



Civil Air Patrol

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**Winchester Composite Squadron
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News Release

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Winchester Civil Air Patrol Cadet Recognized with Milestone Award

Winchester, VA – “I am very happy to have finally achieved this promotion, said newly appointed Cadet Second Lieutenant Chris Colvin. “It’s been a long road but worth every minute of the studying, learning and growing. I have some great mentors at the Winchester Composite Squadron and am happy the promotion took place here.”

Cadet Second Lieutenant, Chris Colvin, received the General Billy Mitchell Award which honors, aviation pioneer, advocate, and staunch supporter of an independent Air Force for America. Colvin who attends James Wood High School plans to serve in either the Marine Corps or Air Force following graduation.

“Cadet 2ndLt Colvin has established himself as one of the up and coming cadets in Virginia Wing,” said Lt Colonel Charles Gittins, squadron commander. Cadet Colvin has hit the ground running and accelerated from there, demonstrating outstanding leadership and providing an excellent example to our younger cadets. I am personally hopeful that he will be the first cadet from Winchester Composite Squadron to achieve the General Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz award, the highest cadet achievement in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program and which carries with it the rank of Cadet Colonel.”

Civil Air Patrol’s Cadet Programs provides a structured program for youth, from sixth grade through age 20. The program encompasses 16 achievement levels that include study in four areas aerospace education, physical training, leadership, and moral and ethical values. Upon completion of each achievement, the

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cadet earns increased cadet rank, decorations, awards, eligibility for national and international special activities, and an opportunity for flight and academic scholarships.

The Winchester Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with members from the surrounding counties. Resources include qualified ground and air crews, CAP aircraft, ground vehicles and communication equipment, distributed across the Greater Winchester Area for immediate deployment. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The squadron also performs other community service such as providing Color Guard for ceremonies, sports events and parades, help at community events and with parking control at festivals. The Squadron also educates groups and schools in drug free activities for a better way of life.

For more information about the Winchester Composite Squadron, please visit merva040.org.

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