

# At Ease!

The daily newsletter of the GLR-N Michigan Wing Encampment

Tuesday, 15 July 2008

Edition 3 of 7

## Welcome To Encampment!



By Maj. Christina Watts, Commandant

Welcome to day four of encampment! I certainly hope you are enjoying the time you have experienced in Alpena so far. Your week is almost 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 lifelong friends from across the state of Michigan.

## A Special Thanks!

Maj. Jonathan Reid, Encampment Vice Commander, stopped by the Public Affairs office after a very successful day of orientation flights to let us know how generous the local FBO, Aviation North, airport fuel supplier, was in providing a fuel discount for our aircraft to operate throughout the week. With the fuel costs on the rise this made a substantial difference in making sure every cadet receives an orientation flight.

**AVIATION NORTH**

Thank you!

## The Sky is the Limit

By C/SSgt Jack Selim

Colonel Frank Walker is a truly exceptional man. On July 14, 2008, Colonel Walker came to encampment and gave a class, "Structure and Function of the Air Force." Col. Walker explained the benefits of being in the Civil Air Patrol or the United States Air Force Academy. He said that if you are involved in either one of these, you will have a better chance of being accepted into the Air Force Academy. When you join the Air Force Academy, they will keep you physically and mentally fit.

However, both programs will help you in goal of joining the Air Force. In the beginning of the class, Colonel Walker broke the class up into groups which was a more interactive way to teach the class. Colonel Walker made the class more fun so people could get more out of it. If you are interested in the Air Force Academy, you can not just sign up, you must apply. Colonel Walker said he would be happy to help anybody apply.

## Firearms Demonstration

By C/SSgt Erik Vingness, Cadet PAO

The explosions were something to be felt, rather than heard. Indeed several people



had ear plugs in preparation. Awesome is the only suitable descriptor.

For those of you who missed it, the weapons demonstration by MSgt Rob Mills from

the base's security staff was extraordinary, in more ways than one. The good gentleman took time

to explain and demonstrate several weapons in use throughout the military. In his presentation he showed us the M4-A1, the M-14 and the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon. The two M4-A1's had served in foreign wars in Panama and Afghanistan and were painted in an olive and sandy color scheme, respectively.

After an exhausting discussion of explosives and their use in Iraq, we got to see some IED's (Improvised Explosive Devices) in action. It was absolutely enlightening. He showed us some smaller charges that could be secured on the ground, explosives that could be latched onto things and really loud ones he threw like hand grenades. All of them were cleverly loaded with dyed baby powder to simulate actual explosions. Magnifique!

After the demolitions demonstration the cadet staff tried their hands at firing some of the firearms. Gleeful, they soon covered the area with blanks. Then Wing Staff got a hold of the M-249(SAW). Its fully automatic. Big smiles. Soon however, things started to close, but one more person took hold of it. Lieutenant Colonel Cotton surely and crisply fired the gun with one hand. The cadets & staff couldn't stop cheering. A truly delightful experience. It was like the Fourth of July all over again. Many thanks to the base's security staff for donating the time, personnel and equipment. Remember to salute them and all our Armed Forces.

## Cadetstuffer's In The Midst



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mark Curtis, Director, PAO

There's a **Slim** chance that while you're busily going about your day, you might run into a **swami**, a **GLRMedic**, a **Repicheep** or come Wednesday evening a **SARDragon**; which you might want to retrieve a **Lancer** to slay. I'm sure your probably saying to yourself, "What the heck is this guy talking about!?!". Well, let me confuse you no further.

Certainly some if not most of you are familiar with the website CadetStuff.org; the definitive resource for the cadetting world online. If you're not familiar, the next time you find yourself online make your way to <http://www.cadetstuff.org> and read, read, read! While the site is not entirely geared towards the Civil Air Patrol, most of the folks who contribute to the site are involved with the CAP and those folks are even in Alpena this weekend. The CadetStuff website features a very versatile forum system that allows you to join up, post questions and contribute to the site yourself. This can be a very useful tool to you in your cadet careers; even Senior Members can benefit from the discussions.

Other things to do on the site besides read and post to the forum, would be to visit the many different article categories available, such as CadetLife, Aerospace, Drill, Ethics, Leadership and Activities. Each article is written by someone in the Cadet Programs arena. You might even recognize a few names of the contributors there, such as CAP Lt Col Ron Padavan (Ret.), who just so happened to be this reporter's squadron commander when he was a cadet over 20 years ago!

The **bolded** names in the first paragraph belong to the following people, in the same order; Maj Chris Freytag, Maj Christina Watts, Capt Dave Watts, C/ Maj Laura Reichardt and Maj Dave Bowles (from CAWG!) and last but not least, myself, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Mark Curtis. Other **'CadetStuffers'** working at encampment are Maj. Robert Haase (CLS Instructor), Lt Col Leo Burke (Air Ops) and Capt Phillip Argenti, who is scheduled to be here today to join our staff.

## Random Photo Goodness



## The LOGIstiCAL End

By Maj. Andy Machinski, Logistics

The logistical team would like to thank everyone for the smooth barracks transition on Friday night. I would like to remind everyone that the Alpena CRTC will charge the encampment \$5.00 for each lost cardkey so please do not misplace the keys.

On the subject of keys, for anyone having problems with them, please contact either myself (Maj. Machinski) or Chief Dotson and the key can be reprogrammed and made functional.

Some of you may ask "what does logistics do?" The answer is anything and everything having to do with housing, food, transportation and transfer of personnel from location to location.

On the subject of food, the staff in the dining hall is trying very hard to create a healthful diet that tastes good, but it is used to dealing with adult military personnel and not a group of young adults as the CAP Great Lakes Encampment. They are trying to adjust the diet to meet the tastes of CAP cadets.

One of the things we do ask is that if you see an issue or encounter a problem, pass it on through the chain of command if it is not critical. If it is critical please make sure it gets to either Chief Dotson or myself.

Both of us, wish all the members of this Encampment a hardy and fruitful encampment experience and both of us commit to everyone to make sure that there are no issues and everything runs smoothly. Have fun.

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Got Photos? Please see us at the PAO after the duty day to make copies! Thanks!