

From the Commander...



Thank you for visiting the Civil Air Patrol Iowa Wing website! If you are not a CAP member, please browse our site and give serious consideration to joining our public service minded members in the Iowa Wing. Together, we can make the state of Iowa even greater.

The Iowa Wing was established in December 1941 following the creation of the Civil Air Patrol under Administrative Order 9.

During World War II, the Iowa Wing was tasked with an assortment of missions. Initially, the Iowa Wing assumed authority to guard civilian airports from local police on 17 December 1941. At the same time, the State of Iowa gave control of all civilian aircraft to the Iowa Wing, Civil Air Patrol as most civilian aviation was banned following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, HI. Shortly after, civilian aircraft were required to file flight plans with the War Department for approval or risk the penalty of being shot down.

The Iowa Wing's most notable wartime mission was its strong participation in the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) Program. While this program was created in 1939, it was not until 06 March 1942 when it was extended into Iowa. With the help of the Civil Air Patrol, the program opened onto 15 airports with hundreds of applicants. Although it is unknown how many young men were trained through CPT Programs in Iowa, the programs were instrumental in the eventual expansion of Iowa's general aviation. In fact, over 30 airports still in use today were the result of the CPT programs and political lobbying by Iowa Wing members.

Even though Iowa was located thousands of miles from the enemy submarine crisis occurring on the east coast and Japanese scares on the west coasts, Iowa played an important part in the U.S. war effort. In order to provide direct wartime support, 68 wing personnel were tasked with Coastal Patrols from May 1942 to August 1943. Iowans were stationed at bases in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Virginia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Maine. At the end of the Coastal Patrol operations, the Iowa Wing suffered zero loses. The Air Force awarded the Air Medal to 12 Iowans in 1948.

As the Commander, it is my honor to lead more than 245 senior members and cadets in Civil Air Patrol's search and rescue, homeland security, youth leadership development, and air and space science outreach activities in the State of Iowa.

The Iowa Wing operates five aircraft, 14 vehicles, and a state-wide radio network and we steward more than \$1 million worth of Air Force-provided assets. Our members are organized into 7 local squadrons.

To those of you who are members of the Civil Air Patrol, I thank you for your service and encourage you to continue to find ways to participate and continue to make history in our great organization!

Semper Vigilans!