



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for April 2013

*Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force - Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond*

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### WING TIPS

**HOT NEWS:** SDWG staff will undergo a Compliance Inspection (CI) on 4-5 May to ensure that CAP’s rules, regulations, policies and programs are complied with. The Wing inspections are a joint CAP and CAP-USAF activity where representatives of both headquarters determine how well a wing is managed and whether it is meeting its missions. Selected vehicles and aircraft are brought to Wing HQ to be inspected and face-to-face or telephonic interviews are held with Wing staff. Documentation for each Wing staff position is also reviewed.

**HOT NEWS:** The Aberdeen Composite Flight is to be stood down. Its personnel will be transferred as appropriate and the unit’s equipment and assets will be reassigned.

- SDWG held its annual conference 19-21 April in Pierre. The Kings Inn Hotel and Conference Center was the venue for an excellent and informative gathering with over 100 Wing members in attendance. Saturday morning’s general assembly opened with the presentation of the colors by the Rushmore Composite Squadron and an invocation by Chaplain Lt. Col. Rae. Master of ceremonies, Maj. Randall Borton, introduced guests of honor, Col. Robert Todd, NCR Commander and Col. John Seten, SDWG Commander. Following their remarks SDWG Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson spoke on building squadron foundations. This was followed by an excellent briefing on the CyberPatriot Program by the Big Sioux Composite Squadron. Several awards were handed out at the conclusion of the assembly. For Senior Members the afternoon was taken up with breakout sessions on a variety of topics. After the assembly the Wing Cadet Advisory Council met followed by a session on Drug Demand Reduction. That afternoon the cadets held a tabletop SAREX. C/Capt. Elizabeth Foy, C/Maj. Joshua Busch and C/Col. William Small planned the SAREX and learned what it is like to be on the senior’s side of a SAREX or REDCAP disseminating information and assessing objectives. Capt. David Small and Maj. Craig Goodrich assisted and evaluated the SAREX. The highlight for the cadets was a get-together with former SD Governor Mike Rounds, himself a former CAP cadet in Pierre who earned the Earhart Award and learned to fly through CAP. He spoke on a variety of topics of interest to the cadets and answered their questions. The banquet was held Saturday night during which numerous awards were presented to senior members and cadets (see the Kudos section). On Sunday morning Col. Seten held a commander’s call and meeting of the Wing Staff

while the cadets convened to discuss and plan the Cadet Leadership Academy set for 7-9 June 2013. The Wing expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone involved in planning and conducting the conference.

- SDWG recently acquired some snazzy new pieces of communications technology; four SPOT satellite trackers for ground-based use and four Spidertracks for use on aircraft. The hand-held SPOT device transmits a GPS location at specific intervals to a satellite which relays that data via the Internet to a computer display. In addition, brief pre-programmed messages can be sent with the GPS location. Spidertracks sends an aircraft's GPS location at specific intervals through the Iridium Satellite Network, and displays the track of the aircraft's flight on the Spidertracks website. SPOT and Spidertracks will not only provide an Incident Commander with near-real-time information on the location of a specific vehicle or aircraft they will also provide situational awareness at a glance as well as affording an additional measure of safety for CAP air and ground assets. The devices will be rotated occasionally so every squadron will have an opportunity to train with them. Following training and testing the SPOT and Spidertracks devices will become operational. Additional SPOT and Spidertracks will be procured when funding permits.

- From Google Alerts – Lake County News Reports, 18 March 2013: [Edited] NORTH COAST, Calif. – As part of Tsunami Preparedness Week, Mendocino County officials plan a tsunami preparedness warning test. The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services, and the counties of Humboldt and Del Norte, the National Weather Service, and the California Emergency Management Agency, has scheduled a tsunami warning system test March 27. On television a crawler at the bottom of the screen will appear indicating that a tsunami warning has been issued and a voice will announce that it is only a test. On the radio alerting tones will be followed by a voice announcing that the test is occurring. On NOAA weather radios with the public alert feature the radio will automatically turn on with same message as broadcast on radios. Tsunami sirens near the cities of Fort Bragg or Point Arena will be activated and “wail” for about three minutes. As part of the tsunami warning system, the Civil Air Patrol, weather permitting, will be flying along the coastlines of Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties testing their [on-board] public address system. The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services also will test its emergency notification system (Reverse 911) with a public service announcement in the Fort Bragg and Point Arena areas. If there is a real earthquake in the Pacific Ocean that has the potential to generate tsunamis for the coastline the test will be cancelled.

