



Cadet Programs Today

Bulletin for the Leaders of America's Finest Youth

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Official Monthly Newsletter of HQ Civil Air Patrol Cadet Programs www.cap.gov January / February 2003

- In Review -

2002 was a record-setting year for the Cadet Program

It was a great year for cadets, their leaders, and the Cadet Program as a whole in 2002. Key metrics such as membership, retention, flying, and participation in the Free Cadet Uniform program reached record levels. These gains were made possible through the efforts of thousands of CAP volunteers nation-wide. Here is a recap of some of 2002's significant achievements:

Cadet Recruitment & Retention

◆ **Cadet Membership** is at a 14-year high, topping 27,000 cadets nation-wide. Even better is the news of the cadet retention rate — it is at a record 51%. By contrast, in the early 1990's, cadet membership was down to 17,000 and retention averaged under 40%. For further comparison, in recent years the Boy Scouts of America have seen their membership grow and decline +/- 2% annually*, versus the Cadet Program's growth rate of +13% in 2002. Because we know that more cadets are renewing their membership than ever before and that most cadets join CAP because they were recruited by friends who joined before them, CAP is poised for even greater growth in 2003!

◆ **Free Cadet Uniforms:** Nearly 9,000 cadets, or 2/3 of the new cadets who joined CAP in 2002, received a free USAF-style blue uniform valued at approximately \$100. In previous years, only about 20% of the funds available in the FCU program were utilized, whereas in 2002, all available money was used. Now, the FCU program is so successful that HQ CAP is asking the Air Force to increase the funding of this important program.

2002 In Review

Total Cadets	27,017	Best since 1988
Cadets Recruited	13,355	Best since 1998
Cadet Retention	51%	Best since 1972
Orientation Flights (Powered Aircraft: Hours)	16,318	Best since 1972
Orientation Flights (Glider Aircraft: Sorties)	6,724	Best since 1972
Free Cadet Uniforms	8,815	Best since 1972

Note: Available cadet retention, flying, and FCU records date only to 1972.
* BSA membership data was taken from the BSA Annual Reports available at www.scouting.org.

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HQ welcomes new national cadet special activities chief

Another great individual has joined the HQ CAP Cadet Programs team. In January, Don Karle (pronounced car-lee) started work as chief, national cadet special activities.

A retired Air Force colonel, Don brings 30 years military experience to HQ CAP. He has flown B-52, B-1, and KC-135 aircraft, serving during both the Vietnam and the Gulf Wars. The former vice commandant of the Air War College, Don brings extensive experience as an educational leader, as well as command experience at the squadron, group, and wing level.

Most recently, he served as the executive director of the Air University Foundation, a private non-profit corporation that raises money to support AU's educational efforts.

Welcome to the team, Don!



Don Karle, Chief, National Cadet Special Activities



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Curt LaFond, Editor

Activities

- ◆ **National Cadet Special Activities:** 34 special activities were held across the nation, serving a total of 1,800 cadets.
- ◆ **Career Exploration:** Two new NCSAs emphasized career exploration and were great successes. The Advanced Technologies Academy held in Waco, TX, introduced cadets to the Satellite Tool Kit program and the capabilities of slow-scan video. The Engineering Technologies Academy at Alabama's Auburn University introduced cadets to aerospace applications in the fields of textile, chemical, and aeronautical engineering. Plans are underway to expand both activities.
- ◆ **NCSA Videos:** Thanks to the hard work and talents of Capt Scott Matthews, cadets, senior members, and parents

Videos showcasing exciting opportunities

can now download videos of eight NCSAs. Each video, which is 2-3 minutes in length, showcases the exciting opportunities available to cadets at that activity. See for yourself by visiting www.cap.gov and clicking "Cadet Programs" and "NCSAs."

- ◆ **Cadet Orientation Flights:** Prior to 2002, CAP never fully utilized the funds available for cadet orientation flying. Under previous years' COF rules, only a partial reimbursement was available, making wings or pilots have to cover the difference from their own pocket. The "new" COF program provides full reimbursement for cadet flying

Full reimbursement for cadet O-Flights

done in accordance with the COF syllabus. Plus, to help ensure that logistics do not keep an airplane out of reach, the program reimburses for a reasonable amount of ferry time needed to connect a cadet with a pilot and airplane. During 2002, cadets flew over 16,000 hours in powered aircraft and over 6,700 sorties in glider aircraft – a record year. This program is so successful, HQ CAP is requesting more funding to fly still more cadets in the coming years. Learn more by visiting www.cap.gov, clicking "Cadet Programs" and "Orientation Flights."

Curriculum Development

- ◆ **CAPR 52-16 Cadet Program Management:** The Cadet Program's governing regulation, CAPR 52-16, was revised during 2002. Hundreds of suggestions made since 1998, when the regulation was last revised, were considered for the 2003 edition. CAPR 52-16, and related forms, certificates, and visual aids, are vital to cadets and their leaders. Therefore, HQ CAP made

Valuing your suggestions

a special distribution of the new materials in late December 2002, three months in advance of the implementation date to allow members ample time to get acclimated to the program changes. The special distribution put a free copy of CAPR 52-16 and CAPP 52-18 in the hands of every active cadet and Cadet Program leader.

Web Extra: See more cadet statistics www.cap.gov, click "Cadet Programs" & "Statistics"

- ◆ **Training Resources & Cross-Talk:** In 2002, we added more tools to our website for local CAP volunteers. The "Training Resources" page provides quick access to official CAP educational materials. Virtually all Cadet Programs training materials are available free on the web. A similar page, "Cross-Talk" is a clearinghouse of best-practices with proven track-records developed by volunteers. Download the materials for free, or share your own. Both the "Training Resources" and "Cross-Talk" pages are accessible by visiting www.cap.gov and clicking "Cadet Programs."

User-friendly web loaded with useful content

- ◆ **Milestone Award Briefings:** When cadets advance into a new Phase of the Cadet Program, they need guidance to fulfill the challenges and promotion requirements for that Phase. The "Briefings" are handy pamphlets that provide concise Phase overviews for new milestone award recipients and are included with the awards package mailed to the squadron. See for yourself: Download the "Briefings" by visiting www.cap.gov, then clicking "Cadet Programs" and "Milestone Award Briefings."

- ◆ **Training Leaders of Cadets:** The surest way to guarantee success of the Cadet Program is to provide senior members the professional development they need to be effective leaders and mentors. In 2002, we field-tested the Training Leaders of Cadets program, a 2-day seminar for seniors who mentor cadets at squadron level. In 2003-04, we will bring the TLC Trainers' Course to each region, where experienced cadet leaders will become qualified to implement TLC in their wing.

Training & tools for leaders & mentors

- ◆ **Required Staff Training:** Thanks to a proposal that was grounded in common sense and mandated by the national board, staff members at activities like encampments will now receive training on how to recognize hazing and use operational risk management principles to help ensure a positive leadership atmosphere at the activity. RST materials are available by visiting www.cap.gov and clicking "Cadet Programs" and "Training Resources."

- ◆ **Myths & Legends:** One of the most popular pages on the Cadet Programs website, "Myths & Legends" is designed to dispel misconceptions about the Cadet Program and the policies that govern it. View the page and suggest a myth of your own. Visit www.cap.gov, then click "Cadet Programs" and "Myths & Legends."



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