ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

PROFICIENCY LEVEL TWO

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

SECTION 2

EO M207.02 – RECOGNIZE HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS (RCAC)

Total Time: 30 min

PREPARATION

PRE-LESSON INSTRUCTIONS

Resources needed for the delivery of this lesson are listed in the lesson specification located in A-CR-CCP-802/PG-001, Chapter 4. Specific uses for said resources are identified throughout the Instructional Guide within the TP for which they are required.

Review the lesson content and become familiar with the material prior to delivering the lesson.

Photocopy the information sheets located at Annexes A, B and C ensuring there is one copy per cadet at each learning station.

PRE-LESSON ASSIGNMENT

N/A.

APPROACH

An in-class activity was chosen for TP1 as it is an interactive way to present the content and stimulate interest among cadets.

A group discussion was chosen for TP2 as it allows the cadets to interact with their peers and share their knowledge, experiences, opinions and feelings about the history of the Air Cadet Program.

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

N/A.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson the cadet shall have participated in a discussion on the history of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets including significant events in the Air Cadet Program and the Air Cadet League and changes in the Air Cadet uniform.

IMPORTANCE

It is important for cadets to know the rich history of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. By recognizing historical events, cadets may develop an appreciation for history and for the organizations involved in shaping the Air Cadet Program into what it is today.

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Teaching point 1 **Introduce Historical Aspects of the Air Cadet Program**

Time: 15 min Method: In-Class Activity



Information about the historical aspects of the Air Cadet Program needed for this activity are located at Annexes A, B and C.

ACTIVITY

Time: 15 min

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this activity is to gain knowledge of some of the historical aspects of the Air Cadet Program.

RESOURCES

- Significant events in the Air Cadet Program located at Annex A,
- Changes to the Air Cadet uniform located at Annex B, and
- Significant dates in the Air Cadet League located at Annex C.

ACTIVITY LAYOUT

Three learning stations will be set up and clearly marked for each of the historical aspects and will include:

- significant events in the Air Cadet Program,
- changes to the Air Cadet uniform,
- significant dates in the Air Cadet League,
- pens/pencils, and
- paper.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the cadets into three groups and place each group at one of the learning stations.
2. Cadets will have 5 minutes at each station to take notes from the information provided.
3. After five minutes, the groups will rotate clockwise to the next station, where they will take notes.
4. Rotate the groups through the remaining stations.

SAFETY

N/A.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 1

The cadets' participation in the activity will serve as the confirmation of this TP.

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Teaching point 2 **Discuss Historical Aspects of the RCAC**

Time: 10 min Method: Group Discussion

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE



The point of the group discussion is to draw the historical aspects of the Air Cadet Program from the group using the tips for answering/facilitating discussion and the suggested questions provided.

GROUP DISCUSSION



TIPS FOR ANSWERING/FACILITATING DISCUSSION

- Establish ground rules for discussion, e.g. everyone should listen respectfully; don't interrupt; only one person speaks at a time; no one's ideas should be made fun of; you can disagree with ideas but not with the person; try to understand others as much as you hope they understand you; etc.
- Sit the group in a circle, making sure all cadets can be seen by everyone else.
- Ask questions that will provoke thought; in other words avoid questions with yes or no answers.
- Manage time by ensuring the cadets stay on topic.
- Listen and respond in a way that indicates you have heard and understood the cadet. This can be done by paraphrasing their ideas.
- Give the cadets time to respond to your questions.
- Ensure every cadet has an opportunity to participate. One option is to go around the group and have each cadet answer the question with a short answer. Cadets must also have the option to pass if they wish.
- Additional questions should be prepared ahead of time.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

Q1. What interesting things did you learn that you did not know before the lesson?

Q2. Why did you find this information interesting?

Q3. Why do you think it is important to know information on the history of the Air Cadet Program?

Q4. Why do you think it is important to know information on the history of the Air Cadet League?



Other questions and answers will develop throughout the group discussion. The group discussion should not be limited to only those suggested.

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Reinforce those answers given and comments made during the group discussion, ensuring the teaching point has been covered.

CONFIRMATION OF TEACHING POINT 2

The cadets' participation in the group discussion will serve as the confirmation of this TP.

END OF LESSON CONFIRMATION

The cadets' participation in the history activity will serve as the confirmation of this lesson.