Source: [www.lakeconews.com](http://www.lakeconews.com)

Follow-up on how the test went:

[www.sacbee.com/2013/04/14/5338232/northern-exposure-covering-issues.html](http://www.sacbee.com/2013/04/14/5338232/northern-exposure-covering-issues.html)



On Saturday, 23 March, Col. Mary Donley, South Dakota Wing Professional Development Officer, conducted a Unit Commanders Course at the headquarters of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Those in attendance were: Lt. Jason Erickson, newly appointed Squadron Commander, Lt Kurt Johnson, Deputy Commander and Capt. Jerry Zurowski, Squadron Finance Officer. Despite its name, the course is not just for those who aspire to become a commander. It also provides a wealth of information on how to make a squadron work and how to manage the volunteers you work with. At a date to be determined Col. Donley plans to offer a Corporate Learning Course for those seeking to advance in level in the

CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program. Photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Vincent Brown

- Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Tea chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) will hold a pancake breakfast from 0800-1000 in EAA Building Y-14. The cost is \$5. At 1000, Legacy Aviation in Tea will hold a free class on earning a private pilot license! The class will explain the requirements, costs, time involved, and

materials, as well as an up close look at the aircraft and controls. 30 minute “Discovery” flights are available for a fee. For more info call: Legacy Aviation, 47010 Great Planes Place, Tea, SD 57064, Phone: 605-368-2841.



In mid-February Wing personnel attended a communications training course in Omaha hosted by the Nebraska Wing. The course on High Frequency/Automatic Link Establishment (HF/ALE) radios covered one of the means by which CAP communicates. ALE is a system in which one HF radio automatically initiates a link to another HF radio. HF/ALE is a reliable method for communicating over great distances regardless of atmospheric conditions that cause interference. In cases where radio traffic in the HF frequency spectrum is heavy, ALE makes finding a clear frequency easy. There is no longer a need to have prescheduled contact times, charts to determine day/night or seasonal frequencies, or repetitive calling to set up a link. In the past it took an experienced

operator to use the older HF radio systems. With advancements in communications technology in the digital age you don’t have to be an expert to operate HF/ALE.

Expanded use of HF/ALE started in the 1990’s primarily as a means of communication of government agencies during national disasters when the normal communication infrastructure is down or overwhelmed. It was used extensively during Hurricane Katrina when cell phones, land lines, and the internet were inoperable during the storm in order to send and receive vital information and dispatch first responders and other emergency services. Most of the attendees at the training course were communication officers and/or amateur radio (ham) operators. The instructor was 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Chuck Brudtkuhl, Director of Communications for Iowa Wing, and one of CAP’s premier HF radio operators. There was a plethora of technical jargon but fortunately some of the attendees took time to elaborate on some of the materials for greater clarity. In addition to the lectures and group discussions there was a hands-on component to familiarize participants with the equipment. Everyone present agreed that the course was well run, highly informative and definitely worth the time. For South Dakota Wing the course helped to train the trainers who will work to form a cadre of HF/ALE operators in SDWG.



*Course attendees were: Capt. Bill Collister, SDWG Director of Communications; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jerry Gabert, SFCS Comms Officer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tyler Cavin, SFCS Asst. Comms Officer; Capt. Joe Oye, SFCS Ops Officer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Vincent Brown, SFCS Aerospace Education Officer*

*Photo left: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gabert and Capt. Oye, Photo right: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brown*

*Item and photos by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brown*

- From Google Alerts - KOAA-TV, by JD Downing, 4 April 2013: [Edited] TRINIDAD, Colo. – COWG recently wrapped up a new Civil Air Patrol mission involving support for the U.S. Army's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) program, part of the Air Force auxiliary's evolving profile of homeland security missions for America. COWG aircrews assisted the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, in a pre-deployment exercise for soldiers from Fort Carson. The UAV’s mission was to support the field commander's requirements for eyes-in-the-sky in support of simulated combat against an aggressor. The mission of the CAP aircraft was to escort the UAV as it flew in public airspace in the Pinon Canyon Military Operations Area. In late 2012 the Civil Air Patrol and the Colorado Wing were approached with the concept of escorting the Army UAV. The FAA requires UAVs operating outside of restricted airspace to be within line-of-sight of observers on the ground and/or in an aircraft. Due to the size of the training area, the Army needed aerial observation. CAP was a cost-effective option. Training involved both the UAV operational team on the ground and the CAP aircrews.

The link-up process depended on the precise coordination of the aircrew and UAV ground controller, as there is an eight-second window to acquire visual contact with the UAV and take up the escort of the UAV 500 feet back and well clear of the UAV.

Source: <http://www.koaa.com/news/colorado-aircrews-provide-support-for-army-uav-program/>

- Cadets, pin this tracker to your wall and record your progress in the Cadet Program. This new document, CAPVA 52-101, "[Personal Cadet Tracker](#)" is sort of like a mini "Cadet Super Chart" that's tailor-made for the individual cadet. Note that the Tracker is formatted for "Learn to Lead" cadets only. And, for future reference, you can access the Tracker via the "Stripes to Diamonds" and "New Cadet Help" pages.

