

THE MODERN CIVIL AIR PATROL FLEET

WHEN THE CIVIL AIR Patrol was established during World War II, its volunteers often carried out their missions using their own privately owned airplanes. By contrast, the modern Civil Air Patrol owns a fleet of 544 single-engine airplanes and forty-six gliders. The airplanes include Cessna 172, 182, and 206 aircraft and are used for a variety of missions, including pilot training, humanitarian missions, cargo transportation, and assistance with training for the US Air Force, state Air National Guards, and the US Department of Homeland Security. The gliders include light Schweizer SGS 2-22C, SGS 2-22E, and SGS 2-33 models as well as heavier Blanik L-23 and Schleicher ASK-21 models. These unpowered aircraft are used primarily for training, with the lighter models providing student pilots with their initial aviation training and an introduction to handling aircraft and managing aerodynamics and the heavier models serving to provide more advanced training.