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## News Release

### Arizona Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is Selected as the Inaugural 2016 IAEM-USA Emergency Management Volunteer Organization of the Year Award Winner

**Nov. 1, 2016 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Council of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce that the winner of the inaugural **2016 IAEM-USA Emergency Management Volunteer Organization of the Year Award** is the **Arizona Wing of the Civil Air Patrol**. The winning organization was recently recognized at the IAEM 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & EMEX, in Savannah, Georgia.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the Volunteer Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, recognizes the Arizona Wing of CAP as having one of the most progressive emergency management programs in the nation, supporting the four principles of emergency management. It is active with local/state emergency managers in the area of mitigation by providing pre-disaster photography over vulnerable flood and wildland fire prone areas. In response, it provides agile airborne reporting, state/county EOC augmentation/liaison, search-and-rescue, and communications. In recovery, it provides damage assessment photography. In preparedness, its training and exercise programs are unparalleled by any other regional volunteer agency.

In 2015, the Arizona Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, with its sister wings across the nation, celebrated its 75th anniversary, the volunteer organization being first chartered under the U.S. Army Air Corps by Congress in December 1941. Originally organized to conduct off-shore U-boat patrols the week before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the organization, including the Arizona Wing, has peerlessly expanded its emergency management and homeland security roles and missions to include U.S. Border Reconnaissance/Drug and Human Smuggling patrols, disaster response, search-and-rescue (SAR), blood and organ transshipment, forest fire watch, lost/missing person cell phone forensics, and the training of military members in Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operations.

The Arizona Wing of CAP is one of the only wings in the nation that performs all of these missions on a weekly basis. First noted for its agile responsiveness to SAR and disaster missions, the wing has expanded its volunteer spirit into all emergency management missions and has become a relied-upon partner by the nation in its war on drugs and war on terrorism. The wing also is recognized as being a valued partner in pre-incident assessment and post disaster analysis through its airborne photography and videography capabilities.

In 2015, the Arizona Wing engaged in multiple emergency management missions. Over six weeks, the region experienced three tropical storms, causing widespread flooding. The wing responded with airborne disaster photography and SAR missions to assess damages and find missing persons. On the eve of 2016, it launched missions in preparation for Winter Storm Fiona. This included the setting up of four Incident Command Posts and multiple aircraft/vehicles crews/teams. During the summer, The Arizona Wing provided fire watch/patrol, reporting 48 wildland fires and preventing any loss of life, while protecting thousands of acres of forests. It sustained emergency blood transshipment missions, transporting more than 6,000 units of blood

to remote mountainous/desert regions across Arizona. The wing was recognized for saving two lives and assisting in the location of six others during SAR missions. It flew more than six dozen homeland security missions for the U.S. Border Patrol and U.S. Northern Command, assisting in the abatement of drug and human smuggling across the Mexico border and providing training for the U.S. Air Force fighter/interceptors. Finally, the wing participated in 16 emergency management exercises throughout Arizona, providing staff augmentation to the state EOC and many local EOCs during the exercises and during the 13-day 2015 Super Bowl venues.

***About the New IAEM-USA EM Volunteer Organization of the Year Award***

*The IAEM-USA 2016 Emergency Management Volunteer Organization of the Year Award recognizes the services of a U.S. volunteer organization that made extraordinary emergency management contributions during the 2015 calendar year. The organization must be recognized by IAEM and/or FEMA as an emergency management organization (MOU or other acknowledgement).*

***About the New IAEM-USA EM Volunteer Awards Competition***

*The IAEM-USA Emergency Management Volunteer Awards were incorporated into the annual IAEM Awards Competition in 2016 to recognize the contributions of volunteers who assist emergency managers in the United States. Volunteerism in emergency management has always been part of the framework and fabric for the successful employment of integrated emergency management across the nation. Thousands of volunteer hours are provided annually to assist emergency managers across the spectrum of the emergency management mission areas. Without the support of volunteers, the field of emergency management would not be as capable and responsive as it is today.*

Obtain information about the IAEM-USA Emergency Management Awards Competition at [www.iaem.com/Awards](http://www.iaem.com/Awards).

***About the International Association of Emergency Managers***

*The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), which has more than 6,000 members in 58 countries, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters. IAEM provides: access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more. Visit [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com) for details.*

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