

September 2004
23rd Edition

THE CENTRAL LINK

Lt Linda A. Irwin, PAO



TOP NEWS

**Maj Hege
Dedicates 30
years to CAP**

Special Article

**Brothers by
Blood -**

**Credits; CAP
NATIONAL
NEWS**

"During his junior year of high school, Brad joined the Civil Air Patrol."

- See story "Brothers by Blood, Siblings by Stealth"

Public Affairs Contact Information

Lt Linda A. Irwin
121 Dove Road
Fredericksburg,
PA 17026

Res 717.865.4193
Work 717.861.2335
Fax 717.861.2124
Cell 717.821.6839
Email(s) to
wngless1@aol.com
wngless1@comcast.net
pawghqcap@aol.com

or
PAWG HQ CAP
Bldg 3-108
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville PA 17003

PAWG GROUP 2 NEWSLETTER

Lt Col Charles M. Bechtel, Commander

Maj Hege Receives CAP 30 Year Award



Major Dave Hege was presented his 30 year service award during a special presentation on August 9, 2004 with Group 2 Commander, Lt Col Charles Bechtel performing the honors.

"Major Hege served as a sole Certified Incident Commander for Group 2 for many years. He played a critical role in training missions and actual missions," said Commander Bechtel. "Major Hege was instrumental in building up Group 2's assets and the communication van. He also gave radio operator classes throughout Group 2," continued Commander Bechtel.

Congratulations to Major Dave Hege on his accomplishments and we are all very grateful for his 30 years of service to Civil Air Patrol.

**HIGH PRIORITY; PA WING US AIR FORCE
EVALUATION AT FTIG ON
24-26 SEPTEMBER 2004**

Brothers by blood, siblings by stealth.....



Brothers, Capts. Brian and Brad Cochran are pilots with the 393rd Bomb Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. They are the first brothers to qualify as B-2 Spirit pilots.

(story on page 2)



Lt Col Byron Marshall, Deputy Commander of Group 2, uses his vacation to attend this year's National Blue Beret.

Lt Col Byron Marshall attended the National Blue Beret Encampment in Oshkosh this summer and found it to be accelerating.

"134 cadets attended. They were 16 or older and they were sharp," said Lt Col Marshall. The curriculum included missions and 39 "finds" were credited to the class.

"There were air shows every day", continued Lt Co Marshall. "I would recommend the National Blue Beret to everyone" he said.

**GROUP 2
SAR-EVAL 16-17
OCTOBER 2004 AT
ZERBEY**

Brothers by Blood continued.....

By Airman 1st Class Joe Laddan

Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

MISSOURI -- Capts. Brian and Brad Cochran took different roads to reach their dreams of flight, but those paths led to the same destination. The captains are the first brothers to qualify as B-2 Spirit pilots.

"As kids we always imagined we'd be pilots," said Brian of the 393rd Bomb Squadron here at Whiteman Air Force Base. "I don't think we'd ever imagined that we would be sitting on the same base, flying the same airplane."

It is not just any plane either. Only a select few pilots qualify to fly the B-2. Currently there are fewer than 300 certified B-2 pilots on active duty.

"To be selected as a B-2 pilot isn't an easy thing to do," Brian said. "But to be here with a brother, that's pretty unique. This is the most advanced weapons system on the planet. For us to be able to fly it as members of the B-2 team (and) as brothers is a great opportunity."

Their father, Bill Cochran, now retired after 28 years of service in the Air Force, said he had fond memories of taking his youngest son, Brad, to an Air Force base flightline.

"Look Dad," Brad would say pointing at an aircraft. "Someday, I'm going to be a pilot."

Brad said he knew at an early age he would someday become a pilot and an Air Force officer. As a child, he said he enjoyed attending air shows and visiting military museums.

"Ever since I can remember, I've wanted to fly," said Brad, who is currently assigned to the 325th BS here.

During his junior year of high school, Brad joined the Civil Air Patrol. Through CAP, he received his private pilot's license. He seemed primed to reach his goal of qualifying for pilot training. But five years later, during his junior year at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, he hit a detour.

Air Force officials had selected him for navigator training, not the pilot training he had coveted since his youth.

"I think he thought all of his hard work had been in vain," his father said.

Brad remained undeterred. He used the selection as motivation. He spoke with his father, then a lieutenant colonel stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, who encouraged him to stay focused.

