



Press Release

New York Wing
Civil Air Patrol
Westchester County Airport
24 Loop Road, Bldg 1
White Plains, NY 10604-1218
Phone: 914-683-1000
Fax: 914-683-1005

Contact: Public Affairs Officer: 1st Lt Franklin Birt, CAP Birt.franklin@gmail.com

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Civil Air Patrol Cadets Shadow Members of the Air National Guard

Syracuse, NY- On Saturday January 7th 2017, 18 Civil Air Patrol cadets from New York Wing's Central and South Central New York groups traveled to Hancock Field Air National Guard base in Syracuse, NY to participate in an Air National Guard sponsored Shadow Program. The cadets were paired up with members of the Air National Guard in several different areas of operation. (Engineering, Maintenance, Air Operations, Security Forces). The cadets "shadowed" the Air National Guard Members as they went about their daily routine.

This was a great opportunity for the cadets to learn more about military life in general and specifically in areas that interest them. Cadet Benjamin Crane (15 Binghamton) said "I bet I am the only one in my school that has touched a MQ-9 Reaper Drone" Crane shadowed members of the 174th Maintenance Group. "That was awesome!" exclaimed Cadet Holden Wasko (15 Binghamton). Wasko, who plans on becoming a Naval Aviator spent the day with the 174th Operations Group. "Most teenagers are at home playing a \$60 video game all day, I got to see them work on a 4 million dollar *video game*" Cadet Andre Birt (14 Harpursville) said of MQ-9's Ground Control Station. They gained a greater understanding of what the Air National Guard offers in a wide range of part time and full time career fields.

Hancock Field is home to the 174th Attack Wing headquarters. The 174th Attack Wing's mission includes providing qualified Airmen and weapon systems engaging in global air, space and cyberspace operations; supporting homeland defense, joint operations and aid to civil authorities at the direction of the Governor. (for more information visit the 174th Attack Wing's website at) :

<http://www.hancockfield.ang.af.mil/>



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Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force, which consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 78 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol's 56,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Its members additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Performing missions for America for the past 75 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.



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