



Marco Island Squadron

Group 5, Florida Wing



CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY



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1st Lt. Michael Harms, Commander



Who We Are

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is **two organizations in one.**

- **CAP – all the time**

- As a congressionally chartered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, CAP is involved in education, youth development, and humanitarian missions

- **Air Force auxiliary – some of the time**

- As a Total Force partner of the Air Force, CAP can be assigned missions that meet operational capabilities
 - Total Force: Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Air Force Auxiliary
- Auxiliary missions for Defense Support of Civil Authorities typically include search and rescue, joint readiness training, preservation of life and property, and humanitarian relief



Our History

Civil Air Patrol was established December 1, 1941.

As the U.S. entered World War II, CAP was an all-volunteer **part of Civilian Defense** using privately owned aircraft in a variety of roles that included:

- Patrolling America’s coastline from Maine to Mexico to monitor and harass German U-boats
- Searching for ship wreck survivors from torpedo attacks and weather
- Training pilots for the military





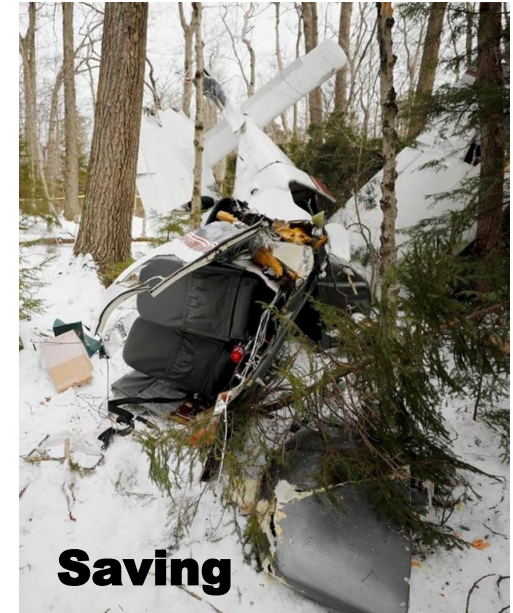
What We Do



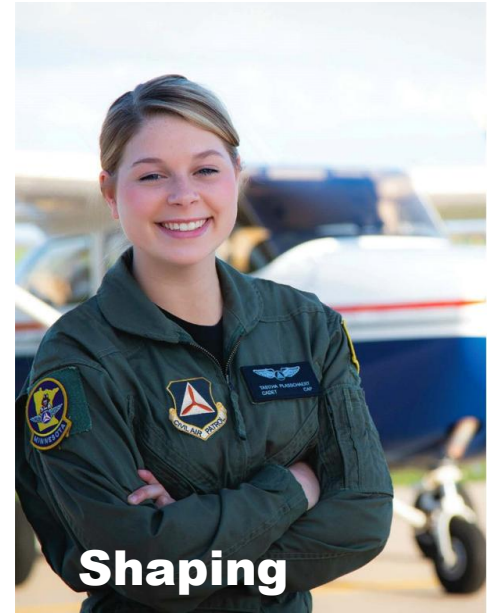
Civil Air Patrol is **the nation's premier volunteer-driven, aviation-based nonprofit** whose purpose and unique value-proposition are best **summed up by our mission statement:**



Serving



Saving



Shaping

Volunteers serving America's communities, saving lives, and shaping futures.



