



2004 NORTH CENTRAL REGION ENCAMPMENT



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Rappelling Cadets Step Off Into the Unknown

Not everyone is willing to strap on a harness, grasp a rope and ease themselves backwards over a sheer drop of more than 40 feet – but cadets at the 2004 NCR Encampment at Camp did just that on Tuesday. After conducting a brief Drug Demand Reduction exercise for cadets, U.S. Army National Guard Rappel Instructors briefed cadets and officers about how to properly use the rappel tower. “Rappelling is an awesome experience, and it’s a great rush. It’s not from fear, it’s from adrenaline,” said Army National Guard Sgt. Jamie Larson. This is the kind of high you want, not the artificial high from drugs we’ve been learning about.”



Sergeant Larson showed the rappellers how to ‘gear up’ with the required harness, helmet and heavy leather gloves. He pointed out that the rope used for rappelling has a tensile strength of 7600 pounds, and stressed that there was no danger of falling. “This event is actually safer than going back to your community and crossing the street,” he said. “It’s a great challenge for you to step out of your comfort zone a little bit.”

Although many cadets expressed doubts when peering over the edge of the tower, almost every one of them wanted to repeat the experience as soon as they finished their first rappel. Sergeant Larson said that reaction is typical. “Once you are on the ground, you are overcome with pride that you were able to accomplish this,” he said.

Encampment Honor Flights Selected for 4 and 5 July

The cadet staff selected two flights as ‘Honor flights’ based on their bearing, performance and conduct during Day 2 and Day 3 of the encampment. For 4 July, the honor flight was the ‘Bravo Black Sheep,’ and for 5 July, it was the ‘Foxtrot Falcons.’ Congratulations to the members and commanders of these two flights!



COMMAND VOICE by MAJ Regena Aye, 2004 NCR Encampment Commander

You have been hearing a lot about teamwork and we have been encouraging you to work together as a team in all that you do at encampment. Teamwork is a concept that is important in all settings and professions, not just CAP. Often, a single person can carry the workload, but as a team we can exceed our goals. In the column today, I'd like to introduce you to a team that made a great sacrifice to complete their mission. Alone, neither would have been effective and the mission would have failed. These individuals were Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randall Shughart. Both of them were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions in Somalia.

Master Sergeant Gordon and Sergeant first Class Shughart were volunteers. They entered the military to serve their country, but took it one step further – they volunteered for duty with the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. The two men became a sniper team assigned to Task Force Ranger – a group deployed to Somalia in October 1993. The situation in Somalia is the one we have all seen in the motion picture "Blackhawk Down." When two U.S. helicopters went down in hostile territory, this team wanted to help. They asked three times before their commander allowed them to be inserted to protect four critically wounded helicopter crewmen. Ground fire and heavy fighting made landing impossible, so rather than giving up, the snipers improvised, adapted and overcame. They inserted 100 meters away from the crash site with only their sniper rifles and pistols.

Our volunteers had to fight their way to the soldiers they wanted to protect, secure a perimeter and assess the situation. These actions required constant teamwork and communications as they experienced withering small arms fire. The situation was not good – they had limited ammunition and large numbers of enemy troops were closing in on the downed helicopter crewman. Master Sergeant Gordon collected the last five rounds of ammo, wished the pilot good luck, and handed the flier his rifle. Using his pistol, Gordon continued to defend his charge until the enemy overcame him. Due to the teamwork of the snipers who gave their lives to protect him, the pilot survived and was later rescued by U.S. troops.

What does this tell us about teamwork? We work to impress upon cadets the value of teamwork for followers. For example, if you are working as a team, your barracks usually look better and your inspection scores are higher. Teamwork is also a critical attribute of leadership. In situations where one man might fail, two may be able to successfully complete the task. Working together is sometimes difficult because it requires communication and placing others before our own interests. In CAP we can see many kinds of teamwork. Teamwork is common as we serve on an activity staff, work with the other members of a flight, or make up a ground team. Outside of an activity, we are part of our wing and region team as well and in the end we are all members of Team CAP. When you consider being part of a team, remember this tip for why teamwork is necessary in CAP – Together Everyone Achieves More.

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