

Inventory of the

Civil Air Patrol
DeKalb Area Composite Squadron
#11271
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 272

INTRODUCTION

Jack Bennett donated the Civil Air Patrol, DeKalb Area Composite Squadron records to the Regional History Center on March 14, 2006. Additional records were added at a later date.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: .75
Number of containers: 2 and 1 volume
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 272

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records for the Civil Air Patrol, DeKalb Area Composite Squadron date from 1963 to 2003 and include meeting minutes, newsletters, and correspondence. Several internal groups are documented such as the Aircraft User's Group which later became the DeKalb Search and Rescue Group. Of special interest are the records on radiological monitoring performed by the DeKalb Squadron. Also included in the collection is information regarding the Illinois Valley Composite Flight #11284, the organization that absorbed some members of the DeKalb group when they deactivated circa 2000.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is an official auxiliary of the United States Air Force. It is a volunteer, non-profit organization that performs three main mission elements: emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet program. The organization is probably best known for its involvement in search and rescue, disaster relief and civil defense.

CAP was founded on December 1, 1941. During World War II, its principal purpose was to provide private pilots and aviation enthusiasts a means of using their light aircraft and skills in civil defense efforts. Among these civil defense war time missions were anti-submarine patrol missions along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts; patrol missions along the Mexican border, watching for enemy agents trying to sneak into the country; airlift of small lots of virtually needed war supplies and aircraft parts; and towing of aerial targets for gunners to use in practice.

In 1943, the organization came under the control and direction of the Army Air Corps. It became a permanent peacetime institution on July 1, 1946, when President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 476, which established CAP as a federally chartered benevolent civilian corporation.

On May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557, which made CAP the official auxiliary of the new United States Air Force. CAP was charged at this time with three primary missions: Aerospace Education, Emergency Services, and Cadet Programs.

The Civil Air Patrol, DeKalb Area Composite Squadron was founded in 1974 by Jim Hebert. The DeKalb Squadron carried on most of the air search and rescue functions of the Air Force in the United States, aided in civil defense, cooperated with state and local emergency and disaster agencies, promoted aviation and aerospace education, and performed radiological monitoring. The organization flew regular practice missions and ran a Cadet program for DeKalb High School. The high school cadets learned about aviation, aviation careers, and the aerospace sciences.

The Patrol established an Aircraft User's Group (AUG) to promote and encourage interest in aviation, aviation safety, air search and rescue, and all allied sciences for the benefit of the members and the Civil Air Patrol. The group later became the DeKalb Search and Rescue Group.

Due to decline in members the group deactivated circa 2000 and the remaining members joined the Illinois Valley Flight #11284 or other surrounding squadrons.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Air Search and Rescue
Aviation
Civil Air Patrol
DeKalb Area Composite Squadron #11271
Illinois Valley Composite Flight #11284

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	History, 1977-1996
	2	Meeting Minutes, (1986-1992)
	3-4	Newsletters, October 1, 1978-November 2, 1988
	5	Correspondence/Memos, 1979-1991
	6	Aircraft User's Group, Organizational Rules, 1978, 1980
	7	DeKalb Search and Rescue Group, 1985-1988
	8	Roster, Telephone Tree and Units, 1981-1996
	9	Insurance, 1982
	10	Jack Bennett, 1977-2001
	11	Newspaper Articles, 1991-2003
	12	Questionnaires on Personal and Civil Air Patrol Aircraft, 1980, 1991
	13	Training Plans, 1982-1983
	14	Radiological Monitoring, 1979-1997
	15	A Citizen's Environmental Radiation Monitoring Program by Jack Bennett, September 25, 1986
	16	Handbook for Aerial Radiological Monitors, November 1977
	17	Handbook for Aerial Radiological Operations for Illinois Wing Civil Air Patrol, n.d.
	18	Handbook for Radiological Monitors, April 1963
	2	1
2		Radiological Monitoring: A Programed Home Study Course Consisting of Four Self-Study Units, Federal Emergency Management Agency, April 1980
3		Your Body and Radiation by Norman A. Frigerio, 1967
4		Illinois Valley Composite Flight #11284, 1998-2001
5		Illinois Valley Flying Club, Inc., 2001
Oversize	1 volume	Scrapbook, 1974-1981