



## **CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**4 -7 March, 2014**

**After Action Report**

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Members of Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol meet with

State Governor, Bill Haslam

Wednesday 5 March, 2014

During the annual CAP Legislative Day & Civic Leadership Academy



**CIVIL AIR PATROL, TENNESSEE WING**  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
2441 E. GENERAL AVIATION DRIVE  
ALCOA, TN 37701



## **Civic Leadership Academy 2014**

Tennessee Wing's 2014 Civic Leadership Academy was conducted from 4-7 March, in conjunction with the CAP Legislative Day in Nashville, Tennessee.

The CLA kicked off in the late afternoon of Tuesday 4 March, when the participants signed in to the program and checked in to their hotel rooms, before meeting in the evening to hear a lecture on the function and peculiarities of the Tennessee State Government. This was followed by an introductory briefing and training on how to conduct a meeting with a member of the legislature.

At 0700 on Wednesday morning 5 March, 6 Senior Members and 12 Cadets met in a conference room at the "Tennessee Tower" and formed into 6 teams. Tennessee Wing Headquarters Staff had previously contacted members of the General Assembly to set up meetings, thus it was only necessary to assign each team with its appointment schedule.

Commencing at 0815 and running through 1615, the teams had over 50 sessions with legislators, including the Speaker of the House and the Lt. Governor. A typical meeting lasted about 10-15 minutes. The cadets had been instructed on protocol and when asked, provided the legislator with a brief overview of how Tennessee Wing participates within the State Emergency Management structure. They also spoke of their personal aspirations and of the benefits they have received from membership in CAP. At the end, each legislator was handed a packet containing the National Legislative Day brochure and a summary of CAP's activities over the past year. For those not yet a member of the Legislative Squadron, the legislator was given a pre-filled application for that required only their signature to complete.

Those members of the General Assembly who were unable to meet with the teams each received the National Legislative Day brochure and additional information on Tennessee Wing.

As the day progressed many times teams were stopped in the hall by legislative members or members of their staffs, and welcomed to the hill. One team "bumped into"

the Lt Governor in a lobby and held a brief conversation with him. When another team entered a committee meeting to observe the hearing, one of the Legislative Squadron Members present requested (and got) permission from the Committee Chair to interrupt the hearing and formally welcome the team to the hill and to the committee meeting. Recognition by the chair and a round of applause from the committee members and the audience followed. Around midafternoon, the CLA members were invited to have their photo taken with Governor Bill Haslam.

All these meetings were very successful, resulting in not only an enhancement of the already positive image of CAP on the hill, but the recruitment of an additional 15 members to the Legislative Squadron. This brings the Legislative Squadron up to 84 members (63% of the General Assembly). The appreciation of CAP and respect from "The Hill" continues to grow.

On the morning of Thursday 6 March, participants attended the General Session of the Tennessee House of Representatives where Representative John Ragan, Legislative Squadron Commander, called upon the house to recognize our presence. After the session, Rep. Ragan personally conducted the cadets on a tour of the House Chamber, which included a photo opportunity and comments from Speaker of the House Beth Harwell. He then continued with a tour of the Capital, complete with a running history lesson which was both educational and entertaining.

Following lunch, the CLA participants were driven to the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Nashville Center, where the cadets were given a briefing on the SmartWay, TDOT's Intelligent Transportation System. This program integrates advanced information technologies and management practices to improve the safety and operation of highways and other transportation modes, such as public transit. Our visitors were able to observe the command post in operation and watch the traffic flow across the Nashville metropolis. This was followed by the opportunity to inspect one of TDOT's Emergency Response Units, a vehicle which combines many of the resources otherwise only available from individual fire, police and ambulance units.

On Friday, 7 March, we arrived at the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) bright and early, where the day started with a personal briefing by the Director, Jim Bassham. General Bassham spoke not only of TEMA's mission and CAP's role as a participating agency, but also the need for the cadets to take advantage of every opportunity for a good education, since they are the future leaders of our country.

Following the briefing, the cadets sat in on a multi-agency discussion on tornado preparedness in Tennessee. Present were over 100 representatives of federal, state, local and volunteer organizations and the session opened with the Deputy Director inviting us to give a brief overview of CAP's role in the state. This task was assigned to C/Capt Jonah Torp-Pedersen who gave an excellent 4 minute impromptu! The morning ended with briefings from three other emergency response agencies and the Tennessee National Guard.

That afternoon, everyone travelled to the headquarters of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. The TBI is the state's independent police agency and serves as an unbiased state agency to assist local law enforcement in the investigation of serious crimes. The program started with a briefing and informational video, followed by a tour of the facility and the opportunity to witness firsthand, the labs and equipment usually only seen in TV shows. The end of this tour was also the end of the 2014 Civic Leadership Academy.

In summary, the CLA was highly successful. Both the cadets and their escorts learned from the experience and everyone enjoyed the time spent. Tennessee Wing and Civil Air Patrol continue to have a very positive image in the eyes of our state government and there is no doubt that the cadet presence on the hill does nothing but enhance this perception. Our members were warmly received wherever we went on the hill, including greetings, handshakes and even hugs in the halls. Membership in the Legislative Squadron membership has increased to almost two-thirds of the Tennessee General Assembly, many of whom also have personal relationships with the units in their districts.

Roger Middleton, Lt Col, CAP  
Director of Cadet Programs

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Government Relations Advisor

## TENNESSEE WING CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2014

### Financial Summary

The original budget based on a maximum 27 participants, was \$4,120, with a planned cost (expenditure minus income) of \$2,320.

Because of the lesser number of participants (18 total), the actual expenditure was \$2,650, less participation fees (\$525) and Spatz Association Grant (\$1000).

Accommodation	\$1900
Food	\$ 150
Fuel	\$ 500
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 100</u>
Total Expenses	<b>\$2650</b>
<i>Participation Fees</i>	<i>\$ 750</i>
<i>Spatz Assn. Grant</i>	<u><i>\$1000</i></u>
Balance Expended	<b><u>\$ 900</u></b>