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WASHINGTON WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

Why the Military

By PFC Christen, Toni E.D. USMC

How many of you plan on making a career out of the military? Hopefully, at least a few of you will. When I joined CAP, I didn't know what I wanted to be. I was still deciding between a police officer, firefighter, veterinarian, marine biologist, and a number of other things. I know it's hard to really know what you want to do for the rest of your life but allow me to let you in on a little secret. You don't have to know right now. You don't even have to know when you graduate. I still am not sure what I want to do for the rest of my life, but I do know that no matter what I choose it's not going to be harder than what I just went through.



I am not going to lie to you. Basic training is hard for any branch, I'm sure, but I just happened to choose the hardest. Marine Corps boot camp opened my eyes to many different things. Coming from a small town, it is difficult to imagine what goes on in the rest of the world, but there are people from all walks of life at boot camp. I was able to experience many things that most people can't even imagine. I met people from all over the world, I was put into positions I did not like but found a way through it, and I had to learn to work with people that I

didn't exactly see eye to eye with. I know you must be thinking, what about the physical part? And I will say, yes, it was very physically demanding, but that was not the hardest part. All of it put together with stress and heat made it even harder. You have to let the physical stuff drift off to the back of your mind so that you can focus on the task at hand. These are all things that you will someday have to do in your adult life.

The main point I am trying to make is that everything you learn at boot camp will somehow someday come in handy. It teaches you all kinds of life lessons but jams it into three months so that it doesn't take a lifetime to learn. Just being in the military and going through boot camp will look amazing on any resume. It gives you a good part time job and time to decide what you really want to do in your future. So even if you don't want to make the military part of your life forever, at least consider it for your college years. I enlisted into the Active Duty Reserves. This way I can get financial help through my college years while still giving back to my country. At the same time, I do not have to make a lifetime commitment that I am not ready for. So am I saying go sign up today? Not at all! But I am saying that if you think it might be something to consider and you think you may need help through college, I would definitely suggest that you at least go speak with a recruiter or someone you know in the military. Another hint of advice - don't listen to everything your recruiter says. They may be full of knowledge and advice, but always go get a second opinion and always research.

The military is not for everyone but for those that seem to have no direction or set path this may be their best bet for at least their first few years out of high school. But don't get me wrong; there is always the alternative of taking a few years off and ending up working at Burger King for the rest or majority of your life.

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Are You Prepared?

By Brig Gen Amy Courter CAP, Acting National Commander

Over the past month, I have sent the entire membership several messages in the hopes of helping you and those around you to be better prepared for when disasters strike as part of our National Preparedness Month initiatives. I hope that we have all been successful in reaching out on this critical issue of preparedness. As one last self-check, I am providing an emergency preparedness quiz developed by the Department of Homeland Security for National Preparedness Month. Take a moment and review it with your family and friends, and once you've completed it visit <http://www.ready.gov/> and put together an emergency supply kit and family emergency plan for you and your family. Thank you for your support of National Preparedness Month!

Emergency preparedness Quiz *(with answers, editor)*

1. A family emergency plan should include:
 - Information about the emergency plan at your children's schools.
 - The name and phone number of an out-of-town contact person. A list of important phone numbers, including those of doctors and emergency services. A central meeting spot outside your home and one outside your neighborhood in case you need to leave the area.
2. When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it is best to think first about the basics of survival. You should consider a necessity of survival drinking water, food, clean air, and warmth.
3. The following items should be included in a basic emergency supply kit: water, non-perishable foods, battery operated radio, dust mask or cotton fabrics, whistle, important family documents, flashlight and extra batteries, manual can opener, plastic sheeting and duct tape, garbage bags and plastic ties, wrench or pliers, first aid kit, and unique family needs such as infant formula or prescription medicines.
4. The following is a recommendation action for emergency preparedness: creating a family emergency plan, becoming knowledgeable about types of potential emergencies and responses, and getting an emergency supplies kit.
5. The steps pet owners take when preparing their pets for emergencies include: assemble an emergency supply kit with enough pet food and water for three days, as well as medication, medical records, leashes and ID tags. Develop an emergency plan that considers the pets' needs and make a list of animal shelters or veterinary hospitals in other cities where a pet may need to be temporarily sheltered. Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate pets if you are unable to do so. And to alert rescue workers during a fire or other emergency, place "Pets Inside" stickers on doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets.
6. The federal governments Web site that provides information about how to get prepared for a natural disaster or other emergency is <http://www.ready.gov/>.
7. The Ready Kids portion of the Ready Web site includes the following: in school geography and language arts material developed by Scholastics Inc., downloadable activity books and stickers, interactive games and activities for children ages 8-12, and resources and links to other organizations that promote emergency preparedness and provide information on how to help children cope with emergency situations.

