



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for January 2014

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

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WING TIPS

HOT NEWS: U.S. HOUSE BILL H.R.3708 - GENERAL AVIATION PILOT PROTECTION ACT WOULD ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A MEDICAL EXAM FOR GENERAL AVIATION PILOTS. The bill would replace the compulsory FAA Third Class medical exam with the requirement that a general aviation pilot simply possess a valid driver's license as proof of health. It would also limit pilots to flying with no more than five passengers, not above 14,000 feet and at no more than 250 knots, in aircraft that have a maximum takeoff weight of 6,000 lbs. Other conditions in the bill limit flights to visual flight rules (VFR) and to flights within the United States. Compensation for flights would also be prohibited. The bill gives the FAA 180 days from the date the bill is enacted to adopt the changes. Contact Rep. Kristi Noem and urge her to support H.R.-3708.

- **SAFE IS BETTER THAN SORRY.** SDWG held a Safety Day on 22 January. By regulation an annual Safety Day is to be held in all active units sometime during the months of January, February or March to focus on improving safety knowledge and attitudes. This required day is focused entirely on safety subjects applicable to the unit. Safety Day education to meet this requirement may take place at a regularly scheduled unit meeting providing the academic content is devoted to safety.

- **SPIDERTRACKS.** On 16 January, Col. Seten, Lt. Col. Larson and Lt. Schmid of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron met with Mr. Jerry Lee a representative of the company that manufactures the Spidertracks real-time satellite tracking system to discuss SDWG's deployment of the system and high degree of success with fielding. While in town from Florida (just in time for a blizzard), Mr. Lee shared the company's direction along with some helpful hints on use of the tracker. Those steps will become part of the aircrew user training soon.

- **TOP TWO SDWG LEADERS IN ACTION.** Despite the arctic blast on 23 January, Col. Seten and Lt. Col. Larson travelled to Pierre on a variety of liaison missions. They attended the quarterly meeting of the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), a coalition of the major national voluntary organizations in the U.S. that have made disaster-related work a priority. During the meeting, they briefed VOAD members

on CAP missions and capabilities. Lt. Col. Larson commented that this was primarily to show-the-flag and to touch base with organizations that CAP works with in disaster recovery.

Following the VOAD meeting, they met with Major General Tim Reisch, State Adjutant General, to discuss recent CAP state missions and future CAP capabilities. While there, they also met with Assistant Director Steve Harding and members of the National Guard budget staff, thanking them for their support! The last stop of the day was a meeting with newly appointed State Director of Homeland Security Mr. Steve Pluta. He was briefed on CAP "Homeland Skies" capabilities and presented with a new initiative to support advanced capabilities.

Among the other awareness missions undertaken during the 23 January trip was groundwork for the upcoming "CAP Day" activities planned Thursday, 20 Feb at the state Capitol. All SDWG members are invited to the event, which will run from 1400-1600 Central Time. The day will focus on legislative interaction and on-going support for SDWG! Last year's session was highly successful, with record member participation and a visit by and photo session with Governor Daugaard. Also planned for 20 February is a proclamation to be signed by the governor designating 20 February as CAP Day throughout the state.

- **FIRST SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE OF 2014.** Over 70 SDWG members held the first training session of the year on Saturday, 11 January with a state-wide search and rescue exercise (SAREX). This "Split SAREX" took place in the West River area with an incident command post at Rushmore Composite Squadron and in the East River area with an incident command post at Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

The overall purpose of the activity was threefold: to train mission base staff in organizing and controlling an emergency services mission, to train mission aircrews in the techniques of aerial observation and photography, and to train ground teams in the techniques and skills needed for search and rescue.

The East River portion of the Split SAREX was held at Sioux Falls Composite Squadron HQ. Col. John Seten served as the Incident Commander supported by a mission base staff. The search and rescue scenarios played involved air and ground searches for private aircraft overdue at their destinations and a scenario for a mission from the state Office of Emergency Management to survey and photograph ice conditions along Split Rock Creek in Palisades State Park near Garretson, SD. Two aircraft and two ground search teams took part.

The West River portion of the Split SAREX was held at the Rushmore Composite Squadron HQ in Rapid City. Maj. Craig Goodrich served as the Incident Commander supported by a mission base staff. They played a complex scenario involving two missing persons (a mentally unstable male out on bond on drug charges and his girlfriend), abandoned vehicles, a break-in at a remote cabin, and a stolen private aircraft with only one person on board. At the notional request from the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office a search was conducted in western South Dakota for the female missing person and the stolen aircraft. Three aircraft and two ground search teams took part. Kudos to the West River scenarist for an unusual and interesting scenario.



