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CIVIL AIR PATROL NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Top CAP cadets in spotlight at national competition

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – A total of 152 highly skilled Civil Air Patrol cadets from across America will compete in the 2011 National Cadet Competition, a prestigious team event that spans seven decades.

This year's competition is set for June 22-27 at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Special guests will include senior Air Force personnel, elected representatives and members of the general public.

"As is tradition, Civil Air Patrol is proud to once again showcase the best CAP color guards and drill teams in the 2011 National Cadet Competition," said Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, the organization's national commander. "For more than 60 years, this contest has inspired generation after generation of cadets to strive for excellence."

Cadets participating in the national competition earn the right to attend by winning local, state and regional competitions. Each of CAP's eight regions will be represented by a four-member color guard and a 12-member drill team. Each team also includes an alternate member for the national competition.

Cadets will demonstrate their skills in events that involve precision and teamwork, such as innovative and standard drill movements and indoor and outdoor posting of the American flag. Other activities test creativity and knowledge of aerospace-related topics, including a written exam and panel quiz, as well as physical fitness challenges involving volleyball and a mile run.

Inspections and drill competition will be judged by a team including senior CAP officers and members of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard; the volleyball competition will be judged by volleyball professionals according to USA Volleyball Domestic Competition rules.

Top cadets in several categories will also be honored, including the top written score and fastest mile run.

This is the fifth year the competition has been held in Dayton. It typically moves every two years.

For the past two years, it has been held at Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville, Ore., as part of CAP's partnership with Evergreen International Aviation Inc.

"CAP is excited to come back to Ohio," said Lt. Col. Roger Middleton, director for the competition. "The civic, academic and business communities, along with the folks at Wright Patterson Air

Force Base, always give us outstanding support.”

The National Cadet Competition is one of more than 30 National Cadet Special Activities being sponsored by CAP across the nation this summer. These activities allow cadets to hone their skills in a variety of areas – including search and rescue, flight and emergency services, science, leadership fundamentals, citizenship and military courtesies – and to explore aerospace technology and aviation careers. In 2010, more than 1,100 youth participated in CAP-sponsored summer activities.

Through its cadet program, CAP builds strong citizens for the future by providing leadership training, technical education, scholarships and career education to young men and women ages 12 to 20.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, 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 113 lives in fiscal year 2010. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the more than 26,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 69 years. It is a major partner of Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. For more information on Civil Air Patrol, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com.

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