



Homes are pushed against a railroad bridge in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Across the state, CAP volunteers took more than 1,000 photographs for the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division as well as the National Weather Service.

Iowa Under Water

Little did Cadet Airman Katelyn Mishmash know when she reported for duty at the Emergency Operations Center in Cedar Rapids, the day would be like no other she's ever experienced.

While manning the security desk in the wake of flooding that has devastated the state, Mishmash was greeted by President Bush.

The president was in town visiting with citizens of Cedar Rapids, one of the cities hit hardest by recent floods; he was exiting the EOC when he approached her.

"I was very shocked," Mishmash said.

"I actually got to talk to him for about 15 seconds. He noticed I was in Civil Air Patrol and said, 'Civil Air Patrol, outstanding,' and thanked me

By Capt. Christopher Colvin

Homeland Security praises CAP

for my help during the floods,” Mishmash said.

For Mishmash, meeting Bush was the icing on the cake on a day in which she also met the state’s governor and lieutenant governor, Iowa City’s mayor, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers brigadier general and several other VIPs.

“This experience is one I will remember for the rest of my life. When I first joined Civil Air Patrol, I never imagined I’d be shaking hands with the president of the United States,” she said.

Bush also met Maj. George Cobley, 2nd Lt. Michael Dzado and Sr. Mbr. Brian Mishmash, Katelyn’s father.

Bush arrived at the peak of flooding in Iowa, where 80 of the state’s 99 counties were declared disaster areas.

Congressmen Soar

Following the disaster, CAP members stepped up to help communities across the state.

Iowa Wing aircrews have flown more than 15 missions and delivered more than 1,800 photographs of damage across the state to the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and the National Weather Service.

CAP’s aircrews documented critical infrastructure in hard-hit areas, work that aids HSEMD significantly, said Joyce Flinn, an official there.

“Partnership with the Civil Air Patrol provided critical information in both response and recovery,” Flinn said.

Aerial tours were also flown to give lawmakers a bird’s-eye view of the damage. Iowa U.S. Sens. Tom Harkin and Chuck Grassley flew over Ankeny, Mason City, Charles City, Nashua, Waverly and Des Moines. Iowa U.S. Rep. Steve King also surveyed the damage by flying with a CAP aircrew.

“As I traveled across north central Iowa, I was struck by the magnitude of damage throughout the state and by the families who were continuing to struggle to



Photo by Capt. Christopher Colvin, Iowa Wing

Sen. Tom Harkin, left, and Sen. Chuck Grassley were flown over flood-ravaged Iowa by Civil Air Patrol Capt. Kim Kirschman. Both senators expressed thanks for the flight, which helped them determine the needs of flood victims across the state.


recover from this terrible disaster,” said Harkin, who vowed to ensure that immediate relief was provided to the families.

“The extent of the damage was mind-boggling. This historic flooding caused so much hurt and damage throughout Iowa,” said Grassley. “The Civil Air Patrol’s flight service allowed us to bring Iowans’ concerns to Washington.”


CAP’s North Central Region Commander Col. Steve W. Kuddes also praised the effort.

“The professionalism and dedication of the members of the Iowa Wing and its commander were very evident by their actions,” he said. “They did an outstanding job of being proactive in a difficult situation.” ▲

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Photo by 2nd Lt. Kent Hornor, Colorado Wing

National Response

Floods call 10 CAP wings into action

By Neil Probst

“Steamboat Pilot & Today” featured the above photo taken by a Civil Air Patrol aircrew in a May story about flooding on the Elk River. The Colorado Wing flew several flights to assist the state with damage assessment.

A

As waters on rivers across the country overflow and flood homes, CAP volunteers are soaring countless hours in Gippsland GA8 Airvans and Cessna 182 Skylanes to fly emergency managers above rivers and shoot aerial photography for state and local agencies.

In Colorado, where the “Steamboat Pilot & Today” newspaper published Civil Air Patrol-provided photographs in its May 22 online edition, the newspaper reported that warming temperatures were causing rapid snowmelt, leading to some of the overflow.

