

Civil Air Patrol

Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

Marco Island Composite Squadron

Florida Wing - Unit #SER-FL-376

P. O. Box 225, Marco Island, FL 34146-0225

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 2008

Marco Island resident participates in Civil Air Patrol's National Glider Flight Academy

Marco Island, FL – C2/Lt Cadet Deryck Kuper of the Marco Island Composite Squadron recently participated in the Civil Air Patrol's National Glider Flight Academy held in Mattoon, Ill. on June 20 through June 28th.

The flight academy is designed for cadets like Kuper who are taking their first steps toward becoming a pilot. The academy gives them formal ground instruction and cockpit time with a certified flight instructor. Many cadets participating in a NFA also solo at the academy. The learning environment is specially designed for cadets, and the low instructor-to-student ratio provides opportunities for mentoring and individual attention.

The flight academy is one of about 30 National Cadet Special Activities being sponsored by CAP across the nation this summer. These activities allow cadets to hone their skills in a variety of areas, including search and rescue, flight and emergency services, science, leadership fundamentals, citizenship, military courtesies and to explore aerospace technology and aviation careers. In 2007, more than 1,200 youth participated in 31 CAP-sponsored summer activities.

Through its cadet program, CAP builds strong citizens for the future by providing leadership training, technical education, scholarships and career education to youth ages 12 to 20.

Cadet Deryck Kuper was recently presented the Billy Mitchell Award by Squadron Commander LtCol Lee Henderson. Cadet Kuper is the first Marco CAP cadet to receive this prestigious award and the accompanying promotion to C/2Lt.

Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 56,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 103 lives in fiscal year 2007. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the nearly 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 65 years.

For more information about CAP or its cadet program, visit www.cap.gov.