



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for September 2014

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

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## WING TIPS

**REMINDER:** A Split SAREX will take place 10-12 October with ICPs at Spearfish and Sioux Falls. Everyone is encouraged to participate to the maximum extent possible. Hopefully the weather will be good and we can get in a lot of flying, ground search team missions and incident command post personnel training.

- **THE NEW WMIRS IS UPON US:** WMIRS 2.0 went online 1 October. It moves as much of the paperwork as possible to the digital realm. Signing in personnel, equipment, aircraft, et cetera, have moved online. Other features include a live view of current sorties along with a live stream of the comms log. Training for the new WMIRS will occur at the upcoming Split SAREX 10-12 October. The old WMIRS is still available for archival purposes. Old missions can be accessed but no new missions added. Maj. Gengler provided this information.

- **CAP GLIDER DAY AT HOT SPRINGS:** 1 September 2014 was Glider Day at the Hot Springs Municipal Airport. Despite a pause for lightning and rain, cadets got orientation rides and cadets and a senior member got glider rides.



A CAP Cessna-182 was used for the o-rides. A CAP Cessna 182 tow-plane and Schleicher K7 glider owned by the Black Hills Soaring Club were used for gliding. There were a total of ten o-rides and nine glider rides. It was a wonderful day for everyone, lots of excitement and fun. The activity was coordinated by Maj. Craig Goodrich. Senior members and parents coordinated the schedule of events, driving vans, and serving as supervisors.

Thanks to Col. Mike Beason, Lt. Jamie Nowlin, Capt. Patrick Nowlin, Lt. Ron Lenz, Lt. Kris Bierwirth, SM Roy Weller, Capt. Richard Geeting, and SM Melissa Weller. Capt. Nowlin flew to recertify as a CAP glider tow-pilot under the eye of tow-pilot instructor Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. Lt. Marty Larson was the CFIG in the glider. Compiled from input from Lt. Col. Hewett and Lt. K. Bierwirth.



CADETS PREPARE FOR GLIDER FLIGHTS

- **SDWG VISITS SDEMA CONFERENCE:** On 9 September, SDWG’s top two officers, Col. John Seten and Lt. Col. Rick Larson, visited the annual South Dakota Emergency Management Association (SDEMA) Conference at Watertown. They mixed, mingled and spoke with attendees and examined vendor displays of emergency services gear. The people to whom they spoke were uniformly interested in better incorporating CAP into their emergency management options. Col. Seten urges all SDWG units to meet your local emergency managers, sheriffs, fire chiefs etc. Tell our story and provide information about SDWG capabilities.



- **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEY – WEST RIVER:** Ellsworth AFB’s 28<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing requested a low-level route survey on a specific military training route (MTR) in the West River area. The purpose of this LLRS was to look for uncharted obstacles, environmentally sensitive areas and potential safety hazards to military aircraft operating at high speed at a low level in that area. This task was assigned to a crew from Rushmore Composite Squadron consisting of Capt. Joshua Hall (Mission Pilot), Capt. Ryan Jones (Mission Observer), and Lt. Christina Voll (Mission Scanner Trainee). On 14 September, the aircrew flew a Cessna-182T on three sorties surveying the MTR from Rapid City into Wyoming for a total of 9.3 flying hours during the course of which several new towers were photographed and charted.



- **BUFFS AND BONES:** Ellsworth AFB asked CAP to take a photographer from Air Force Magazine up for shots of the base flight line from the air. B-52 aircraft from Minot AFB were parked on the ramp due to runway repair at Minot. It’s not often you get to see B-52 “Stratofortress” (nicknamed Buff) and B-1 “Lancer” aircraft (nicknamed Bone) together! The sortie took place on 23 September. Col. Mike Beason flew the CAP Cessna-182 where he met the photographer for a 30 minute flight over the flight line. Col. Beason flew over Ellsworth AFB at traffic pattern altitude, using steep turns to put the Cessna directly overhead B-1 and B-52 aircraft for the photographer. Col. Beason was assisted in the pattern by Ellsworth AFB tower, which was manned by CAP member Lt. Ron Lenz. Ron is a senior controller at Ellsworth AFB and he jumped in to help make the flight a success Article by Lt. Col. Larson and Col. Beason.

