

CIVIL AIR PATROL (CAP) FAMILIARIZATION COURSE FOR AIR FORCE AND CAP MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION BY:

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES L. CARR, JR., CAP COMMANDER, CIVIL AIR PATROL

Welcome to the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Familiarization Course for Air Force and CAP Members. Our purpose in offering this course is to familiarize Air Force personnel and CAP members, especially new CAP members, with the organization of CAP, our legacy of over 71 years of service to our nation, and the vital work our all-volunteer force performs as the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. We are proud to be considered a USAF "force multiplier."



Civil Air Patrol takes pride in its rewarding history of voluntary service to our country which began in 1941 when the first CAP volunteers stepped forward at the onset of World War II. As a result of their bravery and patriotism, those volunteers who were flying light aircraft, some with bombs affixed to the underside of their aircraft, countered German U-boat attacks along the Atlantic seaboard and Gulf of Mexico. During the war CAP performed numerous other homeland security missions. In recognition of CAP's service during the war and realizing its future value in assisting with national security, the U.S. Congress incorporated CAP as a non-profit, humanitarian organization in 1946. After the Air Force was created in 1947, Congress established CAP as the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force in 1948. CAP's primary missions then and today are: Emergency Services, Aerospace Education, and Cadet Programs. We perform these missions through the dedicated efforts of over 60,000 volunteers equipped with a fleet of 550 light aircraft, 950 ground transport vehicles and a nationwide communications capability. Today, CAP volunteers are engaged in a myriad of activities using the latest technology to conduct inland search and rescue, disaster relief, and drug interdiction, as well as teaching a new generation of Americans about the importance of air and space supremacy for our country.

During my 23-year Air Force career I had no knowledge of the Civil Air Patrol. I wish I had been more aware so I could have taken advantage of all they have to offer in support of the Air Force mission and Air Force families. Now, as CAP's National Commander, one of my top priorities is to share CAP's outstanding services with the superb men and women of the Air Force, who are an integral part of the United States Armed Forces -- the world's foremost fighting force. Exceptional dedication to service and professionalism are the trademarks of today's Air Force members. My hope is that those who complete this course will realize that the members of the Air Force Auxiliary possess those same fine attributes and are proud to support the Air Force through our performance of its non-combat missions.

In closing, I wish for those Air Force members who complete this course to have continued success in their Air Force careers and for those CAP members who complete this course to have continued success in their CAP careers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles L. Carr, Jr." in a cursive style.

CHARLES L. CARR, JR.
Major General, CAP
Commander