

Civil Air Patrol buoys AF homefront concerns with new support program

Contributed by CAP News Online
Wednesday, 16 January 2008
Last Updated Saturday, 09 August 2008

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. -- On Jan. 11, 1949, the secretary of the Air Force described the Civil Air Patrol as a "civilian auxiliary of the Air Force." Volunteer Support of the Air Force program will match CAP members' capabilities with opportunities to serve military families. Today, 59 years later, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the Honorable Craig Duehring announced a new pilot project which will kick off at two bases this month. Randolph Air Force Base and Wright-Patterson AFB were selected as the two sites for evaluating the potential of an additional Air Force non-combat mission for CAP using existing statutory and Secretarial authorities.

"This program called Volunteer Support to the Air Force, or VSAF, will provide greater volunteer opportunities for citizens through the CAP while enhancing the Air Force's Continuum of Service program," Mr. Duehring said. "The members of the Civil Air Patrol, all patriotic American citizens, are proud to have this opportunity to help the brave men and women defending our country and the loved ones they leave behind when they deploy, but before now, a structure did not exist to match volunteer capabilities with base needs," said Interim CAP Commander Brig. Gen. Amy Courter. "Our 57,000 volunteers welcome this opportunity to support the military families in their communities across the nation." Continuum of Service (CoS) is a Department of Defense initiative that seeks to provide opportunities for service along a continuum from military active duty to civilian volunteer. The CoS recognizes that people are the key ingredient to the sustained success of our Air Force and focuses on eliminating the barriers that allows our highly trained, motivated people to continue to serve as their personal situations change over the course of their career. This endeavor builds on the willingness and capabilities of our citizen volunteers. In the pilot project announced today, the Air Force and the Civil Air Patrol continue their historic partnership to involve America's citizens in Air Power's ongoing adventure from Heritage to Horizon. CAP group commanders will serve as project liaisons, coordinating with base personnel to identify and fill needs. CAP members will wear a distinctive polo and khaki uniform while performing VSAF duties. Those who join CAP in order to perform VSAF services will be considered full-fledged CAP members, with the same rights and responsibilities that membership entails. Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with nearly 57,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 105 lives in fiscal year 2007. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 65 years. Contact: Julie DeBardelaben

Deputy Director Public Affairs
Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters
W: (877) 227-9142 Ext. 250
C: (334) 868-0198 www.cap.gov Steve Cox
Public Affairs Coordinator Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters
W: (877) 227-9142 Ext. 254
C: (334) 296-5881