Brad continued to work hard, and focused on his training and education. During his senior year, he became the vice commander of his cadet wing.

"I think he was a little disappointed," Brian said. "But he remembered first and foremost he wanted to become an Air Force officer. Sometimes you're going to face adversity, but you overcome that by continuing to work hard. That's what he did."

Six months later, Brad got his chance. He qualified for joint specialized undergraduate pilot training at Vance AFB, Okla. He also graduated from BYU with a degree in international relations.

In July 1998, with his mother and sisters looking on, Brad stood proudly as his father and brother placed silver wings on his chest, signifying his graduation from pilot training, and officially making him an Air Force pilot. After the ceremony, his father turned to Brad and placed a hand on his shoulder.

"You made it," Bill told him with pride.

The boy who fantasized about flight had finally reached his dream.

Brian also flew as a youth, but not in a plane. He flew on a basketball court. An avid hoops player, Brian decorated his room with posters of his idols, basketball greats "Magic" Johnson and Michael Jordan. He fantasized about playing collegiate and NBA basketball.

"He loved (basketball)," said his mother, Shirley. "He lived and breathed it."

His skills flourished, but he was hampered by one shortcoming.

story continued on page 4

SUBORDINATE UNIT INSPECTION SCHEDULE

(REVISED 5 SEPT 04)

GROUP 2 PA003 DATE SQ MEETING TIME

20 September 202 Monday 1900 335 10 December 307 Thursday 1900 265

22 October 304 Friday 1900 010 13 January 302 Monday 1900 021

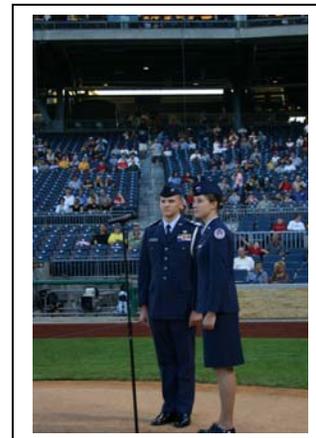
20 November 301 Saturday 1200 021* *Date and time subject to verification

CAP DAY AT PNC PARK

Pennsylvania Wing cadets Keilah Mulvenna of the Jesse Jones Composite Squadron 304 and Michael Bilz of the Golden Triangle Composite Squadron 603 brought the fans to their feet as they sang the National Anthem right before the beginning of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Houston Astros night game on September 10, 2004 at PNC Park. Throwing out the first pitch for this exciting under the lights game were; Cadet Airman First Class Breana L. Beltowski, from Keystone County Cadet Squadron 1504 and Cadet Airman First Class Robert B. Lesisko from the Harrisburg International Squadron 306. Cadet Beltowski was this year's Pennsylvania Wings Encampment Honor Cadet and this year's Encampments Most Improved Cadet was Cadet Lesisko.

After bringing the colors onto the field in what could be described as a very formal and patriotic mass formation, the Pennsylvania Wing Cadets along with Senior Members, sat in the section between first and second base and could easily be recognized by their brightly colored orange tee-shirts. Participants on the field during the presentation of the colors were cadets from the Golden Triangle Squadron 603; Brandon High, Mike Degrance, Ryan McCoy, Stuart Ellis, Ryan Holets, Jess Nagrino, Rachel Shegog, Tom Eck, Cassandra Pasquerell, Katie Smith and Jonathan Shegog. Squadron 603 meets at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport under the command of Captain Robert Frost, Jr. Squadron 603 holds the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol's 2004 Color Guard Champions title. The other cadets participating were from the Latrobe Composite Squadron 1405 and they are cadets; Erica Beitel, Eric Munden, Brendon Phillips, Matthew Tassone, Craig Lanell and Montana Miller. Cadets Munden, Phillips, Tassone, and Lanell have all attended the Honor Guard Academy at Camp Pendelton, Virginia this past year. The Commander of Squadron 1405 is Captain Sarah Jo Tassone. Squadron 1405 meets in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard Armory in Latrobe. Second Lieutenant Donna Beitel, senior member of Squadron 1405 is credited with the on field presentation of the cadets.

"It is opportunities like this that Civil Air Patrol is pleased to be involved with; not only to have a little fun but to introduce Civil Air Patrol to the public," said Captain Dustin Miller, Coordinator of this event. Captain Miller is the Commander of the Bedford Composite Squadron 202, from Bedford. The cadets not only were the witness to a 6 to 1 winning ball game but they were the recipients of baseball caps and souvenirs from the Pittsburgh Pirates Association and a great opportunity for the public to witness a very professional organization.



