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Calif. members ride with Coast Guard

Carnahan Cadet, Auburn Composite squadrons see Calif., Nev. from HC-130

June 02, 2008

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CALIFORNIA -
A pair of California Wing squadrons got a rare opportunity recently to fly with the U.S. Coast Guard aboard a HC-130, the aircraft the Coast Guard uses for its own rescue and recovery missions

In all, 13 cadets and six senior members from Auburn Composite Squadron 92

and Eugene L. Carnahan Cadet Squadron 85 were aloft for two hours, taking in breathtaking sights from the skies above California and Nevada, flying over and through the Yosemite Valley, the Sierra Mountains and Lake Tahoe.

In addition, the pilots altered their flight plan to take the HC-130 over both squadrons' headquarters so their passengers could get a bird's eye view of their own meeting places.

The aircraft was temporarily outfitted with airline-style seating, which safely secured the Civil Air Patrol members during takeoff and landing. Once safely airborne, they were free to roam throughout the aircraft, taking in the sights through the cabin windows.

They were also allowed into the cockpit to spend some time with the pilots to discuss the avionics, the Coast Guard and whatever sparked their interest.



Photo by 1st Lt. William Wetzel

Cadets and senior members from Auburn Composite Squadron 92 and Eugene L. Carnahan Cadet Squadron 85 pose with their Coast Guard flight crew after their two-hour HC-130 flight.

Capt. Gerry Hartmann of Squadron 92 coordinated a flight. Hartmann, a United Airlines pilot, Hartmann was on his own flight for the airline at the time and radioed in on a pre-coordinated frequency to wish the crew members a safe, enjoyable excursion.

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