



Though Gen. Victor Renuart was a member of Civil Air Patrol for only one year about 30 years ago, he has carried the lessons he learned as a first lieutenant in the Selma, Ala., squadron with him throughout his military career, including his current position as commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command. "As I have

grown through my career I've been in a

number of jobs where coalition-building was needed - the ability to pull in the diversity of civilian and military views. It allowed me and many officers to be better at coalition-building," he said.

Renuart said he also likes the idea of having CAP members available as the eyes and ears of his command.

"In my current job I have the opportunity with CAP to provide rapid response for border security and illegal trafficking. They have the training in what to look for and it is an important tool," he said.

Renuart was involved with CAP at now-defunct Craig Air Force Base in Selma with several other young fliers. He said when he was a CAP member he was involved in some search and rescue and firefighting missions.

"My most memorable experience was flying support with the folks with the forestry service and firefighters working some rather large fires in Alabama," Renuart said, adding that he used his search and rescue training as an A-10 and helicopter pilot throughout his career.

Renuart is a big fan of the Civil Air Patrol and the people who come through the program.

"The young men and women get exposure (through CAP) to the Air Force and some choose to

pursue a career (in the military). It is very much a retention tool," he said. "It's been fun to cross paths with former CAP members now serving."

Renuart said he has gone to bat for CAP whenever discussions have come up in Air Force circles about funding cuts. "I have raised objections as both the commander and

"We get a great bang for the buck and I am a strong proponent of keeping them fully funded and fully utilized"

**- Gen. Victor Renuart,
commander of NORAD and
US. Northern Command**

as an airman. We get a great bang for the buck and I am a strong proponent of keeping them fully funded and fully utilized," he said.

"CAP is from the local area, so they know the area and can respond immediately," he said. "They can also provide situational awareness to what is happening on the ground. It is an economic way to develop well-trained eyes and ears for responders to get to the right place," he said.