

Overseas Units

Lesson Plan:

Duration: 50 Minutes

Teaching Method: Lecture/Discussion

References: Student Guide & CAPR 35-4 *Overseas Cadet Squadrons*

Teaching Aids/Handouts: Student Guide & Slide presentation

Reading Assignment: Student Guide

Lesson Objective: Comprehend the unique responsibilities and requirements associated with command at an overseas unit

Desired Learning Outcomes:

1. Summarize the similarities and differences between stateside and overseas units
2. Explain the AF Installation Commander's role in appointing the CAP Squadron Commander
3. Summarize the limitations which may result from the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)
4. Discuss special issues/restrictions set forth in directives pertaining to Overseas Units
5. Explain the special challenges in producing a viable & successful overseas cadet program

Lesson Strategy:

This segment is designed to impress upon overseas unit commanders the importance of the unique conditions and challenges in their units.

Place emphasis on the need to correctly identify what can and cannot be done within the limits of AFI 10-2701, CAPR 35-4, and SOFA.

The teaching outline provides an introduction, outline of the main points, and a conclusion to be adapted as required to meet the needs of a particular Overseas Cadet Squadron at the AF Installation where it is located. The presenter should personalize the lesson to reflect the unique characteristics of Overseas Units.

Lesson Outline:

MAIN POINTS:

- I. Similarities and differences between stateside and overseas units
- II. The AF Installation Commander's role in appointing the CAP Squadron Commander
- III. Limitations which may result from the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)
- IV. Special issues/restrictions set forth in directives pertaining to Overseas Units
- V. Special challenges in producing a viable & successful overseas cadet program

Teaching Plan

Lesson Objective: Comprehend the unique responsibilities and requirements associated with command at an overseas unit.

ATTENTION:

Have you ever wanted to be a Cadet Squadron Commander, but were assigned to an Air Force Installation outside the United States? There are some uniquely different things to be considered in preparing for the rewarding challenge of being Overseas Cadet Squadron Commander.

MOTIVATION:

In this lesson we will present some of the unique challenges associated with command overseas, as well as ways to successfully manage these challenges and effectively command a squadron in an overseas environment.

OVERVIEW:

In this segment we'll discuss the similarities and differences of stateside versus overseas squadron success in accomplishing the mission. In addition, the involvement of the AF Installation Commander, the restrictions and limitations imposed by the Status of Forces Agreement, AFI 10-2701, CAPR 35-4, and special issues and challenges unique to the operation of an overseas unit will be discussed.

TRANSITION:

STATE: Everyone has an inner drive to accomplish a goal, whatever it may be. Arming one's self with knowledge will enhance their ability to achieve that goal. One only needs to be aware of, and willing to face, the challenges involved---particularly if it's to become the commander of a CAP Overseas Cadet Squadron.

Main Points:

MP I. Similarities & differences between overseas and stateside units

A. Similarities:

1. All squadrons are chartered by National Headquarters.
2. All must have a minimum of 15 members.
3. All members must meet eligibility requirements for membership.
4. All senior members must complete Level I training, including CPPT.
5. Cadets over 18 must complete CPPT to progress in program.
6. All members are expected to comply with the applicable regulations governing training, promotions, and awards.
7. All unit commanders are expected to maintain a high standard, set a good example, and to comply with all regulations & higher headquarters directives.
8. All members must complete the *Introduction to New Member Safety* as well as monthly safety briefings.

B. Differences:

1. Stateside charter requests may be made by anyone through their wing to National Headquarters (NHQ); overseas charter requests **MUST** come from the Air Force Installation Commander direct to NHQ/DP.
2. Stateside squadron commanders are appointed by their group/wing commander; overseas squadron commanders are appointed by the AF Installation commander.
3. Stateside squadron commanders may be any active senior member; overseas squadron commanders must be either active duty military or a U.S. government employee.
4. Stateside Squadron commanders report to their group/wing commander and are limited only by regulations and the wing commander's consent; overseas commanders report to NHQ/EX and are restricted by regulations, the limits imposed by the AF installation CC, and the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).
5. Stateside squadrons may be senior, composite, or cadet, and may meet anywhere; overseas squadrons may only be cadet, and must meet on an AF installation.
6. Flights may be chartered stateside, but not overseas, although they may be attached to an overseas squadron and must meet on another U.S. military facility.

