



2004 NORTH CENTRAL REGION ENCAMPMENT



Daily Chronicle

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Cadets Soar over Camp Dodge in UH-60 'Blackhawks'



One of two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters loaded with enthusiastic CAP cadets makes an approach to the Camp Dodge landing zone from the west.

Smiles were both wide and plentiful at the 2004 North Central Region Encampment in Johnston, Iowa, on Wednesday as more than 100 cadets relished the opportunity to take a brief training flight in one of two UH-60 'Blackhawk' helicopters with crews from the Iowa National Guard. Blackhawk crewmen briefed cadets on the boarding and flight procedures before loading them ten a at time for a short flight over Camp Dodge, a touchdown at the training objective, and a quick return flight to the landing zone.



Encampment Commander MAJ Regena Aye confers with Cadet Commander Nichole Crocker and Commandant of Cadets CAPT Derek Petit about the Blackhawk flights.



UH-60 Blackhawk crew chief Michael Bailey shows cadets how to strap themselves into the helicopter prior to the training flights.



Cadet Deputy Commander C/LT COL Derek Montgomery and C/LT COL Matthew Yokeley discuss their flight.

Encampment Honor Flight Selected for 6 July

The cadet staff selected two flights as 'Honor flights' based on their bearing, performance and conduct during Day 4 of the encampment. For 4 July, the honor flight was the 'Alpha Americanas.' Congratulations to the members and commanders of this flight!



COMMAND VOICE by MAJ Regena Aye, 2004 NCR Encampment Commander

As the end of the encampment gets closer, I'd like to use this opportunity to talk to you about perseverance. This term means continuing on with a task or commitment. When you persevere, you don't give up even if the odds are against you or something is not pleasant. Generally, those who persevere find a solution or make the situation bearable. Perseverance is very important in life because if you always give up, you'll never know how far you could have gone. The actions of Captain Roger Donlon in Vietnam show us something about perseverance. In the face of great adversity, Captain Donlon never gave up. He survived because of his perseverance.

Captain Donlon was serving as the commander of Special Force Detachment A-726 in Vietnam when a Vietcong battalion launched a full attack on his camp in the early morning. Mortar shells, grenades, and bullets fell in a barrage. Captain Donlon directed defense operations including the unloading of a bunker that had caught fire. He dashed across the compound to defend the main gate and had to kill a demolition team sent by the enemy. He reached the 60mm mortar but was severely wounded in the stomach. When he arrived at the gun pit, he noticed most of the men were wounded and began covering their evacuation attempt. He went into the pit and recovered his team sergeant. While dragging the sergeant out of the pit, Donlon was wounded in the shoulder. He picked up the 60mm mortar and took it to a new location. At the new location he found three wounded men who he provided with first aid. Donlon then crawled around the compound recovering ammunition from several locations. In the process, he was wounded in the legs by a grenade. He crawled up to the 81mm mortar and directed fire from that location until the enemy pulled back. As defense of the firebase continued, Donlon crawled around the perimeter giving his troops encouragement and hurling grenades at enemy forces. A mortar shell then fell near him and wounded him in the face and body. Captain Donlon's troops were able to hold their position and the enemy withdrew -- leaving behind almost 60 dead. Captain Donlon knew his work was not finished so he reorganized his troops and administered first aid to the wounded until help arrived. No matter what the enemy threw at Captain Donlon, he persevered. Wounded three times, he was still able to orchestrate the successful defense of his position and save his men.

Not all situations are as critical as the one related above, but perseverance is always an important value to apply in life. It is one thing to start something, it is quite another to complete it. How many projects are begun with enthusiasm, only to be set aside unfinished? You have taken on the challenge of encampment and embraced the training we offered you. I am proud of your progress. Keep up the good work. Graduation is now in sight.

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