- **FEMA SHELTER TRAINING:** By Col. Mary Donley. [Edited] As many of you may be aware, FEMA and the CAP are working to expand our interaction when responding to disasters. Maj. Nancy McKenney and I



attended the Field Shelter Guide Training and Point of Distribution (POD) workshops in Salt Lake City, 6/7 September. Saturday was the shelter workshop - how to manage and operate a field shelter. The POD workshop on Sunday was how to plan, operate, and demobilize a POD mission. The class also had lessons on safety, equipment, and resource accountability. The FEMA instructors were knowledgeable and made the training enjoyable by getting us up and around planning our shelters and PODs. We're back and prepared to train SDWG as assets in making sure people and property are protected during a natural disaster that may strike our state or communities.

- **2015 SUMMER ENCAMPMENT HEADS-UP:** The 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment will be held at Camp Rapid in Rapid City from Saturday, 11 July through Sunday, 19 July 2015. Camp Rapid has been used several times for encampment with great success. **Cadets** - Interested in becoming Cadet Commander? Applications for Cadet Commander will be accepted until 1 December 2014. Email Maj. Gengler at [nick\\_gengler@hotmail.com](mailto:nick_gengler@hotmail.com) on how to apply. Those interested in Deputy Cadet Commander and Cadet Executive Officer can also contact Maj. Gengler. His goal is to have senior cadet staff filled by the first of the year to allow time for planning and other cadre selection. **Seniors** - Maj. Gengler is looking for help with encampment. Specifically, he would like to select a Commandant of Cadets as soon as possible. If you're interested in that position, or willing to help in another capacity please contact him.

- **SDANG WINS SPAATZ TROPHY:** South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing was presented the Spaatz Trophy at the 2014 National Guard Association of the U.S. (NGAUS) conference in Chicago on 25



August. The trophy is presented to the most outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard each year. This is the fourth time the 114th Fighter Wing has won the prestigious award; the last time was in 1988. Selection is based on overall combat readiness and the unit's performance with respect to all Air National Guard flying units. Factors included in the evaluation are flying safety, aircraft operation readiness, weapons firing, unit alerts, unit manning, skill level qualifications, retention, drill attendance, operational readiness inspections, outstanding accomplishments and special missions and exercises. In the photo USAF Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison, second from left, Assistant Adjutant General for the SDANG and Col. Russ Walz, 114<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Commander, accept the trophy from Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke III, Director of the Air National Guard (left) and Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar, NGAUS vice chair for Air and Adjutant General of the Wisconsin National Guard (right).

## STAFF NOTES



### **WING COMMANDER**

Col. John Seten, CAP

- I am pleased to announce that Maj. Nick Gengler has accepted the position of Encampment Commander for the 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment. Encampment will be held at Camp Rapid in Rapid City from Saturday, 11 July through Sunday, 19 July 2015.



## **WING VICE COMMANDER**

Lt. Col. Rick Larson, CAP

- **NORTH CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE**: Des Moines, IA was the site for this year's North Central Region CAP Conference. It kicked off 20 September, as NCR Wing Commanders and their representatives presented yearly overviews of each of the seven Wings' activities and accomplishments. Col. Larry Ragland, CAP NHQ Chief of Staff, addressed the group on behalf of National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vasquez. Col. Ragland said the new leadership team is looking to decrease the regulatory footprint in CAP, increase recruiting and retention and develop new CAP missions for America. Wing staff attending included SDWG Commander, Col. John Seten, his wife and SDWG Personnel Officer, Lt. Lori Seten, SDWG Professional Development Officer and past CC, Col. Mary Donley, SDWG Vice Commander, Lt. Col. Rick Larson, and SDWG Cadet Programs Director Lt. Col. Linda Buechler. Cadet members from across the region held a Cadet Advisory Council meeting. C/Maj Joshua Klosterman represented SDWG CAC. At the Saturday evening awards banquet a POW-MIA ceremony was held and Col. Todd paid tribute to long serving CAP members. Receiving awards were SDWG PAO Maj. Bruce Kipp (NCR PAO of the Year) and SDWG Aerospace Education Officer Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese (NCR Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Lifetime Achievement Award). Col. Seten commented "it's a real testament to the dedication of SDWG's members when we can brief being the top flying hour wing in NCR, have the top national CAP CyberPatriot team and gain top NCR SAR wing honors!"

