Our Mission
Supporting America’s communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space and cyber power.

About CAP
Civil Air Patrol is congressionally chartered and operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. CAP performs services for the federal government as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and for states/local communities as a nonprofit organization. CAP is made up of eight geographic regions consisting of 52 wings (the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). It is a strategic partner of the Air Force, serving as a member of its Total Force. CAP has three primary missions — Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education.

Game-Changing Technology
WaldoAir camera pods mounted on Civil Air Patrol aircraft captured this thermal image during the historic Camp Fire in northern California. CAP aircrews tasked with taking aerial photography in the aftermath of the wildfire used the advanced imaging sensor to provide high-resolution 3D models of the thousands of homes destroyed by the fire. More recently, that technology was used in Puerto Rico, which was devastated by Hurricane Maria.

Emergency Services
• Conducts 90 percent of inland search and rescue in the U.S. as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other agencies.
• Coordinates Air Force-assigned missions through CAP National Operations Center at Maxwell AFB, Ala., at a cost of $165 per flying hour.
• Has over 36,000 emergency responders trained to FEMA standards, including almost 6,600 aircrew members.
• Provides over 450 chaplains and 600 character development instructors who minister to youth and adult members and help comfort survivors and victims of disasters.
• Performs aerial reconnaissance for homeland security.
• Provides air intercept training, impact assessment, light transport, communications support and low-level route surveys for the Air Force.
• Provides disaster-relief photography and support to local, state and national agencies.
• Transports time-sensitive medical materials, blood products and body tissues when commercial resources are unavailable.
• Assists federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the War on Drugs.
• Maintains an extensive VHF and HF communications network.

Learning to Fly
Cadet 2nd Lt. Kit Oney of the Vermont Wing poses for a photo with her glider flight instructor and Federal Aviation Administration examiner after graduating from Civil Air Patrol’s Cadet Wings program. Cadet Wings is an Air Force-funded pilot shortage initiative to identify potential young flyers within CAP and help them earn a private pilot certificate. More than 40 cadets received certificates in the program’s first year.

Measuring Our Impact

117
Saved 117 lives and made 534 finds through Air Force-assigned search and rescue efforts in 2019, thanks in large part to the assistance of CAP’s National Cell Phone Forensics and Radar Analysis teams.

560
Operates one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 560 planes currently available.

35K+
Flew a record 35,664 orientation flights for CAP cadets, as well as Air Force ROTC and Junior ROTC cadets.

66K+
Consists of 1,442 squadrons and over 66,165 volunteer youth and adult members nationwide.

95K+
Flew 95,858 hours in 2019, conducting Air Force-assigned missions as well as support for states and communities.

600K
Impacted 600,000 youth over the past year through CAP’s aerospace/STEM program.

2.4M
Using $2.4 million from the Air Force to provide CAP cadet training aimed at helping reduce the nation’s pilot shortage.

208M+
 Contributed $208,682,628 in man-hours in the past year, serving the disaster relief and emergency service needs of communities, states and the nation.

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Aerospace Education

- Educates adult and cadet members and the community on the importance of aerospace to America.
- Develops, publishes and distributes 40+ national academic standards-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) aerospace education curricula for kindergarten through college classrooms and CAP squadrons, affecting 600,000 K-12 students and cadets nationwide.
- Generates interest in STEM careers through aviation, space and cyber focused activities with CAP "STEM Kits" associated with astronomy, flight simulation, model and remote-control aircraft, robotics, rocketry, weather, hydraulic engineering and computer programming.
- Perpetuates an early interest in aerospace/STEM subjects and careers through the K-6 grade Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program with over 76,000 student participants.

An Opportunity to Lead CAP's cadet program offers more than 1,600 of its youngest members in-depth leadership training through National Cadet Special Activities like Cadet Officer School and the Civic Leadership Academy. The training cadets receive at these week-long activities enables them to become leaders in their home squadrons, their schools and their communities.

Teacher Flights CAP's Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flights are now Air Force-assigned missions, funded with federal dollars. In 2019, CAP flew more than 400 teachers from 32 CAP wings, including Debbie Montenegro (seen here) of the Texas Wing, whose flight was conducted by the Florida Wing during the SPACE Conference at nearby Kennedy Space Center. Teachers share their experiences to promote student interest in aviation.

Active Lifestyles Physical fitness and well-being is the primary goal of CAP's Active Cadet Fitness Program, which is aligned with the Presidential Youth Fitness Program. Through the program, cadets like the one here attending the Hawk Mountain Ranger School are motivated to develop a lifelong habit of regular activity.

STEM Kits CAP's 6-year-old STEM Kit program has had a positive effect on both cadets and students alike. Of those who use the 18 kits currently available, including this one — Quadcopter — 80% are more interested in aviation/STEM careers.

Cadet Programs

- Attracts over 28,000 members ages 12 through 20 for participation in its cadet programs.
- Educates youth in four main program areas — leadership, aerospace, fitness and character development.
- Enriches school curricula through after-school programs.
- Offers orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, as well as flight training scholarships.
- Provides activities and competitions for cadets at the local, state, regional and national levels.
- Makes opportunities for community involvement available through color guard/drill team and emergency service missions.

- Challenges youth to be ambassadors for a drug-free lifestyle.
- Exposes thousands of cadets to cyber defense careers through CyberPatriot, the Air Force Association's National Youth Cyber Security Competition.
- CAP cadets make up about 10% of each of the U.S. Air Force Academy's classes.
- Cadets who have earned the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award enlist in the Air Force at a higher pay grade.
- Participates in the International Air Cadet Exchange program.
- Awards college scholarships in several disciplines.

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