

CIVIL AIR PATROL  
ARMY AIR FORCES AUXILIARY

1. It is desired to clarify certain misconceptions which have arisen at various points throughout the country as to the status of Civil Air Patrol members and the nature of the activities in which they are engaged.
2. Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the Army Air Forces, is an official AAF agency. The purpose of Civil Air Patrol is to organize public-spirited citizens of civil aviation into a volunteer, semi-military organization; to give them supplementary training in military and allied subjects (except flight training); and to supervise the utilization of their skills and equipment in the war effort. The CAP organization consists of 48 state wings, with local groups, squadrons, and flights organized throughout each State. The entire organization is administered through a National Headquarters Staff, located at 500 Fifth Avenue, New York 18, New York, composed of AAF officers assigned to that duty.
3. Civil Air Patrol was established on 1 December 1941 and has performed many useful services for the armed forces, including 18 months of antisubmarine operations over the coastal shipping lanes in the Eastern and Gulf sea frontiers from Canada to Mexico, southern liaison patrol on the Mexican border, exercise of aircraft warning systems, camouflage observations, courier missions, radar flight tests, and numerous emergency operations. On these missions, approximately 50,000,000 miles have been flown and over 50 CAP personnel have been killed. At present, CAP is conducting tow target and tracking operations for the First and Fourth Air Force for antiaircraft gunnery training of the Eastern and Western Defense Commands; is operating for the AAF a Nation-wide missing-aircraft search service; and is engaged in the recruitment of aviation cadets and applicants for the Women's Army Corps and in the preflight training of 15, 16, and 17 year old CAP cadets for possible future service with the armed forces or in civilian aviation. Also, trained crash crews of local CAP squadrons throughout the United States are available for volunteer emergency aircraft crash assistance. In addition to services performed for the War Department, Civil Air Patrol also performs emergency missions for other Federal agencies, State Governments, and private industries engaged in the war effort, such as the patrol of forests, pipelines, and flooded areas and the transportation of critical parts and supplies.
4. Members of Civil Air Patrol engaged in the performance of official missions (although acting as civilian volunteers) are required to wear uniforms and insignia authorized by The Adjutant General, which are the same (officers and enlisted men) as those of the Army Air Forces, with the following distinctive exceptions: red shoulder loops on outer garments and red piping on garrison caps for both officers and enlisted personnel; red

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sleeve braid on officers' uniforms and red background for grade insignia of enlisted personnel; silver CAP buttons and insignia, including CAP insignia; silver CAP pilot and observer insignia; and CAP shoulder patch.

5. CAP members are in no instance deferred from service with the armed forces. They are ineligible because of age or physical factors or the fact that they are holding essential jobs in addition to their spare time activity with CAP. They are persons who, not being eligible for the armed forces, are nevertheless anxious to contribute to the war effort more than their regular civilian occupations permit. They serve voluntarily without any pay for their services, sometimes receiving allowances to cover their operation and subsistence costs but often standing the expenses of such costs themselves.

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By order of the Secretary of War:

G. C. MARSHALL  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

J. A. ULIO,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General

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/s/ John F. Bell  
/t/ JOHN F. BELL  
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