

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GM-84

CIVIL AIR PATROL

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, MAY 22, 1943

SUBJECT: Military Training for Prospective Inductees

TO: All Unit Commanders

1. Military training of citizens who expect to join the armed forces, especially those who have been classified in the A-1 draft category, is an important service which CAP can perform for the war effort. It is a job which local Squadrons and Flights can do whether or not they have active flying missions in progress.

2. Like the CAP Cadets, this is an optional program which we leave to the discretion of the local unit commanders. But there is nothing experimental about it. The pre-training which CAP has given to its own members and cadets, together with the special training which some units have extended to draftees and Army flying cadets awaiting induction, has made better soldiers of many thousands now in the armed services throughout the world. The more people so trained, the better.

3. While the full course of CAP training is designed to prepare members for aviation service, the military subjects have helped men and women in the Army, Navy, Marines, WAACS, WAVES, and other services. Frequent reports are received regarding members who were inducted and promptly became Corporals or Sergeants because of the head start which CAP had given them. The important thing is not their personal advancement, of course, but the fact that they are better able to take their place in the war.

4. It is not necessary to take in trainees as CAP members or to put them in uniform. Main thing is to teach them military courtesy, discipline, and drill. The farther you can go with the military courses prescribed for CAP the better. Drill with arms if possible. You can have wooden guns made. After the trainees have learned their drill, you can work out appropriate ground maneuvers with CAP air support.

5. Physical training aspects are important. Calisthenics, hikes, and marches are recommended. By the cooperation of CAP Medical Officers and local doctors, you can help in the correction of physical defects and harden your recruits for the tough training and the fighting that is ahead of them.

6. This program can be conducted more readily in the small towns and rural areas than in the larger cities. Don't bite off more than you can chew. It is best to start with a limited program and get the bugs out of it than to launch too big an undertaking at once. As experience is developed in the field, we will report it in the CAP Bulletin.

7. High-ranking Army officers think highly of the CAP Cadet program. Recent conferences indicate the soundness and desirability of extending CAP training still farther as something we can do for citizens of all ages to whom this training can mean so much.

Earle L. Johnson
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National Commander