

Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol was established in WW II as a civilian auxiliary line of defense against the danger of German and Japanese submarines traveling close to coasts of the United States. In those days, private airplane owners patrolled coastal waters for the enemy, and on at least one occasion they not only reported an enemy U-Boat, but actually aslo dive-bombed it.

Today, the CAP focuses on more up-to-date needs than coastal defense. They are the official civilian auxiliary to the USAF with squadrons all across the US. They are involved in search and rescue, donor organ flights, counter drug and terrorism, disaster relief, and a national cadet-training program.

In 2003 LTC Glenn Melberg formed a CMA squadron of the CAP. He was joined by MSG Tom Hewitt, and CPT Tariq Ghaffar. In addition, Senior CAP Officer Art Dumont and CAP Chaplain Jack Epperly have been involved with the squadron. Since its formation, CAP Squadron SC805 has participated in many orientation flights, attended several air festivals, visited three national air museums, and has undergone hours of training in search and rescue techniques. Squadron membership has risen to 24.

CAP cadets have experienced orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, taking off from neighboring Woodward Field and going to other airports before returning home. Upon each landing, cadets are allowed to take turns handling controls.

In addition to orientation flights, cadets also have benefited from flights in Air Force C-130 transports to the National Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH. They have experienced the Long Bow Apache Helicopter flight simulator at Hunter Airfield outside Savannah and have had close-up looks at jets at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter. Cadets were present at the Centennial Air Celebration in Kitty Hawk, NC, where they saw President Bush speak. The Sun Fun Festival in Orlando, FL, is next.

Cadets receive training in search and rescue skills, searching out and assisting downed aircraft, and professional instruction regarding blood-born pathogens. The goal of the squadron is for cadets to be certified through CAP as ground rescue teams.



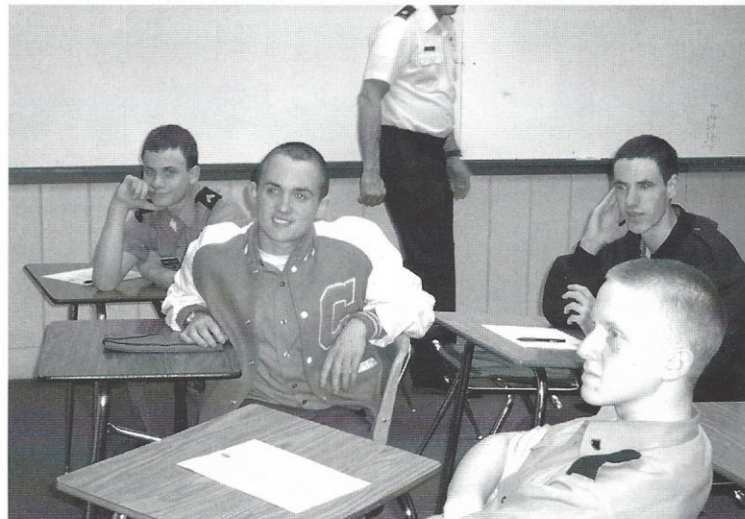
Squadron SC805: J Stone, Carr, Clinker, McCaughan **Row 2:** C Smith, Meise, S Smith, Hickman, Kennedy, Rostmeyer, Saxton, Bisnett **Row 3:** Foley, Barker, Southard, LTC Melberg, Markey, Daniel, Lucas, Gilman, Swearingen, Stegall



Kyle Gilman and Warren McAfee get instruction in armament.



Bisnett is getting into a G-Suit for flight at supersonic speeds.



Cadets Swearingen, Floyd, Foley, and Kennedy enjoy the speaker at a CAP meeting.