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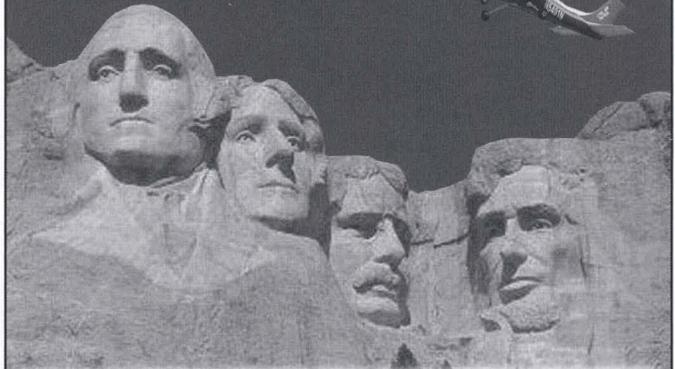
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COVER PHOTOS:

(Background) The portico of the South Dakota Capitol building. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

(Left) Three S.D. Wing cadets and its commander met Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., during the Civil Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C. in February 2013. Photo by Susan Schneider, Civil Air Patrol NHQ.

(Center) The Big Sioux Composite Squadron's CyberPatriot team again competed for a national championship in March 2013. Submitted photo.

(Right) Former South Dakota Governor and CAP cadet Mike Rounds was the featured speaker at the S.D. Wing Conference in Pierre in April 2013. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.



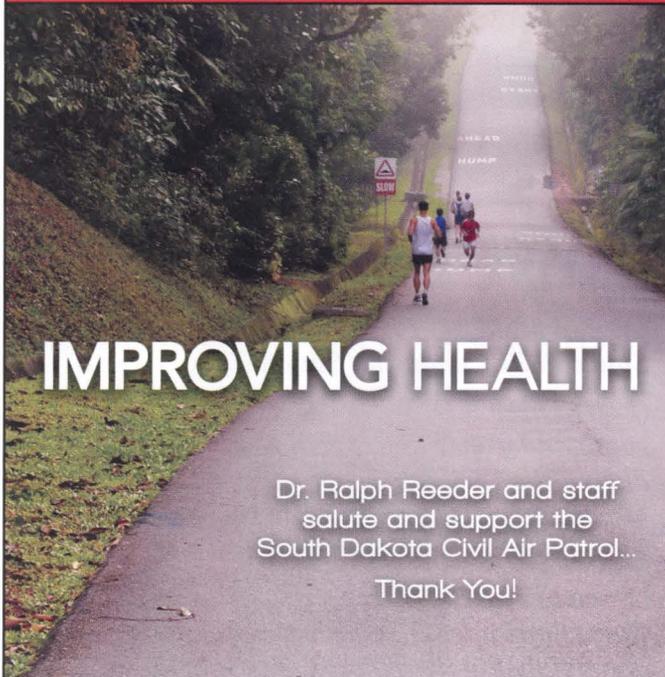
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Gov. Daugaard Declares “S.D. Civil Air Patrol Day”

*By Maj. Todd Epp
South Dakota Wing*

For the first time in its history, “South Dakota Civil Air Patrol Day” was celebrated at the S.D. Legislature in Pierre 19 February 2013.

Earlier in February, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed a proclamation establishing the day.

Part of the governor’s proclamation noted, “WHEREAS, we are grateful for the remarkable volunteers who make up the South Dakota Wing of Civil Air Patrol and provide invaluable service to the great state of South Dakota and its people.”

“The idea is to tell policymakers the “S.D. CAP” story of the many volunteer hours spent on photo reconnaissance and other missions for

state, federal, tribal and local governments,” said Col. John Seten, S.D. Wing Commander.

“WHEREAS, we are grateful for the remarkable volunteers who make up the South Dakota Wing of Civil Air Patrol and provide invaluable service to the great state of South Dakota and its people.”



State senators give S.D. Wing CAP members a standing ovation during “S.D. CAP Day” 13 February 2013 in Pierre. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

“We also wanted them to know about our cadet program that prepares young people not just for careers in the military, but as good citizens.”

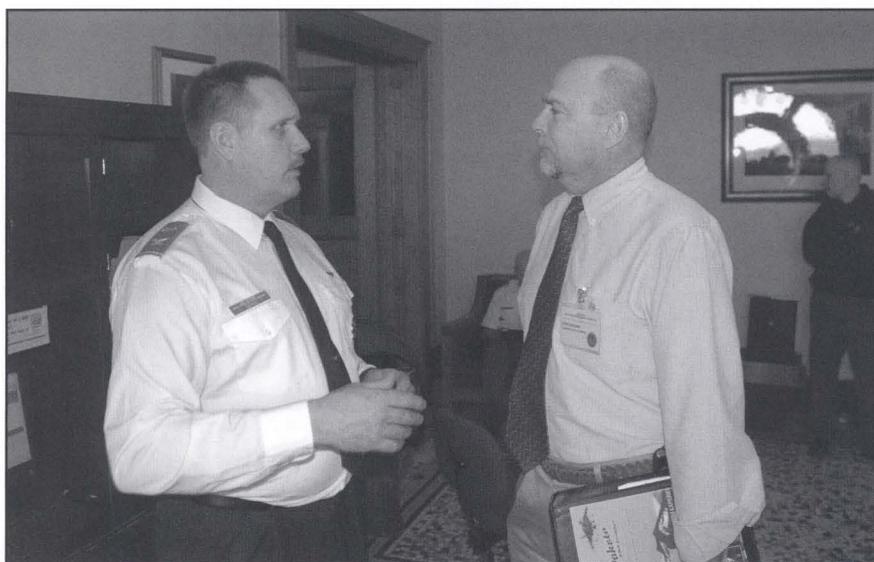
Seten also said it is important the public understands in a time of limited budgets, the CAP helps stretch the resources of the state of South Dakota and saves money by using well-trained, professional volunteers. These volunteers are held to the same performance and knowledge standards as their paid colleagues.

S.D. Wing members served a light lunch in the lobbies off the state House and Senate floors for legislators, lobbyists, staff and others. CAP cadets and senior members were in uniform to discuss the organization, answer questions and thank officials for their ongoing support.

All legislators received the CAP annual financial report and the S.D. CAP legislative brochure.



Cadets and senior members from the S.D. Wing watch the state Senate from the gallery during “S.D. CAP Day.” Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.



Col. John Seten, S.D. Wing commander, converses with a state legislator during “S.D. CAP Day” 13 February 2013 at the state capitol in Pierre. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

The state Senate and House of Representatives recognized S.D. Wing members at the opening of their respective sessions with standing ovations. Lieutenant Governor Matt Michels, who was directly involved with the state’s flooding response effort in 2011, mentioned the S.D. Wing’s valuable aerial support in front of the entire Senate.

Another highlight was the nearly 40 members representing

all seven S.D. squadrons and the wing, gathering on the Capitol's Grand Staircase and posing for a photo with Gov. Daugaard.

The Wing plans to make "S.D. CAP Day" an annual event. 🇺🇸



Editor's note: Maj. Todd Epp is the public affairs officer and historian for the S.D. Wing.



The portico of the South Dakota Capitol building. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.



Members of the South Dakota Wing join Gov. Dennis Daugaard, R-S.D., (front row, far right) on the Grand Staircase of the Capitol in Pierre during the first ever "S.D. Civil Air Patrol Day" at the legislature 13 February 2013. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.



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Commander's Column

By Col. John Seten
South Dakota Wing Commander

2013 Off to a Fast Start of Challenges, Accomplishments

As I write this article, I am listening to the 113th Congress debate the government funding bill. We are challenged this year with proposed budget cuts to the Civil Air Patrol.

I had the opportunity to visit with our Senators and lone Representative while in D.C. earlier this winter. One topic of discussion was CAP funding. It is imperative that CAP be funded at 2012 levels for our operations to continue. If we face budget cuts as proposed we will see many programs go by the wayside to likely include a reduction in our training budget. You have been asked to contact your congress members to express your concerns. I can assure you that they appreciate and listen to your input.

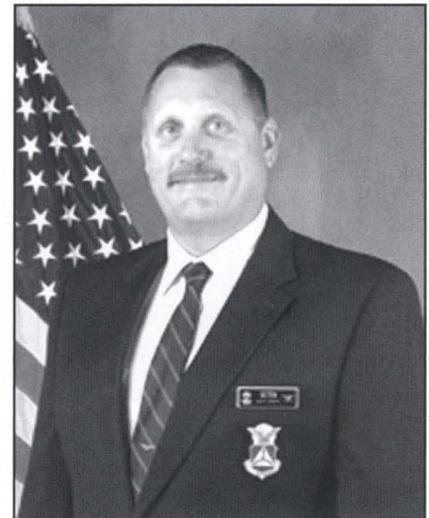
In March I received an email that brought a sense of great pride to our wing. I received word that the Big Sioux Composite Squadron had won the CISCO networking award at the National CyberPatriot competition held

in the Washington D.C. area. This is the second year that the squadron has taken first place in a national CyberPatriot competition. Last year they earned first place in the forensics division.

“Governor Daugaard met with us and expressed his thanks for all we do as well.”

This is an example of the sort of people we have in the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol. Great job to all involved!

We held a highly successful legislative day at the capitol in Pierre as well. We hosted a light lunch for all of the state senators and representatives. All of our squadrons were represented and we had over 40 CAP members in attendance. We had some great interaction with members of our legislature and also with many staff members.



Governor Daugaard met with us and expressed his thanks for all we do as well. We were greeted with a standing ovation by the entire Senate floor when Lt. Gov. Matt Michels introduced us during their afternoon session. They truly appreciate all we do for the State of South Dakota.

We have completed the purchase of four satellite-tracking devices for some of our aircraft, which will enable us to have real time tracking capabilities. There are also trackers being purchased for our ground vehicles as well. This will add a level of safety to our wing that will be second to none in regards to knowing where our people are at all times.

Please accept my thanks to all members of the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol team for your dedication and commitment. I am truly honored to serve with you. 🇺🇸



1st Lt. Neil Schmid, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron; Capt. Matt Meert, SFCS; Col. John Seten, S.D. Wing commander; and MG Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the S.D. National Guard. National Guard photo by Master Sergeant Christopher Stewart, 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs. (Released).

Falcon Keynote Intercepts Feature “Five Stars” Over Nebraska

*By Maj. Todd Epp
South Dakota Wing*

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.—Five stars appeared over the northern plains on a brilliantly blue November day.

