



WingTIPS

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Minnesota cadets participate in 2004 summer encampment



C/Airman 1st Class Angela Shields participates in physical training at encampment.

*by Lt. Col. Victoria Eckhoff,
encampment commander*

Exactly 149 individuals attended this year's Minnesota Wing Summer Encampment, held at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, near Tomah, Wis., July 10-16.

The primary mission of the annual encampment is to engage and motivate each cadet by creating an atmosphere of constant energy. The training is, for the most part, planned and conducted by cadet staff, who have previously attended an encampment.

When the 84 cadet students arrived, they went through in-processing and a contra-

band check that set the tone for what their encampment experience was going to be like.

The cadets life from the early morning reveille until they went to bed at night had been planned out for almost a year by a staff of 34 cadets and 20 senior members.

The highlights of the week for the cadets were the: AWACS observation plane tour; the Hardwood Range visit, where all attendees were able to see F-16 fighters from Madison, Wis., and Duluth, Minn., practice bombing runs on various targets, as well as strafing

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Encampment Awards:

Distinguished Graduate 6th Cadet Training Group:

C/Airman 1st Class Nathan Schwartzbauer

Wing Commander's Awards for Academic Excellence:

C/Airman Althea Johnson

Commandant's Award for Leadership:

C/Maj. Dan Nordin

Cadet Training Group Command Staff Excellence Award:

C/1st Lt. Brian Anderson

CTG Command Support Staff Excellence Award:

C/1st Lt. Jake Hawksworth

Field Leadership Excellence Award:

1st Lt. Joel Stepanek

Senior Support Excellence Award:

1st Lt. Anna Melle

Encampment Honor Flight: Alpha Flight

2004 Distinguished Graduates:

C/Senior Airman Joshua Shields,

C/Senior Airman Kyle Steever,

C/Airman 1st Class Nathan Schwartzbauer,

C/Airman Nicholas Aaseng and

C/Airman Althea Johnston

2004 Honor Cadets:

Alpha Flight: C/Senior Airman Luke Dicosimo

Bravo Flight: C/Airman Danielle Moritko

Charlie Flight: C/Airman Dan Zierath

Delta Flight: C/Senior Airman Katelyn Streng

Echo Flight: C/Tech. Sgt. Josiah Billing

Foxtrot Flight: C/Airman 1st Class Trevor Mathisen

11th Cadet Training Squadron Honor Cadet:

C/Airman 1st Class Brandon McCarthy

12th Cadet Training Squadron Honor Cadet:

C/Staff Sgt. James Misuarca

Staff Development Squadron Distinguished Graduate:

C/Tech. Sgt. Andrew Haus

Staff Development Squadron Most Improved Cadet:

C/Senior Airman Kenneth Fearon

Editorial: Wing goals and challenges for the next year

by Col. Steve Miller,
wing commander

It is an honor to be your new wing commander. I look forward to working with all of you to continue the wing's heritage of excellence. For those of you who were not at the wing conference, I went over the challenges I see for the wing and the goals I have set for the wing in the upcoming year.

The first of those challenges is **SAFETY**. We need to continue our emphasis on safety. In all we do, whether it is working at a ground base, on a ground team, in a van, on a flight line, in a plane or as simple as at our meetings, we must be mindful of the safety factor. We must remain vigilant.

Our **SAFETY** goals are: 1) no injuries; 2) 100 percent completion of flight clinics; 3) no bent metal, airplanes or vans; 4) no incidents; and 5) all units receive the safety award from the wing safety officer.

The second challenge is **TRAINING**. We need to keep our people trained.

Having people trained is beneficial because: 1) they will know what to do, how to do it and are thus ready to do the missions as they are assigned to us; 2) solid training prevents accidents, which makes for a safer working environment; 3) we fulfill our congressionally-chartered commitment to serve the American people.

Ask yourselves a question: When we call your unit, can your unit go? That means you need more than one ground team leader and more than one or two ground team members. Do you have mission pilots? If you do not have multiple mission pilots, your unit may not be able to carry out the mission.

Our **TRAINING** goals are: 1) Every flying squadron should be able to send out a flight crew and ground crew and non-flying squadrons a ground crew, whenever the unit gets a call. We have a responsibility to respond when called upon. If our members aren't ready to respond, it minimizes our capabilities.

Incident commanders should not have to call several units to launch a mission. If your unit is called, it should be able to respond. Having trained and qualified personnel will make it happen.

2) Every squadron attend, at a minimum, the search and rescue exercises, or SAREX, in their group. Attending other SAREXs and multi-squadron training exercises only adds to the opportunity to have your people trained in as many areas as possible. I also encourage squadron SAREXs for additional training and proficiency.

Our third challenge is **MEMBERSHIP**. We need to keep our membership growing and our people engaged. New members are the life blood of any organization. Members who are actively participating and contributing to the units make for energized units.

Active units will draw more members. Members who are active and participating in squadron, group and wing activities end up telling their circle of friends about all the exciting opportunities in CAP, which in turn may result in generating more outside interest in CAP, which may result in new membership. This function has an upward spiral effect. Success breeds success.

Our wing has held its own on membership for the past several years. Our membership numbers are regularly

within 50 members either way of 1,300 members.

Our **MEMBERSHIP GOAL**: Increase Wing membership 20 percent by the end of the year. When one looks at that goal, it may seem a difficult one to attain. If looked at on a unit level however, our smallest unit has 18 members, they would need to recruit four members. Our largest unit has 89 members. To meet this goal, they need to recruit 18 new members.

