

NEWS RELEASE

Article by Capt Don Imbody, CAP
GAWG Assistant Director of Communications
GAWG Communications Training Officer

On Saturday, 19 May, 2012 twenty-six Personnel representing sixteen Squadrons, four Groups, two Wings and two Regions attended the fifth semi-annual Georgia Wing Comm Conference. The Conference was chaired by the GAWG Assistant Director of Communications and Communications Training Officer, Capt. Don Imbody.

The Conference was held at the Gwinnett County Composite Squadron facility at Gwinnett County-Briscoe Field just east of Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Many weeks ago, when the preliminary plans were being formulated for the Comm Conference, it became apparent that the close working relationship between GAWG and NCWG would play a part in the activity. GAWG invited NCWG to participate and the Assistant Director of Communications for North Carolina Wing, Maj Butch Phillips said he would be in attendance as would his son Noah who is the Cadet Communications Officer for the NC-019 squadron.

LtCol Paul Branson, Technical Advisor to the GAWG Director of Communications as well as Communications Officer for the Gwinnett County Composite Squadron was the Instructor. First, there was a classroom discussion covering NVIS antenna radiation patterns, through the use of a power-point presentation. Judging from the questions asked by the class the participants got a lot out of the training. The classroom portion of the training lasted about an hour.

Then, using the knowledge gained in the classroom, the group went outside and erected a portable 40 foot mast kit under the direction of LtCol Paul Branson.

An RDP (SSB radio transceiver) Kit was attached to the antenna and contact was made with Goldenrod 595 in the Mobile, AL area. The signal was weak but the participants could hear the fruit of their labor and were elated with the results of their teamwork! They had effectively set up a Field-Comm-Center.

This training will allow the participants to use the experience to upgrade their respective unit radio-communications capabilities to better accomplish the missions of the Civil Air Patrol in Georgia, North Carolina as well as the Southeast and Middle-East Regions.

Judging from the comments after the training session, it was a great success. Planning is already underway for the next GAWG Communications Conference / Work-shop which will be held in the fall at a different location and cover a different topic.

Georgia Wing wishes to thank all who participated in this event and looks forward to seeing them at the fall Comm Conference.