



Planning Guidance for Members of Congress flying in CAP aircraft

(Updated: 13 October 2016)

Flights carrying members of Congress are very important, high-visibility missions that require careful management. Federal government and Congressional rules for these flights are very detailed and each flight requires close review in order to protect Civil Air Patrol, the US Air Force and the member of Congress.

Members of Congress and their senior staff may request flights on CAP aircraft for the purpose of observing ongoing missions/operations or to familiarize themselves with CAP capabilities. If the flight is requested because of a natural or man-made disaster in their home district or state, it allows members of Congress to better understand the extent and seriousness of the emergency situation and the effects on their constituents. These flights must be flown as Air Force assigned missions (AFAMs) due to the fact that Congress itself is considered a Federal customer. Observation flights can only be approved when they are flown in conjunction with an ongoing AFAM.

Similarly, flights to familiarize members of Congress with CAP capabilities may be authorized when the sortie is flown in conjunction with a previously approved Air Force training mission and the aircrew accomplishes proficiency training in accordance with one of the CAP-USAF approved proficiency flight training profiles located at https://www.capmembers.com/media/cms/Pilot_Proficiency_Profiles_AF_Appro_D76AC441E6A48.pdf

For all AFAMs carrying Members of Congress and their senior staff, departure and landing airfields must be the same and planned intermediate stops are prohibited. The NOC is available 24/7 to help coordinate requests for 1st Air Force and CAP-USAF approval as well as non-CAP passenger approval. Please make your requests at least 5 days in advance of the mission to allow for coordination and approval.

Members of Congress who are also CAP members may fly on any CAP aircraft in their home state or with the Congressional squadron in Washington DC in accordance with CAP regulations.

We encourage Members of Congress and their senior staff to visit and fly with CAP within the guidelines listed above so they can observe CAP's capabilities and our professionalism, dedication and commitment to the communities we serve. Wing Commanders or Government Relations Advisors should also encourage them to join CAP as a legislative member so they can receive periodic updates about CAP and the vital missions we perform for America.