



ADMINISTRATOR'S GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

Section A - How to Use This Guide

1-1. Purpose. This publication provides a comprehensive guide for establishing and maintaining a Civil Air Patrol unit in a middle school environment. It addresses "how to" as well as detailed information on what should be accomplished prior to and after the unit is formed. It guides middle school faculty members through the process of starting a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) unit and other essential information necessary to ensure its continued success.

1-2. Organization. Seven chapters are divided into sections that outline for middle school representatives the process from planning the formation of a CAP unit, through setting it up, getting it started, and putting associated plans into action.

1-3. Attachments and References. There are eight attachments for use in the Middle School Initiative. Attachment 1, *Getting the Word Out!*, provides samples of forms and documents. Attachment 2 contains *Bits, Tips, & Power Points*. Attachment 3, *CAP Speak*, is a glossary of terms and acronyms used in CAP. Attachment 4, *Where Do I Find...?*, is a cross-reference of the CAP regulations, manuals, and pamphlets. Attachment 5, *Which One Do I Use?*, is a cross-reference of forms, certificates, and tests. Attachment 6, *Helpful Items*, is made up of samples of forms and documents. Attachment 7, *Application Packet*, contains samples of forms and documents that may be included in an application packet. Attachment 8, *History of Civil Air Patrol*, provides over 50 years of Civil Air Patrol progress. When applicable, appropriate Civil Air Patrol publications are noted for further instructions or information.

Section B - Middle School Initiative

1-4. Purpose. One of the most exciting ventures in the Cadet Program in many years is the Middle School Initiative (MSI). This program, managed by the Chief, Demand Drug Reduction, places Civil Air Patrol squadrons or flights into middle schools during the day or as an after-school activity with the support/help from a local host CAP unit. This is an innovative attempt to reach students in a manner that teaches respect, manners and accountability while developing their potential as tomorrow's leaders. It is achieving growing success in both inner city and rural schools alike.

1-5. Background

a. The Middle School Initiative began in 1993, in Houston, Texas. It was an Adopt-A-School joint program with the Army Reserve, Civil Air Patrol, and Briarwood School under the Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) program. This program served as the 21st test unit to the CAP national DDR program as it was initiated earlier and had its own funding. The success of placing the CAP program into a school for "learning-challenged youth" proved that all students were able to assimilate more when motivated, and the access to school facilities multiplied the ability of the squadron to conduct many varied activities.

b. The CAP DDR program serves as a sponsor for all CAP school programs if the units are within 30 miles of Air Force, Air Reserve or Air National Guard bases. This initiative meets the Air Force requirement of reaching family members and their associates. All other school programs receive guidance and curriculum assistance as needed.

c. The first CAP sponsored middle school program was formed just outside the gates of Kirtland AFB near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Initially formed with donated uniforms from the Navy, this concept was later assimilated as a CAP DDR initiative to fill the leadership/citizenship training void. Starting with one school, Wilson Middle School, the program has now expanded to 70 students in three middle schools. CAP is conducted as part of the Social Studies class that incorporates the standard Cadet Programs curriculum into the process. Cadets now wear the CAP uniform to school one day a week, much like the JROTC program. This model has resulted in a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the New Mexico Wing, Civil Air Patrol and the Albuquerque Public Schools. Fifteen of these cadets have earned scholarships (approximately \$10,000 each) to the New Mexico Military Institute – this is a first. Plus, numerous cadets now also belong to the various JROTC units throughout the city.

d. The Florida Wing established a pilot program working with public middle schools to enhance the 1995-96 Safe School Appropriation by the Florida Legislature. The Chief of Police endorses the pilot program in Coral Springs as "an activity-filled environment that attracts young people to do positive things that benefit themselves and their community. The young people who go through the program definitely develop as excellent role models. They learn to be leaders and responsible young adults who are goal oriented and respectful of others. They tend to develop as very positive youth leaders who contribute to our community." The program expanded into schools with many cadets currently involved. The most recent success is at the wing selection board for National Special Activities, where a cadet in just one year through the middle school program was chosen as the number one selectee for the entire state of Florida!

e. The largest middle school program is in South Carolina, where they have recruited over 200 cadets through this program in the past two years. This program is presently in thirteen schools operating around Columbia, South Carolina and Shaw AFB, South Carolina. To increase retention and ensure individual success, the wing held the first ever "boot camp" or weekend orientation training to receive standardized, concentrated basic cadet training for all new cadets entering the school program; 60-80 cadets were anticipated, but 164 new recruits attended! This program was demonstrated to the Deputy Superintendent for Personnel of the

Charleston School District as a possible model for the countries' first ever military magnet middle school. While the CAP Cadet Program will not be the model, they have endorsed and requested it as a core element of the after-school program with an expected attendance of 350-500 students!

f. The largest attempt into after-school/inner-city initiative is in the Chicago Public Schools (IL), where they have 200 members in the program with 24 schools with cadets. This is a joint effort between the CAP and numerous other organizations.

g. As you can tell, CAP's Middle School Initiative/Drug Demand Reduction Program is very much on track and in-line with the most up to date and progressive policies addressing this need in our nation. Basically, what CAP offers through its youth program is long-term (8 years) mentoring, teaching of life skills, and a path with a guiding hand to success. The bottom line is that through CAP, we can offer America's youth a hope for a successful future ... and show them how to accomplish goals and aspirations.

1-6. Focus. The focus of the MSI is to complete 8 of the 16 achievements starting with the sixth grade and progressing over a 3-year period. At the end of Achievement 8, the cadet will have an opportunity to achieve the Mitchell Award. Upon completion of achievement eight, cadets will be well versed in aerospace education, fundamental leadership theory and application, physical fitness, moral leadership and other training activities that may not be available to their peers. Additionally, they will receive training in emergency services, communications, model rocketry and flight orientation.

1-7. Goals. MSI is predominantly composed of urban students with the vast majority of the participating schools in the inner city. MSI provides the Air Force with an excellent opportunity to reach urban children long before they become high school students by exposing them to the Air Force. This is at a critical point in their development where it can influence their career decisions.

a. The most crucial components of the MSI program are a standardized curriculum. The curriculum consolidates all requirements into training schedules and lesson plans focusing on development of well-qualified cadets. Each session is two hours in length; there are 18 sessions per semester and 36 sessions per school year.

b. The MSI curriculum and seeding of the program at the state level has the potential of exposing thousands of children annually to the possibilities of flying. No other program is presently available with the potential long-term mentoring so crucial to positively influence youth.

1-8. Statement from Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). *Prevention is the ultimate key to reversing the upward trend in the use of drugs and empowering communities to address their drug problems. Central to this effort is the development and implementation of initiatives to prevent illicit drug use, including casual use by youth and other high-risk populations. The most effective strategies for preventing drug use, keeping drugs out of*

neighborhoods and schools, and providing a safe and secure environment for all people are cooperative efforts that mobilize and involve all elements of a community.