

RESPECT ON DISPLAY

(Working title for CAPP 151, 2008 Edition)

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW CAPP 151?

In 1989, CAP published an introduction to military customs and courtesies. CAPP 151 does a good job introducing the topic, but nearly 20 years later, it is due for revision for three main reasons:

1. Since 1989, CAP has embraced the Core Values. The value of “Respect” has a direct connection to customs and courtesies, and therefore should be the vehicle for talking about the subject.
2. Customs and courtesies can be intimidating or strange to new members. By packaging the guide as an educational resource (vs. a regulatory-style document), and using engaging photos and typography, CAP can make the subject seem more approachable. Desktop publishing software that was not available in 1989 can allow CAP to make the guide more engaging and user-friendly.
3. The cadets’ leadership curriculum is currently under revision. A customs and courtesies handbook should be included in that suite of materials. It makes sense to update CAPP 151 now, as we update the leadership textbook and collateral materials.

We are developing a new CAPP 151 aimed at achieving the following goals:

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Motivate cadets and senior members to display a spirit of professionalism that is rooted in respect and guides their interactions with one another.
2. Provide easy to understand, authoritative guidance on how to render basic Air Force-style customs and courtesies.

AUDIENCE

1. New seniors who have limited military background, especially those who want to lead cadets (ie: a mom drafted as unit commander, a School Program teacher)
2. Seasoned members looking for authoritative guidance on customs and courtesies-related topics
3. Cadets (but it’s assumed that cadets will consult the cadet textbooks first)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Lots of visuals – show people rendering courtesies. This helps in two ways: (1) inexperienced members can learn easier; and (2) photos showing sharp-looking members rendering courtesies properly (but not too Prussian-like) models the behavior we want to see in CAP.
2. With the new “cadet-focused” senior as our prime audience, the emphasis should be on the fundamentals and the most common scenarios CAP members are likely to encounter. Members are apt to read a short, inviting guide, but ignore a tome.
3. CAP tries to publish electronically only, but makes an exception for educational texts. The new CAPP 151 should be printed in color and included in the New Cadet Kit, and the New Officer Kit.