

THE PHYSICAL TRAINING PROGRAM OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES
WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE PROGRAMS

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Part I

Physical Training in the Army Air Forces

My remarks this afternoon will pertain generally to the physical training program of the combat units of the Army Air Forces, and specifically to the physical training program of the 4th Air Force.

The Army Organization

First, I believe it would be in order to point out very briefly the organization of the Army Air Forces. The Air Forces are, of course, still a part of the Army. Although recently consolidated under one administrative command, there are still two divisions of the Air Forces with two separate physical training programs: (1) There is the division (formerly designated as the Air Corps) which has to do with the training of aviation cadets, and which Mr. Dashiell has so completely outlined. (2) There is the division (formerly designated as the Air Force Combat Command) which includes all those units comprising the actual combat troops --the fighting forces. There are four major commands or divisions of this combat force organized in the continental United States, designated respectively as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Air Forces. The 4th Air Force now covers, roughly, the area of the Pacific Coast from Canada to the Mexican border. The 4th Interceptor Command, of which you have heard so much, is one part of this 4th Air Force.

There is no need to attempt an explanation of the Army Ground Forces organization or methods of physical conditioning at this time, except to note that the Army (ground forces) have neither hired civilians nor commissioned physical education men for use in conditioning troops. The Air Force is the only branch of the Army to have taken such action. You are all familiar, I'm sure, with the number and type of men and the type of program the Navy is instituting.