

Nighthawk Composite Squadron Hosts Airman Leadership School

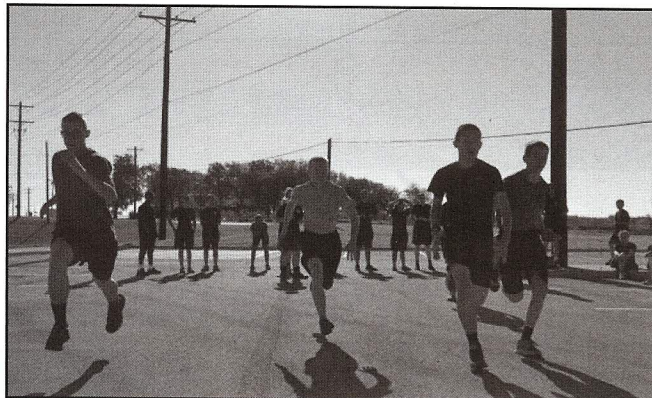
By Cadet 2nd Lt. Christopher Crismon, CAP

During the first weekend of October (4-5 October 2014), TX-413 Nighthawk Composite Squadron hosted an Airman Leadership School (ALS) that was sponsored by Group VI. The activity took place at the Army Reserve Center located outside of Denton, Texas. Cadets from the ranks of Airman to Staff Sergeant participated at the event. A total of 35 cadets attended the activity, 20 basics and 15 staff members, which made this activity a complete success. Cadet 1st Lt. Catherine Flood, who is the Bravo Flight Commander, happily said, "It was excellent training for the basics. They learned more than the training syllabus outlined and they absorbed all the information we taught them. They were enthusiastic towards our teaching and overall had a great time. I'm definitely glad I could help teach them."

The participating cadets began the Saturday with In-Processing. The cadets checked in to the activity in their BDUs and were briefed over their activity, assignment of flights, and safety topics. They were also put through how a uniform inspection would take place if they were at basic encampment. After they completed this, the cadets were taken inside to be taught in classes over basic topics of leadership, uniforms, drill, and other

Civil Air Patrol related topics.

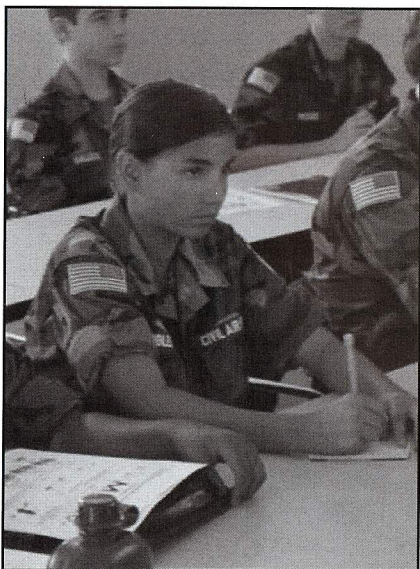
Class rotations led by different cadets on staff were taught to the students as part of the Airman Leadership School. Customs and courtesies, drill, history and facts of Civil Air Patrol, using Zulu time, and even preparation for Basic Encampment were taught in different classes throughout



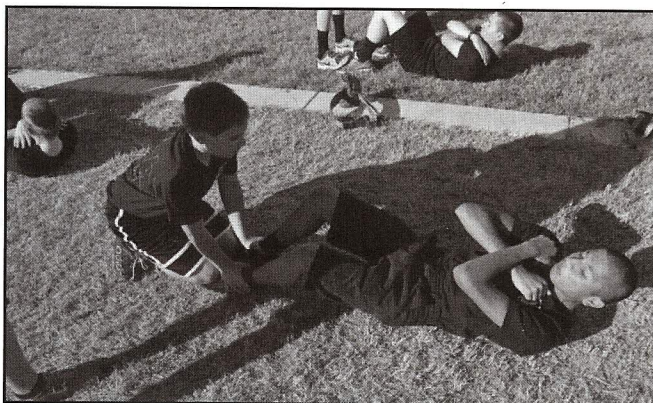
Cadets practice their running for their Physical Training.



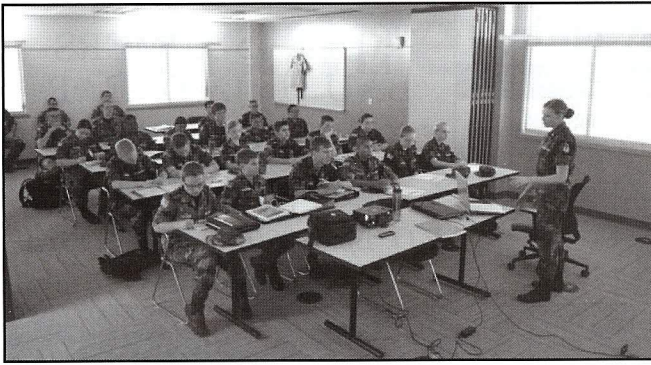
Five cadets face off in a drill off/bearing competition.



Cadet Airman Bianca Robles listens attentively and takes notes.



Cadet Airman Terran Chastain holds Cadet Airman Basic Luis Mendoza's feet in place while doing his situps.



Cadets receive a class in Civil Air Patrol history.

the day. Students were also taking notes throughout the classes for future reference.

The students also took part in different activities. The different activities included untangling yarn knots, practical drill, ceremonies, ranger push-ups, and drill competitions. The students also learned how to pass-in-review. Alongside with drill, students also exercised in their Physical Training. A mock Physical Training test was given to all students and was challenged to give their all.

The following day came for the students to clean up to get ready for leaving after graduation. Their cots were put up, floors were swept and mopped, and luggage was prepared. The students went back outside to sharpen what would have to happen at graduation. The mock pass-in-review was started and the students showed their potential learning skills while performing it. After successfully completing the pass-in-review, the cadets had flight time before they had to change into their blues.

After their flight time, cadets went to shower and change into their blues uniform. When they finished changing, all of the basics ran through another uniform inspection, but for the blues. Soon after the inspection finished, cadets' parents started pulling up and watch their cadet. When graduation started, the pass-in-review went by smoothly and the cadets lined back up just how they were supposed to. Then, the cadets, including staff, one at a time, would come up to the front to report in and claim their certificate. "I thought it went really well! The cadets learned really fast. I certainly enjoyed this ALS," said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Lauren Edge, who is the First Sergeant of the activity.

All of the cadet and senior member participants made the weekend phenomenal. Cadets learned various leadership skills, Civil Air Patrol



Cadet Senior Master Sgt. James Williams inspects and fixes Cadet Airman Charlotte Laird's insignias.

facts, aerospace mechanics, and basic encampment topics. Cadet 1st Lt. Jacob Gaskins, who is the Logistics/Admin OIC, said, "I believe ALS was an amazing activity. [This was] one of the best I have ever been to. The cadets were organized and knew what needed to be done. The senior members were awesome. All the cadets that attended learned a lot." ★



Cadet Airman David Messer, quit goofing around! He's actually helping his group in the tangled knot activity.



Capt. Albert Welch, who is the Project Officer, presents Cadet Maj. Alexander Durr, who is the ALS Cadet Commander, his Certificate of Appreciation.