



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for July 2013

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

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### WING TIPS

- **Google Alert:** [Battle for the North Atlantic](#), 9 July 2013 by Seattle Post Intelligencer (blog) [Edited]: The United States formed the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to provide patrolling duties the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard were unable to perform, in regard to coastal patrols and coastal sub hunting, at the entry of the U.S. into World War II. Read about it in *Battle for the North Atlantic: the strategic naval campaign that won World War II in Europe*, John R. Bruning, 2013, ISBN 978-0-7603-3991-6, 300 pp.

Source: <http://blog.seattlepi.com/travelforaircraft/2013/07/09/battle-for-the-north-atlantic-remarkable/>



Seven officers complete North Central Region Staff College, 9 July 2013 by Major Richard J. Sprouse, Staff Instructor, North Central Region Staff College [Edited]: The Civil Air Patrol’s North Central Region Staff College wrapped up a week long course on June 28 at Offutt Air Force Base, NE, as seven officers completed the training. Region Staff College is the fourth of five levels of the senior member professional development program designed to provide senior CAP officers with the ability to better execute the duties and responsibilities associated with command and staff positions. Lessons encompassed unit accountability, enforcing standards, leadership, mentoring, CAP core values, and conflict resolution were among the topics shared by Col. Sheila Waldorf, Iowa Wing; Col. Mary Donley, South Dakota Wing; Lt. Col. Greg Schulz, Wisconsin Wing, and Maj. Richard Sprouse, Minnesota Wing. Photo courtesy Maj. Richard J. Sprouse, NCRSC staff.

- At the Joint Dakota Emergency Services Encampment (JDESE 2013) seven wings were represented: South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Nebraska, and Minnesota. This year’s encampment held at Camp Rapid, SD from 12-21 July focused on Emergency Services training, specifically to train candidates and re-certify current members of ground search teams. One of the highlights was the opportunity to train with a K-9 team. The encampment culminated in putting the training to practical use in a three-day, large-scale, multi-organizational search and rescue exercise (SAREX) at Custer County Airport. SD Wing Commander Colonel John Seten was the Incident Commander for the SAREX and Major Craig Goodrich, commander of Rushmore

Composite Squadron, was the Project Officer. Several scenarios were played involving air and ground searches, and their joint coordination, for a missing man (then a family member who went missing while searching for him on his own) and a downed aircraft (a helicopter generously provided by the SD Army National Guard). Mother Nature played a scenario as well with poor weather to further test the mettle of the 70+ participants. The base camp resembled a swamp with tents and rain gear was part of the uniform of the day. The SAREX's practical exercises facilitated reinforcement of the emergency services training and many valuable lessons were learned by the command staff, aircrews and ground search teams.



SEVEN WINGS WERE REPRESENTED AT JDESE 2013

- Check out the second video of the 2013 Joint Dakota Emergency Services Encampment on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHPSsOQzsKc&feature=youtu.be>. The video was made by the public affairs staff of the JDESE 2013 encampment.
- Check out the 2013 Joint Dakota Emergency Services Encampment Facebook page with stories and lots of photos at: <https://www.facebook.com/CAPJDE?fref=ts>
- **Google Alert:** Civil Air Patrol Bolsters Air Force Firefighting Role, July 22, 2013 by General Aviation News Staff [Edited]: The CAP is providing communications support to Air Force National Guard and Reserve units when they are engaged in fighting forest and wildland fires in the western U.S. When all other air tankers are activated but further assistance is needed, the U.S. Forest Service can request help from the Air Force's MAFFS units. MAFFS Guard and Reserve C-130s drop water and special slurry on forest fires across the western states. Their activity is controlled by the Air Expeditionary Group in Boise, Idaho.





Recently CAP used HF radio communications to directly connect, for the first time, the Air Expeditionary Group with one of its C-130s flying near Phoenix, a distance of close to 700 miles. “In the demanding work of flying against forest fires, safety is vital, and that means dependable communications,” said Malcolm Kyser, CAP’s chief of communications. “Not only did the Air Expeditionary Group use CAP’s HF system to communicate directly with MAFFS-9 in this test, but several CAP radio operators assisted and were standing by to provide relay services, if needed.”

