



# BIOGRAPHY

## MAJOR GENERAL AMY S. COURTER

Amy S. Courter is the National Commander of the all-volunteer Civil Air Patrol, a federally chartered nonprofit corporation and the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force headquartered at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.

Her primary duty is to lead CAP's 59,000-plus volunteers in fulfillment of the organization's three congressionally chartered missions: Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education, as well as CAP's increasing role in America's homeland security.

As CAP's commander, Courter serves as a Major General (2-star), the highest ranking CAP Officer, and the first female to have attained that distinction in the 68 years of CAP's history. Maj. Gen. Courter is also a member of the CAP Board of Governors, and leads the CAP National Executive Committee and CAP National Board – CAP's governing and advisory bodies.

Maj. Gen. Courter was elected National Commander in 2008, after having been appointed first Acting and then Interim National Commander the year prior. In 2006 she had been elected National Vice Commander, and additionally served as the National Chief of Staff for a portion of that year. Her commitment to public trust and transparency in governance aided CAP during an unanticipated transition, thereby stabilizing the organization. She also energized a new staff structure, with clearly articulated expectations and processes, and cast a wide net across the organization for the best qualified members to join the national staff team. Additionally, Courter has focused the organization on best practices, including fiduciary duties, strategic planning, and generating internal and external opportunities and partnerships. For Fiscal Year 2008, CAP received its first unqualified audit after integrating over 1500 units' financial transactions into a common system. Under Courter's leadership the scholarship funding has increased by 50%.

Maj. Gen. Courter joined CAP's Michigan Wing in 1979 and served as commander of the wing from 1999 to 2002. During her tenure, the wing received each of the National Mission awards. She has also served CAP nationally as chair of the CAP Cadet Programs, Professional Development, and Infrastructure Committees and as senior adviser to the CAP National Cadet Advisory Council.

In her career, Courter has a very rich and diverse background that includes 20 years leadership at Valassis, a billion-dollar public marketing services corporation. First as a manager, and later as Vice President of Information Technology, Courter oversaw all Information Technology (IT) operations and projects, and led her team to a record of over 95% of all projects being completed on time and on budget. Courter also was asked to lead the Telecommunications Division where she forged a collaborative environment in which these two previously separate teams worked in harmony, sharing workload and cross-training for advanced development of the employees. Courter was responsible for approximately 100 employees directly, and she coordinated the IT systems, processes, and Business Recovery for Valassis world-wide. Additionally, she developed company-wide programs to enhance the corporate working environment and employee retention, assisting Valassis to be recognized in *Fortune Magazine's* "100 Best Companies to Work for" lists year-on-year. In 2006, Courter founded a management consulting business and has worked in the healthcare, not-for-profit and the manufacturing arenas. She has been selected to positions on numerous boards, serving both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

Courter attended Kalamazoo College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in psychology and education, and secondary teaching certification in psychology, computer science, and mathematics, as well as coaching certifications in volleyball and field hockey. She studied abroad in Strasbourg, France, totally immersed at the *Université de Strasbourg* during her junior year of college, all her courses being taught in French. Courter is a native of Flint, Michigan, a graduate of Swartz Creek High School.

