# THE DISPATCH

Safety | Health Services | Chaplain Corps

CIVIL AIR PATROL

**August 2026**

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The Dispatch is for informational purposes. Unit Safety Officers and Health Service Officers are encouraged to use the articles in The Dispatch as topics for their monthly safety briefings and discussions. Members may go to **eServices - Learning Management System**, click "Absorb," search for this month's Safety Dispatch, complete the quiz, and earn safety education credit.

***The Dispatch features articles focused on this month's theme, "Patience," through contributions from Safety, Health Services, and the Chaplain Corps. In Civil Air Patrol, patience is essential as members balance disciplined training, mission readiness, and volunteer service. The September edition will focus on "Fatigue and Rest."***

**Primary Articles - Patience**

## Patience: A Foundation for Health, Safety, and Mission Success in CAP

By: Lt Col Gordon Helm, HSAT PIO, AZ-392

Patience is foundational to Civil Air Patrol. Not only does patience help shape our individual character, but it also improves the effectiveness, health, and safety of the organization. Our volunteer force operates across three primary missions—emergency services, cadet programs, and aerospace education. Success depends on members who understand that meaningful progress, operational readiness, and mission success require time, discipline, and careful attention. Patience in Civil Air Patrol is about moving forward with purpose, awareness, and care. It ensures that health and safety remain top priorities while enabling members to meet the organization's goals.

In emergency services, patience directly supports health and safety. Search-and-rescue missions, disaster relief operations, and training exercises often unfold in unpredictable conditions. Rushing decisions or acting impulsively can lead to mistakes that endanger both responders and those they are trying to help. Patient planning, methodical execution, and adherence to procedures minimize risks. This deliberate pace can be the difference between a successful mission and a preventable accident.

Within cadet programs, patience is essential for growth and leadership development. There are no shortcuts to building confidence, discipline,

and competence in our cadets. Cadet leaders must exercise patience when mentoring others, recognizing that each individual learns at a different pace. Creating a supportive environment where mistakes are treated as learning opportunities contributes to both psychological safety and long-term success. Patience here reinforces resilience and helps cadets develop into capable, responsible leaders.




Photo Credit: 2025 National Blue Beret

In aerospace education, patience fosters true understanding rather than superficial knowledge. Concepts in aviation, engineering, and space science can be complex, requiring sustained effort to grasp fully. Our Aerospace Education members must have the patience to ensure accuracy and clarity. This careful approach not only improves educational outcomes but also promotes safety and better understanding.

By valuing patience, our members strengthen their ability to serve their communities, develop future leaders, and inspire a deeper appreciation for aerospace.

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## The Discipline of Patience in Leadership and Safety

By: Lt Col Todd Meyer, SE, HSO, CDI, National Safety Team Member, WI-203

Patience is often misunderstood as simply “waiting.” In reality, patience is active. It is the deliberate choice to remain composed, think clearly, and act appropriately, especially when circumstances push us to do the opposite.

In Civil Air Patrol (CAP), patience is tested regularly. It shows up when plans change at the last minute, when communication is unclear, or when others do not meet expectations. These are not interruptions to leadership; they are the environment in which leadership is revealed.

From a safety perspective, impatience is a known risk factor. Rushed decisions, skipped steps, and incomplete communication often stem from a desire to “just get it done.” While the intent may be efficiency, the result is often error. Patience, in contrast, creates space for deliberate thought, proper risk assessment, and clear communication, all essential components of effective risk management.



Photo Credit: 2026 AZ Wing Conference

Patience also plays a critical role in how we lead people. Not every member develops at the same pace. Cadets learn through repetition and mentorship. Adult members balance CAP with demanding personal and professional responsibilities. A patient leader recognizes these realities and invests the time required to develop others rather than reacting out of frustration.

Importantly, patience is not passivity. It does not mean avoiding decisions or tolerating poor performance. Instead, it means responding with discipline rather than emotion. It allows leaders to address issues directly while maintaining respect and professionalism.

When pressure builds, patience becomes a force multiplier. It preserves judgment, strengthens communication, and reinforces trust within the team. In those moments, patience is not simply a virtue; it is a leadership skill that directly shapes mission success and safety.

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## The Importance of Patience for CAP

By: Ch, Lt Col Michael Morison, PCR-001



Photo Credit: 2025 MIWG Encampment

One essential attribute for servant leadership, wingmanship, and service to others is patience. Our success in our mission, in life, and in Civil Air Patrol (CAP) lies not simply in what we do, but in who we are. It is not only that we did something, but also why we did it. Patience provides an opportunity for reflection and insight into how we can better embody this attribute in our lives and in our service to CAP, including the important role of the chaplain in supporting members.

Patience may be understood as the ability to remain calm, respectful, and steady in the face of delays, stress, or challenges. This quality connects directly with one of CAP's core values—respect. CAP defines respect as treating others with fairness, dignity, and compassion.

Practicing patience cautions us against rushing to judgment and reminds us of the importance of understanding the full story. Approaching others with patience allows us to pause, listen, and seek the "why" behind actions or circumstances.

Patience also reflects emotional intelligence. It enables one to be attentive to others and responsive to their needs, especially during times of stress or uncertainty. Patience allows us

to become a stabilizing presence, the calm in the midst of difficulty. It often takes the form of being present, listening without rushing, and knowing when to refer a fellow member to a Chaplain or Health Services Officer for additional support.

A patient wingman respects every member of the team, remains steady under pressure, and genuinely supports both people and mission. Practicing patience daily strengthens character, deepens relationships, and helps build a culture of care throughout CAP that extends to those we serve.