In addition to the C-130, the Air Expeditionary Group conducted radio checks with CAP stations in Arizona, Idaho and Washington. Additional CAP stations in Oregon, Colorado and Wyoming reported good readable signals and were prepared to relay message traffic. “This is a great opportunity for CAP’s highly trained HF radio operators to provide critical communications support to deployed Air Force units on actual missions,” said John Desmarais, CAP director of operations. The CAP Communications Program consists of radio stations manned by trained operators across the country, available on short notice to support the missions of CAP and of its partner agencies. In particular, CAP communications systems provide point-to-point, air-to-ground and ground mobile radios that allow mission completion even when the commercial communications infrastructure is unavailable or overstressed.

Source: [www.generalaviationnews.com/2013/07/cap-bolsters-air-force-firefighting-role/](http://www.generalaviationnews.com/2013/07/cap-bolsters-air-force-firefighting-role/)

- **Google Alert:** Federal Cyber Security Defenders Recognized with MeriTalk’s Cyber Security Confidence Awards, 24 July 2013 by Fort Mill Times [Edited]: MeriTalk’s Cyber Security Exchange, a community and go-to resource for Federal cyber security leaders and industry IT stakeholders, today recognized the Civil Air Patrol, among others, with a Cyber Security Confidence Award for leadership in Federal cyber security. An independent panel of judges, comprised of Federal and industry cyber security experts, selected the 2013 award winners. One of the Confidence Award winners in the category - CSX Innovator – Innovative Use of Cyber Security Technology Resources, was the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, CyberPatriot High School Cyber Defense Program, Brig Gen Joseph R. Vazquez, National Vice-Commander, CAP. MeriTalk’s award program recognizes America’s cyber warriors. Details on the award-winning programs and individuals are available at [www.meritalk.com/csxawards](http://www.meritalk.com/csxawards).

Source: [www.fortmilltimes.com/2013/07/24/2842008/federal-cyber-security-defenders.html](http://www.fortmilltimes.com/2013/07/24/2842008/federal-cyber-security-defenders.html)

Dislike



- **Google Alert:** County of Kauai prepares for tropical storm Flossie, 29 July 2013, by web staff [Edited]: The County of Kauai remains in a tropical storm warning as officials continue to prepare for the arrival of tropical storm Flossie later Monday [29<sup>th</sup>]. The storm is expected to bring heavy rains and strong winds by afternoon and throughout Monday night, with the potential for flash flooding. As a precaution, the state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has closed the Kalalau trail this morning. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has been conducting fly-overs along the Na Pali coast since Sunday afternoon to warn campers and hikers of the oncoming storm and potential for flash flooding. County officials are working to prepare travelers for severe weather and assist with shelter accommodations, if needed. The American Red Cross is posting a staging area on the north end of the Hanalei Bridge in the event that heavy rains cause the closure of Kuhio Highway in the vicinity of the bridge.

Source: **Google Alert:** <http://www.khon2.com/2013/07/29/county-of-kauai-prepares-for-tropical-storm-flossie/>

- Each year the South Dakota Air National Guard (SDANG) requests South Dakota Wing conduct a low-level survey of certain military training air routes and the aerial Military Operations Area. These CAP flights are flown by a Mission Pilot, a Mission Observer, and a Mission Scanner near these routes at 1,000 above ground level. The purpose of these missions is to identify and report uncharted obstructions, usually radio towers, and noise sensitive areas, which would be avoided by SDANG pilots flying in these areas. During the month of June, the SFCS flew 4 sorties for a total of 13.4 hours and covering 1,078 nautical miles. In July, two additional military training routes were surveyed. On 3 July, SFCS member Capt. Scott Giles flew the Cessna-

182 based in Rapid City to survey a route from Murdo, SD to North Platte, NE. The crew consisted of Capt. David Small as Mission Observer and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David Sakos as Mission Scanner. The entire route, including transit time, covered 628 nautical miles and lasted 7.1 hours. SFCS's 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Neil Schmid flew a Cessna-182 to Sioux City and commenced the low-level survey from Sioux City to Scribner NE, reversed and flew the route back to Sioux Falls with 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kurt Johnson as Mission Observer and Capt. EW Filler as Mission Scanner/Photographer. After a break in Sioux Falls, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Johnson flew as Mission Pilot on the return to Sioux City. This mission included searching for unmarked towers and noise sensitive areas, such as farms and feedlots. There are an amazing number of feedlots between Sioux City and Omaha and the crew noted many of them on the route. While marked on the charts, the crew photographed the radio towers at Turkey Ridge.

Whenever CAP flies Low-Level Route Surveys (LLRS) a command post is set up for command, control and communications support for the aircraft. SD Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson serves as LLRS Incident Commander. Further LLRS flights will take place in August to support of the SD Air National Guard.



