



Cadet Honor

"HONOR is that natural and inherent standard of distinction of proper conduct in dealing with one's fellow-man, and is that quality which is so essential to him who is, or intends to be, a leader of men in the profession of arms."

A civilian or soldier who becomes an aviation cadet might well have to adjust his views on honor when he reads, learns and then lives up to the aviation cadet honor code. To fulfill his obligation under the honor system, an aviation cadet is not content merely to "get by"; he is not satisfied until he has put forth the best that is in him.

The aviation cadet honor code does not tolerate cheating in any form, false official statements, quibbling, and acquiescence to a breach of honor. This honor system based on the code used at the United States Military Academy uses the following excerpt from the West Point Cadet Prayer: "And make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, never to be content with the half truth when the whole truth can be won. Endow us with that courage that is born of loyalty to all that is worthy and noble, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows

no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy." A cadet's word whether written or spoken is his bond.

When the honor code is broken the cadets themselves decide the punishment of the offender at a group board. This board is administered by the cadets, each class having its own elected honor committee, supervised by a tactical officer. All offenders are dealt with instantly and summarily as must be the case, for there is no second chance given where any intentional violation of honor is concerned. Penalties awarded by a group board are demerits, punishment tours or both depending upon the nature of the offense and the attitude of the offender.

The honor code of the aviation cadet should not be discarded after his training is completed. On the contrary this code should be followed to a stricter degree for the men of his command will look to him as their example. An extract from the pamphlet on Official Courtesy and Customs of the Service states, "Set a high standard as a gentleman and a soldier and your men will recognize in you a leader whom they will gladly follow".

—A/C Charles W. Benzinger.