CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY



2024
REPORT TO CONGRESS

$281M
VALUE
OPERATIONAL SERVICE
TO THE NATION

$3.8:1
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

$180
PER FLIGHT HOUR

103K
FLIGHT HOURS

28K
ORIENTATION FLIGHTS

1,428
OPERATING LOCATIONS





69K
MEMBERS
37K ADULTS &
32K YOUTH

39K
EMERGENCY
PROFESSIONALS

395
SEARCH & RESCUE
MISSIONS

209
SEARCH & RESCUE
FINDS

34
LIVES SAVED
NATIONWIDE

544
SINGLE ENGINE
AIRCRAFT

CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

TOTAL FORCE PARTNER

DEFENSE SUPPORT

Acting as a Total Force partner and the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, Civil Air Patrol helps the First Air Force rapidly respond to nonmilitary threats domestically in a Defense Support of Civil Authorities capacity to save lives, relieve suffering, prevent property damage, and provide humanitarian assistance.

More than 75% of CAP's flying hours in 2024 were on Air Force-assigned missions. CAP provided air defense training and critical homeland security missions like Operation Noble Eagle, in which CAP aircraft act as targets of interest as an important readiness exercise called "intercept training." Our aircrews flew more than 300 intercept training missions in 2024.

Joint Training Participation

- Operations Green Flag East and West
- Operation Noble Eagle
- Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS)
- Surrogate Remotely Piloted Aircraft (SRPA)
- Low-level route surveys
- Southern border patrol for Task Force North
- AeroNet Communications Networking

Other Military Missions

- Naval vessel escort
- Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems airbase counter-threat
- Test mission support (e.g., providing targets for military sensors to find)
- Base security and planning support
- Transporting military personnel (e.g., Coast Guard Operation Nome and medical support to remote Alaskan communities)
- Base fire patrol
- Various unpublicized sensitive missions
- HF communications support



300+
AIR DEFENSE INTERCEPTOR TRAINING AND EVALUATION MISSIONS

5,615
AIRCREW MEMBERS

75%
FLIGHT HOURS FOR U.S. AIR FORCE MISSIONS

7
COUNTERDRUG AND DRUG INTERDICTION MISSIONS



$180 PER FLIGHT HOUR

Civil Air Patrol fills a need no other training partner can match. Operating its aircraft at a cost of about $180 per flight hour, CAP is an unrivaled low-cost provider to help the Air Force achieve its pilot training objectives.

OPERATIONAL MISSIONS

DISASTER RESPONSE

Civil Air Patrol volunteers are the Air Force's go-to resource to find downed aircraft, lost or injured hikers, stranded motorists, adrift boaters, and missing persons.

Our 5,615 aircrew members perform aerial reconnaissance for homeland security, usually in the event of natural disasters. Trained to Federal Emergency Management Agency standards, these fixed-wing aircraft and small Unmanned Aircraft Systems personnel provide high-definition photographic video and other digital visual assets used for damage assessment by FEMA as well as local and state agencies.

With its 39,242 professionally trained emergency responders, Civil Air Patrol conducts 90% of inland search and rescue in the U.S. as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other agencies.

Search and Rescue Missions

- Air and ground teams
- National Cell Phone Forensics Team search
- National Radar Analysis Team search
- Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems search
- Sundown coastal, river, and bay patrol

