

## CIVIL AIR PATROL NEWS Local Squadrons Prepare to Visit 9/11 Memorial

By Cadet Major Jean Gagnon

On September 11th, 2001, the United States was rocked by a devastating terrorist attack which left a permanent scar on our nation. 16 years later, Catamount Composite Squadron and Rutland Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol are gearing up to visit the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

The two squadrons will be leaving for New York on June 14th, just after most schools will be starting summer break. The first stop will be at the 9/11 Memorial, where cadets will have the opportunity to learn about the devastating effects of the attack and the sacrifices made in the response. The senior members will also be able to help cadets understand the significance of the memorial, as well as

the displays at the museum. Given that all of the Civil Air Patrol's cadets were born after 9/11, many of them are unaware of how impactful the tragedy was. This lack of understanding is one of the main ideas behind the visit to New York.

Of course, lodging needed to be arranged for the two squadrons, and amidst an abundance of regular hotels, one other, much more exciting option was discovered: the USS Intrepid. The fourth United States Navy vessel to carry the name, the USS Intrepid is an Essex class aircraft carrier that was launched on April 26th, 1943, from Newport News. It served in the Pacific Theatre of World War 2 and in Vietnam, and was the recovery ship for two of NASA's early missions.



Catamount Squadron has participated in Perkinsville ceremonies for many years and looks forward to participating in a flag ceremony on the ship. Pictured left to right: Cadet Airman First Class Watts, Cadet Senior Airman VanValkenburg (behind pole), Cadet Major Gagnon (front of pole), Cadet Bedell (right), Cadet Technical Sergeant Zullo, and Staff Sergeant Griffin (front right)

Even after it was converted to a museum ship, the Intrepid's stories didn't end there, as it was reactivated to serve as a temporary field headquarters for the FBI after 9/11, and eight years later an American Airlines flight landed in the Hudson within a few hundred meters of the ship.

The two squadrons will be staying overnight on this legendary ship, sleeping in the Hangar Deck, where aircraft were sheltered from the elements. During their time on the ship, those attending will have the incredible opportunity to explore the vessel, 30 different aircraft, the space shuttle Enterprise, and even the USS Growler, the only nuclear missile submarine open to the public.

Members of the squadrons are highly excited about this trip, Cadets and senior members alike.

When asked what part they were most anticipating, one cadet responded "Learning more about what happened during 9/11."

"As a Senior Member I have to remember that the events of 9/11 were before our youth was born," noted Captain Jennifer Gagnon, Catamount Squadron Commander. "As adults, it is our job to educate the future generations on important historical events and how



Staff Sergeant Ronald Griffin, Catamount Composite Squadron's Senior NCO, at the 9/11 museum

they affect our lives now." Founded in 1941 and established as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force seven years later, Civil Air Patrol is chartered by Congress as a nonprofit organization for

the purposes of youth development, aerospace education, and to promote general aviation. In an auxiliary role as a Total Force partner of the Air Force, CAP operates the world's largest fleet of

single-engine aircraft for search and rescue, disaster relief, training, and education. Civil Air Patrol is dedicated to serving America's communities, saving lives, and shaping futures.

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## SEVCA Launches Needs Survey to Better Serve Residents

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is excited to announce the launch of its Community Needs Survey, designed to

gather vital input from as many people as possible across Windham and Windsor County Vermont. Everyone that takes the

survey will be entered to win one of four \$100 cash gift cards.

The survey aims to collect feedback from as

many community members as possible about the current needs and concerns in areas such as housing, food security, health care access, transportation, employment, and more. By identifying the most pressing needs of community members, SEVCA will be able to tailor its programs and services to have a more significant and lasting impact.

The survey is open to all residents of southeastern Vermont. All responses will be kept confidential, and participants will have the option to remain anonymous if they choose. The survey can be accessed on SEVCA's website at <https://sevca.org/community-needs-survey>. If you are unable to take the survey online, please email or call for accommodations. Survey translation available upon request.

A direct link to the survey can be found here: [https://middlebury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_31O26O\\_sdlkK01zo?37](https://middlebury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_31O26O_sdlkK01zo?37). We can be reached at 802-722-4575 or [sevca@sevca.org](mailto:sevca@sevca.org).

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