THE DISPATCH

Safety | Health Services | Chaplain Corps

CIVIL AIR PATROL



July 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, "Courtesy, Compassion, and Caring," promoting trust, empathy, and accountability through contributions from Safety, Health Services, and the Chaplain Corps. The August edition will focus on "Patience."

Primary Articles - Courtesy, Compassion, and Caring

There's More to Safety Than Regulations: How Courtesy, Compassion, and Caring Protect the CAP Team

By: 2d Lt Richard "Ricky" Adams, SE, GA-419

In organizations built on service and discipline, safety is often discussed in terms of checklists, regulations, and operational risk management. While those tools are essential in Civil Air Patrol (CAP), there is another layer of safety that is just as powerful: the everyday practice of courtesy, compassion, and genuine care for one another.

Courtesy is more than politeness. In a Civil Air Patrol environment - whether at a squadron meeting, encampment, or search and rescue exercise - courtesy establishes mutual respect. When adult members and cadets speak respectfully, listen actively, and value input from others, they create an atmosphere where individuals feel safe to voice concerns. Many accidents are prevented not by procedures alone, but because someone felt empowered to say, "I'm not comfortable with this," or "Did we double-check that?" Courtesy lowers barriers and encourages communication, both of which are among the most critical elements of operational safety.

Compassion strengthens that foundation. Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds, skill levels, and life experiences. Some cadets may be attending their first activity away from home. Some adult members may be balancing demanding careers and family obligations.

Compassionate leadership recognizes these realities. When leaders take time to understand stressors, fatigue, or personal challenges, they are better equipped to make safe decisions. A tired pilot, an overwhelmed cadet, or a distracted ground team member is more vulnerable to mistakes. Compassion helps leaders notice warning signs early and adjust assignments before small issues become serious hazards.



Photo Credit: 2025 National Emergency Services Academy - Mission Aircrew School

Caring goes even further; it is the proactive commitment to the well-being of others. In CAP, caring leaders model proper uniform wear, hydration, rest cycles, and adherence to safety briefings not merely to enforce rules, but because they genuinely want their team members to return home safely. When cadets see that standards are upheld consistently and fairly, they learn that safety is not optional or performative; it reflects a commitment to valuing human life.

Ultimately, safety culture is not built solely through regulations or briefings. It is built through relationships. Courtesy invites communication. Compassion promotes awareness. Caring reinforces accountability. Together, they create an environment where members look out for one another, speak up when something is wrong, and take pride in protecting their teammates.

In a mission-driven organization like CAP, those qualities do more than build character - they save lives.

A Health Services Officer's Perspective on Caring for Our Members

By: Maj Heather Parth, MPH, CIC, FAPIC
Deputy Senior Program Manager, Health Services, FL-000



Photo Credit: Roman Vitanza, 2025; Maj Heather Parth pictured

As a Health Services Officer (HSO) in Civil Air Patrol (CAP), I am fortunate to support our youngest cadet to the most seasoned adult members. While our scope is first aid, our basic tenet remains unchanged: *we care*. We both care *for* and *about* our members. It's not just the outcome; it's the individual.

Sometimes our work involves addressing a cadet's injury, and other times it involves advising an adult member on how to respond to a potential exposure to a contagious illness. It may look like convening the Health Services-Safety-

Chaplaincy “trifecta” to support intentionality in event planning or Emergency Services training. Occasionally, the rubber really meets the road, and we’re there to provide real-time field safety education for response efforts like hurricanes.

Over the seven years I’ve been in the CAP Health Services Corps, I can attest that it is one of the finest groups I’ve had the privilege of serving with. It is a diverse corps of dedicated professionals who are passionate about supporting our members and each other. Sometimes, as caregivers, we forget to care for ourselves, but this group excels in peer support. It helps us continue to be our best for every CAP member.

But it would be an oversight for me to talk only about caring in the context of what we offer each other and our members: HSOs are uniquely positioned to be recipients of caring from our members and even their families. Moments that stand out to me are the family who wanted a group photo with the Encampment HSOs, or the parents who shared plants from their garden in gratitude to the Health Services staff who cared for their cadet.

Being an HSO isn’t easy, but it is rewarding work. It’s not a bad gig to be in the service of caring.

Courtesy, Compassion, and Caring: The Heart of Chaplaincy

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

The basic question remains: *What are the differences between a pastor and a chaplain?* As Ch Col Whit Woodard, CAP Chief of Chaplains Emeritus, explains, “A chaplain is not a pastor…they have a shared calling, but differing responsibilities.” Chaplaincy is defined not by congregational leadership, but by presence, service, and care.

At the heart of chaplaincy is the Ministry of Presence: being fully with another person in a calm, non-anxious, and accepting way. Dr. Kevin L. Ellers describes it as the art of being with another while demonstrating “God with us” through human connection. This ministry embodies courtesy through respect, compassion through attentive listening, and caring through genuine concern for the whole person.



Photo Credit: RM Jones, NMWG, 2025

The value of a chaplain lies in trust. Studies show chaplains are widely perceived, by believers and nonbelievers alike, as credible, confidential, and concerned for emotional, spiritual, and personal well-being. Chaplains engage everyone regardless of faith, meeting each individual where they are and responding as a friend in need.

In crisis or disaster settings, chaplains support victims and first responders by listening to stories, normalizing reactions, meeting

basic needs, and providing psychological–spiritual first aid. Central traits include showing up, listening rather than talking, being rather than doing, demonstrating respectful silence, and recognizing ministry as a privilege.

