

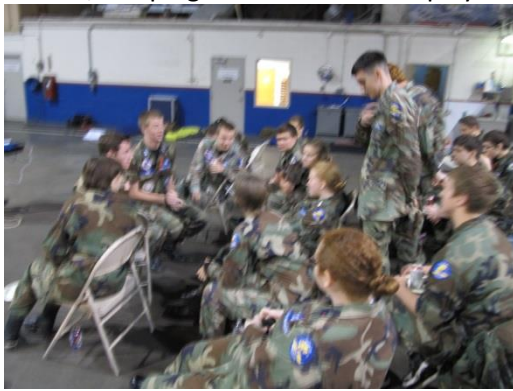
# Missouri Wing Group 1 Leadership Bivouac



12-14 September 2014  
National Airline History Museum  
Kansas City, MO

On the weekend of 12-14 September 2014, Missouri wing Group 1 hosted a Leadership Bivouac open to the entire wing. The event was held at the National Airline History Museum at the Kansas City Charles B Wheeler Downtown Airport. The weekend included a video about Gen. Terrance Dake, a dinner with Brigadier General Sam Mitchell, USAF Ret, and Col Erica Williams, Commander, Missouri wing speaking, a behind the scenes tour of the airport, and a day of fun and learning at the Tucker Leadership Lab, part of William Jewell College in Liberty, MO

On Friday, participants began checking in at 1800 hours, and thanks to the help of the cadet command staff, everything ran extremely smooth. After check in, the group of about 28 cadets and 3 senior members participated in some “getting to know you” exercises. Later in the evening, while eating pizza, we watched a video of a play done at the College of the Ozarks, about the life and career of Gen. Terrance Dake, USMC Ret. The video gave the cadets a prospective on what a life spent in leadership positions is like. That night, due to temperatures dipping into the 30’s, everyone camped inside of the museum, sleeping in the museum display room and under the wings of a TWA Constellation



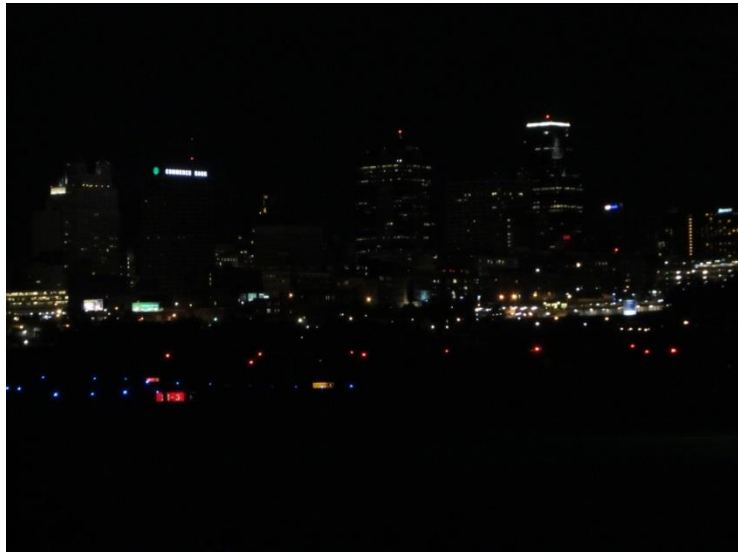
Saturday morning came early, as we cleared out our camping gear so the museum could open for normal business, and everyone was transported to the Parkville VFW post for a cooked to order breakfast. This gave the cadets time to talk to many veterans while enjoying a fresh, hot breakfast to prepare them for the day ahead. At breakfast, the group was joined by Col. Williams, as well as 4 additional cadets and another senior member. Then everyone car pooled to the Tucker Leadership Lab about 25 minutes away. At the Leadership Lab, the group was divided in to 3 flights and began working as teams doing multiple tasks to learn about followership and Leadership. While participating in the events, as a group, the cadets and senior members also learned a lot about themselves. Midway through the day, each flight took a break for lunch catered in by Jimmy John’s. Then... the fun began, 45 up! Each of the flights began tasks on the high ropes, actually wires, which were 45 feet above the ground. Cadets learned to trust each other, as well as themselves, as they traversed the wires, some while blindfolded! This, as evidenced by the number of positive comments received, was one the major highlights of the weekend. Flights did a variety of tasks during the day, such as getting all members of the flight onto a giant teeter-totter, and making sure none of the platform touched the ground while additional members climbed aboard, or they had to start over. Others had to work their way around the inside of a building using man-made rock climbing “rocks”. Another exercise was finding an “injured hiker” in a simulated dark environment. This was accomplished by blind folding the flight, as they went down a path in the woods, found the “patient” and extricated them from the woods in a stokes basket. All of these activities required each flight to work well with each other and learn to communicate in ways that they don’t think about on a daily basis.



After the Tucker Leadership Lab, everyone was transported back to the Airline History Museum, where dinner was prepared, with special guests Brig. Gen. Sam Mitchell and Col Erica Williams, along with the cadet staff, Capt. John Roper, CAP, representing the Museum, and Group 1 Deputy Commander Capt. Kevin Oliver, CAP present at the head table, as well as having Group 1 commander Austin Worcester in attendance. At the conclusion of dinner, Spaatz recipient, Col Williams, spoke about how Civil Air Patrol has helped teach her about leadership, and the opportunities and schools it provides to learn about leadership. Then, Brig. Gen. Mitchell spoke about the benefits and opportunities available at the United States Air Force Academy, and about the 5 levels of leadership. After the speeches, several cadets took the opportunity to speak one on one with the General about the opportunities at the US Air Force Academy.



After cleaning up from dinner, the group finished the night with some emergency services training. Capt. Kevin Oliver, CAP, a 25 plus year firefighter, taught about fire extinguisher, and then, after a little work on the burn prop, each cadet got to put out a small propane fire using a fire extinguisher. That night, as the temperatures had warmed a bit, many cadets and a couple seniors, chose to sleep outside, with an amazing view of the downtown Kansas City skyline, less than a mile away.



On Sunday, after breakfast casserole and Tang, personnel from the operations division of the Kansas City Downtown airport spoke about the daily operations for the airport, and the things they do to keep the flights in and out on a regular schedule and safe. Then, we loaded into the CAP vans, and did an escorted tour on the inside of the airport fence, seeing some of the hangars, maintenance facilities, and the crash pads at the end of the runway. This was a special time for the members at the event, as while we were at the end of the runway, a plane was doing touch and go's and flying right over the top of everyone. At one point, everyone fell into formation, and as the plane flew over the top, pictures were taken, and the pilot radioed to the control tower that the "group in formation at the end of the runway looked very good and professional".

Overall, the weekend was a great success, and had it not been for the cadet command staff consisting of Cadet Commander C/1st Lt Patrick Lucitt, XO, C/ 2nd Lt Ariel Switzer, and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt, C/SMSgt Lauren McComb, this event would not have gone as smoothly, or as educationally, for everyone involved. A special thank you to these cadets!

And of course, I would be remiss if I did not also thank the National Airline History Museum ([www.airlinehistory.org](http://www.airlinehistory.org)) for allowing us to meet there, and the Spaatz Association, for their generous grant that allowed attendees to only have to pay for food at the event.





Respectfully submitted  
Capt. Kevin Oliver, CAP  
Mo Wing, Group 1 Deputy Commander