

CIVIL AIR PATROL



WORLD WAR II

1942 - 1949



In January 1942, German submarines began attacking shipping along the East Coast. From March 1942 until August 1943, armed CAP aircraft at 21 coastal patrol bases from Maine to Mexico patrolled the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, halting the enemy offensive. This success led President Franklin D. Roosevelt to transfer CAP from the Office of Civilian Defense to the Department of War.



CAP's volunteers engaged in an array of missions, including border patrol in the southwest, courier service, missing aircraft searches, disaster relief, target towing, and forest patrols. On October 1, 1942, CAP created a cadet program for boys and girls aged 15 to 18 that prepared teenagers for the military and public service.



The CAP's wartime record ensured its postwar future. President Harry S. Truman signed legislation on July 1, 1946, incorporating CAP. On May 26, 1948, CAP officially became the civilian auxiliary of the recently created United States Air Force.

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