



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for December 2013

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

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WING TIPS

HOT NEWS: Attention All South Dakota CAP Members - The 2014 Wing Conference has been scheduled for 25-27 April 2014 at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls. The conference is in conjunction with a SAREVAL scheduled for Saturday, 26 April 2014. The Holiday Inn has offered the low rate of \$83 per room per night. There will be a hospitality suite on Friday evening 25 April so that we can get together informally. On Saturday, 26 April we will be involved with the SAREVAL which should end by 5:00pm. We will hold our awards and year-in-review banquet at 6:30 or 7:00pm. Sunday morning meeting rooms will be available for some training and smaller meetings. The event should be over by noon or early afternoon on Sunday, 27 April. Please put this important weekend on your schedule. More information will follow as we get closer to the date.



Corporate Mission 14-C-3584, flown on November 12th was a continuation of the mission for Pennington County in the aftermath of Winter Storm Atlas in early October. Pennington County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) requested SDWG conduct an aerial survey of the county's main roads to ascertain if any deceased livestock remained in the county's rights of way. Ranchers were still hauling carcasses from private property to the two designated drop off points and OEM thought some might have been put along county roads for pickup. The aerial inspection was to look for those carcasses so that they could be picked up and sent to the disposal pits that were slated to close on 14 November.

Two CAP aircraft took part. One, from Spearfish, took off around 1200 from the Black Hills Airport-Clyde Ice Field. This aircraft surveyed the west side of a line drawn north/

south through Wasta. The second aircraft took off from Rapid City Regional Airport around 1300. It surveyed Pennington County east of the north/south line through Wasta. Both aircraft covered the county's main roads as well as some rivers and cross country shortcuts where the roads did not connect.



Neither aircrew noted dead livestock along the county's roads and rights of way. In western Pennington County they did note dead livestock still in ravines. The largest find was on a shortcut in a draw leading down to a river bottom where over 50 head were piled up.

The mission aircrew from Spearfish was Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese (Pilot), Capt. David Small (Mission Observer), and C/Col William Small (Mission Scanner). The mission aircrew from Rapid City was Maj. Craig Goodrich (Pilot), Capt. Pat Nowlin (Mission Observer), 2nd Lt. Jon Jensen, (Mission Scanner).

The two aircraft were aloft for a total of 7.5 hours with a ground track of approximately 770 nautical miles.

The six aircrew members contributed around 30 man-hours of unpaid time mid-week to carry out the mission.

Wing commander Col. Seten, the Incident Commander, provided mission base support in the form of command, control and communications with the aircraft. He also was OEM's point of contact for any changes in customer objectives once the aircraft were airborne. Col Seten later commented, "It was a somewhat small, although important mission. It was simple from a command standpoint but the thorough planning up front by the highly trained aircrews was very detailed and also the photo processing is a highly technical procedure."

- Corporate Mission 14-C-3600, flown 14 November, was conducted for South Dakota State University's College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences Natural Resource Management Program. Lt. Col. Gary Hewett of Rushmore Composite Squadron was mission pilot, Ms. Brynn Parr, an SDSU Graduate Research Assistant, was in the right seat with a telemetry tracking radio.



The mission was to track a missing radio-collared bighorn sheep on Elk Mountain in the Black Hills west of Custer whose radio collar signal had not been detected since October's Winter Storm Atlas in the Black Hills area.

SDSU has a cooperative agreement with SDWG to fly tracking missions in situations just like this. While the primary goal is to assist SDSU's animal research programs, there are benefits to SDWG as well such as flying time for the pilots, flight time for the aircraft, and practice using radio-direction-finding to locate objects on the ground.

The sheep was located just west of the Wyoming-South Dakota line. Since it was found so quickly

Ms. Parr took the opportunity of being airborne to successfully track two additional collared bighorn sheep. Mission complete, the aircraft returned to Rapid City.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. John Seten, CAP, SDWG/CC

Maj. Bruce Kipp is the wing's new Public Affairs Officer. He has been very active in getting our message out to the public through media releases and via the monthly Skychaser newsletter that he sends to our members and to an external audience of influential people across the state. I'm confident Maj. Kipp will continue to tell our story and also assist our squadron PAOs in the performance of their duties. Maj. Todd Epp, formerly Wing PAO, will serve as Assistant Wing Public Affairs Officer. Both Majors Kipp and Epp are Emergency Services qualified, experienced Public Information Officers (PIO) as well.