- **SKYHAWK TO GLASSHAWK**: SD Wing Maintenance Officer, Capt. E.W. Filler got some exciting news this month. After several years of requests, approval was given by NHQ to receive a complete upgrade for one of our Cessna-172 aircraft to the Technologically Advanced Aircraft (TAA) Standard. On 17 September, Capt. Josh Hall and Lt. Ryan Jones, both of Rushmore Composite Squadron, took off in CAP4047, headed to Carson City, NV to drop off the airplane at the upgrade depot. After dealing with a surprise runway closure, the two



delivered the aircraft. It's going to be a real leap forward for the Skyhawk. The Garmin G500, much like its big brother G1000 avionics found in our C182s, feature primary and multifunction displays, coupled with a new Garmin GTN-650 GPS/NavCom allows for more exacting navigation, complex IFR procedures, autopilot linkage and increased situational awareness for crews. The upgrade will also include interior and exterior treatments. It's expected to take up to a year to complete. In the interim, SDWG is working to obtain a spare aircraft from a neighboring North Central Region Wing. The TAA upgrade will mean more training for CAP aircrew. Thanks to Capt. Filler for his tenacity for the project and the dedication and professionalism of the RAP crew for safely delivering the aircraft!



## **WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP

- I am pleased to announce that Lt. David Stockinger of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron has joined the Wing Public Affairs staff as an Assistant Public Affairs Officer. His primary areas of responsibility will be to manage the wing public affairs photography program and to manage the wing Flickr account.

- I am also pleased to announce that Capt. Lisa Collum of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron has been appointed as the squadron's Public Affairs Officer.



## **WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS**

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

- **KENNEDY SPACE CENTER TOUR:** On 13 September, while in Orlando, FL, to attend my son's college graduation, my husband and I toured the Kennedy Space Center. We lunched with Astronaut Susan Kilrain and listened to her experiences as an astronaut. I was able to talk with her about CAP and particularly about the Cadet Program and Drug Demand Reduction Program. She was very interested in the programs and asked that I pass on to the cadets that she encourages you to continue in the programs and strive for the best in their lives and careers. Highlights of our tour included the new Atlantis Shuttle display, close views of the launch Viewing Assembly Building, shuttle vehicle transport, landing field, Saturn 5 museum, and view of the Space X launch pad. I successfully landed the space shuttle simulator on my sixth try (I won't mention what happened on the previous five tries☺).



- **NATIONAL CHARACTER DAY:** SDWG's National Character Day (NCD) program was on 27 September in Pierre. Cadets and seniors arrived from Custer, Pierre, Sioux Falls and Rapid City (11 cadets and 10 seniors). NCD has two main goals: to motivate cadets to take issues of character and honor seriously, and commit to the drug-free ethic; and, to further integrate the Drug Demand Reduction program into CAP's overall Cadet Program. Activities for the event included speakers and a variety of activities. Speakers included Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Division of Criminal Investigation Officer Don McCrea, and Lt. Col. (Dr.) Mark Huntington.

Those in attendance included:

**SD 001:** Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Lt. Col. Mark Huntington, Maj. Nancy McKenney

**SD 031:** C/Amn Malia Goodrich, C/TSgt Joseph Jagodzinski, C/Amn Noah Misselt, C/MSgt Travis Tenold, C/AB Caleb Weller, C/AB Isaak Weller, Maj. Craig Goodrich, and SM (Capt) Douglas Robbins

**SD 038:** C/TSgt Hannah Becker, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Jonathan Becker

**SD 050:** C/SMSgt Josiah Huntington, C/Amn Dylan Purkapile, C/ SMSgt Roblewsky, and Lt. Karen Espeland

**SD 068:** C/CMSgt Jason Parry, and Lt. V. Bierwirth



LT. COL. HUNTINGTON DISCUSSES MAKING GOOD CHOICES



CADET NATIONAL CHARACTER DAY ATTENDEES

## SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

### **BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058, BROOKINGS)**

(Item submitted by Maj. Gengler)

