



# FACT SHEET 2016

## HISTORY

In December 1941, one week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Civil Air Patrol was founded by citizens committed to using civilian aviation resources to help bolster the nation's defense.

Under the jurisdiction of the Office of Civilian Defense and later the Army Air Forces, CAP pilots flew more than 500,000 hours performing a wide variety of duties, including coastal patrol for submarine activity as well as ships and personnel in distress, forest and southern border patrols, target towing for the armed forces and courier flights.

On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman established CAP as a federally chartered nonprofit corporation, and Congress passed a law on May 26, 1948, designating CAP as the Air Force Auxiliary and giving CAP three primary missions – emergency services, cadet programs and aerospace education.



## THE ORGANIZATION

- ▲ Is congressionally chartered and operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.
- ▲ Performs services for the federal government as the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and for states/local communities as a nonprofit organization.
- ▲ Serves as a strategic partner of the Air Force as a member of its Total Force.
  - ▲ Includes eight geographic regions consisting of 52 wings (the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia).
  - ▲ Consists of 1,400 squadrons and approximately 56,000 volunteer youth and adult members nationwide.
  - ▲ Has more than 6,900 aircrew members and over 30,700 emergency responders trained to FEMA standards.
  - ▲ Offers opportunities for members to serve communities, participate in leadership development training and acquire new skills that benefit personal and professional growth.
- ▲ Contributed over \$164 million in man-hours in 2015 by serving the disaster relief and emergency service needs of communities, states and the nation.
- ▲ Operates one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 550 currently in the fleet.
- ▲ Flies more than 98,500 hours annually.
- ▲ Maintains a fleet of more than 1,000 emergency service vehicles for training and mission support.
- ▲ Provides 475 chaplains and 450 character development instructors who minister to youth and adult members and help comfort survivors and victims of disasters.

## OUR MISSION

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



*The U.S. Congress awarded CAP a Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 for its World War II service.*





### Aerospace Education

- ▲ Educates adult and cadet members and the community on the importance of aerospace.
- ▲ Provides support for educational conferences and workshops nationwide.
- ▲ Develops, publishes and distributes national academic standards-based STEM aerospace education curricula for kindergarten through college classrooms.
- ▲ Offers grant and college credit opportunities for adult and teacher members.
- ▲ Provides educators with free educational programs, products and services, including airplane orientation flights.

### Cadet Programs

- ▲ Attracts more than 24,000 members ages 12 through 20.
- ▲ 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.
- ▲ About 10 percent of the U.S. Air Force Academy's new classes are made up of former CAP cadets.
- ▲ Cadets who have earned the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award enlist in the Air Force, U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard at a higher pay grade.
- ▲ Provides activities and competitions for cadets at the local, state, regional and national levels.
- ▲ Participates in the International Air Cadet Exchange program.

### 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 \$120-\$165 per flying hour.
- ▲ Performs aerial reconnaissance for homeland security.



- ▲ Saves an average of 78 lives per year.
- ▲ Provides disaster-relief support to local, state and national agencies.
- ▲ Transports time-sensitive medical materials, blood products and body tissues when commercial resources are unavailable.
- ▲ Provides air intercept training, impact assessment, light transport, communications support and low-level route surveys for the Air Force.
- ▲ Assists federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the War on Drugs.
- ▲ Maintains an extensive VHF and HF communications network.

- ▲ Awards college scholarships in several disciplines.
- ▲ Makes opportunities for community involvement available through color guard/drill team and emergency service missions.
- ▲ Explores STEM careers through aviation, space and technology-focused activities.
- ▲ Challenges youth to be ambassadors for a drug-free lifestyle.



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