- From CAP National Staff: The 2013 CAP Annual Conference Early Bird Registration is now open! The conference will be held in Denver, CO, August 15-17, 2013. Register by midnight July 12 to take advantage of the discounted early conference registration rate of \$99. Early Bird registrants are automatically entered to win one of two iPads. Winners will be announced at the banquet, you don't need to be present to win. Over 40 learning labs emphasizing the theme, "National Defense: CAP's Critical Role," will be presented on August 16 and 17. Eight pre-conference workshops are offered *prior* to the conference, August 12 through 14. The pre-conference courses are designed for those wanting more intense training in specific areas. Space is limited, so register early. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Denver Downtown and the contracted room rate is \$139 - below the government rate for the hotel. Rooms are limited, so be sure to book your reservations early. The hotel is conveniently located near the 16th Street Denver Mall, downtown Denver's premier shopping and entertainment district. The mall is a pedestrian walkway and stretches for 16 blocks, with a complimentary shuttle to transport you to more than a mile of restaurants and shops. Be sure to register early and we look forward to seeing you at the 2013 Annual Conference in Denver!

- The April 2013 issue of "The Safety Beacon", the official safety newsletter of the Civil Air Patrol is available online at eServices.

## STAFF NOTES



### **WING COMMANDER**

Col. John Seten, CAP, SDWG/CC

- In the near future, possibly by 1 June, I would like to switch completely to a direct pay system for our members that incur expenses when on an Air Force Assigned Mission (AFAM). Examples of this would be for SAREXs, AFRCC SAR missions, Low Level Route Surveys etc. This would be for both vehicles and aircraft expenses. This will save our Wing Administrator time processing the payments and could result in Wing members being reimbursed more quickly. The money will be direct deposited into the member's bank account by CAP NHQ. Many wings have made this switch and after visiting with them it is the way we want to go as well. Attached is a direct deposit form that the member will need to fill out and send to CAP NHQ. It is self-explanatory. Squadron Commanders are requested to distribute the form your members that may charge fuel and seek reimbursement from NHQ. Once NHQ has the form on file you can check the NHQ Direct (EFT) "Pay To Member" box on their sortie in WMIRS. This is only for fuel paid for by the member, not fuel charged to Wing as nearly all our flights are within the State of SD as we have charge accounts set up with them.

- Please join me in welcoming Major Ted Hinesley as our new Wing Legal Officer. Maj. Hinesley was the SDWG Legal Officer prior to relocating to ND a few years ago. He still resides in ND and has agreed to share himself with the SDWG as he fills the Legal Officer position for the NDWG now. I have worked with

Maj. Hinesley in the past and look forward to working with him going forward. He will do a great job for us. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Capt. Ken Orrock for filling the role of Legal Officer for the past few years. Ken has found himself very busy with other endeavors which left him little time for the responsibilities of CAP Legal Officer.

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## **AEROSPACE EDUCATION**

Maj. Rodney “Buck” DeWeese, CAP, SDWG/AE

- Oshkosh B’Gosh! We have a huge Aerospace Education event scheduled for 1-4 August, a trip to “AirVenture 2013” the Experimental Aircraft Association’s (EAA) annual convention at Oshkosh, Wisconsin! The trip is sponsored by the EAA chapter in Tea, SD. The trip costs \$350 per person and covers transportation from Sioux Falls to Oshkosh, dorm room accommodation at the University of Oshkosh, flight line passes for the three days, admission to the EAA’s AirVenture Museum and Pioneer Airport. Meals, snacks and souvenirs are up to the individual. We will depart Sioux Falls at 0700 by chartered bus. We have 20 seats reserved, but can save more if we get people to reserve a seat ASAP. A \$100 deposit is required now followed by the balance on 1 June. If the bus fills and we have more takers, we will have a CAP van as a trailer vehicle. We need names and deposits to me ASAP or I give up the seats. Right now we have 11 names, but no money!

The annual AirVenture convention is one of the largest and most prestigious aerospace education learning environments in the world and the aerospace education experience of a lifetime; the opportunity to meet legendary aviators, celebrities and aviation professionals as well as Medal of Honor winners and American astronauts, and witness the flight of vintage, current and experimental/prototype aircraft.

The convention is one of 30 National Cadet Special Activities (NCA) provided each summer by CAP. NCA “Blue Beret” gives participants an opportunity to see AirVenture up close while providing critical support for this premier aviation event and air show, which annually draws 500,000-plus people and over 10,000 aircraft.

