

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 3, 2010

International Cadets Enjoy Visit to Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, La. – During the period of July 23 to Aug. 2, 2010, Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Louisiana Wing hosted a group of young men and women (and their escorts) participating in the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) program.

IACE is an annual exchange of visits by air-minded young men and women of the U.S., Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, East Asia and the Pacific Rim with the objective of promoting international understanding, goodwill and fellowship among the youth of the world.

Louisiana Wing IACE Director, 1st Lt. Sue Yglesias said, "We were pleased to have six cadets and one guide representing Canada, United Kingdom and Australia visit our state." Also hosting cadets were the states of California, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming.

Foreign cadets visiting the United States met in Washington, D.C., for three days of sightseeing in the nation's capital before they departed to their appointed host states.

The delegation to Louisiana arrived in Shreveport on July 23. While in the area, the group met with Bossier City Mayor Lorenz "Lo" Walker and other local government officials. Later the group toured the Barksdale Air Force Base and visited with CAP cadets who were participating in the Louisiana Wing Cadet Summer Encampment. The Shreveport Senior Squadron also treated the IACE cadets to orientation flights aboard CAP aircraft.

Other Louisiana points of interest visited included Avery Island, Jungle Gardens, Bird City, a Konricta Rice Mill, the Breaux Bridge Atchafalaya Basin display, Blue Bayou Water Park, the Louisiana State Capitol Building, the New Orleans French Quarter, Legends Park, Preservation Hall and the Vieux Carre.

While in Baton Rouge and the New Orleans area, CAP members hosted the cadets in their homes, allowing the cadets and host families to learn more about each other's culture.

The group departed New Orleans on August 2, and returned to Washington, D.C. where they attended a formal dinner with cadets returning from other states.

CAP's Louisiana Wing Vice-Commander Lt. Col. Pat Yglesias commented, "The group expressed how thoroughly they had enjoyed their visit to Louisiana. They were really impressed with the hospitality shown to them."

This year the countries participating in IACE include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

CAP's participation in the exchange began in 1947 with the arrangements for an exchange of cadets between CAP and the Air Cadet League of Canada. Since that first exchange of cadets during the summer of 1948, the program has continued to expand. Former presidents of the

United States, members of Congress and the heads of many foreign countries have publicly commended IACE.

CAP sponsors U.S. participation by arranging housing accommodations and travel itineraries as well as educational, recreational and social activities for the international cadets while they are in the United States. The hosting organizations of the participating countries also perform these same services for their American cadet guests.

Visits to the U.S. and abroad are just over two weeks long and give the cadets an opportunity to visit many areas of their host countries.

Louisiana Wing has over 500 members representing 14 squadrons that are located in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bossier City, Gonzales, Hammond, Jennings, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Patterson and Shreveport.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 72 lives in fiscal year 2009. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 68 years.

For more information about CAP, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com

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