



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for May 2014

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

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WING TIPS

HOT NEWS: It's official! On Friday, 30 May, President Obama signed into law S.309, the bill awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to Civil Air Patrol for its service during World War II. The Congressional Gold Medal marks the first major recognition CAP's members have received for their World War II service. Fewer than 100 of these early members are believed to be alive today.

The legislation recognizes the volunteer service of more than 120,000 men, women and teenagers who joined CAP immediately before and during the war. They helped protect the nation by warding off German U-boat attacks on American oil tankers bound for Allied nations.

CAP was founded Dec. 1, 1941, a week before the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the United States' entry into WWII. CAP organizations along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts volunteered to carry out anti-submarine patrols. The coastal patrols began within three months, after the Petroleum Industry War Council requested protection for oil tankers falling prey to German subs. Over the next 15 months, CAP members used their own planes to watch for German subs. Those patrols accounted for 86,685 missions that involved 244,600 flight hours and over 24 million air miles. They sighted 173 submarines, are credited with dropping bombs that sank two subs, and located more than 300 survivors of U-boat attacks.



In the interior of the US, CAP's early members also took to the skies to patrol the nation's borders, tow targets for military training, watch for forest fires, conduct search and rescue missions, provide disaster relief, transport people and parts and conduct orientation flights for future pilots.

Overall the members of the Civil Air Patrol logged an estimated 750,000 hours of flight time during the war, Sixty-four members died in service during World War II.

More information about CAP's World War II service is available at www.capgoldmedal.com, the organization's Congressional Gold Medal website.



- **TORNADO DAMAGE SURVEY MISSION:** The Pennington County Office of Emergency Management requested SDWG conduct a time-sensitive mission to photograph the damage in the wake of the tornado that touched down in the Silver City area of the Black Hills on 27 May. The severe storm system in the Black Hills also produced hail up to the size of golf balls near Keystone, Hill City, the Pactola Reservoir and Sheridan Lake. The mission objective was to provide geo-tagged photographs of the extent of the tornado's damage path.

Responding to the mission request, a SDWG Cessna-182T took off from the Rapid City Regional Airport with Maj. Craig Goodrich and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett; both highly experienced Mission Pilots, on board. Their survey mission lasted about 1.5 hours, during which they took nearly 100 high resolution geo-tagged photos that were hand delivered to the Pennington EOM for analysis.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on the 5th, 9th, 14th, 19th, 20th, and 27th of May in support of the state's Department of Game, Fish & Parks and the South Dakota State University. GF&P surveyed deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveyed elk and bobcats. The surveys resulted in just over of 25 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the May surveys was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. He was accompanied by personnel from GF&P and SDSU.

- **COLOR GUARD COMPETITION:** The cadet color guards of the Rushmore and Big Sioux squadrons met in competition on 24 May in Pierre. Competition was tight as both color guards were within a few points of each other through all the competition's categories. The lead changed back and forth several times. In the end, Rushmore's color guard nosed out Big Sioux by one point! While Rushmore Composite Squadron won the competition overall, the Big Sioux Composite Squadron won all the awards: Highest Academic Award, Fleet Foot Male and Fleet Foot Female and Outstanding Cadet of the Competition. Of note was how the two units encouraged each other throughout the competition wishing each other good luck and then congratulating each other upon announcement of the winner. Best of all, both teams won honors at the competition.

The Big Sioux Composite Squadron's color guard was made up of: C/SrA Zebadiah Nelson, C/SSgt Jaden Petersen, C/Amn Daniella Petersen, C/SSgt Bronson Lynn, and C/CMSgt Camille Lynn (alternate). The Rushmore Composite Squadron's color guard was made up of: C/CMSgt Errol Kelly, C/MSgt Travis Tenold, C/SSgt Anthony Pruitt, and C/A1C Gunner Gray.



RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON'S COLOR GUARD READY TO PERFORM AND UNDERGOING JUDGING

The officer in charge of the competition was Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, wing Director of cadet Programs. The judges for the competition were: Col. Mary Donley (SD001), Lt. Col. Myra Christensen (SD038), C/Capt Silas Busch (SD031) and C/Capt Joshua Klosterman (SD058). SDWG thanks all of the judges in the competition. Senior Members also present were: Maj. Bruce Hack and 1st Lt. Ryan Jones (both from SD031), and 1st Lt. Jonathan Becker and Maj. Nick Gengler (both of SD058). All competition was held at the Community Bible Church, Pierre, SD, except for the Outdoor presentation which was held at the Georgia Morse Middle School across from Capitol Building.

- An ICS-300 course will be taught in Aberdeen on 20-21 June. There is a maximum of 30 students. For information contact Teresa Tople, SD OEM, [605-773-3231](tel:605-773-3231) or Teresa.Tople@state.sd.us. Register online at http://dps.sd.gov/emergency_services/emergency_management/training_schedule.aspx. The next ICS-300 and ICS-400 courses are tentatively set for September but no specific dates or locations as yet.

- On http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/cadet_programs/?&show=entry&blogID=1279 is a post on the Cadet Blog, from 29 May that states; “Starting this week when a cadet’s promotion is approved in eServices their notification email will include a link to share the good news on Facebook. If a cadet choses to share the information a picture of their new grade insignia will post to their Wall. Friends and family who follow the link will be taken to a page that outlines the requirements the cadet completed to earn the achievement or milestone. Sharing is a great way for cadets to celebrate their accomplishments and increase the visibility of CAP. You can see the announcement and like us on the Cadet Programs Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/CAP-Cadet-Programs/156363627727624.

- **MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT DATES IN JUNE:** The month of June has several dates that are significant in the military history of the United States. Over the years the names of some of the organizations have changed as our armed forces evolved, and historians have assigned names for certain events. What hasn’t changed is the spirit to defend the rights, liberties and freedoms we cherish. We honor those who went before and respect those who currently serve our great nation.

6 June 1944 – D-Day, Allied forces launch the assault to liberate France during World War II.

14 June 1775 – Funding of the Continental Army, forerunner of today’s U.S. Army.

20 June 1941 – Founding of the U.S. Army Air Corps, forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

25 June 1950 – The Korean War began.

STAFF NOTES



WING DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

- We will send two SDWG aircraft out of the state in June to be used at this summer’s National Cadet Special Activity’s Flight Academies. One aircraft will go to Nebraska and one aircraft will go to Illinois.

- In the near future we will be receiving updated radio-direction finding equipment, Incident Command status boards to be used for SAREXs and actual missions, and Incident Command vests for better identification of key personnel during SAREXs and actual missions.

Don’t forget the Split SAREX coming up on Saturday, 21 June!



WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Maj. Rodney "Buck" DeWeese, CAP

- Planning is underway for an SDWG Aerospace Education event in conjunction with the South Dakota Air National Guard Museum's open house to be held 8-10 August in Pierre. Currently we envision a static display of a CAP C-182T aircraft, an open house display table, ground school for the "fly-a-teacher" (TOPS) program, radio-controlled model aircraft flights, model rocketry activity, cadet o-rides, and TOPS flights. It will be a big deal event and maximum turnout of seniors and cadets is requested.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058, BROOKINGS)

(Items submitted by Maj. Gengler)

- **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**: The squadron's color guard took part in a local Memorial Day parade and celebration at the United Living Center in Brookings. The ceremony was held in conjunction with Brookings' VFW Post 2118 (George Dokken Post).

- **ADIOS**: The squadron bids farewell to three Cadet Lynns; C/CMSgt Camille, C/SMSgt Brianna, and C/SSgt Bronson. They moved to North Dakota and transferred to the Jamestown Composite Squadron (ND-031). We wish them the best.



