



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Subject: Cadet Program Image Review Report

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QA 10.001

Q1. Why do cadets wear a uniform that closely resembles the uniform worn by Canadian Forces members?

A1. Cadets have been in uniform since the program's early beginnings more than 100 years ago.

The wearing of a uniform contributes greatly to youth development as it helps build a sense of belonging and promotes positive values such as professionalism, self-discipline, commitment, and team work. Many graduates of our program recall the pride and sense of accomplishment that comes with wearing the uniform after having spent many hours working hard to take care of it, through washing, ironing, and polishing boots. The cadet uniform is also symbolic of a cadet's achievements in the program. For example, cadets who complete the highly sought after flying courses are formally presented with the coveted pilot wings to wear on their uniform.

The cadet uniform was originally based on designs used by the military, and over the decades it has maintained some of these traditions. Today's cadet organizations are dynamic and flexible and are constantly adapting to meet the needs of today's youth. The cadet uniform has been no exception, and the uniform has evolved over the years to become more functional. Good quality clothing and equipment complements cadet activities, and a new all-season jacket with a practical fleece shell along with new gym wear for physical fitness activities are just a couple of the improvements that have contributed greatly to today's Cadet Program.

The cadet uniform represents a tradition of pride, belonging, discipline and professionalism that is essential to success. It has contributed to the positive development of Canadian youth for more than a century.

Q2. Why do Army Cadets wear badges and accoutrements to that of affiliated Canadian Forces units?

A2. The Cadet Program is a partnership between the Canadian Forces and three civilian organizations: the Navy League, Army Cadet League, and Air Cadet League of Canada. The Canadian Forces provides the cadet uniforms, which were originally based on designs used by the military, and over the decades they have maintained some of these traditions.

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As one of these traditions, army cadets wear the badges and accoutrements of their affiliated Canadian Forces unit. This linkage is symbolic of the relationship between the Cadet Program and the Canadian Forces, one that is built on shared values like leadership, citizenship and physical fitness, which are the heart of the Cadet Program. Additionally, CF reserve units sponsor cadet units and assist the Corps officers in training of cadets. This relationship is recognized through wearing of accoutrements.

Q3. Why do cadets sometimes wear the old Canadian Forces combat clothing?

A3. The Cadet Program is a partnership between the Canadian Forces and three civilian organizations called the Navy League, Army Cadet League, and Air Cadet League of Canada. The Canadian Forces is often able to provide surplus equipment that, while no longer suitable for military purposes, may be useful for cadet activities.

The cadet Field Training Uniform consists of parts from the old Canadian Forces combat uniform that are suitable for outdoor adventure training activities. This uniform was permanently issued several years ago to the Canadian Cadet Organizations (CCO) at no cost when the Regular and Reserve Forces were issued the Canadian Pattern (CADPAT) uniform. This clothing is an adaptable and practical uniform for field training and, where it is no longer used by the Canadian Forces; the cadets can get good use of this clothing for many years to come, representing an efficient and cost effective alternative to disposal.

Q4. Why does the Cadet Program engage in Canadian Forces familiarization activities?

A4. The Canadian Forces represents service, dedication and commitment to Canada. Canadian Forces members are proud to serve Canada by defending its values, interests and sovereignty at home and abroad. It is important for all Canadians to have an awareness of the activities of the Canadian Forces and the important work that our men and women in uniform are doing around the world.

The Cadet Program is a youth development program and we believe that it is important for our future leaders to have an understanding of what the Canadian Forces is all about. Promoting understanding of the Canadian Forces, and shared values like being a good leader and citizen while staying healthy and physically fit, helps these young people become well-rounded and informed Canadians.

Q5. Does the Cadet Program acknowledge that some cadets join the Canadian Forces?

A5. Yes, of course. The Canadian Forces, like all organizations, whether it is government, industry or business, are looking for well-rounded young men and women who have leadership skills, are active in their communities, and lead healthy and physically active lifestyles. Cadets are all these things and more. So, why wouldn't an organization look favourably at cadets as prime candidates for success?