Each squadron needs to evaluate itself to determine if it is one to which new members may be drawn. Remember, enthusiastic, active, trained members breed dynamic units.

The wing obviously has more challenges than those listed above. But if we all work on these, the next ones won't seem like such challenges.

Each unit also has its own challenges. The wing staff is here to assist the units as best we can. Will everything you ask of wing happen? Probably not everything. However, our goal is to make things work for you. We have the people and equipment to make things happen in the Wing.

This is a great time to be in CAP! I remember what our former region commander, Col. Sheila Waldorf, told us at Regional Staff College. There are three rules for CAP: Safety first in all things; don't break the law/regs; and have fun.

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Editor: Maj. Shannon Bauer



Cadets participate in a drill down at the 2004 Minnesota Wing encampment.

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runs, where the F-16s shot artillery fire; and the Wisconsin National Guard's DARE Program Confidence Course.

Upon asking the cadets what the best part about encampment was, I heard many different things. Some said, "Definitely the volleyball." Others thoroughly enjoyed the F-16s. I also heard others say it was too hard of a choice to tell, they loved everything about encampment.

For a commander, encampment can be a very stressful experience, but what makes the whole process so rewarding is seeing the change in each of the cadets as they progress and grow more confident in themselves throughout the week. The pride showing on each of their 84 faces, as they received their graduation diplomas, made all of the time, effort and hard work that went into planning and implementing the event worth it.

We also had a group of 13 cadets who had previously

graduated an encampment come back for a second time as members of the Staff Development Squadron. These cadets spent their week gaining the tools necessary for becoming better leaders, not only in their CAP roles, but also in their personal lives.

For the 52 cadet and senior member staff, the week had many challenges and learning processes to work through. They made my role as commander very enjoyable, and I would like to thank them for all of their dedication.

“Encampment, for me, was an outstanding experience. We learned many different things at encampment, like teamwork, discipline, attention to detail, customs and courtesies, CAP history, the USAF, moral leadership and about other ways of getting involved in CAP, like national special activities. It was an experience that made me a better cadet and a better leader. We also got to do many fun things at encampment, like tour an E-3 AWACS, participate on a low ropes course, play in a volley ball tournament, and watch F-16s open up at targets at the gunnery range. We learned how to eat food in under three minutes, make our rooms perfect and in inspection ready order and how to wear our uniforms properly. ... All in all, Encampment was a very great experience.”

--C/Airman 1st Class
Nathan Schwartzbauer

For more information and lots of photos, see www.mnwg.cap.gov/cp/6ctg/index.htm

Uniform wear policy changes

The Air Force recently authorized Civil Air Patrol to return the nametag to the service coat. All CAP members will wear a nametag centered on the right breast of the service coat with the bottom of the nametag parallel to the bottom row of ribbons as of May 1, 2004.

Senior members have been authorized to wear the new silver Air Force nametag on the service coat. The new nametag is available from all Air Force Clothing Sales or

through CAPMart. Until the new silver nametag can be obtained, senior members will wear the currently authorized gray three-line nametag. The mandatory wear date for the new Air Force nametag for all senior members is Aug. 1, 2004. The gray nametag will remain authorized on the light blue Air Force shirt and CAP aviator shirt.

Cadet members will wear the currently authorized CAP blue three-line nametag on the service coat, as well as the light blue shirts and blouses.

Senior member and cadet officer promotions

Maj. Christopher Belfield, Anoka County
Maj. Leslie Rostad, Southeast Minnesota
Capt. Gabriel Arana, North Hennepin
Capt. Jotham Blodgett, Saint Paul
Capt. Richard Emery, St. Croix
Capt. Mary Johnson, Crow Wing
1st Lt. Kathleen Menne, Mankato
Capt. Joseph Stanich, Crow Wing
Capt. Larry Venberg, Anoka County
Capt. Greg Wells, Saint Paul
1st Lt. Jayne Collins, Viking
1st Lt. Richard Freeman, Hutchinson
1st Lt. Michael Rogosheske, North Hennepin
1st Lt. Donel Swanson, Saint Paul
2nd Lt. Daniel Kuch, North Hennepin
2nd Lt. Philip Murlowski, North Hennepin
2nd Lt. Michael Rice, Anoka County
2nd Lt. Rena Willardson, Worhington
C/Col. Lori Sobolewski
C/Capt. Alex Friese, Valley
C/Capt Patricia Friese, Valley

Minnesota cadet earns Spaatz Award

C/Col. Lori Sobolewski, Anoka Squadron, earned the General Carl A. Spaatz award. Sobolewski is a graduate of Centennial High School, Circle Pines, Minn., and currently attends the University of Minnesota, where she is majoring in engineering. She is also enrolled in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Sobolewski has held many positions during her tenure as a CAP cadet, including Anoka Squadron cadet commander; Minnesota Wing Cadet Advisory Council chair; Minnesota 5th Training Encampment cadet commander; and Minnesota Wing Flight Academy cadet commander.

Annual commanders' workshop scheduled

Minnesota Wing will host the 12th annual Commander's Workshop Oct. 7-10 at Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point, Minn. All unit commanders are invited to attend this multiple-purpose workshop. The event offers the opportunity for the wing's Executive Committee to hold a full-day planning meeting, for commanders who have taken command since the previous workshop to attend the New Commanders Orientation program and for all unit commander's to increase their managerial skills through educational presentations and exercises and the opportunity to interact with other commanders.



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