

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Top Civil Air Patrol cadets converge at National Cadet Competition

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Sixteen cadet drill teams and color guards from across the country will meet in Dayton, Ohio, for a competition exemplifying excellence and the spirit of the more than 22,000-strong Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program.

The 2007 CAP National Cadet Competition will take place June 28 – July 1 at Wright State University, Sinclair Community College and the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton. Cadets from across the nation will match wits, physical fitness and attention to detail in a competition for which many spend months preparing, often overcoming geographical barriers and financial and time constraints to train with their group.

Cadet drill teams and color guards earned the right to attend the prestigious national competition by winning wing and region competitions. Each of CAP's eight regions will be represented by a four-cadet color guard and 13-cadet drill team. The competition takes place indoors and out and innovative and standard drill events, a panel quiz, indoor and outdoor posting, volleyball and a mile run.

Judges for the competition include members of the Air Force Honor Guard, who will judge the inspections and drill competition, and volleyball professionals, who will judge the volleyball competition.

NCC Director Col. Len Blascovich praised the competitive cadets. "Success in the cadet competition is predicated on a couple of things," Blascovich said. "Cadet must go through three tiers of competition, dedicate themselves to excellence and work diligently and tirelessly to reach their goal. It's a wonderful thing to see."

The National Cadet Competition has its roots in CAP's National Drill Competition, which began in 1947 to test cadets' proficiency in military drill. The first National Cadet Competition was held in Dallas in 1974, testing drill, aerospace education knowledge and physical fitness.

The NCC, as it is formatted today – an event encompassing the National Drill Team Competition and the National Color Guard Competition – began in 1998.

The overall winners of color guard and drill team competitions will earn the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Trophy at the July 1 awards banquet at Sinclair Community College. The top cadets in several categories will also be honored.

Last year's winners were the Pacific Region's California Wing color guard and the Southwest Region's Arizona Wing drill team.

This year's NCC takes place against the backdrop of Freedom's Call 2007, the Air Force Materiel Command Tattoo, a 60th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force commemorative event. The modern adaptation of a tattoo, a military tradition dating back to the beginnings of organized warfare, will include ceremonial musical performances by the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight, military aircraft flyovers, airpower demonstrations, static displays and evening fireworks.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 57,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 90 lives in fiscal year 2008. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 22,000

young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 67 years. For more information, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com.