

Maybe I can give you a whole bunch of info. At the ripe old age of 52 1/2 I still can remember, but details do start to fade. I was active in Group III CAP from the end of 1963 until probably 1974-75. I was a cadet until I got married in 1972 and then became active as a Senior. I was permitted by the Squadron Commander to join when I was 12 1/2, but had to wait until I was 13 to wear the uniform. I had already earned 3 stripes by that point in time. I held just about every cadet staff position in Squadron 301, then after I got married, and turned senior I was the Cadet Training Officer then Senior Squadron Commander. Because of a job I had to move to Elyria, OH and commuted to Y-town every week for the meeting. That got to be too much, so I left the Squadron. I was just about to be promoted to Capt., but could no longer keep up the travel and pace. I never became active with CAP again. I do have to say however, for many years CAP was just about my entire life. Even school did not seem as important to me. I was involved in a lot of stuff. Ground rescue, Communications, heck I even met my girl friend of many years in CAP. Was involved in about 5-6 aircraft search/rescue type operations, REDCAPS and many SARCAPS, if they still use those terms.

In the 67-69 range 301 had over 100 active members, and I must say, Warren Squadron and us were extreme rivals. Friendly competition amongst the cadets but at a time the Seniors from each Squadron did NOT get along. I still have a 301 Squadron newspaper from those days, and it was banned by the Grp. III CO because it was too inflammatory and critical of Group Staff. All copies of the paper were collected and destroyed and the paper was disbanded. (Well, one or 2 copies got out before the normal distribution.) There was always a feeling Warren got more attention than Y -town, thus the rivalry. 301 was called the "UNFLYABLE SQUADRON" for a number of years, as we had none or only 1 or 2 senior pilots. So, our paper was the "Unflyable News." After the flap with the cadet publisher of the paper, who was the brother of the Senior Squadron Commander, (Stephen Boccieri,) and the Group III CO, the entire Senior Squadron Staff resigned. But they were persuaded to come back by several of the parents of cadets, who were major supporters of the Squadron, (including my parents), who almost begged them to reconsider. My parents never joined, but were always there to help. Here are some names for you. Senior Commander at Warren was Charles Cole his wife Joan also a member. George Wood was the Group Senior CO. Warren was almost as big as us. Both squadrons were among the most active in the state, and we often sent more cadets and more staff to summer encampment at Wright-Patt, then any other squadrons. We met at the Naval Reserve Center on LaCleda Ave. in Y -town and actually had our own headquarters building on Market Street in Y-town. Meetings were on Wed. night 1900-2200. Every Saturday had something to do with CAP. Either working at "headquarters," search and rescue training, communications exercises, drill team and many other things going on. In those days there was also squadrons in Salem, Alliance, E. Liverpool, and I think there was a couple more in the Group.

In 64/65 Group III fielded a drill team for the OH Wing Drill Competition. It was held at Rickenbacker, and we flew in 2 C-119's out of Youngstown AFB, down to Columbus. This was a combined team from Warren and Y-Town commanded by Charles Cole. We won the Wing Competition, then went to the Great Lakes Regional where we placed 3rd, a very close 3rd. The next year the Regional was cancelled, but we won the

Wing Competition again. I still have my white arm braid cord for the championship. The year after that, the competition was moved to Wright Patterson during summer encampment, and I commanded the winning Squadron. Summer Encampment in those days was a BIG thing. We had 7-8 Cadet Squadrons a camp, with about 40 cadets plus staff in each. Usually 2 female and 5 or 6 male squadrons. There was also a Squadron of OTC cadets, usually commanded and trained by Charles Cole of Warren. I went to my 1st encampment, then OTC the next year, then the next year I was the Squadron Commander of Squadron C "Snoopy Squadron" That was by the way the mascot of Squadron 301. (We actually had a letter signed by Charles Schultz giving us permission to use Snoopy as our mascot, I am not sure if I still have that or not. I do however still have the banner we used of Snoopy.) I was the 1st cadet to ever get a squadron commander position right out of OTC. One of my cadet flight leaders went on to eventually become OH Wing Senior Commander. Another Squadron Commander Mark Bright named his Squadron Bright's Barons, so we dueled all encampment, it was a blast, but then that was in a different time, MANY years ago.