- **TOPS IN CAP CYBER-SECURITY**: We received official word from the Air Force Association as to our final standing in the recently held "CyberPatriot-VI", the national high school cyber-security competition. We came in 7th out of 864 teams in the All-Service Division but were 1st among the 320 CAP teams that took part. In recognition thereof, the AFA will present us with the CAP Champion Award in the near future. Members of the team, led by C/Capt Joshua Klosterman, were C/MSgt Chris Dinnel, C/MSgt Laura Rudnik, C/AB Josiah Jorenby (not shown) and C/Amn Zebadiah Nelson. This year's team was coached by then C/2nd Lt Tyler Gross and mentored by then 1st Lt. Shannon Hofer (not shown).

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items submitted by C/SMSgt Parry, Capt. Moad, Lt. Col. Christensen)

- **HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN IMPACT PROGRAM** by C/SMSgt Jason Parry: Freshman impact is a program consisting of many local emergency departments showing high school freshmen the effects of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Throughout the day, the students participate in team building activities as well as driving a golf cart while wearing drunk goggles. They also experience a live demo of a rollover showing the effects of seat belts being buckled and unbuckled. After the students have lunch, they watch a short play in which a couple of friends go to a party where they get high and drunk, then leave the party to drive home. At the end of the play, the stage goes dark and a mock 911 call is played over the speakers about the friends that had left the party. Immediately after the call, the students go into the parking lot where a mock crash

has been set up. The crash consists of stunt doubles that have been made to look like they have realistic injuries, as well as two cars from real wrecks that are positioned to look like they had hit head on.

Once all the students get out to the crash, the police, ambulance and fire trucks show up and handle the crash like its real. The driver of the car gets arrested and a few people get taken away in the ambulances. One of the passengers was killed and is taken away in a body bag in the back of a local morgue's hearse. Afterwards, the students go back into the theater and watch a mock trial of the driver who killed and injured his friends. I took part in the play and was the one who provided the alcohol and drugs. Even though it was all fake I had a really hard time participating in the mock trial seeing my friend get sentenced to prison and the effects he has caused in the rest of the other actor's pretend lives. I think it is a great program and impacted many of the students there to make good choices as they grow up.

- **A CIRCLE IN LIFE:** Life in a family often completes a circle, so it was for former Crazy Horse cadet Tyler Stritar (Capt. Moad's grandson). On 30 May 30 2014, U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Mathew Stritar was honored at a formal retirement presentation at Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City. MSgt Stritar served 20 years in the special security forces. He began his career at Ellsworth AFB and ended it there with many bases in between. His son, former cadet Stritar, begins his intended 20 years of service in the special security services at Ellsworth AFB, with his next base of assignment at Warren AFB in Cheyenne, WY. Both men are following the career of MSgt. Stritar's father who was a B-52 pilot who retired after 20 years of service at Ellsworth AFB.



- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The squadron is off to a running start for the drive to sign up sponsors for the 2014 Wreaths Across America Program. Each Saturday during the summer there will be members offering sponsorship applications to visitors attending an outdoor flea market in Pringle, SD. So far the members have had a fair amount of success. Pouring rain sometimes put a damper on things (no pun intended) but they continue in the spirit of fortitude.



Lieutenant Colonels Doug and Frizel Westerlund staff the table at the Pringle, SD flea market seeking sponsorships for the 2014 Wing Wreaths Across America program

- **MOUNTAIN OPERATIONS TRAINING AND EDUCATION:** The squadron hosted a Mountain Operations Training and Education (MOTE) weekend on 9 through 11 May. The event wasn't a typical emergency services training. Rather it was a journey into the psychology of survival on searches, outdoor safety of self and others as well as those in need of help, and crime scene forensics. The weekend was deemed a success by the attendees.

Cadets started Friday night off with shelter building and protection from the incoming rain. After shelters were in place and the out of town trainees arrived the program was started off with a class on drug demand reduction class presented by Chief Deputy Sheriff Neal Moad from Charles Mix County.



Deputy Moad is also on the state drug task force team and is a certified lab technician for the state. Attendees were given a shorter version of the class on Meth house take downs given to electric companies, county employees, highway worker, fire departments and many other organizations. He gave a presentation on the danger posed by discarded drug paraphernalia, especially those from the preparation of meth. He stressed the importance of safety if finding these types of bottles while doing ditch clean up, walking trails, etc. He emphasized the high degree of caution that law enforcement officers use in gathering evidence at meth labs. All attendees had the opportunity to wear the hazmat suit.

