

The Partnership between the CAC and the Commander

Lesson Objective: Gain an understanding of the responsibility the commander has when it comes to appointing Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) representatives along with the vital relationship they have to the CAC. Additionally, how commanders play a key role in helping **support** cadets in developing new and unique ideas.

Desired Learning Outcomes (DLO):

1. Understand the Commander/CAC Representative Relationship
2. Understanding how the Commander supports and encourage their representatives
3. Understands how the CAC aids the commander in monitoring and implementing the Cadet Program.
4. Explain how a commander appoints a CAC Representative.

Scheduled Lesson Time: 60 minutes

Introduction

Understanding the responsibility, the Commander has to the CAC is an integral part of monitoring and implementing the Cadet Program. The Commander's responsibility is to foster and facilitate an environment that is conducive to the council. When used properly the CAC is a powerful tool that helps commanders align objectives and extends their reach.

1. The Commander/CAC Representative Relationship

The CAC Representatives is the Commander's/Unit's emissary to the Council. They act as the eyes, ears, and voice of that Unit. Once appointed the Representative needs autonomy to do what they think is best for the Unit as their representative. The Commander can give their opinion when sought out but should allow the cadet to flourish on their own. Commanders are encouraged to have both a Primary and an Assistant Representatives appointed to ensure their Unit always has representation at all CAC meetings. Although the Primary accomplishes most of the heavy lifting, the assistant is encouraged to participate as much as possible.

2. How the Commander supports and encourages their Representatives

The Unit Commander needs to ensure the cadet(s) get to any in-face meetings the CAC has throughout the year. Whether this is providing the rides or ensuring Sponsor Members or parents are available to assist. Unit Commanders are encouraged to provide time during Unit meetings at least once a month for the Representative(s) to provide updates on what the CAC is working on to the Unit. This will give them additional public speaking opportunities and allow them to solicit feedback they can take back to the CAC.

Furthermore, leaders at all echelons need to be actively engaged with their Representative(s) and value them. For example, Group Commanders should be engaged with their Chairperson along with following up with their Unit Commanders to ensure they are engaging with their Unit Representative(s).

3. How the CAC aids the Commander in monitoring & implementing the Cadet Program

The CAC has no command authority and is only an advisory body. All execution of suggestions needs to come from the Unit/Group Commander. Whether it is pursuing a suggestion or asking for additional information or feedback on a specific topic. The Group Commander can also task the CAC with various exploratory activities to ensure they have a good pulse on the Cadet Program. All proposals from the CAC should be submitted to the Group Commander in writing. The Group Commander then exercises their prerogative on implementing the suggestion, tasking their staff, or asking the next higher echelon to get involved.

4. How a Commander appoints a CAC Representative

CAPR 60-1, 7.2.2. Appointment. Commanders appoint their representatives via the cadet duty assignment module in eServices between 1 August and 15 September annually, for the term beginning on 1 October.

Lesson Summary and Closure

Through our readings and brief discussion, you can see why the commander role is vital to having a thriving CAC where cadets can gain additional leadership outside of the Unit at higher organizational levels. The Unit Commander needs to take an active role in encouraging their cadets to participate and grow their leadership skills. This provides a critical feedback channel to the Unit and Group Commander on how the Cadet Program is being implemented at their respective echelon.

ASSIGNMENT: Please provide your instructor a screenshot from the Cadet Duty Assignment module in eServices showing you have appointed a Primary CAC Representative. If you are not a current commander, you can write about the characteristics you would look for in a CAC representative for your unit. Additionally, read the minutes from the last CAC meeting and plan out 2-3 items for the CAC to work on for you.