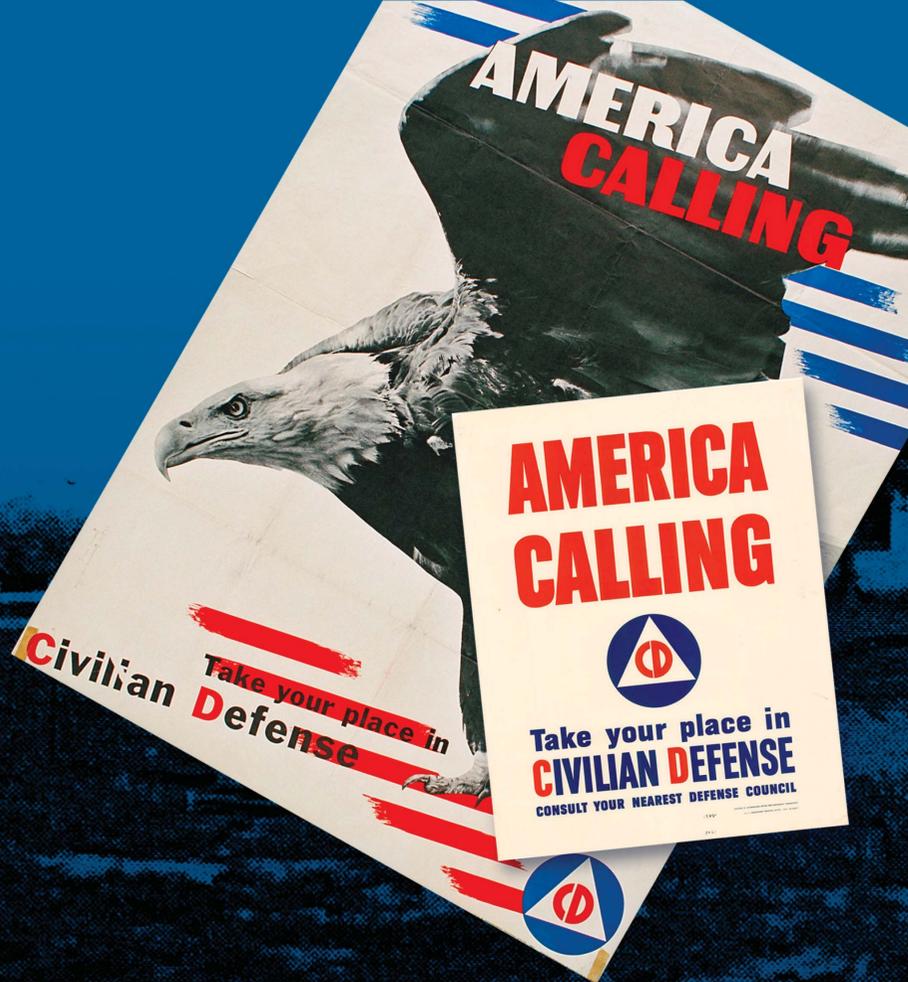


CIVIL AIR PATROL



ORIGINS

1936 - 1941



CAP's origins date to 1936, when Gill Robb Wilson, World War I aviator and New Jersey director of aeronautics, returned from a trip to Germany convinced of impending war. Wilson envisioned mobilizing America's civilian aviators for national defense, an idea shared by others. In Ohio, Milton Knight, a pilot and businessman, organized the Civilian Air Reserve in 1938. Other military-styled civilian aviation units emerged nationwide, training for homeland defense.

In 1941, Wilson launched the Civil Air Defense Services (CADS). That summer, Wilson led a small committee which proposed the CADS program as a national model to Fiorello H. LaGuardia, director of the federal Office of Civilian Defense. This proposal for a Civil Air Patrol received Commerce, Navy, and War departments' approval in November, and the CAP national headquarters opened its doors on December 1. Other flying units soon merged under the CAP banner.



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