



**AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND – FAMILIARIZATION COURSE
(FL)
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida**



FACT SHEET

This activity, sponsored by the 45th Space Wing, Patrick AFB and HQ CAP-USAF Liaison Office (AETC), is run by the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The NASA installation at the Kennedy Space Center is a rich source of teaching, lecturing and familiarization material. Run once yearly, this is a highly competitive CAP National Cadet Special Activity, open to selected cadets at least 15 years of age.

The activity was created in 1995, later followed by the creation of similar programs at Peterson AFB, Colorado and Vandenberg AFB, California. Using material, information, and photographs gathered by the Activity's Staff, the website was created in 2008 by Capt Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP, Director of Public Affairs, Southwest Region.

The on-site Activity Staff is composed of two U.S. Air Force Reserve officers and two Civil Air Patrol officers. Additional support is provided by CAP National Headquarters and an off-site CAP public affairs officer / editor / webmaster.

Cadets who choose to attend this activity are highly motivated and, as a rule, are considering a career in the U.S. Air Force, the NASA Space Program, or the civilian aerospace field. During the activity's 9-day duration, cadets are exposed to a variety of experiences including lectures, visits, and special presentations by Air Force and NASA personnel involved in America's space program – as well as taking a behind-the-scenes look at America's space program itself.

In 2008, the activity will run from 26 July to 3 August. To receive credit for the activity, cadets must pass daily quizzes covering the day's events, testing their understanding of and reinforcing the day's teachings.

2008 is a seminal year for this activity, in that for the first time the course will be photographed and reported by cadet students. Two CAP cadets from Texas Wing have been selected for this task, on the basis of their demonstrated ability. They will write an article a day, create a generous photographic record, and prepare an end-of-course slide/video presentation. Their work will be posted on the activity's website, www.afspsc.org

Many graduates have gone on to achieve the highest level of promotion open to CAP cadets: the General Spaatz Award that carries with it the rank of Cadet Colonel. In recognition of this achievement, should they choose to stay in the Civil Air Patrol as adult members (age 21 or older), they will be accepted at the CAP grade of Captain. In addition, many graduates of the activity have been accepted to attend the US Air Force Academy.

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