



It was a busy and safe summer for ILWG's airframes. They joined aircraft from around the region at Johnson Flight Academy (pictured).

# SAFETY PINS

Official Safety Newsletter of the  
Civil Air Patrol's Illinois Wing



October - December 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

As Civil Air Patrol members, we must make safe, conscientious decisions throughout the operation of any vehicle, even beyond the cockpit of an airplane, out on the roads within the confines of gravity.

Distracted driving is defined as the practice of driving a motor vehicle while engaged in another activity, typically one that involves the use of a cellular phone or other electronic device. Every year, distracted drivers cause numerous accidents leading to property damage, severe injury, and even death. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, there are three main types of distractions:

- **Visual Distractions** – Taking your eyes off the road.
- **Manual Distractions** – Taking your hands off the wheel.
- **Cognitive Distractions** – Taking your mind off driving.

What can we as CAP members do to avoid these potentially deadly distractions, both within the organization and in everyday life?

Measures that you can take to avoid cognitive distractions include getting adequate rest before operating a vehicle (especially before long stints in a CAP van), switching off drivers, or not driving when in emotional distress or while under the influence.

- **Director's Message**
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## Illinois Wing Safety

**Wing Commander:** Col Jerry Scherer

**Director of Safety:** Maj Mark Razny

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**Safety Pins Editor:**  
C/Lt Col Jodie Gawthrop

# Distracted Driving - Know the facts!

Distracted Driving (Continued)

### Five Quick Tips to Stay Focused on the Road

1. Use your cell phone for emergency situations only. ...
2. If you are drowsy, pull off the road. ...
3. You should limit the number of passengers, as well as the level of activity inside the car. ...
4. Avoid eating while driving. ...
5. Do your multi-tasking outside the car.

## Director's Message

One of my jobs as a Safety Officer is to identify mishap trends and develop programs or procedures to minimize or reverse the negative trends or to reinforce the positive trends. This issue of *Safety Pins* is focused on reversing a mishap trend that was identified over the summer. Over the last few months the Wing has had several vehicle mishaps or what the public commonly calls traffic accidents. I think we would all agree that accident is a little broad, nobody intends to damage a vehicle or worse yet see somebody get hurt. The common term "accidents" doesn't tell the real story and if you look at the official State of Illinois form which is called a "Crash Report". we are probably getting closer to what actually happened or the root cause. If we look closer at each crash, we will find it was the result of a series of events and if one event was different the crash may not have occurred.

During the next three months we are going to focus on the issue of safe driving. Since two of these programs are available online, even if you miss the regular meeting with your unit's safety briefing you still will be able to complete the recommended training. In addition to information within this newsletter we are asking all Groups and Squadrons to follow these recommendations.

- October - CAP Passenger Van Safety Awareness Program
- November - National Safety Council Understanding the Distracted Brain Program
- December - CAP Winter Driving Safety Program

Normally in my real world job I try to avoid our annual conferences since they are about as much fun as trip to the Dentist, but the CAP conferences are actually a lot of FUN and have plenty of career development value. Please consider attending and if you are working on the Safety Specialty Training Track or just trying to qualify as a Mission Safety Officer we will have some interesting information for you.

During the last week it was brought to the Wing Commander's attention that not all units are conducting pre-activity safety briefings. A safety briefing should occur at the start of every meeting, activity or mission. No exceptions!

Finally, C/Lt Col Jodie Gawthrop who has been our *Safety Pins* Editor for the last two issues, is moving on to new assignments and challenges. Thanks for your help C/Lt Col Gawthrop, you stepped up and helped when needed and I appreciate your work and your service. Good Luck in your new duties!

### A Note on Wind

As we enter the fall season, anticipate autumn winds when conducting operations outdoors. This is especially true on the flight line, as additional winds are likely to increase FOD (Foreign Object Debris) hazards.

On the flight line, keep your covers off and your head on a swivel during these conditions.