

# *Jersey City Composite Squadron - NJ112*

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### **Squadron Rides Along on Military Refueling Flight**

0500. It's not the time most squadrons are awake and meeting on a Saturday morning. But this particular Saturday was different for JCCS members. By 0530 they were on the road heading towards Wrightstown, NJ where they would experience something most people can only say they've seen in movies or on television. Today's agenda: An aerial refueling mission over the Atlantic Ocean.



*Group photo inside the terminal.*



*Cadets on an early morning march to the passenger terminal.*

Members arrived at McGuire AFB just in time to hear Reveille sound at 0700. After meeting up at the main gate, it was off to the passenger terminal to be briefed and wait for the flight to depart. While there waiting, cadets were greeted by USAF CMSgt Ferraro and USAF MSgt Henry Paduea. Ferraro spoke a bit about his specialty in the Air Force as well as countless other opportunities that are available for those interested in the military. After some group photo opportunities, members had some time to look at many of the historic displays inside the terminal.

A couple of hours later, members were taken to their gate to board the bus that would drive them around other aircraft to their awaiting KC-10. Upon boarding the aircraft, cadets and officers were greeted by their crew for the flight. The pilot in command was USAF Maj Rick Wilmar, second in command USAF Maj Mark Scholma, flight engineer USAF MSgt Adrian Camacho, and boom operators USAF TSgt Michelle Addrison & USAF SrA Ashely Woodall. *(continued on next page)*



*A view from the boom operator's station of a KC-10.*

*(continued from front cover)*



*Cadets Maurice Brown, Vanessa Gonzales, Elidez Sanchez, Michael Onieal, Jacelle Sanchez, and Keyla DeJesus pose for a photo in the passenger cabin.*

With everything on board, and everyone strapped in, the flight was ready to go. C/MSgt Maurice Brown was selected to sit in the jumpseat in the flight deck to observe the takeoff first hand. “The takeoff was my favorite part; building up all that speed going down the runway.” This was quite the experience for Brown since this is one of the last group events he will take part in with the JCCS as he has been accepted into the Air Force and will be going to Lackland AFB for basic training this summer.

The flight headed East towards the Jersey shore and then up the coast until reaching Nantucket, before heading out over the Atlantic. After reaching a comfortable altitude, everyone was allowed to get up and take a look around. Members took turns watching aerial refueling of another KC-10 from the back of the aircraft, while others headed up front to the cockpit to watch in flight procedures and get a view of flying that most people never get to see. When asked about being able to watch midair refueling first hand, C/MSgt Brown said, “The boom operator’s job definitely isn’t easy. It takes a lot of precision and focus to maneuver the boom into the receptacle of another plane that is moving.”



*View of another KC-10 from one below.*

Cadets and seniors also got to watch the process of being the aircraft receiving fuel from the cockpit. After all three aircraft had completed their mission, they headed back to McGuire. Capt. Samuel Caballero sat in the jumpseat to observe the return and landing back at McGuire AFB.



*The flight deck of the KC-10.*

## Jersey City Members Attend Presentation by Col. Mary Feik



*Commander José Quintero & C/CMSgt Steven Perez pose for a photo with Col. Mary Feik during a presentation at the Essex Co. Chapter of the Zontas*

Recently, the Essex County chapter of the Zontas hosted Col. Mary Feik as a guest speaker at one of their monthly meetings and invited the Jersey City Composite Squadron to attend. Zonta International is an organization of professionals and executives working together towards the common goal of advancing the status of women throughout the world. They are involved in activities such as supporting the Safe House Shelter for Battered Women, providing scholarships for young women, and raising funds in an effort to support breast cancer research.

Col. Mary Feik is probably best known in CAP by cadets as the third achievement of the cadet program, and being promoted to Cadet Senior Airman, but there is so much more behind her name. Born in 1924, Feik first became interested in aviation at the age of 7. From there, Col. Feik expanded her horizons towards military aircraft and aircraft engines. Not only was she able to fix aircraft, she also flew them and is still flying to this day! Col. Feik has been a fighter, bomber, attack, cargo, and training aircraft pilot. Col. Feik's numerous flying hours including piloting such aircraft as the P-47 Thunderbolt, P-51 Mustang, P-38 Lightning, and the P-63 King Cobra.

At the meeting, Col. Feik presented an exciting presentation of her life up to present day. Capt. Quintero commented, "Listening to her story. All the things she has accomplished, and all of the things she is still doing today, and actually hearing it first hand from her was simply amazing!"

Col. Feik touched on many aspects of her life, but probably the most inspiring was her determination after being turned down by a college because, "she would not be able to handle the work" as the college stated. C/CMSgt Perez commented, "That is when her life began. She is a true legend and an exceptional role model not only for the women in our country but for everyone."

At the end of the presentation, Captain Quintero and C/CMSgt Perez presented Col. Feik with a frame holding a photo of the Jersey City Composite Squadron in downtown Jersey City in front of two of the beams from the World Trade Center after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. The squadron was the only unit activated that day to help in disaster relief at the Hudson River waterfront.

### Jersey City Composite Squadron Welcomes New Members!

Seen some new faces around at squadron meetings? That's because we've gained a couple of cadets and senior members. Don't forget to say hi and introduce yourself!

Cadets:

Randa Barsoom

John Bueno

Seniors:

1Lt Manuel Martinez-Pons

1Lt Gilberto Sanchez

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## C/CMSgt Steven Perez Receives Air Force Association Award

The Air Force Association provided Commander José Quintero with the opportunity to present an award to one outstanding cadet in the squadron based on their achievements, dedication, and not only what they bring to the squadron, but what they take from it. C/CMSgt Steven Perez was awarded this honor. He received a medal and a certificate from the Air Force Association which reads, "Air Force Association Citation: Awarded to C/CMSgt Steven Perez in recognition of outstanding achievement in leadership and academic standing in the Civil Air Patrol".

## Senior Officers Complete SLS Course

Senior officers participated in a course at McGuire AFB teaching them tips and techniques to help them achieve future leadership roles in the squadron. The 2-day Squadron Leadership School (SLS) contained a series of presentations, team building and role playing activities. Participants were also tasked to prepare a speech about their favorite aspect of CAP. Congratulations to SM Rick Fernandez, 2Lt Carlos Garay, 2Lt Eva Garcia, 2Lt Miriam Garcia, SM Jorge Ramos and 2Lt Eric Santos for successfully completing the course!



*Commander José Quintero presents C/CMSgt Steven Perez with a medal and citation from the Air Force Association for his commendable achievements within the squadron and beyond.*

## Photos

