

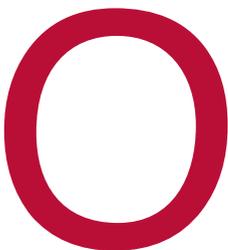
NESA Fine-Tunes Skills of CAP's Emergency Service Providers



Photos by Maj. Gary Brockman, Indiana Wing

By Jenn Rowell

Cadet 2nd Lt. Jesse Mellard, right, of the Georgia Wing helps Cadet Tech. Sgt. Andrew Saba of the California Wing and Cadet Staff Sgt. Neelesh Shrestha of the Maryland Wing with map skills during the advanced session of NESA's Ground Search and Rescue School.



Out in the wilderness of southern Indiana, it was one of the hottest and driest summers in what's already a tough training environment. The daily highs reached almost 90 degrees with

high humidity. Still, 600 students traveled from across the country to participate in the 2012 National

Emergency Services Academy, because the courses are worth it!

Created in 1996, NESA offers members the opportunity to learn new emergency services skills and to fine-tune others. The academy consists of three components: a Ground Search and Rescue School, an Incident Command System School and a Mission Aircrew School — all critical capabilities for CAP

Cadet Master Sgt. Drew Bogle of the Ohio Wing finds shelter while participating in advanced Ground Search and Rescue School during the National Emergency Services Academy.



members, who save an average of 80 lives annually. Participants completed more than 650 aerial missions — a NESAs standard — and returned home prepared for their wing’s next emergency or disaster

relief mission, along with firsthand knowledge of who they will be working with.

“The staff’s connection from each of the schools has been my single greatest personal benefit from NESAs,” said Maj. Eric Templeton, who first participated in the program as a student 10 years ago. An instructor since 2003, Templeton currently serves as commandant of the Mission Aircrew School.

“When you walk into a mission base or get a call from a friend you have worked with for years, you know you are dealing with talented individuals,” he said.

It happens all the time, like when an ice storm hit Kentucky several years ago, said Templeton, who’s also chief of staff for the Illinois



Students learn about bloodborne pathogens during this hands-on exercise at Camp Atterbury.

Wing. “Kentucky Wing Commander Col. Bob Koob called late in the evening, saying he had an emergency and needed help. All wings nearby responded. Since most had worked together for several years, the first day of the mission was smooth and successful.”

That’s essentially the overall aim for NESAs, said Maj. Gary Brockman, the academy’s director.

“The goal of all the schools is to advance the skills and knowledge of the students and to prepare them to meet the emergency services mission of Civil Air Patrol,” he said. “Part of that preparation is to have those students go back and help train and prepare their local units.”

NESAs is similar to FEMA’s Emergency Management



Civil Air Patrol members tramp through the wilderness of southern Indiana during a search and rescue training exercise at NESAs.



Second Lt. Neelam Shrestha of the Maryland Wing participates in an aerial photography flight while a student in NESA's Mission Aircrew School

Institute and the U.S. Air Force's Air University. It allows units that don't have access to local instruction to advance their skills, Brockman said.

A few things were new this year, including three-day mini-courses devoted to mission scanner/aerial photographer/Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation Portable operator training. This approach allowed more flexibility for participants with time constraints, Templeton said.

Also new is the NESA Center for Operations Excellence, a permanent facility at Camp Atterbury used year-round for training and emergency response. More activities and training are taking place at the center as it develops; much of the Incident Command System School was held there this year. ▲

Save the dates. The main NESA schools will be held July 20-Aug. 3, 2013; registration will open in November.