- SDWG has been awarded \$5000 from the South Dakota State Aeronautics commission for the purpose of promoting Aerospace Education. I attended the April 23 meeting of the SD/DOT Aeronautics Commission in Pierre SD to introduce our CAP Cadet and Aerospace Programs. I had sent previous correspondence discussing our AE Goals for 2013 and requested \$5000.00 in funding to help support them. I was told that I would have better luck if I made my request in person, so I did. I used a Power Point program that was developed by Cadet Colonel William Small that we had used on previous presentations. It has been very well received each time. The presentation lasted about 12 minutes after which they held discussion and accepted a motion from the floor for authorizing \$3500.00. The motion was amended to include the fully requested amount of \$5000.00. The motion passed unanimously! The Aeronautics Commission is very interested in promoting Youth programs in Aerospace Education and getting it into the school system. With more participation in Fly-A-Teacher and External AE in schools, they see us as a very valuable tool in achieving that. Going into schools now and showing that Cadets do more than drill and PT, but actually go to cool places like Oshkosh may generate a lot more interest and participation. I am also working on a trip to Wichita KS to visit a Flight Safety simulator with possible military airlift into McConnell AFB!

## **SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058, BROOKINGS)**

(Item and photo submitted by: Unknown)



We are extremely pleased to announce that for the second time in two years the Big Sioux Composite Squadron computer forensics team distinguished themselves in the national CyberPatriot competition by taking first place in the All-Service division's Cisco Networking Challenge. The team arrived in Washington D.C. on March 13. After a day of equipment familiarization the team prepared for the next day's competition. The next morning began with lectures from senior experts in the field of cyber

defense. That afternoon it was time for the competition, and the team buckled down for a grueling 3 hour event during which they were timed and scored on their ability to operate and secure a basic network. After the team walked out of the competition area with their eyes glazed over they had a brief respite before the next segment of competition. Two hours later the team returned to the competition area for the networking challenge with their minds reset, and 1.5 hours later excited the competition area for the final time as champions of the Cisco Networking Challenge. Later that evening the team walked into the awards banquet dining room with the other twenty-four finalist teams. Everyone present nervously waited to hear if their team's name would be called out. First to be announced were the winners of the Cisco Networking Challenge, and all who sat in the room heard: "The winner of the 2013 Cisco Networking Challenge is... Big Sioux Composite Squadron!" Then came the walk of fame as Big Sioux team proudly stood in front of the best high school cyber security specialists, the highest ranking Air Force officers, and the most innovative cyber professionals in the nation. The legacy started last year lives on as Big Sioux returns again as distinguished competitors with the smiles on their faces all seeming to say: "Go Big Sioux!"

*The Big Sioux CyberPatriot-V Team – (from left) Capt. Shannon Hofer (team coach), Cadet Senior Airman Chris E. Dinnel, Cadet 1st Lt. Joshua Klosterman (team captain), Cadet Chief Master Sgts. George James Skon, Simon Pulscher and Tyler D. Gross, Cadet Staff Sgt. Brianna Lynn and 1st Lt. Michael Klosterman (team mentor)*

## **CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**

(Items by: Capt. Moad)

- Former Cadet Sponsor Member, Kris Bierwirth became a Senior Member in March. She was a sponsor member for five years. She has completed Level 1 and the Squadron Leadership School. SM Bierwirth will be the squadron's Deputy Commander for Seniors, Admin Officer, Personnel Officer and Public Affairs Officer.
- SM Mike Duffy, a retired Air Force Major, will soon be appointed as the squadron's Public Information Officer and Communication Officer. He will also focus on teaching military customs and courtesies.
- The squadron is pleased to announce that 100% of its senior members have completed Level I of the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program.
- C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gunner LeFebvre and C/SrA Kyle Stiffarm recently spent several hours with one of the Air Force recruiters at Ellsworth AFB learning technics for recruiting. The thinking is - we recruit a student into CAP then later they will recruit him/her into the Air Force. Let's work together.
- The squadron recently did an in-house, tabletop SAREX. To make it more realistic we used "village" buildings to create a seeable town with streets. Miniature dolls, clothes, air planes and other items were also used for clues, witnesses and air operations. There was even a tiny airport. The cadets first had to name the town, lost people, and the streets. Then they went through the check-in process, safety briefing, operational assignments etc. on to the search. There was an after-action briefing with a discussion on how they liked using visual aids that are touchable. The consensus was: They want more of it!

