



Contact: Dawn M. Shiley, MA, CAE
IAEM Communications & Marketing Director
703-538-3542

IAEM Headquarters
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA
22046-4527 USA
www.iaem.org

News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2024 Voluntary Organization of the Year

Oct. 22, 2024 (Falls Church, Va.) – The Awards & Recognition Committee of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) has selected The Civil Air Patrol as the IAEM-USA 2024 Voluntary Organization of the Year. The award will be presented at the President’s Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 20 at the 72nd IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Civil Air Patrol 2024 Voluntary Organization of the Year Recipient

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) mission is support and readiness with disaster relief and search & rescue operational support to the nation. In 2023, CAP volunteers nationwide supported 29 presidential-declared disasters with multiple FEMA taskings and thousands of hours devoted to disaster relief aerial imagery and photography. Some notable metrics that they performed in 2023 were flying over 36,000 hours in support of federal-requested reconnaissance and damage assessment missions as well as state-requested responses, conducting 525 search and rescue missions with over 150 lives saved from those missions, and collecting enough blood in volunteer collection centers to (according to the American Red Cross) potentially save 36,330 lives.

In 2023, 19,463 CAP volunteers provided 156,232 volunteer days of contributions to emergency management activities in 47 continental states and Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and Alaska. This included 13,678 aircraft missions of over 125,000 flight hours and 1,312 ground sorties using 512 CAP vehicles. While not much different from other contributing volunteer organizations, adults and youth supported this mission. Noteworthy were the eighty-one volunteer members who worked virtually throughout 2023, supporting FEMA and state damage assessments. Specifically, CAP's Geospatial Team assessed over 63,000 structures in 18 states and territories, contributing to over 1,000+ hours of volunteer labor at no cost to taxpayers. The team’s collective efforts resulted in more than a dozen major disaster declarations being issued, expediting direct payments to victims via FEMA based on the assessments.

In 2023, the White House presented the Civil Air Patrol the President of the United States Volunteer Excellence and Lifetime Achievement Award for Emergency Management support to the nation's citizens. The American Red Cross also awarded it (for the fourth year in a row) their Premier Partner and Iron Man Awards. Finally, the Commander of U.S. Northern Command awarded the Civil Air Patrol the Air Force Meritorious Mission of the Year Award for its blood collection program and potential saving of over 105,000 lives (35,330 in 2023).

These remarkable statistics, among others, overwhelmingly support the decision to award the Civil Air Patrol the 2024 IAEM-USA Voluntary Organization of the Year.

The Voluntary Organization of the Year Award recognizes one U.S. voluntary organization that made extraordinary emergency management contributions within the United States.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit organization representing more than 5,800 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters, including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance, the Certified Emergency Manager program, annual scholarships, a comprehensive monthly newsletter, and more.

###