Following a request from the state Division of Emergency Management, members there launched five flights to survey river flooding in Routt and Gunnison counties and landslides in Archuleta County near Pagosa Springs that damaged a large natural gas distribution line.

On at least one flight a Gunnison County emergency manager and a road and bridge supervisor rode inside a CAP aircraft to view flooding. “The pilot was awesome,” said Scott Morrill, Gunnison County emergency manager, following a CAP flight piloted by 1st Lt. Roy Leeling. “He was able to get us into the areas of interest very safely. His flying experience in the high mountains of Colorado was very obvious. He bent over backwards to make sure we had the photos we needed at the right angle.”

In Idaho, meanwhile, the Kootenai County Sheriff’s Department requested a flight above floodwaters along the Coeur d’ Alene River in the northern panhandle.

A sheriff’s deputy and a Civil Air Patrol aircrew member took photographs during the mission after it was approved by the Idaho Department of Homeland Security, said incident commander Lt. Col. John Grubb.

“They had a lot of pictures of houses that were surrounded by water and roads that were washed out,” Grubb said.

“I specifically asked if the customer was happy, and the crew told me he was,” he said.

RICE CRISIS

In Arkansas, members also flew state officials, members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration and a member of Gov. Mike Beebe’s staff.

Maj. Joel Buckner flew governor’s staff member Jon Moran above the White River, which Buckner said was about eight miles wide. It’s normally no more than a quarter-mile across.

Buckner said in Arkansas, not only are homes affected, but also the state’s signature crop — rice — is in danger.

“If that water doesn’t get out of here soon, we’re not sure whether we’re going to be able to get a rice crop in, and if we can’t get a rice crop in, the economic impact will be in the millions,” Buckner said.

As the Colorado, Idaho and Arkansas efforts show, CAP’s missions continue to become more diverse.

Flooding has kept members in Missouri, Maine and Nebraska busy as well.

LATEST FLOOD MISSIONS

Additional wings were active very recently. Below are air sorties flown, hours aloft, and number of ground sorties at press time according to the most recent statistics from the CAP National Operations Center.

Indiana Wing: air, 5 sorties, 13.4 hours; ground, 14

Iowa Wing: air, 16 sorties, 31.6 hours; ground, 2

Wisconsin Wing: air, 1 sortie, 3.2 hours; ground, 100

South Dakota Wing: air, 3 sorties, 6.5 hours

AWESOME ASSET FOR COMMUNITIES

In 2007 CAP flew more than 4,500 hours of damage assessment on wild-fire missions in California, Florida, Georgia, South Dakota, Utah and Texas, and flooding missions in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Minnesota and Washington.

This year, CAP has flown more than 2,800 hours, primarily to support more wildfire and flooding missions as well as damage assessment following tornadoes in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Nevada and Tennessee.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

According to WMIRS, CAP's Web Mission Information Reporting System, Missouri Wing CAP volunteers flew nearly 15 hours recently following floods.

Members flew missions in at least six counties for customers that included county emergency management agencies and the Missouri Water Patrol.