That being said, the Canadian Forces does not actively recruit cadets, and the Cadet Program is not a recruiting vehicle for the military. Cadets are not members of the Canadian Forces, and there is no expectation that they will pursue a career in uniform. While there are some cadets who may choose a career in the Canadian Forces, our focus is in helping young people develop transferable life skills, such as teamwork, leadership and decision making, which will benefit the cadet no matter what career they chose.

Q6. Why does the Canadian Forces sponsor such a program when they are not gaining any gratification or benefits?

A6. It's simple; the ideals of the Canadian Forces are built around service to Canada. Young people are Canada's future leaders and our nation's greatest resource. By supporting the Cadet Program and promoting shared values like being a good leader and citizen while staying healthy and physically fit, the Canadian Forces supports the positive development of our youth as they become well-rounded and informed Canadians. This commitment to service and youth forms the basis of our national fabric and will ensure that Canada is a strong nation for many years to come.

Q7. Why do cadets shoot rifles/firearms? Why do some cadets shoot with the C7 rifle, a rifle that is being used by Canadian Forces members?

A7. Cadet marksmanship and biathlon activities are not based on a military-style training model. The Cadet Marksmanship and Biathlon Programs are based on sport-style recreational and competitive marksmanship and biathlon activities that have produced Olympians like Pat Vamplew and Jean-Philippe Le Guellec, as well as, Canada Games champions. The cadets learn valuable skills through this competitive-style sport program that develops self-discipline, increased confidence and a sense of accomplishment. Some cadets have the opportunity to learn and compete domestically and internationally in air rifle and fullbore rifle marksmanship programs and biathlon programs.

The marksmanship and biathlon programs also teaches young people safety practices and helps develop an awareness and respect for firearms wherever they may come in contact with them. Safety is always a top priority for all that we do in the Cadet Program. The Cadet Marksmanship Program adheres to safety and training standards set by the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Firearms Centre, and our activities are continually reviewed to ensure these standards are strictly followed.

The majority of cadet marksmanship activities are conducted using a .177 mm air rifle, which is not classified as a firearm under the *Firearms Act*. Notwithstanding, the program does teach cadets safety handling and firing practices that are considered above the standard expected for this caliber rifle.

Outside of the Cadet Marksmanship Program, selected senior cadets have the opportunity to receive basic familiarization on the C7 rifle. Familiarization with the role and activities of the Canadian Forces represents a key pillar in our mandate, but the C7 rifle is not used to develop



marksmanship skills or facilitate military training. The intent of this activity is to introduce young people to an element of the Canadian Forces in a controlled environment that promotes responsible rifle handling.

Our marksmanship and rifle familiarization activities are orderly, instructed, supervised, controlled and safe. They provide young people with worthwhile experiences and life skills that will benefit the cadet no matter what career they choose.

Q8. Why do cadets do drill and participate in ceremonial activities similar to that of the Canadian Forces?

A8. Drill is an activity that instills self-discipline and teamwork in the cadets. Well taught and executed drill develops a sense of individual confidence that builds group morale and esprit-de-corps. This commitment to personal development and positive interaction with others represents a pillar of the overall cadet experience.

Cadets participate in ceremonial activities that range from graduation parades to the Ceremony of the Flags, an historic ceremony involving bands, historic animators, and cannon fire which dates back several centuries to a time when townspeople grew crops and grazed cattle outside the town walls. These events are often performed at community events and allow cadets to learn about our nation's history, while showcasing their hard work and achievements. Drill has proven to be a very popular activity with cadets.

Q9. Why do cadets learn to execute drill with rifles and can perform this drill on routine and ceremonial parades?

A9. Once one masters the skill of performing well-executed foot and marching drill, the next step is rifle drill. It represents a heightened physical and mental challenge that takes the development of self-discipline and teamwork to the next level.

Drill purpose rifles are inactive and benign. They are simply a prop that is used primarily for aesthetic and traditional reasons. Rifle drill has been a physical and mental challenge that, with commitment and dedication, can result in quite an impressive display and an excellent complement to traditional ceremonial parades and displays.

