CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

ARIZONA WING **2025**



An Arizona Wing aircraft participates in an intercept training exercise with two Tucson-based Air National Guard F-16s.

Intercept Missions Enhance Operational Readiness and Pilot Proficiency

Any Civil Air Patrol pilot who has flown a single-engine aircraft during a U.S. Air Force intercept mission will tell you — it's still an extraordinary sight when F-16s suddenly appear beside you, even when you know they're coming.

Arizona Wing pilots regularly support the Air Force's Felix Keynote mission, a critical homeland security exercise that tests intercept response times when aircraft enter restricted or prohibited airspace. These missions often coincide with major national events such as political conventions, the Super Bowl, or presidential movements.

In these exercises, CAP aircraft simulate small planes that have, intentionally or unintentionally, flown into restricted areas. In an actual emergency, this could signal anything from an aircraft in distress to a potential security threat. Air Force pilots must quickly locate, intercept, and communicate with the aircraft to ensure safety.

During a typical intercept exercise, the Air Force pilot attempts to contact the errant aircraft. But the CAP pilot often does not respond at first, following a scenario script and adding realism to the training.

Last year, Arizona Wing pilots flew 32 hours across 14 missions in support of Felix Keynote. A component of Operation Noble Eagle, this mission began on Sept. 12, 2001, as part of the nation's immediate homeland defense response to the 9/11 attacks. These training missions enhance both the Air Force's operational readiness and CAP aircrew proficiency.

"We're expected to deliver for the Air Force," said Lt. Col. Mark Schadt, the wing's deputy commander. "They invest heavily in this mission, and we make sure our aircraft are on time, at altitude, and in the right place for each intercept."

This mission highlights CAP's unique value: skilled volunteers, cost-effective aircraft, and a strong, reliable partnership in defending America's skies.

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ARIZONA WING **2025**

VOLUNTEER MEMBERS

750
Adult members

809
Cadets

201
Aircrew personnel

939
Emergency responders

SQUADRONS

29
Locations statewide

AIRCRAFT

16
Single-engine

VEHICLES

25
Vehicles

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS

16
VHF/FM repeaters

235
VHF/FM stations

32
HF stations

MISSIONS

17
Search and rescue missions

4
Search and rescue finds*

11
CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Junior ROTC cadet orientation flight missions

7
Other Air Force support missions

36
Training missions

2
Other state support missions

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS SUPPORTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

- Amalgam Mute exercises in support of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
- Arizona Air National Guard low-level route survey
- 56th Fighter Wing and 56th Range Management Office mission support and low-level route survey
- Operation Scorpion counterdrug border support
- Felix Keynote exercises
- Oxbow Bridge fire support

CADET FLYING

1,477
CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Junior ROTC cadet orientation flights

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN

4,565
Hours

FINANCIAL

$250,000
In state funding

$7,027,482
Value of wing's volunteer hours

* Includes finds credited with national team support

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