After my stint as Cadet Commander of 301, I became Chairman of the Group III Cadet Advisory Council, member of the OHWCAC, and attended my last Summer Encampment as a Group Training Officer. I did attempt the Spaatz Exam 1 time, just prior to getting married. There were 3 test parts, I passed the physical and the question section, but did not pass the essay part. Could never figure out why. You had to pass all 3 to actually pass. As I said in the other note, David Olney, who also went to Canfield, and was a year older than me, he graduated HS in 1968 and I in 69. He went to Univ. of Cincy in Aerospace Engineering. I believe he was only the 2nd or 3rd to ever get the Spaatz in the Ohio Wing, 1st in Group III, and if I remember correctly, he was the 1st in the Wing to pass it the 1st time he took it. Something is nagging at me that he may have been the first nationally to pass it on the 1st go around. He did it while he was going to Cincy. And, I am trying to remember if there might have been 1 other. A friend of mine Mike Laney, who went to the AF Academy, graduated and became a KC-135 tanker pilot, and then I think into the KC-10's, may also have passed the Spaatz, I am not sure. Mike went to Liberty High. It is fuzzy. I have not seen either in years, but David still works at Goddard in Maryland. I actually don't live far from there, and I may just try to look him up. Writing this is bringing back some good old memories.

Just as an aside, the son of my second cousin, I believe was in the Alliance Squadron, made at least C/Lt Col. and I think went on to graduate from the AF Academy. I can not remember his last name. His dad was a basketball star at Liberty and my cousin was head cheerleader in 69. I only ever saw her at family funerals, and it has been years. WOW, sorry for that useless bit of info.

My most memorable CAP thing, aside from my old girl friend, was being selected for the 1970 IACE special activity. I spent 4 weeks in France with a bunch of other cadets from all over the country. What a fantastic thing for a 19 year old kid. I turned 19 in Paris, man what a party they gave me. Then there was a FORMAL dinner up in the Eiffel Tower, hosted by the French Minister of Aviation. And, a wonderful reception and dinner at the Aviation Club of France, with a number of other dignitaries. And, a tour of the Concorde, while it was being built. That is, one of the ORIGINAL prototypes of the

Concorde, before it ever went into service. See, I told you it was a LONGGGG time ago. There was a bunch of other stuff some I can share, other things better left as memories of France. Like the Pink Pussy Cat Club on the Champs.

I do have in my possession a couple of old Ohio Wing summer encampment year books, with pictures of many of these people. I also have copies of some of my old cadet training manuals and copies of some training manuals that date back I believe into the 40's or early 50's. I do have a bunch of stuff that I would like to give to a new home. I am trying to clean out stuff and I am afraid that someday these things will just be thrown out. My wife had little connection to CAP and my kids had none. Is there anything like a historical archive or anything similar in CAP or Ohio Wing? I am sure most would not consider the stuff I have to be of any importance, but they sure do represent a lot of my youth.

FYI, I graduated from Canfield High School, and also from YSU, back when Ron Jawarski and Cliff Stoudt were the YSU quarterbacks, I know, who were they.

I guess I have a few question about CAP, Group III, Ohio Wing, Y-W Composite Squadron, and the organization as a whole. Maybe in another note I can ask them, that is of course assuming I did not bore you out of your skull with all of this probably worthless info.

Sorry to write a book here. I bet you never figured some "OLD" guy was going to bore you to tears when you responded to my note. Boy, it just seems like yesterday when I was 13 and all of those Senior officers in their 30's, 40's, and 50's were OLD guys, I guess most are long gone by now.

I think I am going to try to find some of my old pals. A CAP 301 reunion might be interesting.

Well, I will let you go. Please feel free to use my name on anything you would like, and I would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have, if I can remember the answers.

Wayne B. Charles

Former; C/Lt. Col

PS: Still have my diamonds, my pips from lower ranks, and my uniform ribbons in with all of the other "stuff." It is time to get rid of them.