- **SDWG CYBER-WARRIORS PREPARE FOR BATTLE**: Competition will soon begin in CyberPatriot-VII, the premier national cyber-security competition for high school age youth. Once again a cyber-security team from Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings will take part. They compete in the “All Services Division” which is open to CAP teams, Junior ROTC units from the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps and Navy’s Sea Cadets. Last year, in CyberPatriot-VI, the Brookings team came in first of the 320 CAP teams that competed. This year’s Big Sioux CyberPatriot-VII team members are: C/Maj Joshua Klosterman (Team Captain), C/AB Andrew Toft, C/CMSgt Chris Dinnel, C/CMSgt Laura Rudnik, C/MSgt Jaden Petersen, and C/A1C Nathaniel Fleet,. They are coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer and mentored by C/1Lt Tyler Gross. Since June the team has been practicing and is ready for the first round of competition to be held October 24-26. For the past three years Big Sioux’s cyber-security team made it through the three preliminary qualification rounds to reach the national finals. They hope to make it to nationals yet again.

### **CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**

(Items submitted by Lt. K Bierwirth, photo by Ms. Joy Parry)

- **AEROSPACE EDUCATIONS AWARDS**: On 4 September our squadron received a unit award for excellence in Aerospace Education and C/SMSgt Jason Parry and C/TSgt Thomas Dillon each received individual awards for achievements in Aerospace Education. The squadron earned these awards by conducting six hands-on aviation and space-related activities during the school year which included: building rockets out of trash/recyclable materials; building various types of model rockets; studied the effects of meteoroids and space debris at the ISS; studied the protective equipment needed to be worn at the ISS and the difficulties of doing tasks in this protective gear; and completed a two-hour field event by launching Alpha and Tomahawk model rockets. Lt. Vicki Bierwirth was the Aerospace Education instructor for these activities. In the photo: Back: Lt. James Dillon, Lt. Kris Bierwirth, Lt. Col. Doug Westerlund and Maj. Sharon Moad. Front: C/TSgt Thomas Dillon, Lt. Vicki Bierwirth (holding the unit AE Award) and C/SMSgt Jason Dillon.



- **UNITED WAY KICK OFF:** 23 Sept C/SMSGt Jason Parry, C/TSgt Thomas Dillon and Capt. Richard Geeting attended and performed in the United Way Kick off. Our team did well in their performance and our professionalism shined.

**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)**

(Item and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Hopewell)



- **OPEN HOUSE:** The squadron held an Open House Saturday, 6 September 2014, at the squadron headquarters building at Spearfish airport. The goal was to boost public awareness of the squadron. Two CAP aircraft were on static display. Lt Col Buck DeWeese was on hand to explain the ins and outs of the aircraft to the guests.

The cadets put together several displays such as search and rescue gear, emergency beacon locating equipment, and outdoor living implements. They also displayed radio controlled airplanes and model rockets which they have been working on as squadron aerospace education projects. In preparation for the Open House Capt. Collister repainted the CAP logo on the building and Lt. Col. DeWeese planted flowers.

Former TXWG Mr. Orlan Scott was at the airfield and was attracted to the Open House scenario. He regaled cadets and senior members with numerous stories about CAP and flying from yesteryear. Mr. Scott was so impressed with the demeanor, appearance and enthusiasm of the cadets that just prior to departing he presented Capt. Bill Collister with a generous contribution for the squadron’s cadet programs.



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITIES / MR. ORLAN SCOTT PRESENTS A DONATION TO CAPT. COLLISTER

**PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38, PIERRE)**

(Item and photo submitted by Lt. Col. Christensen)



- **MOBRIDGE FLY-IN:** The city of Mobridge hosted an open house and “fly-in” on 27 September to show off their airport’s recently completed large hanger. Members from the Pierre Composite Squadron, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Lt. Jon Becker, flew their CAP Cessna-172 to Mobridge for a static display. There were 18 different aircraft that flew in for the festivities. Included was a pair of RV4’s flying in tandem from Madison, a Stearman from Aberdeen, and an Avera medical helicopter. Several individuals stopped by to discuss the purposes of CAP and to see the technology that we are currently using.

