



Civil Air Patrol Emergency Services Training conducted in Maryville Tennessee

Group 1 Head Quarters of the Tennessee Wing of CAP, located in Alcoa at McGhee Tyson Airport, conducted Emergency Services Training with participants from several squadrons across East Tennessee. Members began arriving on Friday evening to set up camp. Paperwork was checked, tents were pitched and staff stayed were busy setting up various ground team training exercises. CAP Members were joined by the Knoxville Police Department Explorer Scouts for the weekend activities.

Southeast Region Commander Col James Rushing and TN Wing commander Col Barry Melton arrived for check-in Saturday morning and observed some of the training being conducted. Group 1 Commander Maj Darrell Sexton provided both commanders with a tour of the mission base facilities and various ground team training locations. Before departing, both Col Rushing and Col Melton were able to observe the Air Evac Lifeteam helicopter land and members were able to get a close look at their equipment and meet the crew members.



Saturday evening we finished with a wonderful barbeque dinner provided by Mr. Keith McCord and his staff. Mr. McCord generously provides CAP with the use of his property in Maryville Tennessee for Group training exercises twice each year and at various other times for individual squadron training.



Sunday started a little wet but quickly cleared up. After a short mission cadets and senior members headed and back to base camp to watch the Sheriff's Department air rescue demonstration. The pilots and crew impressed everyone with their skill as we watched two crew members rapel out of the helicopter to their victims waiting on the ground below. Cadets and senior members were able to spend time inspecting the helicopter and asking questions.

Civil Air Patrol is the official Auxiliary of the Air Force. Although best known for search and rescue efforts, disaster assessment, relief and recovery are also areas of expertise within our local squadrons. With 56,000 members nation wide and over 1,000 here in Tennessee our volunteers are also involved in many community service activities partnering with organizations such as RAM and Operation Christmas Child. For more information about CAP including squadrons in your area, please visit cap.gov or call Kimberly Bennett (865) 382-5130.