It wasn't a meteor shower or other astronomical event but two generals from two different branches of the United States military participating in a Civil Air Patrol/United States Air Force/South Dakota Air National Guard/S.D. Army National Guard mission high above the Nebraska Sandhills, just south of the South Dakota border.

Major General Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, flew in one of the S.D. Wing's glass cockpit equipped Cessna 182Ts. Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, the commander of Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, 1st Air Force, manned the controls of one of the F-16, that intercepted the C182T.

Lieutenant General Clarke commands from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., while MG Reisch commands from Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D. These “Stars” participated in “Falcon Keynote 13-01,” conducted 3 November 2012.

The object of the mission wasn't just to “see

stars”, it was for the CAP to assist the USAF and the S.D. Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing in the important skills of being able to quickly—and safely—intercept and evaluate slower moving aircraft that could pose a domestic security risk or that have accidentally entered restricted airspace.

The S.D. Wing has participated in these missions in the past with its USAF and SD ANG “big brothers” but never with so much direct high-level involvement.

“Having the S.D. adjutant general on board our aircraft was a great opportunity for S.D. CAP to showcase our professionalism and our top-notch aircraft and crew,” said Col. John Seten, the S.D. Wing's commander. “This was also a chance for MG Reisch to witness what the S.D. Air National Guard is doing to defend our nation's skies.”

Colonel Seten also said the S.D. Wing also had a “great opportunity” in being able to speak with Lt. Gen. Clarke prior to the mission.

There are several hallmarks to these intercept missions. One is for the F-16 pilots to fly close enough to the target aircraft to identify

its intentions and then instruct it how to proceed, yet not be so close as to cause a midair collision. The second hallmark is for a high performance F-16 that can fly nearly twice the speed of sound to slow down to 120 miles per hour or so—and still remain in the air.

The F-16s wobble and strain to remain airborne as they apply their air brakes and deploy their landing gear, all in an attempt to “fly dirty,” while the Cessna slowly chugs along at sub-sonic speed.

It is daunting and exhilarating flying on everyone’s part, with the CAP performing its part of the “dance” flawlessly.

After his firsthand observation from the cockpit of the CAP’s Cessna 182T, Maj. Gen. Reisch was impressed.

“This mission is just one example of the invaluable service the Civil Air Patrol provides to



Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, commander of Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, 1st Air Force. Submitted photo.

the state of South Dakota,” Maj. Gen. Reisch said. “Their pilots and aircraft are top notch!”

Participating in the mission from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron were 1st Lt. Neil Schmid as the C-182T’s mission pilot and fellow mission pilot Capt. Matt Meert as an observer and scanner.

“It is thrilling to see these fine aircraft “up close and personal” as we engaged in a series of practice scramble maneuvers,” 1st Lt. Schmid said. “The CAP engagement with the fighters was a realistic scenario where we were intercepted, inspected, identified and directed to an airport for landing.”

First Lieutenant Schmid added it was “some of the most fun” one can have in a CAP aircraft.

The Nebraska Wing of the CAP also participated in the mission, assisting with communications. 



Major General Tim Reisch, right, S.D. National Guard adjutant general, “rides shotgun” in the mission observer spot in a CAP Cessna 182T beside the intercept flight’s pilot, 1st Lt. Neil Schmid. Photo by Capt. Matt Meert, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

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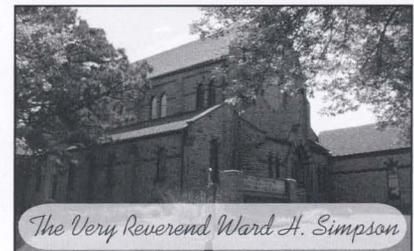
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Big Sioux Composite Squadron Earns First CyberPatriot CISCO Victory

*By Steve Cox
CAP National Headquarters
and
Maj. Todd Epp
South Dakota Wing*

After last year's first place finish in the forensics competition, the Big Sioux Composite Squadron's (BSCS) CyberPatriot V again was looking for digital glory in March.

While falling a bit short of their top goal—being an overall champion--the BSCS cadets nonetheless did well. The Brookings area cadets won CyberPatriot's first networking competition

this year, another outstanding finish in the growing CyberPatriot competition.

Civil Air Patrol cadet teams, all finalists from the previous year, filled three of the 14 slots in the All-Services Division finals of CyberPatriot V, the national high school cyber defense competition.

At the two days of national finals from 14-



Members of the BSCS CyberPatriot V team: (Left to Right) Cadet Chief Master Sgt. George James Skon, Cadet Senior Airman Chris E. Dinnel, Cadet 1st Lt. Joshua L. Klosterman, Cadet Airman 1st Class Baine M. Towers, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Simon P. Pulscher, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Sullivan Busch, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Tyler D. Gross, Cadet Senior Airman Brianna A. Lynn. Not pictured: Cadets Josiah and Destiny Jorenby. Submitted photo.

15 March 2013 at the Gaylord National Harbor Convention Center in Gaylord, Md., teams represented CAP from the Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron (CSCS), the CyberPatriot IV winner; the Youngstown (Ohio) ARS Composite Squadron (YARSCS); and the BSCS.

The BSCS team was again coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer and mentored by 1st Lt. Michael T. Klosterman. Members were: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. George James Skon, Cadet Senior Airman Chris E. Dinnel, Cadet 1st Lt. Joshua L. Klosterman, Cadet Airman 1st Class Baine M. Towers, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Simon P. Pulscher, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Sullivan Busch, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Tyler D. Gross, Cadet Senior Airman Brianna A. Lynn and Cadets Josiah and Destiny Jorenby.