## **LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)**

(No items submitted for this issue)

## **PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)**

(Items by: Lt. Col. Gatje, 1st Lt. Roberta Vaughan, Photos by: Lt. Col. Gatje, Lt. Col. Wixon)



The Pierre Composite Squadron held a change-of-command ceremony at the American Legion Cabin. Lieutenant Colonel Forrest Wixon turned passed the command to Captain Richard Helton. The incoming commander was born in Des Moines, Iowa. For 30 years he worked for Northwestern Bell while pursuing this true passion, flying, on a part-time basis. Helton is married and has three children. Capt. Helton holds certificates as a Certified Flight Instructor, Ground Instructor, and Commercial Pilot with 1800 hours of Pilot-In-Command time. He has been involved in CAP since joining in October 2001 in Iowa. Captain Helton's goals for the squadron are to have as many members mission ready as possible and to continue the leadership programs for the cadets to help build the best young adults possible. In the photo outgoing squadron commander Lt. Col. Wixon (left) hands the squadron guidon, symbolically passing the command, to incoming squadron commander Capt. Helton (right).

- Mission pilot training held in Pierre. The day dawned bright, clear and cold as members of the squadron prepared a morning mission to search for an overdue aircraft represented by a practice ELT. The scenario was for an aircraft that departed from Pierre Municipal Airport en route to Gettysburg. The ground team of cadets Evan, Hannah and Heidi Becker and team leader Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, drove east on SD Highway 14 from Pierre toward the expected flight path of the overdue aircraft. The ground team picked up the ELT and began tracking it. Using triangulation the team located the ELT about a half mile south of 17-mile corner. Meanwhile, our Cessna-172 left Pierre and when airborne picked up the ELT signal. The flight crew consisted of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathan Becker, mission pilot trainee, Capt. Richard Helton, observer trainee, and Maj. Lee Vaughan, trainer. They homed on the signal and quickly located the ELT. A scenario for the afternoon flight was for an aircraft that left Pierre for Sioux Falls and was not heard from again. The search aircraft was manned by Capt. Richard Helton, mission pilot trainee, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathan Becker, observer trainee, and Maj. Lee Vaughan, trainer. The practice ELT was located near SD Highway 34. Shortly after takeoff the aircraft picked up the beacon and turned in its direction. After the search aircraft passed over the site the person setting out the beacon moved it about two miles. The aircraft returned and soon found the beacon in its new location. No ground search was conducted that afternoon. On a second day 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathan Becker, mission pilot trainee, and Lt. Col. Forrest Wixon, trainer, worked an additional scenario. They flew to two assigned waypoints and then conducted an expanding square pattern search at one location and a creeping line search at the second. All search teams were successful in finding their targets.



As the finishing touches at Pierre Regional Airport's new terminal were being completed, the Pierre Squadron began making preparations of its own for a move to a new smaller headquarters in a different building at the airport. With the downsizing complete, the squadron settled into their new home. The Pierre Squadron was housed in the basement of the airport terminal for many years. Construction of the new terminal required destruction of the old terminal building. That will be accomplished sometime this summer. Squadron operations will continue at the airport but at a location across the parking lot from its earlier location. As the squadron is now operating from smaller facilities, some of the statewide training and operations will be moved to other locations

in the city. To prepare for the move, office equipment, supplies and uniforms had to be moved to the new location with available space substantially reduced.

## **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)**

(Items by: Maj. Goodrich, Lt. Col. Borton, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Black, C/CMSgt Busch)

- Members Train to Become Mission Scanners. The role of Mission Scanner in a flight crew is crucial for many missions from search and rescue to aerial photography. In March, four Rushmore Composite Squadron members were trained as mission scanners and two are now fully qualified. The training requires completion of tasks such as using a sectional chart, scanning techniques, radio use, record-keeping, and understanding of the effects of weather, turbulence, and its impact on visibility. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Lisa Swanson liked the training. “I really enjoyed the opportunity to become more familiar with CAP planes and being able to take in the local area from the air. It is interesting to see first-hand just how much difference various perspectives from the air can make when searching for an objective. It was fun to practice mission planning and see results when a mission is accomplished and an objective located.” She is now able to serve as a Mission Scanner on CAP missions. While the training was focused on the new Mission Scanners, the pilots also gained some valuable practice. Maj Craig Goodrich, who flew many of the training missions, said that instructing and managing the mission scenario while piloting can be challenging, but rewarding.

- In January the squadron enrolled three new members: SM Jon Jensen, SM Rachel Kuecher and Cadet Mason McMeekin. We are pleased you have decided to become members of the Civil Air Patrol and proud that you have chosen to join our squadron. Welcome aboard!

- Please welcome SM Jack Jensen, our new Assistant Public Affairs Officer. SM Jensen has a degree in journalism and has stepped up to help 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dani Black with the task of Public Affairs for our squadron.

- Please congratulate Capt. Kenneth Winters on his appointment as the Assistant Safety Officer for the Rushmore Composite Squadron.



