

# CADET PROGRAMS TODAY

OFFICIAL BULLETIN FOR THE LEADERS OF AMERICA'S FINEST YOUTH

NOVEMBER + DECEMBER 2005

## "TRAINING LEADERS OF CADETS" RELEASED

*2-day course completely re-designed*

*Curriculum loaded with detailed lesson plans, tools you can use*

Survey after survey, cadets have said senior leadership is the #1 factor affecting their overall experience in CAP.

Countless seniors have asked for more tools to help them become better mentors and role models.

In response to this demand, National Headquarters and experts from around the country have completely revised the Training Leaders of Cadets curriculum.

A 2-day course for adults, TLC aims to prepare seniors to lead cadets and administer the Cadet Program at the squadron level.

To achieve that goal, TLC is organized around four blocks of instruction (see box at

right). Nearly all seminars are designed as guided discussions.

The course materials include detailed lesson plans, case studies, slides, hand-outs, and other tools that are available now at [cap.gov/tlc](http://cap.gov/tlc). Hard copy and CD versions are en route to wing headquarters.

Wings should be prepared for members to begin asking when a TLC will be offered in their area.

Although TLC completed field-tests with high marks, there is always room for improvement. Members are welcome to send their suggestions to the program manager, Curt LaFond, at [clafond@cap.gov](mailto:clafond@cap.gov).

▶ See page 2 for FAQ

### TLC CURRICULUM '06

#### STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES

CP Fundamentals (on-line)\*  
Electronic Almanac (on-line)\*  
Strategic Overview of the CP

#### LEADING CADETS

Core Values  
Adolescent Development  
Leading Indirectly  
Partnering With Parents  
Drill, Uniforms, & Courtesy Clinic\*

#### MANAGING A CADET PROGRAM

Administering the CP (on-line)\*  
Seminar in CP Administration  
Great Activities  
The Cadet & Senior Team  
Legal Responsibilities

#### PRACTICUM

"Virtual Cadet Squadron"

\* Seniors who are new to the Cadet Program should complete these four optional activities; experienced leaders may choose to forego them.



**DOWNLOAD  
CAP.GOV/TLC  
TODAY**



VIEWPOINT by Curt LaFond, Editor

## Spotting disasters in the making

Above treeline in the White Mountains of my native New Hampshire,

the view is spectacular.

I'm one of the geeks who sits atop summits and names every peak in sight. I just spent some time back home, and was glad to see the Franconia Ridge standing right where I left it, although sadly, the Old Man you find on our state quarter is now gone.

While on the trail, I was reminded that talking about hiking accidents is a good way to develop a safety attitude among cadets.

Most cadets struggle to understand abstract concepts, but give them something well-framed like an accident report, and they can easily imagine themselves in the midst of that scenario. Because hiking accident reports don't require technical knowledge (as opposed to say, NTSB reports of airplane crashes) they are especially accessible to cadets.

If you want to try something new with your safety meetings, consider the idea below, which worked well for my squadron. Cadet officers could lead the discussion, under the guidance of the safety officer:

- 1. Read a hiking accident report.** Read only the summary, not the editor's comments. (See below for suggested URLs.)
- 2. Discuss the scenario,** and make a list of everything that went wrong (be specific).

*Leadership education includes learning how to keep people safe*

**3. Identify the root cause of the problem.** For example, not having rain gear is a problem, but a better example of a root cause would be setting out to hike without checking the forecast.

**4. Describe a solution.** Have the cadets explain what they would have done, had they been in the victim's boots.

**5. Review the editor's comments.** These analyses serve as "textbook solutions" to the problems, nicely concluding the discussion.

In my experience, this activity is an easy, yet fun way to emphasize safety. Before too long, as cadets read the reports they will laugh aloud as they spot disasters in the making. That's when you know your safety meetings are working.

Of course, the goal is not to train cadets to become expert hikers, but simply to develop in them the habit of identifying potential hazards and thinking before they act. Habits like those serve cadets well because they easily transfer over to other potentially-hazardous activities like driving, flying, snowboarding, etc.

Cadets want to become good leaders. Learning how to keep their people safe is an aspect of leadership education that cadets should not overlook.

► **Accident reports** are available on-line at several sites, including: [hikesafe.com](http://hikesafe.com), [tucker-man.org](http://tucker-man.org), [outdoors.org](http://outdoors.org), & [nols.edu](http://nols.edu)

## AFJROTC shares drill resources with CAP

The Air Force drill manual sets the standards, but many cadets want more help than what the manual offers in learning how to drill.

Thanks to HQ AFJROTC, a drill and ceremonies instructor guide, student workbook, and slides are now available to CAP members.

The curriculum take cadets and their instructors step by step through nearly every

maneuver and ceremony. CAP units are encouraged to incorporate the AFJROTC materials into their leadership programs.

All new cadets and seniors will receive electronic versions of the AFJROTC drill resources on *The Next Step* CD-ROM included in their Member Kits, when that disc is updated in April.

► Download the materials at [cap.gov/drill](http://cap.gov/drill)

## TLC 2006

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Who can lead TLC?** A senior who is master-rated in the Cadet Programs specialty track should serve as the Course Director. If possible, instructors should be master-rated too, or have graduated from TLC.

**Who picks the Course Director?** The commander of the hosting unit selects the Course Director.

**Can my squadron conduct TLC on its own?** No. To expose students to diverse leadership practices and success stories from different squadrons, TLC is conducted at the group level or higher.

**May cadets attend TLC?** No. To foster a learning environment that encourages open discussion among adults who lead cadets, only seniors may attend TLC.

**Are there any pre-requisites for students?** Seniors should complete Level I prior to attending TLC.

**Must TLC be conducted over a single weekend?** Although the course will take two days to complete, it may be scheduled over two separate weekends, or completed during a single weekend.

**Are any portions of TLC optional?** Yes. Some students bring considerable cadet program experience to TLC, and may choose to skip the on-line modules and drill clinic (see box, page 1). Of course, the entire TLC program is optional, although completing TLC is a pre-requisite for earning the senior rating in the cadet programs officer specialty track.

**How is TLC recorded on members' records?** When the Course Director sends a completed CAPF 11 to National Headquarters, the registrar's office will update the members' records in E-Services.

**What if I have suggestions on how to improve TLC?** Feedback is most welcome. Email [clafond@cap.gov](mailto:clafond@cap.gov).