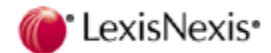


CIVIL AIR PATROL AND CITY AGREE TO LONG-TERM LEASE AT STINSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

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The following information was released by the city of San Antonio:



Today the City Council approved a no-cost 25-year lease for Texas Wing Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Texas Wing will have a new home at Stinson Municipal Airport, on 92,550 square feet of airfield property adjacent to an existing taxi lane.

Texas Wing has plans to construct a suitable building to house Wing Headquarters, Group V Headquarters, and other selected squadron headquarters plus their staff. The building will be home to their administration and training, and gives the CAP the ability to conduct emergency services operations. An attached 4- to 6-airplane hangar will front on the taxi-lane. CAP plans to get a fund-raising drive under way shortly, as the non-profit gathers its necessary building fund.

Colonel Joe R. Smith, commander of Texas Wing, said, "We are thankful to the City of San Antonio for giving us the opportunity to better serve the community. This generous offer will greatly enhance our ability to carry out our missions."

The City of San Antonio decided to support the non-profit, all-volunteer Texas Wing, in recognition of this major command's contributions to the community, city, state and nation. This has been Texas Wing's focus in the past, and will continue to be its mission in the future, as it benefits the City of San Antonio and the entire State of Texas.

"I am so very proud of the fact that a vital organization like the Civil Air Patrol is moving its Texas State headquarters to Stinson Airfield and District 3," said District 3 Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos. "Stinson Municipal Airport continues to become more and more essential to San Antonio, not only serving as one of the top reliever airfields in the country, but to the continued economic development boom we are seeing in District 3. The Civil Air Patrol is the kind of organization we openly welcome and are excited to have in District 3, with its rich history and storied tradition in Texas and around the country," she added.

Chartered by Congress, Civil Air Patrol is the civilian Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Texas Wing is a member of the Texas State Emergency Operations Center and has been involved in every

hurricane and major natural disaster to strike the State of Texas in recent memory.

"The relocation of the Wing Headquarters to San Antonio continues to grow San Antonio as a center for emergency response which enhances the safety of the citizens of San Antonio and all of our South Texas neighbors," said District 8 Councilman Reed Williams.

As CAP conducts its Congressionally-mandated missions of Emergency Services, Cadet Programs, and Aerospace Education, the City Council decided to reward the organization for their good work. CAP combines a strong adult membership trained in aviation skills and land-based search and rescue techniques with a highly effective youth program designed to help America's young people develop in character, physical fitness and ethical conduct.

Over the past several years Stinson Municipal Airport has made great efforts in attracting such tenants at the Civil Air Patrol and other aviation related businesses. This week it was announced they were awarded a grant to build additional taxiways in order to make the airfield more accessible to more airport property. Recently they have remodeled and upgraded the main terminal building, made upgrades to airfield lighting and safety systems as well as extended a runway to over 5,000 feet.

"This is really an exciting time for Stinson Municipal Airport," said Frank R. Miller, City of San Antonio Aviation Department. "The continued capital improvements and tenant growth, such as the Civil Air Patrol, is why Stinson continues to be one of the premier municipal airports in Texas."

Conducting flyovers of disaster areas, especially after hurricanes, CAP is often tasked with taking high resolution photographs of the damage. In the process, its members help shorten the time to recovery, alleviate human suffering, and provide help to those in need. CAP cadets are actively involved in the local area through outreach, community service, and personal involvement in aerospace education and model rocketry.

Captain Jack Calhoun said, "I am grateful to Councilwoman Ramos and Councilman Williams, because they listened to us -- Lieutenant Colonel Ed Billman, Major Chuck Tetlow and me -- when we came to them, and they started the ball rolling to accomplish what today has become a reality. Texas Wing looks forward to strengthening our participation in the San Antonio family."

The CAP has a long tradition of producing some of the nation's prominent leaders. CAP cadets normally constitute about 10 percent of the freshman class at the U.S. Air Force Academy, as well as other military service academies. Many go on to serve the nation and distinguish themselves, as did Colonel Eric Boe, USAF, who became an astronaut and has been recently assigned to pilot the last Shuttle flight to the International Space Station.

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