



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for April 2014

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

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WING TIPS



- **SDWG UNDERGOES BIENNIAL OPERATIONAL EVALUATION:** The South Dakota Wing took part in a weeklong graded mission readiness exercise from 21-26 April. Every two years a U.S. Air Force inspection team evaluates the Wing’s effectiveness in responding to a variety of potential real-world incidents. Typical scenarios include searches for missing/crashed aircraft, missing persons, floods, and humanitarian aid. The evaluation culminated Saturday, 26 April, with a major exercise at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport / Joe Foss Field. Specially equipped Civil Air Patrol aircraft, vehicles and approximately 80 command staff, ground support and aircrew members gathered from across the state. The

Mission Base at the airport executed a broad spectrum of operations in response to training incidents submitted by the USAF Evaluation Team. Maj. Bruce Kipp, Wing Public Affairs Officer commented, “We train continuously in order to prepare for these real-world missions that affect peoples’ lives and impact the health and welfare of our communities. We are ready to respond in the event of an actual incident.”

The Wing received a rating of “Highly Successful” from the Air Force for its performance during its operations evaluation. Several staff sections received the coveted rating of “Excellent”. In addition, there was not a single “Finding”, an area which requires corrective action. Wing Commander, Col. John Seten, and Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson, who was also the Incident Commander, praised the professionalism of the members, their ability to work together as a team, and their determination to see a mission through to its

successful conclusion. Col. Seten added “The rating of highly successful is a true testament to the hard work of our top notch, dedicated professional volunteers.”

The Wing expresses its gratitude to Landmark Aviation for the use of its facilities and also thanks the Sioux Empire Chapter of the American Red Cross for providing meals for the 80 plus people who took part in the activity. In addition, the Wing thanks the South Dakota Air National Guard’s 114th Fighter Wing for providing their Mobile Emergency Operations Center.

Our operational evaluation was well covered in local, state and national print and broadcast media. One standout was Lt. Col. Larson’s on-camera interview to a reporter from KSFY-TV.

Source: Larson interview www.ksfy.com/story/25393690/south-dakotas-civil-air-patrol-receives-highly-successful-evaluation

- **REDCAP:** In the early afternoon of 4 April, South Dakota Wing was placed on alert by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida. The mission was to search for an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) beacon reported active in the vicinity of Mitchell by several aircraft passing overhead. In addition, a USAF tanker aircraft was able to obtain a rough triangulation of the signal as well. CAP Incident Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson notified the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron to start preparations to launch two aircraft and form a ground team to search for the ELT. However, prior to the aircraft taking off and ground team deploying, Lt. Col. Larson, using Google Earth was able to pinpoint the ELT in the vicinity of Letcher, about 20 miles northwest of Mitchell. It was determined that the signal was emanating from a crop-duster aircraft undergoing maintenance and the ELT was silenced. The mission was initially closed around 1445 local time. However, additional reports were received that ELT signals continued active, this time in an area south of Yankton. Two aircraft from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron tracked the ELT signals to Hartington, Nebraska. One aircraft landed at Hartington Municipal Airport/Bud Becker Field where it was discovered that an individual working on his personal ELTs was unaware they had been triggered. These ELTs were silenced and the aircraft returned to base. The Cessna-172 was piloted by Capt. Matt Meert with Capt. Lauren Greenhoff as Mission Observer. The other aircraft, a Cessna-182, was piloted by Capt. Joe Oye with Capt. Jerry Gabert as Mission Observer and Capt. Karla West as Mission Scanner. In addition to the two aircraft, two ground search teams were dispatched from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. However the ELTs were located shortly after the ground search teams departed so the teams were recalled to base. In all some 18 SDWG personnel were involved. The mission ended at 2050 local time.

- **REDCAP:** At 9:05pm on 19 April, the South Dakota Wing was placed on alert by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida. The mission was to search for an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) beacon that had been reported as active in the vicinity of Sioux Falls Regional Airport by aircraft passing overhead. The CAP Incident Commander, Maj. Craig Goodrich, of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, notified the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron to ready aircrews and a ground search team to search for the ELT using radio direction finding equipment. A Sioux Falls based CAP Cessna-182T piloted by Maj. Justin Johnson with Capt. Matt Meert as Mission Observer and direction finding equipment operator, and Lt. Jerald Hayden as Mission Scanner took off at Midnight and flew a route over a large portion of eastern South Dakota searching for the signal. The Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings was notified to prepare a ground search team and activate additional aircrews if needed.

At approximately 2:30am the CAP aircraft pinpointed the ELT as being located at a private airstrip southwest of Huron, SD. The Incident Commander called the owner of the airstrip who went out and turned off the beacon. As a precaution, the CAP aircraft continued to circle overhead until its equipment confirmed that the ELT had been silenced. The aircraft then returned to base, the mission had been successfully completed.