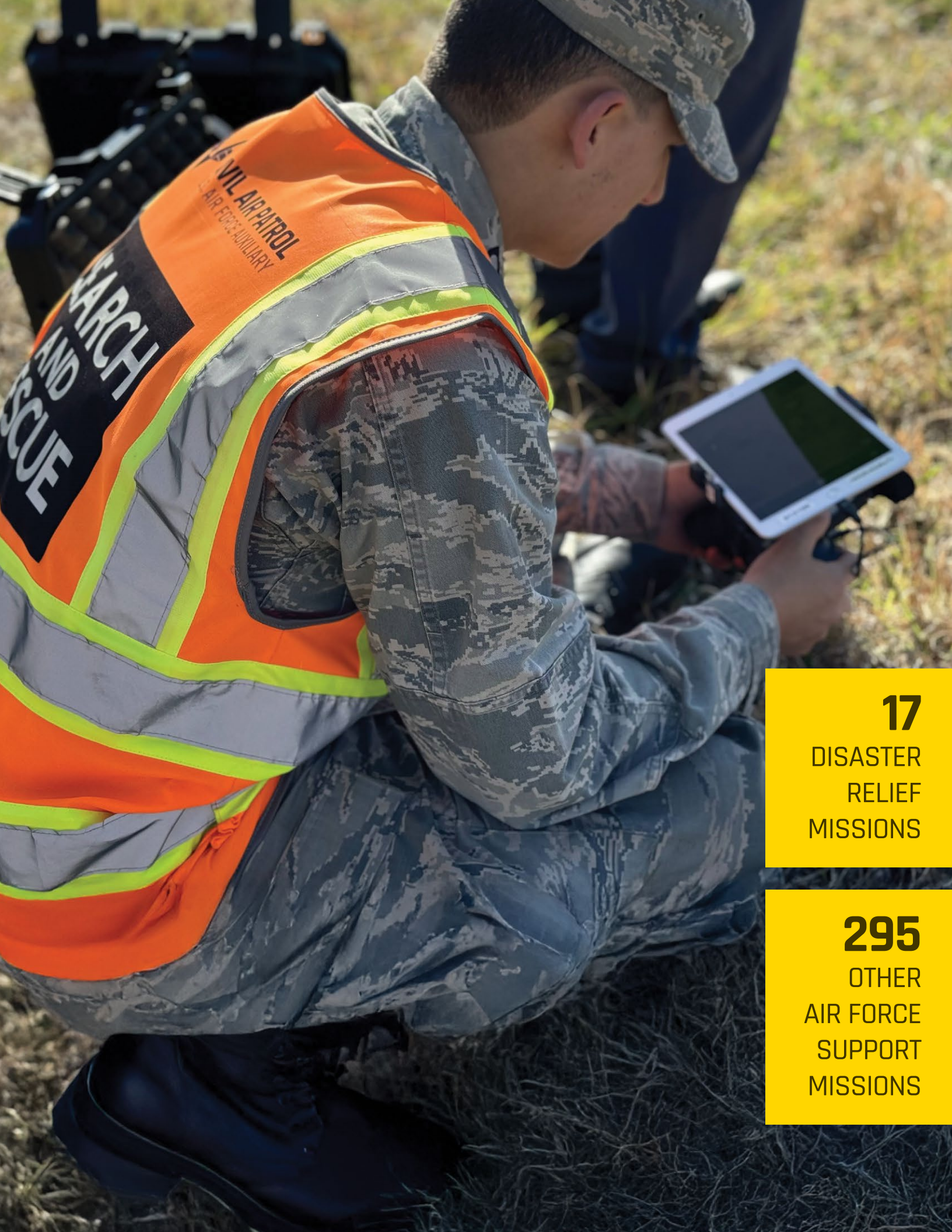
Emergency Services (technology)

- High-definition imagery and video
- Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR 3D scanning)
- Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR)
- MX-15 sensor ball
- Geospatial capabilities (orthomosaic)
- Cellphone forensics
- Radar analysis

Other Emergency Services Missions

- Wildfire damage photography (air and ground)
- Flood damage photography (air and ground)
- Hurricane damage photography (air and ground)
- Tornado damage photography (air and ground)
- Earthquake damage photography (air and ground)
- Ice dam photography (air)
- Tsunami warning system (airborne)
- Airborne communications relay

34
LIVES SAVED



17
DISASTER RELIEF MISSIONS

295
OTHER AIR FORCE SUPPORT MISSIONS

HURRICANE RESPONSE

Civil Air Patrol's month-long response to Hurricane Helene involved more than half of the organization's 52 wings, with members in the air, on the ground, and online supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state emergency management agencies.

