



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for October 2014

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

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### WING TIPS

- **REDCAP 14-M-0517**: Late into the evening hours of 9 October, the South Dakota Wing (SDWG) of the Civil Air Patrol searched for an aircraft emergency beacon reportedly in northwest South Dakota. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Tyndall AFB in Florida alerted SDWG at 3:30pm local time that a satellite picked up an aircraft emergency locator beacon (EPIRB) in the general area of northern Ziebach County. In addition, the Minneapolis Air Traffic Control Center reported that passing aircraft has also picked up an ELT signal. However, the FAA reported no general aviation aircraft were listed as overdue or missing. A Cessna-182T from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron was dispatched to the area to participate in the search. In addition, a second aircraft, a Cessna-182T departed from the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City to join in the search. Unable to find the ELT signal both aircraft were recalled to their bases at approximately 9:30pm local time. Two aircraft from CAP’s North Dakota Wing (NDWG) also assisted in the search. One of the aircraft flew “high-bird” acting as a communications relay while the other aircraft conducted a “sniffing” search for an ELT signal in the general area. Incident Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson controlled the search from a mobile command post and was in continuous contact with the aircraft and local authorities.

- **OPERATION WINDMILL**: Towards the end of October, field tests were conducted in the vicinity of the Tyler Minnesota Common Air Route Surveillance radar site near Brookings. The tests were part of an interagency effort to assess wind turbine radar interference mitigation technologies, radar systems calibration, and how wind farms hamper the ability to detect objects in the area. The tests were conducted by Sandia National Laboratories and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Lincoln Laboratory. The test operations included the use of SDWG aviation assets for approximately 48 flight hours. CAP aircraft and crews flew flight operations daily during each field test. Essentially, the CAP aircraft flew around at an assigned altitude and pattern for eight hours a day. SDWG did this mission once before, in 2012. This year Capt. Neil Schmid of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron was project officer.

- **OCTOBER SPLIT SAREX**: SDWG held one of its best search and rescue exercises ever on 11 October. Over 50 Wing members participated in the Split SAREX, either at the Mission Base in Sioux Falls or the Staging Area in Spearfish. Several air sorties were flown and several ground search team missions were conducted. A great deal of training was successfully accomplished for aircrews, mission staff and ground support personnel. The multiple scenarios included air and ground searches for missing aircraft, air and ground searches for missing people, and aerial photography of potential flood areas on a reservoir, a lake, and rivers and creeks. All in all a very successful Saturday. During the course of the SAREX ten air sorties were flown and four ground search sorties were dispatched.



COL. SETEN'S EXERCISE BRIEFING



PREPARING FOR AN AIR SEARCH SORTIE



GROUND SEARCH TEAM IN ACTION

- **JOINT DAKOTAS SLS/CLC IN CUSTER**: On October 18, 2014 Crazy Horse Composite Squadron hosted the Corporate Learning Course (CLC) and Squadron Leadership School (SLS) for members of North and South Dakota Wings. Major Sharon Moad, of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, directed the SLS for Lt. Ruth Carley of the Pierre Composite Squadron, and Graham Frost, Daniel Villas and Ashley Ehret of the NDWG's 119<sup>th</sup> Fargo Cadet Squadron. The SLS is part of the Level II program for senior members in CAP. It focuses on training members of a squadron on things like leadership, communication, professionalism and the workings of a squadron. All senior members need this course to complete Level II and be eligible for promotion and awards. Col. Mary Donley, SDWG Professional Development Officer, directed the CLC with the help of Col. Mike Beason who taught some of the modules. The CLC was attended by Lt. Kris Bierwirth, Lt. Victoria Bierwirth, Capt. Richard Geeting of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron and Capt. John Hoeck, Squadron Commander of the 119<sup>th</sup> Fargo Cadet squadron. The CLC is part of the Level III program for senior members of CAP. The course discusses the relationship of the CAP squadron has with the next major echelon of command -- the wing. Specifically, CLC discusses how wing-level operations help to accomplish CAP's three missions of aerospace education, emergency services, and cadet programs. It describes the working relationships wing staff officers have with each other and their squadron level counterparts. All seniors need this course to complete Level III and be eligible for promotions and awards. If any senior members have questions about Professional Development do not hesitate to contact me at: [mfdonley@gmail.com](mailto:mfdonley@gmail.com). My goal is to see senior members progress in the areas of their specialty tracks, and get the awards and promotions they deserve. Article submitted by Col. Mary Donley.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on 4 days in September and on 6 days in October in support of the state 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 resulted in 13.6 flight hours in September and 24.91flight hours in October for a total of 38.51 flying hours over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. CAP pilots for the flights were Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by either Mr. Brandon Tycz from SDSU or by Ms. Paige Mueggenberg or Ms. Lauren Wiechman from GF&P.

