



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

28 September 2018

Major General Mark E. Smith  
National Commander  
105 South Hansell Street  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-5937

Dear Civil Air Patrol Commanders

The Air Force is pursuing multiple avenues in order to address the pilot shortage that they, and more broadly, the United States face. One of the investments that the Air Force is making with CAP is what we call the Youth Aviation Initiative, which will help us to take cadets all the way to achieving their private pilot certificates. Another Air Force investment is with the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) in which AFJROTC cadets had the opportunity to participate in flight academies in pursuit of their private pilot certificates.

What happens with these cadets, both CAP and AFJROTC, once they receive their pilot licenses, is what I want to address in this memo. Proficiency training money will be available for CAP cadet pilots to continue to fly periodically. As for AFJROTC cadet pilots, an agreement has been made with CAP to accommodate them. These AFJROTC cadet pilots are being encouraged to join CAP. Once checked out to fly CAP aircraft, AFJROTC funding, if available, will be provided to allow these cadets to fly periodic proficiency flights. A letter from AFJROTC Headquarters is attached to this message, explaining how the program works.

This is an exciting development for CAP and AFJROTC. The Air Force is trusting both organizations to help move the needle on youth aviation, to include pilot production. A key element of this program's success, though, is how well our squadrons accept these AFJROTC pilots. Please help these cadets to join, to learn the necessary rules, duties and responsibilities of our organization, and to quickly and safely get checked out in CAP aircraft. After all, more pilots and more time on our aircraft is a good thing, right?

What will hurt this partnership is for our squadrons to make it difficult for the AFJROTC cadets to join, get checked out, and fly. A less than welcoming attitude by CAP will certainly get back to the Air Force and erode their confidence in our ability to partner with them in addressing the pilot shortfall. We obviously don't want that.

AFJROTC cadet pilots have already begun showing up at CAP squadrons asking to join. Since we don't know with any certainty where the cadets will show up, I wanted to send this message to all commanders. That helps to cover all possibilities, plus it makes everyone aware of this partnership. CAP/DO will send amplifying information in the near future.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Smith".

MARK E. SMITH  
Major General, CAP

Attachment: AFJROTC Flight Academy Completion Memorandum



## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)

22 August 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL Inaugural Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy Graduates

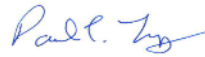
FROM: AFJROTC/DIR  
60 West Maxwell Blvd, Bldg. 835  
Maxwell AFB AL 36112

**SUBJECT: Flight Academy Completion**

1. Congratulations on completing the Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy. This is a tremendous accomplishment. Each of you should be proud of your collegiate performance, passing the FAA written exam, your academic successes, soloing an aircraft, or achieving the ultimate goal of your certification. This was no small task and we welcome you to the exclusive community of aviators. Your hard work and dedication have paid off, but your aerospace journey is just beginning.
2. To remain in good standing as an aviator you must fly on a recurring basis to maintain currency and proficiency. This is something you must plan for if you desire to continue your aviation pursuits. To assist you in this endeavor, Air Force Junior ROTC would like to make you aware of several opportunities with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). CAP is the Auxiliary of the USAF and has one of the largest single-engine aircraft fleets in the world. It flies about 100,000 hours annually in support of search and rescue, disaster relief, air defense, cadet orientation flights and other Air Force assigned missions.
  - a. **Cadets returning to High School & Air Force Junior ROTC with your Private Pilot Certification COMPLETED:** Air Force Junior ROTC has partnered with CAP to offer you additional no-cost flight benefits that we anticipate beginning on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, when funds are expected to come available. You will be required to join CAP and have the opportunity to fly once or twice a month, and quarterly with a CAP Certified Flight Instructor. These flights will be at no cost to you or your family, and are only available while you remain in high school and an active member of Air Force Junior ROTC and CAP, funded by Air Force Junior ROTC. However, it is important for you and your family to understand these benefits are not guaranteed. These flights are at the discretion of Air Force Junior ROTC, CAP, availability of funds to continue support of this program, and availability of aircraft and instructors near your location. Your contact information has been provided to local CAP units near you and they should contact you soon, but we would encourage you to reach out to them if you have not heard from them already; you can find CAP units close to you at [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com).
  - b. **Cadets returning to High School & Air Force Junior ROTC who did not complete Private Pilot Certification:** To receive the above benefits you must complete your Private Pilot Certification/License. We encourage you to complete your training/certification on your own and at no expense to Air Force Junior ROTC or the government. Upon successfully earning your FAA Private Pilot Certificate (License) you become eligible for CAP funded benefits. Please contact the Flight Academy office with a copy of your FAA certificate to

begin the process. In the interim, we would also encourage you to join CAP and start flying with their instructor pilots as that may offer you opportunities to complete your training at a reduced cost.

- c. **High School Graduates:** Thank you for being part of Air Force Junior ROTC and the inaugural Flight Academy. You have helped make history by establishing a successful program and we are extremely proud of the leadership you provided. Although Air Force Junior ROTC can no longer offer you any aviation or financial benefits, we encourage you to join the Civil Air Patrol and explore potential flying opportunities available and other benefits to its members (at a reduced or no cost).
3. Lastly, your scholarship offer was contingent upon your agreement to participate in annual flight academy surveys. You are required to answer the attached questions and return them to the Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy, email: [HQ-FlightTrainingPgm@AFJROTC.COM](mailto:HQ-FlightTrainingPgm@AFJROTC.COM). Additionally, Air Force Junior ROTC will contact you once a year, each year, for five years following your high school graduation. Your feedback and information on educational and career choices will provide invaluable data on the long-term success of this program. Again, congratulations! We look forward to great things from our first aviators.



PAUL C. LIPS, Col, USAF  
Director