**FLIGHT TRACKS OF THE CAP AIRCRAFT THAT FLEW THE LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEYS IN JUNE AND JULY**



**RADIO TOWERS AT TURKEY RIDGE (CENTER OF PHOTO) THAT COULD HAZARD LOW FLYING MILITARY AIRCRAFT**

Text, photo and maps submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Schmid, SFCS

- SDWG Cadet Colonel William Small (Crazy Horse Composite Squadron) attended Utah Wing’s “Desert Hawk IX” Encampment held 17-24 June at Wendover Airport in Toole County, UT. Formerly the historic Wendover Air Force Base where many personnel trained in WWII, including the crew of the “Enola Gay” for their mission to Hiroshima, the old WWII-era barracks, mess hall and five original hangars are still standing and serve as the site for this annual activity. Cadet Small commented, “It was a cool location, but very hot in the day, cold at night, and incredibly dusty.” Small served as Cadet Adjutant for the encampment where the cadet staff planned and was a part of everything while the senior members were there to help when needed. Cadets devoted the week to such things as aerospace education, drill and ceremony, leadership skills, and Emergency Services training in search and rescue skills. In addition, numerous cadets were able to fly aboard CAP aircraft. Physical training was conducted in the old Enola Gay hangar.

One encampment highlight was marksmanship training. National Rifle Association instructors came out and taught the program. On the firing line the cadets shot .22 caliber rifles for qualification. There are three levels of qualification: marksman, sharpshooter and expert. Cadet Small qualified as a sharpshooter which entitles him to wear that badge on his CAP uniform.

An added feature of this year’s encampment was CAP’s model Rocketry Program. A number of cadets earned their Model Rocketry Badge, first studying the aerodynamics of rocket flight then building and flight testing three different types of model rockets.

Everyone got a tour of Wendover Air Force Base, including such things as the atomic bomb loading pits, laboratory, bunkers, and shooting range for tail gunners. The tour was conducted in a WWII-era "deuce and a half" Army truck. The cadets were also involved in preservation of the facility. Work is underway to restore and maintain the facilities there, and that included among many things painting signs for some of the buildings. Text and photos submitted by C/Col William Small.



**OVERVIEW OF THE ENCAMPMENT AREA AT THE FORMER WWII-ERA WENDOVER AIR FORCE BASE**



**DELUXE BARRACKS ACCOMMODATIONS**



**WENDOVER AIR FORCE BASE VIP TOUR VEHICLE**



- C/Col William Small writes: From 24 May to 9 June I attended the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) program as a cadet-ambassador to the island nation of Singapore. I was joined by C/Maj Ben Jakeman from Colorado and by escort Capt. Joe Frech from Washington DC. In several instances while in Singapore we had joint activities with a group of sea cadets who were also there on an exchange program.

Along with the Sea Cadets we toured cultural, historical and military museums and historical sites, visited the US embassy where we were escorted by an Air Force officer and got to meet marine guards, see toured the building, and got to look over the ambassador's armored limousine. We were treated to an orientation ride in a Chinook helicopter at less than 200 feet above the water and in a Fokker-50 as it flew over Singapore as low as 400 feet above the water and circled a bunch of islands to the south. We also took part in organized games and sports activities including archery, kayaking and riding a zip-line.

I got to take part in a home stay with a native family for a weekend. I went with Richard D'Arcy from the UK to Nathaniel Wong's family. The home stay was not only fun it was a really unique experience.

We also had a lot of just plain fun. We went to Universal Studios Singapore where we rode a roller-coaster and other rides and saw numerous attractions. We saw a beach music show where they used lights, water, and fire to make pictures which were also projected on the water and synced it all to music. There was a jungle walk that had us crossing a treetop bridge, we visited an aquarium and went bowling and to an arcade. We also visited a lot of malls. Singaporean malls are a lot different from malls here. They are big interconnected buildings built into the city with many stories above and below ground. Below ground you can follow a labyrinth of passages to other malls or places in the city.

One evening we went to a very formal dinner (like a graduation banquet, which it was for the sea cadets, but we still have 5 days left). It was the type of dinner where waiters go around with trays with drinks which you could take in a formal setting. During this dinner each country did a little presentation. The U.S. cadets did not know about this beforehand so we didn't have a chance to prepare. We ended up doing a short history on our country through representation with objects. For example, we used a nearly empty passport to represent a new country with its first identity and little experience, but with the potential for a brighter future. It went over well.