Q10. Why do cadets learn to fire volleys and feux de joie and perform these movements as part of ceremonial parades?

A10. These kinds of activities are part of much larger ceremonies that are rooted in the traditions of our nation's history. In many cases, the cadets are the only people in the country who continue to perform these displays, most often for the enjoyment of the public at various community festivals and events.

For example, Sea Cadets often perform the historic Ceremony of the Flags, which includes bands, historic animators and cannon fire. The ceremony dates back several centuries to a time when townspeople grew crops and grazed cattle outside the town walls. Each day at sunset a horn or trumpet call was made to warn people to return to safety in the town and to signal the mustering and posting of guards for night watches. The night guard's muskets were fired and reloaded to ensure the powder was fresh and weapons were ready. The ceremony has a maritime flavour and is a perfect complement for the sea Cadet Program.

Through these time honored ceremonies, cadets learn to respect the importance of our history and the dedication and teamwork that make a successful performance happen.

Q11. Why do cadets learn and practice field exercise skills associated with staging survival training and using similar methods to that of the Canadian Forces?

A11. Outdoor survival skills are very important for anyone who is going into the outdoors. Through the Cadet Program, cadets are taught basic survival skills that include the importance of responsibility and preparing for unforeseen circumstances.

The Canadian Forces has a highly developed survival program, one which has resonated for many Canadians who have become lost in the woods and have been rescued by a Canadian Forces search and rescue team. The Canadian Forces provides search and rescue services across the country and its search and rescue technicians are regarded as some of the nation's premier survival specialists. Its basic methods developed and proven by experts like search and rescue technicians that have formed the basis for survival skills taught in the Cadet Program.

Q12. CATO 14-41 describes the types of marksmanship activities authorized within the Canadian Cadet Organizations? Why do cadets participate in marksmanship and biathlon?

A12. The Cadet Marksmanship and Biathlon Programs consist of both recreational and competitive-style activities. The cadets learn valuable skills through the program that develop self-discipline, increased confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

Safety is always our top priority and the marksmanship and biathlon programs teach young people safety practices and helps develop awareness and respect for firearms. Strict safety and training standards set by the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Firearms Centre are adhered to, and our activities are continually reviewed to ensure these standards are strictly followed.

We believe the marksmanship and biathlon programs are valuable parts of the Cadet Program. They help develop important life skills and teach cadets a sport that is in line with Canada Games and world-class events like the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.



Q13. CATO 14-48 describes the policy with respect to the use of blank ammunition or pyrotechnics within the Canadian Cadet Organizations. Why do cadets use blank ammunition or pyrotechnics?

A13. Blank ammunition and pyrotechnics are only used in ceremonial parades and historic ceremonies. They are not used for any field training.

Q14. CATO 11-04 Cadet Program Outline permits corps/squadron commanding officers to conduct an optional program but provide limited direction on suitable/non-suitable activities.

A14. The Cadet Program is a community-based youth development program. Canada is a diverse country with a vast landscape, and we recognize that there are regional differences from coast to coast. We must remain dynamic and flexible in our approach, and the ability to conduct optional programs at the discretion of corps/squadron commanding officers allows us to do this in a way that that best meets the needs of youth in local communities.

Optional programs are approved regionally to ensure they fall within the overall mandate of the Cadet Program and comply with current regulations pertaining to safety, supervision, etc.

Q15. CATO 42-05 Army Cadet International Exchanges - Annexes E, F, and G outline that the aims of the training with the United Kingdom's Army Cadet Force and Combined Cadet Force battalions are to familiarize cadets with the British equipment and training methodologies. Why do cadets need to learn this?

A15. The Cadet Program offers many unique opportunities that many cadet alumni look back on as “once in a lifetime” experiences. One such experience is the opportunity to travel abroad on international exchanges with cadets from other countries.

The world offers a diverse landscape and many cultures that are sometimes different than the Canadian way of life. The opportunity to experience life in another country is a valuable one for young people, and it offers unique opportunities to learn about what being a cadet is like in other cultures.