



CIVIL AIR PATROL

DELIVERING STRONG VALUE IN 2025



CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

2025
IMPACT REPORT

What is CAP?

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a congressionally chartered, federally funded, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

CAP is America's premier public service organization that provides emergency services and disaster relief missions nationwide. Vigilant volunteers search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster, and work to keep the homeland safe. Members selflessly devote their time, energy, and expertise toward the well-being of their communities, promoting aviation and related fields through aerospace education and helping shape future leaders through CAP's cadet program.



Partners Serving Together Since 1941

Civil Air Patrol was forged to help defend our homeland during a turbulent time of impending world war. CAP aviation units established coastal patrol flights to deter, report, and prevent enemy operations, providing crucial support to the U.S. military. Today, missions have evolved, and CAP is a Total Force partner with new, innovative programs and technology — conducting training missions, aiding in disaster relief, and cultivating the next generation of pilots and warfighters.



2025 RETURN ON INVESTMENT

\$334M VALUE

IN OPERATIONAL SERVICE TO THE NATION

In 2025, CAP delivered \$334M in added value on its federal investment of \$74M, acting as a force-multiplier for our military and government partners with emergency services support, joint training, and youth programs.

>\$4.5:1

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

CAP's highly trained volunteers are ready to deploy in every state. Conservatively returning \$4.5 in value for every \$1 spent, CAP provides unequalled value to our communities, state, and nation as a force for good.

\$132 PER FLIGHT HOUR

DRY (UNFUELED)

\$188 PER FLIGHT HOUR

WET (FUELED)

CAP is an unrivaled low-cost partner to the Air Force, providing mission support and preparing both pilots and warfighters.

2025 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

46

LIVES SAVED NATIONWIDE

408

SEARCH & RESCUE MISSIONS

250

SEARCH & RESCUE FINDS

70K MEMBERS

36K ADULTS / 34K YOUTH

39K

EMERGENCY PROFESSIONALS

1,425

OPERATING LOCATIONS

548

SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT

38K

ORIENTATION FLIGHTS

100K

FLIGHT HOURS

CIVIL AIR PATROL RIGOROUSLY TRACKS AND QUANTIFIES ITS IMPACT ANNUALLY.

NEXT: WHAT DOES CAP DO? >

What Does CAP Do?

EMERGENCY SERVICES

✔ Search and Rescue

CAP conducts about 80% of all inland search and rescue missions as directed by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, and is credited with saving an average of over 80 lives each year.

✔ Disaster Response

CAP emergency services teams support a wide range of disaster response missions by providing imagery of wildfire, flood, tornado, earthquake, hurricane, and other damage.

✔ Humanitarian and Community Service

CAP aircrews transport critical items such as water, food, blood, human tissue, personnel, equipment, and other supplies when ground transportation is not possible.

✔ Advanced Aerial Imaging Capabilities

CAP aircrews use special technology to detect heat signatures when visual contact may not be possible. CAP can continue to search for missing individuals at night or see how wildfires are moving when sight is obscured by smoke.



JOINT TRAINING WITH AIR FORCE

✔ Intercept Exercises

Since 9/11, CAP aircrews and aircraft have acted as “tracks of interest” in emergency intercept U.S. military training designed to protect America’s airspace. These live-fly Operation Noble Eagle exercises occur nearly every day of the year nationwide.

✔ Border Security

CAP helps monitor unauthorized, cross-border traffic in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. By providing trained volunteers, and with planning support from Joint Task Force North, CAP is among a fleet of resources tapped to ensure national security.

✔ Chase Escorts

CAP aircraft escort MQ-9 Reapers as part of the organization’s remotely piloted aircraft missions. CAP’s escort of the craft to and from training missions helps Reaper crews maintain readiness.

✔ Pilot Training

Acting in its role as the Air Force auxiliary, CAP plays an essential role in providing low-cost, highly capable professional pilot training for active-duty airmen and officers through the Rated Preparatory Program. The training helps prepare aspiring Air Force pilots for undergraduate aviation training.



AEROSPACE EDUCATION

✓ Aerospace/STEM Education

CAP's award-winning aerospace education program promotes aerospace, aviation, and STEM-related careers with an engaging, standards-based, hands-on curriculum.

✓ Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) Program

The ACE program is an interactive aerospace/STEM program designed to inspire youth grades K-6 toward an interest in aviation, space, and other STEM-related careers.

✓ ACE-Plus Program

The ACE-Plus program connects squadrons to classrooms to provide aerospace/STEM support, student mentorship, and more.

✓ CAP Curricula

CAP provides national academic standards-based aerospace/STEM curricula for kindergarten through college classrooms through members belonging to classrooms, homeschools, libraries, universities, and more.

✓ STEM Kits

CAP STEM Kits introduce cadets to careers involving astronomy, flight simulation, remote-control aircraft, robotics, rocketry, weather, hydraulic engineering, and computer programming.



CADET PROGRAMS

✓ Unique Learning Opportunities

CAP is America's premier opportunity for youth to experience the thrill of flying. Cadets learn about the fundamentals of aviation through classroom activities and orientation flights.

✓ National Cadet Special Activities

Cadets explore personal areas of interest and potential careers in aviation, technology, STEM, robotics, flight training, leadership, cybersecurity, search and rescue, honor guard, the military, and more.

✓ Encampment

Cadets attend summer encampments to develop leadership skills, explore aviation and science, improve mental and physical fitness, and apply CAP's core values of respect, excellence, integrity, and volunteer service.

✓ Cadet Wings

CAP has intensified its focus on youth aviation initiatives in response to the nation's shortage of pilots in both the military and commercial sectors. In 2025, 91 cadets graduated the Cadet Wings program and are working toward earning a private pilot certificate.