Last year, the CSCS team captured the Commander-in-Chief Cup as overall champion of CyberPatriot's All Service Division. This year, the Colorado Springs cadets again paced the Civil Air Patrol field in the national high school cyber defense competition, only to fall short of a top-three finish.

However, the BSCS team finished first in the Cisco Networking Event, during which teams were timed and scored on their ability to operate and secure a basic network.

The teams emerged from Round 3 of the national competition held at various local sites 11-12 January 2013. Three U.S. Marine Corps Junior ROTC teams and two teams each from the Army, Navy and Air Force Junior ROTCs and the Naval Sea Cadets made up the rest of the finalists.

The qualifying teams received all-expenses-paid trips to the finals. Winning team members in the championship round receive scholarships and prizes from CyberPatriot sponsors.

In all, a record 1,225 teams registered to participate in the two-track competition, which also included an Open Division made up of teams from public, private and home schools. Teams participating came from all 50 states, U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe and the Pacific and Canada.

CAP squadrons accounted for 261 teams registered for CyberPatriot V, representing a 20 percent increase over the number of CAP teams competing last year. Of those, 46 advanced to the third round.

CyberPatriot is presented by the Northrop Grumman Foundation, with founding partners Science Applications International Corporation and the Center for Information Assurance and Security at the University of Texas-San Antonio. CyberPatriot is also a member of the U.S.

Cyber Challenge, a national coalition of public-private sector entities collaborating to enhance the workforce with the next generation of cyber security professionals. 🇺🇸

“The BSCS team finished first in the Cisco Networking Event, during which teams were timed and scored on their ability to operate and secure a basic network.”



Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Dedicates Remembrance Wreaths to Veterans

*By Maj. Bruce Kipp
South Dakota Wing*



Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cadet Color Guard presents the colors at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls on 15 December 2012. Photo by 1st Lt. Karla West, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

A tribute to America's veterans took place in Sioux Falls on 15 December 2012, part of the annual Wreaths Across America Day.

The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron held a remembrance wreath dedication ceremony at Hills of Rest Memorial Park.

The beautiful, solemn and poignant ceremony involved the presentation of the colors by the squadron's cadet color guard, the dedication of a wreath to each of the services and the blowing of taps.

The following participants represented the U.S.'s five military branches and the Merchant Marine:

- Major Trisha Meyer presented the remembrance wreath for the United States Army.
- Sergeant Ryan Thompson presented the remembrance wreath for the United States Marine Corps.



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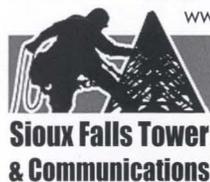


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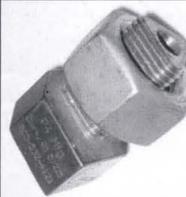
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- Petty Officer 1st Class Vinnie Brown, also a member of SFCS, presented the remembrance wreath for the United States Navy.
- Senior Airman Dan Jamison presented the remembrance wreath for the United States Air Force.
- Petty Officer 1st Class Brenda Johnson presented the remembrance wreath for the United States Coast Guard.
- Chaplain Eric McCandless presented the remembrance wreath for the United States Merchant Marine.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Rae of the S.D. Wing presented the remembrance wreath to honor the 93,129 United States service members from all branches of service whose last known status was either as a prisoner of war or missing in action.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Stepan of the S.D.

Wing performed taps at the conclusion of the ceremony.

The ceremony was observed by friends, family and members of the general public.

An estimated 400,000 wreaths were placed nationwide in cemeteries, memorial parks and other places of honor where the nation's veterans rest by approximately 150,000 volunteers as part of the Wreaths Across America program. Wreaths were placed in all 50 states and at 24 national cemeteries on foreign soil.

Wreaths Across America, a national nonprofit organization, began more than 20 years ago with the mission to pay tribute to the fallen and honor those who serve. The commemorative wreaths being dedicated and individual wreaths laid on individual veterans' headstones are purchased through donations from businesses and the general public. 🇺🇸



LEFT: Veterans pose with remembrance wreaths for their branch of the service at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls on 15 December 2012. Photo by Capt. Karla West, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

S.D. Wing Sends Three Cadets to Civil Leadership Academy

*By Maj. Bruce Kipp
South Dakota Wing*



Meeting our Representative. Col. John Seten, S.D. Wing commander and the S.D. Wing's three CLA selectees— Cadet Col. William Small, Cadet Capt. Joshua Busch, and Cadet Capt. Elizabeth Foy engage in conversation with Rep. Kristi Noem, South Dakota's lone congressperson, in her Washington, D.C. office during the CLA. Photo by Susan Schneider, Civil Air Patrol NHQ.

Three South Dakota cadets selected for the Civil Air Patrol's Civil Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C. won \$500 scholarships to help them attend the event.

The South Dakota CLA participants and scholarship recipients are: Cadet Colonel William Small, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish; Cadet Major Joshua Busch, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City; and Cadet Captain Elizabeth Foy, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

The CLA fosters cadet officers' civic growth

by increasing their leadership skills, sense of civic responsibility and overall interest in the democratic process. In the one-week program, cadets participate in behind-the-scenes tours and briefings at the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the State Department, the Pentagon, the CIA, the FBI and more. The week culminates with Legislative Day, when cadets meet with their state's elected leaders on Capitol Hill.

