2018 FACT SHEET

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, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia). 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.

This year, Civil Air Patrol is celebrating its 70-year association with the U.S. Air Force. Congress passed a law on May 26, 1948, designating CAP as the official Air Force auxiliary.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

110
Saved 110 lives through search and rescue efforts in 2017, thanks in large part to the assistance of CAP’s National Cell Phone Forensics and National Radar Analysis teams.

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

58,000
Consists of 1,445 squadrons and approximately 58,000 volunteer youth and adult members nationwide.

100,352
Flew more than 100,000 hours again in 2017, surpassing this milestone flying mark for the second straight year.

177,000,000
CAP members contributed over $177 million in man-hours in the past year, serving their communities, states and the nation.

The ‘Wolfpack’ of the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron is the 2017 All Service champion of CyberPatriot, an annual national cyber security competition sponsored by the Air Force Association. The national title is CAP’s third in the past seven years.

A Civil Air Patrol Cessna 182 taxis past an MQ-9 Reaper while participating in CAP’s shadow escort flight program for the Air National Guard’s 174th Attack Wing in New York state. The ongoing flights, in support of the Air Force Reaper Training Program, earned CAP the National Aeronautic Association’s 2017 Outstanding Achievement in Advancement of Public Benefit Flying Award.
CADET PROGRAMS

— Attracts over 25,000 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.
— Nurtures the skills of CAP cadets who make up about 10 percent 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, U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard at a higher pay grade.
— Participates in the International Air Cadet Exchange program.
— Awards college scholarships in several disciplines.

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.
— Has more than 6,900 aircrew members and nearly 33,000 emergency responders trained to FEMA standards.
— Provides 450 chaplains and 500 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.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

— Educates adult and cadet members and the community on the importance of aerospace.
— Develops, publishes and distributes national academic standards-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) aerospace education curricula for kindergarten through college classrooms, reaching about 300,000 K-12 students nationwide.
— Generates interest in STEM careers through aviation, space and technology focused activities and CAP “STEM Kits” associated with astronomy, flight simulations, model and remote-control aircraft, robotics, rocketry, weather, hydraulic engineering, computer programming, coding, circuitry and mathematics.
— Provides educators with free educational programs, products and services, including orientation flights.
— Offers grant and college credit opportunities for adult and teacher members.
— Provides aerospace support for educational conferences and workshops nationwide.