EAST RIVER SAREX MISSION BRIEFING



GROUND TEAM W/HAND-HELD RDF

- The January-March edition of CAP Volunteer is out. One of the front cover feature articles is our Winter Storm Atlas recovery efforts. The magazine is online at www.capvolunteernow.com/cap_volunteer/
- The Jan-Mar online edition of CAP Vector - a quarterly news and information tool designed to "get the word out" on CAP initiatives, events and policies is at: www.capmembers.com/cap_national_hq/capvector/
- **SAFETY SPECIALTY TRACK UPDATE** - As a result of increased capabilities of the CAP Learning Management System the prerequisites for the Safety Specialty Track tests have been updated to reflect the need to take the appropriate test while working through the specialty track. To take the Safety Specialty Track Senior test (Senior Lesson and Exam: Safety), you must have obtained the Technician rating in the Safety Specialty Track and it must be annotated in eServices. The same prerequisite is required to take the Safety Specialty Track Master test, you must have obtained Senior rating and it must be annotated in eServices. The Safety Technician Specialty Track test can be taken as long as the Introduction to Safety course has been completed.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. John Seten, CAP

- Congratulations to Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish for earning the Quality Cadet Unit Award for 2012-2013. Great Job!
- I'd like to send a very special thank you to Capt. Jerry Foy for disposing of numerous items that have been pending turn in for many years to include four vehicles. Great job to Jerry and those that helped him this past weekend.



WING VICE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Richard Larson, CAP

Civil Air Patrol in South Dakota has proven its utility and value to community, state and nation over the years. It's amazing to see the ways CAP contributes to the betterment of society. Examples of flight related missions include assistance to the Department of Defense and Federal Aviation Agency to determine the impact of wind generator farms, aerial flood surveys for FEMA and state emergency management, completing west river damage assessments for state government, missing persons searches, ensuring safety of flight along low level military training routes, providing target aircraft for air defense intercept missions, homeland security missions over large special events and tracking wildlife during conservation projects.

Non-flying missions in the past include providing base support for Ellsworth AFB's 28th Bomb Wing and the SDANG's 114th Fighter Wing, assisting at airshows, marching in parades, promoting highway safety, working with Veterans organizations, helping with community events such as ZooBoo, Riverboat Days, Arts Festivals, Festival of Lights, and Veterans March, including interoperable communications and/or cybersecurity training.

The missions and events listed above are on top of the demands of meeting the dynamic requirements of CAP members' training and certification.

When Colonel Seten and I meet with others to tell the South Dakota CAP story, we are told that our enthusiasm shows. We are both quick to say that it is our member's performance of duty that makes us proud.

Our high-tech crystal ball says that in the near future CAP members will be operating enhanced and advanced technology, have more air and ground missions, and work even closer with law enforcement, first responders, emergency management personnel and government officials at the local, state and federal level in joint training, emergency services education and real-world response.

Having been in CAP for over 30 years in 3 different wings I knew that South Dakota CAP was good, but am constantly amazed by what we are achieving! Let's keep challenging ourselves to continue training, making contributions and racking up achievements and successes. We've made a critical difference on a lot of fronts... millions of dollars saved, increased Homeland Security and National Defense and just plain doing what's right by being leaders in the community. I am proud of each of you and pleased to be a part of our dynamic team!



WING DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS

Capt. Jerry Foy, CAP

- I wish to express my sincere thanks to the crew who helped me retire about 65 items, including vehicles, computers and peripherals, microwaves, a television, outmoded GPS equipment, an overhead projector and a number of pieces of office automation equipment. It took a lot of processing to get the items ready for disposal at the Defense Logistics Agency's Disposition Services at Ellsworth AFB. For several days I, 1st Lt. Rachel Kuecker, 1st Christina Voll, C/SSgt Travis, C/SSgt Levi Woodard, C/MSgt Joseph Voll and Mr. Anthony Voll worked to get the items ready. My thanks to all the squadrons who helped prepare for this "retirement party", plus we were able to reassign needed items and discovered a "lost" item. Round 2 coming up next month. The end result? Lots more space at Wing Headquarters and a simplified inventory at the end of the year.



SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058, BROOKINGS)



THE THIRD TIME'S THE CYBER-CHARM - The cadet cybersecurity team of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron is hoping the third time's the charm as they head into the national finals of "CyberPatriot-VI," the Air Force Association national high school cyber-defense competition to be held on 26 March in Gaylord, MD.

For the Big Sioux cybersecurity team, it's their third straight finals The SDWG cadets finished first in the 2013 Cisco Networking event at the national competition and won

the competition's inaugural cyber-forensics phase in 2012. Going into the finals, the Big Sioux cybersecurity team is in second place in the All Service Division and fifth in the Cisco Networking Challenge. Winning teams in the championship receive scholarships and prizes from CyberPatriot sponsors.

The members of this year's Big Sioux cyber-security team, led by Cadet Captain Joshua Klosterman are Cadet Master Sergeant Chris Dinnel, Cadet Master Sergeant Laura Rudnik, Cadet Airman Basic Josiah Jorenby and Cadet Airman Zebadiah Nelson. The team is coached by Cadet Second Lieutenant Tyler Gross and mentored by First Lieutenant Shannon Hofer.

