

3PP (MUNY) ED 30F28

Federal Security Agency
U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Washington

Misc. 2941

Jan. 30, 1942

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PLANS AND PROCEDURES FOR CONSTRUCTING MODEL AIRCRAFT REQUESTED BY
THE NAVY BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCES
AND CIVILIAN DEFENSE

Description of Project

The Secretary of the Navy recently transmitted a letter to the U. S. Commissioner of Education, stating that "The Bureau of Aeronautics has need for a large number of model planes built to scale for such purposes as recognition, range estimation, and determination of cones of fire" and asking whether these model planes could be constructed in the Nation's schools.

The project involves the construction of at least 10,000 model aircraft of each of approximately 50 types of planes, including those of the United Nations and of the Axis nations. The models are to be constructed according to plans and specifications to be furnished by the Bureau of Aeronautics. The smallest model will have a wing span of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the largest 25 inches, while the majority of the models will have less than a 12-inch wing span. Models will be constructed of wood such as white pine, poplar, and bass.

In order to complete this project with the greatest speed possible, and in order that the largest number of individuals may have a part in the program, it is suggested that students enrolled in public and private junior and senior high schools and in vocational schools be encouraged to participate.

Suitable recognition of student participation will be made through granting certificates of award, issued by the Bureau of Aeronautics of the Navy Department, for the completion of models that pass inspection.

Purpose of Project

As indicated in the letter from the Secretary of the Navy, the specific purpose of the project is to provide a large number of model planes built to scale which can be used in training air and ground personnel in recognition, range estimation, and determination of "cones of fire". These models will be used by both the Army and Navy, and in connection with training "spotters" for civilian defense.

Reasons for School Participation

The Nation's schools not only are equipped with instructors, student personnel, tools, and other facilities for the construction of these model aircraft, but their participation will result in a number of educational values which could not be acquired in any other manner. For example, students will acquire skills and technical information in the making of model aircraft and will also be supplied with approved plans and specifications for a large number of different models not otherwise available.

School participation in this project, which involves the construction of such a large number of model planes, should arouse a great deal of interest on the part of the pupils and parents in aviation, and should make them feel that they have a distinct contribution to make to the war program.

Cost to Schools

Plans, specifications, and instructional outlines for all different models will be supplied by the Bureau of Aeronautics of the Navy, and distributed through the U. S. Office of Education free of charge.

All construction materials are to be supplied locally and will consist of soft woods, glue, and paint.

Local cooperating groups, such as civic and service clubs, parent-teacher associations, women's clubs, local aero clubs, exservice men's organizations and auxiliaries, and others may be interested enough in the project to provide for the small expense incurred.

The completed models are to be carefully inspected by instructors and qualified inspection committees. Only those complying in all respects with plans and specifications are to be accepted for submission as part of the quota. Accepted models are to be assembled in sets consisting of one of each different model, packed (at local expense), and labeled.

Detailed instructions and procedure for inspection, packing, labeling, and shipping will be furnished with the plans and specifications. Shipments will be made to Naval Reserve aviation bases and other military aviation training centers. Costs of transportation will be paid at the receiving centers.

Since all work is to be done as a part of the school program, no additional costs for instruction or other incidentals should be necessary.

Suggested Procedures and Organization

The U. S. Office of Education, through a committee composed of representatives of the Bureau of Aeronautics and the U. S. Office of Education, will be responsible for administering the program on the Federal level.

On the state level, the State Department of Education should administer the project.

On the local level, it is suggested that the school authority designate a member of its staff as the responsible administrator. It is also suggested that this administrator create a sponsoring committee composed of school personnel which will be responsible for:

- (1) Integrating this project with the school program, and making provision for related instruction
- (2) Providing for demonstration models
- (3) Construction of models by students
- (4) Arranging for final inspection and approval of models
- (5) Packing and shipping the approved finished models

Assignment of Quotas to the States

In making such a large number of scale model aircraft within a short period of time, it will be necessary to have the states accept suggested quotas. These quotas are indicated in the individual letters to the states.

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The assignment of quotas does not limit the number of models which may be made in each school but is merely for the purpose of assuring the production of the required quantity. Plans and specifications to be furnished by the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics will be such that they can be used repeatedly or be easily copied; any number of models beyond the quota may be made for display purposes or for the personal use of students.

Distribution of Plans and Instructional Materials and Certificates

Plans, specifications, instructional materials, and certificates of award will be sent directly to local schools in accordance with instructions from the State Department of Education.

Reports on the Project

It is not contemplated that any extensive reports will be necessary on a project of this kind. However, it is requested that states and local schools be prepared to supply information on such items as the following:

- (1) Number of schools participating
- (2) Number of individual pupils participating
- (3) Number of teachers participating
- (4) Number of models shipped
- (5) Number of certificates awarded

In addition to reports covering the foregoing items, it will be helpful if, from time to time, supplementary information is submitted indicating evidence of community interest as shown by photographs, newspaper clippings, feature articles, and other available materials.

Need for Accuracy and Speed

Since the models are to be used for recognition and gunnery training, their value will depend entirely on the accuracy with which they are constructed. It is necessary, therefore, that the plans and specifications be followed with precision. All models must pass a rigid inspection with no detail omitted.

In view of the emergency, these scale models are requested to meet an immediate need. TIME IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT