



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
U.S. CIVIL AIR PATROL
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-6332

2 March 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR REGION AND WING COMMANDERS

SUBJECT: Reenergizing CAP's Participation in AOPA's Airport Watch Program

1. AOPA has been conducting an innovative program for the past four years called AOPA Airport Watch – to monitor our airports with our own eyes and ears. AOPA has added a new message to the program this year: “Lock Up & Look Out” reminding pilots to properly secure their aircraft in addition to being vigilant. CAP has teamed with AOPA ever since the start to help promote airport security by assisting in the education of pilots, pilot groups and local airport management. Today CAP is reenergizing our efforts in support of this very valuable community-based program. CAP units will be receiving AOPA Airport Watch training materials in the coming weeks. Please have your units review the materials and put the training into practice at their local airports. In addition, CAP units can greatly assist the GA community by volunteering to educate pilots at their airports using AOPA's Airport Watch materials.
2. The AOPA Airport Watch Program 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.
3. AOPA's Airport Watch has earned the support of the federal government. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has partnered with AOPA and CAP on this very successful program. TSA understands that using AOPA's nearly 411,000 members and CAP's 56,000 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 Transportation Security Operations Center personnel to assess the situation and secure assistance if necessary.
4. Thank you for continuing to support the AOPA Airport Watch program. Not only can CAP do an outstanding job performing “Missions for America,” we can also assist our nation by being vigilant 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Antonio J. Pineda".

ANTONIO J. PINEDA
Major General, CAP
Commander

cc:
HQ CAP/CV/EX/XP/MD/DO/DV/GC
CAP Deputy Chiefs of Staff
HQ CAP-USAF/CC/CV/XO/JA