



# Quarterly Safety Bulletin

3rd Quarter 2008

July 15, 2008



## Bird's Eye View on Safety

Col. Kenneth W. Parris, CAP

California Wing Commander

### SAFETY BY EXAMPLE

At the 2008 Pacific Region Conference in Portland, the Pacific Region Commander, Colonel Ernie Pearson, introduced the region's safety theme for this year, "Safety by Example". He charged every member of the Region to ensure that we are safe in everything we do, both in and out of CAP, and that we create an organization of safety minded individuals by setting the example.

What does "Safety by Example" mean to us? It simply reminds us that we need to be ever vigilant about our actions and how the example we set will lead others in the same direction. Those of you who have spent any time around small children know they intently watch the adults and older children within their environment. Many times they often attempt to imitate the actions and activities of those older than them. This is how they learn both good and bad habits.

Likewise, we need to be conscious of the fact that many of the tasks we perform in CAP are unique to our CAP participation. Generally, we do not perform these tasks on a regular basis yet many of them tend to include a considerable amount of risk. We need to be sure and train our members to always be alert for potential safety hazards and not to take any undo risks. Cutting corners on checklists may seem to cut short the time it takes us to perform a task in the short run but it may also cut short the time we have on this earth.

Let's also take seriously our role as mentors for our cadets. They watch us and mimic our behavior, both good and bad. Set a good example for the cadets you mentor, ensuring they will be healthy and well when the time comes for them to take the leadership of our organization.

I am committed to making California Wing the safest and most efficient wing in the Nation. Please feel free to contact me directly with any recommendation you may have to improve safety and efficiency in any of our operations.

Remember, SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT and ALWAYS BE VIGILANT...Semper Vigilans!

## California Wing Safety Staff Holds First Unit SE Course

LtCol. Mike Watkins

Seventeen Unit Safety Officers from around the Wing gathered in Los Alamitos on Saturday, May 17 to attend the first Unit SE course presented since the Wing conference. Another was held 14 June in Northern California. (The course is required for all Unit Safety Officers satisfying CAWG Policy letter #4.)

Attending were: LtCol Tom Stanton, 1Lt. Chris Bagdikian, SM Robert North, LtCol John Stark, Capt. Frank Quinonez, Capt. Ron Hirzel, 1Lt. Pat Bergin, 1Lt. Robert Noble, Maj. Brian Stover, Capt. Elizabeth Anne Goude, SM Ken Deeble, LtCol Ron Handrop, Maj. Mike Skullr, 1Lt. 1Lt. Dave MacGregor, 2Lt. Samuel Aguilar III, Maj. Paul Groff and 2Lt. Dennis Wolsey. Instructors were Maj. Alex Kay and LtCol Phil Laisure of CAWG staff, assisted by Maj. Mike Watkins of South Coast Group 7 and 1Lt. Alexander Smith of Sq. 150.



Instructors, from left, Maj. Mike Watkins, Lt. Col Phil Laisure, Maj. Alex Kay

Unlike the AFDIL course, the Unit SE course offers attendees not only an introduction to Safety regulations and the duties and responsibilities of Unit SE's but the value of on-site mentoring and real-life experience.

(Continued from page 1)



Attendees at the Group 7 / Sq. 150 HQ in Los Alamitos

The course lays out applicable regulations and explains their content, intent, and applicability to every-day occurrences which is why it is required for all new Unit SE officers in CAWG. The instructors make things interesting by injecting lively, tongue-in-cheek commentary that holds students' attention throughout the five-hour course.

A primary emphasis provided was that Unit Commanders do not delegate responsibility for safety to their safety staffs. Unit SE's instead are the eyes and ears of the Commander as well as providing clerical support for reports and Unit record-keeping. They also have authority at CAP events to ensure safety prevails. The support of Unit Commanders is essential in providing an effective safety program.

The course then goes to lengths to explain what the elements are of an effective program and where guiding material can be found. Attendees were told that, by the time they complete the course, they can easily answer the question posed by an IG inspector asking, "describe the safety program in your unit". Everyone later agreed that this objective had been accomplished.

Quizzes were presented at three points in the course. These were for the benefit of attendees to determine the extent of learning attained and for the instructors to determine teaching effectiveness. They accomplished their objective. Several students missed questions and their misunderstandings were resolved on the spot.

Incident reporting and investigation were covered in detail. The on-line Form 78 was not the least of these. Regulatory guidelines were revised recently and everyone attending received an update on the role played in the local units along with color commentary from the instructors about the generalities of recent events and the details covered in these reports.

Preparation for an I.G. inspection of their units was covered in detail. The emphasis was simply on knowing the demands of the job, doing the job the regulations demand,

and in doing an effective self-inspection. They learned that if those things are done effectively the Unit SE can relax and welcome any I.G. inspection.

A review of recent accident trends and their causes capped the preparation of the attendees for the duties they face in their units.

After completion of the class, attendees were asked to fill out an evaluation of the Class. Results were very positive but there were some suggestions for improvement. Several said that they



Graduation at Los Alamitos

would like more training on preparing the CAP Form 78, "Mishap Report".

Course staff are taking this to heart and are preparing a 20-minute additional module on the details of a well-done incident report. Staff also sees the opportunity of reducing some redundancy in an effort to keep the course content within the original timeline.

Photography by 1Lt. Alexander Smith

### Reported Incidents 10/2007 to Present

1 aircraft incidents

0 vehicle incident

6 personal injuries

\*brown recluse spider bite

\*cadet fell and chipped a tooth

\*senior member slipped and fell breaking hip

\*aircraft equipment failure (master switch)

\*cadet fall at air show

\*nose bleed at meeting

\*cadet twisted ankle during PT