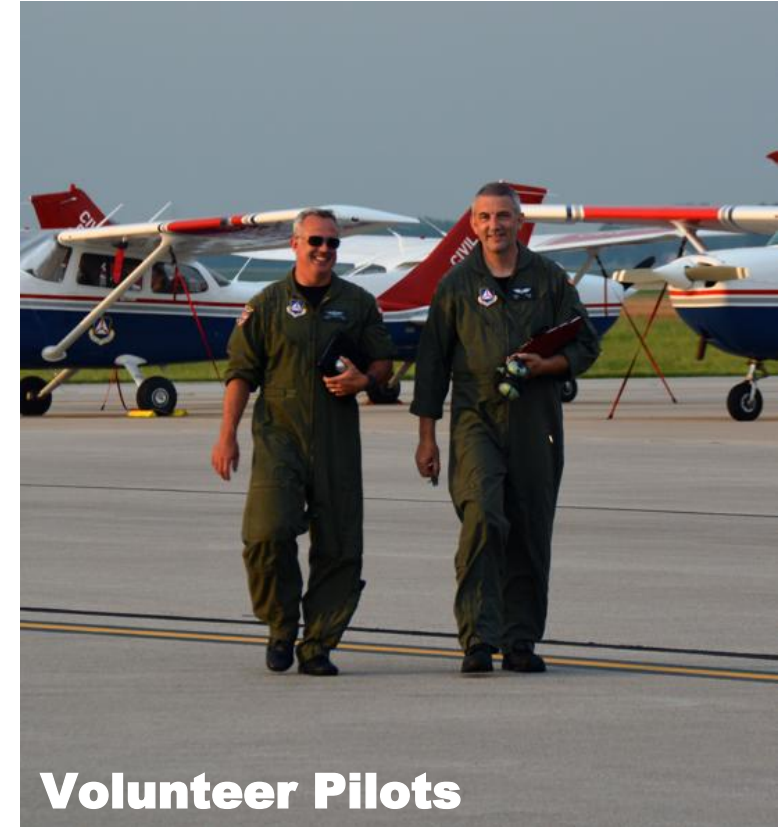
How We're Unique

Volunteer-driven

- **71,000 members**
 - 39,000 adults
 - 32,000 youth (cadets ages 12–18)

Aviation-based

- **Operating the world's largest fleet of single-engine aircraft** (540 aircraft plus 47 gliders and 2 balloons)
- Operating more than 2,500 drones
- Offering high-tech aerial imaging capabilities like 3D scanning, LIDAR, FLIR, hi-def video, and imagery for damage assessment





Our Core Competencies



Aerospace Education

- K-12 curriculum
- STEM education
- STEM Kits
- Classroom support
- Career exploration

Youth Programs

- Leadership training
- Character development
- Aviation initiatives
- Physical fitness
- Career exploration
- Special activities

Emergency Services

- Search & rescue
- Flight training
- Joint military training
- Aerial imagery
- Drone support
- Transport



Aerospace Education (AE)



Aligned to national academic standards, AE offers more than 40 educational products consisting of hundreds of lesson plans that span pre-K through grade 12.

Subjects include mathematics, weather, robotics, model rocketry, flight, space, science, unmanned aerial systems, and more.

AE also offers **22 STEM kits** for ages 4+, **textbooks, and activity books** for the youngest learners.





Youth Programs (CP)



At Civil Air Patrol, young people (cadets) interested in community service, developing confidence and competence as leaders, enhancing physical fitness and mental resilience, and exploring a wide range of potential career interests, **have opportunities that are not possible in other organizations.**

Cadet Wings is just one innovative program designed to introduce youth to career opportunities in aerospace, cyberspace, and outer space.

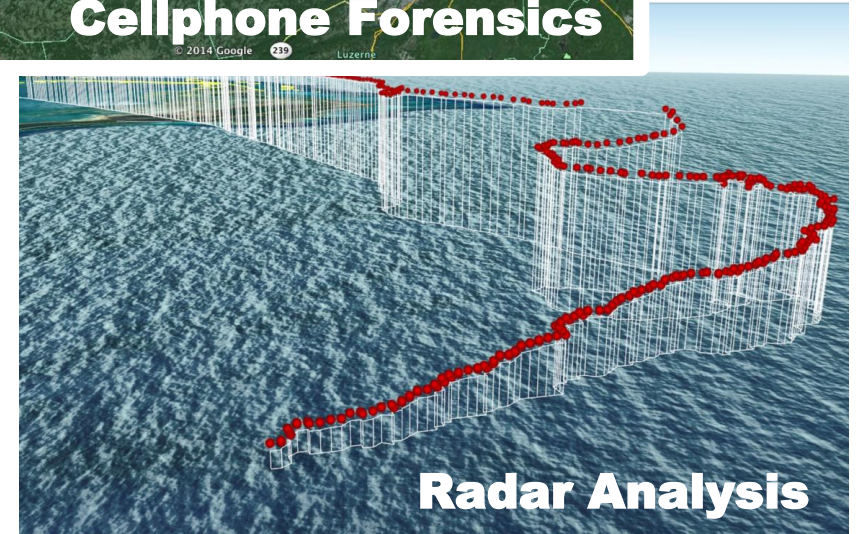
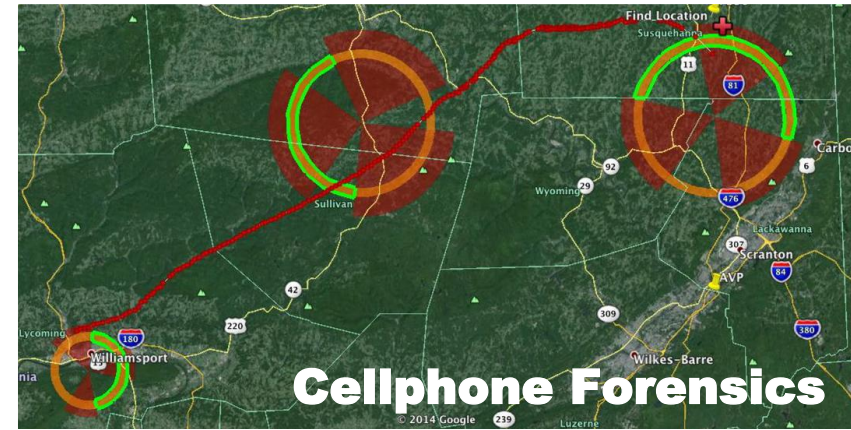