Overall IACE to Singapore was a truly wonderful experience! The activities were great, but the best part was the other cadets. It was just enjoyable talking to them. We talked about culture, language, movies, music, history, etc. Another fun part was trading with other cadets; patches, insignia, etc.



# STAFF NOTES



## **CADET PROGRAMS**

Captain David Small  
Senior Advisor to the Wing Cadet Advisory Council

Please join me in congratulating the following cadets who have been chosen by their squadron commanders as representatives on the SDWG Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) for the coming fiscal year.

### **Pierre Composite Squadron:**

Primary: C/A1C Hannah Becker  
Assistant: none at this time

### **Rushmore Composite Squadron:**

Primary: C/2d Lt Silas Busch  
Assistant: C/Amn Blake Berry

### **Crazy Horse Composite Squadron:**

Primary: C/2d Lt Gunner LeFebvre  
Assistant: C/SSgt Jason Parry

### **Sioux Falls Composite Squadron:**

Primary: C/Capt Brandon West  
Assistant: C/CMSgt Nicole Schneider

### **Big Sioux Composite Squadron:**

Primary: C/2d Lt Sullivan Busch  
Assistant: none at this time

### **Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron:**

Primary: C/SMSgt Jared Doyle  
Assistant: C/SSgt Justin Harris

### **Representing South Dakota Wing to the North Central Region:**

Primary: C/Col William Small  
Assistant: C/Capt Brandon West

The CAC is an opportunity for cadets to be heard at the highest level of wing command. Cadets; if you have issues or concerns that you would like addressed in the Wing talk with your squadron's CAC representative. Seniors; please encourage and work with these great cadets as they discharge their responsibility on the CAC.

We had a very active and effective CAC this past year and I would like to thank them for their service and request that they pass on their wisdom to their successors.

Feel free to contact me at [xinthe@aol.com](mailto:xinthe@aol.com) or (605) 431-2604 if you have any questions about the CAC.

## **SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

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

(No items submitted for this issue)

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

(Items and photos submitted by Capt. Moad and SM Bierwirth)



It was a windy and wet Independence Day Celebration in Custer. On 3 July the squadron took part in the lowering of the flag ceremony. On Wednesday night the members assisted with the folding of the large flag on Fifth Street while the representation of each fold was read aloud. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July “Patriots Parade” to Fifth Street was led by the VFW Honor Guard followed by the squadron’s Color Guard and squadron members. With lightning and cold rain present during the parade, ORM was exercised and it was decided to carry our Color Guard’s flags furlled and lowered. After the VFW Honor Guard turned off to get ready for the flag raising ceremony the squadron’s Color Guard led the parade to complete the route. The members quickly moved back to Fifth Street to take their place for the flag raising ceremony. A strong gust of wind caught the large flag to be raised like a sail so squadron members moved into a position to aid the two VFW personnel. They successfully kept the flag from unfolding and touching the ground resulting in a successful raising ceremony. Squadron Commander Moad commented “We are here to serve and help even when the conditions aren’t the greatest.” The squadron’s Color Guard consisted of Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Gunner La Febvre, C/SrA Kyle Stiffarm and C/A1C Zachary Hollick. Marching behind the Color Guard were C/B Thomas Dillon, the squadron’s newest and youngest cadet, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jim Dillon Jr. and Capt. Sharon Moad.

- Capt. Moad writes: The end of encampment SAREX was awesome. As a commander I am pleased our squadron was offered the opportunity to host the exercise. It was a hit much for occupancy of our building. It was a great experience for our cadets and senior members. Even our members-in-waiting felt it was tremendous. Our “unknown female” saw firsthand how things work during a mission, including being an unexpected patient for medical treatment for heat exhaustion. Thank goodness it was simple basic first aid treatment. No need to tie up community resources when you live in a state with the Good Samaritan law. It’s not often a new and still not processed yet member gets that experience. The brother (cadet) and sister (senior) were very impressed.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Victoria Bierwirth recently returned to resume her duties at the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron after she completed a yearlong Public Diplomacy Fellowship as a student-ambassador in Germany. Funded by the U.S. and German governments, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals program is designed to immerse young professionals in the German culture; an individual learns the German language, attends a German university, and interns in a German company. Bierwirth went through intensive language instruction in Saarbruecken for her first few months in Germany. She later moved to the city of Freiberg in the German State of Saxony where she attended university at the TU Bergakademie of Freiberg. The remainder of her time in Germany she spent as an intern at Beak Consultants; a company that specializes in raw materials management, environmental and earth sciences, GIS/Cartography and software development. To keep up to date with emergency services, in her spare time she volunteered with the German Red Cross where she took part in CPR training, C-collar and spinal board exercises, and building makeshift shelters.



