



^ Some of these air cadets may choose to work in the aviation and aerospace industry one day. Air Cadet League partnerships with the industry will help cadets base their career decisions on solid information.

League-industry partnerships: Benefits for air cadets

Partnerships between the Air Cadet League and Canada's aviation/aerospace industry are 'taking off', and Grant Fabes, national vice-president of the League, encourages CIC officers and civilian instructors to take advantage of the benefits of these partnerships.

According to Mr. Fabes, squadrons are more aware of the many scholarships and bursaries these partnerships bring, but are less aware of the other 'perks'.

One such benefit is an exciting interactive multi-media learning tool (IMLT) created by the Canadian Aviation Maintenance Council (CAMC). "The graphics are beyond belief and make learning a lot of fun," says Mr. Fabes.

Currently, some squadrons may be using the learning tool as part of optional training. Beginning in September, the IMLT will be incorporated into complementary programming for air cadets taking proficiency level-two training. "The league has been very proactive in seeking industry relationships that are beneficial to the Cadet Program," says Capt Andrea Onchulenko, the staff officer responsible for air cadet program

development at Directorate of Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers.

A 30-minute complementary lesson in the updated air cadet program will introduce year-two cadets to the CAMC, its aviation maintenance orientation program (AMOP) and the IMLT—one of its main teaching tools. The IMLT modules include the theory of flight; power plants (which examines the evolution, design and classification of various types of engines); and aircraft structures. Every squadron has log-in information and a password to use the IMLT and make the lesson interactive. If they wish, cadets can use their own

personal computers to complete the modules and ask questions related to the industry.

CAMC had already made these modules available to 20 Canadian high schools that offer the AMOP as part of their curriculum, says Mr. Fabes. Now, every air cadet can benefit too!

CAREERS IN AVIATION AND AEROSPACE

One of the aims of the Air Cadet League is to stimulate the interest of cadets in the aviation and aerospace industry, including the air element of the CF.

**"The [interactive multi-media learning tool] graphics are beyond belief and make learning a lot of fun."
...Grant Fabes, vice-president of the Air Cadet League**



^ These photos, provided by the Canadian Aviation Maintenance Council, show only two of many jobs available within Canada's aviation and aerospace industry.

In October of 2005, the League decided to create a League/Aviation and Aerospace Industry Steering Committee (LISC) to increase the league's involvement with the industry and among other things, expose cadets to its resources and careers. "We saw it as keeping the air in Air Cadets," says Mr. Fabes, committee chair. To ensure that the direction it takes is compatible with updated air cadet training, Capt Onchulenko was invited to sit on the committee.

"At one time, many would have been hard pressed to tell cadets about the careers available in the industry—beyond pilot or stewardess, but when I went through the CAMC brochure of careers, I was astounded," says Mr. Fabes. "There were so many careers just on the maintenance side of the industry." He says that as things developed, it became clearer and clearer that the league should be offering cadets whatever resources industry can provide to supplement what the Cadet Program is doing. It also became clear that the league had to do its best to pass on as much information about the industry as possible so that if/when cadets make a decision about pursuing a career in the industry, they have solid information on which to base it.

WIN-WIN-WIN

Cadets have access to standard items such as brochures and booklets, but they can also participate in annual conferences, meetings, trade shows and seminars within the industry.

"The league-industry partnerships are win-win-win," says Capt Onchulenko. "The League is able to actively assist squadrons to implement optional training; the industry is able to attract a captive audience of youth to its vari-

ous educational institutions and employers; and the Cadet Program (most recently through the Cadet Program Update project) has been able to update air cadet training with a wider array of aviation and aerospace activities."

Mr. Fabes attributes the unexpected momentum of the partnerships partly to the fact that there are so many former cadets in the aviation/aerospace industry, making it so much easier to arrive at agreements. "We don't have to spend time convincing them of the worth of the air cadet program."

MORE INITIATIVES AHEAD

Mr. Fabes expects air cadets to benefit even more as partnerships increase at both the national and provincial levels.