Emergency Services (ES)

Civil Air Patrol performs 90% of search and rescue missions in the U.S. Many searches are conducted using proprietary cellphone forensics and radar analysis.

Advanced search capabilities make CAP an invaluable resource to facilitate searches for downed aircraft, missing persons, stranded motorists, injured hikers, adrift boaters, and more.

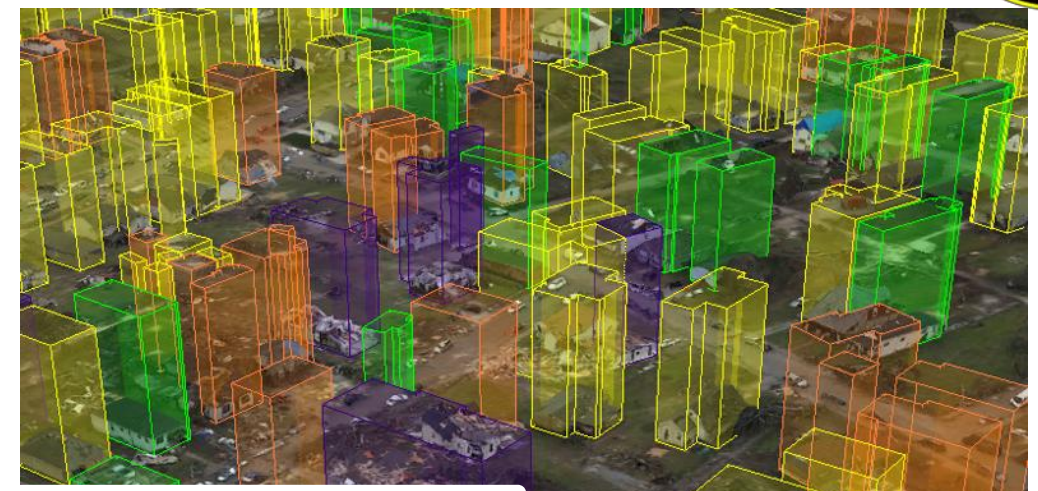




Emergency Services (ES)

The ES team also responds to a variety of requests from local, state, and federal agencies **pre & post disasters like flood, wildfire, hurricane, earthquake, tornado, and tsunami.**

Support may include aerial imaging for rapid damage assessment, personnel and supply transport, emergency communications networking, and more.





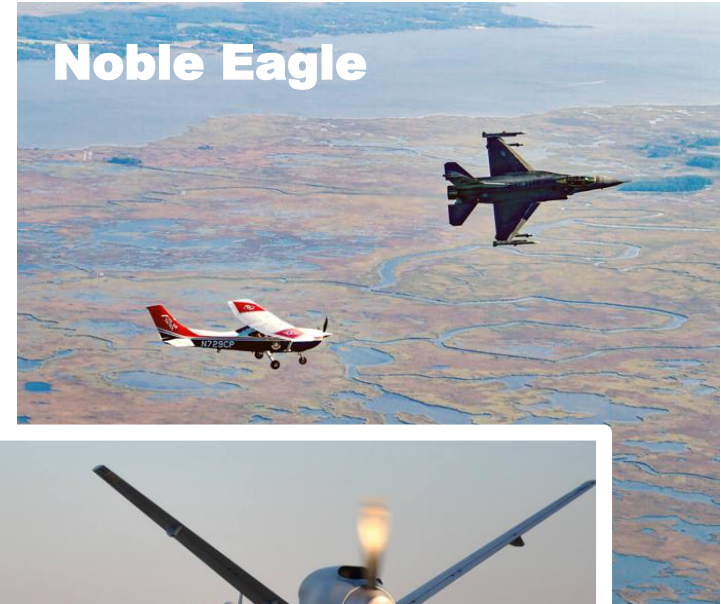
U.S. Air Force Auxiliary



As a Total Force partner of the Air Force, **the auxiliary plays an integral role in joint readiness training for the military.**

Training missions include:

- Operation Noble Eagle, Bird dog & Fertile Keynote
- Green Flag
- SRPA (Surrogate Remotely Pilots Aircraft)
- RPP (Rated Preparatory Program)
- JSTARS (Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System)
- And many others





U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

In 2015, **Civil Air Patrol became part of Air Force doctrine and** was folded into the Air Force, Total Force as the auxiliary.

