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# Iowa teen awarded Civil Air Patrol honor

10:47 PM, Apr. 28, 2012 | Comments



Written by  
**CLARK KAUFFMAN**

Adam Wachholz, 18, a cadet colonel with Iowa's Civil Air Patrol, received the organization's highest cadet award on Saturday.

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Wachholz, of Ottosen, was awarded the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award during a ceremony at Jordan Creek Town Center in West Des Moines.

The award recognizes excellence in leadership, character, fitness and aerospace education. Wachholz is the 20th Iowa recipient of the award since its inception in 1963. On average, only two cadets in 1,000 earn the Spaatz Award.

Wachholz received the Cadet of the Year Award from the Iowa Wing Promotion and Awards Board in both 2010 and 2011.

Saturday's presentation coincided with a variety of air and ground rescue training exercises at Camp Dodge in Johnston and the Ankeny Regional Airport.

Cadets, who range in age from 12 to 18, and adult members from throughout Iowa work and train together to become proficient in the patrol's incident command system, radio operations and search-and-rescue methods.

The Civil Air Patrol is an official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. As a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide, it performs 90 percent of the nation's inland search-and-rescue missions and is credited with saving 54 lives last year.

Volunteers also perform homeland security disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies.

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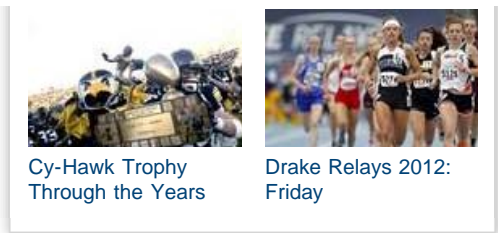
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