

Probably you wonder why only the Air Force, and not the entire Army, has placed trained physical education men on a civil service and commissioned status to aid in developing a physical training program. Here is the reason: The ground forces obtain a fairly high degree of physical conditioning thru their regular, daily training routine, field drill, and maneuvers. They march, hike with heavy packs, engage in bayonet and other types of personal combat drill, dig, carry and build. All these activities are strenuous and exacting and they strengthen and harden the men for arduous campaigns. The daily duties and work of the Air Forces do not include this type of activities; therefore, the Air Force personnel needs a definite and separate program of activities which will develop and maintain a high degree of physical condition. Both the ground forces and the Air Forces promote leisure time recreational athletics.

What is the objective or purpose of the Air Force Physical Training Program?

The general objective, of course, is similar to the training objective of all units of our fighting forces: To prepare all personnel for severe combat conditions.

The specific objectives of the Army Air Forces physical training program, however, and the means used to obtain them, are somewhat different than those of the ground forces. Also, you must remember that the specific physical training objectives for flying personnel are somewhat different than those for ground personnel within the Air Forces. Very definitely, the Air Forces physical training program does not attempt to develop athletes; it does not attempt to harden personnel in the way that infantry training does. The specific objectives of the Air Force program are:

- (1) To bring about a condition in every officer and enlisted man which will delay in the onset of fatigue.