



CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY



GENERAL IRA C. EAKER AWARD

FACT SHEET

The General Ira C. Eaker Award launched in 1998 and is the CAP Cadet Program's second most prestigious award honoring one of the forefathers of an independent Air Force. With General (then major) Carl Spaatz, in 1929 Eaker remained aloft aboard *The Question Mark*, a modified Atlantic-Fokker C-2A, for nearly a week, to demonstrate a newfound capability of aerial refueling. During WWII, Eaker rose to the grade of lieutenant general and commanded the Eighth Air Force, "The Mighty Eighth" force of strategic bombers. Even as a general, Eaker preferred to lead from the front, personally flying B-17 precision bombing missions over occupied France and Germany.

The Eaker Award marks completion of Phase IV of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. Further, cadets will have graduated from an academically-intensive leadership academy to qualify for this honor, which is especially appropriate considering that today, the Air Force celebrates Gen Eaker's legacy by naming the service's top school for commanders in his honor – the Ira C. Eaker Center for Professional Development at Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala. To stand in General Eaker's shadow is to study leadership carefully and serve others.

Once a cadet earns the General Ira C. Eaker Award, he or she is promoted to the grade of cadet lieutenant colonel and is challenged to lead and serve junior-ranking cadets not just in the hometown squadron but around their wing (state) as well.

After earning the Eaker Award, only the prestigious Spaatz Award Examination remains for the young person to conquer as a CAP cadet.