Rushmore Composite Squadron Color Guard at the Regional Competition, by C/CMSgt Silas Busch. Winning the SDWG color guard competition was a big morale booster for the Rushmore Composite Squadron color guard. It took hard work and dedication to win the wing competition. Nevertheless, we knew we would face a bigger challenge at the North Central region color guard competition. It would take even more practice than we had done up to that point to do well at the regional competition. When we arrived at the competition, we started with the panel quiz, which is where a question is asked and the first team to answer and gets it right gets points. After that, we did a written exam with 50 questions about Civil Air Patrol and other aerospace information. We won three of the rounds and lost two of them. The next day we did the rest of the events, such as the inspection, standard drill, indoor practical and the outdoor practical drills. Throughout the weekend, we did not know how the other teams were doing, but we felt confident that we were doing well. During the Wing Competition, the two events we struggled with were the indoor practical and the outdoor practical. After that, we worked on improving in those areas. In this competition, we felt that we did well on both of these drills. At the end of all the events, an awards ceremony was held. The announcer said, “The outdoor practical drill second place team is...the South Dakota Wing.” We heard this and got extremely excited. We did not get first, but we still placed. Later, it was announced, “The indoor practical second place...South Dakota Wing.” Getting second place in two events was not what we had hoped for, but we were at regionals for the first time, and we know we did well. I am proud of the team and the work we put into it. Now that we know what we are up against, we can come back next year and win.



## **SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIoux FALLS)**

(Items by: Capt Foy, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Schmid and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Erickson: Photos by: Capt Foy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Foy, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Schmid)



The prolonged winter weather couldn't stop the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (SFCS) from holding a change of command ceremony on the evening of Thursday, April 18, 2013. Over 50 senior members, cadets, and guests were in attendance. The ceremony was postponed twice due to severe weather, but as they say, the third time's the charm. The SFCS Cadet Color Guard presented the colors. Opening remarks by Wing Commander Seten were well received. Outgoing Commander Capt. Jerry Foy relinquished command to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason Erickson. Foy gave heartfelt thanks to the Squadron members who assisted him in his three years in command. New Squadron Commander Erickson commented on the strength of the squadron under Capt. Foy's command and that he would like to put the "Air" in the Civil Air Patrol. In the photo Capt. Foy passes the squadron guidon to Col. Seten symbolically relinquishing command of the unit. Col. Seten then presented the guidon to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason Erickson symbolically presenting command of the unit to him. From left to right: Col. Seten, Capt. Foy, Maj. Justin Johnson, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason Erickson. Photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lori Seten.



Outgoing Cadet Commander C/Capt. Elizabeth Foy relinquished command of the SFCS cadet corps to C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Samuel Huntington. She thanked the squadron's cadets and senior members for the opportunity to grow through this leadership role. New Cadet Commander Huntington is looking forward to a successful year in CAP. Following the ceremony, refreshments and camaraderie were enjoyed by all. From left to right: C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Samuel Huntington, Maj. Justin Johnson, SFCS deputy Commander for Cadets, C/Capt. Elizabeth Foy. Photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lori Seten.

- Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Neil Schmid on his appointment as Public Affairs Officer for the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.
- The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron is pleased and proud to announce the appointment of C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Samuel Huntington to the position of Cadet Commander. At the same time the squadron expresses its sincere appreciation to former Cadet Commander C/Capt. Elizabeth Foy for her outstanding performance of duty and its heartfelt thanks for her tireless efforts on behalf of the cadet members of the unit.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Erickson: SFCS is moving into the new century with the help of the Cadets to show us the way. We've created a squadron Twitter account. It will be private, only approved "followers" can see the tweets. Anyone retweeting or replying with inappropriate comments will be removed from the list. Remember this is a public forum and no matter the security we need to assume others are watching - keep it professional. We will use the site sparingly at first as we learn all the features. I view it as a great way to get info out to all of you in a fast and efficient manner. Happy Tweeting!
- Despite the sunshine and clear skies, the afternoon of Saturday, 16 March was very cold. However, the temperature did not dampen the high spirits or deter a large crowd from attending the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade held in downtown Sioux Falls. A contingent from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron was again present to march in the parade. Despite the sea of green the cadets looked sharp in their Air Force blue as with guidon unfurled they proudly marched down the parade route. The cadets did the squadron proud and were outstanding ambassadors for the Civil Air Patrol.