340
FLIGHT HOURS

NEARLY
259k
DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

OVER
149k
AFFECTED STRUCTURES IDENTIFIED

8,621
CAP VOLUNTEER HOURS

$284,493
ESTIMATED SAVINGS FOR THE GOVERNMENT

GROUND POUNDERS

On the ground, North Carolina Wing members joined with fellow CAP members from the Georgia, Maryland, South Carolina, and Virginia wings in amassing 7,428 volunteer hours carrying out 95 missions focusing on distributing needed supplies to residents affected by Hurricane Helene. More than 1 million bottles of water, 88,000 Meals Ready-to-Eat, and 190,000 gallons of unpotable water were provided.



GEOSPATIAL MISSION

Supporting the FEMA Response Geospatial Office during Hurricanes Helene and Milton, CAP's geospatial team conducted geospatial damage assessments, identifying affected homes, businesses, industry, and infrastructure. More than 100 CAP members from 32 Wings and 96 members from FEMA, the company Dewberry, and another federal agency, conducted nearly 259,000 assessments and identified more than 149,000 structures affected by the hurricanes. In total, CAP provided 3,299 volunteer hours, saving the government an estimated $211,656. Their efforts enabled seven presidential disaster declarations resulting in $1.2 billion in federal and state assistance for the victims.



EYES IN THE SKIES

Aircrews from CAP's North Carolina Wing, along with crews from four neighboring states and others from Connecticut, Delaware, and Indiana, launched 151 post-Hurricane Helene flights totaling 340 hours in the air and 853 volunteer hours working to generate damage assessment imagery for FEMA and the Army National Guard. CAP aircrews used sophisticated camera systems attached to their aircraft and handheld digital cameras inside the planes to capture high-definition images and photos that aided in search and rescue after the storm, as well as in recovery. Essential data collected from the imagery helps in getting assistance to those affected by disasters.



LIFESAVING TECHNOLOGY

In addition to both air and ground teams, CAP uses proprietary cellphone forensics and radar analysis technology, which was used in 95% of the 395 searches in 2024. CAP was credited with saving 34 people in the past year – an average of about three people per month.

Others were rescued by CAP in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina when an "SOS" bridge image supplied by a CAP aircraft notified authorities of people stranded upstream from the waterway.

Civil Air Patrol maintains an extensive VHF and HF network that provides for easier communications between both air and ground crews during CAP responses to natural disasters.

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS

769
VHF/FM REPEATERS

13,969
VHF/FM STATIONS

2,410
VHF/FM STATIONS

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS SUPPORTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2024

- MIDWEST TORNADO RESPONSE SUPPORT
- REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT (RPA) ESCORT OPERATIONS
- AIR DEFENSE INTERCEPT TRAINING
- JOINT TASK FORCE-NORTH BORDER OPERATIONS
- AIR FORCE RATED PREPARATORY PROGRAM
- RESPONSES TO HURRICANES DEBBY, ERNESTO AND HELENE

OPERATION PULSE LIFT

Operation Pulse Lift was recognized with the 2024 Air Forces Northern Command (AFNORTH) Commander's Award as CAP's Most Meritorious Mission during the previous year. The accompanying award citation recognized CAP's achievement in carrying out "one of the most exhaustive and effective life-saving missions in its storied 82-year history."

The success of Civil Air Patrol's Operation Pulse Lift illustrates how CAP volunteers serve their communities and save lives.

Launched to assist the American Red Cross in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the effort has collected more than 40,000 units of blood since its inception by operating hundreds of emergency donation centers.

The mission has also included air and ground transportation of blood products and supplies. Participants have supported the Armed Services Blood Program, the American Red Cross, and other blood services organizations.

Because every unit of blood collected has the potential to save three people, that's as many as 120,000 more lives saved through this humanitarian mission.





Chaplain Corps

With over 400 chaplains and 700 character development instructors, Civil Air Patrol's post-disaster and related humanitarian missions are supported by one of the largest and professionally trained civilian chaplain corps. These men and women serve the spiritual resilience and well-being of its members, U.S. Air Force personnel, and other Department of Defense and federal, state, and local partners.

