

## MARYLAND CIVIL AIR PATROL MOBILIZES FOR HURRICANE ISABEL

BALTIMORE, MD - Civil Air Patrol units across the state of Maryland continue to await the arrival of Hurricane Isabel. Yesterday morning, Civil Air Patrol members began manning the CAP desk at the MEMA Emergency Operations Center in Reisterstown. Eleven of the twelve Wing aircraft were moved to Hagerstown. One aircraft was kept at Martin State Airport at the request of the Maryland Guard. The Wicomico Composite Squadron began assistance to the American Red Cross yesterday afternoon. Units from Carroll and Harford Counties give a hand to local emergency management agencies fill sandbags. Shelters have been set up in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties and Civil Air Patrol is providing communications and manpower for those moving into shelters. Units are manning emergency operation centers and shelters across the entire state.

Aerial photoreconnaissance and damage assessment is scheduled to begin late Friday or early Saturday from the Hagerstown Mission Base. Ground teams across the state are on standby to assist with damage assessment and to respond to the numerous expected emergency beacons set off by the storm's passage. Lt Col Kevin Redman, CAP, Maryland Wing Director of Operations directed ground teams to be ready, "There may be numerous EPIRB/ELTs set off by the winds. We may need to locate and deactivate them quickly in order to stop interference with possible actual signals."

Civil Air Patrol can be requested to support aerial damage survey, photo-downlink, ground surveys, transportation, and communications assistance. Local support requests for shelter management and mass care may also come. Disaster preparedness and relief efforts are being coordinated through the Maryland State Police at MEMA EOC

Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force with more than 64,000 members nationwide. It performs 95% of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 27,000 young people currently participating in CAP

cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 60 years. For more information about Civil Air Patrol visit <http://mdwg.cap.gov>