



## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE 41ST COMPOSITE SQUADRON

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was established on 1 DEC 1941 with Executive Administrative Order 9 signed by Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Director of the Civil Service. The Executive Administrative Order automatically created Wings throughout the United States. One of those wings is the Iowa Wing which established different squadrons. One of the squadrons is the 41st Iowa Composite Squadron which is in Davenport, Iowa.

The Davenport Squadron (41st Composite Squadron) is mentioned before the official start date by around a few months. On 26 OCT 1941 in the Quad City Times, there was mention of pilots signing up for the Civil Air Patrol. The quotation states, "fifty-four Davenport men will be asked shortly after Nov. 1, to sign up for the duration of the emergency as members of an official United States Civil Air Patrol." They were all asked to sign up as a group; once they sign up, their fingerprints and personal histories will be taken for documentation. There are also the basic duties that include flying and direct cooperation with ground forces. They would also be trained like the military with more flights being supervised and more flight time.

The 41st Iowa Composite Squadron first starts in what is referred to as "The Cram Field." "The Cram Field" was Davenport Municipal Airport originally guarded by Iowa State Patrol before Col. Dan F Hunter (chairman of the Iowa aeronautic commission) said that the "civil air patrol would be organized to take over the guarding of airports to

relieve overburdened local law enforcement agencies." In the looks of the modern day map, the sight of the Cram Field is near the Iowa National Guard Building in the middle of Davenport. The modern day squadron now meets at the Mt. Joy Airport on the outskirts of Davenport making it accessible for the rest of the Iowa Quad Cities (Bettendorf, LeClaire, Eldridge, Davenport, Walcott, and Blue Grass).

One of the aspects of Civil Air Patrol is about the Cadets that are in the squadron themselves. One of the stories about the cadets is a Cadet Commander that decided to join the Civil Air Patrol. This cadet commander was Scott Untiedt where he discovered his love of aviation through what would be a tragedy. The story goes on to tell of the thrilling journey to Mount Joy on Christmas Eve with two intoxicated individuals excited for their new electronics (aircraft), they took off with zero-visibility causing them to get lost. There was a report for the Civil Air Patrol to perform a SAR (Search and Rescue) mission. One of the other things he remembers is about the nuclear bomb being dropped in the airport where many Civil Air Patrol people were. This experience was to provide an opportunity to learn how to decontaminate planes, vehicles, and people. Untiedt's oldest sister was in Civil Air Patrol which could have constituted for the interest in the Civil Air Patrol, especially the statement he made saying "There are so many more girls in the Patrol."

There were women in the Civil Air Patrol which Untiedt was mentioning (but he

mentions that there were more women than men) which allows both men and women to join. That joining of the Civil Air Patrol happens in Davenport.

One of the articles talks about three girls who joined the Civil Air Patrol for various reasons and their enthusiasm they had for different things. Sue Haecker of Davenport, Dolly Gold of Davenport, and Barbara Roller of Bettendorf were mentioned in the article. Sue Haecker was introduced to the Civil Air Patrol at Armed Forces Day at the Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois (does happen in the present day) where other girls were marching and guarding the demolition field. She says, "It looked like lots of fun." Barbara just mentioned interesting planes, which would be perfect for the Civil Air Patrol. There is the ability to learn leadership skills and learn how to follow orders along with the amazing scholarship opportunities. The Civil Air Patrol was male dominated but included women from its inception. They were allowed to do activities that men were allowed to do such as bowling, and going to the Strategic Air Command Center in Omaha.

At the Davenport Squadron, there are still cadets and senior members that hold up to the ideals of the past. Providing experiences for the future of the Civil Air Patrol by participating in the Quad City Air Show by navigating crowds and assisting aircraft back to the hanger along with providing drill and education to better the future of the membership and their communities.



National Hispanic Heritage Month (NHHM) is celebrated from September 15th through October 15th. Each year the Department of Defense, along with the rest of the Nation, recognizes the important contributions and rich culture of Hispanic Americans.

NHHM coincides with important dates in many communities and encompasses independence days for several Latin American countries.

Diversity is inherent in the Hispanic community, and each person's story should be celebrated.

This month the Department of Defense joins the nation in honoring the generations of Hispanic Americans who have influenced and enriched our nation and society.

"*Todos Somos, Somos Uno: We Are All, We Are One.*"

For more information on NHHM, including a story Dr. Frank Rubio, who served in the 10th Special Forces Group, in addition to the monthly theme submitted by Jennifer Lasko from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, scan the code to the right.



## MONTHLY TRIVIA

- 1 What major reorganization in 1947 established the Department of the Air Force and eventually the Department of Defense?
- 2 What was the first organized air unit associated with the U.S. military?
- 3 What was the fastest production American bomber aircraft?

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1 When was the Trinity bomb detonated in the Alamogordo Test Range?  
**16 JUL 1945**
- 2 What is the name of the crisis in the Caribbean that took place in October 1962?  
**Cuban Missile Crisis**
- 3 What was the ship that was tasked with bringing components of the nuclear devices to Tinian Island?  
**USS Indianapolis**

The days are getting shorter, and the nights are getting longer—it's also getting cooler out. It's important to start thinking about winter safety. Think about where all you need to prepare. The key two places are the home and the car. Make sure you make preparations, failure to do so will result in capital punishment in the form of mopping the parking lot or driveway after each snowfall. Chief Master Sergeant's orders.

1948  
1974  
1976  
1997  
2001

The first delta-winged aircraft prototype - Convair's XF-92 - conducts its maiden flight.

An SR-71 "Blackbird" flown by Air Force MAJ James V. Sullivan streaks from New York to London in 1 hour and 55 minutes, setting a record that still stands today.

Soviet Air Force pilot LT Viktor Belenko lands his brand-new MiG-25P "Foxbat" at Hakodate Airport in Japan and asks for political asylum in the United States.

Lockheed Martin's F-22 Raptor makes its maiden flight.

As ATC learn that several planes appear to have been hijacked, fighter jets are scrambled but do not arrive in time to disrupt a complex terrorist attack that kills 2,997 Americans.

18  
01  
06  
07  
11  
SEPTEMBER IN HISTORY



Sources and citations from the Quad City Times. Additional copies and resources can be found in Newspapers.com. 2LT Skylar Bowrey composed this month's edition of the History Newsletter. She is the Squadron Historian for the 41st Composite Squadron. This is the last issue of the Iowa Wing History Newsletter in this format. Check back with us in October for an exciting new format!

Did you miss an edition of the newsletter? You can find archived copies at <https://www.historicaffairs.com/archangel/civil-air-patrol/>. Additional Civil Air Patrol history can be found at <https://www.history.cap.gov>. Got history you want to share? Let the historian know!