During the three preliminary rounds the Big Sioux team faced realistic computer network threats at their home location. They had six hours to seek out weaknesses in simulated online networks and work to defend those networks from threat scenarios. A Cisco networking challenge was also a part of the competition. The team was scored according to how quickly and effectively they established and maintained secure networks.

The "All Service Division" is comprised of CAP Cadets and Naval Sea Cadets, as well as Junior ROTC units from all four military services. CAP teams accounted for 360 of the 864 teams in the All Service Division. CAP has three of 14 finalist slots in the All Service category for the second consecutive year. Marine Corps JROTC has three teams, Army, Air Force and Navy JROTCs and the Naval Sea Cadets have two teams each.

The CyberPatriot competition has two divisions; All Service and Open. Between the two divisions a record 1,537 teams from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada, as well as U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Japan, South Korea and Germany registered to compete in competition that began on 15 November 2013.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items and photos submitted by: 1st Lt. K. Bierwirth)

• **RECRUITMENT, RECRUITMENT, RECRUITMENT** has been the squadron's theme this month. We've been hitting the pavement and advertising!

- In December our squadron hosted a Paper & Pets Drive at our local food pantry.
- We put an announcement for the squadron on the web page of the Custer Chamber of Commerce.
- Cadets Parry and Stiffarm did a recruitment presentation to 78 Custer Middle School students
- We have put photos in the local newspaper.
- We handed out brochures to the middle school students.
- We put flyers in the county extension and 4-H newsletters for Custer and Fall River Counties.
- Last but not least C/TSgt Stiffarm is working on a squadron advert for the local television station.

So far the middle school presentation has resulted in one potential new member with more to follow.



LEFT PHOTO: CADETS PARRY AND STIFFARM AT CUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

RIGHT PHOTO: CAPT. MOAD, LT. DILLON, CADET PARRY, CAPT. GEETING AND CADET DILLON AT CUSTER FOOD PANTRY



1st Lt. Vicki Bierwirth has started the cadets on CAP's model rocketry program. If all goes as planned we hope to complete the instructional modules by spring. Everyone is looking forward to punching holes in the sky with their model rockets by mid-summer. There was a bit of grouching about being limited to low-power rocket motors, some were hoping to to recreate a moon mission.

All of the participants are looking forward to adding the coveted CAP model rocketry badges to their uniform.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Item submitted by: Capt. David Small, text and photos by Lt. Col. Hopewell)

• **IT WAS AN UN-ORDINARY THURSDAY EVENING** at the Spearfish airport on 9 January 2013, 1800 hours, the time for the squadron meeting. 1st Lt. Brandon Caneva, first to arrive at the Squadron building,



opened to door to the sound of cascading water. His immediate thought was, "This can't be good." Days before local temperatures of around zero prevailed in the area. Though we've had prolonged colder weather in the past with no problems, this time the constant wind and cold just overwhelmed the old plumbing. The pipes in and under the building had burst flooding the floor and crawl space. The prime suspect, it seems, was the failed thermostat for the heaters in the crawl space. Walking on the carpet produced visible mini-waves and splashes, and the sink under-counter area literally dammed up inches of water. Cadets and seniors immediately switched gears from the original plans and launched a team effort to remove thoroughly soaked (ruined) carpet from the wood under-flooring, and dismantled the water softened cabinet components. The impromptu recovery team consisted of seniors 1st Lt. Brandon Caneva, Capt. Gary Dettman, Lt. Col. Daryl Miles, Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, Lt. Col. James Hopewell, and cadets C/Col William Small, C/SMSgt Connor Caneva, C/CMSgt Jared Doyle, C/SSgt Justin Harris, C/Amn Ryan Harris, C/Amn Peter Iverson. Dettman and DeWeese came back during the following week and replaced the cracked pipes and end-caps. Complete restoration of floors and cabinet is still forthcoming, and somewhat dependent on available funds.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(No items submitted for this issue)

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Items submitted are in the promotions section)

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

(Items submitted are in the promotions section)

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations to Jim Schimelfening on Wing Staff on his promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant!

Cadet Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Silas Busch of Rushmore Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Captain and receipt of the Earhart Award!



Congratulations to Nicole Schneider of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant and on appointment to the cadet staff as Administrative officer.

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Connor Caneva of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and to Devon Brown of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Jason Parry of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, Bradley Blansett of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and Austin Cole of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Nicholas Nash of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and Travis Tenold of Rushmore Composite Squadron on promotion to Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Justin Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and to Kyle Stiffarm of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron and to Jaden Roblewsky of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Keyvin Rauscher and Austin Rauscher of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and Rushmore Composite Squadron's Anthony Pruitt, Joseph Jagodzinski, and Levi Woodard, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Thomas Dillon of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron and to Jaden Petersen of Big Sioux Composite Squadron their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Julia Lair of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and Daniella Petersen of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Gen. Curry Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★

★ Congratulations to SrA Jaden Peterson of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his selection as squadron Assistant Public Affairs Officer!