



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ACC commander tours CAP National Headquarters**

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Alabama** — U.S. Air Force Gen. Hawk Carlisle, commander of Air Combat Command (ACC), toured Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters on Thursday and got an up-close look at the many missions of the Air Force auxiliary.

“Impressive. Thanks for what you guys are doing,” Carlisle said after an afternoon visit to the National Operations Center. That’s where CAP coordinates its missions at the request of 1st Air Force, which falls under the command of the four-star general and the ACC.

Missions performed by CAP under the direction of the Air Force include search and rescue, as requested by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. In the 669 search and rescue missions CAP performed last year, 85 lives were saved.

CAP also aids the Air Force with air defense intercepting training, which helps prepare active duty and Air National Guard fighter units across the nation. CAP’s Surrogate Unmanned Aircraft Systems program provides predeployment training to U.S. troops involved in air-to-ground operations.

Members also perform aerial reconnaissance for homeland security and defense support to civil authorities, among other defense-related missions, making CAP a true force-multiplier for the Air Force.

Carlisle, who took over Air Combat Command, based at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, last October, visited CAP National Headquarters on the invitation of CAP’s national commander, Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez.

His visit came in advance of CAP-USAF’s pending realignment under the ACC, which is expected to occur before year’s end.

“It’s the best of both worlds for CAP,” said Vazquez. “We already do a lot of operations with 1st Air Force, so the move will streamline the tasking and execution of those missions. And being at Maxwell Air Force Base, home to Air University, keeps us close to AETC (the Air Education and Training Command), which provides excellent support to our cadet and aerospace education programs.”

During his visit, Carlisle was briefed by Vazquez, CAP-USAF Commander Col. Michael Tynismaa, CAP’s Chief Operating Officer Don Rowland and other National Headquarters officials and he took the time to visit with CAP’s aerospace education and cadet programs staffs. He also got a chance to meet four Maxwell Composite Squadron cadets, including a

brother and sister whose parents had worked with the general during his previous Air Force service at the Pentagon.

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*Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Its unpaid professionals also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction 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 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. Performing missions for America for the past 73 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit [www.capvolunteernow.com](http://www.capvolunteernow.com) for more information.*

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