- **CAP VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE:** The October-December issue of *Civil Air Patrol Volunteer*, CAP's premier quarterly magazine, is available in digital format at [http://www.capvolunteernow.com/cap\\_volunteer/](http://www.capvolunteernow.com/cap_volunteer/). In addition to the cover story about CAP's hot air balloon program, there is coverage from the 2014 National Conference in Las Vegas, as well as features on two search and rescue missions – one earlier this year in California and another 70 years ago in Vermont. Be sure to check out the Mary Feik Cadet Officer School video on page 13 and the balloon chase crew video on page 45.

- **WMIRS 2.0 UPDATE:** WMIRS 2.0 is getting better every day. The National Staff keeps working on it and is updating us weekly on the progress. I am sure by the time of our next SAREX in January we will have a fully operational WMIRS to utilize. Submitted by Maj. Gengler.

- **CAP AT SANFORD HEALTH/FAMILY SAFETY FESTIVAL:** On 11 October, Lt. Karen Espeland and Lt. Col. Linda Buechler had a booth at the Sanford Health/Safety Family Festival held at First Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls. Over 200 children and their parents stopped at the booth to participate in the activities of "Walk the Line" and "Dart Board" while wearing Fatal Vision (aka drunk) goggles. The children received red ribbons as well as bookmarks and pencils. Designated Driver stickers were handed out to adults. Numerous pamphlets were available for parents to take as information about drug awareness. A drug paraphernalia display case was available for parents to see the types of drugs available to their children. Parent comments included: "I didn't know there was this many drugs in communities". Of particular interest was how a 5 year old kindergartener could be the youngest dealer if their parents are involved in meth and how they would dip a candy necklace or bracelet in meth and the child would take it to school to share with their friends. Thanks to Lt. Espeland for reaching out to the community and offering CAP as one of the booth participants. This was a highly successful activity. Recruitment was also done and CAP brochures handed out to those interested in the program.



## STAFF NOTES



### **WING COMMANDER**

Col. John Seten, CAP

Congratulations to Rushmore Composite Squadron and Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on being named to CAP's list of "Quality Cadet Unit" for 2013-2014! On 10 October Mr. Steven Trupp, Program Manager for Cadet Programs at NHQ announced that 299 units had earned the title "Quality Cadet Unit". The squadrons will receive award certificates in the next few weeks.



## **WING RECRUITING/RETENTION OFFICER**

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

Greetings from your Wing Recruiting and Retention Officer! I hope to be more vocal, visible and available to all the units and members in this position. South Dakota Wing as well as units and wings throughout the nation are seeing a downward trend in membership in recent years. We here in South Dakota have also see the closure of former units that were once active and thriving! What's the answer to changing this downslide into an upside? In the last few months we were given some insight by NHQ of the responses in out-briefings from members who chose not to renew. With cadets it was things like transitioning to college, change of interests, jobs, etc. But there were also comments like: meetings were boring, not organized, no activities and cliques with some bullying involved (I hope the last is not true in SDWG)! For senior members most reasons given were things like: I got too busy, too much responsibility given without proper guidance, too little responsibility given, I was ignored, too many hoops to jump through, etc. Does any of this relate to your squadron?? Do you see a trend of people joining then disappearing? Take a look at what you are doing to attract new members and then take a really hard look at what you are doing to KEEP those members. It's time for each squadron to sit down and come up with a plan for Recruiting and Retention! I have tool to help you to do that. NHQ has put out a new pamphlet for units to do just that. As we near the end of 2014 this is the perfect time to start the planning for 2015. The link to How to Create a Recruiting Plan is: [www.capmembers.com/recruiting](http://www.capmembers.com/recruiting). This is the blog page for recruiting and you will see a pdf symbol on the right hand side called: How to Create a Recruiting Plan. This has a well laid out month by month plan for your squadron to follow starting with an assessment of where you are now and where you want to be a year from now! Try it out and don't hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns and ideas! Together we can stop the downslide and grow!

