



U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Communications

The mission of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Radio Communications Program is to meet the communications requirements of internal and external customers. This mission is accomplished by strong planning to organize and maintain a reliable, integrated, point-to-point, air-to-ground, and ground mobile radio capability in support of the missions of CAP.

The primary purpose of CAP communications is to provide internal communications capabilities; to provide commanders with the means to conduct the missions of CAP both during normal conditions and when commercial infrastructure is unavailable or unsuitable, including commanders in the organizational chain of command, operational mission chains of command, and special activity chains of command. The CAP communications system provides a continuity of operations capability when commercial infrastructure fails, such as allowing commanders, at each echelon, the ability to communicate with superior and subordinate commanders. In addition, the CAP communications system may also provide support to "customer" agencies where it does not conflict with the primary purpose.

Communications facilities of CAP are used in support of many operations including:

- Operational Missions - Such as Homeland Security, search and rescue, emergency preparedness, disaster relief, and other operational missions; augments existing communications services in the event of actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other manmade disasters; and supports the U.S. Air Force.
- Flying - Provides messages on CAP aircraft movements, aircraft landings, and other information related to the safety of lives and property. This category also includes ground-to-air communications with in-flight aircraft.
- Administration - In addition to CAP's operational missions, supports all legitimate functions of CAP.
- Training - Provides familiarization and practice courses in CAP radio communications procedures and demonstrates techniques of air-to-ground, point-to-point and network operations.
- Support to Federal, State, and Local Agencies - Supports federal, state, and local agencies, either on behalf of the Air Force (to federal agencies), or in CAP's corporate status (to state and local agencies) when that support does not conflict with internal command and control needs.



CAP operates a nationwide VHF land mobile radio system which has 550 repeaters, over 5000 mobile units and almost 2500 handheld radios. CAP also has over 150 tactical repeaters that can be deployed in the air or on the ground. CAP also operates a nation-wide HF-ALE network consisting of over 1300 base and mobile stations providing direct support to the USAF. Daily nets routinely have over 150 stations checking in.

We are looking for skilled and motivated communicators to join us. Contact us to find out how you can become part of this critical program.

Contact

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History

In December 1941, one week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Civil Air Patrol was founded by more than 150,000 citizens who were concerned about the defense of America's coastline.

Under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Forces, CAP pilots flew more than 500,000 hours performing a wide variety of duties, including coastal patrol for submarine activity as well as ships and personnel in distress, target towing for the Armed Forces and courier flights for essential personnel and war materials.

On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman established CAP as a federally chartered nonprofit corporation, and Congress passed a law on May 26, 1948, designating CAP as the Air Force auxiliary and giving CAP three primary missions — emergency services, cadet programs, and aerospace education.

The Organization

... is congressionally chartered and operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

- Performs services for the federal government as the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and for states/local communities as a nonprofit organization.
- Includes eight geographic regions consisting of 52 wings (the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia).
- Consists of 1,500 squadrons and 60,000 volunteer youth and adult members nationwide.
- Has more than 8,800 aircrew members and 30,000 emergency responders trained to FEMA standards.
- Offers opportunities for members to serve communities, participate in leadership development training and acquire new skills that benefit personal and professional growth.
- Contributed \$158 million in man-hours in 2014 by serving the disaster relief and emergency service needs of communities, states and nation.
- Operates one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 550 currently in the fleet.
- Flies more than 91,000 hours annually.
- Maintains a fleet of more than 950 emergency service vehicles for training and mission support.
- Provides 491 chaplains who minister to youth and adult members and help comfort survivors and victims of disaster.

Mission

Supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power.

