

Carroll Pilots Serve Their Community and Nation as Civil Air Patrol Mission Pilots! *By 2nd Lt Alice Raatjes, Public Affairs Officer, Carroll Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol. www.carrollcap.org*



Pictured L-R, Carroll flight crew volunteers Captain David Alexander, First Lieutenants Dan Levin and Steve Vana work with ground and air crews to prepare for and execute Civil Air Patrol flight missions.

Patrick Aaron. Other Squadron pilots are Captain John Sands and First Lieutenant Michael Cesar who are in various levels of Mission Pilot certification. All comprise a stellar team dedicated to excellence and community service.

Carroll pilots and aircrew members are qualified in emergency services and as Mission Scanners and Observers. Carroll Pilots work with their own and other squadrons' air and ground crews to achieve mission goals and objectives. This group effort helps ensure successful missions. When not flying, Carroll pilots participate in the squadron's Cadet Aerospace Education and flight training programs.

CAP pilots, air and ground crews are all volunteers. They include former military pilots, retired airline pilots and general aviation pilots and mechanics. The Civil Air Patrol Emergency Services mission provides some of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities available to civilian pilots. CAP pilots are authorized to fly CAP aircraft for official missions such as search and rescue, cadet orientation flights, homeland security, and more. In times of disaster, they assess damage and transport emergency personnel from site to site. When not flying traditional emergency missions, cadet orientation pilots fly orientation rides for cadets and teachers while also maintaining their own proficiency.

CAP has approximately 550 aircraft, mostly Cessna 182s and 172s. CAP has the largest fleet of single-engine piston aircraft in the world and CAP's volunteer members log about 120,000 flying hours per year. In emergency services operations, CAP not only needs air crew members, but also ground team members to aid in the rescue of survivors or to assess damage after a disaster. Other CAP specialties such as communications personnel, administrative staff, financial managers, logistics and

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Rapid response is critical to the success of any Civil Air Patrol (CAP) mission. As such, the motto, "Semper Vigilans" (Always Vigilant) is representative of CAP pilots. Carroll Composite Squadron pilots, as part of the Maryland Wing, mirror the national motto in being readily available when missions arise. Their flight experience, mission expertise and practical knowledge are valuable tools to the success of any mission. Carroll Squadron Mission Pilots include Operations Officer, Captain David Alexander, Flight Maintenance Officer, First Lieutenant Steve Vana and Captain



Pictured L-R, Carroll Composite Squadron Mission Pilots Captain Dave Alexander and Lieutenant Steve Vana participate in a reconnaissance mission while flying over the tri-state area of Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

supply personnel are needed to conduct missions. CAP members undergo rigorous training to perform these missions safely and cost-effectively. CAP is a great place for new members to meet and work with people who share a common interest in flying and want to use their skills in a meaningful way. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com/how_to_join/pilots_faq for more information.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 61,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 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 80 lives annually. Its volunteers 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 26,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. CAP received the World Peace Prize in 2011 and has been performing missions for America for 71 years. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

Nearly 1,600 members of CAP serve in Maryland. Last fiscal year wing members flew 29 search and rescue missions and were credited with 13 finds saving three lives. Maryland Wing flew over 160 missions for the State of Maryland resulting in 2,222 hours flown. Volunteers contributed services estimated at \$4.2 million. For more information, contact the Maryland Wing at www.mdcap.org.

The Carroll Composite Squadron meets 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings at the Hilltop Assembly of God Church Hall at 30 North Cranberry Road in Westminster, Maryland. Prospective cadets, ages 12-18, and their parents are always welcome. Adults seeking mentoring opportunities are invited as well. For more information, email carrollcomposite@yahoo.com or visit www.carrollcap.org.

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