The three South Dakota cadets attended the CLA from 23 February to 2 March.

Cadet participants are selected by the CAP



Cadet Captain Elizabeth Foy greets Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., while Cadet Col. William Small looks on during CLA activities in Washington, D.C. Photo by Susan Schneider, Civil Air Patrol NHQ.

national headquarters from among a pool of applicants to attend this once-a-year program.

“The CLA is not the average field trip to Washington. CLA is an academically-focused activity that includes seminars, readings and group projects.”

The CLA is not the average field trip to Washington. CLA is an academically-focused activity that includes seminars, readings, and group projects. To help compensate for the cadets’ absences from school, the academy includes a final project. Each cadet demonstrates their understanding of the political process, as well as

the leadership qualities and techniques that are vital to the success of America’s experiment in self-government.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed the CAP Civic Leadership Academy on their National Advisory List of Contests & Activities. Cadets participating in the Civil Leadership Academy pay for their round-trip transportation to Washington, DC and expenses while there. The \$500 scholarship helped each member defray some of the costs involved. 🇺🇸



Editor’s note: Maj. Bruce Kipp is the assistant public affairs officer for the S.D. Wing. He recently moved from Montana where he was the Mont. Wing’s PAO.

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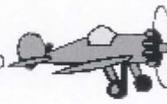
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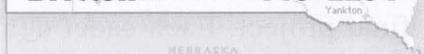


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There's Something About Mary, Part 2: From Wing Commander to Today

Editor's Note: In the first part of the oral history series with Col. Mary Donley, former South Dakota Wing Commander and 40-plus year CAP member, she talked about her experiences as a cadet winning drill contests with an all female team and her early years as a senior member. In this last part, Col. Donley talks with Maj. Todd Epp, the S.D. Wing's public affairs officer, about becoming the wing's first female wing commander and her continued involvement in the organization.

When in your CAP career did you decide you wanted to be a wing commander? Were there many other female wing commanders in the CAP at the time?

I don't know that I ever said out loud, "I want to be the wing commander!" But I think maybe it was always in the back of my mind that it would be cool to be the first female wing CC in South Dakota. In 2001, Col. George Colombe was stepping down early from the wing commander job and no one was stepping forward. We had many qualified people but none of them seemed to want the position.

Eventually a couple people did put their names in but I just kept getting a gut feeling that it was my time to step up. One day, I was driving down the street (TRUE STORY) and I saw a billboard on Minnesota Avenue (in Sioux Falls) that said, "If not you, Who? If not now, When?" That was it!!! I had always joked that I wouldn't do it until I was rich and retired. Didn't happen that way but "oh well!"

There were a few other female wing commanders but definitely a minority. I think most wings have had at least one female wing commander by now. Several years ago our own former NCR Commander, Col. Sheila Waldorf, was one of the founders of the "FWCA"--Female Wing Commanders Association. At National Board

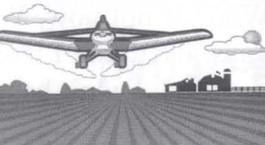
meetings, we'd all get together for lunch and get away from "the guys!" And now we've had a female National Commander!!

What were the challenges you and the wing faced when you took over as wing commander?

Finances are always an issue. You have to balance the Air Force funds and that pot and



Then Maj. Mary Donley (right) and Maj. Terry Stanberry, North and South Dakota cadet program director, at the 1988 Joint Dakota Encampment in Camp Grafton, N.D. Submitted photo.

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then you have to deal with state funding—or lack of funding. I also had a huge learning curve when it came to the airplanes. I am not a pilot so I had to learn a lot and I had to rely on some solid people to give me good advice when it came to airplanes---Mike Beason, Greg Maier, Barry Mercer (our NCO Assistant State Director). They eliminated that position and implemented the wing administrator position.

I also had to deal with an aircraft accident—one of our pilots ran out of fuel! Luckily, he was not injured and the plane had only minor damage! Now that was fun!! There was also a van accident with wing staff members heading to Sioux Falls from Rapid for a SAV (Staff Assistance Visit). They hit black ice and rolled on the side into the ditch! Again no one was injured—just bumps and bruises!!

“I’ve always been a believer in giving back. There were people there in CAP when I needed them and I feel that maybe I can be there for someone who needs me.”

I had my share of personnel issues—had to terminate some memberships—that is never easy but always necessary when warranted. During my tenure is when a lot of the missions of CAP started to change---because of 9/11. We started focusing more on homeland security and less on counter-



Then Maj. Mary Donley, center, takes aim on the practice range with an M-16 assault rifle during the 1988 Joint Dakota Encampment at Camp Grafton, N.D. Submitted photo.

drug. That’s when photo missions started to take on a whole new priority.

We did have one big mission while I was wing commander and that was the gyrocopter that went down north of Watertown—near South Shore, S.D. Our ground team and aircrew found the wreckage on Day Three of the mission.

What did you feel was your biggest accomplishment as wing commander? What else do you wish you had accomplished?

I don’t see one big thing as a major accomplishment but my goal was to make sure we stayed fiscally stable and we did! Our membership was stable—even growing. We were able to have more SAREXs—funding was more stable. We had a color guard team go to the National Competition. We hired someone---Lt. Col. Cindi Merchant—as our first wing administrator.

