



Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol is congressionally chartered as a non-profit auxiliary to the United States Air Force. The organization was first formed in the shadow of impending war on December 1st, 1941 as a means of keeping watch on US borders, especially along its coasts.

In subsequent years, CAP's duties have included anti-submarine patrol and warfare. This was undertaken with surprising success. During WWII, the organization sighted and reported 173 enemy u-boats. Amongst these sightings, the patrol attacked 57 times, dropped 83 pieces of ordnance and sank two enemy submarines.

In addition, the CAP provided target tow-planes for training American anti-aircraft personnel. This sounds dangerous, but, while a couple were hit, none were shot down.

Today the organization is made up of junior cadets, as well as senior members. They serve as emergency couriers (e.g. organ deliveries), agents of homeland security, and as participants in search and rescue operations. CAP's low, slow planes are ideal for locating individuals and vehicles on the ground. For the same reason, they are also useful in aerially monitoring drug traffic. Additionally, CAP serves in a national emergency communications hub, networked all over the country.

LTC Glenn Melberg (USAF ret.), Math Department Head, formed Squadron SC805 of the Civil Air Patrol here at CMA in 2002. In more recent years, he has been joined by Major Anthony DeCandia (USMC ret.), a CMA English teacher. Maj. DeCandia has been certified as a CAP pilot.

Since its formation, cadets have taken powered orientation flights, glider flights and flights in military aircraft (such as the C-130). They have visited air museums, flight simulators and air shows. Cadets have been trained in radio communications, first aid, orienteering and safety.

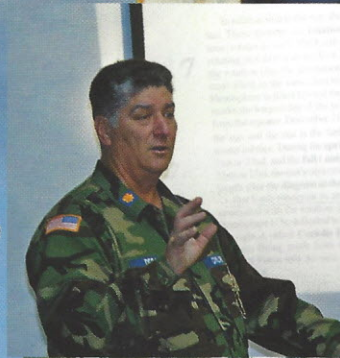
Cadets of the Civil Air Patrol meet weekly. They undergo physical and written testing for rank advancement and occasionally cooperate with other squadrons in preparing for these tests.



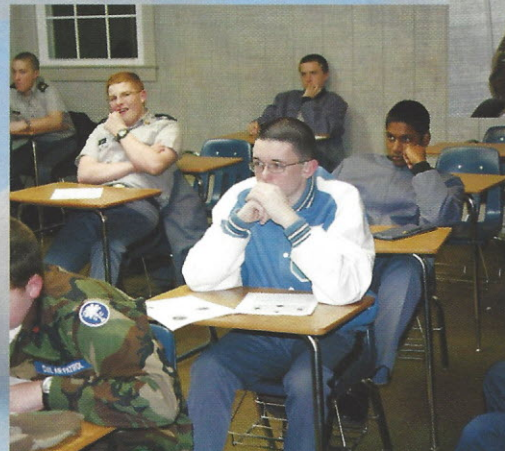
(Left) CAP cadets take off into the wild blue yonder.



LTC Melberg (above) discusses leadership and integrity. Maj. DeCandia, a CAP pilot (left), explains principles of aerodynamics.



(Above) CAP Cadets regularly take off from Woodward Airfield, next door to the Academy, on orientation flights.



Capt. Sills (right) serves as Safety Officer for CAP Squadron 805.

(Left) CAP Cadets Spencer Jacobs, Nicholas Pinski, Abhinav Manna and Powell-Hess Wimborne (from left) learn about flight protocol.