

Introduction to the Commander's Dashboard

Lesson Objective: Know what the commander's dashboard is and how to use the data it generates.

Desired Learning Outcomes (DLO):

1. Know how to interpret the data provided on the Commander's Dashboard.
2. Understand how to use the Commander's Dashboard data to guide the accomplishment of unit goals.
3. Know where to find further training about the Commander's Dashboard.

Scheduled Lesson Time: 15 minutes

Introduction

The Commander's Dashboard is a tool that is available to you in eServices. Like any tool, it has specific uses and cannot be used for everything. This lesson will teach you how to get a "bird's eye view of the health of your command." Once you have this view, you can determine which goals you need to set in order to guide your unit to the success you envision.

1. Know what the Commander's Dashboard data indicates.

The Commander's Dashboard "provides commanders at all levels with a snapshot of the health of their units." The snapshot generated by the data has some limitations. The data is not continuously refreshed. While the Commander's Dashboard data shows "where the unit is on any given date/time," the data is delayed in getting to you. The best time to get the most up to date data is usually around the 20th-25th of any given month. Even then, the data is for last month. For example, if you want to know what your unit "looks like" today, you will have to wait until the 20th-25th of next month.

What this means is that the Commander's Dashboard data is best used for developing plans/goals, and that you will need to review the Commander's Dashboard data periodically to identify any trends that may be developing.

The Commander's Dashboard data areas are:

- Membership
- Safety
- Professional Development Levels
- Cadet Milestone Awards
- Operations Data
- Emergency Services & Pilot Qualification
- AE Training
- Logistics
- Financial Risk

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- IG Program Compliance
- Cadet Leader Training
- Cadet O-Ride Data
- Commander Appointment Data

2. Understand how to use the Commander's Dashboard data to help guide their unit goals.

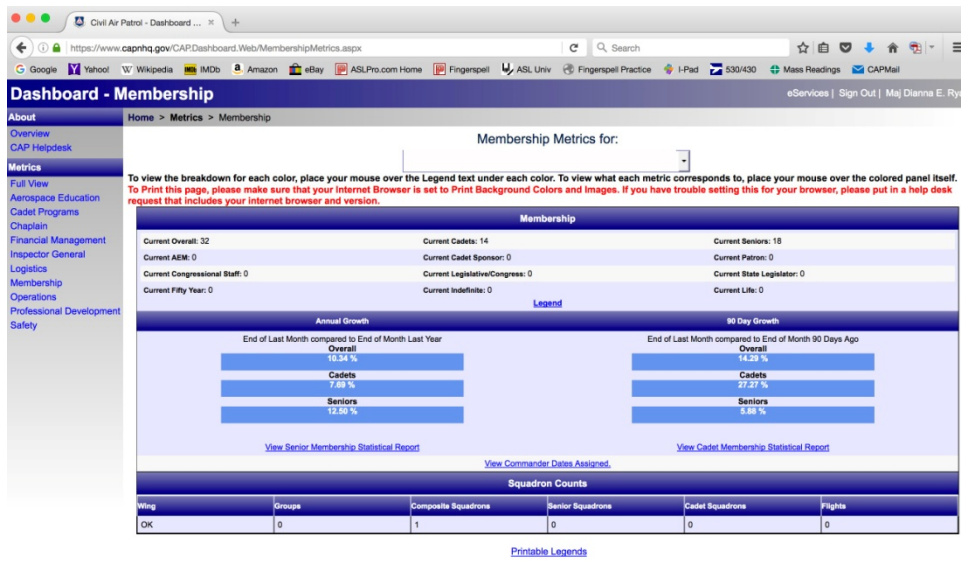
Go to the Commander's Dashboard:

The screenshot shows the Civil Air Patrol eServices Commander's Dashboard. The interface includes a navigation menu on the left with categories like Administration, Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Safety. The main content area is divided into three columns: Approvals/Validations, News, and Favorite Apps. The Approvals/Validations section displays (3) Award Recommendation Approvals and (0) Transfers In & 1 Transfers Out. The Statistics section shows 14 Cadets in your Unit, 18 Seniors in your Unit, 32 All members in your Unit, 328 Cadets in your Wing, and 461 Seniors in your Wing. The News section contains several articles from September 2016, including 'National Headquarters telephone system', 'CAP honored with Air Force Organizational Excellence', and 'AFA's AE Cadet of Year'. The Favorite Apps section lists various tools like CAP On-line Courses & Exams, CAP Pubs, Forms and Regulations, and the Commander's Dashboard. The footer contains links for Civil Air Patrol Sites, Downloads, and Contact Us.

