

What is the Purpose of the Correspondence Training Program?

At first thought, the answer would seem to be "To train our members", but it's not that simple. There are many reasons for this training program and "training our members" is just about at the bottom of the list.

1. This training program will help you to know the organization. A new member has very little real knowledge of the Minutemen -- what we do and what we stand for. For all you really know the organization might be a "communist front" set up to collect names of their potential enemies. If such happens to be the case then you should find out as soon as possible. The best way to be certain is for you to take the same training course all of our other members do and judge for yourself whether any "communist front" would dare to give such training to thousands of people who may someday be fighting them.

2. It helps the organization know you. Thousands of new members join our ranks every year. Many are just talkers. Some are workers. The first important thing the organization must do is to separate the "workers" from the "talkers".

The news media are trying hard to picture us as fanatics. It is very important that we keep such "nuts" from infiltrating into the active center of our organization. We have found that such persons find it practically impossible to finish this training program and that is exactly how we weed them out.

To be an effective member of an underground resistance movement requires patience and persistence -- the ability to do those jobs that are monotonous as well as those that are exciting. When you finish the training program, we will know you are a person we can depend on to get things done.

3. It helps you to know your fellow members. Even if you already know everything in this training program, it's equally important for you to be aware of what they know and don't know. For example, it would be rather foolish for one member to send a coded message to another member without first knowing whether or not the second member would be able to read it. It would be equally foolish for one member of a band to use some military command unless he knew for certain that the training of other band members included the meaning and use of such terms.

For a group of people to work together as an organization it is essential that they know each others capabilities. The only way you can ever really know the capabilities of your fellow members is to take the same training they do. Our own experience proves that this is true. Teams that include only trained members nearly always stick together and function well. Teams made up of new recruits usually fall apart in a few weeks time.

We know that you are anxious to take an active part in the organization. There is plenty of action going on. Everyday in nearly every part of the country interesting projects and assignments are passed on to our members. Who get such assignments? Those whom we know we can depend on to finish the job -- members who have proven this by finishing their correspondence training program.

When many of our new members look over Phase #1 of this training program, they think it's going to be a waste of time. After they finish Phase #5, nearly all our members agree that it was very valuable to them.

We hope you will get started on your training program at once and will finish it as soon as possible.