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## Calif. members hear history of WWII CAP plane

**Stinson SM8A used on patrols along Gulf of Mexico from '43-'45**

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Photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Aaron Yanagihara

George Alleman (facing camera) stands in front of his Stinson SM8A as he describes its history as a U.S. Civil Air Patrol aircraft from 1943-1945 along the Gulf of Mexico.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Aaron Yanagihara

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CALIFORNIA -- Cadets and senior members in Eugene L. Carnahan Cadet Squadron 85 were treated to a rare glimpse into U.S. Civil Patrol's original mission when they had a chance to learn about a CAP aircraft that played a vital role in homeland security along the Gulf of Mexico during World War II.

George Alleman, owner of the restored 1930 Stinson SM8A, briefed squadron members about the history of the plane, based at Placerville Airport. From 1943 to 1945 the Stinson was based out of Beaumont,

Texas, for CAP border patrol and submarine searches along the Gulf of Mexico. It was outfitted to carry two 100-pound bombs or one 230-pound depth charge.

Ater its CAP days, the plane was stationed at San Jose Army Airfield -- now Moffett Field Naval Air Station -  
- and used to pull airborne targets for gunnery practice. Afterward, it was used in various capacities, including use as a crop sprayer, and it appeared in the 1991 movie "The Rocketeer."

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