

**CIVIL AIR PATROL NEWS - MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**U.S. Representative Tim Walz to be inducted into the  
U.S. Civil Air Patrol Congressional Squadron on February 23.**

**What:** The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is having a dinner to celebrate the organization's 66th Anniversary and recognize the efforts of area volunteers. U.S. Representative Tim Walz will address the guests and be inducted into the CAP Congressional Squadron.

**When:** Saturday, February 23, 2008  
6:30 p.m. Reception / 7:00 p.m. Dinner / 8:00 p.m. Program

**Where:** Mankato Regional Airport, North Star Corporate Hangar      Map link:  
<http://mankato.mncap.org/news/1-general-news/10-07dinner.html>

**What the cameras will see:** Congressional Squadron members are typically given the grade of Lieutenant Colonel. However, U.S. Rep. Walz has chosen to retain his retired military grade of Command Sergeant Major, thus becoming the only Non-Commissioned Officer in the entire Congressional Squadron.

Several CAP aircraft will be on display, serving as backdrops for the dinner. These specially equipped, state of the art, search and rescue aircraft include a Cessna C-182 Skylane with a digital glass cockpit and a Gippsland GA-8 Airvan with an advanced hyper-spectral imaging system.

**CAP background info:** Founded days before WW II, CAP provided civil defense support and patrolled the eastern seaboard for German U-Boats. CAP became the official civilian auxiliary of the newly created U.S. Air Force in 1947. Today, CAP continues its tradition of community service nationwide.

The local CAP unit, Mankato Composite Squadron, has members from throughout south-central Minnesota. These volunteers provide search and rescue, disaster relief, and homeland security support to area governments and law enforcement agencies. Local squadron members were recently recognized for their exceptional service during the flooding in southeastern Minnesota earlier this year. The squadron also assisted in the search for the Cessna 140 which crashed near Austin on February 9th amidst white-out conditions and freezing temperatures.

The Minnesota Wing consists of 25 squadrons located in every area of the state, with more than 1200 volunteers and 17 search and rescue aircraft. Almost 450 Minnesota youth participate in the CAP Cadet Program, the foremost youth-leadership development program in the country.

**Links of interest:** <http://walz.house.gov> / <http://mankato.mncap.org> / <http://cap.gov>