The chaplain serves as a calm center in the storm, an ambassador of compassion and care. Through courtesy, empathy, and presence, chaplains promote resilience, restore dignity, and reflect the highest values of service to others**.**

Information of Special Interest

The Moment We Stop Verifying

By: Capt George B. Lampere, Ph.D., HSO, SE, Stevens Point Composite Squadron, WI-183

Safety in Civil Air Patrol is not just about following procedures; it's about how people think, interpret, and respond in real time. Every mission is shaped by two forces: deliberate thinking that follows the plan and instinct, the quiet "gut feeling" built from experience. In aviation, those instincts are often reinforced through repetition, checklist discipline, and exposure to subtle cues that don't always trigger immediate alarms but matter just as much.



Photo Credit: 2025 Shirley Martin Cadet Powered Flight Academy

What often goes unnoticed is how attitudes shape everything that follows. The way we approach a "routine" mission influences what we expect to see and ultimately how we behave. When flight operations feel familiar, crews can unconsciously shift from active verification to expectation-driven assumption, especially during low-threat phases like taxi, climb, or cruise.

During a recent training sortie, a crew briefed, launched, and settled into what felt like a standard mission. On taxi, the departure route looked slightly different from what was expected. It wasn't clearly wrong, just different. The kind of difference that's easy to dismiss.

So, they did.

After takeoff, Air Traffic Control issued a revised clearance. Now the pieces didn't fully match, but no one said so immediately. Each crew member was working from a slightly different understanding. Not incorrect, just not aligned.

Then the quietest voice in the aircraft spoke up.

The cadet, simply observing, connected the earlier taxi change to the new clearance. That one comment prompted the crew to pause, reassess, and realign. No urgency. No error. Just a small correction, early enough to matter.

In the debrief, the takeaway was simple:
"We didn't miss a mistake, we missed the moment we stopped verifying."

That moment didn't come from lack of skill. It came from assumptions shaped by routine, and it was corrected because someone felt comfortable speaking up.

That's where this goes deeper.

The short video that follows (7 minutes) explains how attitudes **shape expectations, how expectations influence behavior,** and why that subtle "gut feeling" is often your earliest safety signal. More importantly, it shows how **psychological safety within a team** determines whether those signals are spoken or dismissed.

If you've ever thought, *"Something felt off, but I didn't say anything,"* this will resonate.

It's seven minutes well spent, and it may change what you listen for and act on in your very next mission.

Watch the video: **Domino Effect of Safety**

July 4, 2026 – America's 250th Anniversary of Independence

By: Lt Col Eric Smith, Director of Safety, GA-001

As our nation marks 250 years of independence, we pause to reflect on the courage and sacrifice that gave birth to the United States of America.

In 1776, the path forward was uncertain and dangerous. Efforts for peace, including the Olive Branch Petition, were rejected, leaving independence as the only option. When 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, they did so knowing the cost could be their lives. Many lost homes, fortunes, and loved ones, yet they stood firm in their belief that liberty was worth the risk.

The Declaration did more than separate the colonies from Great Britain; it established a bold vision for humanity. It proclaimed that all are created equal and endowed with the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These ideals have endured for 250 years, guiding our nation and inspiring freedom across the world.

For members of Civil Air Patrol, this anniversary is more than a remembrance; it is a call to action. Our core values of caring, compassion, and courtesy reflect the very spirit that



Photo Credit: 2025 Armed Forces Day, Wausau, WI

sustained our nation's founders. In every mission we fly, every cadet we mentor, and every community we serve, we honor their legacy.

As we celebrate this historic milestone, let us renew our commitment to serve with purpose and integrity. By caring for others, showing compassion in times of need, and treating all with courtesy and respect, we carry forward the promise of America.

The legacy of 1776 lives on not only in our history but also in our actions today.

Recognition





WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL SAFETY TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT!

CONGRATULATIONS, **Scott Rhein**, for joining our National Safety Team as the Ground Safety Program Manager on June 29, 2026, bringing over a decade of safety management experience and a strong background in military aviation, risk management, and operational leadership. A former U.S. Army Black Hawk pilot and Aviation Safety Officer, he has focused on protecting personnel and supporting mission success throughout his career.

He served across the Pacific region, leading safety-focused operations, and spent three years in Saudi Arabia, instructing and certifying safety managers for the Ministry of National Guard Aviation.

After retiring from the Army in May 2020, Scott settled in Banks, Alabama, where he owns a land-clearing business and manages his farm. Guided by faith, family, and service, he is a father of four and enjoys time outdoors with his family.

**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**.

CRM and TEM Training Now Available in Absorb

This module teaches CAP aircrew how to apply **Crew Resource Management (CRM) and Threat and Error Management (TEM)** to manage risk, emphasizing that incidents typically result from chains of threats and errors, not single mistakes. It focuses on using key skills, communication, situational awareness, teamwork, and decision-making to recognize hazards early, break error chains, and ensure all crew members contribute to safe and effective mission operations. Find the training here: **Absorb – CRM/TEM Training**.

ICL Update - CAPR 160-2

An Interim Change Letter (ICL) to CAPR 160-2 has been released, providing clearer guidance on which events should be entered into CAPSIS. This update helps standardize reporting and reduces uncertainty for Safety Officers and Health Services Officers, including when to use direct entry or CAP Health "Push to CAPSIS" Incidents. Members are encouraged to review the guidance and share it with those who need to know about this change within their sphere of influence. View the ICL to CAPR 160-2 here: **Interim Change Letter (ICL) to CAPR 160-2**.

REMINDERS:

Take the Safety Dispatch – July 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.

Request for The Dispatch Articles

We welcome article submissions for the upcoming 2026 editions of The Dispatch. Articles should be **250–300 words** and relevant to **Safety, Health Services, or Chaplain Corps** communities.

For consideration, please submit articles to the appropriate functional area:

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

Current and Previous Issues: **The Dispatch**
CAP Safety Communications: ***Website*** *-* ***Facebook*** *-* ***Email***