

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

NL-1

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Washington, D. C.

January 28, 1942.

To: Wing Commanders,

Subject: Civil Air Patrol News Letter

(Note: This is the first of the News Letters which will be sent you each week. Its purpose is to keep you informed as to progress of CAP and to supply information which you may wish to pass on in letter form to your staff and groups. It is hoped the News Letter can become a channel through which developments, ideas and operations from over the entire field can be made available to each area for possible adaption to local conditions. Items of interest concerning all phases of operations will be welcomed by this department of CAP.)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS. As of January 28 applications received at the Washington Office totaled 16,616 and are coming in at the rate of approximately 850 a day. These are being cleared as rapidly as possible and are being mailed to the Wing Commands for local files.

Estimates being received from Wings where membership drives are being conducted place the number of applicants at far higher figures than the number of applications received in Washington. The discrepancy is perhaps due to delay on the part of the individual in making out the application after he has signified his intention to join. However, a sharp increase in the number of applications is indicated for the immediate future.

To date applications by states are shown in the following table:

Alabama	244	Maine	226	Ohio	1148
Arizona	128	Maryland	258	Oklahoma	243
Arkansas	162	Massachusetts	382	Oregon	350
California	823	Michigan	1101	Pennsylvania	1082
Colorado	155	Minnesota	137	Rhode Island	74
Connecticut	318	Mississippi	48	South Carolina	236
Delaware	127	Missouri	489	South Dakota	126
Florida	392	Montana	273	Tennessee	297
Georgia	112	Nebraska	196	Texas	563
Idaho	153	Nevada	70	Utah	137
Illinois	953	New Hampshire	201	Vermont	45
Indiana	575	New Jersey	468	Virginia	122
Iowa	399	New Mexico	149	Washington	343
Kansas	263	New York	1366	West Virginia	203
Kentucky	226	North Carolina	346	Wisconsin	337
Louisiana	320	North Dakota	72	Wyoming	71
D. C.	1	Canal Zone	1		

January 27, 1942.

Unfortunately we have as yet no statistics to show what percent of the 91,445 certificated pilots listed by CAA on October 1, 1941 have entered the armed services; what percent are in regular transport service, and what percent are represented in state and local groups which have signified intention to join CAP but have not sent in applications to date. However, the percentage of applications received continues to show approximately 85 percent with pilot certificates.

APPLICATIONS WITH ERROR. Errors and omissions in applications are slowing down their return to Wing Commands. Most frequent errors fall into four groups: (1) Missing, incomplete and smudged fingerprint cards. (2) Missing photographs. (3) Illegible and unsigned applications. (4) Unsigned Oath of Allegiance. Wing Commanders are asked to stress the importance of accurate and full applications.

INFORMATION STATIONS. To expedite the flow of applications to Washington a number of Wings have established offices where application blanks are available; fingerprint facilities are set up; photograph information is given and in some instances facilities supplied and mailing is handled direct. Such offices have been established in New York, Atlanta, Dayton, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Cleveland and other points. These arrangements have greatly facilitated the movement of applications and have reduced the number which must be returned because of error.

WEATHER INFORMATION. Plans are underway to try and obtain for CAP personnel the same weather information furnished by the government to scheduled air transport and the military forces.

INSURANCE. Several conferences have been held by the CAP staff with aviation underwriters to work out policies which will adequately protect personnel while on assigned CAP missions. The final draft of a policy will be in our hands within one week.

TRAINING PROGRAM. Training Directives Nos. 1 to 4 have been completed. The texts, furnished by the War Department and the Office of Civilian Defense have been mailed to the 48 Wings. Two other directives: No. 5 Interior Guard Duty, and No. 6, Protection Against Gas, have also been approved and are being printed. These directives will not be available before the first week in February.

Col Harry Blee, director of the training program, this week began the first of a series of regional contact tours which will take him to each of the 48 Wings before completion. Objective of the tour is to acquaint Wing Command staffs with the training procedure. Col. Blee's first tour was to Region 4, and he was accompanied by Capt. George W. Noland who has recently been appointed Regional Commander. The remainder of Col. Blee's schedule is to be announced.

CAP UNIFORMS. Specifications have been approved by the Army Quartermaster for uniforms and a general order will be issued in the immediate future. The delay has been occasioned by a determination on the part of the CAP to work out uniform specifications for officers, pilots, ground personnel and administrative office force which would keep costs to members at the lowest practical level.

STATE AVIATION ORGANIZATIONS. Within the past several weeks, members of the Washington office have visited state officials in Texas, Virginia, Michigan and Illinois where state units had been formed and were in operation. Some of these organizations are well along on training and service programs. In all instances CAP received full hearing on its position for a centralized and nationalized organization and command and satisfactory arrangements have been made.

OTHER GROUPS. We have received inquiry from racial and religious groups who want to enroll as units keeping the identity of the group. Policy already established makes such "group enlistments" unacceptable while all members of such groups are welcomed as individual applicants on a merit basis.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS. Capt. Gill Robb Wilson has finished his work as CAP executive officer and is now serving in the dual capacity of consultant to the National Commander and CAP Commander of Regions No. 1 and 2. For the past two weeks he has been on tour.

Capt. George W. Noland has been appointed Commander of Region No. 4. Until his appointment he was on duty at the War Department.

Rarry K. Coffey has been appointed Commander of Region No. 9.

Lt. Col. Floyd E. Evans has been appointed Commander for Region No. 6 and is acting as Commander for Region No. 5.

Earle L. Johnson has been appointed executive officer at National headquarters.

WOMEN FLYERS. A report that women flyers will be assigned only minor duties in CAP is in error. The stated policy of CAP has been no discrimination because of sex, race, creed or color, and the only basis upon which members in CAP are to be accepted and assigned to missions will continue to be individual ability, experience and past record. Every opportunity will be taken to give every member as much duty as his or her qualifications warrant.

STUDENTS TO BE ENCOURAGED. Student flyers and those receiving AE instruction should be encouraged to apply for membership in CAP. We have found among these groups many who have reached a stage of training which could well be used in the organization. These students could perform useful functions for CAP groups and flights while continuing their training for certificates. A news story urging college student flyers to apply for membership in CAP has been sent to college publications.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL. National, regional and group publications are asking constantly for pictures and news of CAP operations throughout the country. The use of such media can prove invaluable in stimulating interest in CAP membership and in public understanding and support of CAP objectives.

Much effective news has been handled in many states by Squadron, Group and Wing officers in cooperation with local and state newspapers, radio and magazines. Some of this could be used on a national scale and the Washington staff is interested in obtaining such material.

This is to ask that accurate accounts of CAP operations in your territory together with such pictures as are available be obtained and forwarded to the Washington office of CAP at your earliest convenience.

Any interesting facts concerning your own operations, personnel, plans, training, etc., will be welcomed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE. (Attention: Coastal Areas) The War Department has requested that all location markers within 150 miles of the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts be eliminated, and the Civil Aeronautics Administration has made tentative arrangements to accomplish the work. CAP has been asked to enlist the help of Wing Commanders within the area as it is believed local and state units can aid materially in location of the markers. Commands are asked to contact CAA Regional Managers in this connection. After markers are obliterated, the Regional Managers will doubtless desire to make arrangements with CAP for flight checks of the result of their work. Addresses of CAA Regional Managers are:

1. LaGuardia Field, Long Island, N. Y.
2. Box 4327, Atlanta, Georgia.
3. 1508 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, California.
4. Boeing Field, Seattle, Washington.