CONCLUSION

HOMEWORK/READING/PRACTICE

N/A.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

N/A.

CLOSING STATEMENT

As members of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, this basic knowledge of the rich history of the Air Cadet Program will forever be a part of the cadet's experience. Understanding this history may lead to increased enthusiasm and greater esprit de corps for the cadets.

INSTRUCTOR NOTES/REMARKS

After the introduction, the class shall be divided into three groups. Each group will begin at a separate learning station. Each group will rotate to a new learning station after approximately five minutes.

REFERENCES

A0-045 Cadets Canada. (2007). *About Cadets – History.* Retrieved 19 February 2007, from http://www.cadets.ca/about-nous/histo_e.asp.

A3-032 *Today's Air Force, General Information, Traditions (2006).* Retrieved 11 October 2006, from http://www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/today4_e.asp.

C3-077 Air Cadet League. (2007). *General – History.* Retrieved 19 February 2007, from http://www.aircadetleague.com/General/history_e.html.

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE AIR CADET PROGRAM

World War II

The beginning of World War II brought a renewed public interest in cadet training across the nation. Cadet squadrons were formed in many high schools. The Air Cadet League of Canada was formed in 1940, and raised its first squadrons in 1941. From the outset, the Air Cadet League enjoyed a partnership with the Royal Canadian Air Force, which enrolled Air Cadet instructors as commissioned officers. By the end of World War II, they had raised 374 squadrons with an enrolment of 29 000 Air Cadets.

The Post-War Period

In recognition of the significant contribution of former cadets to the war effort, His Majesty King George VI conferred the title royal on the Cadet Program, creating the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, the Royal Canadian Army Cadets, and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. It is estimated that nearly 230 000 former Sea, Army and Air Cadets served in His Majesty's forces during World War II.

After World War II, quotas were imposed reducing Canada's total cadet force to about 75 000 members. Many of the corps and squadrons closed or were disbanded. The Korean War stimulated growth among squadrons in the early 1950s. After 1954, Korean veterans staffed the Area Cadet Offices that began to manage these squadrons and the summer camps that trained them.

Unification of the Canadian Forces

Following the unification of the Canadian Forces in 1968, a number of changes occurred in the cadet world:

- Sea and Air Cadets came more fully under the control of the Canadian Forces in order to standardize the three Cadet organizations.
- A directorate of cadets was established in Ottawa to set policy and co-ordinate the activities of the Sea, Army and Air Cadets.
- The Cadet Services of Canada was superseded by the Cadet Instructor List (CIL), which was later redesignated the Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC).

Girls in the Cadet Program

Girls have participated unofficially in cadet training almost from the beginning. Shortly after the formation of the Highland Cadet Corps at the Guelph Grammar School in 1882, a female cadet company was also formed, called the Daughters of the Regiment.

During and after World War II, you could find cadet corps and squadrons that paraded a female platoon or flight. But these unofficial female cadets could never lawfully be trained, kitted, fed or transported and were not allowed to attend summer camp.

On July 30, 1975, parliament amended the relevant legislation by changing the word boys to persons, therefore permitting girls to become members of the Royal Canadian Sea, Army, and Air Cadets.

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CHANGES TO THE AIR CADET UNIFORM

The Origin of the Air Force Uniform

At one time, England was a major supplier of uniforms and cloth to other countries. At the time of the October Revolution in Russia, there was a large quantity of cloth in England that had originally been ordered for the Russian Army. This blue cloth remained unused until the end of World War I, when the Royal Air Force (RAF) came into existence and required uniforms. The unused cloth was made into uniforms and as a result, the RAF and original Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) uniforms were the same colour as the old Tsarist Russian uniform.

The “Air Force Blue” represents the sky above. It is a uniform richly endowed with history and tradition. Wearing the uniform bestows recognition of the individual as a representative of Canada’s honoured forces. More than just a means of identification, it is recognized as a badge of courage and bravery. The “Air Force Blue” was proudly worn by Canadians during the wars of the 20th century and their exploits are honoured by all who serve. It is worn with pride.