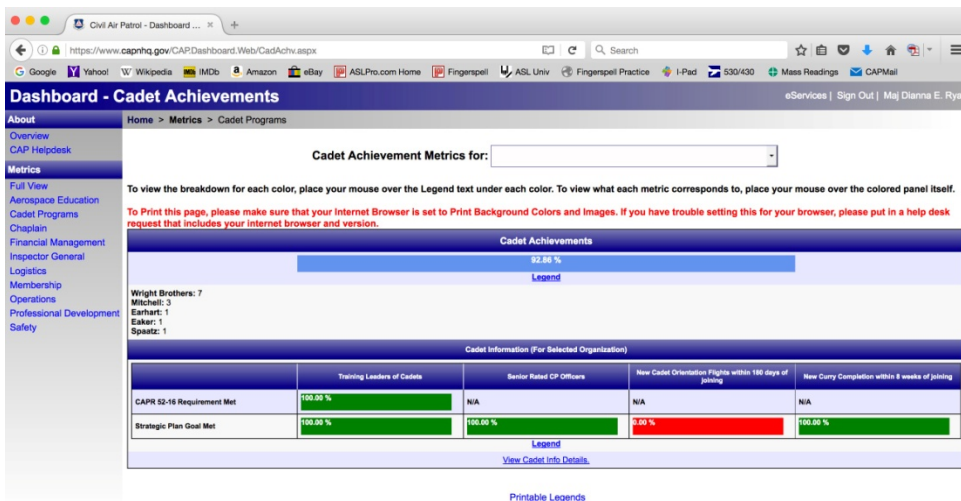
Choose the area you want to look at for yourself (membership in this case).

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If you see areas that aren't green or blue, you have to ask yourself if this is where you want to be/where you need to be. If it is, then you have made a command decision. If you want to improve on those areas, you first want to look at the trend. Since you saved the information from the past 3 months, you can decide if you have made the progress you want, and are heading in the right direction. This (albeit limited) trend analysis will help you decide if the program you instituted 3 months ago is still working, if you need to tweak it a little, or if you need to revamp it completely. If you are just getting started, this snapshot of your unit may give you some ideas of how you can improve on some areas where you may not be as strong. Let's take a look at one area (Cadet Programs) as an example:



Is this unit failing to get cadet O-rides, failing to get the O-rides reported, or does this unit have several older cadets who simply did not get O-rides before you became the commander? If the first reason is true, you need to get in touch with pilots and get your cadets some rides. If the second reason is true, you need to work with your pilots on getting the O-rides documented properly. If the third reason is true and three of your cadets have aged out of the O-ride option;

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all three of them have their Mitchell, and one has the Eaker and Spaatz; two have soloed powered aircraft, and one soloed a glider... then your predecessor may have met the needs of the cadets beautifully. However, you may have been "hamstrung" and ineligible for the Quality Cadet Unit Award this year. This means you need to recruit new cadets and get them O-rides. The fact that you only have 14 cadets means you are doing wonderfully for them and the opportunity exists for you to change percentages very quickly simply due to the low starting numbers. You definitely want to continue the good work of your predecessor, but you may be able to tweak your program a little bit to make it even better. The first place to start is with the 2 new cadets you have and get them O-rides once they earn their first promotion! They will tell their friends and you will have more opportunities to continue doing the good work you are already doing.

3. Know where to go if further training about the Commander's Dashboard is desired.

There are more resources on using the Commander's Dashboard available in CAP University. You can generate spreadsheets, have a PowerPoint presentation to show your staff what you are seeing so they can have a visual aid instead of what you are showing them. Start with <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com>, hover your cursor over the Members tab, choose CAP University, then choose Commander and Staff Resources.

Lesson Summary and Closure

In this lesson you learned how to use the Commander's Dashboard to help give you a "bird's eye view" of your unit. This view, used with a trend analysis will help you adjust your goals, stay on the path, or change your steps to meet the goals you have set for your unit.