



Civil Air Patrol Minnesota Wing

6275 Crossman Lane
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
Phone (651) 291-0462

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE

POC: James Garlough
(651) 769-9865
jgarlough@cap.gov

Minn. Wing Flying in Super Bowl Intercept Exercise



A demonstration of an airplane flying into restricted Super Bowl airspace will be held Jan. 30, five days before the big game, with Minnesota Air National Guard F-16s intercepting a Cessna from Civil Air Patrol's Minnesota Wing.

“CAP airplanes are used throughout the year to assist the Air Force with training to protect the skies across the country,” said Col. James Garlough, commander of the Minnesota Wing. “We’re going to show the media how it will be done on Feb. 4 around U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis during Super Bowl LII.”

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Federal Aviation Administration routinely implements no-fly zones, called Temporary Flight Restrictions, around major events to ensure no general aviation airplanes enter for a specified radius. Air Force fighters enforce the TFRs during the event. The demonstration, hosted by the Minnesota Guard's 148th Fighter Wing at Duluth Air National Guard Base, will simulate an aircraft that enters the no-fly zone around the Super Bowl being intercepted. Air Force pilots will fly alongside the CAP plane, make radio contact and guide it out of restricted airspace.



These missions mark CAP's 17th year as a participant in North American Aerospace Defense Command air-defense exercises designed to protect the airspace over the Super Bowl. CAP is involved in similar exercises around the U.S. throughout the year to test airspace security. The air-defense exercises are carried out as part of Operation Noble Eagle, coordinated by the Continental U.S. NORAD Region. The exercises are conducted in coordination with the FAA and other interagency organizations as appropriate.

For more information:

To learn more about Civil Air Patrol, visit online at www.capvolunteernow.com.

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force, which consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air

Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 78 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol's 56,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Its members additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Performing missions for America for the past 75 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

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