

Civil Air Patrol

In the late 1930s, more than 150,000 volunteers with a love for aviation argued for an organization to put their planes and flying skills to use in defense of their country. As a result, the Civil Air Patrol was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Thousands of volunteer members answered America's call to national service and sacrifice by accepting and performing critical wartime missions. Assigned to the War Department under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Corps, the contributions of Civil Air Patrol, including logging more than 500,000 flying hours and saving hundreds of crash victims during World War II, are well documented.

The Civil Air Patrol established Dec 1, 1941 had members that were a heroic breed of men and women who served their country by finding 173 German submarines off America's East and Gulf coasts of which 57 were attacked that resulted in sinking two of them. As a result of their bravery, patriotism and tenacity, CAP sub-chasers effectively thwarted German U-boat attacks and, in the process, saved countless lives.

After the war, a thankful nation understood that Civil Air Patrol could continue providing valuable services to both local and national agencies. On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman signed Public Law 476 incorporating Civil Air Patrol as a benevolent, nonprofit organization. On May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557 permanently establishing Civil Air Patrol as the auxiliary of the new U.S. Air Force. Their three primary mission areas were set forth at that time: aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency

CAP's aerospace education efforts focus on two different audiences: volunteer CAP members and the general public. The programs ensure that all CAP members (seniors and cadets) have an appreciation for and knowledge of aerospace issues. To advance within the organization, members are required to participate in the educational program. Aerospace educators at CAP's National Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., provide current materials that reflect the highest standards of educational excellence. Aerospace education is divided into two parts: internal and external.

The internal aerospace education program has two parts as well: cadet and senior. Cadets complete aerospace education as one of the requirements to progress through the achievement levels of the cadet program. Senior members have a responsibility to become knowledgeable of aerospace issues and the AE program that CAP provides. They are further encouraged to share the information obtained with their local communities and school systems.

CAP's external aerospace programs are conducted through our nation's educational system. Each year, CAP sponsors many workshops in states across the nation, reaching hundreds of educators and thereby thousands of young people. These workshops highlight basic aerospace knowledge that focus on advances in aerospace technology. CAP's aerospace education members receive more than 20 free aerospace education classroom training materials.

While there are many youth oriented programs in America today, CAP's cadet program is unique in that it uses aviation as a cornerstone. Thousands of young people from 12 years through age 21 are introduced to aviation through CAP's cadet program. The program allows young people to progress at their own pace



through a 16-step program including aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness and moral leadership. Cadets compete for academic scholarships to further their studies in fields such as engineering, science, aircraft mechanics, aerospace medicine, meteorology, as well as many others. Those cadets who earn cadet officer status may enter the Air Force as an E3 (airman first class) rather than an E1 (basic).

Whatever your interests-survival training, flight training, photography, astronomy-there's a place for you in CAP's cadet program. Each year, cadets have the opportunity to participate in special activities at the local, state, regional or national level. Many cadets will have the opportunity to solo fly an airplane for the first time through a flight encampment or academy. Others will enjoy traveling abroad through the International Air Cadet Exchange Program. Still others assist at major air shows throughout the nation.

Growing from its World War II experience, the Civil Air Patrol has continued to save lives and alleviate human suffering through a myriad of emergency-services and operational missions. The CAP single engine land aircraft has a typical three member aircrew that consists of the Mission Pilot, Observer, and Scanner.

The Observer and Scanner are not required to be a pilot rated. The Observer is trained to support the Mission Pilot with navigation, communications and does scanning from the right front seat. The Scanner is trained for back seat duty tasked with target sighting.

Mission Base typically consists of incident commander, air operations, ground operations, communications and other staff as required depending upon the size of the mission.

Search and Rescue

Perhaps best known for its search-and-rescue efforts, CAP flies more than 85 percent of all federal inland search-and-rescue missions directed by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, FL. Outside the continental United States, CAP supports the Joint Rescue Coordination Centers in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Just how effective are the CAP missions? Approximately 75-100 people are saved each year by CAP members.

Disaster Relief

Another important service CAP performs is disaster-relief. CAP provides air and ground transportation and an extensive communications network. Volunteers fly disaster-relief officials to remote locations and provide manpower and leadership to local, state and national disaster organizations. CAP has formal agreements with many relief agencies including the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Humanitarian Services

CAP flies humanitarian missions, in support of the Red Cross-transporting time-sensitive medical materials including blood & human tissue, in situations where other means of transportation are not available.

Air Force Support

It's not surprising that CAP performs missions in direct support of the U.S. Air Force. CAP conducts light transport, communications support, and low-altitude route surveys. CAP also provides orientation flights for CAP and AFROTC cadets. Joint USAF and CAP search-and-rescue exercises provide realistic training.

Counterdrug

CAP joined the "war on drugs" in 1986 when, pursuant to congressional authorization, CAP signed an agreement with the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Customs Service offering CAP resources to help stem the flow of drugs into and within the United States.

Civil Air Patrol: A Proud Legacy Continues

Civil Air Patrol continues to enjoy a proud legacy of selfless sacrifice and service to country and community that has spanned decades. Unlike our founding CAP fathers, many of whom flew their own airplanes and performed life-threatening missions without any formal training, our more than 55,000 members are now provided with top-notch, year-round professional development training opportunities and with aircraft equipped with the most advanced technologies available for search and rescue.