As you know, Maj. Epp was Wing PAO for nearly four years, often under uniquely challenging conditions. During that time he accomplished a great deal to re-energize and broaden the Wing's public affairs program. His successes are reflected in his winning the prestigious CAP national-level Maj. Howell Balsam Award for Exceptional Achievement in public affairs earlier this year.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058, BROOKINGS)

(Items submitted by: 2nd Lt. Rust)



The squadron is working on their second consecutive year bringing the Wreaths Across America Project to Brookings. Last year we had sponsorships for 256 wreaths. To date we've collected 360 wreath sponsorships. We'll once again place wreaths on veteran's graves and memorials in Brookings and surrounding communities on December 14th. We've invited some 20 American Legion posts from communities around Brookings to the wreath-laying ceremony. Hopefully, after seeing our ceremony they will hold a ceremony for their own community in 2014.



Several members of the squadron supported the Sioux Falls "Parade of Lights" on 29 November. The cadets help provide crowd control, parking lot aid, anti-vandalism patrol, and parade vendor assistance for the event in downtown Sioux Falls. During the parade cadets were positioned along the route to keep the crowd on the sidewalk. Later the cadets helped to remove and dispose of "no parking" signs from meters. That evening our members attended a reception and awards ceremony at the Holiday Inn. We were joined in the parade support by cadets from Sioux Falls Junior ROTC programs which fostered a spirit of camaraderie and friendly ties.

- The squadron participated in Brookings' very cold "Parade of Lights" on 5 December. A four-cadet color guard led the parade. In the body of the parade we drove our mini-van with six cadets marching behind it. As in previous years we also used the parade as a recruiting opportunity and handed out pamphlets about CAP.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items submitted by: 2nd Lt. Bierwirth, photos by 1st Lt. Bierwirth and 2nd Lt. Bierwirth)



The squadron will be participating in the 2013 Wreaths Across America Program. We will be laying the wreaths with the help of the VFW Post in Custer and (hopefully) with the American Legion Post in Hot Springs. Details are still being worked out for the honor guard, taps player and recipients of the wreaths. The squadron will host two ceremonies; at the Hot Springs National Cemetery and at the Cold Springs Cemetery in Pringle

- It was a very busy month for Crazy Horse's color guard. Our color guard presented the colors for the Mt Rushmore National Memorial Quarter Launch & Coin Exchange to commemorate the release of the 2013 Mt Rushmore National Memorial quarter, the 20th coin to be released by the United States Mint for its "America the Beautiful Quarters" Program. Each participant under the age of 18 received an uncirculated quarter. On Veterans Day we presented the colors for Hill City's School Program in the morning, and then posted the colors in the afternoon at the Custer School's Program.



PHOTO 9



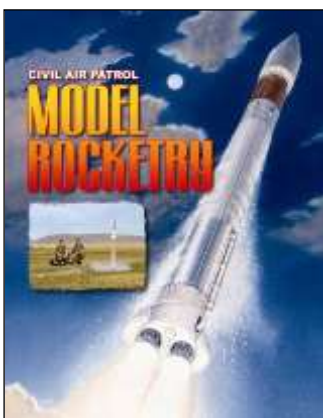
PHOTO 2

Photo 9 (L-R): C/A1C Thomas Dillon, C/SSgt Kyle Stiffarm, C/MSgt Jason Parry, C/Amn Denver Legg

Photo 2 (L-R): C/A1C Thomas Dillon, C/SSgt Kyle Stiffarm, C/MSgt Jason Parry, Cadet Mara Lemke

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Items submitted by: Capt. Small, Lt. Col. Hopewell, C/SSgt Harris, photos by Capt. Small)



“Attention Black Hills traffic. There will be a small rocket launch from the east tarmac in approximately 30 seconds” radioed Assistant Launch Safety Officer C/CMSgt Jared Doyle over the Spearfish airport Unicom frequency.

On Sunday, 10 November, seven cadets, five seniors and two prospective cadets met at Clyde Ice Field to launch powered model rockets. This activity had two purposes; first, it allowed cadets to work toward their CAP Rocketry badge and, second, it used the STEM rocketry kit program recently instituted by CAP. For the past month the cadets studied the history of rocketry, the aerodynamic principles of rocketry, and specifically how model rockets work. Over the previous weeks the cadets assembled rockets from the Titan and Atlas sections of the Aerospace Education Program.