## **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)**

(Item and photos submitted by Lt. Black)

- **DISASTER AWARENESS AND SAFETY DAY**: On 6 September, Rushmore Composite Squadron senior members and cadets participated in the 6th annual Disaster Awareness and Safety Day, which was organized by Rapid City/Pennington County Emergency Management. The squadron had an information booth and reached out to potential members. There were also games, coloring sheets, and candy for the younger attendees. In the morning of the event, cadets also had a chance to fly the squadron's AE Stem Kit RC aircraft nearby.



LEFT: CAPT. PATRICK NOWLIN AND LT. JAMIE NOWLIN EXPLAIN CAP'S MISSION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GUESTS.

RIGHT: LT. RACHEL KUECKER PLAYING GAMES AND SPEAKING WITH YOUNG GUESTS AT DISASTER AWARENESS AND SAFETY DAY.

## **SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)**

(Items by Lt. Col. Larson, Lt. Espeland, Capt. Schmid, photos by Lt. Espeland)

- **MOULAGE**: Six squadron members took part in an attack response exercise at the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard. Playing the part of injured airmen, they were "mouled" as victims, simulating injuries sustained as participants in the exercise. Led by Capt. Jerry Foy, himself an ANG veteran, the CAP crew underwent an extreme makeover by ANG medics from the 114th Medical Group. ANG Lt. Col. Larry DeBuhr and his staff were tasked with assessing Guard member's ability to perform self-aid and buddy care throughout the event, held on Saturday, 6 September. That's where the CAP crew came in.

The CAP crew arrived on base and was mouled with various simulated injuries, ranging from minor to major; burns, lacerations, amputations - all the trappings of a disaster. The crew then broke up into groups led by inspectors who traveled with the "wounded" throughout the base during exercise incidents. The teams presented the "victims" in various work centers, gauging the response to the casualties, and assessing proper procedures to address the injuries. The CAP "victims" were treated by ANG members who learned hands-on procedures. Fortunately, after expert treatment, everyone survived the exercise!





During the day-long event, the CAP crew was treated to a pizza lunch provided by Lt. Col. DeBuhr and a tour of the SDANG Emergency Operations Center, where they saw how complex responses by air assets are managed. Lt. Col. DeBuhr commented that the professionalism of the CAP members aided greatly in the exercise evaluation, and thanked each member for their involvement.



SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON MOULAGE CREW VISITS THE SDANG EMERGENCY CENTER



- **SIDEWALK ARTS FESTIVAL**: the squadron provided supported the Sioux Falls Sidewalk Arts Festival held downtown on 6 September.

Arriving at 0430, while still dark members set up tents, tables and chairs, and placed garbage and recycling cans throughout the event area.

The one-day festival, a fundraiser for the Visual arts Center of the Washington Pavilion, featured over 225 vendors from more than 10 states, a large food court and live entertainment. 40,000 were expected to attend this annual event.

- **ORIENTATION FLIGHTS**: 6 September was the first flight for Cadet Oscar Holmberg. In fact, this was his first flight in a small aircraft. Under the watchful eye of Capt. Neil Schmid, he successfully piloted the plane from Sioux Falls to Vermillion and landed at Yankton. He’s looking forward to future flights in the program. C/SSgt Kyle Kreger flew his fourth powered flight and learned the use of instruments while airborne. After a brief tour of Gavin’s Point Dam and sail boat races, he skillfully piloted the Cessna-172 back to Sioux Falls.



C/AB HOLMBERG, CAPT. SCHMID, C/SSGT KREGER



C/SSGT KREGER, CADET HOLMBERG, CAPT. SCHMID

- SIoux FALLS REGIONAL AIRPORT 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** The Sioux Falls Regional Airport (FAA Designator “FSD”) celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, 13 September. The airport, opened in 1939, was a major part of the war effort in WWII. At one point there were more troops passing through Sioux Falls than there were residents. So as not to disrupt airport operations the celebration was held at Maverick Air Center. Eight cadets and eight senior members supported the event in two ways. We taxied our two aircraft (Cessna-172 and Cessna-182) to the flight line at Maverick for static display. We also assisted the host, Commemorative Air Forces’ Joe Foss Squadron, with personnel for flight line security and traffic control. It was quite an event. The EAA’s Young Eagles gave free airplane rides to local children. A 1940s’ themed evening hangar dance was



held. A variety of WWII-era and current aircraft were on display as were various pieces of WWII reenactment gear and vehicles. Several state and local VIPs were in attendance as was U.S. Senator John Thune who found time to stop by to chat and pose with C/CMSgt Nicholas Nash, C/SMSGT Jaden Roblewsky and Lt. Scott Kuzinsky. Photos by Lt. Karen Espeland.



