



NATIONAL CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL
HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
105 S. HANSELL ST, BLDG 714
MAXWELL AFB AL 36112-6332



20 December 2009

FROM: Leadership Development Committee

SUBJECT: Criteria for Naming Unnamed Cadet Achievements

1. Task:

The National Cadet Advisory Council was asked to provide recommendations and criteria for selecting individuals to be honored by the naming of cadet achievements 9-16. Who decides which aerospace achievements throughout history are truly the most significant? How does one gauge an exact comparison between the qualities of two role models? These criteria should provide a baseline for that decision.

2. Objective:

The overall objective is to provide the best selection of role models for cadets.

3. Recommendation:

After consideration, the NCAC Leadership Development Committee recommends that persons selected be selected through application of five basic criteria. Evaluation by these criteria provides a baseline, although subjective evaluation must still be applied in comparisons. These considerations are listed in order of importance – thus, Core Values are more important than “notable leadership” and excellence in the respective field is more critical than diversity.

4. CAP Core Values:

- a. The individuals selected are foremost selected to be role models for developing cadet officers.
- b. As such, the life of each individual selected should reflect all four CAP Core Values: Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect.

5. Notable Leadership in Air, Space, or Cyberspace:

- a. The individuals selected should exemplify the leadership qualities we want cadet officers to develop. They should be prominent as leaders, innovators, and visionaries in their fields.
- b. In keeping with the USAF mission of “air, space, and cyberspace,” the examples we select should come from all three areas if possible.
- c. Leaders should also be considered in relation to notable events in the history of aerospace; while Neil Armstrong is himself a role model for cadets, he was also selected because he represents the larger achievements of American space exploration.

6. Diversity:

- a. Those selected should be diverse in field and historical period, as well as gender and ethnicity. Consideration should be given to fill gaps in diversity left by the distribution of individuals currently recognized.
- b. Individuals selected should include those from both the military and the civilian sectors, with a mix of air, space, and cyberspace figures. Technology leaders and innovators related to air, space, and cyberspace are also appropriate.
- c. Individuals from different historical periods should be considered. While aerospace leaders have existed across time and geography, we would limit the naming of achievements to Americans. This leaves a prominent gap in recognizing those before WWI and after 1969. Leaders should be sought in both periods, not just the more recent one.

- d. Consideration should be given to identifying women and minorities who demonstrate the other criteria. Currently no such individuals are honored by name—while figures should be selected based on their excellence, the ground-breaking nature of minority individuals might magnify the significance of their achievements, as well as giving role models to female or minority cadets.

7. Recognized Leaders:

Those included in the readings have already been identified by CAP as deserving recognition, so they should be the first ones added. Thus, Jacqueline Cochran and Gen. Daniel “Chappy” James should be recognized. General of the Army Douglass MacArthur, while a prominent leader, is not an example of aerospace leadership, so he is not a recommendation of the Leadership Development Committee.

8. Repetition:

Those already recognized by an existing award should not have another achievement named after them, both to allow the honoring of as many different role models as possible and to avoid redundancy. For example, while Brig Gen Benjamin O. Davis is an excellent example of all three of the first criteria, he is not one of our recommendations.

Sincerely,
JEREMIAH T. COOGAN, C/Col, CAP
Chair
Leadership Development Committee