Prior to launch day Lt. Col. Hopewell obtained approval from the airport manager and the FAA and notified the Spearfish Police Department. Mother Nature also approved and provided a pleasant temperature and, more importantly, just a light breeze. All the cadets were required to sign the National Association of Rocketry safety code prior to launching their rockets. In all ten rockets were successfully launched. Nine were successfully

retrieved and one was damaged beyond repair. The cadets measured the rockets height using an altitude tracker and basic trigonometry. C/MSgt Brad Blansett's rocket achieved the highest flight at 399 feet (much to the cadets' disappointment only less powerful motors were used).

The cadets participating were C/Col William Small, C/SSgt Justin Harris, C/Amn Ryan Harris, C/Amn Peter Iverson, C/CMSgt Jared Doyle, C/SMSGt Brad Blansett, and C/SMSGt Connor Caneva. Prospective cadet Seth Fitzgerald and a friend witnessed the launches from a safe distance. Senior Members in attendance that day included Capt. David Small (who served as official Launch Photographer), Lt. Col. Daryl Miles, Capt. Sylvia Small (official Launch Keeper of Documents), Lt. Col. Jim Hopewell, and 1st Lt. Brandon Caneva.

Earning their Titan Rocketry Award Certificate were C/Amn Peter Iverson and C/Col William Small. Earning his Saturn Rocketry Award Certificate thus finishing the CAP Rocketry Course C/Col William Small earned the coveted CAP Rocketry Badge.



- What started out to be a normal squadron meeting at the Spearfish airport on 7 November turned into an event that most cadets rarely experience. The cadets were busily assembling model rockets as a part of the CAP rocketry program, when one of the staffers of U.S. Representative Kristi Noem knocked on the door of the CAP building and asked to use the facilities. In the brief conversation that followed, Capt. Small found out that Rep. Noem was about to fly out of the Spearfish airport, having been in town for a fund raiser. He asked her assistant if Rep. Noem could stop in and greet the cadets. A few minutes later the staffer and Rep. Noem returned to the CAP building. Ms. Noem spent several minutes conversing with the cadets and seniors present. She was very interested in their activity and asked questions about their rockets. She posed for pictures with the cadets before embarking on her charter flight back home. It was a memorable and exciting meeting for the cadets to interact with a national figure such as Rep. Noem.



L TO R: C/COL SMALL, C/SSGT J. HARRIS, C/MSGT BLANSETT, C/SMSGT CANEVA, C/AMN IVERSON, C/AMN R. HARRIS, ISAAC HOPEWELL (GUEST), AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE KRISTI NOEM

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(Item submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)



Squadron members are assisting the American Legion Post in Pierre at their monthly meetings. The Legion serves local veterans attending the meeting a hot meal beforehand. The cadets have been assisting in this effort each month. The veterans appreciate the squadron's effort and have thanked the cadets in various ways. The Legion allows the cadets to practice drill in their large meeting room when the weather makes outside practice difficult. The Legion meeting is on a non-squadron meeting evening thus cadets and seniors involved must commit additional hours to the program.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Items submitted by Maj. Goodrich and Capt. Collister)

- Welcome aboard to our squadron's newest members: Cadet Nicholas Kochutin and Cadet Tyler Eberle and Senior Member Ron Lenz. We are pleased you've joined CAP and proud that you have chosen to become members of our squadron!



The squadron continues to actively seek sponsorships for its Wreaths Across America program. To date the squadron has sponsorships for approximately 80 wreaths. It is expected this number will increase prior to 14 December, the date of the wreath-laying ceremony.

- Seven Rushmore members completed ICUT training today. All had completed their online training for this course and capably demonstrated their new skills to their evaluator. Thanks to all for giving their time for this valuable training and their desire to advance their knowledge in their CAP careers! Thanks also to Lt. Col. Gary Hewett for his assistance. Attendees were: Capt. Patrick C. Nowlin, 2nd Lt. Jon D. Jensen, SM Joshua D. Hall, SM Ryan L. Jones and C/SSgt Travis L. Woodard, C/SrA Levi E. Woodard, C/A1C Blake A. Berry.

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

(Items submitted by: 1st Lt Erickson, 1st Lt Schmid, photos by Capt. Small, 1st Lt. Brown and 1st Lt. Schmid)

- Last month the Wing conducted a Subordinate Unit Inspection of the squadron. This triennial inspection is held to determine the squadron's compliance with current rules, regulations, and policies. Areas covered are Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, Emergency Services, Mission Support, Command, Flight Management, Aircraft Management, and Public Affairs. One area identified for improvement and a key focus is the area of Professional Development. The squadron took note, and commencing in November, one meeting night per month is dedicated to mentoring and senior member professional development.