On Saturday classes began with Capt. Sharon Moad giving a presentation on the anatomy and field dressing of an Army individual soldier's field ration, known as the MRE. Originally the class was to be taught by Army Specialist Ken Moad, but as he was on TDY at the time the class was taught by his mom. Some heavy MRE contents swapping went on after the class.

This was followed by a class on the psychology of survival and searching where a great deal of information was shared on not just CAP searches but many kinds of searchers. The why, when, how and what to do when a searcher becomes lost or separated from the group. The focus was on lifetime knowledge with an emphasis on safety in all aspects.



A wilderness first aid session with hands on training was led by two Red Cross members Ken Mickelson from Rapid City and Dave Ramberg of Spearfish. They brought lots of bandaging and splinting material and there was no lack of willing "victims". Participants learned about several different types of patient carries and got to practice them. After lunch, provided by the local Pizza Hut, participants enjoyed a presentation by Jake Ehlert of the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks. He spoke about the ten most deadly creatures in the world, the top three of which we could encounter on any search anywhere. There was some surprise that the mosquito is number one and a great deal of surprise that cows and horses are numbers two and three.



The participants were then offered the opportunity to check out a closed box which squadron commander Bierwirth already knew contained dead, frozen snakes. Nevertheless, that didn't stop her from jumping backwards about three feet when someone let out a yell.

A mid-afternoon session was held at the Custer County Search and Rescue building where a video on ice rescue was shown. This was followed by a tour of their facility and inspection of their equipment. Steve Baldwin, one of the SAR members, took his 24-hour pack apart to show the items. It was very similar to the 24-hour pack that CAP ground search teams carry.



After supper, Deputy Moad, who is also a firefighter, gave a class on how to use a magnetic compass to determine azimuth and reverse azimuth. He also taught about topographical maps, how to read them, and discussed how mapping is used in all kinds of life, including criminal investigations. All members present were given a National Geographic cloth map of our area donated by the U.S. Forestry Service. The evening ended with the use of \$4,000.00 a pair night vision monoculars and a camp fire with Mexican S-mores provided by Lt. Col. Christensen.

Sunday's classes were on the psychological aspects of different types of lost people. For example, the difference of a three year old to a thirty three year old or a hunter verses a hiker. This was followed by SD Highway Patrol Officer Shann showing a video on the effects of texting while driving. He also spoke about driving while under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, exactly what that means and the consequences that can result.

One of the comments made by C/TSgt Thomas Dillon summed it all up. "What I learned most was what Capt. Moad said, "STOP, THINK, OBSERVE, PLAN."

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(See entry in Cadet NCO Promotions Section)

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(See entry in Cadet Airman Promotion Section)

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

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

- **SQUADRON STAFF APPOINTMENTS:** SM Gregory Klatte has been appointed Supply Officer. SM Andrew Weathers has been appointed Assistant Safety Officer. SM Jacqueline Klatte-Rolfe has been appointed Assistant Transportation Officer. SM Doug Robbins has been appointed Drug Demand Reduction Officer.

- **NEW MEMBERS:** Welcome aboard to our new members: SM Roy V Weller, Cadet Caleb J Weller, and Cadet Isaak B Weller. We are pleased that you have decided to join Civil Air Patrol and proud that you have chosen our squadron for membership.

- **ICUT COMPLETION:** The following individuals have completed ICUT training: Lt. Col. Jeffrey Dill, Capt. Scott Giles, C/Amn Malia Goodrich, SM Greg Klatte, SM Jacqueline Klatte, SM Ronald Lenz, 2nd Lt. Jamie Nowlin, and C/MSgt Travis Tenold.

- **LEVEL I COMPLETION:** SM Andrew Weathers, SM Gregory Klatte, SM Jacqueline Klatte-Rolfe, and SM Douglas Robbin have completed Level I in the Senior Member Professional Development Program.

