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**Testimony to Veterans and Emergency Management Interim Committee
Power Point Script December 08, 2022**

SLIDE 1

Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Lewis and Meek, members of the House Interim Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today to inform you about Civil Air Patrol and its Oregon Wing and how we assist our state.

I am Col William “Nick” Ham, Commander of Oregon Wing and with me today are Lt Col Rick Koon, Vice Commander, Lt Col Scott Maguire, Assistant Chief of Staff, C/1st Lt Groux, C/2d Lt Winder, C/MSgt Vaz, and C/SSgt Piper.

I know that your time is short. So let me get right into it.

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The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a national community service organization made up of over 60,000 professionally trained volunteers. CAP represents a locally available talent and asset pool for municipal, state, and federal government entities to utilize as a cost- effective aerial and ground force multiplier.

Congressionally chartered on December 1, 1941, to serve as a non-profit organization of private citizens to encourage and develop the voluntary contribution of private citizens to the public welfare, to assist in meeting local and national emergencies, to encourage and foster civil aviation in local communities, and to provide aviation education and training to our members.

Civil Air Patrol fulfills our charter obligations in three primary mission areas: Emergency Services, Cadet Programs, and Aerospace Education.

Our Emergency Services mission can assist state and local governments in performing various missions such as airborne reconnaissance, aerial transportation, communications support, disaster damage assessment, and disaster recovery. Also, under this umbrella we provide homeland security support including air intercept training, law enforcement counterdrug operations, and other Department of Defense training activities.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program transforms youth into dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders. CAP accomplishes its Congressionally mandated Cadet Program through a curriculum of leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. The program follows a military model and emphasizes Air Force traditions and values. Today's cadets are tomorrow's aerospace leaders.

As part of our cadet program CAP offers cadets no-cost orientation rides in our powered and glider aircraft, as well as flight training and flight training scholarships.

Our third charter is to provide Aerospace Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education – STEM – to cadets, to educators in public, private and home school settings, to youth organizations, and the public across our state. CAP's goal is to generate interest in STEM careers through aviation, space, and technology focused training and hands-on activities.

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As a Congressionally chartered volunteer community service organization C.A.P. is, when performing missions for any agency of the Federal government, deemed to be an auxiliary of the United States Air Force. For example, Oregon Wing provides aerial photography support to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they work to control predatory birds affecting the salmon population within the Columbia River valley. The Corps uses the photographs to track the location and number of birds from the Tri-Cities to Astoria. In federal fiscal year 2022 Oregon Wing took thousands of aerial photos to support the Corps' efforts.

CAP performs missions assisting state and local governments. For example, during the 2020 fires C.A.P. took thousands of photographs for Emergency Support Function 2 – Communications – allowing the communications team to quickly assess damage to critical communications infrastructure. And during the 2021 Bootleg Fire Oregon Wing provided ten CAP-qualified radio operators for ten days to support fire communications. CAP's citizen volunteers provided over 2,700 volunteer hours during that ten-day period.

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To ensure our volunteers can integrate into any incident C.A.P. volunteers are trained according to the guidance prescribed by the National Incident Management System. This

allows C.A.P. to work with local, state, and federal partners in response to and recovery from the effects of incidents regardless of size, location, or complexity.

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In addition to our 60,000 trained volunteers, C.A.P. “brings to the fight” federally funded tools to support our various missions.

Oregon Wing has over 500 members

Nationwide CAP has approximately 570 powered aircraft

– 7 located in Oregon to support aerial searches, airborne reconnaissance, aerial photography, and aerial transportation.

CAP operates over 1,000 vehicles

-15 in Oregon supporting damage assessment, disaster recovery, ground photography, and ground transport.

CAP has over 1,700 small, unmanned aerial vehicles, and is exploring uses in reconnaissance, searches, and disaster response.

Finally, CAP has an extensive nationwide Very High Frequency and High Frequency communications capabilities allowing us to communicate with state and federal agencies or act as a communication relay platform.

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I’d like to go into a bit more detail about some of our key emergency services capabilities.

Civil Air Patrol and Oregon wing, has provided tens of thousands of high-resolution aerial photographs to organizations both pre- and post-disaster

These photos include vital Infrastructure for communications, power transmission, dams, highway bridges, remote airports and lost climbers.

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Civil Air Patrol conducts over 90 percent of inland search missions for overdue aircraft. Typically, our searches are tasked and funded by the U.S. Air Force though we can assist local government funded searches if requested and approved.

From FY2020 through Sept 2022 Civil Air Patrol is credited with saving 381 lives Nationwide and 18 lives in Oregon. We use several techniques to search and locate overdue aircraft or missing persons including visual searches, radio beacon searches, cellular telephone analysis, and radar track analysis.

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An overdue aircraft search typically starts with our national radar analysis team studying radar track data to provide the lead search agency with an aircraft's last known location. Based on the information provided the lead agency may request CAP fly an aerial search or the agency may dispatch ground teams or other assets.

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For a missing person search CAP typically starts with a cellular phone location analysis. Like our radar analysis the cell phone team gathers information on the last known location of the phone. The team passes this information to the lead search agency for action. In this photo the green areas were determined most likely search areas. The individual was found just outside one of the likely areas, the analysis helped determine what road they were on.

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CAP provides support to a disaster with airborne assets, ground responders, relief center workers, and crisis management support. Our corps of over 400 chaplains are available for weekly religious services, critical incident response, or general support.

From FY2019:

ORWG supported 8 Disaster Relief missions for Oregon and FEMA

Produced 231,000 Aerial Photos for Disaster Assessment and US Army Corp of Engineers for bird migration, watershed recovery and Dam inspections.

Members have supported wildfire disaster response, COVID relief stations, and Points of Distribution.

CAP and ORWG have trained in transporting blood, vital organs, recovery dogs and test samples.

Provided Communications Relay manually and with airborne repeaters for both CAP and non-CAP field teams.

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In addition to our Emergency Services work we also support Homeland Defense missions.

CAP provides homeland defense training, not only in the state of Oregon, but throughout the United States.

Aerial intercept training has been ongoing for several years with the US Air Force and US Coast Guard.

Oregon Wing routinely supports Oregon's 142d Fighter Wing homeland security mission by providing a general aviation aircraft for the wing's fighters to practice intercepting and diverting away from temporary flight restricted areas. These practice missions undoubtedly helped the 142d in 2018 when they were tasked with intercepting and redirecting a hijacked Seattle-based Horizon Air aircraft.

Finally, CAP can provide limited support to various local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. CAP does not provide law enforcement services but provides aircraft and personnel for counterdrug reconnaissance, transportation, and communications support for sheriff search teams.

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In summary:

- CAP is ready, willing, and able to assist local, state, and federal agencies and departments,
- Our volunteers are trained professionals who will work to meet your requirements, and
- CAP is a cost-effective force multiplier

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In our remaining time the members here with me today are available to answer any questions you may have.

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