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CIVIL AIR PATROL NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Courter elected Civil Air Patrol national commander

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Maj. Gen.-elect Amy S. Courter of South Lyon, Mich., was elected national commander of the Civil Air Patrol by vote of the National Board, CAP's governing body.

Courter's primary duty will be to lead CAP's 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. The national commander is also a member of both the CAP Board of Governors and CAP National Board – CAP's governing and advisory bodies.

The election took place during the 2008 Civil Air Patrol National Board and Annual Conference Aug. 7 at the Gaylord Palms Resort, Kissimmee, Fla. She will be promoted Aug. 9.

Courter currently serves as CAP's interim national commander, a position she has held for a year. She also serves as national vice commander.

Courter joined CAP's Michigan Wing in 1979 and most recently served as chair of the CAP Professional Development Committee. She served as commander of the Michigan Wing from 1999 to 2002 and as the female senior adviser to the CAP National Cadet Advisory Council.

As wing commander, 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 has directed the nationally recognized CAP Civic Leadership Academy, which gives cadets an in-depth hands-on understanding of government.

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 and Exceptional Service, Meritorious Service and Commanders Commendation awards.

Courter 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 the mid-2005 Courter began a sabbatical after 20 years – most recently as vice president of Information Technology — with Valassis, a global billion-dollar marketing services company based in Livonia, Mich. While at Valassis, she expanded the IT department into a business, rather

than just a support group, by developing business-to-business applications that generated revenue.

Courter has been honored as one of "Crain's Detroit Business" top "40 under 40" and was named as an "Outstanding Young Michigander" by the Jaycees. She also received the "Premier 100 IT Leader" award from "Computerworld" in 2001 and the "Top Michigan Woman in Computing" award from the Association for Women in Computing in 2003.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 56,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 103 lives in fiscal year 2007. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the nearly 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 66 years.