- **GES QUALIFICATION**: The following individuals completed the requirements for General Emergency Services qualification: 1st Lt. Christina Voll, 2nd Lt. Jamie Nowlin, C/A1C Blake Berry, C/Amn Dalton Mann, C/Amn Tyler Eberle, SM Andrew Weathers, SM Douglas Robbins, SM Gregory Klatte, and SM Jacqueline Klatte-Rolfe.

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

(Items and photos submitted by Capt. West, Capt. Schmid)

- **BRANDON LOYALTY DAY PARADE**: The 46th Annual Brandon Loyalty Day parade was on 4 May. The squadron participated in the event with our color guard and a parade vehicle. A contingent of cadets and seniors helped provide crowd control.



(L-R): C/MSGT JADEN ROBLEWSKY, C/CMSGT DEVON BROWN, C/CMSGT AUSTIN COLE, C/TSGT JOSIAH HUNTINGTON

Other cadets participating were: C/SrA Ivan Kreger, C/SrA Kyle Kreger, C/Amn Kyle Clement, C/Amn Lathen Norling, C/Amn Dylan Purkapile, and Cadet Christopher Schuppan. Senior Members taking part were 2nd Lt. Dale Palmer, SM Melanie Schuppan, 1st Lt. Robert Hinkhouse, and 1st Lt. Karen Espeland

- **CADET ORIENTATION RIDE**: Saturday, May 10th, was a big day for C/Amn Dylan Purkapile - his very first ride in an airplane of any kind! Not only that, he successfully flew a Cessna-172 as part of the CAP's Orientation Flight program. According to Pilot and O-Flight Coordinator Lt. Col. Greg Lair, Dylan flew the aircraft from Sioux Falls Regional Airport to the Madison Municipal Airport. "He was very smooth on the controls, a natural pilot" said Lair. Dylan's goal is to learn to fly and join the military, possibly becoming a fighter pilot. His first flight was a memorable experience. At the other end of the spectrum, C/CMSGt Devon Brown experienced his fourth powered flight, part of the CAP's 10 flight program. Devon learned the use of instruments in flight as he piloted the Cessna-172 from Madison Municipal Airport to Sioux Falls Regional Airport. This flight completes 7 rides for Devon, including two prior glider flights. Devon's goal is to attend the Naval Academy and join the Navy, just like his Dad, CAP 1st Lt. Vinnie Brown. This summer Devon plans to further his flying experience by attending a CAP-sponsored powered flight academy in Nebraska.



(L-R) C/AMN DYLAN PURKAPILE, LT. COL. GREG LAIR, C/CMSGT DEVON BROWN

- **CADET ORIENTATION RIDE**: Saturday morning, 17 May, was a perfect time for Cadets Christopher Schuppan and Blake Hayden to complete their second powered CAP Orientation Flights. Both cadets completed the normal flight maneuver syllabus, which includes aircraft stability, attitude flying, trim controls, shallow banked turns, and load factors on the aircraft. Both cadet-pilots flew for an hour and maintained excellent aircraft control while touring the areas of Sioux Falls, Brookings and Lake Madison.



(L-R) C/TSGT BLAKE HAYDEN, C/AB CHRISTOPHER SCHUPPAN, CAPT. NEIL SCHMID

- Cadets and senior members of the squadron placed flags on the graves of military veterans at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park Cemetery & Mausoleum in Sioux Falls on Friday morning, 23 May.



- **IN SQUADRON MINI-SAREX:** What began as our fifth Thursday meeting briefing was interrupted by a “Training Alert”! The Minnehaha County Sheriff’s office advised us that a skydiver was overdue into the Sioux Falls airport. There were witness reports of an out-of-control decent by a skydiver south of Hartford. However, conflicting eyewitness reports as to the location required a slightly expanded search area.

