

Maj Alice Mansell, CAP
Director of Public Affairs, California Wing
PA@cawg.cap.gov

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(SAN LUIS OBISPO, California) -- On 31 August 2003, the Commander of Civil Air Patrol's California Wing, Col Larry Myrick, presided over a graduation ceremony pass and review of more than 180 Civil Air Patrol cadets who had completed a nine day encampment at California National Guard's Camp San Luis Obispo.

An encampment is one of the most demanding and challenging programs in the Civil Air Patrol. It is an intensive experience in physical training, drill, aerospace education and drug demand reduction education with electives such as orientation to a firing range. Graduation from an encampment is a requirement for promotion in the Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program.

The Cadet Commander was C/LtCol Gavin Woodman from the San Carlos Composite Squadron 192. He led a staff of 33 cadets tasked with duties ranging from sergeants for cadet squadrons and flights to logistics and administration.

The Encampment Commander, LtCol Tony Upton, oversaw a staff of 25 senior Civil Air Patrol members assisted by two medics from Travis Air Force Base, two CAP-Air Force Reserve Assistance Program officers and a senior Air Force noncommissioned officer from the Western Regional Counterdrug Training Team at Camp San Luis Obispo.

An MTV video crew attended the final days of the encampment to film two of the Cadet Training Group's Squadron commanders, Cadet Captains Jeremy and Joshua Pemberton for an upcoming MTV program about twins.

The Encampment Distinguished Graduate was C/AIC Cami Bushem. The Commander's Award for Academic Excellence went to C/SSGt David Stateler. C/Capt Brian Jensen won the Commandant's Award for Leadership.

The Cadet Commander's Award for Staff Excellence went to C/2Lt Robert Gibson. The Cadet Training Group presented the Chaplain LtCol Loren Brown Award for Outstanding Leadership to Major Scott Englund. The Encampment Commander gave his award for Outstanding Leadership and Performance for a cadet to C/LtCol Gavin Woodman.

A final special award from the Cadet Training Group was presented to Chief

Master Sergeant Norman Marous for his service to the Encampment as a Drug Demand Reduction instructor and his 41 years of service to the Air Force.

More information about the California Wing's Cadet Program can be found at www.cawg.cap.gov.