

Orientation “O” Flights

Article by Capt Semen.

O Flights are FUN!!!

O Flights are also an interesting activity for other reasons. They are an integral part of the Aerospace Curriculum that CAP offers and bring to life the “lessons” learned in the Aerospace classes. This is because O Flights are not just sight-seeing flights; they follow a specific syllabus that is contained in CAPP52-7 “Cadet Orientation Flight Syllabus”. Specific goals are set for each of the five flights, whether they are powered or non-powered flights. Consider the topics of the last 5 chapters (the powered flight chapters):

- 6) “Ground handling, preflight inspection, takeoff and landing”
- 7) “Normal Flight Maneuvers”
- 8) “Advanced powered flight maneuvers”
- 9) “Use of instruments in flight”

10) “Weather flight”.

It is very evident that O Flights are a serious program with a definite purpose.

Even so, O Flights are FUN!!! It is vastly different to fly in a single engine Cessna at 2,500 feet as opposed to a commercial airliner at 35,000 feet. You can see much more of the land that you cover and get a real feeling of flying. It is exciting. It is exhilarating. It is FUN!!!

However, some cadets never fly, even in squadrons that have regular O Flights. And, that is a puzzle. Possibly, they have a preconceived notion that it is scary. But, not having tried it, it is hard to justify the decision to not fly at least once to see what it is like.

So, go fly, it’s FUN!!!