What are the biggest changes you seen in: A. The CAP; B. The SDWG; C. The Sioux Falls squadron?

CAP—the biggest changes have been in the mis-

sions we do. We went from just looking for downed aircraft and civil defense to the photo missions we do and the homeland security type missions.

S.D. Wing---One thing that hasn't changed is the dedicated, knowledgeable and professional caliber of members we have in S.D. Changes are—the cadet program—the amount of involvement compared to the 60's and 70's in the emergency services field. The planes!!! Those glass cockpits!!! The sharp paint job!!

Sioux Falls Squadron—This is where I've seen the least change—in the great people that keep joining. The level of dedication, etc. But it still has the feel of excitement that Thursday nights had 44 years ago for me! The technology is a huge change at every level!!

Who were your mentors in the CAP? How did they help you?

There were several older cadets who were in the squadron and wing when I joined. They taught me a lot. They gave me opportunities that I didn't get anywhere else. I found my voice—for my drill team. I got leadership training and opportunities that helped me in every avenue of my life. It has helped me with my teaching career and my family.

Probably the adult who was my mentor would be Col. Merlin VanderMaten because I would always go to him with my questions—he was Mr. CAP in the S.D. Wing—he finally told me it was time to get the answers for myself. Woke me up to the realization that I needed to take responsibility to make my own way in CAP and find the answers for myself!

How do you think your CAP experience has helped you outside of the CAP?

It goes way back to the cadet times—when I realized that I could do things that I never thought I could---lead others, teach and do something for my community and country. This gave me the confidence to get through college. I was elected president of our Greek society my junior year. I made

it through student teaching and my first teaching job in Canova! I lost my fear of speaking up. I was always willing to get involved but because of CAP I discovered I could be a leader! For the last five years I have been president of the Tea Education Association, so it continues!

After all these years, why do you still remain so active at the squadron, wing, and region levels?

I've always been a believer in giving back. There were people there in CAP when I needed them and I feel that maybe I can be there for someone who needs me. I am not someone who can sit still for long and I need activities to feel fulfilled and as long as I'm able I plan to keep doing what I can and giving back what I can.

How did you become director of the North Central Region Staff College?

The director right before me was from S.D. Wing—Lt. Col. Kathryn Johnson—a teacher. The director before her was the former N.D. Wing Commander—Col. Eide—a teacher. Must be a tradition!! Actually, Kathryn asked me a year or two before she stepped down if I would consider the position so I was her assistant for a year and agreed to take it on back in 1999! Col. McMillan, the NCR Commander, said he liked having teachers in leadership positions because we know how to make people play nice with each other!

What are your fondest memories of being in the CAP?

So many, but here are a few: My drill team. (I still have the trophy here at the house!) The thousands of people I've been privileged to meet and work with! Seeing the cadets do a pass and review at the end of every encampment! Representing South Dakota at the National Board meetings! Every Region Staff College I put together and the people who have come through them! But mostly all the wonderful lifelong friends I've made! 🍷

Editor's Note: Is there someone in the S.D. Wing our your squadron you think we should do an oral history with? If so, please email Maj. Epp at eppcap@gmail.com with your recommendation and why.

Thanks, Hugs, Al's Oasis—And Making a Difference

*By Col. Mary Donley
South Dakota Wing*

In December 2012 I was driving home from Pierre after having led a squadron leadership training class for 13 wing members. As usual, I made a stop at Al's Oasis in Chamberlain for a break.

As I was getting into the CAP minivan I was driving--yup--the one with the wrap on it -- the moving billboard as we like to call it -- a young woman in her 30s approached me. She asked if I was in the Civil Air Patrol and if had I been involved in the search in Utah for a missing aircraft.

“As I left, I couldn't help but feel how fortunate I am to belong to such an organization that helps people.”

I told her I was a member, but no, I had not been involved in the search but I knew our members in Utah and Wyoming were out looking.

She then told me that just that morning CAP had located the wreckage and there were no survivors. Then she told me that she was related to the people on the airplane!

She then asked if she could give me a hug as a thank you to all the CAP members who helped in the search and to all who volunteer to do this for families like hers!

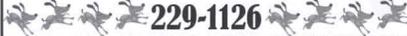
Well, we hugged and cried. As I left, I couldn't help but feel how fortunate I am to belong to such an organization that helps people. However, I also thought about the fact that we really “DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!”

So when we sometimes get discouraged and wonder if what we are doing really matters -- it does matter! And there are many people out there who are thankful for what we do!

Semper Vigilans! 



Editor's note: Colonel Mary Donley is a former S.D. Wing commander and a 40-year-plus member of CAP.

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Like the sun that lights the sky,
And may you always have the courage
To spread your wings and fly!

Rushmore Composite Squadron Moves to New Home at Ellsworth Air Force Base

*By 1st Lt. Dani Black
Rushmore Composite Squadron*



The new headquarters facility at Ellsworth Air Force Base provides the Rushmore Composite Squadron with considerably more space than its former facility at Rapid City Regional Airport, such as this large area that can be used for cadet drill. Photo by 1st Lt. Dani Black, Rushmore Composite Squadron.



Conference room facilities are another new perk for the Rushmore Composite Squadron after its move from Rapid City Regional Airport to Ellsworth Air Force Base. Photo by 1st Lt. Dani Black, Rushmore Composite Squadron.

