

The Chain of Command – A Guide for Parents of 778 Banshee Squadron

Introduction

The primary means of disseminating information in the Cadet system is through the Chain of Command. An identical structure is used in virtually all military organizations, many corporations and other organizations worldwide.

Purpose

The purpose of the Chain of Command is to distribute information to and from all levels of the organization in a timely fashion. In order for it to be successful, all personnel must adhere to the guidelines of communication set out within the Chain of Command.

Reasoning

The Squadron, like the military and corporations, is a large entity composed of many different people and subcomponents, which must work together in order to operate effectively. Everyone, from the Officers and Staff, to the Warrant Officers, Flight Staff, right down the new cadets has their own unique role and responsibilities and cannot communicate with all levels, nor should they have to.

Operation

An order, from any level will be passed on to direct subordinate levels as required. Any questions or concerns will be addressed in the opposite fashion, to the direct superior. For example, if a meeting time has to be changed from the Commanding Officer (CO), he/she will contact the Squadron Warrant Officer (SWO). The SWO will then pass this order on to the respective Flight Commanders (F Comd) and Flight Sergeants/Second-in-Command (2IC). Depending on circumstances, the cadets and junior ranks (e.g. AC, LAC, Cpl, F Cpl) may be addressed by the Flight Staff (F Comd or 2IC) or by another Section Commander if required. If a question about the event, or if the cadet cannot attend for whatever reason, this message should be passed on to the cadet's flight staff.

Role of the Parents

The parent's role in the Chain of Command is very similar to that of the cadet. The cadet system strives to create individual with a high sense of responsibility and of personal organization. They are responsible for reporting to their superiors, with you being a component of that. They must communicate effectively with you, and you with them regarding all events to avoid issues of miscommunication and breaches of the Chain of Command.

Like at your work, you would not address a payroll issue to the President of the company, an issue of when to show up for an event should not be addressed to the Commanding Officer. This person is not responsible for this type information; they exist to administrate the staff, and to oversee all aspects of the Squadron.

Parents would not call the school principal to excuse their child from school – that is reported to administrative staff at the school. In the same way, cadets must be in contact with their flight staff to let them know of an expected absence.

Officers and staff will not be answering questions about fundamental information from cadets or parents. These types of questions should be addressed by the cadet to their immediate superior Flight Staff. Ensure that your cadet has the contact information of the NCO in their flight responsible for them.

Exceptions

In very specialized cases, an Officer or Warrant Officer may contact a cadet directly, at their own discretion. The cadet should then communicate with that member as instructed. In the rare case of an issue of harassment or abuse, the Chain of Command can be broken, and any member may be contacted, as the individual feels comfortable. This procedure is outlined in the cadet's CHAP training.

The Commanding Officer is always available to the parents should any concerns need to be addressed or corrected.