

Texas Wing Winter Encampment 2007 - Day 4

By Cadet Second Lieutenant Steve Miller *All photos by C/2d Lt Raphael Erie

CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS— Reveille sounded as usual at 0445. The cadets groggily got out of bed and marched to the parade field for yet another day of opening formation and PT in the cold. Although the cadets were cold and tired, they still did magnificently on their PT. The intense motivation of the basic and ATS flights could be felt throughout the whole area. Every cadet was still "pumped up" from the previous night's Spirit Time. For safety purposes, with the 33-degree temperature, cadets were not supposed to do PT exercises that required contact with the ground. With PT over, every cadet got some time for personal hygiene and to dress in the uniform of the day – BDUs.

Next, the basics had two other classes about the U.S. Air Force, learning about Air Power. Cadet Airman First Class Spanial said, "I enjoyed learning about the different airplanes, like the F-22 Raptor." Cadet Airman Peltier added, "I learned about the daily routine of an Air Force pilot, and the capabilities of planes like the C-130. Cool." The long week is taking its toll on the cadets, and staying awake during classes is getting harder and harder.



Encampment Basics going to class.

Meanwhile, the Advanced Training Squadron (ATS) had a stand-by inspection. Afterwards, cadets participated in a class on goals and objectives. Their next task may have been the highlight of the day for ATS. First they went over what the Standards Evaluation Teams (SET) was going to be doing during the day. The cadets were then split into teams that would follow a SET member in order to observe how the job was done.



Encampment Basics quizzing each other.

Following their classes, the SET members conducted the basic cadets' flight inspections, and immediately after the basic cadets participated in an activity called "fun in the sun." This was designed to make up for the PT they had lost because of the earlier cold weather. The Cadet Staff worried that that some cadets might be offended if they did not get a chance to do some push-ups, so the entire basic encampment participated in the afternoon PT. Needless to say, when "fun in the sun" was over, the cadets were highly motivated.

The 48th squadron was the last one to go to the firing range for a chance to earn the National Rifle Association (NRA) marksmanship award. All cadets shot as best they could, and will learn their results at the end of encampment. Hopefully, the cadets will receive one of four awards; pro-marksmanship, marksman, marksman first-class or sharpshooter.

For lunch, everyone had a tasty lunch of chicken tenders and macaroni and cheese, with the usual salad, fruit, cookies and milk or water. The ravished cadets and staff made it in and out of the dining hall in record time, eager to attend their next activity. They know that encampment is quickly coming to an end.



Firearms training at the encampment

Both the basic and ATS cadets attended Pass In Review (PIR) practice. PIR is a graduation requirement, and they'll be doing it in just two days – and neither the cadets nor the cadet staff members want anything to go wrong. They spent about an hour making sure that every movement was just right.

Several more classes were held in the remaining hours, until Evening Formation. A class that explained everything about CAP's emergency service opportunities had held the cadets' attention for quite a while, since it was very interesting. Another class was held on airport fire and safety. This one was a little less interesting but necessary, so the cadets held on!



Encampment Basics Studying outside

Evening formation was held at the Parade Field across the road, with the cadets weary and exhausted from the day. The Flight that earned the most points for the day gets to eat first, and today it will be Foxtrot. Tired as the cadets were, they were happy enough to march to the Mess Hall for a dinner of Salisbury steak and fried potatoes. Immediately following dinner, in a class taught by C/Lt. Col. Cilino, C/1st Lt. Flores, and C/Lt. Col. Rojas, the basics learned about National Cadet Special Activities such as the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE). Finally, at 2115 came the moment everyone has been waiting for: personal time.

Some of the cadets chose to attend a short devotional. On the first night, ten cadets had attended this optional activity, with their numbers increasing gradually. On this evening, 54 cadets gathered in the small room, both males and females. They got to know each other better, enjoyed the feeling of fellowship and belonging, and left ready for a good night's sleep and their last day of training. Lights out came suddenly at 2215.

Quintessential TEXAS WING ENCAMPMENT Morning Images– Below, Cadets get a good dose of PT. Physical Fitness is a key part of the CAP Cadet Program, as is proper nutrition. Encampment Cadets prepare to enjoy breakfast