- Capt Jerry Foy and SM Michelle Foy were asked by teachers at St. Lambert School in Sioux Falls to find a way to make math exciting and learn that it has practical value for their 5&6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The event was held on 4 March. 12 students - enough for four three-person teams took part. A 45-minute in-classroom “SAREX” was held. The scenario was a search for one of their parents as the “lost” person. The parent became lost while driving from Beresford to St. Lambert School without a jacket on and without a cell phone during a snowstorm. Math was used to compute distances, speed and gas requirement calculations to help locate the lost parent. The students were given maps that helped calculate the distances, charts to find fuel used over a specific distance and more than a few pictures of CAP aircrafts, vans and teams to keep the enthusiasm high. After all, they had to save the parent from the blowing snow and cold weather! The lost parent was located with only a few minutes to spare because the students were able to correctly calculate the numbers. The enthusiasm was high throughout the ‘SAREX’ to find the parent. The event was a great way to introduce CAP, lifesaving and also the value of mathematics. After the activity Capt Foy commented, “The St. Lamberts gig was fun as the kids really took it to heart in “saving” the parent. Needless to say, the students chewed out the parent for not being careful; love is a many splendored thing.”



- On 28 March, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Neil Schmid of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron with SD Wing Commander Col. John Seten as Mission Pilot flew a mission searching for a radio-collared mountain lion photographed by a farmer’s game camera in the Vermillion, SD area. It is believed to have come from the Black Hills where many radio-collared mountain lions are being tracked by South Dakota State University’s College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Natural Resource Management Program. It is not known how long the mountain lion had been out of the Black Hills area and its radio-collar is likely no longer functioning. Brian Schaffer, an SDSU graduate student, was in the right seat with a telemetry tracking radio linked to two special antennas mounted on the aircraft’s wing struts, one on each side. No joy on the search for the mountain lion, but thousands of snow and blue geese were observed near Springfield, SD. The white “island” stretching for 3 miles in the photo at right is actually an enormous gaggle of thousands of geese sunbathing on the river.



LEFT: COL SETEN, RIGHT: BRIAN SCHAFFER



THOUSANDS OF GEESE REST ON THE MISSOURI RIVER

- From Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Rae: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryan Thompson was appointed a CAP Chaplain and promoted to Captain at the North Central Region's Chaplain's Staff College, April 24th 2013, in Bellevue, NE. Chaplain Capt. Thompson will serve as the Chaplain for the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

**★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★**

**THIS FIRST SKYCHASER KUDOS SECTION IS A LONG ONE TO CATCH UP ON ALL THE CADET AND SENIOR MEMBER PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FROM JANUARY THROUGH APRIL IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE**

**Senior Member Promotions**



Congratulations to Senior Member Karla West of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Captain.



Congratulations to John Arneson of Rushmore Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant on completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and his subsequent receipt of the Membership Ribbon



Congratulations to Robert Hinkhouse of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant on completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and his subsequent receipt of the Membership Ribbon



**Cadet Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Joshua Busch of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Major in February.



Congratulations to Daniel Klosterman of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Captain and receipt of the Earhart Award!



## Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Cadet Nicole Schneider of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Jared Doyle on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Errol Kelly of Rushmore Composite Squadron and Camille Lynn of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Matias Kowang of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Devon Brown of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron; Brianna Lynn and Laura Rudnik of Big Sioux Composite Squadron; and Justin Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



## Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Cadets Franklin Michael of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron; Baine Towers of Big Sioux Composite Squadron; Sky Drago of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron; and Jason Parry and Kyle Stiffarm of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Cadets Austin Cole and Nicholas Nash of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and Gunner Gray of Rushmore Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Cadets Jaden Roblewsky of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron; Zachary Frank, Essence Livermont and Nicholas Rudnik of Big Sioux Composite Squadron; Zachary Hollick of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron; and Austin & Keyvin Rausher and Hunter Logue of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the General Curry Award!



★ Congratulations to Capt. William Collister who took the Corporate Learning Course in February and thus completed requirements for the Senior Member Professional Development Program Level III. In recognition thereof he received the Grover C. Loening Award in March.



★ Congratulations to Lt. Col. David Jeffries and to Maj. Joyce Jeffries on completion of Level V of the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program and receipt of the Gill Robb Wilson Award in April.



★ Congratulations to C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Samuel Huntington on his appointment to the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cadet Staff as Administrative Officer.

★ Congratulations to C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brandon West on his appointment to the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cadet Staff as Public Affairs Officer.

★ Congratulations to C/Capt. Elizabeth Foy on her appointment to the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cadet Staff as Leadership Officer. In addition, C/Capt Foy has been selected as Cadet Commander at the 2013 Joint Dakota Emergency Services Encampment.

★ Congratulations to C/Col. William Small on his acceptance into the CAP International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) program. He will travel to Singapore in May to represent the United States.

★ Congratulations to C/Maj. Joshua Busch on his appointment to the Rushmore Composite Squadron Cadet Staff as Operations Officer. In January, then C/Capt Busch received the Rushmore Composite Squadron Lincoln Award for outstanding cadet leadership

★ Cadet Gunner Gray was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Roosevelt Award for the outstanding new cadet of 2012.