He cites some possible examples:

- An Air Transport Association of Canada *Airport Safety Checklist* will be reviewed to see if it fits anywhere into air cadet training. "If the material fits with one of the Cadet Program's aims/objectives and with elements of the program update, why would we not use material already available?" asks Mr. Fabes. In March, the league forwarded this checklist, in quantity, to all squadrons. It is also available for download from the League website at www.aircadetleague.com.
- A list of aviation/aerospace industries that have agreed to allow cadets to visit their facilities can be distributed to commanding officers. Cadets are encouraged to visit a local aerospace and aviation industry in the updated air cadet program.
- Under a new partnership with Aveos—the largest organization in North America to do complete over-

Some 2008 initiatives

- Two squadrons in the Quebec/Ottawa Valley Provincial Committee area are located in aviation and aerospace schools—Collège Édouard Montpetit-École nationale d'aérotechnique (ENA) and École des métiers de l'aérospatiale de Montréal.
- 100 cadets from the greater Montreal area toured CAE Inc. facilities, while 200 others attended an open house at ENA.
- Discussions are under way with the Saskatchewan Aviation Council concerning possible summer employment for up to 50 senior cadets in Saskatchewan.
- Approximately 30 cadets from squadrons in British Columbia toured the British Columbia Institute of Technology ('home' to 692 Air Cadet Squadron in Richmond, B.C.) and two aerospace industries (Avcor and Heli One) last October.

haul and repair of airplanes—squadrons can get access to out-of-service airplane parts. A squadron with a larger training facility would be able to work on a real engine, making training more hands on and fun.

PROVINCIAL INITIATIVES

Two examples of provincial initiatives are a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Alberta

Provincial Committee and Aviation Alberta, resulting in a cheque for \$15 000 in support of cadet activities; and an MOU between the Prince Edward Island provincial committee and the PEI Aerospace Human Resource Sector Council that will provide \$25 000 over the next five years in support of the PEI air cadet glider program.

Both of these initiatives are good examples of moving beyond major centres to benefit cadets.

A lot of “back and forth” has occurred since the steering committee was formed in 2005, says Mr. Fabes. “There is so much interaction now. We are especially looking at what can be done to support cadets closer to home.” ✳

League/industry partnerships

To date, the Air Cadet League has signed 10 memoranda of understanding or letters of agreement with the aviation/aerospace industry. Below are just some of the benefits or potential benefits to cadets from each:

Air Canada Pilots Association (ACPA)

- Five annual \$1000 continuation flying awards.

Airline Pilots Association (ALPA)

- An annual power pilot scholarship of approximately \$9000.

Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC)

- Access for selected air cadets to the annual general meeting, convention and tradeshow, as well as to the annual Ottawa spring reception.
- Ground school discounts and access to meeting space and parade grounds.

Aveos (formerly Air Canada Technical Services)

- An annual scholarship of \$500 to the most improved cadet attending the Advanced Aviation Technology Course—Aircraft Maintenance at Canadore College in North Bay, Ont.
- Access to Aveos Maintenance Centres in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

CAE Inc. (formerly known as Canadian Aviation Electronics)

- Sponsorship of various flying programs (run and co-ordinated by the Air Cadet League; in particular, sponsorship of an annual power pilot scholarship.)
- Access to CAE Training Centres to educate and enhance awareness of aviation career opportunities for cadets; in particular, simulator time for selected cadets at these centres as available.

Canadian Aerospace Associations Human Resources Alliance (CAAHRA)

- Industry expertise and resources to assure that Air Cadet League/Department of National Defence programs are sustained and will be relevant to and valued by industry.

Canadian Aviation Maintenance Council (CAMC)

- An annual \$500 scholarship to the top cadet attending the new Advanced Aviation Technology Course—Aircraft Maintenance.
- Access for selected air cadets to the CAMC annual general meeting and youth forum.
- Access to the CAMC website (www.camc.ca) Youth Space, Air Cadet League sub-section, which provides CAMC posters at no charge, a photo gallery and video clips of aircraft and aircraft parts. Access to the IMLT (see article on page 31).

Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAA)

- Any applicable lesson plans or training aids that may develop awareness of industry vocations.
- Opportunities for cadets to attend the annual convention, trade show and static display and all CBAA-sponsored workshops and seminars throughout the year. (www.cbaa.ca)

WestJet

- A WestJet flight for one cadet and one parent or escort per league provincial committee to the League’s national effective speaking competition.

WestJet Pilots Association (WJPA)

- An annual continuation flying training award of \$1500 to a cadet.