



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA
36112-6332

28 February 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL REGIONS, WINGS, GROUPS, AND SQUADRONS

FROM: CAP/CC

SUBJECT: Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Watch Program

1. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) has been very effective in advocating on behalf of General Aviation (GA) pilots to moderate new government security restrictions on general aviation airports and airspace.
2. To show that we can, and will, foster security on our own at GA airports, AOPA has started an innovative program called AOPA Airport Watch – to monitor our airports with our own eyes and ears. CAP has teamed with AOPA to help promote airport security by assisting in the education of pilots, pilot groups and local airport management.
3. AOPA Airport Watch is modeled after the highly successful neighborhood watch programs used in communities across the country. Most GA pilots find their home airport as familiar as their own neighborhood, so who else is better qualified to recognize suspicious airport activity? AOPA's Airport Watch relies on civic-minded GA pilots and CAP crewmembers to keep an eye out for suspicious activity at local airports, and report any irregularities.
4. So far, AOPA's Airport Watch has earned the support of the federal government. The new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has partnered with AOPA and CAP on this groundbreaking program. TSA understands that using AOPA's nearly 400,000 members and CAP's over 62,000 members is far more cost-effective than federally mandated security alternatives. The agency has established a toll free number (1-866-GA SECURE), answered by trained National Response Center personnel to assess the situation that our members and the GA population will report, and secure assistance if necessary.
5. CAP units can help AOPA's Airport Watch succeed by first reading the enclosed brochure that describes situations involving suspicious activity and then by reviewing the specific examples in the video. In addition, CAP units can greatly assist the GA community by volunteering to educate pilots at local airports using AOPA's Airport Watch materials.
6. Thank you in advance for supporting the Airport Watch program. Not only can CAP do an outstanding job being the "Eyes of the Home Skies," we can also be the eyes at our local airports. CAP, working together with AOPA, can help prevent terrorists from using the airports we use everyday to conduct criminal activities. Our nation needs us now more than ever...keep your eyes and ears open!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard L. Bowling".

RICHARD L. BOWLING
Major General, CAP
Commander

cc:

CAP/Board of Governors/CV/CS/EX/IG/GC/DO/PA

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