

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Youths Expand Their Horizons Through International Air Cadet Exchange

BATON ROUGE, La. – During the period May-Aug. 2010, two members of the Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Louisiana Wing were among 62 CAP cadets that served as goodwill ambassadors in the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) program.

Cadet Maj. Jonathan Balint of Kenner, La., a member of the Pontchartrain Composite Squadron in Metairie visited Australia. Cadet Lt. Col. Barry James of Ball, La., a member of the Barksdale Composite Squadron in Bossier City, visited the United Kingdom.

IACE is an annual exchange of visits by air-minded youth 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 Director of Cadet Programs, Maj. Victor Santana said, "The Louisiana Wing was proud to have these two fine young men represent our state and nation." The CAP cadets selected for the Exchange have a reputation for being the best of the best, having great integrity and leadership ability as well as a keen interest in aviation and the culture of other countries, and the will to share their experiences with their fellow cadets, family and community."

Cadet Maj. Balint said, "I traveled with about thirty cadets from seven countries which made the trip more exciting. Even though it was winter in Australia, we had fun swimming in the Pacific Ocean. One of my highlights was seeing the Koala bears at the Steve Irwin Zoo. Another great adventure was flying aboard a C-130 military transport aircraft. The country was breathtaking."

Cadet Lt. Col. James said, "My group visited the Palace at Westminster, Tower of London, and Buckingham Palace. We also took a cruise down the Thames River, attended the famous Farnborough Air Show and saw many other interesting sites. The cultural visits were very interesting, and it was awesome to be immersed in the culture as we walked down the streets of London and surrounding villages. My host family was outstanding. The most interesting event occurred at the Royal Air Force Cranwell Air Force Base, where I received the best flying experience I could ever imagine. There I flew aboard the Grob Tutor RAF training aircraft while the pilot performed many aerobatic maneuvers. While at the base I also flew Viking and Vigilant gliders, soaring over the breathtaking countryside. The friends we made and the sights we saw were amazing. It is amazing we were able to see so many things in just two weeks - including our nation's Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

This year the countries hosting CAP cadets included Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Turkey, Israel, Ghana, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

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 the 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, travel itineraries, 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 the American cadets.

Visits to the U.S. and abroad are just over two weeks in length and give the cadets an opportunity to visit many areas of their host countries. Cadets visiting the U.S. are hosted by CAP units in the various states. In addition, most are given a special tour of our nation's capital.

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](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com)

- 30 -

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