

At Ease!

The daily newsletter of the GLR-N Michigan Wing Encampment

Wednesday, 22 July 2009

Edition 3 of 6

Welcome To Encampment!



By Maj Christina Watts, Commandant

Welcome to day five of encampment! I certainly hope you are enjoying the time you have experienced in Alpena so far. Your week is half over and I am sure that you have gained some valuable lessons to take back to your home squadrons. Encampment is a process of continual learning from the moment that you arrive at encampment until the moment you drive out of the base gates. Your encampment experience does not end there should you choose to further your training by coming back on staff. In my vast years of serving on encampment staff I have found that the learning experience continues throughout your encampment career from flight staff, through Cadet Leadership School and even serving on senior staff.

I remember learning many valuable life lessons from working with my basic flight staff. From there I went on to learn advanced leadership skills at Cadet Leadership School. From those lessons, I have taken everything memorable about my basic year as a cadet and have tried to implement that whenever possible.

I encourage you to do the same back at your home unit and at future encampments. I leave you with the most priceless lesson that I feel that a cadet can bring home from encampment is teamwork and gaining life-long friends from across the state of Michigan.

This year I have the privilege of having an assistant Commandant of Cadets 1st Lt Retzlaff from Oakland Composite Squadron. She has been a tremendous help to myself and the cadet staff.

Thank you WBKB

Thank you to Casey Coffey from Channel 11 News in Alpena for spending some time with us this week. CAP has been on the 6pm news two times so far with hopes of more. Casey had the chance to go for his very own O Flight!



A true NCO

By C/CMSgt Sara Fishbein

This morning, SMSgt "Pops" Biddle (USAF retired), taught classes for the cadet wing. My flight was there to listen to him speak about Air Force careers. Pops encouraged cadets to wait until they were sure of what they wanted from the military before speaking to recruiters. He also gave insightful advice about enlisted and officer careers, as well as information about the other branches.

He also spoke about the role of the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO). In his words, "NCOs are the ones who really run the military." During this class, he shared many stories from his 28 years on active duty, including his time as a boom operator on a KC-135.

Pops is a beloved member of the CAP community and I know myself and the rest of the cadets greatly enjoyed his classes this week.

5...4...3...2...1...LAUNCH

By Rocketry

Today our first rocket launch was a success!!! A couple of rockets took a few times to launch correctly without losing their rocket engine. It was quite an interesting event, and no one gave up.



According to C/Amn Gardener, "Third time's the charm!" To C/Amn Gardener's relief, the third time his rocket shot into the air, it returned with all of the parts. Congratulations Rocketry, for building your rockets with success!!

Fire Truck Demo

By 2d Lt Vinson and 2d Lt Bowden

Congratulations to C/CMSgt del Rosario from Alpha Flight for winning the fireman gear race! 3 cadets got to race to try and get on the 30 pounds of fire fighting gear the fastest. With Cadets cheering and yelling loudly C/CMSgt del Rosario took home the prize by a narrow margin. This prize, a new book of jodies, should come in handy.

The cadets learned a lot about fire service, the importance of all the gear and what it is used for and had time to ask lots of questions. Later, cadets went outdoors for a tour of the base fire truck inside and out and witnessed a master stream nozzle demonstration which poured out many gallons of water.

Cadets attended a class about fire fighting taught by SSgt Willman and 1st Lt Murray. Topics included Air Force fire fighter training, MIWG SAR academy and how it inspired SSgt Willman to go into fire fighting, and SSgt Willman's military and civilian fire fighting career.

Special thanks to Capt. Dave Watts for saving the day!



Daily Safety Moment...

By Maj Woolston

Walking alone on base is a NO NO!!!! It is a good idea for all members at night to walk with a buddy. This is a large base with many hazards especially with military vehicles and construction.

Cadets, whether basic or staff should never walk alone at night, or put themselves at risk of being alone and then having to walk somewhere. This is for your safety.