CADET PROGRAMS

CADET PROGRAMS EDUCATE YOUTH IN FOUR MAIN PROGRAM AREAS:

1 LEADERSHIP

2 AEROSPACE

3 FITNESS

4 CHARACTER

THE CAP CADET EXPERIENCE

From weekly meetings to weekend activities, to special activities and encampments, the CAP cadet experience is more dynamic than those offered by any other youth development and leadership program in the country. The program educates youth in four main program areas: **leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character development.**

Cadet confidence grows through each new challenge explored and mastered with the support of peers and mentors, helping develop the traits of tomorrow's civic, military, and business leaders. Our youth make up about 10% of each of the U.S. Air Force Academy's classes.




CADET CONFIDENCE GROWS THROUGH
EACH NEW CHALLENGE EXPLORED.

YOUTH AVIATION INITIATIVES

Civil Air Patrol's large fleet and experienced flight instructors provide the opportunity to combat the nation's looming pilot shortage. CAP offers a variety of flying programs that take interested and qualified cadets from orientation rides to flight academies through private pilot training.

Orientation Rides

Every CAP cadet is eligible for multiple orientation flights. In 2024, our pilots conducted more than 400 orientation flight missions, resulting in 27,744 "O-rides" for CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Junior ROTC cadets.

Cadet Wings

Flight programs like Cadet Wings make training a reality for many who may not have dreamed of becoming a pilot. Since its inception six years ago, nearly 400 cadets and young adult members have joined CAP's pilot ranks through the program, funded by the U.S. Air Force and the Ray Foundation.

Flight Academies

Cadets get a chance to go solo – a major milestone in their quest for a private pilot certificate – at 20 flight academies held each summer nationwide. In-residence flight academies are also offered at universities across the country, where cadets can work toward their pilot certificates over a condensed 60-day period.

400+
ORIENTATION FLIGHT MISSIONS

27,744
"O-RIDES"

NEARLY 400
CADETS OVER SIX YEARS

20
FLIGHT ACADEMIES EACH SUMMER







NATIONAL FLIGHT ACADEMIES

Florida Powered Flight Academy
Camp Blanding, Florida

Great Lakes Region Powered Flight Academy
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Illinois Wing Lt. Col. Raymond Johnson Flight Academy (Glider, Week 2 Powered, Powered)
Mattoon, Illinois

Maryland Wing Robert Ayres Solo School Powered Flight Academy
Hagerstown, Maryland

Mid-Atlantic Region Col. Roland Butler Powered Flight Academy
Camden, South Carolina

New Jersey Wing Falcon Flight Academy
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey

New York Wing Powered Flight Academy
Syracuse, New York

North Central Region Powered Flight Academy
Fremont, Nebraska

Northeast Region Glider Academy
Farmers Pride, Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania

Northeast Region Glider Flight Academy
Springfield, Vermont

Southeast Region Glider Flight Academy
Tullahoma, Tennessee

Southwest Region Powered Flight Academy
Ada, Oklahoma

Southwest Region Glider Flight Academy
Socorro, New Mexico

Texas Wing Shirley Martin Cadet Powered Flight Academy
Nacogdoches, Texas

Texas Wing Glider Flight Academy (South)
Waller, Texas

Washington Wing Desert Eagle Joint Flight Academy (Powered)
Ephrata, Washington

CAREER EXPLORATION

More than 50 hands-on National Cadet Special Activities, which include flight training, provide CAP cadets with exposure to potential aviation/STEM career opportunities. Through CadetInvest, youth can explore all opportunities, earning academic and flight scholarships, as well as financial assistance.

Civil Air Patrol hosts state-, regional-, and national-level competitions like CyberPatriot through its long-time youth development partner, the Air & Space Forces Association. The AFA's National Youth Cyber Security Competition, now in its 17th year, exposes thousands of cadets to cyber defense careers.

TRAINING

AEROSPACE

Air Force Specialized Undergraduate Training Familiarization Course
Laughlin AFB, Texas
Columbus AFB, Mississippi

Aircraft Manufacturing Academy
Wichita, Kansas

Aviation and Aeronautics Business Academy
Vaughn College, Queens, New York

Canadian Exchange – Advanced Aviation Course
Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario, Canada

National Blue Beret
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Space Operations Academy
Patrick SFB, Florida
Peterson SFB, Colorado

ENGINEERING

Air Force Civil Engineering Academy
Tyndall AFB, Florida

Engineering Technology Academy
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee United States Air Force Academy, Colorado

LEADERSHIP

Cadet Officer School
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Civic Leadership Academy
Washington, D.C.