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Plan Now for a Great Learning Experience Next Summer

By 1st Lt Ruth Peterson

What plans do you have for next summer? Do you want to learn to fly and take your first solo flight? Do you want to learn how to be a part of an Honor Guard? How about taking some instruction in some specific technical areas such as Aircraft Manufacturing and Maintenance, Air Force Space Command, Engineering Technologies, or Advanced Technologies. Perhaps you want to further your leadership skills at the 10 day Cadet Officer's School. This is a school that Air Force Captains themselves endure. There is the Blue Beret program where you are able to participate in the world's largest Air Show and Hawk Mountain Survival Ranger Program.

These are some of the programs that are available to cadets every summer. If you have the September-October 2007 issue of the CAP Volunteer magazine, you have an overview of many of the programs and several in-depth articles covering a few more of them. The length of these programs vary from one week to two, and they are in various parts of the country. The costs also vary widely - from \$150 to \$500. Add to that the cost of the airfare, and the costs might seem prohibitive. However, if you plan for what you wish to do right now and work with the Senior Members of the squadron, there are many opportunities for obtaining scholarships from many sources. Any one of these programs would provide a great addition to your CAP career, and they may even give you some ideas of what direction you wish to go as you graduate from High School and continue your education. If you do wish to attend any of the National programs, you will have to apply by the end of December. You don't have to have the entire event paid for in December, and there is an ability to cancel up to a certain amount of time before the event. There are always a few on the waiting list eager to take your place. However, you can't go at all unless you apply by the deadline.

So take a look through the Volunteer Magazine and take a look at the Cadet Programs portion of the CAP National web site, and make some plans for the summer of 2008!

CLEAN-UP DAY AT THE AIRPORT IS A SUCCESS!

A crowd of over 25 people came to the Chehalis Airport on September 29th to help clean, paint, and work on landscaping around the LCCS office building. Cadets, parents, and officers accomplished much during the work day. The building had the paint scraped and then primer was applied and the trim painted. Windows were washed and the gutters were cleaned. Landscaping was a big part of the project. Trees and bushes were trimmed and the areas around them were raked and the bark was replaced. The trophies and awards that have previously been displayed at Napavine High School were moved to the Airport where they will be a little more accessible to both the members of the squadron and the public. Dan Whalen, LCCS commander, said, "The Team pulled together and worked hard to get the office ready for the open house. I am so proud of the hard work that our squadron exhibits every time they are called upon. This is a great group of people!"



C/A1C Ivan Weber works on the building during the clean-up day at the Airport.
Photo taken by C/CMSgt Jonathan Peterson

October Birthdays

• **1 - Cadet Jacob Homan**

• **6 - Cadet Taylor Kenny**

• **7 - Cadet Ashley Lobb**

• **15 - Cadet Jacob Judge**

• **15 - Maj Sue Carmick**

• **19 - Cadet Thomas Witt**

• **22 - Cadet Tonya Rider**

• **24 - Cadet Krystina Wulff**

Civil Air Patrol

Websites of interest for Cadets:
National CAP Website
(Check out the National encampments! You must sign up for them by the end of Dec.)
<http://www.cap.gov/>
Washington CAP Website
<http://www.wawg.cap.gov/>
The Hock Shop (For Uniforms)
<http://www.thehock.com/>



We are working on a squadron website that will allow cadets to find information about upcoming events, forms, and other information. Check us out at: www.lewiscountycap.org



OFFICER DRILL SCHEDULE

THURSDAYS IN OCTOBER

6:30 pm— SCOUT LODGE

At 3rd and Adams
Chehalis, WA

DATE	TOPIC
Oct 4	Meet at Airport
Oct 11	Operations Training
Oct 18	Senior Training
Oct 25	Cadet Programs

Note: Occasionally the Officers meet at the Chehalis Airport so call Lt. Whalen to confirm meeting place.

Important Dates—Add to your Calendar TODAY!

For More Info, go to www.wawg.cap.gov. Click on Members. Under Members, click on Cadet Programs. If you have any questions about events (price, how to apply, etc) call your 'higher-ups', and they can help you out!

19-21 October WTA - training at Camp Murray. The Advanced Communication User's Training class will be presented on Saturday the 20th. There will be a group of cadets and seniors attending at least that portion of the event. If you plan on attending just for the day, each meal costs \$4. If you plan on attending the entire weekend, the cost is \$25.00 for meals and a bunk for both nights.

3 November - Fall Conference. This is an all-day event with classes during the day and a banquet in the evening. Plan to attend this fun event - we will be providing transportation to the event. Fill out your application and send it in within the next week, please!

16 - 18 November BME - Submit your form 23's and 24's along with \$75 to attend. Be sure to send letters to both the squadron and ASH for scholarships.

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for articles is on the 15th of the month.
Schedules must be in by the 20th. Send to the editor at Grpete@centurytel.net
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