Quotes Heard around CLS

"My CLS experience has taught me more in the past three days than I have learned in the past 3 years." –Cadet Serra, CLS

"CLS is the best thing a CAP leaders can attend if they want to learn how to do their job as best they can. I would recommend CLS to any CAP cadet" -Cadet Z. Myers, CLS

"One recommendation I would give to someone planning on attending CLS is to not think too highly of themselves because at CLS you are going to learn that you aren't perfect. Even great leaders will learn something new." -Cadet Koulchar, CLS

"If you are attending CLS- be yourself, remember your customs and courtesies, use your time properly and do your best is all that matters. The most memorable thing this week has been the friends I have made." - Cadet Maciag, CLS

"Overall, CLS will challenge you to step out of your comfort zone. You will have tons to bring back to your squadron" -Cadet Kosik

Greetings from Facebook

Dawn Lennox-Hanley

Excellent job keep us all posted on the happenings at Encampment...wish I were there too! Hi C/Msgt Hanley, hope you are learning tons at CLS, can't wait to see you at Graduation and to hear all your awesome stories!

Ron Brown

Hello to Kris and Tim Brown and the rest of the Lapeer Composite Squadron! The Browns

Jennifer Kooshian

What an awesome day for everyone! Hello to Peter and Jeremiah Kooshian and all of the Hudsonville Metro Squadron!

Shannon Funkhouser

Thank you to all of C.A.P staff for all you have done and especially those who help Derek out. You all are truly in a league of your own, and I am proud to have my sons with this organization!

Susan Klotz Wiggins

Just want to say thank you so much for the updates and say hello to my son Kyle Wiggins.

Jacqueline Yaple

Hello to everyone who rode up with me to Alpena, especially Mary Yaple my daughter and Amanda Shields. Hope you are all having a great time

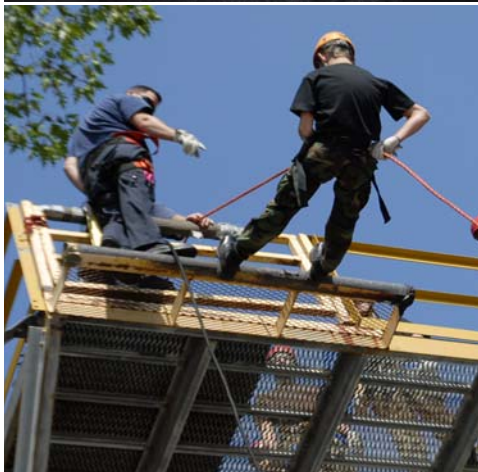
Alyssa Ansah-Asante

WOW! Sounds like cadets are in store for excitement; enjoy! Hi C/Amn Ansah-Asante! Absorb it all-what great experiences. We are looking forward to seeing you on graduation day!!!

Steve Schelske

did Cadet Schelske break any bones yet or is it gonna be tomorrow?

Random Photo Goodness



Everyone Loves PT

By: C/CMSgt Luke Rondeau

"Good morning cadets; you have thirty seconds to get outside for PT!" How many of you have wondered why we do PT every morning and every evening?

C/SSgt Smith at Foxtrot Flight says that "PT is a good way to relieve stress." We do PT not only to strengthen our bodies, we do PT to learn to motivate ourselves and our fellow flight members, as well. C/A1C Fillmore, also from Foxtrot says that "PT is challenging, but rewarding."

Remember, though, PT is very active and it is important to drink lots of water. Also, stretch out alot during cool-down. That is the most important time to stretch. I'll see you on the PT field. One last thought..."If you keep your mind positive, you can do anything."

Life on Flight Staff

By: C/MSgt Jake Suszko

Close your eyes, drift off and imagine some things for a second. You are being told to find cadets needing meds from Med Bay, SOP your locker, and get your flight to the chow hall in five minutes. This is how it feels to be on flight staff.

When something needs to be done, it works its way through the chain all the way to flight staff. Moving cadets is our responsibility. Waking cadets up is our responsibility. Getting cadets in bed is our responsibility. We also do all the activities and have the same requirements as basics.

If you are on staff at your squadron, being on encampment staff is an entirely different beast. It is hard, stressful, and if you don't use your diaphragm, you will have no voice by Day 3.

It is also very rewarding. It is our responsibility to produce the cadets that will lead the wing in a few short years.

HONOR FLIGHT DELTA

Give 'EM the Brick !

Our beloved C/Maj Bacero received not one but TWO gold bricks. Apparently a cadet should not kick Lt Col Cotton!

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Have Photos? Please see us at the PAO Office in 440 after the duty day for us to make copies!