



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-5937

4 April 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CAP UNIT COMMANDERS

SUBJECT: Cease Cadet Orientation and Training Flights

1. Full Stop. *Effective immediately, please cease all cadet orientation flights and cadet flight training.* This restriction applies to flights in CAP aircraft and in other aircraft where a vendor is paid by CAP. This memo alters my original COVID-19 instructions (14 March, Coronavirus COVID-19 Travel & Meeting Guidance, section 2b).

2. Rationale. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is an urgent need to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the best way to protect our communities is by [avoiding close contact with other people](#). Inside a cockpit, individuals are shoulder-to-shoulder. Due to the high risk of individuals spreading COVID-19, an immediate halt to cadet orientation flights and cadet flight instruction (including solo flights) is necessary. Please note that qualified (must be 18 or older to qualify) cadet aircrew members will still be allowed to fly on emergency services missions if required.

3. Impact on Cadet Training Plans. The break in training will slow cadets' progress and likely require additional hours of both dual instruction and solo time once the "all clear" is received. In the case of Cadet Wings students, we will provide additional funded flying time once the public health emergency subsides.

4. Impact on Cadet Flight Academies. How will this halt to cadet dual instruction affect our summer programs like cadet flight academies? At this moment, all cadet flight academies are continuing with their planning efforts. However, due to COVID-19's uncertain trajectory, it is possible that cadet flight academies could be postponed or cancelled. We will continue to monitor CDC guidance and make timely decisions about summer cadet activities in the coming weeks.

5. Staying Engaged. What can cadets and instructors do to remain engaged in aviation? I encourage everyone to think creatively and do their best to keep "flying" from home. Some ideas to consider include:

- “Fly” using computer-based trainers; links to PC- or iPad-based trainers are embedded in the avionics training provided on AXIS. Also see the [Redbird Virtual Stem+ Lab](#) and [Cadet COVID-19 resource page](#) for additional ideas
- Study memorization items such as emergency procedures
- Meet virtually in CFI/student pairings or in small groups of Cadet Wings students for group study using ground school materials
- Download a photo of your cockpit arrangement and/or make a poster to use for “chair flying”

6. Personal Message. Finally, as a retired military aviator, my personal message to the cadets: Airmen teach themselves to cope with momentary setbacks. Some aircraft accidents result from pilots launching in bad weather because they “gotta get home” and don’t want to “disappoint” someone. The COVID-19 emergency is like a long spell of IMC (Instrument Meteorological Conditions) weather causing us to stay on the ground. This is your opportunity to practice disciplined airmanship. Let’s all stay safe and dream of blue skies returning soon.



MARK E. SMITH
Major General, CAP
Commander

Distribution:

CAP/CV/XO/CCC/COO/CP/DO/MAC/SE
CAP-USAF/CC/CV/DO/DT/SE
Region & Wing CC/CV/CS/CP/DO/SE
Cadet Wings students & parents
Cadet Wings project officers (Wing level)
CAP instructor pilots
CAP COVID-19 website