Against The Odds - Bomber Command At IWM North. News. Kay Carson. (2006). Retrieved 2 November 2006, from http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/content/images/2006_2529.JPG

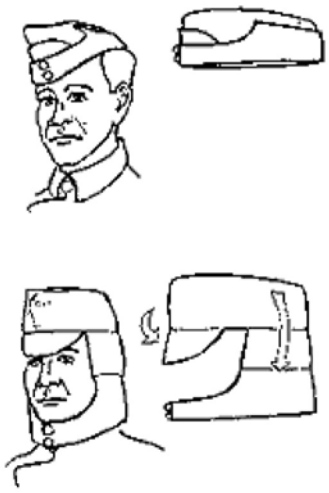
Figure B-1 RCAF Uniforms WWII

The Wedge Cap

Current dress regulations of the Canadian Forces include the “Cap, wedge (optional) centred and worn on the right side of the head, one inch above the right eyebrow". The wedge cap is a good example of how a tradition was born some 60 years ago and thrives to this day. The Air Force affinity for this type of headdress is well known. It all began when the Royal Flying Corps was established just before World War I. The field service cap, as it was then called, was adopted by the RFC along with a tunic with a high, stand-up collar secured by buttons at the far right side of the chest. With the cap cocked well over to the right, this uniform, with its jaunty air, became synonymous with the daring new fighting Air Force. This headdress, designated the wedge cap in 1941, continued to be worn throughout the life of the RCAF (1924-68) and continues to be the preference of many personnel today in spite of the availability of the peaked forage cap and the beret. There is little doubt that in the days when goggles and leather helmets were worn in open cockpits, the wedge cap lent itself to handy storage in a pocket, ready for use on return to base. When inclement weather was encountered, the

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sides could be unhooked and pulled down to cover the ears and the forward flap tucked under the chin. Today's version of the "wedge" is sewn in a slightly different manner, but it continues to provide the officer, the NCM and the Air Cadet their distinctive Air Force identity.



Department of National Defence. (2006). Air Force Traditions. Retrieved 2 November 2006, from http://www.airforce.forces.gc.ca/traddocs/traddocs/tradq_e.asp

Figure B-2 The Wedge

The Original Air Cadet Uniform

The original Air Cadet uniform was also blue. They were usually older, out-of-use RCAF uniforms. In 1968, the Army, Navy and Air Force were unified into the Canadian Armed Forces. At that time the Canadian Forces and the cadet movement adopted a single green uniform. The first issue of the green Air Cadet uniform was worn in 1976. This uniform remained in use for almost 20 years. In 1994, the Air Cadet uniform changed back to the traditional Air Force blue style, which is still worn today.

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D Cdts 3, 2007, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence

Figure B-3 Air Cadet Uniforms

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SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE AIR CADET LEAGUE

The Early Days

To understand why and how the Air Cadet League of Canada came into being, it is necessary to recall the early days of World War II. The critical need was for planes and more planes and for trained young men to fly them in defence of freedom. There grew, in Canada, the idea of a select set of teenaged youths who would devote some of their spare time to prepare for the day when they would take their places as aircrew in the ranks of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF).

The Inauguration

On April 9, 1941, the Air Cadet League of Canada was granted a Dominion Charter authorizing it to operate as a charitable, non-profit corporation. This charter officially established the Air Cadet League in partnership with the RCAF. An administrative headquarters was established in Ottawa, and the stage was set for a concentrated appeal for sponsors and volunteers throughout the provinces.

In September of 1944, the movement reached the peak war strength of 374 squadrons, over 29 000 cadets, 1750 officers and instructors and another 2000 civilians who supplied financial and other support. It has been established that during one brief period, between October 1943 and June 1944, over 3000 Air Cadets graduated into the wartime RCAF.

The Post-War Period 1946 to 1968

Immediately following the close of the war, there was a natural lessening of interest in all cadet activities throughout Canada. Many squadrons that had been set up “for the duration” were disbanded and the movement settled down to a low point of approximately 11 000 cadets in 155 squadrons.

In 1946, the RCAF introduced Flying Scholarship courses for senior cadets, a development which gave added importance to the movement. In 1961, as the League celebrated its 20th anniversary, more than 150 000 Air Cadets had received training in the squadrons now numbering 332.

The Post-Unification Years 1968 to 2000

On February 1, 1968, the Air Cadet League lost its original partner, the Royal Canadian Air Force, and unification brought about a new partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces. In view of a strong demand for new units at the time and to provide for gradual expansion, authority was granted in 1972 for an increase by stages to the present entitlement of 28 000 Air Cadets.

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