Two aircrews and a ground team were briefed and dispatched. The aircraft were assigned distinct creeping line search patterns; our C-172 flew north-to-south from Colton to Oakleaf Airfield near Hartford while our C-182T flew south-to-north from 5 miles west of Marv Skie-Lincoln County Airport (Y14) in Tea north to Oakleaf Airfield. After takeoff and having entered their respective search grids, Mission Base advised that they had lost communications with the ground team. Lost communication procedures were a focus of this event along with first aid for the ground team and search and rescue pattern GPS programming and procedures for the aircrew.

During the final phase of the exercise our two aircraft were over Oakleaf Airfield/Hartford. The ground team, having located the subject, communicated using “lost communication procedures” with our C-172 which was at about 2,500 feet. Our C-182T was over the same area at some 3,500 feet; both aircraft were under the direction of Sioux Falls Approach Control.

From start to finish this training exercise took just over two hours from the “alert” to the end of the debriefing. Many “gung ho” trainees were very disappointed when they were excluded from participation on ground crew or aircrew due to lack of safety currency or not being in proper uniform. We definitely made the most of the available training resources, moved numerous participants further along in their search and rescue SQTRs and, I would safely conclude, all participants frankly “had a blast!”



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations to Morgan “Dani” Black of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Captain!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Nicholas Nash of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Justin Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Thomas Dillon of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Cadet Airman Promotion



Congratulations to John Hall of Pierre Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to Maj. Bruce Hack of Rushmore Composite Squadron who earned “Senior” Level in Specialty Track – Cadet Programs in the Senior Member Professional Development Program!



Congratulations to Maj. Bruce Kipp and Maj. Sharon Moad who completed the week-long FEMA ICS All-Hazards Position Specific Public Information Officer Course in Deadwood from 12-16 May.



Congratulations to C/2nd Lt Tyler Gross of Big Sioux Composite Squadron who met the requirements for Achievement 9 (Flight Commander) of the Command Phase of the Cadet Promotion Program!



Congratulations to C/Capt Joshua Klosterman of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron who has met the requirements for Achievement 12 (Leadership Officer), Executive Phase, Cadet Promotion Program!



Congratulations to the Rushmore Composite Squadron’s color guard for winning the recent SDWG color guard competition!



Congratulations to C/SSgt Bronson Lynn of Big Sioux Composite Squadron who achieved the highest score on the written knowledge test in the recent SDWG cadet color guard competition!



Congratulations to C/SSgt Jaden Petersen of Big Sioux Composite Squadron who won “Outstanding Cadet” in the recent SDWG cadet color guard competition!



Congratulations to C/Amn Daniella Petersen of Big Sioux Composite Squadron who won the award for “Fleet Foot” for females in the recent SDWG cadet color guard competition!



Congratulations to C/SrA Zebadiah Nelson of Big Sioux Composite Squadron who won the award for “Fleet Foot” for males in the recent SDWG cadet color guard competition!



Congratulations to Capt. Joshua Hall, Capt. Scott Giles, Maj. Craig Goodrich, and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, all of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, who recently completed their CAP Form 5!



Congratulations to Lt. Col. Gary Hewett of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, who recently completed his CAP Form 91!



Congratulations to Capt. Joshua Hall of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on his recent appointment to Form 5 Check Pilot / Check Pilot Examiner!



Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Jack Jensen of Rushmore Composite Squadron who has qualified as a CAP Transport Mission Pilot!




Congratulations to C/CMSgt Laura Rudnik of Big Sioux Composite Squadron who met requirements for Achievement 8 of the Leadership Phase of the Cadet Promotion Program. In recognition thereof she received the Neil Armstrong Award!



★ ★ UNUSUAL CAP HERALDRY ★ ★

From time to time I come across unusual items of CAP heraldry I think would be of interest to our members. This “morale patch” for the Central New York Group of the New York Wing is one such item.