Mid-Atlantic Region Honor Guard Academy (Advanced, Basic, & Cadet Cadre)
State Military Reservation, Virginia Beach, Virginia

National Character and Leadership Symposium
U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Northeast Region New Hampshire Wing Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School (Winter)
Regional Training Center, Pembroke, New Hampshire

National Emergency Services Academy (Summer)
Camp Atterbury, Indiana

SEARCH & RESCUE

Texas Wing Medical Orientation and Training School Course
Nacogdoches, Texas

Washington Wing Ground Search and Rescue Academy
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

CYBER

Cyberspace Networking Course
Hampton Roads, Virginia
Lackland AFB, Texas
United States Air Force Academy, Colorado

Cyberspace Operations Fundamentals Course
Hampton Roads, Virginia

Washington Wing Green Darner Cyber Education Camp
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

Cyberspace Advanced Administration Course
United States Air Force Academy, Colorado

International Air Cadet Exchange
Worldwide



WING ENCAMPMENTS ARE A CORNERSTONE OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET EXPERIENCE.

BASIC AND ADVANCED ENCAMPMENTS

Wing encampments offer cadets and adult members alike opportunities to learn, grow, and form lifelong memories. Both basic and advanced weeklong encampments are offered at more than 30 locations each spring/summer and seven others during the winter.

Thanks to Air Force support, CAP has Cadet Encampment Assistance Program (CEAP) funding available to cover encampment fees and uniforms with an emphasis on serving economically disadvantaged cadets.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

600k
STUDENTS BENEFITED FROM CAP CURRICULA

101k
ACE STUDENTS IN FY 24

578
SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN ACE AND ACE-PLUS PROGRAMS

Aerospace/STEM Education

Believing that accessible aerospace/STEM education begins with highly prepared educators and mentors who can inspire and support, Civil Air Patrol empowers its 69,000 adult and cadet members and their communities, with opportunities and high-quality resources to provide aerospace-related STEM education. The aerospace education mission is to inspire the next generation of aviation, space, and cyber leaders.

ACE Program

Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) is a free, fun, interactive aerospace/STEM program used by CAP's teacher members. It is designed to engage and inspire youth in grades K-6 toward an interest in aviation, space and other STEM-related careers. ACE educators receive full lesson plans and a class set of all materials needed to conduct many of the STEM lessons, saving hundreds of hours in planning.

A new record was set in 2023-24 with 101,374 ACE students. Since its inception in 2007, the program has reached over 700,000 students in elementary schools nationwide, including many in America's Title I schools. There are 548 schools now enrolled in ACE and 656 total teachers, 280 of whom are Title I teachers.

ACE-Plus Program

The ACE-Plus program connects squadrons to classrooms to provide aerospace/STEM support, student mentorship, and an introduction to CAP. Students involved in this squadron adoption program share in the benefits and growth opportunities of the CAP cadet program, like leadership development, flight training, and more.





CAP Curricula

Civil Air Patrol provides curricula to its more than 5,700 aerospace education members who belong to traditional classrooms, homeschools, libraries, museums, universities, and other organizations. CAP educators have access to 40+ free educational curricula as well as services that include teacher orientation flights.

The AE team develops, publishes, and distributes national academic standards-based aerospace/STEM curricula for kindergarten through college classrooms, impacting more than 600,000 students each year. Students involved in CAP do better in school, with 75% improving their standardized test scores and 65% recording improved attendance.

The AE team also offers grant and college credit opportunities for its adult and teacher members, providing even more aerospace/STEM education opportunities for the educators and their students.

TOP Flights

Nearly 25,000 students had the opportunity over the past year to benefit from their teachers' TOP (Teacher Orientation Program) Flight experience, which included watching the educator fly over the school, hearing from the CAP pilot, and engaging in follow-up lessons with their instructor after the flight. More than 300 took flight with CAP in 2024.

STEM Kits

Civil Air Patrol generates interest in STEM careers through aviation, space and technology focused activities and STEM Kits associated with astronomy, flight simulation, model and remote-control aircraft, robotics, rocketry, weather, hydraulic engineering, and computer programming.