MP II. AF Installation Commander role in appointing the CAP Squadron Commander

- A. NHQ/DP and/or the Overseas Team Leader may provide recommendations to the AF Installation commander for CAP Squadron Commander selection.
- B. However, the installation commander is the appointing authority to NHQ/DP as per AFI 10-2701 and CAPR 35-4, thus makes the decision.

MP III. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) limitations

- A. SOFA is a written agreement between the governments of the United States and a foreign country where the U.S. has personnel stationed.
- B. The SOFA regulates who will have jurisdiction for various actions by U.S. personnel and their dependents.
- C. The Agreement also limits what CAP squadrons and personnel can do.
- D. Squadron activities will be conducted within the confines of the military installation, in compliance with the AF installation directives, CAP regulations, and/or SOFA requirements. When in doubt, the installation liaison officer will ensure there are no SOFA conflicts.

MP IV. Special issues/restrictions set forth in directives pertaining to overseas units

- A. AF style uniforms may be restricted to the installation at the option of the installation commander; and if appropriate for any off-base activity, prior written permission will be required from the installation commander or his designated representative to ensure SOFA compliance.
- B. Transmitting radio frequencies will not be authorized.
- C. There will be no emergency services mission, although ES training is allowed within the confines of the applicable Status Of Forces Agreement.
- D. There will be no CAP authorized flying activities except for cadet orientation rides on military aircraft or U.S. military aero club flights.
- E. Military personnel are subject to duty, TDY, Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or retirements which will affect CAP Squadron operations as well. Therefore, it becomes essential to constantly recruit both active duty and civilians as CAP members to provide continuity and absorb these recurring changes in personnel without impacting the unit's effectiveness.

MP V. Special Challenges in producing a viable & successful overseas cadet program.

- A. In addition to the challenges of working within the restrictions and limits stated in MP IV. The Overseas Squadron Commander must also meet the challenges of:
1. Meeting all the duty requirements of stateside squadron commanders.
 2. Acquiring, and maintaining, a meeting place on the Air Force Installation.
 3. Providing adequate training and equipment necessary to perform the mission.
 4. Accessing the right AF unit on the Installation to provide activities for cadets.
 5. Communicating & liaising with the Installation Commander (or Deputy), Base Liaison Officer, Teachers and School Administrators, and NHQ personnel.
 6. Recruiting members in a limited environment.
 7. Utilizing the Overseas Team Leader to help.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS:

Use suggested questions to facilitate the discussion, and field any questions that the students may have.

Lesson Summary:

SUMMARY:

While there are many similarities between the obligations of commanders, whether of stateside or overseas units, there are significant differences to which an overseas commander must adhere. All overseas squadrons must be located on an Air Force Installation, and may only be cadet squadrons. The CAP charter request and the appointment of the squadron commander for an overseas unit are the role of the AF Installation commander, not a CAP wing commander. In addition, flights may not be chartered overseas. Overseas squadron commanders may perform all the actions which any wing CC may, but are further restricted in what they, and the squadron, may do by AFI 10-2701, CAPR 35-4, SOFA, and the AF Installation commander, as well as their duty assignments.

RE-MOTIVATION:

In this lesson we presented some of the unique challenges associated with command overseas, as well as ways to successfully manage these challenges and effectively command a squadron in an overseas environment.

CLOSURE:

Therefore, if a CAP senior member is willing to face all the challenges of becoming and remaining an overseas squadron commander, then go for it. The rewards can be extraordinary, never to be forgotten, and unparalleled as an overseas squadron commander.

Suggested Questions:

1. **What would you consider your greatest challenge/difficulty in becoming an overseas squadron commander? Why?**

Answer: Unique limitations pertaining to overseas units. Answers will vary depending on what the individual has done before, their background in CAP, age, and how long in CAP.

2. **What would you change in CAPR 35-4 if you could? Why?**

Answer: Again answers will vary, depending on prior experiences in CAP, AF, and in civilian life.

3. **How would you go about recruiting members, both senior and cadet?**

Answer: Will be interesting to see what individuals come up with. Ideally they should try to get some civilians as seniors—their availability is usually better than active duty personnel. And for cadets, talk to school administrators and JROTC instructors to allow CAP time at assemblies, etc to talk about CAP.

4. **How would you recruit senior and cadet members?**

Answers: On base through military channels, American Youth Organizations, DoD schools, base newspaper, etc.

Field any other questions that the students may have.