



HEADQUARTERS  
 CIVIL AIR PATROL GREAT LAKES REGION  
 UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
 BLDG 1506, 25701 SOUTH ST, SELFRIDGE ANGB, MI, 48045

27 February 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL

From: Great Lakes Region  
 Subject: Cadet Minimum Age Requirements for Milestone Awards

1. As the cadet promotion system currently stands, a cadet may join at 12 years of age and promote through the Spaatz Award in not less than 38 months (15.2 years old). This proposal offers minimum age requirements for the Mitchell, Earhart, and Eaker Milestone Awards to avoid cadets of extremely young age or low experience levels attaining said awards until they have mastered each level of the program.
2. Other youth organizations employ similar age divisions to great effect with no adverse affects (such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, Young Marines, etc). This proposal seeks to bring the benefits of such a program to CAP while at the same time avoiding any adverse effects to the cadet membership. Cadets seeking entry into a military academy, enlisting, or becoming a senior member would not be held back by the proposed changes. However, for the youngest cadets it would provide a few extra months to gain maturity and knowledge in the program before promotion to higher grades that can become overwhelming (Figures 1 and 2).

Milestone Award	Minimum Months in Program	Minimum Cadet Age
Wright Brothers	6	12.5
Mitchell	18	13.5
Earhart	26	14.2
Eaker	38	15.2
Spaatz	38	15.2

**Figure 1:** Listed above are minimum ages and months in program for Milestone Awards in the current promotion schedule. Note: Minimum Cadet Age is derived from the age of a cadet joining at 12 and who progresses at maximum speed through the program to its completion.

Milestone Award	Minimum Months in Program	Minimum Cadet Age
Wright Brothers	6	12.5
Mitchell	18	14.0
Earhart	36	15.0
Eaker	48	16.0
Spaatz	48	16.0

**Figure 2:** Listed above are proposed changes to the age requirements. Age will be a separate qualifier from months in the program and will be a promotion eligibility requirement. Cadets who join the program at 12 years of age will by necessity have more time in the program before being eligible for the Mitchell, Earhart, or Eaker Awards.

None of these changes are a major departure from the current regulations regarding time in grade and promotion cycles. Unit commanders would still enjoy approving authority as they always have for cadet promotions but would be required to adhere to the proposed minimum ages. Wing Commanders would still be required to approve a cadet to take the Spaatz exam.

3. Cadets participating in the School Program and JROTC would be allowed to earn their Milestone Awards following the same age standards as all other cadets in the program.

4. In order to ease the transition to this new promotion requirement, any cadet who joined CAP before 1 April 2003 at any age would not be required to adhere to the updated age standards. This would prevent those cadets from being penalized for joining on the old CAP minimum membership requirement of attending the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or 12 years of age (although the current numbers of affected cadets in this range is continually dropping).
5. It has been argued that this will reduce motivation and could be detrimental to the Cadet Program in the long term. However, I feel that it can only serve to better the program by allowing younger cadets more time to glean knowledge and experience from those in authority over them. When they are promoted, each cadet will have a fuller life and CAP experience to utilize once it becomes their turn to lead.

Respectfully submitted,

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GLR Primary Representative, NCAC