

Flying for a Reason - CAP

In this ComancheZOOM Robert Bowden talks about flying with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). There are a number of ways to be involved with their mission and fleet of Cessna aircraft. Click on the recording link below to hear about the CAP mission and how you could be a part of it.

The Civil Air Patrol is well known for its search activities in conjunction with search and rescue (SAR) operations. CAP is involved with approximately three quarters of all aerial inland SAR missions directed by the United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

Outside of the contiguous United States, CAP directly supports the Joint Rescue Coordination Centers in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. CAP is credited with saving an average of 100 lives per year.

CAP is active in disaster relief operations, especially in areas such as Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana that are frequently struck by hurricanes as well as Oklahoma and Texas which are frequented by large, damaging tornadoes. CAP aircrews and ground personnel provide transportation for cargo and officials, aerial imagery to aid emergency managers in assessing damage, and donations of personnel and equipment to local, state and federal disaster relief organizations during times of need. In 2004, several hurricanes hit the southeast coast of the United States, with Florida being the worst damaged; CAP was instrumental in providing help to affected areas.

Civil Air Patrol conducts humanitarian service missions, usually in support of the Red Cross. CAP aircrews transport time-sensitive medical materials, including blood and human tissue, when other means of transportation (such as ambulances) are not practical or possible. Following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City when all general aviation was grounded, one of the first planes to fly over the World Trade Center site was a CAP aircraft taking photographs.

CAP performs several missions that are not combat-related in support of the United States Air Force, including damage assessment, transportation of materials, transportation of officials, communications support (as "Highbird" repeaters) and low-altitude route surveys.[33][32] The CAP fleet is used in training exercises to prepare USAF pilots to intercept enemy aircraft over the Continental United States. Civil Air Patrol aircraft are flown into restricted airspace, where United States Air Force pilots may practice high-speed intercepts.

Civil Air Patrol also provides non-emergency assistance to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Drug Enforcement Administration, and United States Forest Service in the War on Drugs. In 2005, CAP flew over 12,000 hours in support of this mission and led these agencies to the confiscation of illegal substances valued at over US\$400 million. Civil Air Patrol makes extensive use of the Airborne Real-time Cueing Hyperspectral Enhanced Reconnaissance system, mounted on the Gippsland GA8 Airvan. The system is able to evaluate spectral signatures given off by certain objects, allowing the system to identify, for example, a possible marijuana crop.

As a humanitarian service organization, CAP assists federal, state and local agencies in preparing for and responding to homeland security needs. The Red Cross, Salvation Army and other civilian agencies frequently request Civil Air Patrol aircraft to transport vital supplies including medical technicians, medication, and other vital supplies. They often rely on CAP to provide airlift and communications for disaster relief operations. CAP also assists the United States Coast Guard and



Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Civil Air Patrol routinely drills for emergencies through Search and Rescue exercises (SAREX). CAP also requires members to renew their qualifications for emergency services usually done during SAREXs.

Civil Air Patrol has five congressionally mandated missions:

1. To provide an organization to encourage and aid citizens of the United States in contributing their efforts, services, and resources in developing aviation and in maintaining air supremacy; and encourage and develop by example the voluntary contribution of private citizens to the public welfare.
2. To provide aviation education and training especially to its senior and cadet members.
3. To encourage and foster civil aviation in local communities.
4. To provide an organization of private citizens with adequate facilities to assist in meeting local and national emergencies.
5. To assist the Department of the Air Force in fulfilling its non-combat programs and missions.

The organization condenses these mandates into three core program areas, which are aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services.

Emergency services

Civil Air Patrol covers several emergency services areas. The principal categories include search and rescue missions, disaster relief, humanitarian services, and United States Air Force support.

To see/hear the recordings click on a link below:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2023-02-23/video.mp4>
- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2023-02-23/audio.m4a>

To read the Chat text click on this link:

- <http://meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2023-02-23/chat.txt>

To see pricing for the current (Feb 2 – Mar 2) Landing Height System Group Buy offer go to:

- meetings.northeastcomanche.org/zoom/2023-02-01/LaserHeightSystem-GroupBuy.pdf
- To join the Group Buy list go to [/Forms/NE_LHS_GroupBuy](#).

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