Victoria’s mom, SM Kris Bierwirth, made the leap across the pond to visit her daughter and was welcomed with open arms as she disembarked in Germany. While there she visited remote castles, ancient Roman ruins, and old mining communities while consuming delicious German cuisine, especially scrumptious bratwurst and potato salad. Her travels on the continent included tours in France and the Netherlands. She then crossed the English Channel to tour the picturesque English countryside and to visit historic Stonehenge.



- After leaving his position as Cadet Commander of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, life in the Air Force is treating Airman First Class Justin Bierwirth pretty well. Stationed at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, the now A1C Bierwirth is fulfilling his duties as a firefighter's apprentice, where his job consists of fighting fires as well as responding to medical emergencies. Hard work and dedication to his job have already rewarded Justin as he was recently awarded attendance in advanced training where he learned and practiced skills in rope rescue. His advice for cadets looking into entering the military after CAP is "If you work hard, show respect, and keep educating yourself, the return will be twofold." When asked if CAP helped him in his enlistment, he responded with, "CAP gave me the solid foundation I needed in joining the military. CAP taught me the fundamentals of how the military works and it has helped relieved some of the stress of enlistment. I attribute a lot of my knowledge to the training and opportunities provided to me in Civil Air Patrol."

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

(No items submitted for this issue)

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

(No items submitted for this issue)

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

(Items submitted by: Maj. Kipp, photo courtesy of Michelle Pletch-Crabtree)

- The Joint Dakota Emergency Services Encampment (JDESE 2013) was held in Rapid City from 12-21 July. About 120 CAP members from seven wings descended on the Army National Guard's Camp Rapid for nine days of intense emergency services training focused on certifying new members and recertifying veteran members of ground search teams. A major undertaking, the encampment required a huge amount of planning, coordination and preparatory work. The entire South Dakota wing as do the six other wings that took part owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the personnel of Rushmore Composite Squadron who put in a vast number of hours to make the encampment a reality. In addition, members of the squadron served on the senior and cadet staffs during the encampment.



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Morgan "Dani" Black, first runner-up in the Miss South Dakota Competition, will represent South Dakota in the "Miss National Sweetheart Pageant" in Hoopston, IL. The preliminary competition will be 30 and 31 August. The final competition is on 1 September. While not officially a Miss America Organization (MAO) pageant, first runners up from the states' Miss America pageants have been invited to this pageant since the 1950's. The Miss National Sweetheart Pageant follows the same format as an MAO pageant and has the MAO judges. [Editor: All SDWG wishes Dani good luck at the pageant!]

**SHIUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SHIUX FALLS)**

(Item and photo submitted by: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Schmid)



As they have the past several years, the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron again assisted the City of Sioux Falls with the Mayor's 4th of July Parade and Picnic at Falls Park.

# ★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to Maj. Todd Epp on receiving the prestigious Major Howell Balsem CAP National Public Affairs Exceptional Achievement Award



Congratulations to C/Capt Daniel Klosterman of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron who completed his glider solo at the glider academy in Mattoon, IL! Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Peter Boulanger, Director of Aerospace Education, WIWG.



Congratulations to Maj. Bruce Hack achieved “Master” level in specialty track Professional Development.

## **Cadet Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Elizabeth Foy of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Major!



Congratulations to Tyler Gross of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone General Billy Mitchell Award!



## **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Camille Lynn of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Devon Brown of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Jason Parry of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Rickenbacker Award!





Congratulations to Austin Cole of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



### **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Hannah Becker of Pierre Composite Squadron, on her promotion to Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



- ★ Congratulations to C/Maj Elizabeth Foy on her appointment as Cadet Operations Officer for the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron!
- ★ Congratulations to Cadets Jason Parry and Kyle Stiffarm of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who completed their second orientation flight during the Custer SAREX!
- ★ Congratulations to Cadet Gunner LeFebvre of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who completed his fifth orientation flight during the Custer SAREX!
- ★ Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David Sakos and to SM Jon Jensen both of Rushmore Composite Squadron for passing their initial CAP Pilot Flight Evaluation (aka Form 5) in a Cessna-172!
- ★ Congratulations to SM Rachel Kuecher finished her Level 1 Training!
- ★ Congratulations to Maj. Todd Epp for completing the requirements for Emergency Services certification as a Mission Safety Officer!

