U.S. CIVIL AIR PATROL
SQUADRON 442
KERRVILLE, TEXAS

MONTHLY NEWS

"ReCAPping what you need to know … June 2025"

1st Lt MARK DEL TORO CAP
SQUADRON COMMANDER

Maj GEORGE OTTO CAP
ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDER

Lt Col JOHN MURRAY CAP
DEPUTY SQUADRON COMMANDER

1st Lt Sarah Crusan CAP
DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR CADETS

Maj Harry Cook CAPe
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

SM Dan English CAP
SAFETY OFFICER

COMMANDER'S CORNER (Mark Del Toro)

Mark welcomed those in attendance at last night's monthly squadron meeting. The squadron Change of Command was held on Monday evening, 12 May 2025. Tom King relinquished squadron command to Mark during the well-attended ceremony moderated by John Murray as Deputy Commander of the Squadron. John will continue as Deputy Commander. Tom will remain in a n advisory role into the fall of 2025.

Mark reminds everyone that it is CAP policy that no member shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination with respect to accessibility to any CAP program or activity on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion (creed), national origin (ancestry), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (formerly handicap), marital status, military or veteran status. However, each case is subject to applicable qualifications and ability standards for the CAP program or activity concerned. Further, it is Civil Air Patrol policy that no applicant meeting CAP's minimum age requirement will be denied membership in CAP on the basis of any of the foregoing characteristics.

Our next squadron monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 2 July 2025. The meeting will be held in-person in the KERV FBO conference room as we have done for the past several years. However, Mark will replace the use of Zoom with MS Teams for virtual attendance at future squadron meetings. He will send out a link with which you can get into the squadron meeting in MS Teams.

DATES & EVENTS TO REMEMBER

WHAT	*WHERE*	*WHEN*	*WHO*
June ES / SAREX	*Kerrville Airport (KERV) or others*	TBD	ES-Qualified members
Squadron Monthly Meeting	KERV Conference Rm + MS Teams	Wednesday, 2 July 2025	Squadron members and guests

For additional information on these activities, contact either Mark Del Toro (830-739-5912) or John Murray (830-285-3248).

ADMINISTRATION (John Murray, Isaac Real, Mark Del Toro)

John Murray told last night's attendees that the squadron bank account has $4,988.87 as of the end of May 2025. Recent expenses of $460.00 included flight simulator software, fuel for Drill & Ceremonies and for Blue Angels Airshow in Corpus Christi and a new Color Guard ceremonial flag.

Starting with next month's squadron meeting, the Zoom attendance option will be replaced with an MS Teams attendance option. Each month, you can expect to receive the meeting agenda and an MS Teams link if you need to attend the meeting virtually.

OPERATIONS/EMERGENCY SERVICES (Tom King for Bob Hamm) /AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE (Tommy Hayes)



N794CA: installation of new engine

Bob Hamm completed his annual Form 5 check ride using N271CA out of the Stinson Municipal Airport (KSSF) on 22 May. Isaac Real brought N592CP from the San Marcos Airport (KHYI) with the assistance of Tom King (N2668T). N592CP was then used on 27 and 28 May to complete four SAREX sorties. N592CP is currently in 100-hour inspection and oil change at Wolfe Avionics at KEREV. Overall, we managed to get: a total of seven flight hours for the month of May. We can get USAF-funded flight hours on a restricted basis and only with Wing-level approval. But can also get flight hours "on our own dimes", *i.e.*, C Mission sorties. The charges for CAP C172 = $74/hour; that for CAP C182 = $88/hour. If you've rented a C172 or C182 recently, you know that these costs are super inexpensive and for a near new airplane in many cases. Isaac has flown C-missions as have Tom and Bob very recently. All considered, a bargain.

We have agreed to host Group V cadet O-flights out of the Kerrville Municipal Airport (KERV) sometime in June 2025. These sorties will be conducted using several CAP aircraft from other squadrons brought to KERV. And hopefully to include our own N794CA!

Tom King and John Murray will use N592CP or N271CA on a CD / PINS mission on Friday, 6 June 2025. Bob Hamm and Scott Purdy are tentatively scheduled to fly the PINS mission sometime in July. Though funding for the PINS mission is somewhat restricted, the mission is once again "green-light. We can expect to fly on this mission every 1-2 months through the summer and early fall. If you are interested in getting involved in this mission, please contact Bob.

The new engine for our squadron airplane arrived at Wolfe Avionics & Maintenance on 26 May 2025 where it has now been installed on the airplane. Tommy Hayes and Isaac Real will conduct the CAP-required break-in procedures during a minimum of two flights before the airplane is made available to other pilots.

COMMUNICATIONS (Mark Del Toro for Scott Purdy)

TXWG has released a list of tactical call signs for radio communications. Our squadron has been assigned call signs Big Bend 5501 through 5549. If you want one of these radio call signs, contact Scott. Scott will be "retiring" comm equipment that is inoperative, including two hand-held radios and two power supplies. We should consider sending back to TXWG comm equipment including hand-held radios that are in working order but for which we have no use.

