

Civil Air Patrol

# MINNESOTA Wing



## Wing 2009 Statistics:

### Volunteer Members:

767 senior members

503 cadets

### Squadrons: 29

### Aircraft:

17 Cessnas

1 glider

### Vehicles: 23

State Funding: \$65,000\*

Flnds: 19

Saves: 1

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\*Financial data provided by wing commander

VALUE OF WING'S  
VOLUNTEER HOURS:  
\$3 MILLION

“CAP’s volunteers are one of America’s most valuable assets, worthy of your full support.”

CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter



Cadet Capt. David Johnson of the Minnesota Wing’s Red Wing Composite Squadron provides instruction to candidates for Ground Team Member 1 ratings. They were among 80 cadets and senior members who attended the wing’s annual Ground Team Academy at Camp Ripley.

“There are so many things that can go wrong in any search and rescue

mission. You never know what you may encounter,” said Lt. Col. Chet Wilberg, the wing’s director of emergency services and Ground Team Academy commander. “That is the reason why Civil Air Patrol invests so much time and effort in properly training its members so they are prepared when the call comes.”

After some classroom instruction on carrying out land navigation, tracking electronic locator transmitters, conducting a line search and working with search dogs and first aid training, the academy participants spent several days in the recesses of Camp Ripley’s 53,000 acres honing their newly acquired skills under a variety of search and rescue scenarios.

Wilberg said the academy’s goal is to get everyone attending to complete one level of CAP Emergency Services training. “Ground Team Academy is an intensive event designed to help prepare our members mentally, physically and technically to deal with life-threatening emergencies,” he said.

Last year, the wing logged 103 actual or training missions totaling 14,929 personnel hours, 593 flights and 9,120 air hours.

“We’re ready to go on a search-and-rescue mission, anywhere, anytime,” Wilberg said. “It’s kind of like a life insurance policy. We pay the premium with training events like Ground Team Academy. We get our dividend on that premium every time we’re called out on a mission.”



Citizens Serving Communities *Above and Beyond*



# EMERGENCY SERVICES ...

*Whether search and rescue or disaster relief, count on CAP*

2009 was another banner year for Civil Air Patrol operations. CAP resources were put to work in support of communities across America, making the nonprofit, all-volunteer organization a true force multiplier for federal, state and local government agencies.

CAP's citizen volunteers — bound by a strong sense of patriotism and commitment — were credited with saving 72 lives on search and rescue missions. Many of these are thanks to advances in technology in which CAP is the known leader. Through the use of cell phone and radar forensics, many lives were saved by getting search and rescue personnel to survivors quickly. This was accomplished entirely by dedicated volunteers using their talents and education to help others.

CAP's flying operations increased 6 percent last year, with volunteers logging 112,000 hours in CAP's versatile fleet of 550 aircraft. This is directly attributable to an increase of Air Force-assigned missions, accounting for 73 percent of CAP's flying operations last year. Much of those increases are due to drug

interdiction operations conducted in support of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and air intercept training and low-level route surveys flown for active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units nationwide.

CAP's disaster relief response also provided critical support to communities nationwide. Personnel flew reconnaissance flights to assist emergency managers in combating forest fires, managing the effects of winter ice storms and dealing with massive flooding.

In addition, CAP members across the country came together to complete the narrowband and frequency transition. Over the last 10 years more than \$30 million has been spent to upgrade CAP's infrastructure and end-user radio equipment in preparation for the narrowband transition that was required to be completed in 2009. These upgrades position CAP to be a leader in interoperable communications resources in support of America's emergency services and disaster relief requirements.



The under-wing of a Civil Air Patrol Cessna frames an approaching National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon. In regular training exercises across the country, CAP pilots in "low-and-slow" aircraft — just the kind that are apt to fly illegally into U.S. airspace — help fighter pilots learn how to track and intercept intruders.



At left: CAP members are well-versed in the skills necessary to conduct successful search and rescue missions. They know how to read maps, establish search grids, use technical direction finding and communications equipment and administer first aid.



With 129 glass cockpit Cessna 182 Skylanes now in CAP's versatile fleet of 550 aircraft, more CAP aircrews are benefiting from Cessna's state-of-the-art Garmin G1000 flight equipment. The all-glass, jet-like cockpit provides more situational awareness for CAP pilots as well as a collision avoidance system, which helps ensure their safety.