SPIDERTRACKS OF THE CAP AIRCRAFT SEARCHING FOR THE ELT REPORTED ACTIVE NEAR HURON, SD

- REDCAP:** At around 3:00am on 28 April, the South Dakota Wing was notified by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida that a private aircraft had been reported missing while en route from Texas to Gettysburg, SD. CAP Incident Commander, Maj. Craig Goodrich, of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, immediately notified key members of the Wing. He emphasized that the wing was on standby as no official mission tasking had been received. Wing members began to closely monitor the situation in the expectation of a mission. However, the wreckage of the small aircraft was discovered shortly thereafter in a wind farm near Huron, SD. Had there been a need for support, South Dakota Wing was poised to assist

- 2014 SOUTH DAKOTA WING CONFERENCE AND AWARDS BANQUET:** After the end of the CAP-USAF Operational Evaluation on Saturday, 26 April, participants swiftly changed into their dress uniforms to attend the 2014 Wing Conference and Awards Banquet at the beautiful Holiday Inn-City Centre in downtown Sioux Falls. Maj. Todd Epp was Master of Ceremonies and he kept the speeches and the awards presentations flowing smoothly. One of the highlights was the year-in-review slideshow which highlighted some of the more serious aspects of what SDWG does, but also included some of the lighter moments as well. Sunday, 27 April, was set aside for workshops and breakout sessions for the senior members on a variety of key aspects of Wing operations and administration. A special program had also been set up to keep the cadets active and engaged. It was a long and busy weekend for all the attendees but at the end the universal comment was that it had all been worthwhile, informative and instructive.

- AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on the 10th, 11th, 18th and 21st of April in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. The GF&P surveyed deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk. SDSU surveyed elk and bobcats. The surveys resulted in a total of 18.3 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilots for the April surveys were Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese on the 10th and 11th and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett on the 18th and 21st.

- LIGHTSPEED NAMES 2014 GRANT FINALISTS:** On 2 April, the Civil Air Patrol was named as one of the 15 aviation charities selected as finalists in the Lightspeed Aviation Foundation's Pilot's Choice Awards program for 2014. The foundation distributes grants to aviation organizations dedicated to growing the pilot community or using aviation to serve others. Your vote determines the grant winners - the top 8 beneficiaries will receive a grant from \$2,000 to \$10,000 from the Lightspeed Aviation Foundation. CAP has received a

Lightspeed grant in each of the past four years. The 2013 grant benefited CAP's Aerospace Connections in Education program. To vote for CAP to receive a 2014 grant, go to:

www.lightspeedaviationfoundation.org/content.cfm/Voting/Get-to-know-the-2014-finalists/Civil-Air-Patrol.



SCALE MODEL CAP CESSNA-172: The Minicraft Model Company is offering a 1/48th scale Civil Air Patrol Cessna-172 plastic model kit. This highly detailed model aircraft kit features recessed panel lines, a detailed engine with mount, removable cowl panels, exquisite four-seat cockpit and cabin interior, and decals for two Civil Air Patrol aircraft. Based on an Internet survey, the average price for this model kit is \$25.

- **EXERCISE FALCON KEYNOTE 2014.** SDWG again provided support to the South Dakota Air National Guard, this time by participating as the target aircraft in SDANG Exercise Falcon Keynote 2014. The purpose of the exercise was to provide the 114th Fighter Wing's alert aircrews training in aerospace control alert intercept procedures, a function of its Homeland Security mission. A CAP Cessna-182T aircraft, based in Sioux Falls, acted as the target aircraft. The objective for the pilots of the F16s of the 175th Fighter Squadron was to hone the skills of being able to quickly and safely intercept and evaluate a slow moving aircraft that could pose a security risk or that may have inadvertently strayed into restricted airspace. SDWG is pleased and proud to provide this cost effective support to SDANG by providing target aircraft for them to practice air intercept techniques. CAP partners with the USAF helping to provide a total force approach to readiness and enhanced national security.



- **NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER SELECTED:** The Civil Air Patrol's Board of Governors has selected current National Vice Commander Brigadier General Joe Vazquez as the next national commander and chief executive officer. The change-of-command ceremony, and Vazquez's promotion to Major General, will be at CAP's National Conference in Las Vegas on 15 August. Gen. Vazquez has almost 40 years of CAP experience having started as a cadet in 1975.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. John Seten, CAP



If you haven't already, please join me in welcoming 1st Lt. Kris Bierwirth as the new commander of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron. Kris has been active with the squadron in Custer and has filled many roles within the squadron since 2007. I'm confident that Kris will do a great job with a great squadron.

