

# Oregon Navy-Marine Corps MARS Provides Winlink Support for Oregon Wing CAP Annual Air Force Evaluation Aurora State Airport

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On August 8, Winlink HF message support was provided to the Oregon Wing CAP. This was at their annual Air Force evaluation for the wing and its members.

The first thing I noticed on arrival was how full the parking lot was. Luckily my hangar was next to where I parked.

Walking towards the regular CAP office to get checked in, I noticed not the normal two Cessna 182 aircraft, but six. I knew then, this was going to be a long day.



Checking in was the normal military hurry up and wait. Luckily, in the middle of the picture, to the right of the person in the blue shirt, was Maj. Janet Bell, OTV Amateur Radio Club, whom I saw and let me cut in front of her. Janet has been an observer for CAP for many years. The person in the blue shirt is Scott Macguire, PAO for the Oregon Wing CAP.

Once checked in, it was back four hangars and to look at antenna locations. It might take time to setup the radio, but antenna location is very important.



Once back at the temporary PAO office I got the radio, TNC and computer setup and powered on. On the far right is an HT connected to an external J-Pole for connection to the Portland repeater (incase I needed help). Support is very important, as your expected to succe not fail. Carry extra cables and connectors. You never know when you will need them. The modem is an SCS PTC-II EX for Pactor 3. Thats what you need to send aerial photos in a minimum amount of time.



The first antenna to go up was the SuperAntenna MP-1 "Ultra". Ultra, as theres not much left of the original antenna. Lots of modification from the original. The pad space was large enough to put down 6 - 25' radials.

Winlink operation from 1500Z to 0100Z (10 hours) was on the Winlink 10 meg frequency for AAB8MT in Montana.

I was going to switch to 6 megs at one time, but the 10 meg frequency held up all day. Maybe it was that big hangar door that acted as a reflector for me to the northeast?

During the 10 hours, 12 status messages were sent, along with 2 aerial photos to CAP HQ.



This is my 148 Mhz ladder line J-Pole mounted in a 1" PVC pipe. There was no problem connecting to the Portland repeater on Council Crest with the HT running .5 watt.

The base is 3 - 18" peices with 1 - 18" vertical section. The antenna is enclosed in about 55" of PVC.

Total cost under \$10 for the ladder line, connector, and PVC piping. A good investment if your going to operate portable.

Paint it safety orange and white and no one will question it near taxiways or runways. I hope.



During this exercise, there were six of us in the media group.

At right is Cadet Capt. Treanor who spent time writing news releases, taking still pictures and video. Along with her was Lt. Patricia Coleman who was on the flightline at the time photographing. Some of the pictures I sent were from these two cadets.

I was on the other side of the left wall, but we were all networked together.



This last picture. They don't just pull the aircraft up and start pumping gas. They all have procedures they follow. If someone makes a mistake, they go back to training and get a re-certification.

On the left is a member that monitors the pump and safety (in the orange vest). On each side of the aircrafts nose are cadets that will hold the hose while the pilot or a certified member fuels the aircraft.

They do not tolerate mistakes in the fueling process.



So what was learned in my 10 hours embedded with the Oregon Wing CAP during their Air Force evaluation 2009:

1. They are very process-procedure driven, no matter what group or department you are part of.
2. Training is of high importance.
3. Annual re-certification is required in some positions.
4. They are open for new ideas.
5. There is much public awareness of the CAP.
6. They operate as if they are just another wing in the regular USAF.
7. Everyone is open to speak their thoughts or ideas no matter what their rank.
8. Safety is of the highest importance.
9. Everyone does their part for the position they hold.
10. And last, but not least, they also like to have fun.