Late last year, the Rushmore Composite Squadron settled into a building at Ellsworth Air Force Base. The squadron had occupied the old terminal building at Rapid City Regional Airport since March 2004.

In 2011, the airport informed the squadron that the old terminal building would be demolished in 2014 for airport improvements, so the search for a squadron home began. As CAP is the civilian auxiliary to the Air Force, the squadron inquired if any space was available at the Air Force base west of Rapid City.

Ellsworth wing commander Col. Mark Weatherington gave the approval for the squadron to use the building. The facility is provided indefinitely to the squadron rent-free by the Air Force. The Air Force is also providing power, heat and air conditioning for the building.

“The base has been very accommodating with getting us a building that meets every need we

had on our requirements list and it even surpassed it,” Rushmore squadron commander Maj. Craig Goodrich said. “We are very happy to be here.”

The new building is 2,000 square feet larger than the old facility at the airport, which allows the squadron the room to operate an emergency operations center when needed and for cadets to drill inside during the winter.

The new squadron headquarters is located off the end of the flight line, which excites the cadets.

“What’s really cool about this building is the B-1’s we get to watch take off and how deafening they are,” said Cadet Staff Sergeant Errol Kelly. 🇺🇸



Editor’s note: 1st Lt. Dani Black is the public affairs officer for the Rushmore Composite Squadron.

The 5 Ps: Are You Ready to Leave Home?

*By Ch, Lt. Col. Gary Rae
South Dakota Wing*

Go bags and 24 hour packs are familiar to CAP and military personnel. They are symbols of operational readiness and advanced preparation to be a first responder.

But are you really ready to leave home?

As a 30-year CAP chaplain, 42-year pastor and 15-year critical incident stress management (CISM) debriefer, I have witnessed one more need.

You may be aware that first responders, be they fire and rescue, law enforcement, military or church response teams, leave their homes and families during crisis.

Sometimes, as we saw with Hurricane Sandy, they leave to serve others when they are also victims of the natural disaster themselves. Sometimes the “others” we seek to serve are “us.”

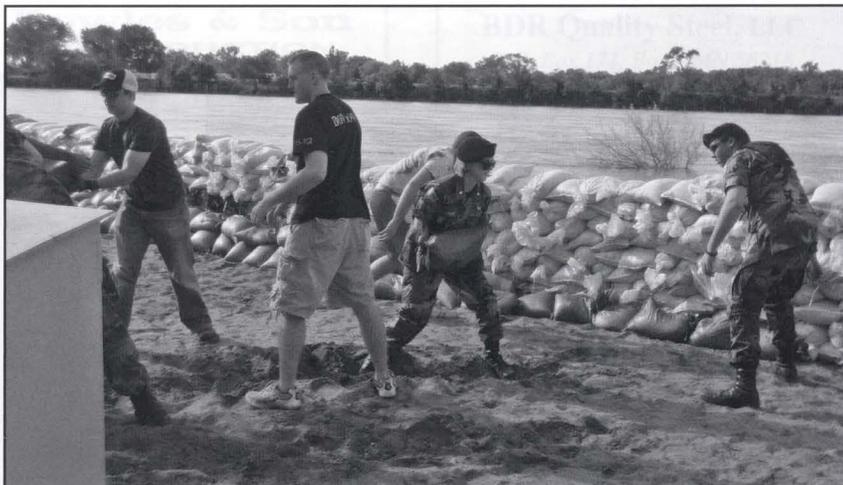
You have heard of the Five (5) P’s, that is, “*Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance.*” As a chaplain, pastor and debriefer over many years, I have seen the aftermath of emotions from first responders and evacuees who were not aware of five more “P”s. Much emotional heartache could be mitigated if we practice and encourage these Five P’s.

When people are called to evacuate there are five things you need to take or plan for:

1. **Pets** – They are precious to us; how many stories told with tears have you heard about lost or recovered pets during flooding, hurricanes and tornadoes? They are family!

2. **Prescriptions** – How easy is it to take critical medicines in a timely manner if left behind?

3. **Papers** – Do you have all your legal papers in an organized, identified location or scanned to your computer? I have scanned legal papers to my computer which is backed up to off-site cloud



Members of the S.D. Wing assist residents west of Yankton, S.D. in sandbagging against a surging Missouri River in 2011. Photo by Ch, Lt. Col. Gary Rae, S.D. Wing.

services so I would not lose essential papers if my home were destroyed by flood, fire or wind.

4. **Pictures/Photos** – One of the greatest regrets I hear is the loss of photos. Houses and cars can be replaced but it is always the pictures people wish they had back. I have spent the past two years scanning photo albums, family history and pictures so that all of them could be restored and precious memories honored. Pictures tell the stories of our lives and hold memories that mark our time on earth. We often take those boxes of photos in our basement for granted until they are lost to wind, fire or flood.

5. **People** – Do you have a practiced plan to evacuate your family and where you would meet up if separated by the chaos of a disaster?

When we help others in such times, we cannot imagine the feelings and trauma they are experiencing and we tend to believe it will always happen to “them” and not us. Are you really ready to leave home? 



Editor’s note: Ch, Lt. Col. Gary Rae is the S.D. Wing chaplain and a recently retired Methodist pastor.

