

# CALL THE BALL

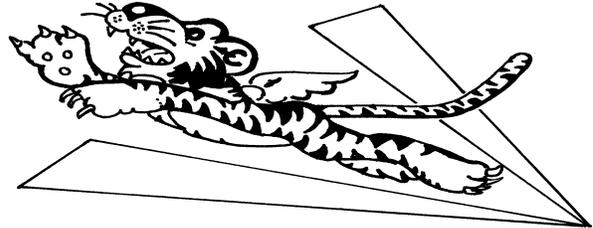
<http://www.mnwg.cap.gov/farmington>

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## Goals

- \* leading civilian volunteers in a our quasi-military organization.
- \* motivating volunteers and maintaining enthusiasm
- \* goal setting; its importance and how it should be accomplished
- \* making the most of limited resources
- \* building good programs at the squadron level
- \* personal characteristics of a good officer
- \* establishing standards for all we do
- \* coping with burn-out
- \* roles and responsibilities



## 130th Farmington Composite Squadron

To be professionals, whom should we dedicate ourselves to in CAP? What belongs first in our minds, and what belongs second? Cadet Program leaders ought to be mentors dedicated to their cadets. SAR teams must always remember during their life saving work that the victim is most important. Cadets should be dedicated to improving their own character and helping their peers do the same. If we want to use the word professionalism, we need to recognize it requires loyalty to these people more than the secondary and abstract concepts such as "CAP," "the regulations," and even "the chain of command." While those concepts are vital because they provide a framework for us to



**From The CAP Officer** <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~janl/journal/departments/preflight.html> by Maj Curt LaFond, CAP Our Professional Ethos -In CAP, we often speak about developing a professional ethos. Commanders tell their subordinates to look and act professional. As members of the Air Force Auxiliary, we are instructed to adhere to regulations, follow the chain of command, and render military customs and courtesies -all in the name of "professionalism." Lately, I've wondered if those symbols of a professional ethos distract us from what they are supposed to represent: the profession itself.

If we are professionals, then what is our profession? I think a profession is determined by whom the profession aims to serve. Teachers are professionals dedicated to their students. Lawyers are dedicated to their clients. Physicians are dedicated to their patients. Abstractions like education, the law, and medicine occupy high standing in the minds of these professionals but it's the people they serve who matter more than the concept of the profession. You want a physician who is worried about curing you, not a doctor who practices medicine.



organize our efforts to serve, they are only tools to achieve service, not ends in themselves.

If you or I miss this distinction - if we are distracted by the bureaucracy, awards, or a "CAP career" - we will cease to be professionals because professionalism is always about putting people first. Here are some examples misguided professionalism: A friend mentioned that another member wanted to be selected for a command position only because it included a promotion in grade. A senior member claimed undue credit for recruiting new members in order win a contest. Recalling the change to maroon epaulets for seniors, a CAP historian noted that a number of members decided to quit, rather than lose the right to wear the Air Force blue epaulets.

Our professional ethos should begin with the people we serve. The measure of our success should be our commitment to these individuals. Recognizing this as our first principle, and placing in an appropriate context the symbols and heritage that accompany our status as the Air Force Auxiliary, we embrace a proper ethos of professionalism.