



Civil Air Patrol

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winchester Composite Squadron

News Release

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Virginia Civil Air Patrol Cadet Appointed to Naval Academy

Winchester, VA – After many months of weighing his options Cadet Senior Master Sergeant John Davenport has made the decision as to which of the two Military Academies pursuing him he will attend. He summed his decision in four simple words, “go Navy, beat Army.” Davenport had also been courted by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

A First Sergeant at the Winchester Composite Squadron, Davenport joined the Civil Air Patrol two years ago after receiving a brochure about the program from, of all places, West Point. “I grew up wanting to go to a military academy and I’ve done everything I could to make this a reality.”

“Cadet Davenport has been a stalwart participant and leader in Winchester Composite Squadron, said Lt Colonel Charles Gittins, squadron commander. “His appointment to the Naval Academy and completion of the course of instruction there will give him a great opportunity to develop his already superior leadership skills developed in CAP and use them with the great sailors and Marines in our Naval service.

When asked what he felt were key elements of the Civil Air Patrol, Davenport noted the cornerstone of the program. “The Civil Air Patrol has taught me the importance of how understanding fellowship leads to excellent leadership. It’s important that cadets take advantage of all that the Civil Air Patrol has to offer,” he said. “There are many opportunities that are available whether it is learning to fly, serving on search and rescue ground teams, learning fellowship and leadership skills or giving back to the community.” According to Davenport, he wants to continue to be active in the Civil Air Patrol where he will continue his work in emergency services.

“Cadet Davenport is focused on a military career in the Marines and, as a former Marine Officer myself, I cannot think of a better young Marine Officer prospect, said Gittins.

The Civil Air Patrol is the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and conducts over 90 percent of the nation’s inland air and ground search and rescue operations for the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. In addition, they provide aerial imagery, damage assessment, communications relay, and limited cargo haul support to Federal, State, and local officials. They maintain a vibrant cadet program focused

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on developing the nation's emerging leaders, and strive to develop a better understanding of aviation and space exploration contributions to society.

The Winchester Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with members from the surrounding counties. Resources include qualified ground and air crews, CAP aircraft, ground vehicles and communication equipment, distributed across the Greater Winchester Area for immediate deployment. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The squadron also performs other community service such as providing Color Guard for ceremonies, sports events and parades, help at community events and with parking control at festivals. The Squadron also educates groups and schools in drug free activities for a better way of life.

For Winchester Composite Squadron inquiries, please contact the Lt Colonel Charles Gittins, Commander at 540-662-9036, e-mail cgittins@aol.com or Major CJ Muncy, Deputy Commander of Cadets at 540-551-9968, or e-mail cjmuncy@earthlink.net.

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