★ 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lisa Swanson was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Jefferson Award for outstanding new senior member for 2012.

★ Maj. Craig Goodrich was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Washington Award for outstanding senior leadership for 2012.

★ Then C/Capt. Joshua Busch was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Lincoln Award for outstanding cadet leadership in 2012.

★ 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dani Black was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Roosevelt Public Affairs Officer of the Year Award for 2012.

★ Lt. Col. Gary Hewett was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Operations Officer of the Year Award for 2012.

★ C/CMSgt Silas Busch was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Washington Cadet NCO of the Year Award for 2012.

★ Then C/Capt. (now C/Maj.) Joshua Busch was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Cadet of the Year Award for 2012.

- ★ Lt. Col. Gary Hewett was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Operations Officer of the Year Award for 2012.
- ★ C/CMSgt Silas Busch was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Washington Cadet NCO of the Year Award for 2012.
- ★ Lt. Col. Randy Borton was the recipient of Rushmore Composite Squadron Professional Development Officer of the Year Award and Senior Member of the Year Award for 2012.
- ★ Congratulations to Maj. Craig Goodrich of Rushmore Composite Squadron who earned Emergency Services Mission Safety Officer Qualification in January.
- ★ Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lisa Swanson of Rushmore Composite Squadron who earned Emergency Services Mission Scanner Qualification in April.
- ★ Congratulations to Maj. Bruce Hack of Rushmore Composite Squadron who achieved “Technician” Level in Specialty Track – Cadet Programs in January.
- ★ Congratulations to Capt. Alex Hanna of Rushmore Composite Squadron who completed GES in January.
- ★ Congratulations to Capt. Bryan Sharp of Rushmore Composite Squadron who was earned Ground Team Member Level 1 qualification in January.
- ★ Congratulations to Capt. Alex Hanna of Rushmore Composite Squadron who completed his GE in January.
- ★ Congratulations to SM Dave Sakos of Rushmore Composite Squadron who completed course IS-700.
- ★ A big “Thank You” to Lt. Col. Jerry Densmore for putting up a new mail box and doing minor maintenance on the Wing headquarters building.
- ★ A big “Thank You” to Maj. Tara Borton for volunteering to keep SDWG from doing a search and rescue for the poor Wing Administrator who was buried alive in paperwork. Tara has been scanning documents to keep the NHQ Auditors from making a visit out here; they can now do our audit on-line.



### **AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE WING CONFERENCE IN APRIL**



- ★ Congratulations to C/Capt. Elizabeth Foy, SDWG Cadet of the Year.
- ★ Congratulations to C/CMSgt Sullivan Busch, SDWG Cadet NCO of the Year.
- ★ Congratulations to Capt. David Small, SDWG Aerospace Education Officer of the Year.
- ★ Congratulations to Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, SDWG Operations Officer of the Year.
- ★ Congratulations to Maj. Bruce Kipp, SDWG Public Affairs Officer of the Year.
- ★ Congratulations to Lt. Col. Randall Borton, SDWG Professional Development Officer of the Year and Senior Member of the Year.

★ Congratulations to Maj. Mark Huntington, SDWG Safety Officer of the Year.

★ Congratulations to Capt. Sharon Moad, SDWG Drug Demand Reduction Officer of the Year.

★ CAP Achievement Award: Lt. Col. Randall Borton, Maj. Michael Johnson, C/SMSgt Jared Doyle.



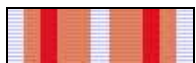
★ Commander's Commendation Award: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett.



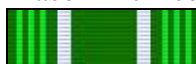
★ Rescue "Find" Ribbon: C/Capt. David Small III.



★ Commander's Commendation Award for the 2011 Joint Dakota Emergency Services Encampment: Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Col. Mary Donley, Lt. Col. Mark Marek, Capt. David Small, Jr.



★ National Color Guard Competition Ribbon: Lt. Col. Randall Borton, Maj Michael Johnson, Maj. Bruce Hack, C/CMSgt Silas Busch, C/MSgt Errol Kelly, C/A1C Joseph Jagodzinski, C/A1C Gunner Gray, Cadet Mason McMeekin.



★ Commander's Commendation Award for the 2012 Joint Dakota Cadet Leadership Encampment: Lt. Col. Randall Borton, Lt. Col. Brady Marking, Capt. Travis Rup.



★ CAP Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement as Winners of the 2013 SDWG Color Guard Competition: Maj. Bruce Hack, C/CMSgt Silas Busch, C/MSgt Errol Kelley, C/A1C Gunner Gray, C/A1C Joseph Jagodzinski, Cadet Mason McMeekin.

