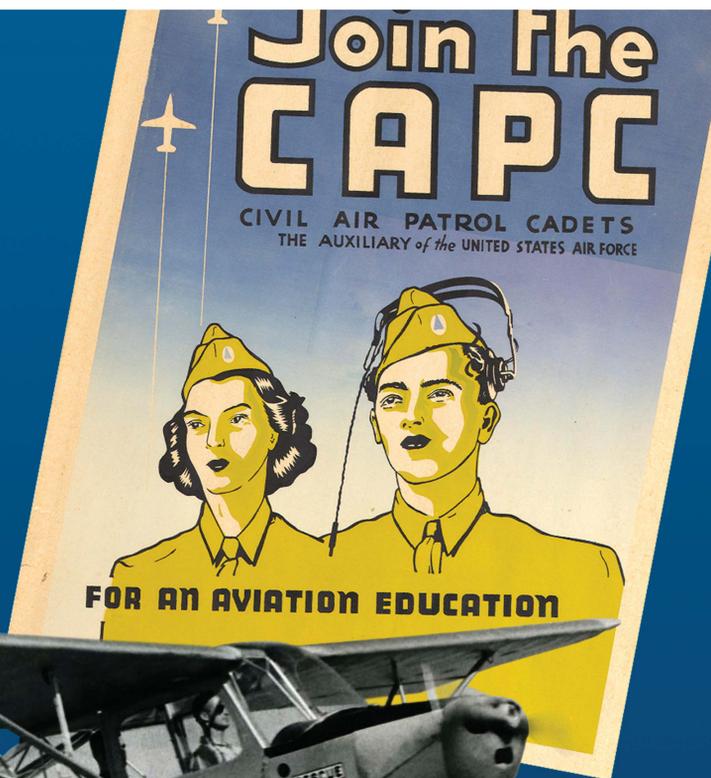


# CIVIL AIR PATROL

## COLD WAR 1950 - 1975

Postwar, CAP focused on the cadet program, emergency services, and aerospace education. In 1948, the organization began participating in the International Air Cadet Exchange, and the following year introduced its first aerospace education literature for educators and CAP units. When the first cadets entered the USAF Academy in 1955, ten percent were former CAP members.



During the Cold War, CAP search and rescue (SAR) missions became routine, and civil defense officials used CAP radio networks to coordinate disaster relief efforts. CAP assisted in training the Air Force's Ground Observer Corps, conducted aerial radiological monitoring, and participated in Operation MOONWATCH by optically tracking artificial satellites.



The 1974 legislation making emergency locator transmitters in aircraft mandatory improved CAP's SAR capabilities. In 1975, for the first time, a civilian volunteer became the corporation's national commander, signaling a strategic shift in the CAP and USAF relationship.



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