



CIVIL AIR PATROL  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Dear CAP Volunteer,

Congratulations to the members of the Civil Air Patrol on the occasion of our 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

CAP was founded, on Dec. 1, 1941, less than a week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor led to America's involvement in World War II. Members of CAP's Coastal Patrol quickly proved their worth during the war by conducting aerial patrols, vigilance that discouraged and eventually stopped deadly German U-boat attacks on shipping in American waterways.

Inspired by the highest sense of patriotism and pride in their mission, these volunteer aviators, known as "subchasers," flew more than 24 million miles during 86,000 over-water missions – a total of 244,600 flight hours – to keep the U-boats away from America's coasts. They spotted 173 subs, attacked 57, hit 10 and sank two; called in aid for 91 ships in distress; saved 363 survivors of sub attacks; discovered 17 floating mines; and flew 5,684 special convoy missions. Fifty-nine members of these courageous aircrews died, 26 were lost at sea and seven others were seriously injured.

This was the beginning of CAP's proud legacy of selfless sacrifice and service to country and community, which still thrives today through you and the other 57,000 citizen volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol. I salute you for your vigilance, which now affects communities in all of America's 50 states, the nation's capital and Puerto Rico.

As the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, Civil Air Patrol's role has greatly expanded to a multitude of missions for America over the past seven decades. CAP has evolved into a world-class, public service organization of everyday heroes – pilots, technology experts, communicators, chaplains, teachers and youth mentors – who provide emergency services to those in need, conduct youth programs at more than 1,500 locations and help thousands of students and schools.

CAP is indeed a tremendous force multiplier for the Air Force as well as other federal, state and local agencies, responding day or night when planes are overdue and emergency locator transmitters go off. Our aircrews and ground teams perform 90 percent of all continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. The searches often lead to rescues, like that of a pilot who crash-landed his plane in the Cascade Mountains in southwest Oregon. Three members from CAP's Oregon Wing – Capt. Scott Bakker, Capt. Tom Moore and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James Metcalfe – quickly responded to AFRCC's call for assistance, locating the pilot's downed aircraft before dawn one snowy morning. In August, they were honored with the AFNORTH Commander's Award. Such rescues are common for CAP, which is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 80 lives annually.

Our members also aid America through emergency relief missions, which help the nation's communities recover from floods, wildfires, tornadoes, hurricanes and other natural disasters. During the 2008 hurricane season, CAP volunteers from nine states – many taking time off from their routine jobs – invested hundreds of man-hours on the ground and in the air to assist in the recovery efforts. Aircrews from the Texas Wing flew 350 sorties in September to acquire more than 40,000 high-definition photographs to define the devastation wrought by Hurricane Ike.

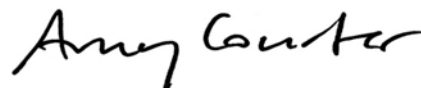
In addition to our search and rescue and emergency services missions, CAP is once again performing homeland security missions, assisting the Air Force in ensuring the skies above our nation are safe by flying target-intercept training for U.S. military pilots. Our pilots also assist U.S. law enforcement agencies in taking millions of drug dollars off our nation's streets.

CAP is known for all these things, but most notable to me is our youth development program. More than 22,000 youth benefit from exceptional growth opportunities provided by our cadet programs, which stress leadership and character development and teach aviation and emergency response skills. We now have more than 1,500 squadrons that meet weekly throughout America and Puerto Rico as well as special summer programs that teach cadets to fly, send them as representatives to other countries and educate them about career possibilities in the military, aviation, industry and the sciences.

CAP's Aerospace Education, School Enrichment and Drug Demand Reduction programs touch the organization's 22,000 cadets, thousands of educators and thousands of other youth in classrooms across America by conveying important aerospace concepts while increasing students' physical fitness and teaching the value of a drug-free lifestyle. The effect of these programs is tremendous. Our students grow up to be the role models of tomorrow – role models like Air Force Col. Eric Boe, CAP's first astronaut. Boe, a former Georgia Wing cadet and current Florida Wing senior member, recently piloted the Space Shuttle Endeavour during a 15-day mission to the International Space Station.

Indeed, Civil Air Patrol makes a huge impact each and every day, going above and beyond to make a profound difference in our communities. As a vigilant CAP volunteer, you save lives and preserve liberty for all. Thank you for your service.

Always vigilant!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Courter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maj. Gen. Amy Courter  
CAP National Commander