

# Squadron of Distinction

*One Squadron of Distinction is selected for recognition at the Annual Conference Recognition Ceremony each year. The squadron receives a \$500 award sponsored by the family of Brigadier General F. Ward Reilly, former Chairman of the CAP National Board.*

Its numerous activities and high level of participation propelled the Georgia Wing's **Gwinnett County Composite Squadron** to this top squadron honor for 2008. With 55 cadets and 70 senior members, the squadron participated in major Civil Air Patrol missions, took CAP into the community and helped its members achieve personal goals. For emergency services, the squadron conducted six cadet training activities and 10 classroom activities in addition to flight and ground training exercises. Four senior members and four cadets practiced with the Frostbite search and rescue exercise. The squadron was equally active in aerospace education. For Experimental Aircraft Association Ford Trimotor and B-17 events, squadron members provided parking assistance, flight line security, foreign object damage sweeps and even sold lunch. Orientation flights, held over six weekends, served 17 cadets. The squadron drew a crowd of more than 75 when it invited Theodore "Dutch" J. Van Kirk, navigator of the Enola Gay, to be a guest speaker. The squadron was also well represented at CAP events, sending 22 cadets, three of them on staff, to the Georgia Wing encampment. A basic training weekend attracted more than 22 cadets, including some from the Tennessee Wing. And a Georgia Wing conference was attended by three cadets and more than 15 senior members. The squadron further distinguished itself as a CAP ambassador in the community. In addition to its participation in Wreaths Across America, the squadron sent its color guard to perform in the local Memorial Day parade in Dacula and the Fourth of July parade in Stone Mountain. The squadron's cadet program was recognized by Gwinnett County commissioners with a resolution of recognition. During the year, squadron news was published nationally twice in CAP Online News, four times in the local "Gwinnett Daily Post" and once in the "Atlanta Journal-Constitution." The squadron also nurtured its cadets' personal achievements and advancements. In 2008, 96 cadet promotions — including 12 Wright Brothers Awards, three General Billy Mitchell Awards and one Amelia Earhart Award — were earned. With squadron encouragement, 70 percent of its cadets achieved the Presidential Physical Fitness Award, and the squadron developed a Cadet of the Quarter program, copied by several other squadrons and recommended by the Georgia Wing.

## Others Nominees for Squadron of Distinction

### **Green Mountain Composite Squadron**

Vermont Wing  
Northeast Region

### **Apex Cadet Squadron**

North Carolina Wing  
Middle East Region

### **Cornelius Coffey Composite Squadron**

Illinois Wing  
Great Lakes Region

### **General Curtis LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron**

Nebraska Wing  
North Central Region

### **Lakeshore Composite Squadron**

Texas Wing  
Southwest Region

### **Cloud Peak Composite Squadron**

Wyoming Wing  
Rocky Mountain Region

### **East Bay Cadet Squadron 18**

California Wing  
Pacific Region