Former S.D. Governor and CAP Cadet Addresses Wing Conference

*By Maj. Todd Epp
South Dakota Wing*

Former South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds addressed members of the S.D. Wing at the King's Inn in Pierre 20 April 2013 at the wing's annual conference.

Gov. Rounds' appearance was just one of many activities at the yearly gathering. The former two-term governor who served from 2003 to 2010 was also a CAP cadet as a youth. He talked about his

experiences as a cadet and his interest in aviation and being a pilot. Gov. Rounds is also run-

"The former two-term governor who served from 2003 to 2010 was also a CAP cadet as a youth."

ning for the U.S. Senate in the 2014 election.

Other activities included a general assembly featuring Col.

Robert Todd, commander of the North Central Region of the CAP and Col. John Seten, commander of the S.D. Wing. There was also a presentation on the CyberPatriot cadet competition, in which the Big Sioux Composite Squadron from Brookings has had considerable success the past two years.

There were also morning and afternoon sessions on top-



Former S.D. Governor Mike Rounds (center, front row), who was also a CAP cadet, poses with S.D. Wing cadets in attendance at the S.D. Wing Conference, held 20 April 2013 in Pierre. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, S.D. Wing.

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ics ranging from pilots, public affairs, cadet programs, aerospace education and other topics. The awards banquet featured a video collage of wing and squadron activities as well as various awards and recognition for members' accomplishments. (See sidebar for award winners.)

Nearly 100 Civil Air Patrol members and family from across South Dakota attended the annual conference. 



Congratulations to the following S.D. Wing members who were presented the following awards at the 2013 wing conference in Pierre 20 April 2013:

- C/Capt. Elizabeth Foy, SDWG Cadet of the Year.
- C/CMSgt. Sullivan Busch, SDWG Cadet NCO of the Year.
- Capt. David Small, SDWG Aerospace Education Officer of the Year.
- Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, SDWG Operations Officer of the Year.
- Maj. Bruce Kipp, SDWG Public Affairs Officer of the Year.
- Lt. Col. Randall Borton, SDWG Professional Development Officer of the Year.
- Maj. Mark Huntington, SDWG Safety Officer of the Year.
- 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. B. T. 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.

Record Number of Members, Media Turn Out for SDWG Split SAREX

*By Maj. Todd Epp
South Dakota Wing*

Record member attendance and record media interest highlighted the split search and rescue exercise (SAREX) held in Sioux Falls and Rapid City 12-13 January 2013.

A record 53 members from the Sioux Falls and Big Sioux Composite Squadrons participated in Sioux Falls. Further, the SDWG also achieved a perfecta of sorts, attracting all three Sioux Falls commercial TV news stations and the state's largest daily newspaper.

Meanwhile in Rapid City, the SAREX was initially canceled the morning of 12 January because

of snowy conditions but restarted in the afternoon after the weather cleared. Thirteen members from squadrons in the Black Hills area participated in a search and rescue exercise as well as cadet orientation flights.

Though not formally part of the SAREX and funded by the wing, in Sioux Falls, the wing offered two media flights. KELO-TV (CBS) and KDLT-TV (NBC) snapped them up. ABC affiliate KSFY-TV also did a package on the SAREX and the Sioux Falls Argus Leader ran both a story on the SAREX and cadet participation in it in an



Providing media flights was one of the attractions for the press prior to the split Sioux Falls/Rapid City SAREX. Left to right: Mission pilot 1st Lt. Neil Schmid, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron; KELO-TV reporter Stephanie Gregory; KDLT-TV reporter Laura Monteverdi; and mission pilot Capt. Matt Meert, also from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.



KELO-TV reporter Stephanie Gregory waits her turn for a media flight on the tarmac at Sioux Falls Regional Airport prior to the split Sioux Falls/Rapid City SAREX. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.



Cold and snow in Sioux Falls and Rapid City added to the realism of the SAREX. Ground team members from the Big Sioux and Sioux Falls Composite Squadrons plan their next move. Photo by Cadet Airman 1st Class Aubrey Johnson, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

“Typical South Dakota winter weather also helped to make the exercises more realistic.”



Mission base is the nerve center of a search and rescue mission or a SAREX. Members monitor activity from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron headquarters. Left to right: Cadet 2nd Lt. Sam Huntington, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron; Col. John Seten, S.D. Wing; Maj. Nick Gengler, S.D. Wing; and Lt. Col. Rick Larson, S.D. Wing. Photo by Capt. Jerry Foy, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

online photo gallery from the event.

SAREX taskings included locating practice beacons, as well as ground team and mission base training.

Typical South Dakota winter weather also helped to make the exercises more realistic.

“Our ORM skills were tested with snow squalls over the eastern part of the state which we attempted to operate around and some less than ideal sky ceilings and road conditions in the Black Hills,” said Col. John Seten, S.D. wing commander and the Sioux Falls incident commander.

Colonel Seten also noted that some member had commented that the training was more realistic because of the weather not being “picture perfect” and more like it would be in an actual search. 



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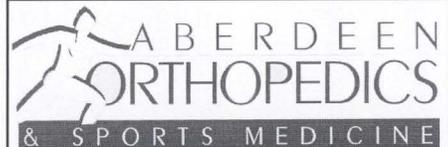
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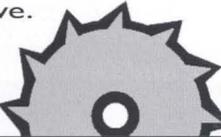
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