



Civil Air Patrol, Illinois Wing Headquarters

Public Affairs Directorate

AUXILIARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Illinois Wing Civil Air Patrol will conduct an Emergency Service training exercise on May 30 – 31, 2009 at the Decatur Airport, Decatur, Ill.

The purpose of the exercise is to train volunteer members in Search & Rescue, Disaster Relief and Homeland Security tasks using simulated scenarios based on real-life situations.

CAP aircraft will practice aerial reconnaissance, storm damage assessment, evacuation route observation and search techniques for a missing aircraft. CAP ground teams will work in conjunction with the aircrews to complete these missions.

It is estimated that 40 to 50 CAP volunteers, from across the state, will participate in the weekend training. CAP cadet members will participate in ground teams, flight line management, communications and mission base administration.

In addition to the training mission, members of the U.S. Air Force will be on hand to officially evaluate the Illinois Wing's efficiency in performing its Emergency Services missions.

Members of the press are invited to observe the exercise on Saturday, May 30. Interested media should contact Lt. Col. Paul Hertel (618) 792-8556. There will be opportunities for photo ops and interviews with mission personnel.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 55,600 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 91 lives in fiscal year 2008. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the nearly 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 67 years. For more information on CAP, visit www.qocivilairpatrol.com.

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