Also please join me in thanking Capt. Sharon Moad for serving as commander of the Crazy Horse Squadron for the past four years. I'm sure we'll continue to see her helping out with DDR activities and many other activities within the Wing. With her years with the Red

Cross, CAP and in the fire service we trust that she will continue to share her wealth of knowledge with all of us. (Photo by Ashley Muhm)

- Please join me in welcoming Capt. Shannon Hofer as the new commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron. I look forward to working with him in the future. He will continue with his duties as the Director of IT for the wing as well.

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 1st Lt. K Bierwirth and Capt. Moad)

- **MODEL ROCKETRY**: Squadron cadets built and successfully launched the two rockets required to pass Stage 2 in CAP's Model Rocketry Program. We launched the Alpha Estes Model Rocket and the Tomahawk Cruise Missile Model Rocket on April 26.



C/SMSGT JASON PARRY



C/TSGT KYLE STIFFARM



C/SSGT THOMAS DILLON

- Lt. Victoria Bierwirth is taking part in a Hunting-101 course taught by the Rapid City Outdoor Campus West at the Rapid City Trap and Skeet Club to encourage hunting by women and girls. The program teaches the history of hunting and its importance to humankind, including survival and conservation, firearms safety, game-law, and hunting techniques. These classes lead up to hunting real game. "I know that after I've gone hunting it will definitely be like a 'hoorah I did it!' - type thing," Bierwirth commented.

Source: www.kotatv.com/story/25335783/children-first-female-students-learning-how-to-hunt

- 1st Lt. Kris Bierwirth recruited 3 new senior members to the squadron! Applications have been sent to NHQ and are awaiting approval.

- **CAP MEMBERS TRAIN WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS**: On Saturday, 19 April, Dave and Joyce Jefferies along with Capt. Sharon Moad attended a day of training for Government Liaison in an Emergency Operations Center at the Black Hills Area Chapter of Red Cross. This training is also useful for liaison function in CAP missions in an EOC. On April 21, Maj. Nancy McKinney, from Pierre Composite Squadron and Capt. Sharon Moad from Crazy Horse Composite Squadron left early for two days of training with the Red Cross in Sioux Falls at the Sioux Empire chapter. A total of 60 participants attended the training to learn how to integrate the incident command system into the Red Cross system for working in disaster situations. The four CAP

members have all spent many years with both organizations and have all worked many presidentially declared disasters as well as many CAP missions. Between the four there is more than 80 years of experience in Red Cross and over 100 years with CAP.



MAJ. MCKENNEY AND CAPT. MOAD



MAJ. MCKENNEY

- **RADIO DAZE**: C/SMSgt Jason Parry (Agent Hubert) and C/TSgt Kyle Stiffarm (Agent Peabody) took to the stage in the Custer High School production of "Radio Daze". They also used knowledge from their video production class about subliminal messages in advertising; placing a WWII era CAP poster center stage.



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Item and photos submitted Capt. D. Small)

- **NEW RUG & NEW PAINT**: We've just refurbished the main area of our squadron headquarters with fresh paint and new carpet. Our headquarters started out as a worn Cold War surplus building. Now it is a worn Cold War surplus building with a bright new interior. Helping with the project were Lt. Col. DeWeese, Capt. Dettman, Capt. Collister and myself. We were able to persuade the cadets to help move the furniture.



BEFORE



AFTER

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(No items submitted for this issue)

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(No items submitted for this issue)

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

(Submitted by Maj. Kipp and Lt. Brown, photos by Lt. Brown)



SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT: On the afternoon of 13 April the Easter Bunny visited Hangar 40 of the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard for their annual Easter egg hunt. The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron has helped facilitate the event over the last several years. We had a good turnout of cadets and senior members to help the kids with games, hand out baskets, set up and tear down, help direct traffic and assist with parking. We even got a few of our own family members to volunteer, which didn't go un-noticed or unrewarded. It is a day of fun for the kids and families as well as for those who volunteer. Families were very appreciative of seeing us volunteer so that Guard members could enjoy being with their loved ones and comrades for the event. As always, we conducted ourselves in a professional manner and had a bit of fun doing it at the same time. (Photo: SrA Nick Boone, in costume; MSgt/First Sgt Shawn Greer and Ms. Pamela McDowell, Youth Programs Coordinator)



THE EVENT



THE SHIUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON CONTINGENT



SDANG FAMILIES LISTEN TO OPENING REMARKS



THE KIDS FILL THEIR BASKETS WITH EASTER EGGS

- **TELEVISION INTERVIEWS:** Capt. Neil Schmid gave an on-camera interview to KELO-TV on 28 April on how wind conditions can affect small aircraft in flight. At the time the media was abuzz with reporting about a small aircraft that crashed near Highmore, SD after colliding with a wind tower while flying in poor weather conditions. He gave a similar interview to KSFY-TV on 30 April. Both news items ran about two minutes long and gave excellent exposure to SDWG. Both news items are available online on the stations' websites.

