



BIOGRAPHY

MAJOR GENERAL AMY S. COURTER

Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter is the National Commander of the all-volunteer Civil Air Patrol, a federally chartered nonprofit corporation and the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force headquartered at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The general's primary duty is to lead CAP's 56,000-plus volunteers in fulfillment of the organization's three congressionally chartered missions: Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education, as well as CAP's increasing role in America's homeland security.

As CAP's commander, Maj. Gen. Courter is also a member of the CAP Board of Governors, CAP National Executive Committee and CAP National Board – CAP's governing and advisory bodies.

Maj. Gen. Courter was elected National Vice Commander in 2006, and additionally served as the National Chief of Staff for a portion of that year. In August of 2007, Courter was appointed first Acting, and then Interim, National Commander. Her commitment to public trust and transparency in governance aided CAP during an unanticipated transition, thereby stabilizing the organization. She also energized a new staff structure, with clearly articulated expectations and processes, and cast a wide net across the organization for the best qualified members to join the national staff team. Additionally, Courter has focused the organization on best practices, including fiduciary duties, strategic planning, and generating internal and external opportunities and partnerships.



Maj. Gen. Courter joined CAP's Michigan Wing in 1979 and served as commander of the wing from 1999 to 2002. She also served CAP as chair of the CAP Cadet Programs, Professional Development, and Infrastructure Committees and as female senior adviser to the CAP National Cadet Advisory Council.

As wing commander, Maj. Gen. Courter focused on membership retention, funding, training and aircraft utilization. Under her leadership, the wing received all four of the Great Lakes Region's national program awards. She was founder and commander of the Michigan Wing Legislative Squadron, and Michigan became the second wing in the nation to have all congressional legislators join CAP. She also helped found and for many years she directed the nationally recognized CAP Civic Leadership Academy, which gives cadets an in-depth hands-on understanding of government.

Maj. Gen. Courter has completed all levels of the CAP Senior Training Program, having received the Garber, Loening, Yeager and Wilson awards. She has received numerous CAP honors, including the Distinguished Service Medal with two clusters, National Commander's Commendations, Exceptional Service, Meritorious Service and Commanders Commendation awards.

The general is a graduate of Kalamazoo College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, with secondary school teaching certification in psychology, computer science and mathematics. In mid-2005, she started her own management consulting business after 20 years with Valassis, a global billion-dollar marketing services company based in Livonia, Mich., where she last served as Vice President of Information Technology and Telecommunications.

Maj. Gen. Courter currently lives in South Lyon, Mich.