

At Ease!

The daily newsletter of the GLR-N Michigan Wing Encampment

Tuesday, 21 July 2009

Edition 2 of 6

Welcome To Encampment!



By Capt Dave Watts, Vice Commander

Welcome to Alpena! Hopefully, all of you are beginning to feel like you are at home. I know I do. I have been attending encampment here for five years and now look forward to it every year. It has become a tradition in my life to come here to help all of you experience something new. Remember just a couple of days ago, you took your first steps on this base and wondered, "What am I doing here?" Well, after today I hope that answer is enjoying yourself. After all, where else can you shoot belt-fed automatic weapons?

As you go through the week, I encourage everyone to challenge yourself. Encampment is a lot of what you make of it. I am reminded of one of Civil Air Patrol's core values – Excellence in all we do. When you are working in the barracks, when you are marching in the street and when you are shooting at the MOUT site, remember your excellence. I promise all of you this will be a week to remember. I also hope along the way you make some friends as I have during my time at Alpena. Some of the best people I have met in my life have been here at this base.

I look forward to watching you all grow and succeed here at encampment. Oh and by the way, there are just TWO CHALLENGE COINS left.... Will you be the next one to get one of these?

I Want to Go Home

"There is no way that I am going to be able to get through this!!" These have been the famous last words of many a young cadet over the years. More often than not, they turned out to be hollow words! The new, unknown and different are frequently causes of anxiety and even homesickness.

Homesickness is directly caused by an excessive amount of anxiety. For all practical purposes, let's define anxiety as "the fear of the unknown." There are going to be a great number of things that will be introduced into your life while here at encampment. One of the best things you need to file away in the back of your memory bank somewhere is that this only lasts seven days. This being Tuesday; that means that after this evening, four days will already be gone; leaving only three days, a final inspection and a parade to go. So, about one third of the time has already passed us by. After having spoken to many of you, I know that there are a large number of you that have your eyes trained on serving in one of the branches of our armed forces. Serving in the military can be an extremely rewarding career; I know it certainly was for me. But, I highly recommend that you know exactly what you want to do before you join and once you do, start laying the foundation for your future building.

No matter whether you are looking toward a military or civilian career, one of the best foundations you could start laying for that career is the Civil Air Patrol Encampment. The discipline, organizational skills and attention to detail that you will learn in CAP are just the foundations that you need to start building both a military or civilian career. The benefits you will gain from CAP will far outweigh the cost per person over the years.

So, don't give up so easily. Stick around awhile and go home and impress your friends and family with all of the neat stuff you are going to learn here at encampment. I know that with the help of the Almighty and your own faith in yourself, you are more than capable of getting through only four more days. The only thing keeping you from graduating is not having faith in Him and faith in yourself.

Lots of love,

Lt Col Blair Biddle, aka "Pops"

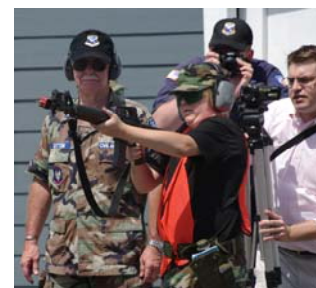
Firearms Demonstration

This isn't your normal summer camp. There is so much more here.... Yesterday we had a rare opportunity to test our skills at using some heavy artillery. Thanks to MSgt Rob Mills of USAF Special Forces



and the Alpena County Sheriff Dept, this year all cadets had the opportunity to shoot the Colt AR –

15 and the SAW 249 machine gun. The new location this year allowed for the use of laser actuated targets in the tactical training village. We were privileged to have Casey Coffee, anchor at WBKB out of Alpena, here to broadcast yesterday's event. This was televised at the 6p and 11p news on channel 11 WBKB. This broadcast is linked off our Encampment facebook page for further viewing.



Daily Safety Moment...

Safety in the sun

Water water everywhere but not a drop to drink, or so it appears from some cadets. The sun is hot, the air is dry, a perfect condition for dehydration. Cadets should have a buddy system, a buddy that can encourage the other to drink the water if they see their buddy not drinking. Each cadet should drink at least one canteen of water per hour. Also, if the temperature appears to be too hot to everyone, command staff may deem it necessary to remove the over blouses.

Rocketry Space Cadets



Today we learned how to properly put out a fire. The Fire Dept. gave us safety instructions. We learned about safety and how to blow things up. So far, Col. Burke is still in one piece, but has more gray hair.

On Wednesday, we will be putting on a rocket show for the basic cadets. On Sunday night in the rain we put the gliders together.



We had a few extra important parts left over, but don't worry. We think you'll be ok.... Have fun flying!

Thanks,
Space Cadets

Greetings from Facebook

Chuck Graham To Cadet SSG Graham. We have rented your room. Sorry. Find other living arrangements from now on.—Dad

Lisa Fountain ROCS cadets Rock! Have a great time.

Beth McGail Hey Patrick! Hope you're having a great week, looks like a lot of fun so far. We're really proud of you!-Mom and Dad

Jennifer Nicholson Hello to Brit Nicholson. We love you and hope you are having a good time. Mom, Dad and Sis

Michelle Sinacori Kasperowicz Good Luck to the Lapeer Squadron cadets. Thanks for all the photos posted. Jesse K. We miss you:)

Betty Burk Good Morning all!!! I have been watching on Facebook. Looks like everything is going well!!! Keep up the good work Jacob and Lucas!! See you on Saturday!! Have fun and learn lots!!
Love you, Mom

Regina Ann Beauvais Cadet Blachut, Have a great week and we'll see you on the 25th.

Jennifer Gorman To Sixgate Cadets - Hope you're havin fun! -Capt. Gorman

Bridget Josh Doneen Holly says, "I miss you!"

Kristen Nihranz Curtis Shout out to Airman Curtis and Chief Roney from their cousins Andrew and Bryan!!!

Jeff Great photo. Looking like a professional there Cadet Bliss. Capt W.

Bridget Wow, Josh! You look great in your camp pictures! Hope you're having a GREAT experience! Aunt Bridget

Ron Hey Kris, We're proud of you! Miss you! Mom and Dad

Random Photo Goodness



Gliders take to the sky

By 2d Lt Carol Vinson

Today was a sunny, breezy day out at Glider Ops. Our pilots out there were Capt. Mark Grant and Maj. Richard Flowers. Maj. Flowers started flying gliders in 1971. He states, " You can solo at age 14, before you even drive a car."

After his glider ride, Cadet Patrick McGail stated, " At 2500 feet they released the rope and I could feel the glider pull back. It was cool. "

Cadet Nick Rodas said, " When I was taking off, I got nervous. But after the rope released, it seemed good. The pilot told me everything – how high we were – it was a lot of fun!"

Presently, CAP is using a two-seater glider from Ohio wing and a three-seater glider from the Michigan wing. Glider Ops couldn't happen without Dave Payne and others. A big thank you to all who help out there and make these flights happen.



HONOR FLIGHT

Congratulations to India Flight for being Honor Flight on Monday. Today Hotel Flight has the honor and will work hard to keep the red guide on tomorrow

WHO IS NEXT?

Are you working to your full potential and giving your best every moment of every day?

Give them the brick !

Cadet McLean and Cadet Hurd both earned a gold brick last night at mail call

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Encampment Editorial Staff

1st Lt Mark Curtis, Director
2d Lt Robert Bowden, Asst. Director
1st Lt Rick Lauterbach, Videographer
2d Lt Carol Vinson, Newsletter Staff

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