CADETS (Sarah Crusan)

The cadets traveled to Corpus Christi, Texas to attend a US Navy Blue Angels air show on Saturday, 10 May 2025. The cadets will travel to I Fly at I-10 & 1604 later this summer. Various members of the cadet side of the squadron will participate in the upcoming Summer Encampment. Sarah mentioned that the cadets provided an Honor Guard for the recent Ingram HS graduation ceremony.

Isaac Real, Mark Del Toro, Bob Hamm and Tom King traveled to Stinson Municipal Airport (KSSF) where they met up with Chris Spradley (TX-187. That squadron has given our squadron most of a flight simulator. Mark has obtained MS Flight Simulator software. He and Isaac have assembled the simulator at the cadet facility. The simulator will be used for instruction of cadets prior to orientation flights as well as other instruction. The simulator is available to all members, cadets and seniors, of our squadron.

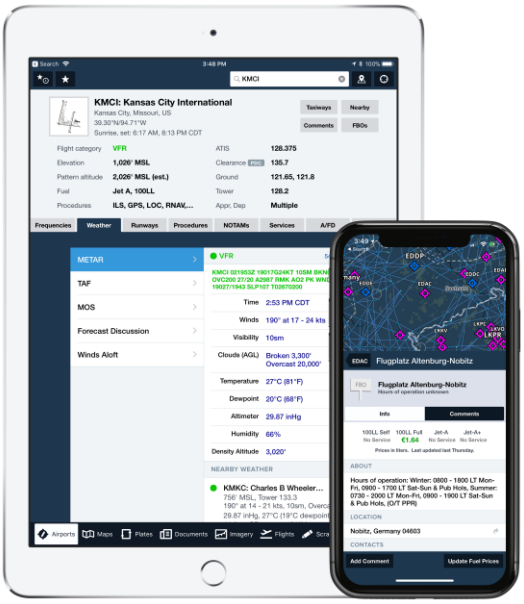
SAFETY (Tom King for Dan English)

Tom presented the safety briefing entitled "Weather Briefings and NOTAMs".

Aviation weather briefings are essential for pilots before flight to ensure safety and informed decision-making. They provide information about weather conditions along the planned route, including current conditions, forecasts, and potential hazards like icing, turbulence, or adverse weather events. Pilots can obtain briefings from various sources, including Flight Service Stations (FSS), online services like ForeFlight, or aviation-specific apps.

The following is typically included in preflight briefings:

- Current Weather: Information about current conditions at the departure and destination airports, including temperature, wind speed and direction, visibility, and cloud cover.
- Forecasts: Information about expected weather conditions along the route, including temperature, wind, and precipitation.
- Adverse Conditions: Information about potential hazards like icing, turbulence, or thunderstorms.
- NOTAMs: Notices to Airmen, which are important warnings or changes to airport or airspace procedures.
- Winds Aloft: Information about wind speed and direction at different altitudes along the route.
- PIREPs: Pilot reports, which are real-time weather observations from other pilots.
- Alternate Airports: Information about potential alternate airports in case of adverse weather at the destination.



It's important to have proof of your having obtained an appropriate weather briefing and NOTAMs. In fact, it's required (§91.103)! Most or all of us utilize ForeFlight. ForeFlight's weather, NOTAM, and airport information come from federal regulatory agencies. In the U.S., ForeFlight's primary source for METAR data is the National Weather Service (NWS). In the event of an incident or accident, the FAA will look for evidence that you obtained a weather briefing and NOTAMs. ForeFlight stores a record of the briefing received for 120 days. 1800WXbrief.com is official. Even though it's run by a private company (Leidos), the FAA has officially licensed it to provide important weather information as well as be a way to file flight plans.

Do you necessarily need to check NOTAMs at your departure airport or destination airport? Yes, the FAA requires pilots to review all available information about a flight before takeoff, as outlined in 14 CFR § 91.103. This includes obtaining a preflight briefing, checking for NOTAMs, and familiarizing themselves with all relevant information. This past week, a number of pilots were surprised to find that Rwys 12 – 30 were closed for maintenance and repairs at the Kerrville Airport. (Rwys 03 – 21 remain open.) Why were they surprised? You can assume that they didn't check the published NOTAMs for the airport.

It's so very important that pilots become as fully prepared for flight before flight. Avail yourself of one or more of the many excellent tools to do this, e.g., ForeFlight.

Remember that TXWG mandates that all members must participate in the monthly safety briefing prior to participation in any squadron activity including air operations. This participation must be documented. Your signing in at the monthly squadron meeting completes this requirement. You need no more safety briefing for this month. If you cannot attend a particular monthly meeting, respond "RECEIVED" to the e-mail to which the monthly newsletter is attached. And you'll get credit for the safety briefing.