

Cadet Program Update

What you really want to know!

For some time now, we have talked to you through these pages about updating the Cadet Program. We have kept you "connected" as we have worked with officers, leagues, cadets and parents across the country to update our training.

Because we are already doing a lot of things right, we have also assured you that we are not throwing out the baby with the bath water. We are simply reorganizing some activities and adding others.

We know that whether you are a major in Corner Brook, N. L., a civilian instructor in Kamloops, B. C., or any instructor in between, what really interests you is, "How is the Cadet Program Update going to affect me and my cadets?"

The biggest change is how training will be delivered. With the update, you will deliver training in a way that suits young people and how they learn best. Instruction will be more active and interactive, with less focus on lectures.

LCdr Chris Eggink, 65 Sea Cadet Corps, assists AC Katherine Waterman during a seamanship weekend. Young people learn best from active and interactive instruction.

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Be assured, however, that we are not going to leave you hanging. We will give you updated training documents and tools to guide you through the transition. In the meantime, here are answers to some questions you may have.

WHY THE UPDATE?

Extensive research, as well as discussions and feedback from all over Canada, quickly brought into focus a long list of training issues. Many of these issues were common to sea, army and air cadet training. Modernizing cadet training seemed to be the best way to resolve them.

CADET PROGRAM UPDATE GOALS?

- A Cadet Program that is dynamic, relevant and focussed on the youth we serve.
- Compatibility and excellence in the common training elements (such as leadership and physical fitness).
- Better business practices, so that cadets get the best possible youth program available.

HOW FAR HAVE WE PROGRESSED?

The first phase is complete. In it, we outlined what we wanted the program to look like and defined our aim, mission and vision statements, as well as the 'outcomes' cadets can achieve through the Cadet Program. The article on the next page clearly

explains our aim; the Fall issue will discuss the rest.

The second phase is closing. During this phase, we took a 'big picture' look at the Cadet Program and all of its training components. More information on this will be available at a later date.

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The third phase is ongoing and will continue over the next few years. This phase—the one that affects everyone the most—is all about developing and rolling out updated training. Elemental programs, and the training documents to support them, will be rolled out sequentially by program year. You will receive the training documents this winter for the updated first-year corps/squadron training to be rolled out in September of 2007. Updated first-year cadet summer training centre courses will follow in the summer of 2008.

This is an exciting time for the Cadet Program and we promise to keep you informed—through *Cadence* and other means—as our updated program unfolds. Stay tuned! *

Capt Griffin is the educational development staff officer at Directorate Cadets.