(Photo taken by SM Pat Nicholson of Squadron 603.)
 On the left, Cadet Michael Bilz of the 603rd and on the right, Cadet Keilah Mulvenna of the 304th.

(BROTHERS story continued)

Standing only five feet nine inches tall and weighing about 130 pounds, much of Brian's competition towered above him. But with a ball in his hands, Brian hovered above them with his skills, sometimes literally. Despite his lack of size, Brian could dunk on defenders, and he led his high school team in scoring.

Bill said attending high school in Panama made it difficult for colleges to scout Brian. A shoulder injury during his senior year further damaged his athletic scholarship hopes. He decided to attend BYU and try to walk onto the basketball team, but a broken collarbone while playing pickup football kept him out of tryouts.

"I wanted to be a professional athlete," Brian said. "But it wasn't in the cards."

While disappointed, he decided to put away his basketball shoes and focus on education. He did not look at becoming an Air Force pilot -- yet. He spoke to his father about other options, and decided, as a freshman in the fall of 1989, to enter the medical field.

It was not until after a two-year missionary trip to Venezuela that Brian said he realized his destiny was in the Air Force.

Brian decided to apply for an Air Force pilot training program.

Competing against thousands of applicants nationwide for 130 pilot slots, he spent countless hours studying and exercising. Brian qualified for pilot training in 1995 and graduated with a double major in international relations and Spanish. He attended Euro-NATO Joint Jet pilot training at Sheppard AFB, Texas, and graduated in 1997.

During Operation Desert Fox in 1998, Brian led a six-ship formation of B-52 Stratofortress bombers, striking targets in Iraq. In Operation Allied Force, he helped destroy emerging targets in Kosovo in 1999.

He said much of his success came from his hours in the simulator and practice sorties. He said he views each practice sortie with the same intensity as a real-world combat mission, just as he played each basketball practice as if it were an actual game.

"Playing sports provided that sense of competition and the sense of striving to do my best," Brian said.

Meanwhile, Brad, stationed at Charleston AFB, S.C., flew combat missions in Tirana, Albania. In October 2001, Night 1 of Operation Enduring Freedom, Brad led a flight of two C-17 Globemaster IIIs delivering humanitarian rations to displaced Afghans.

It was in August 2000 that Brian received some good news. He had applied as a pilot for the B-2 bomber program. He had been accepted. A short time later, Brad, who had also applied, received that same good news. He had been accepted, too.

"I was pretty excited about it, probably more than (Brian and Brad) were," Bill said.

The B-2 was unlike any other aircraft the Cochrans had seen. It could fly 6,000 miles without refueling. It could make munitions drops undetected in enemy airspace.

"I feel very privileged flying (the B-2)," Brad said. "It's an incredible combat aircraft."

As the 393rd's chief of short-range scheduling, Brian schedules sorties, continuation-training sorties, simulator sessions and leave time. Brad is the 325th's assistant weapons and tactics officer, tracking each pilot's weapons qualification and training.

Because they are blood relatives, Brian and Brad cannot fly in the same aircraft; however, should the need arise, they can deploy in the same formation.

Today, rarely a day goes by when the Cochran brothers do not see each other. They live two blocks apart, attend the same church, and their children have grown up together.

The Cochran brothers said they believe their years of hard work, studying, planning, preparing and training brought them to the B-2 and Whiteman.

"I'm extremely proud," Brad said. "I'm proud to be here with my brother. It's a great opportunity to live down the street from my brother and be able to fly this airplane. It's great to be among the people who fly this airplane."

"Both of us are driven in what we want to do," Brian said. "Part of that drive comes from an inner desire to succeed."

A childhood dream and competitiveness on basketball courts may have helped.

"The kind of men they've become is to their credit," said their mother. "We encouraged them and led the way, but it was up to them to follow and become who they're going to be."

Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Jennifer Kline was appointed as the Cadet Commander for Squadron 1504 on August 3, 2004 in a ceremony at the Squadron headquarters in Altoona. Cadet Kline assumed command from the outgoing Commander, Cadet Captain Frederick Rombouts. Presiding over the ceremony was Capt Richard Gray, Commanding Officer of the Squadron.

– PAO Capt Stephen Rombouts

