



Civil Air Patrol

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winchester Composite Squadron

News Release

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Civil Air Patrol Supports Drug Demand Reduction at Aviation Expo

The Civil Air Patrol's Middle East Region, Virginia and Maryland Wings, and predominantly by the Winchester Composite Squadron from Winchester, Virginia, represented the Civil Air Patrol's National HQ Drug Demand Reduction Program at this year's Aviation Expo in which more than 600 students, faculty, parents and guests from schools in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC attended.

The Civil Air Patrol's Drug Demand Reduction instills an aggressive, positive, drug-free attitude in Civil Air Patrol members, Air Force families, Department of Defense civilians, and school-age children through a comprehensive program that promotes;

- Civil Air Patrol as a positive community service lifestyle.
- Encourages youth to remain in school.
- Focuses on drug abuse education, prevention and awareness.
- Provides positive activities as an alternative to drugs and gang violence.

Members from the Middle East Region HQ and the Virginia Wing and Maryland Wing HQ spoke with hundreds of people as they visited Drug Demand Reduction display set up a short distance from the other exhibitors such as the Transportation Safety Administration and the West Virginia Air National Guard. Visitors to the display were greeted by cadets and senior members with the same message, the Civil Air Patrol striving to be a leading force in America's drug demand reduction strategy.

"Many of the students participated in the Drug Demand Reduction demonstration and learned just how impaired they could be on their own or in driving with someone else who had been drinking," said

"Citizens Serving Communities; Above and Beyond"

Lieutenant Colonel Duke Stanton, Deputy Commander of Seniors at the Winchester Composite Squadron. "I hope they took the demonstrations to heart."

First Lieutenant Walt Murphy, Assistant Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator for the Middle East Region and Drug Demand Reduction Administrator for the Maryland Wing said, "the Civil Air Patrol's participation in event's like this Aviation Expo do more than increase awareness of the CAP Drug Demand Reduction program."

A highlight of the days event was the Drug Demand Reduction obstacle course using Fatal Vision goggles designed to impair vision as if the wearer was under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. The visual impact of watching people use these goggles and try to perform the simplest was funny to some and sobering to others. When each person removed the goggles at the end of the course they were asked if they would drive car in the condition just experienced or would they ride with someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The answers always came with a quick shake of the head.

Murphy continued, "The most important thing I take away from an event like this is we get to reach kids from the elementary school age range to the young adults going to college. Before they have been reached by drug abuse, they get to see, while sober, what some of their actions would be like if impaired. They get the problems with perception. Sometimes they get the nausea associated with being drugged or drunk. They get the loss of balance. The difference is this time they can take it off. They can make it stop. The reality of drug abuse is you can't take that off like a pair of "Fatal Vision Goggles"

The Civil Air Patrol is the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and conducts over 90 percent of the nation's inland air and ground search and rescue operations for the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. In addition, they provide aerial imagery, damage assessment, communications relay, and limited cargo haul support to Federal, State, and local officials. They maintain a vibrant cadet program focused on developing the nation's emerging leaders, and strive to develop a better understanding of aviation and space exploration contributions to society.

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 Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters please visit <http://gocivilairpatrol.com>

For Middle East Region inquiries please visit <http://mer.cap.gov/>

For Winchester Composite Squadron inquiries please visit www.merva040.org

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