

## THE 2003 SAFETY PLEDGE FOR ALL CAP FLYING AND GROUND ACTIVITIES FROM GENERAL BOWLING

1. As you know, our safety record during 2002 was very disappointing, especially in flying safety. We damaged or destroyed several of our aircraft, and more importantly, we lost the lives of several dedicated volunteers so dear to us. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families.
2. For many years prior to this year, CAP had the reputation of having the best flying safety record in general aviation. Along with increasing aircraft mishaps, our bodily injuries and serious bodily injuries are on the rise, especially in the cadet ranks. We must have laser-like focus on mishap prevention if we are to turn these trends around and regain the trust and confidence of our cadet's parents and the many customers that partner with CAP in our missions for America.
3. As I ponder our safety problems, I reflect on the core values of CAP: Integrity, Volunteerism, Excellence, and Respect. These values serve as the bedrock of all that we stand for. Without safety, these values mean nothing. If we do not have a strong safety program, it means; (1) that we lack *integrity* in self-policing our members and all of our CAP operations and activities; (2) that our humanitarian efforts through *volunteerism* cannot be achieved; (3) that we have failed in our quest for *excellence* in service to America; and, (4) that we lack *respect* for the safety and welfare of our members and those we serve. So, in essence, for our core values to be fully realized, safety must be the wind beneath our wings.
4. In order to reverse these negative trends in our safety record, we must institute an organizational culture change that brings safety to the forefront of our minds. To do so requires the institution of a safety *goal* for CAP and a serious *commitment* by every CAP member to attain that goal. We must *optimize the safety and welfare of our members* in all CAP activities, protect CAP resources and regain the stature of our organization as being the *safest flying organization in general aviation*.

### Safety Pledge

I am proposing a 2003 Safety Pledge For All CAP Flying And Ground Activities. I propose the following pledge and ask you to spread it constantly throughout our great organization. I would like the pledge to become an integral part of the start of every CAP gathering ranging from unit meetings all the way to the National Board and Annual Conference. These meetings often begin with a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag as a reminder of our patriotism. I would like the Pledge of Allegiance to be followed by a recital of the CAP 2003 Safety Pledge.

#### **The 2003 Safety Pledge For All CAP Flying And Ground Activities:**

**I pledge to do my part to foster a safe environment during all CAP activities, to be a responsible steward of CAP resources and to fully prepare myself for the challenging missions that serve America.**

Thank you all for your great service to CAP and the nation. I look forward to reciting this pledge with you.



RICHARD L. BOWLING  
Major General, CAP  
Commander

