

...To Advance my Education and Training Rapidly...

Every time the cadet oath is made the title of this article is stated. It assumes that cadets will study hard to test successfully and further their knowledge of civil air patrol as a whole. While a consistent attendance record and hard work are valuable to accomplishing these goals there was a recent outing for those cadets desiring to go above and beyond in their training. This was the last STS-Squadron Training School and it provided cadets the opportunity to do exactly that.

The STS was structured as an overnight activity. The increased time commitment was helpful in providing cadets with an extra amount of training. There was an increased amount of discipline implemented as no easy transition existed into the STS as C/TSgt Tsouris burst through the doors ordering cadets against the wall- with the emphasis lying on the word ordering. When asked about the experience C/Ab Lawrence recalled "It was... rather frightening." After check in the cadets in attendance were sent to the auditorium to finish the movie Top Gun started at a previous meeting. This was a chance for cadets to relax. Before anyone could think of sleep an inspection was given by the higher ranking cadets ensuring that bunks had been set properly and similarly throughout the locker rooms. The idea of teamwork was soon grasped as any cadet who was finished with their own quarters was required to assist any other cadet who had not yet finished



their bunk. It was then time for cadets to sleep.



The night was short as an early morning fire drill was held at 0600 abruptly waking cadets from their slumbers. The cadets handled this change of pace well as they exited the building quickly and efficiently. When questioned C/A1C Sollender stated that the most difficult part of the STS was "waking up from some crazy noises," referring to C/2dLt Ashburn's usage of a whistle among other things. Directly after reveille came early morning PT as cadets pushed themselves to complete what First Sergeant Kennedy asked for. After breakfast cadets participated in a leadership activity held by Captain Kennedy in which cadets had to use a sting tied around an elastic band to pick up a water bottle and deposit it into a container. Afterwards cadets found themselves on a long march along the entire course of the track behind the facilities. Cadets took pride in this as they endured the heat to complete the several mile round trip. Lt. Jacobs gave the cadets a chance to hone their navigation and emergency services skills as cadets hunted for a cache after being granted certain coordinates. This lead up to lunch as sloppy joes were served along with chips and drinks.

The STS was beneficial to cadets of all rank and abilities. From Papa flight C/Ab Lawrence stated that "exercises and learning customs and courtesies" had been most beneficial. He additionally felt that the weekend would be very beneficial as a new cadet to his future in CAP as a whole. C/A1C Sollender felt that the STS has "been like encampment. I'm learning how to be a leader. I'm just learning how to help out with everyone else." Holding a position on staff had it's perks as explained by C/TSgt Tsouris "The last couple years I've been a basic cadet but this year I got to be staff... I get to be a flight commander/flight sergeant organizer who trains cadets. And I get to yell a lot." This event as a whole was an opportunity for cadets to grow both individually and as a team. As a whole the STS was a complete success with more cadets in attendance and perhaps more accomplished than any STS before it.