**CIVIL AIR PATROL
CENTRAL NEW YORK GROUP
NER-NY-134
“Morale Patch” Heraldry**



- A Duck may seem like a strange symbol to use on a Civil Air Patrol patch, but it actually has a several relevant meanings.
 - *It is generally thought to be a symbol of freedom as the duck can walk on the earth and swim in the sea as humans do, but also has the ability to soar into the sky. CAP's Aerospace Education and Cadet Orientation Flight programs encourage members to "soar into the sky."*
 - *It is a symbol of resourcefulness, which no doubt defines CAP members and the CNY Group in particular.*
 - *According to Native America mythology, It is a symbol that joins the sea and the sky, which is certainly applicable to many CAP Search and Rescue missions.*
 - *It is a symbol of happiness and fidelity; traits every CAP member should exude.*
- The Cessna 182 silhouette symbolizes CAP's flying programs; Cadet Orientation flights Counter-Drug missions, and Disaster Relief/Emergency Services missions.
- The three bladed red "Propeller" symbolizes CAP's three missions as chartered by Congress; Aerospace Education, Emergency Services, and Cadet Programs.
- The color blue represents;
 - *Confidence: Gained within by trying your best, progressing in the program, and carrying yourself in a manner which reflects positively on CAP and the U.S. Air Force.*
 - *Inspiration: To be the best people we can be and to excel in life and as CAP members.*
 - *Intelligence: The knowledge that you learn and share and the things each person can bring to the table within their unit.*
 - *Loyalty: Those who continue to be members of CAP and/or stay true to the values of the program.*
 - *Sincerity: To stay away from hypocrisy while leading, but instead be truthful and genuine.*

PRIMARY DESIGNER:
C/CMSgt. Kassi Schultz
F.R. Sussey Composite Squadron
NER-NY-408



Former South Dakota Wing Commander Col. Lester W. Snyder, Jr. (Lt. Col. USAF (Ret)) of Rapid City, unexpectedly passed away Monday, May 12, at age 93 while working as a bailiff at the Pennington County Courthouse.

Col. Snyder joined CAP in 1970 and just four years later became the SD Wing Commander serving from May 1973 to June 1977. In addition to his time as Wing CC, he served five years as Wing historian; for four of those years, he received the National Historian of the Year award! He remained a CAP member to the end with 44 years of service.

Col. Snyder was born on May 8, 1921, in Chelsea, MA. He graduated from Howe High School in Billerica, MA in 1939. He served in the United States Army Air Force during World War II, flying combat missions as a navigator-bombardier off the island of Tinian in a B-29 Superfortress. For his service, he earned a Distinguished Flying Cross. Returning stateside, he graduated with a BS Cum Laude from the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, in 1949. Duty called again in 1951 and he was summoned by the Air Force to the Korean Conflict, flying B-26 missions from near Pusan, South Korea.

Les returned to complete his MS in Industrial Administration from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1955. After numerous jobs in several different states, including working for the Eastman Kodak Company, Les and Nell arrived in Rapid City on August 14, 1959. He would then begin his 29-year run as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. While at the School of Mines, he met and married Alice Davis in 1980. Their 29-year marriage ended with Alice's death in 2009. They traveled extensively seeking new adventures along the way. He retired from the School of Mines in 1985. Soon after, he became a bailiff at the Pennington County Courthouse, where he would serve for 27 years until his death.

His community involvement during his 55 years in Rapid City included membership in the First Congregational Church, the Air Force Reserve, the Boys Scouts, "The Group" Community Theater, Hardrocker Flying Club, Reserve Officers Association, and Civil Air Patrol. He was also a member of the Black Hills Veterans Writing Group, Elks Club Lodge 1187 and Historic Deadwood Lodge No. 7 AF&M as a Master Mason.

Col. Snyder flew 58 combat missions in WWII and Korea and accumulated over 2,000 private flying hours as a licensed pilot. He retired from the military as a Lieutenant Colonel, with 16 decorations. After 29 years in his vocation, he retired as a Professor Emeritus from South Dakota Tech. During his avocation as a Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, he earned 22 decorations and awards. Lester W. Snyder Jr. was truly part of the Greatest Generation. For his efforts, he was rewarded with a spot on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. in 2010 to recognize his service to his country in WWII.

A memorial service was held on May 16. Inurnment with military honors rendered by Ellsworth Air Force Base and Rushmore VFW Post 1273 took place at Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