NEXT: HAWAII TSUNAMI ALERTS >



HAWAII TSUNAMI ALERTS

Hawaii Wing Spreads Tsunami Warnings in Wake of Russian Quake

The Hawaii Wing carried out 15 flights broadcasting tsunami warnings to coastal communities throughout the state on July 29 after an 8.7-magnitude earthquake was reported off Kamchatka, Russia, potentially threatening the island chain.

The wing launched nine aircraft at 2:52 p.m. after swiftly joining state and county emergency agencies in a coordinated response. Three dozen CAP members from Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island participated. The 15 flights totaled more than 15 hours in the air.

Equipped with loudspeakers and siren systems, CAP aircraft flew predetermined coastal flight paths, broadcasting “Tsunami warning. Evacuate all low-lying areas until all clear is given.”

CAP members provided ground transportation for flight crews, assisted in relocating essential vehicles, and coordinated closely with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and county civil defense officials.



CAP’S Hawaii Wing was “wheels-up” within 90 minutes after the first tsunami warning notification.

NEXT: TEXAS FLOODING SUPPORT >

CAP Supports Texas Air National Guard Reaper UAV Flood Recovery Mission

As Texas faced historic flooding, CAP volunteers stepped in to support and deliver essential aerial assistance.

In July 2025, CAP aircraft and flight crews supported the Texas Air National Guard in vital flood recovery operations by escorting MQ-9 Reaper drones from Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base on reconnaissance missions over the affected areas.

Reapers are required by the Federal Aviation Administration to have a ground-based or airborne observer because the camera at the front of the aircraft doesn't provide enough vision for the pilot to see birds or other aircraft. That's where CAP comes in.

CAP has crews across Texas trained in aerial reconnaissance and search and rescue, both from aircraft and on the ground. The organization is often called on to help emergency managers determine the extent of damage from natural disasters and to help in search and rescue efforts.



CAP helps First Air Force rapidly respond to nonmilitary threats to save lives, relieve suffering, prevent property damage, and provide humanitarian assistance.





CAP RADAR TEAM

CAP Radar Team Boosts Search, Rescue Capabilities

For more than 15 years, the National Radar Analysis Team has been a cornerstone of CAP's search and rescue operations, carrying out a mission to "shorten the crash-to-rescue time."

The radar team provides very accurate ADS-B data (much more accurate than FlightAware) within a few minutes of being activated. It has supported nearly 1,000 missions, resulting in 581 finds and 93 saves.

Recently, the team was credited with a find for helping locate a missing aircraft on sea ice in Alaska and a save for support provided in locating another downed aircraft in California.

Upon activation by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, the team has analyzed available resources within about 20 minutes. This swift and comprehensive approach has reduced search times from weeks or days to hours, proving critical in such missions.



CAP's radar team reduced search times from weeks or days to just hours.

CAP Congressional Squadron

CAP's Congressional Squadron is a nonpartisan, volunteer group of members of Congress, congressional staff, and aviation professionals.

The squadron includes more than 400 current and retired members of Congress. Members can show support for CAP units in their state or district, sponsor a CAP aircraft, and participate in CAP programs.

Participation is not a requirement. Most members of Congress join to show support for CAP volunteers and promote youth development, community service, and lifesaving operations in their state or district. Some members become active participants in various CAP programs.

Orientation flights and briefings are offered to give insight into CAP operations. Opportunities are also available to become qualified aircrew and participate in missions.



The Congressional Squadron has supported emergency operations, youth development, and education through CAP for over 50 years.

JOIN THE CONGRESSIONAL SQUADRON!

For more information or for a visit, please contact the Government Relations team at contact@cng.cap.gov.





Board of Governors

Civil Air Patrol's Board of Governors generates strategic policies, plans, and programs designed to guide and support the volunteer service of the organization's 52 wings. CAP's national commander and chief executive officer, the organization's chief operating officer, and the CAP-USAF commander serve as advisors to the Board of Governors.

AIR FORCE-SELECTED MEMBERS

Chair: Lt. Gen. Kirk Pierce
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Brig. Gen. Matthew French
U.S. Air Force

Brig. Gen. Christopher S. Walker
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

CIVIL AIR PATROL-SELECTED MEMBERS

Vice Chair: Col. Rajesh Kothari

Col. Ross E. Veta

Lt. Col. Andrew J. Oppmann

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Dandridge
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, AND EDUCATION-JOINTLY APPOINTED MEMBERS

Dr. Sharon DeVivo
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology

Capt. Mary Ann Schaffer
United Airlines

Brig. Gen. Bernie Skoch
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
Aerospace Education Advisor to the Air and Space Forces Association

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Maj. Gen. Regena M. Aye
Civil Air Patrol Chief Executive Officer and National Commander

Col. Aaron Reid
U.S. Air Force, CAP-USAF Commander

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Ms. Kristina E. Jones
Civil Air Patrol
Interim Chief Operating Officer

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Operating in all 50 states, Puerto Rico (and the U.S. Virgin Islands), the District of Columbia, and thousands of communities nationwide, CAP's aviation-connected volunteer professionals are engaged community members from a wide range of backgrounds and professions.

CAP's core cadet and aerospace education programs are equally effective, providing a variety of innovative youth development initiatives and award-winning aviation/STEM resources.

Additionally, in its capacity as the Air Force auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol's highly skilled volunteers perform Air Force-assigned missions using low-cost aircraft, specialized communications and advanced imaging capabilities, and other technologies.

Returning \$4.50 in value for every \$1 spent, CAP provides unequalled value to our communities, states, and nation as a force for good.



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**VOLUNTEERS SERVING
AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES,
SAVING LIVES, AND
SHAPING FUTURES.**

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