*Civil Air Patrol:  
Going "above and beyond" to serve America's communities*

*Civil Air Patrol's 59,000 citizen volunteers truly go "above and beyond" the call of duty, giving freely of their time, talents and expertise. While their accomplishments in emergency services, aerospace education and cadet programs are exemplary, the cost of these Missions for America is minimal — only about \$130 per flying hour as compared with other Air Force assets, which cost \$1,700 to \$6,800 per flying hour. This adds up to an economic impact in volunteer man-hours of well over \$120 million, even though CAP's budget is a fraction of that.*



# AEROSPACE EDUCATION ...

*To pass the torch about the vital role of flight, count on CAP*

CAP's Aerospace Education programs and initiatives remain a vital component of the cadet and adult programs, as well as an exciting outreach enrichment program for schools and youth organizations nationwide. The AE program ignites interest in aerospace exploration and careers through a variety of initiatives. Special emphasis is placed on enhancement of STEM subjects — science, technology, engineering and math — to ensure America remains a global leader in these areas of critical importance.

Through the efforts of 1,600 CAP Aerospace Education (teacher) Members (AEMs), more than 96,000 students across the country are provided AE experiences. AEMs are supported in the classroom with more than 20 free educational tools that are

aligned with national academic standards. CAP adults and cadets, as well as K-college classrooms, use "Aerospace: The Journey of Flight," a comprehensive 675-page, 27-chapter, full-color text; six "Aerospace Dimensions" modules; the CAP Model Rocketry Program; and the Satellite Tool Kit, which exposes students to real-world applications through software used for land, sea and space analysis.

The Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) Program for K-6 students is a cross-curricular, grade-level-specific program that is being implemented at 62 sites in 23 states across the nation, impacting almost 7,000 students. Also, more than 35,000 K-12 students and CAP adult and cadet members at 672 schools and 435 squadrons participated in the 2009

Aerospace Education Excellence Award Program, which focuses on the dynamics of aerospace.

These initiatives are enhanced by teacher professional development programs, including Teacher Orientation Program Flights. Last year, this program provided some 300 educators with firsthand knowledge about aviation and the thrill of flying to share with more than 18,000 students.

Partnership initiatives with like-minded aerospace organizations provide value-added opportunities for members and boost CAP's aerospace education outreach potential. The Air Force Association annually provides \$22,500 in grants to CAP squadrons and teacher members to promote aerospace curricula to more than 10,000 young people.



Nothing excites students and cadets more than America's astronaut program. They learn the "right stuff" in programs like CAP's Aerospace Connections in Education program, designed for elementary students.



For its aerospace education program, CAP publishes several books that are used in schools across the country. A series of biographies of important figures in aviation history are geared to younger students, while a recently revamped comprehensive history of aerospace is written for middle and high school students.



Cadets learn from senior members about aerodynamic principles that they put into play by building rubber-band-powered model airplanes. From there, many progress into building model rockets.



# CADET PROGRAMS ...

*To mentor America's future leaders, count on CAP*

As a testament to its relevance and appeal, Civil Air Patrol's cadet programs added nearly 2,000 young people to its rolls in 2009. Membership currently stands at 23,800 youth ages 12-20. Whether belonging to school- or community-based squadrons, cadets benefit from a complete curriculum that teaches respect, leadership, community service and aerospace education.

The opportunity to fly is a major attraction for cadets, and 8,184 took advantage of orientation flights in 2009, whether in powered aircraft or gliders; that represents nearly a 10 percent increase over 2008. Notably, the number of glider sorties has risen by 46 percent over the past two years.

Meanwhile, CyberPatriot, a global program of the Air Force Association, skyrocketed in popularity with CAP cadets. Fifty-five CAP teams participated in 2009, with four of them advancing to the final round of competition, which pits eight teams against one another — and the clock — working at computers to clean up problems in the frontier of cyberspace.

An introduction to advanced leadership concepts and aerospace-related careers continues to draw cadets to national summer cadet special activities and wing-level encampments. Depending on the activity chosen, cadets learn hands-on search and rescue techniques, military history and ceremonies, problem-solving, leadership skills, business planning and more and, along the way, are exposed to top national and military leaders. With CAP now partnering with Air Force Junior ROTC, more activities are available to youth in both organizations.

CAP's cadet programs continue to manage more than \$300,000 in college and flight scholarships for its members. And with a newly launched cadet blog, the CAP cadet Web site was visited 198,000 times in 2009, a 120 percent increase from the previous year.

For CAP cadets — with thanks to our senior member volunteers who donated their time and talents — 2009 was a very good year.

Gadets play an important role in CAP's foremost public service project, Wreaths Across America, which places holiday wreaths on the graves of veterans throughout the country and abroad. In 2009, cadets helped place some 161,000 wreaths on individual graves and performed in color guard and honor guard units.



The opportunity to fly is a big draw for CAP cadets and, for some, a stepping stone to becoming pilots. CAP orientation flights take them aloft in small aircraft or gliders, while various military branches sometimes arrange to take them aboard larger planes.



CAP's cadets can choose from an outstanding array of activities, whether a state encampment or a national program, such as CAP's Civic Leadership Academy, which takes selected cadets to Washington, D.C., where they explore careers in public service and increase their understanding of American heritage and modern-day civics.