**FLIGHT LINE SECURITY BRIEFING**



**SEN. THUNE WITH CADETS NASH, ROBLEWSKI & LT. KUZINSKY**

- COLOR GUARD ACTIVITY:** (1) National POW/MIA Remembrance Day was held at Veterans Park on Friday 19 September. This ceremony is held every year to remember all POW/MIA persons. The color guard presented, posted and retired the colors for a crowd of around 150 veterans, family members, friends and guests. After the event I was approached by at least 15 veterans and congratulated on how professional the cadets were and what a good job they did. This was our second year doing this event. (2) National Special Olympics Truck Convoy is a fund raising event held every year at the W. H. Lyons Fair Grounds. The color guard presented the colors at the opening of the event. This was our third year doing this event.



**POW/MIA DAY CEREMONY**



**NATIONAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRUCK CONVOY**

## ★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

### Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



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



Congratulations to Steven Diaconu of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to Zebadiah Nelson of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



### Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Graham Dinnel of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Salem Pleasants of Big Sioux Composite Squadron and to Oscar Holmberg of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



## ★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to Wing Aerospace Education Officer Lt. Col. Rodney “Buck” DeWeese on receiving the 2013 North Central Region’s Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Lifetime Achievement award!



Congratulations to Wing Public Affairs Officer Maj. Bruce Kipp on receiving the North Central Region’s Public Affairs Officer of the Year award for 2013!



Congratulations to Capt. James W Speirs who has been assigned Character Development Instructor for the Rushmore Composite Squadron!



Congratulations to SM Melissa K Weller assigned Assistant Professional Development Officer of the Rushmore Composite Squadron. She also completed Level 1 and earned her Membership Ribbon!



Congratulations to Maj. Nick Gengler and wife Hannah on the birth of their son Eli Michael Gengler on 8 September! Mother and Baby Eli are home and doing well.



Congratulations to Lt. Col. Deryl Miles and wife Jamie on the birth of their daughter Faith on 20 September! Mother and Baby Faith are home and doing well.



Congratulations to Cadet Major Joshua Klosterman on his appointment to the Big Sioux Composite Squadron cadet staff as Operations officer!



Congratulations to Lt. Sarah Hill and to Lt. David Small III, both of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, who recently transitioned from cadets to senior members and received advanced promotion to the rank of 1st Lt and were awarded “Technician” rating in Specialty Track - Cadet Programs on the strength of them both having been cadet captains and having earned the Amelia Earhart Award.



Congratulations to CAP Lt. Col. Greg Lair, of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his promotion to USAF Colonel (O-6) and appointment as commander of the SDANG’s 114<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Operations Group. Col. Lair is a former CAP cadet.

Here’s a picture of Cadet Airman Lair at his first encampment at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, CO. The photo was taken during a tour of Buckley ANGB. Colonel Lair “claims” he doesn’t remember what year this was. [Editor: analysis indicates the photo is likely circa late 1970s]



★ ★ **NEW TECHNOLOGY** ★ ★



- ***FIRE PHASERS:*** [Edited] Boeing’s High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator (HEL-MD), a tactical military vehicle carrying a directed-energy weapon system, engaged more than 150 aerial targets including mortar rounds, artillery shells, small rockets and remotely piloted aircraft in recent tests at Eglin AFB, Fla. Under windy, rainy, and foggy weather conditions these engagements were the most challenging to date with a 10-kilowatt laser. As proven at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in 2013 and at Eglin Air Force Base this spring, HEL-MD is reliable and capable of consistently acquiring, tracking, and engaging a

variety of targets in different environments, demonstrating the potential military utility of directed-energy systems. The next step is to install a 50- or 60-kw laser on the demonstrator to validate its capability at a higher power level.

Source: Air Force Magazine Online for Tuesday 9 September 2014.

