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### **Cadet Receives the Call of his Life**

Costa Mesa, California-Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Aaron Mackie of Composite Squadron 68 received the call of his life on February 23, 2005. Congressman Ed Royce called to inform him that he had been accepted into the U.S. Air Force Academy. Cadet Mackie arrived at his squadron meeting the very next night to share the good news. His squadron commander Lt. John Foote said “Mackie has excelled and achieved greatness and I congratulate him. I am sad to see him go. He has been our first Sgt. For quite some time and I am at a loss as to how to replace him while he is away. He has done an outstanding job and he will be missed. I wish him well and look forward to his return.”

Mackie, 18, graduated from Huntington Beach High School in 2004 where he won and maintained spots on the water polo team for four years, the swim team for three years, and the track and field team for one year. He is currently a student at Golden West College and a lifeguard for the city of Huntington Beach while awaiting his departure to the Academy.

The skills he learned in the Civil Air Patrol, along with a good letter of recommendation from Major Alan Dow, secured a full semester scholarship from the Falcon Foundation to attend North Western Preparatory School in Crestline, California. The purpose of this preparatory school is to prepare prospective cadets for an appointment to the Academy. The Falcon Foundation, a private, non-profit foundation, provides scholarships to private preparatory schools for those seeking admission to the U.S. Air Force Academy. Cadet Mackie had to meet stringent requirements in order to be selected as 1 of 100 individuals awarded this scholarship each year. For those of you interested in the requirements for this scholarship, see the web-site link for additional details. <http://www.usafa.af.mil/pa/factsheets/falconfo.htm>

Incidentally, Mackie has a brother Scott who is Cadet Airman First Class in the Civil Air Patrol. Mackie said, “It has been great to have a brother in CAP. While one of us shines shoes, the other presses the uniforms. We have both learned to work together as a team. The Civil Air Patrol has also taught me how to take responsibility for my actions.”

Over the past three years, Mackie has participated in many Civil Air Patrol activities including encampment, various air shows, and Race for the Cure. He has completed his General Emergency Services training and received his A-CUT card in communications. Mackie stated, “Don’t ever loose focus, study hard, and always reach for the stars. Never settle for less than the best.”