

As the sun sets on summer, the sun never sets on the Cadet unit of the Charlotte County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. They continue their hard work of achievement, taking on additional responsibilities and participation in a variety of activities. The cadet program is designed to foster leadership and good citizenship in America's youth using Aerospace education and Air Force role models with an emphasis on public service. As they earn recognition and gain rank, they are challenged to learn and grow in ways that only the Cadet program offers.

At the most recent cadet meeting, seven cadets earned promotions to the next rank and continue their climb up the promotion ladder. Congratulations to all the cadets!

From Left to Right:

C/CMSgt Tyler Ezzi II, C/1stLt Samuel Greisiger, C/A1C Ian James Wilcox, C/SrAmn Chase Pedigo, C/LtCol Mikehla Hicks, C/SrAmn Rhodes, C/Amn Elizabeth Gregory



One of the highest ranking awards was bestowed on Mikehla Hicks who earned the rank of Lt Col and the **General Ira C. Eaker Award**. Mikehla is only 16, turning 17 in September, and has been with the Charlotte County Squadron for 5 years, starting at an early age of 12. She has achieved the rank of Lt Col with hard work and dedication. Less than 1% of the approximate 25,000 cadets earn this rank. Having graduated from Punta Gorda Middle School in 2015, Lt Col Hicks now attends Florida Southwestern Collegiate High School and is dual enrolled at Florida Southwestern College since 2016. She is working on her pilot's license, has already soloed, and plans to have her license at the age of 17. She hopes to attend the Air Force Academy or enter a university ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program and will be working toward a degree in linguistics and political science.

Presenting Lt Col Hicks with this prestigious award is Commander Major Gerald Lewis, who is the Commander of the Charlotte County Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, pictured below.



Congratulations Lt Col Hicks!

CAP is the Congressional Gold Medal winning Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, celebrating its 76th year of serving America. CAP works cooperatively with civil emergency service units and has recently been engaged to assist with the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey. Tax deductible donations help defray the costs of this all volunteer organization and can be sent to Charlotte Squadron, 28000 A-21 Airport Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33982-2452.