



**The Official Magazine of California Wing Civil Air Patrol
Spring 2006**

Two cadets share the reasons why YOU should attend the California Wing summer encampment.

**CADET COSMOS:
*Two Encampment
Success Stories***

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Go for the 3-peat

You've probably asked yourself, "Why would I want to get yelled at for a week of my summer vacation?"

Because—call me crazy—California Wing's encampment is the best cadet activity. Having attended two consecutive camps (97th CTS, Fort Hunter-Liggett, Delta Flight; and last year at Camp SLO, with the ATS, Whiskey Flight), I'd like to convince you that it is a worthwhile experience.



There's a practical benefit: Finishing an encampment makes you eligible to take the exam for the General Billy Mitchell Award and promote through the cadet-officer ranks. Without an encampment credit, forget about becoming a cadet officer.

But it's not just about promoting. At encampment you'll experience what it's like to be a member of a team, join a flight, and graduate with your fellow cadets. Without a team effort—without your effort—the flight will not succeed.

Jody, Jody, Look and See, What Encampment Done to Me!

It began with a sense of foreboding. Every encampment horror story I'd ever heard rushed to mind as I stood in line to check my luggage ("processing in"), studying my SOP. The sound of flight staff yelling at cadets echoed from every building, filling the air. I had definitely arrived.

The first day consisted of learning the encampment standard for everything, from properly folding clothes to how to eat at the chow hall. Cadets met their flight staffs and fellow basics.

Before sunrise the next morning, we awoke to the sound of our flight sergeant loudly ordering us up and outside. Cold air slapped us as we began our first PT of the week. Today's theme: teamwork. We learned that in order to perfect everything in our barracks, we had to work together. In order to drill perfectly, we had to work together.

By midweek, I'd discovered that encampment is not just getting yelled at. Each flight had run the military obstacle course. Strained voices had reached their limits as cadets motivated one another. The Leadership Reaction Course presented us with a challenge that could be met only

When you graduate encampment, you will have joined the elite corps of the Cadet Training Group (CTG). Graduating encampment earns the awesome feeling of being on the parade deck with your flight for closing ceremonies. By this time you will have realized that it is not about you, but the team.



using teamwork. We climbed walls, swung across water, and transported personnel and supplies through an obstacle course within a set time.

It got better: Orientation flights allowed us to experience Chinook helicopters and see the spectacular scenery beyond Camp SLO. We all went to the range to shoot M16s—the highlight of the week for some cadets in my flight. Marching flights sounded off jodies with pride. In the end, it was the sound of high morale we could hear in the air.—
Cadet Tech. Sgt. Melanie Tunison, Travis Composite Squadron 22

Yes, there is a lot of yelling. Don't worry about it, and don't take it personally. Your flight staff wants to see you exceed the encampment standard and conquer the challenges of this grueling week.—
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Steve Dominguez, Travis Composite Squadron 22