messerschmitt, forms the Messerschmitt Flugzeugbau G. m. b. H.



Willie's postwar career consisted of building sewing machines and light automotive vehicles.

MAR 26, 1940 – First flight of the Curtiss C-46 Commando. The design was originally the Curtis CW-20, a pressurized airliner.

The plane earned its keep in World War II flying the Hump, the cargo run from India to China over the Himalayan mountain range. After the war, surplus Commandos were cheap and were heavily used by start-up airlines.

The Israelis used them to fly disassembled Messerschmidts from Czechoslovakia to Israel to form the first of their fighter squadrons. In the far east, Chennault's Civil Air Transport, later Air America supported U.S. efforts against China and the Vietnam insurgents.



This Commando is still flying in Alaska for Everts Air Cargo.

MAR 27, 2004 – NASA's X-43, an unmanned aerial vehicle powered by a supersonic combustion ramjet breaks the world speed record for an atmospheric engine, 4,800 mph, Mach 7.



B-52 Mothership and X-43 (Credit: NASA)

MAR 28, 1931– The roots of United Airlines are established. In 1926, its predecessor Varney Airlines flew the first commercially contracted air mail.



Then

A year later, William Boeing founded Boeing Air Transport. Boeing then merged his airline with Pratt & Whitney. Boeing then engaged on a buying spree, purchasing Varney, Pacific Air Transport, and National Air Transport.

In 1934 new regulations forbade airframe and engine manufacturers from operating airlines so United Airlines was spun off and became the holding company for Boeing's conglomerate of airlines.

And Now

