

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM

ED

Action

SUBJECT: Quality Cadet Unit Award
Sponsor TBD

INFORMATION BACKGROUND:

The most successful cadet units all seem to display the same characteristics: their cadets are flying, earning promotions, attending encampment, renewing their membership, recruiting their friends, etc. The hallmarks of a great cadet unit are no secret.

To help put more squadrons on the road toward success, we need to motivate them to focus on the fundamentals.

This proposal calls for creating a Quality Cadet Unit Award. Every unit that meets certain criteria would earn the award. A big wing like California, for example, might set a goal of having 30 squadrons earn the Quality Cadet Unit Award, and every unit would know it could meet that goal if it works hard enough. In contrast, one shortcoming of the Squadron of Merit Award program is that only one unit per wing can earn it.

The Quality Cadet Unit Award would give all cadet units something to strive for. Such a *criteria-based* award could help grassroots units focus on the Cadet Program's fundamentals. In turn, we would make a positive impact on how individual cadets experience CAP.

PROPOSED NATIONAL BOARD ACTION:

The National Board authorizes National Headquarters to establish a Quality Cadet Unit Award program and update CAPR 52-16, *Cadet Program Management*, as follows:

Goal: Motivate squadrons to excel in Cadet Programs by focusing units on the fundamentals

Eligibility: All cadet and composite squadrons are eligible

Criteria: The award criteria are entirely objective. Any squadron that meets at least 5 of the 8 criteria listed below, as of 31 December of the preceding year, qualifies:

- a. Cadet Achievement: 25% of cadets on roster have attained the Wright Brothers Award
- b. Orientation Flights: 50% of cadets on roster have participated in at least 1 flight
- c. Encampment: 50% of cadets on roster have completed encampment

- d. Growth: Unit's cadet roster increased by 10%, or 10 cadets during previous year
- e. Retention: Unit retained 40% of first year cadets during previous year
- f. Enrollment: Unit has at least 40 cadets listed on its roster
- g. Aerospace: Unit earned the Aerospace Excellence Award (AEX) during previous year
- h. Adult Leadership: Unit has at least 2 Training Leaders of Cadets graduates on its roster

Award Elements: All units that qualify for the Quality Cadet Unit Award would receive the benefits listed below. (See the attachment for more details.)

- a. Permission to place the award emblem (jpeg) on the unit website and unit letterhead
- b. An award certificate
- c. Permission for its members to wear the award emblem as a patch on their BDUs or BBDUs
- d. Permission for the unit to attach to its unit flag a white streamer provided by NHQ (style will be similar to the Squadron of Merit streamer)

Award Process: Each January, NHQ will examine data from the preceding calendar year to determine winning squadrons. All squadrons are automatically considered for the award and all winners will automatically be notified by NHQ – there is no application process.

Amending the Program: NHQ is authorized to adjust the award criteria from year to year, with permission of the National Commander.

ESTIMATED FUNDING IMPACT:

Approximately \$100 per year for award certificates and \$3000 for streamers.

CAP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMENTS:

CAP-USAF HEADQUARTERS' COMMENTS:

ADVISOR / NATIONAL STAFF COMMENTS:

REGULATIONS & FORMS AFFECTED:

CAPR 52-16, *Cadet Program Management*
CAPM 39-1, *CAP Uniform Manual*

ATTACHMENT

Example of the Quality Cadet Unit Award emblem, measuring approximately 2" square. Patch may be worn on the left sleeve of the BDU or Blue BDU uniform, ½" from the seam, centered.

