

CHAPTER 4

ORIENTATION FLIGHTS

A. GENERAL

"Orientation flights" are defined as "continuous flights in DoD-owned aircraft performed within the local flying area and terminating at the point of origin". Flights under sections A, B, and C below, should further the understanding of particular programs concerning the roles and missions of the Department of Defense. Although requests for orientation flights are often referred through public affairs offices, orientation flights differ from the categories of public affairs travel described in Chapter 3, above. The approval authority for orientation flights for personnel referenced in Section C, below, is at the discretion of the Military Departments, but may be no lower than the installation commander. Passengers on orientation flights must be in appropriate organizational uniform, where applicable, and present appropriate identification. If under 18 years of age, parental approval in writing is required. No authority exists for approval of an orientation flight during which a record attempt is made, a first flight is made on an aircraft just accepted into the inventory, a first flight over an isolated geographical area, or any other flight of a similar or special nature, where abnormal conditions may exist,

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

The following have responsibility to monitor and control the activities of their respective units under Section C, below.

1. The Commandant, ROTC.
2. The National Commander, CAP.
3. The Commander, United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps USNSCC.
4. The Offices of Information.
 - a. The Chief of Public Affairs, Office of the Secretary of the Army.
 - b. The Office of Public Affairs, Secretary of the Air Force.
 - c. The Office of Information, Department of the Navy.
 - d. The Office of Public Affairs, Commandant of Marine Corps.

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5. The Commanders of Army areas, Naval type commanders, or Air Force major commands.
 6. The Chief, National Guard Bureau
 7. **The** Installation commanders.

C. CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBLE PASSENGERS

1. Members of the Military Departments and DoD civilian employees

2. The ROTC program

- a. The Army, the Navy and/or the Marine Corps, and the Air Force ROTC **cadets and** designated applicants to the ROTC Program.
- b. Civilian officials of educational institutions offering ROTC with formal ROTC training.
- c. Junior ROTC students who are members of an organized Junior ROTC activity.
- d Key civilian officials directly involved in the Junior ROTC Program.

3. CAP Cadets

- a. CAP cadets, in connection with approved CAP activities, when authorized by the National Commander, CAP.
- b. The Air **Force** and/or the Navy Aerospace Education Workshop participants in **CAP-**approved and sponsored workshops.

4. USNSCC Cadets in Connection with USNSCC Activities Approved by the Chief Personnel

5. EXplorer Scouting Program Senior Explorers and accompanying adult leaders when, as follows:

- a. Participating in **DoD-approved** activities (only in suitable passenger carrying **aircraft**).
- b. Explorers shall **present**, through their local executive, a completed "**Parent/Guardian Consent Form for BSA Aviation Flights.**"

6. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Employees when, as follows:

- a. Engaged in flight-checking local military air traffic control **procedures** and facilities,

navigation aids, communications, and approach and departure procedures.

b. Examining rated aircrew **personnel** of the Military Departments for civil **pilot**, navigator, or engineer **certificates** or ratings.

c. Participating in approved military familiarization flights under existing arrangements between the Military Department concerned and the FAA, if seating position permits **direct** monitoring of **aircrew** duties. (Paragraphs **C.6.b** and C.6.C above may involve other than local flights.)

7. **U.S. Ambassadors or Their Senior Deputies**. U.S. ambassadors or their senior deputies, within overseas theaters, when invited to take an orientation flight by the overseas **unified** or Component commander and when the commander determines that the orientation flight is primarily in support of the DoD mission. The theater unified or Component commander is approval authority for these flights.

8. **Other Categories of Passengers**

a. Federal Government officials, foreign officials, and members of Congress and their **staffs maybe** provided orientation flights under Section A, above. Requests for point-to-point travel for such groups or individuals must be approved under provisions in Chapter 10, below.

b. Spouses of Uniformed Services members of the Military Departments. The Secretary of the Service concerned approves spouse orientation flight programs. Approved programs will be limited to retention and recruitment of critical skills and will not be expanded to an all skills, Service-wide program. Spouse orientation flight programs must be accommodated within the Services' approved flying hour programs.

c. Youth in Congressionally **sanctioned, DoD-approved** Youth Programs. Program participants may take part in no more than one orientation **flight**. Parental **and/or guardian permission is required and the flight must be approved** by the responsible **office** of information listed in subsection **B.4.**, above.