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## Mitigating Risk in Civil Air Patrol

By: MSgt Laurel "Laurie" Dinneen, MN-021

To effectively mitigate risk within Civil Air Patrol (CAP), it is important to understand why accidents still occur. This is not about placing blame; rather, it is about learning. Despite the many safety programs and procedures CAP has in place, incidents still happen. Understanding contributing factors helps prevent or lessen risks.

Accidents occur for many reasons. A member may not know what to do, misunderstand procedures, or lack training. Members may be rushed, distracted, or skip steps to save time. Complacency can also be a factor, leading to the mindset, "I've done this so many times before, nothing will happen." However, even routine tasks can quickly lead to an incident when attention or focus is lost.

Risk mitigation requires every member to remain present, alert, and focused. One of the most effective tools is a wingman. A wingman provides a second set of eyes and ears to catch mistakes, verify steps, and ensure tasks are completed correctly and safely, reducing errors.




Photo Credit: Civil Air Patrol, CAP Risk Management Model (Figure 1.2), CAPR 160 1 Safety Management.

Civil Air Patrol uses a structured **five-step Risk Management process**, and skipping any step is never acceptable. The first step asks, **"What could go wrong?"** and focuses on identifying hazards before they occur. Recognizing risk is not enough. The second step is to **assess those risks** by considering their likelihood and potential severity.

Once risks are understood, the third step is to **develop controls and make the best course-of-action decision**. This decision should not be made alone; working with a wingman or team helps ensure the safest option is selected. The fourth step is to **implement those controls** by putting them into effect during the activity. Finally, the fifth step asks, **"Is it working?"** by supervising and evaluating the activity and monitoring risks to ensure conditions remain safe.

Risk mitigation is everyone's responsibility, from the newest Cadet Airman to the Major General. Experience does not eliminate risk, and there is no room for ego. Safety is a mindset.

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# Patience: A Quiet Force Multiplier in CAP Aviation

By: Lt Col Rafael Salort, National Safety Team Member, FL-001

In Civil Air Patrol operations, success is often tied to urgency—launch windows, mission taskings, weather gaps, and aircraft availability. Yet, one of the most critical safety tools we possess is patience. It is not passive; it is deliberate discipline applied at every level of aviation and mission execution.

In the cockpit, patience is reflected in decision-making. Rushing a checklist, pressing a marginal weather call, or launching with unresolved discrepancies introduces unnecessary risk. Taking the time to verify fuel planning, recheck weather trends, and ensure crew readiness directly supports CAP's risk management principles. A delayed launch is recoverable; a rushed decision may not be.




Photo Credit: 2025 Johnson Flight Academy Power Section, Mattoon, IL. Photo by Lt Col Robert Bowden.

At the mission management level, patience is equally essential. Pressure to meet sortie objectives or maximize aircraft utilization can unintentionally influence go/no-go decisions. Mission staff and incident commanders must remain grounded in operational risk management, resisting the urge to "make it work" when conditions or resources are not aligned. Sound judgment requires time, and time must be protected.

For aircrews and ground personnel, patience also applies to operational tempo. Fatigue, task saturation, and compressed timelines degrade performance. Slowing down, during preflight, mission planning, or debrief, creates space to identify and correct errors before they compound.

Civil Air Patrol missions are built on professionalism, not speed. Mission effectiveness depends on disciplined execution, clear thinking, and strict adherence to standards. Patience enables all three.

In operations where lives, resources, and reputations are at stake, patience is not a delay; it is a safeguard.

## Recognition




## ** CAP's Safety, Health Services, and Chaplain Corps Communications **

### Temporary NSOC Waiver Now Available for Safety Master Rating Candidates

Members actively pursuing their **Master Rating in Safety** who still need the **National Safety Officers College (NSOC)** to complete the rating may now request a temporary NSOC waiver. This waiver is intended only for those who have met all other requirements for the Master Rating but are awaiting the next available NSOC class.

The waiver allows qualified members to continue progressing without delay; however, **it does not remove the requirement to attend NSOC.** All members who receive the waiver will still be required to complete NSOC once a class becomes available.

Read the memorandum to learn more about the waiver process: **NSOC Waiver 2026**.

Thank you for your continued leadership in maintaining a strong safety program.

## REMINDERS:

*Take the Safety Dispatch – August 2026 course in Absorb to receive your monthly safety education credit. Please encourage your fellow team members to participate by enrolling in the Safety Dispatch course each month.*

### CAP Reinforces Safety Culture with Reporting of Safety Significant Occurrences

Civil Air Patrol promotes a strong safety reporting culture where every member plays an essential role. All Safety Significant Occurrences (SSOs), including accidents, injuries or illnesses, vehicle accidents, aircraft damage, and any other events listed in **CAPR 160-2**, must

be reported through CAPSIS. SSOs are defined as any observed outcome during a CAP mission or activity that results in, or could have resulted in, damage to equipment or facilities, injury to a member, or a member's illness.

Timely reporting in CAPSIS ensures compliance with CAPR 160-2, improves our ability to identify hazards and causal factors, and helps safeguard our missions, our resources, and our members.

## Request for The Dispatch Articles

We welcome article submissions for the upcoming 2026 editions of The Dispatch.

Articles should be **250–300 words** and submitted to **Safety, Health Services, or Chaplain Corps** communities for consideration.

**Aviation-focused articles are also encouraged for future issues.**

Please submit articles to the appropriate functional area:

- Safety: **safety@capnhq.gov**
- Health Services: **sleighton@capnhq.gov**
- Chaplain Corps: **mmorison@hc.cap.gov**

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