

# Submitting Testimony



**HEADQUARTERS**  
CIVIL AIR PATROL NEW YORK WING  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY AIRPORT - 24 LOOP ROAD, BLDG 1  
WHITE PLAINS NY 10604-1218  
Tel: 914-683-1000 Fax: 914-683-1005



## **Joint Legislative Public Hearing on the Executive Budget**

### **Public Protection**

**January 31, 2017**

#### **Written testimony of Col. Thomas Carello – NYW Commander**

The Civil Air Patrol is a non-profit corporation and the auxiliary of the United States Air Force. New York Wing receives no funding for local operations and upgrades from the National Head Quarters. During the last several years the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has been called upon by numerous State and local municipalities within New York State to respond to flooding, hurricanes, damage assessment, Counter Drug flights, Pine Barrens overflights, Homeland Security missions, DMNA family assistance, fire watches, and lost children searches. During that time CAP has assisted in every County in New York State and it is estimated that CAP has saved the State of New York in excess of 2 million (\$2,000,000.00) dollars.

In addition to emergency services, CAP has cadet programs and aerospace education programs throughout New York State. CAP presently has 69 units that include approximately 2,300 senior and cadet members, ages 12-18. These programs teach our future leaders self-discipline, leadership, respect, and civil responsibility.

In an effort to continue these programs, the New York Wing was included in the 2014-2015 New York State Budget for \$200,000 dollars. These funds were used to upgrade our mission bases, improve communication capabilities, and install generators to make CAP less vulnerable to hurricanes and severe weather conditions. In addition, adding new radios to improve emergency communications, additional cameras with Geotagging capability to upload to the New York State Emergency Management Office, and computers to manage missions and rapidly send data and information to various State and local agencies as needed. These, and future purchases, make us not only better prepared to support the State in both emergency and non-emergency needs, but at a tremendous cost savings.

In addition to emergency service and disaster relief, these funds are being used to expand our cadet programs, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs in the squadrons and schools, bringing our program to economically depressed areas where the program is needed but the families cannot afford to allow their children to join. CAP will be able purchase uniforms and pay registration fees for these young people that can benefit from self-discipline, leadership, moral training, and pride in themselves.

Without state assistance, CAP operations will be effected and may not be available when called for. For every dollar NY State gives CAP, that money is returned ten times over to cost savings by the State.

New York Wing is requesting to be included in the 2017-2018 Executive Budget. **We are asking for \$300,000.00 to continue to upgrade our mission bases, and continue operations.** In addition, we would like to purchase an aircraft simulator to expand STEM programs in schools, and our cadet programs.

These funds will make CAP better able to support and to assist the state and local municipalities during disasters or emergencies and teach our cadets to be valuable leaders of tomorrow.

In the past, New York State has funded the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol for the types of programs described above. In addition, our neighboring states of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Vermont all currently receive funding in their respective state budgets for CAP activity.

The funding we are seeking will allow for the following:

Renovations to Schenectady Mission Base	\$125,000.00
Redbird Flight Simulator/Trainer	\$100,000.00
Cameras and down load setup, Nikon D-90 with GPS and accessories.	\$10,000.00
Radio, CAP frequency and NITA Compliant	\$10,000.00
Computers, printers, and supplies	\$20,000.00
Headquarters operations	\$10,000.00
Cadet Programs	\$5,000.00
Aerospace education and STEM training programs for squadrons and schools including materials and simulators	\$10,000.00
Emergency Service training and equipment	\$10,000.00

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to our continued partnership with New York State.