Last spring we lost the shelter for our CAP vehicles. The former DHL distribution building will be used to relocate current tenants of the airport to make way for new hotel. The Airport Authority, with help from CAP 2nd Lt. Richard King, who is also the Associate Airport Director, made an empty T-Hangar available "behind the fence" in a secure airplane hangar a short drive from headquarters.

As you can see from the photo it's a tight squeeze, but with a little engineering, some oil and a crow bar the door can be closed and locked. Where events require some or all of the vans they will be brought to the parking lot in front of the headquarters building.

- New GPS Units for two Cessna-172 - Last month a new Garmin G400 GPS unit was installed in one Cessna-172 (N98776). The other Cessna-172 (N9929L) is now in the shop undergoing its GPS replacement as well. These new units provide similar navigation capabilities of the Garmin G1000 glass cockpit. While not as

robust and expensive as the G1000, the G400 provides CAP aircrews with navigation and approach capabilities and is a welcome change for those flying these aircraft.

- During the month several weekends were scheduled for cadet orientation rides. However, the weather persisted in forcing cancellation of all of the Sioux Falls flights. Nevertheless, our Capt. Matt Meert managed to find a good weather window and was able to complete several o-rides for the Brookings Cadets.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotions



Congratulations to Jason Erickson and Jerry Gabert, both of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Captain.



Congratulations to Rachel Kuecker of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Errol Kelly of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Austin Cole of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Lindbergh Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Blake Berry of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Thomas Dillon of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, and to Ivan Kreger, Kyle Kreger and Essence Livermont of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★

★ Congratulations to SM Joshua Hall of Rushmore Composite Squadron! SM Hall successfully completed his Form-5 (Checkride) in a CAP G1000-equipped (Glass Cockpit) Cessna aircraft. He also completed Level I (Foundations) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and in recognition thereof received the Membership Ribbon. In addition, he was appointed squadron Deputy Commander for Senior Members.



★ Congratulations to 1st Lt. Ryan Jones of the Rushmore Composite Squadron who completed Level I (Foundations) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and in recognition thereof received the Membership Ribbon. In addition, he was appointed squadron Assistant Deputy Commander for Cadets.



★ Congratulations to SM Melissa Livermont of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who completed Level I (Foundations) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and in recognition thereof received the Membership Ribbon!



★ Congratulations to Capt. Karla West of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who completed Level III (Management) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and in recognition thereof received the Grover C. Loening Award!



★ Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Rachel Kuecker of Rushmore Composite Squadron! She completed requirements for CAP's General Emergency Services (GES) qualification.

★ Congratulations to Capt. Patrick Nowlin of Rushmore Composite Squadron! He successfully completed his Form-5 (Checkride) with Instruments in a CAP Cessna-172 aircraft.

★ Congratulations to C/Col William Small of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron who has been appointed Cadet Commander for the 2014 Joint Dakota Leadership Encampment!

★ ★ SPECIAL TRIBUTE ★ ★



Eight tribes of Lakota and Dakota Sioux in South Dakota were honored at a ceremony held in Washington, DC on 20 November.

Tribal members played a key role in the Pacific Theater of WWII by using their native language to send messages that could not be deciphered by the enemy.

In honor their service the tribes received the Congressional Gold Medal, our nation's highest civilian honor. Each tribe designed their own medal.

Silver medals were presented to over 70 South Dakota Sioux "Code Talkers" and their families who attended the event.

South Dakota Sioux tribes honored were the Crow Creek Sioux, Cheyenne River Sioux, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux, Yankton Sioux, Oglala Sioux, Lower Brule Sioux and Rosebud Sioux.

★ ★ CORRECTIONS/UPDATES ★ ★

- The name of Chap. (Maj.) Hyle Anderson, Assistant Wing Chaplain, was inadvertently omitted from the list of SDWG Veterans in last month's issue. He was in the Navy Reserve from 1968-1970 and on active duty with the Air Force from 1971-1975. The SDWG thanks you for your service.



The name of Cadet Brady Roseland, Pierre Composite Squadron, was inadvertently omitted from the list of promotions in last month's issue. Congratulations to Cadet Roseland on promotion to the rank of Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!