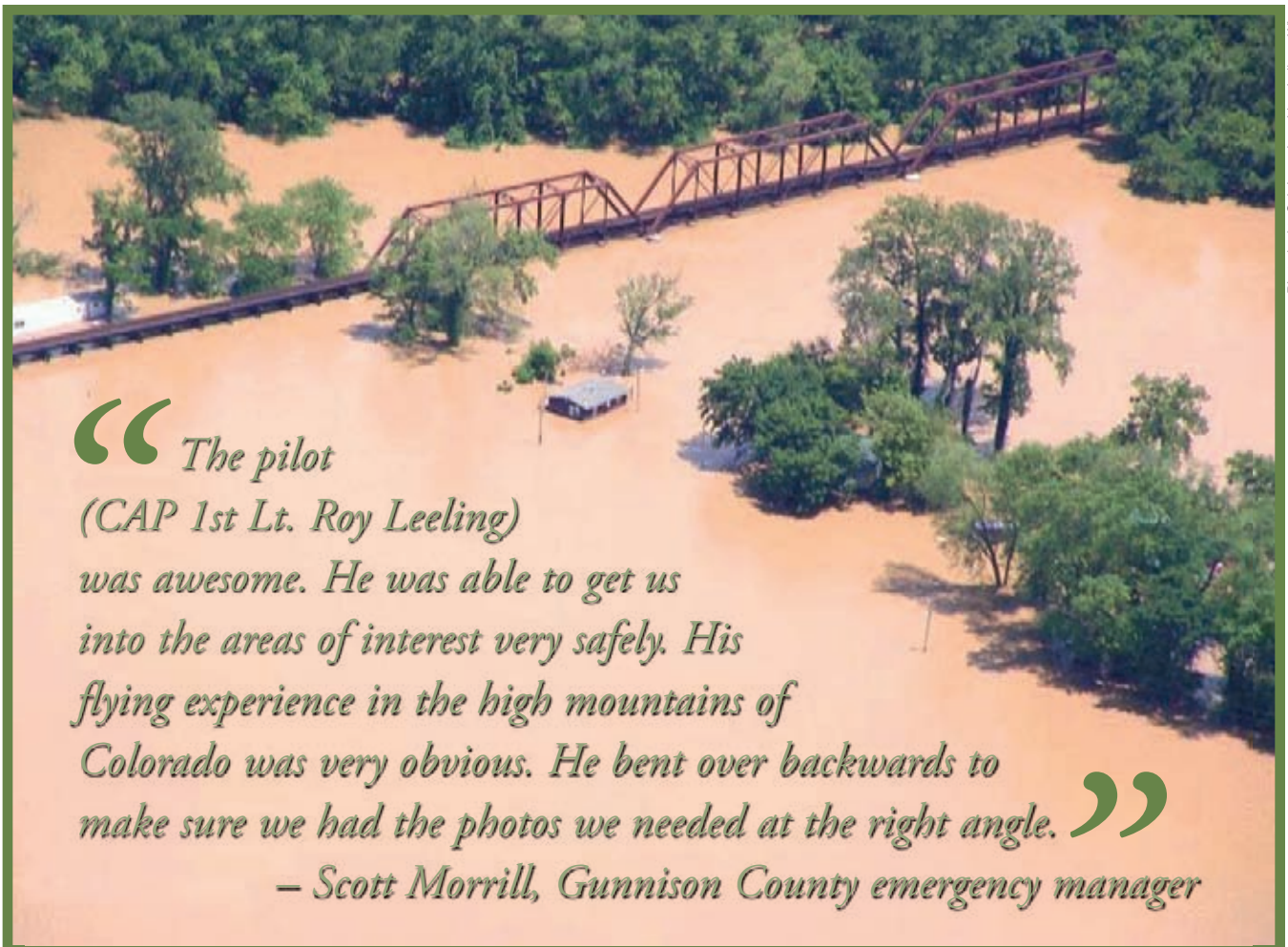
In Maine, post-flood missions kept aircrews aloft for at least 30 hours; they, too, flew FEMA personnel above flood areas and soared three hours above the Saint John River performing aerial reconnaissance for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

And in Nebraska, an aircrew flew a six-hour reconnaissance flight above the Republican River following a request for photos and video from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Buckner said the missions members are performing coast-to-coast assist local and state communities as well as the U.S. military in assessing the damage.

He said he believes if Civil Air Patrol didn't assist with such missions, the work would likely fall into the hands of already-overtaxed state national guards.

"We contribute to national defense by freeing up the regular military services to do the jobs only they can do. That's our direct contribution," Buckner said. ▲



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into the areas of interest very safely. His
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— Scott Morrill, Gunnison County emergency manager

This image of Greene County, Ind., was one of many statewide flooding scenes Indiana Wing members photographed for the state Department of Homeland Security during nearly 15 hours of aerial reconnaissance and damage assessment across the state in June. CAP aircrews also flew an AT&T employee who was assessing damage to phone lines.

Photo by Lt. Col. Larry Lopshire, Indiana Wing