



National Défense
Defence nationale



Royal Canadian Air Cadet REGIONAL GLIDING SCHOOL (pacific) 19 Wing CFB Comox

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS IS A NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVILIAN AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA

BACKGROUND

DOCUMENTATION

The 2003 Air Cadet flying program has begun at 19 Wing Canadian Forces Base Comox. Cadets enrolled in the Power Flying Scholarship program took to the air on Canada Day, July 1 while the Gliding School and the Introduction to Aviation Course begin ground school studies on July 7. The gliding students started flying on July 9. The most of the cadets come from all over BC and some are from Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

Power Flying Scholarship

Thirty-four cadets selected for the power program are being trained on Cessna 152 and/or 172 single engine aircraft at either the Courtenay Flight Centre at the Courtenay Airpark or Parallel Aviation at the Campbell River Airport. The two flight schools conduct all flying and ground school lessons for their respective cadet groups. The successful students will receive their coveted cadet pilot wings and Transport Canada private flying licenses on graduation day, August 14. Minimum age for this course is 17.

Gliding Course

Forty-six cadets selected for the Regional Gliding Course are being trained on the Schweizer 2-33A glider at the 19 Wing Canadian Forces Base Comox. Their instructors are Canadian Forces Reserve officers in the Cadet Instructor Cadre branch of the CF who provide training both in the air and on the ground. Successful trainees will receive their cadet glider pilot wings and Transport Canada glider pilot licenses at the end of the six- week course, August 14. Minimum age for the gliding course is 16.

Introduction To Aviation Course

Eighty cadets are enrolled in the Introduction to Aviation Course (ITAC) in two three-week intakes. The first intake of 40 begins classes July 8 graduating July 24 and the second intake begins July 28 and will graduate with the power and gliding courses, August 14. The ITAC students are offered basic courses in principles of flight, meteorology, aero-engines, air navigation, rocketry, model building and radio procedures. Minimum age for this course is 14.

Part of the Comox Valley Community

The Air Cadet summer flying program moved to the Comox Valley seven years ago. The air cadets and most of the summer staff are provided with accommodations and rations at 19 Wing Comox. The Regional Cadet Air Operations Officer, Lt.-Col. T.R. (Tom) Byrne is the Regional Gliding School (Pacific) Commanding Officer. He leads a staff of 70 officers, non-commissioned members, civilian instructors and staff cadets each summer.

The Pacific Region Cadet Air Operations flies and maintains a fleet of 11 Schweizer 2-33-A gliders and five Cessna L-19 "Birdog" single engine tow aircraft. Nation wide the Provincial Committees of the Air Cadet League of Canada own all the aircraft used to train air cadets in six regions across Canada. The national cadet aircraft fleet and related equipment such as trailers and winches is valued at more than 3-million dollars.

The Royal Canadian Air Cadet Power flying scholarship program began in 1946. Since then more than 17-thousand cadets have earned their private pilot licenses. Gliding courses began in 1965. To date well over one million cadet glider flights have been flown nation-wide.

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