KELO Source: <http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/civil-air-patrol-grounded-day-of-plane-disappearance/?id=163717>

KSFY Source: <http://www.ksfy.com/story/25397493/pilot-gives-tips-on-safe-flying>

- **ETHNIC YOUTH DAY AT SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON:** On 24 April, about 80 middle schools students from Axtell and Whittier visited the squadron as part of the Sioux Falls Multi-Cultural Center's Ethnic Youth Day. Squadron Commander, Capt. Jason Erickson, welcomed them then gave an impromptu talk about aerodynamics, flight planning, weight and balance and CAP's aerial search and rescue missions. After Capt. Erickson's talk the students went to the hangar where they examined a CAP aircraft and asked questions.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations to Kris Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Bradley Blansett and Isaac Rosby, both of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Goddard Award!



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





Congratulations to Levi Woodard of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Ryan Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and to Bronson Lynn of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotion



Congratulations to Nicholas Kochutin of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to Capt. Sharon Moad received the DDR Member of the Year award!



Congratulations to C/SMSGt Jason Parry of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who has been awarded Superior Honor Roll status with a grade point average of 3.70 or above at Custer High School!



Congratulations 1st Lt. Victoria Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who received a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedication to CAP Aerospace program.



Congratulations to C/SMSGt Jason Parry and Cadet Mara Lemke who were on the Custer High School honor roll this past semester!



Congratulations 1st Lt. Christina Voll of Rushmore Composite Squadron who has been appointed as the squadron's Assistant Personnel Officer!



Congratulations to Capt. Sharon Moad who was named a "Woman of Outstanding Leadership" by the International Women's Leadership Association. She was honored for her contributions to family, career and community!



Congratulations to Lt. Kris Bierwirth who earned Technician Level in the Senior Member professional Development Program in Specialty track - Public Affairs Officer! In addition, Kris received the Achievement Award for her PAO duties for the squadron!



Congratulations SM Douglas Robbins, to SM Andrew Weathers and to SM Jacqueline Klatte-Rolf, all 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!



★ ★ TRIBUTE ★ ★



- **COL. MARY FEIK CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY:** Civil Air Patrol Colonel Mary Feik celebrated her 90th birthday on 13 April in her hometown of Annapolis, MD.

She has been deeply involved with the Civil Air Patrol for over 30 years. For her work with the CAP from 1982 to 2004 she was awarded the CAP's Distinguished Service Award and presented with lifetime membership in CAP.

Feik is the recipient of an extensive list of achievements and awards including the coveted Federal Aviation Administration's Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award and induction into the Women in Aviation Pioneer Hall of Fame. However, she considers her greatest honor to be the Civil Air Patrol cadet achievement created in her name in 2003.



CAP's Mary Feik Award Ribbon

Having worked on automobile engines from the age of 13, Feik became involved in aircraft maintenance and military aviation by the time she was 18. In 1942, she taught aircraft maintenance for the United States Army Air Corps, and would later be credited with over 5,000 hours as a flight engineer and pilot for military bombers, fighters, cargo and training aircraft.

Feik gives speeches to Civil Air Patrol cadets all over the country to address cadets every year. Her daughter, Lt. Col. Robin Vest, believes that her mother has travels about 30,000 miles annually to speak at Wing conferences and to present young recipients of the Mary Feik Achievement with signed certificates.

Source: www.capitalgazette.com/all_yours/your_news/my-time-civil-air-patrol-honors-pilot-s-th-birthday/article_3a64a33f-817e-5db4-bcf7-4185044cdcc3.html

★ ★ BLAST FROM THE PAST ★ ★

DID YOU KNOW SOUTH DAKOTA WING'S PHILIP COMPOSITE SQUADRON HAD A MOUNTED SEARCH AND RESCUE PATROL FROM 1992-2002



Members of the Philip Composite Squadron
comprise South Dakota's first horse mounted Civil
Air Patrol ground team shown here at the evaluated
Search And Rescue exercise held June 13th at the
Rapid City Regional Airport. ¹⁹⁹³

Members of the team shown mounted are (L to R)
Mr. M. C. Johnson; 2LT Steve Millage, Team Leader;
Cadet Stanley Reimann; and Mr. Rick Reimann.
Standing are 1LT Marsha Sumpter, Squadron
Commander, and 1LT Roberta Vaughan, Squadron
Public Affairs Officer.

CAP Photo by Major Don Barbalace, Wing PAO

Photo courtesy of Capt. Marsha Sumpter, former commander of the Philip Composite Squadron (standing right front in photo)

