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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2019

2019 California Wing Encampment – 45th Year of The Cadet Training Group

Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. — The California Wing of Civil Air Patrol held their annual cadet encampment at Camp San Luis Obispo for their 20th year at this military installation, July 3 -13, 2019. In conjunction with encampment, the California Wing Cadet Program also held advanced training for those cadets who had previously completed their basic encampment. All students completed the weeklong activity and graduated July 13.

Commandant of Cadets Maj. Christa Cabrera said, "Encampment is an annual, weeklong event that provides training for the cadets throughout each wing. There are five focuses: uniform wear, aerospace education, opportunities to lead, challenges, and fun." This is the foundation for many cadets to advance their education through the Civil Air Patrol cadet programs. This year the Advanced Training Squadron (ATS) students were given the opportunity to advance their training in emergency services, aerospace education, and leadership skills.

This year 268 first time students graduated on July 13. The reviewing officer of this year's encampment graduation ceremony was California Wing Commander Col. Alan Ferguson. Also joining him was Pacific Region Commander Col. Jon Stokes, and both California Wing Vice Commanders Lt. Col. Greg Chase and Lt. Col. Ross Veta. Veta has also been selected to serve as the next California Wing commander, assuming the command from Ferguson in September 2019.

During the graduation, the following awards were presented for the activity:

- Group Drill Competition Champions: NOVEMBER flight.
- Group Academic Excellence: MIKE flight.
- Group Volleyball Competition Champions: ECHO flight.
- Group Barracks Excellence: JULIET flight.
- Group Safety Excellence: LIMA flight.
- 2019 Cadet Training Group Honor Flight: CHARLIE flight.
- Encampment Commander's Award for Outstanding Achievement and the 2019 Cadet Training Group Honor Cadet: Cadet Senior Airman Bijan Zarrinkhameh of KILO flight.
- Lt Col Terry Edinboro Award for Leadership: Cadet 2nd Lt. Chase Cormier, the KILO flight commander.
- Wing Commander's Award for Academic Excellence: Cadet Staff Sgt. Tigerlily King of MIKE flight.

Continued

- Cadet Training Group Commander's Award for Support Staff Excellence: Cadet Maj. John Dunham.
- Kenneth "K3" Sturgill Award for Training Staff Excellence: Cadet Lt. Col. Colin Rodriguez.
- Lt Col Jim Jenkins Award for Senior Staff Excellence: Maj. Paula Urbomb-Shope, director of administration.
- Chaplain Loren Brown Award for Outstanding Leadership: Lt. Col. Mark Davalos of the 147th Cadet Training Squadron.

Camp San Luis Obispo has been used for 20 encampments. The first encampment at Camp SLO was in 1996. This year there were 268 first time students, 22 ATS students, 89 cadet cadre, 79 senior members (full/part time), with a total of 458 participants in total. To break down the numbers a little further:

- All eight Groups of California Wing were represented.
- 61 units were present.
- Squadron 56 sent 41 members.
- Squadron 44 sent 33 members.
- 22 families sent siblings.
- Four sets of twins.
- 12 parent/cadet(s) combos that attended.

This year we also had students and senior members from Michigan, Oregon, Ohio, Maryland, and South Carolina! It was a coordinated effort among all of these individuals to accomplish the many activities that took place throughout the week.

This week would not be possible without the help of our dedicated volunteers, and this level of activity would not have been the success it was without the support and planning of a core group of special individuals. A special thanks to the executive staff of encampment: Encampment Commander Lt. Col. Douglas Crawford; Commandant of Cadets Maj. Christa Cabrera; Chief Training Officer Lt. Col. Brett Dolnick; CTG Commander Cadet Lt. Col. Tyler Beal; and the support of California Wing Commander Col. Alan Ferguson.

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force. In this role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 aircraft, performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 80 lives annually. CAP's 63,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. In addition, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace/STEM education, and its members serve as mentors to over 26,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs. Visit www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com or www.CAP.news for more information.

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