Each of the four Total Force partners has unique capabilities. As a noncombatant operating the world's largest fleet of light aircraft, the auxiliary **focuses on Defense Support of Civil Authorities missions assigned by the Air Force.**





Impact by the Numbers

Every year varies, but on average:

- **100+ lives are saved**
- 540+ aircraft
- 1,000+ vehicles
- 1,400+ locations
- 100,000+ hours flown
- **500,000+ students impacted**
- \$200,000,000+ value of time volunteered

\$3:1 ROI for every dollar spent
in the service of others.





Marco Island Squadron (FL-376) — 2023–2025



Operations & WALDO Imaging



- Our aircraft (Cessna 182T) postured with WALDO equipment for pre- and post-disaster imaging.
- Managed aircraft utilization to preserve hours for hurricane season while maintaining currency.
- Aerial search and rescue photography and orthoscopic imaging capability built local surge capacity for damage mapping.
- FY23 pilots delivered ~128.8 mission hours (A: 119.5; C: 3.5).



Training — Over-Water Survival & Crew Refresher



- Several full OWS course at Marco Island YMCA (classroom + pool practical).
- Mission Crew Refresher emphasized roles, patterns, checklists, and ORM fundamentals.
- Outcome: Improved survivability over Gulf waters and faster SAR response quality.



Cadet Programs — Engagement & Support



- Coordinated with Naples Cadet Squadron on orientation flights and SAREX (search and rescue exercise) support.
- Expanded youth aviation experiences; reinforced Group-level training capacity.
- Pipeline for advanced opportunities (flight academies, aerial photography, Waldo, etc.).



Aerospace Education & Community Partnerships



- Strengthened relationship with Collier County EOC (tours; follow-up Citizen Corps invite).
- Aerial imagery training supports local planning and disaster readiness.
- Public affairs/education events.



Compliance & Inspection Results



- USAF Compliance Inspections with no discrepancies.
- SUI rated “Effective”.
- Validated program health; enabled rapid operational tempo.

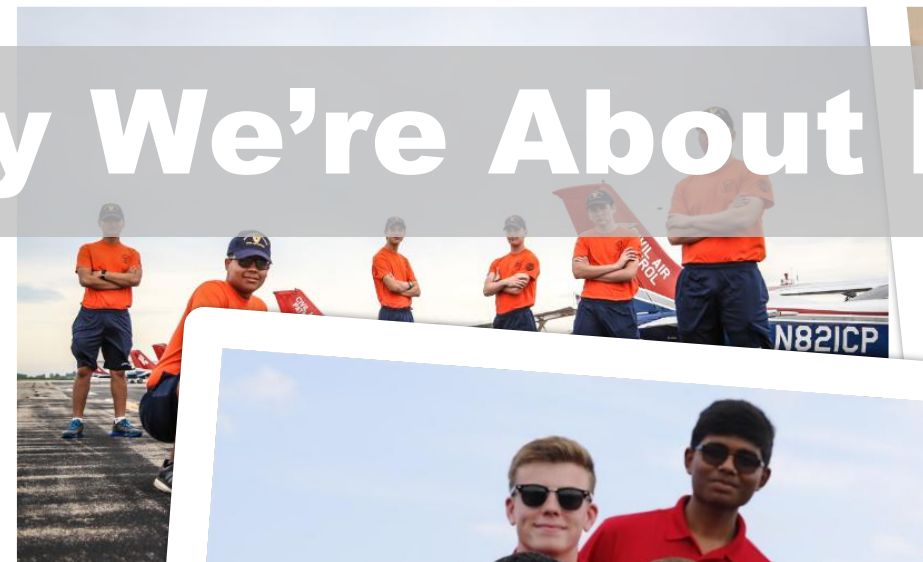


Call-to-Action



- Join the mission: pilots, scanners, observers, sUAS, comms, ground team, PAO.
- Partner with us: Collier County agencies, NGOs, schools, community groups.
- Support the program:
<https://fl376.gocivilairpatrol.org/ways-to-give> .
- Contact: Commander 1st Lt. Michael Harms —
Michael.Harms@flwgcap.us

Mostly We're About People



CAMP



Find a unit near you
Join Today



Thank you