



CIVIL AIR PATROL United States Air Force Auxiliary

CADET ENCAMPMENT PROGRAM

A3 Military Airpower

Briefing for the Guest Speaker

Date & Time of Talk:

Location:

Arrival Time:

Point of Contact:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Thank you for volunteering to support Civil Air Patrol cadets. You're going to have fun interacting with the cadets because this group is bright, enthusiastic, and possesses a serious of purpose that you won't find among an ordinary group of young people.

Overall Goal: America's first great champion for airpower, Billy Mitchell, wanted to develop an "airminded" citizenry. At the end of this session, cadets will possess an understanding of airpower's unique capabilities, in contrast to the limitations of surface forces. Second, cadets will come to appreciate airpower as an inherently strategic and offensive weapon. Together, those two goals will lead cadets to an understanding of why we have an independent air force.

Objectives. To achieve the overall goals, this suggested lesson plan pursues nine objectives. Cadets will:

- 1.) Give Billy Mitchell's definition of "airpower." (The ability to 'do something' in the air.)
- 2.) Recognize that military airpower's potential is rooted in the WWI pilot's sympathy for victims of trench warfare.
- 3.) Identify and discuss characteristics that are unique to airpower (perspective, range, speed, maneuverability, mobility, responsiveness, flexibility, and versatility).
- 4.) Describe the role Billy Mitchell played as a champion for US military airpower.
- 5.) Describe why the Doolittle Raid represented a step forward for military airpower.
- 6.) Discuss why the Berlin Airlift showed airpower to be a peaceful, humanitarian technology.
- 7.) Defend the view that in the Gulf War, technology of precision bombing caught up to the doctrine of airpower as a strategic force (ie: a single F-117 sortie replaced squadrons of B-17s)
- 8.) Defend the view that the special characteristics of airpower give airmen a unique perspective, and therefore the Air Force is a separate, independent service.
- 9.) Identify some basic moral issues surrounding the pros and cons of UAVs/drones (time permitting)

Suggested Duration: 60 min

Audience. Teenaged cadets enrolled in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, a youth activity imparting leadership skills in an aerospace-themed environment. Their #1 area of interest for cadets is aviation or aerospace. Their #2 area of interest is military service and leadership in general. Your CAP point of contact will tell you how many cadets are in attendance.

Background. Cadets arrive at their annual encampment with an enthusiasm for military aviation, but nearly no understanding of the doctrine that articulates why airpower's capabilities are unique in comparison with surface forces. Through this session on the very basic points of aerospace doctrine, cadets will grow from aerospace enthusiasts to informed advocates of airpower.

Suggested Instructor. If the encampment is fortunate enough to have access to an Air Force flying unit, the ideal instructor would be a pilot (possibly assisted by other aircrew) who presents airpower basics through the lens of the unit's particular aircraft and mission. A retired pilot could also accomplish the same goal, drawing from his or her career experiences.

Suggested Format. Cadets relate best to specific examples, not abstract concepts. Speak anecdotally. Use your life experiences to convey a personal perspective about airpower. Have some questions prepared to direct to the audience and/or allow time for the cadets to pose questions to you. A back-and-forth discussion is better than a lecture.

Doctrinal Sources. This lesson is centered on airpower's unique characteristics and capabilities. Those concepts are no longer touted in the doctrine, but are used here because they offer an easy way for teens to relate to airpower basics. Experts will notice that we cut some corners (ie: flexibility and versatility are merged) to keep the subject simple.

Audio Visual Support. Your CAP point of contact will tell you what A/V support is available.

Visual Aids & Script-Like Notes. A set of slides is available simply as visual aids, not lecture notes where the speaker "talks to the slides." Instructors are welcome to use their own visuals in lieu of those provided. In the slides' notes view, a script-like series of questions and answers are offered. The purpose of those is merely to point the speaker in the right direction. You - the experienced airman - are the "star of the show," not the slides and not the script-like notes.

Content Outline

1. Opener
 - a. Only airpower can supply scientists at the South Pole.
 - b. "Airpower" is simply "the ability to do something in the air." (Billy Mitchell)
2. Airpower's humanitarian roots
 - a. WWI trench warfare was unbearably bloody for both sides
 - b. Aviators realized that military airpower could save lives
3. Airpower's unique characteristics
 - a. Perspective
 - b. Range
 - c. Speed & Responsiveness
 - d. Maneuverability
 - e. Mobility
 - f. Flexibility & Versatility
4. Examples of airpower in action
 - a. Billy Mitchell
 - b. Doolittle Raiders
 - c. Berlin Airlift
 - d. Gulf War I
5. Contemporary debate: ethics of drones
 - a. Drones make war too easy and therefore more likely
 - b. UAVs are a step forward for peace, if used properly, as with any technology
6. Conclusion
 - a. Airpower has unique capabilities
 - b. Airpower is best used as a strategic, offensive force
 - b. Airpower sees itself as a humane, positive technology
 - c. Airpower is understood best by airmen, hence the need for an independent air force