

JOINT TRAINING

Supporting the Military as a Total Force Partner

When performing Air Force-assigned missions, Civil Air Patrol acts in its capacity as Total Force partner of the Air Force (which includes active-duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Air Force Auxiliary). In this role, CAP members provide essential military support for a diverse collection of training exercises.

OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE

Operation Noble Eagle missions like Falcon Virgo, Felix Hawk, and Fertile Keynote are frequent joint training exercises that receive the most media coverage and attention from the public. Falcon Virgo, for example, began as the military response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks which resulted in greater emphasis on security and control of the airspace over the U.S. and Canada.



Similar exercises are designed to test intercept response time of aircraft intruding into restricted or prohibited airspace that can often be established on short notice as a temporary flight restriction around major cities hosting key events like conventions, sporting events, and Presidential movements.

OPERATION BIRD DOG

Operation Bird Dog harkens back to Civil Air Patrol's World War II patrols for German submarines. Today's mission includes airborne monitoring of the U. S. Navy's Los Angeles-class submarines as they pass through Long Island Sound out to the Atlantic Ocean. The escort operation demonstrates the capabilities of CAP aircraft overflying submarines heading out to sea in a joint force protection exercise.



GREEN FLAG

Civil Air Patrol's longest-running military training support mission is the Surrogate Remotely Piloted Aircraft program, more commonly known as Green Flag. Since 2009, CAP has provided vital training support to the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and coalition air and ground forces as part of their predeployment preparation. CAP aircrews in specially equipped CAP aircraft simulate the functions of the MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper in air, land, and integration combat exercises.



Training includes past lessons learned, development of better radio communications, use of new equipment, and overall battle management. Green Flag East occurs in Louisiana and Green Flag West is held in Nevada.

JSTARS (Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System) JSTARS missions help train airborne battle managers (ABM) aboard E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft. The E-8Cs are a command, control, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance weapon system built on a highly modified Boeing 707-300 platform. Civil Air Patrol flew its first JSTARS mission in 2019 to verify VHF communication interoperability and airspace scheduling. CAP's aircrews assist the student warfighters in the E-8C who are learning to apply the F2T2EA chain: find, fix, track, target, engage, and assess — information that must be coded and transmitted by the ABM, then received and decoded by the CAP aircrew who fly the assigned mission and report back to the ABM with a coded message.



RPP (Rated Preparatory Program)

RPP is another joint training initiative that relies on Civil Air Patrol aircraft and flight instructors to help Air Force airmen on their journey to become rated aircrew. The Air Force-funded program provides training for active-duty nonflying Air Force personnel (officers and enlisted who aspire to become pilots) with the skills to improve their Airman's Pilot Candidate Selection Method score.



The RPP candidates receive more than 40 hours of support, discussion, simulator time, and air and ground training.

SUMMARY

Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered 501(c)(3) nonprofit supporting youth development, aerospace education, and emergency services. Additionally, CAP is often assigned missions by the Air Force in a Defense Support of Civil Authorities capacity to perform noncombatant missions to preserve life, relieve suffering, and protect property.

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