



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern Nevada Squadrons Promote Cadet Emergency Services Participation
By: Anthony Gorss, Capt, CAP

LAS VEGAS, NV – Cadets from two squadrons in the greater Las Vegas area received their first taste of ground team training held during a search and rescue exercise on Saturday March 10th, 2007.

Eight cadets from Nellis Cadet Squadron and Clark County Composite Squadron reported to mission base early Saturday morning for a state run search and rescue exercise. Having only general emergency services skills, these cadets wanted to pursue additional training, working towards ground team member (GTM) level 3 requirements. Training was in Kyle Canyon, approximately 30 minutes north of mission base, with emphasis on search line techniques and ground to air signaling in addition to all familiarization training for GTM Level 3.

The Las Vegas area has exceptional air search teams, but falls short of qualified members in the areas of ground team and urban direction finding. Captain Anthony Gorss, with the assistance of Lt Col Larry Lakeotes, Captain Mark Collins and Captain Kevin Stall, has spearheaded a program to get local area members involved in ground teams and learning the required skills necessary. During a meeting with Captain Stall, Deputy Commander for Cadets for Clark County Composite Squadron, Captain Stall stated “it’s not a matter of if, it’s when”, regarding the need for qualified ground team members.

One of Civil Air Patrol’s primary missions is emergency services, but sometimes members do not know what is necessary to get involved. Lt Col Lakeotes, Emergency Services Officer for Nellis Cadet Squadron is a 20+ year member of Civil Air Patrol, qualified Level 3 Incident Commander and a Ground Branch Director. Lakeotes has offered his assistance to the training program, and to the ongoing training exercises to give members actual field experience, instead of simulated exercises in a classroom environment.

Future courses have been developed regarding the advanced skills necessary for ground team members. Captain Collins, Nellis Cadet Squadron Medical Officer, is instructing a low-cost CPR/AED/First Aid course on March 17th, 2007 at the Airman Leadership School on Nellis Air Force Base. During the course members interested in becoming instructors will receive additional training so that they may continue to certify others, in an effort to expand the required skills for emergency services personnel. Additional classes in orienteering, map reading and wilderness first aid are currently in the planning stages.

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CAP members interested in ground team training in the Las Vegas, or surrounding area, can contact Captain Anthony Gorss regarding upcoming training schedules at 702-553-4870 or via email at agorss@cap.aero.

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