

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Civil Air Patrol Cadets Experience Summer Encampment

BOSSIER CITY, La. – Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Louisiana Wing held its annual Cadet Summer Encampment at Barksdale Air Force Base on July 15-25, 2010.

Over seventy cadets from Louisiana and Texas participated; sixty were first-time attendees while sixteen returned as cadet staff members. Twelve CAP adults served as senior staff, mentoring and supervising the cadet-run event.

During the week cadets were introduced to Air Force values and traditions. The first-year cadets developed teamwork and self-confidence in what for many was their first experience away from home. The advanced cadets applied their leadership skills while serving in positions of responsibility. They imparted to junior cadets what was expected of them. Staying in Air Force quarters, the cadets learned to make beds and keep their rooms tidy in accordance with encampment regulations. While on-base, cadets enjoyed the great food in the dining hall; off-base, they experienced meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) and box lunches.

The cadet encampment lasted ten days, allowing CAP cadets to participate in exciting, intense and interactive activities. Stress and time management, leadership and self discipline broadened their understanding of aerospace subjects. Cadets attending for the first time were placed in groups (called flights) with approximately 14 other cadets ranging in age from 12-18. Each day the cadets ate, slept, exercised and attended activities all day long with their flights. The cadets learned to work together as a team in a challenging environment.

Louisiana Wing Director of Cadet Programs Maj. Victor Santana said, "We had many activities that were very educational and fun for the cadets." Some of these included anti-drug presentations, base tours of the flight line, firing range and fire department. Personnel from the U.S. Air Force Academy and Army National Guard provided briefings about career options. Canine training teams, honor guard and water survival training demonstrations were also presented. Cadets enjoyed time in the B-52 simulators and a visit to the 8th Air Force Museum.

CAP Louisiana Wing Commander Col. Art Scarbrough said, "An event of this magnitude cannot be accomplished without extensive planning and preparation. I want to extend my thanks to those who made this encampment a great success: USAF reservists Lt. Col. Rob Corbin, Maj. Robert Morgan and Maj. Rich Svoboa: CAP-USAF La. Wing State Director John Zaremba: CAP members Lt. Col. Edward Junk, Lt. Col. Shelly Thibodaux, Maj. Dan Chase, Maj. Leslie Fife, Maj. Judith LaValley, Maj. Vic Santana, Capt. John Benton, Capt. Dennis Scalia, Capt. Nolan Smith, 2nd Lt. Heidi Gomez, 2nd Lt. Kelly Morse and 2nd Lt. Juliana Wellman."

Louisiana Wing has over 500 members, representing 14 squadrons that are located in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bossier City, Gonzales, Hammond, Jennings, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Patterson and Shreveport.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 72 lives in fiscal year 2009. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 68 years.

For more information about CAP, visit www.gocivillairpatrol.com

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