ADULT MEMBER TRAINING

Cadet Programs' Training Leaders of Cadets is the premier opportunity for adult officers to learn how to become better mentors of cadets and more effective managers of cadet squadrons. The three-course program is a component of the Cadet Programs Officers Specialty Track.

CAP's Senior Member Education and Training Program consists of five levels:

1. **Onboarding**
2. **Learning Phase**
3. **Leadership**
4. **Senior Leadership**
5. **Executive Leadership**

Volunteer University is the key component of the education and training program that now provides on-site and online professional development for CAP's adult members.

Civil Air Patrol's new learning management system, Absorb, launched in July, with a goal of enhancing the online training experience of cadets and adult members. In its first week, almost 10,000 CAP members logged into Absorb, and those users completed more than 8,000 new learning modules.


COLORADO WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL



$281 MILLION

2024 VALUE OF CAP OPERATIONAL SERVICE HOURS

FUNDING

FEDERAL FUNDING (FY24)

$55.1M
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

$11.9M
AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT

$2M
VEHICLE PROCUREMENT

FEDERAL FUNDING (FY23)

$51.3M
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

$11.6M
AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT

$1.9M
VEHICLE PROCUREMENT

IN-STATE FUNDING

$13.3M
RECEIVED BY CAP WINGS (FY24)

$3.7M
RECEIVED BY CAP WINGS (FY23)

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Civil Air Patrol's 11-member Board of Governors generates strategic policies, plans, and programs designed to guide and support the volunteer service of the organization's 52 wings. CAP's national commander and chief executive officer, the organization's chief operating officer, and the CAP-USAF commander serve as advisers to the Board of Governors.

Air Force-appointed Members
Col. Don Kang, USAF (Ret.) Director, Air Force Programs, DoD Customer Requirements & Advocacy, BAE Systems (Arlington Plaza, Virginia) – Vice Chair
Lt. Gen. Kirk Pierce, USAF (Ret.), Independent Consultant
Brig. Gen. Daniel C. Clayton, USAF Vice Commander, CONUS NORAD Region, First Air Force (AFNORTH)
Brig. Gen. Christopher S. Walker, USAF (Ret.), Independent Consultant

Civil Air Patrol-appointed Members
Col. John Longley, CAP Member-at-Large – Chair
Col. Rajesh Kothari, CAP Member-at-Large
Lt. Col. Andrew J. Oppmann, CAP Member-at-Large
Chief Master Sgt. Robert Dandridge, USAF (Ret.), CAP Member-at-Large

Industry, Government, and Education Appointed Members
Brig. Gen. Bernie Skoch, USAF (Ret.), Chairman of the Board, Air & Space Forces Association
Dr. Sharon DeVivo, President and CEO of Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology (New York City)
Ms. Amy Hudnall, Retired Director of the Georgia Center of Innovation-Aerospace (Atlanta)

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Maj. Gen. Regena M. Aye, CAP National Commander/CEO
Col. Aaron D. Reid, USAF, CAP-USAF Commander
Mr. John W. Desmarais Sr., Executive Secretary/Chief Operating Officer, CAP

CIVIL AIR PATROL (CAP) is a congressional chartered, federally funded, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

Operating in all 50 states, Puerto Rico (and the U.S. Virgin Islands), the District of Columbia, and over 1,400 communities nationwide, CAP's aviation-connected volunteer professionals are engaged community members from a wide range of backgrounds and professions. They perform Air Force-assigned missions as a force multiplier.

CAP's core cadet and aerospace education programs are equally effective, providing a variety of innovative youth development initiatives and award-winning aviation/STEM resources.

Additionally, in its capacity as the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, Civil Air Patrol's highly skilled volunteers perform Air Force-assigned missions using low-cost aircraft, specialized communications and advanced imaging capabilities, and other technologies.

Returning $3.80 in value for every $1 spent, CAP provides unequaled value to our communities, states, and nation as a force for good.

CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

VOLUNTEERS SERVING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES, SAVING LIVES, AND SHAPING FUTURES.

2024
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