## **SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

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

(Item submitted by Capt. Hofer and Maj. Gengler)



CyberPatriot-VII competition Round One was the weekend of 24-26 October. Of the 1,007 teams competing in the All Services Division our cyber-warriors scored in the top five teams. The competition is getting tougher and tougher each year! CAP competes in the "All Services Division" (Army, Air Force, Navy Marine Corps JROTC, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and CAP). This year there are 400 teams from CAP alone. Round Two will be held 14-16 November.

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

(Items submitted by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- We gained one new cadet this month, Welcome Aboard to Anthony Dillon!
- Our squadron is getting tongue-tied with all the duplicate and triplicate last names, but as a commander that really comes in handy. I only have to call four different last names and I get all of my squadron's attention. Check out senior member promotions for this month.

# ★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

## Senior Member Promotions



Congratulations to Joyce Jeffries of the Rushmore Composite Squadron and to Nancy McKenney of the Wing Staff on their promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel!



Congratulations to David Small III of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant! David received accelerated promotion to this grade on the merit of his Earhart Award earned as a cadet



Congratulations to Justin Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

## Cadet Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Nicholas Nash of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, to Chris Dinnel of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Bradley Blansett of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



## Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Levi Woodard of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Goddard Award!



## Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Nicholas Kochutin of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



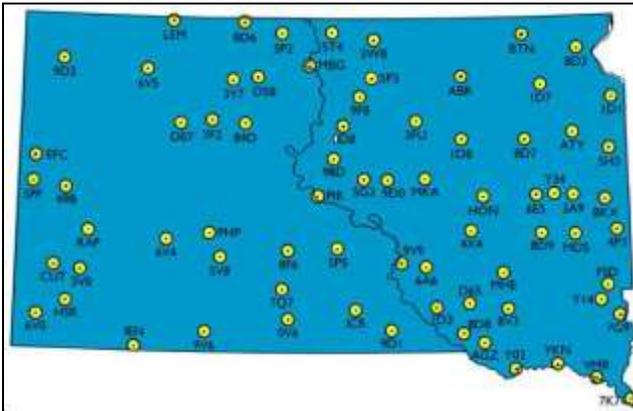
Congratulations to Caleb Weller and Isaak Weller, both of Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Margot Pearson of the Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Andrew Toft of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



# ★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★

Congratulations to Capt. Neil Schmid of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on attaining a significant aviation achievement on 29 October! Neil, flying a SDWG aircraft, completed his "Passport South Dakota Gold Level Award". The program, which began in 2010, is sponsored by the South Dakota Pilots Association to promote general aviation within the state. The program involves attendance at aviation safety seminars, visiting South Dakota museums with aviation displays and to land at SD public airports. Neil completed that requirement with

stops at Belle Fourche, Spearfish, Sturgis, Philip, Kadoka and Presho. The Gold Level Award requires the Neil have landed at all 74 of the public-use airports in the state, attend four air safety seminars and visit four South Dakota museums with aviation-related displays. The Passport South Dakota Award consists of an “I Flew South Dakota” patch and, for the gold level, a “74 Airports” tab for wear on his flight gear.



LEFT: CAPT. SCHMID IN THE COMMAND SEAT OF THE CAP AIRCRAFT IN WHICH HE COMPLETED HIS GOLD LEVEL AWARD  
 CENTER: MAP OF ALL SEVENTY-FOUR S.D. AIRPORTS AT WHICH CAPT. SCHMID LANDED TO EARN THE GOLD LEVEL AWARD  
 RIGHT: THE FLY SOUTH DAKOTA GOLD LEVEL AWARD PATCH AND TAB FOR WEAR ON CIVILIAN FLIGHT JACKET

★ Congratulations to Lt. Col. Greg Lair and Lt. Jerry Hayden, both of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on achieving the status of CAP Mission Pilot. As Mission Pilots they are now authorized to fly all Air Force assigned missions, all CAP corporate missions and missions for CAP requested by an external agency. To achieve this status they had to accomplish over 80 tasks such as number of flying hours and types of flights, complete all mission scanner tasks and tasks for search and rescue and drug demand reduction pilots.

★ Maj. Sharon Moad of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron has been selected as one of 60 National Red Cross Shelter Prototype Evaluators, the only one in South Dakota. Her duties encompass evaluating the services and processes offered in a Red Cross shelter. She will also evaluate procedures for Red Cross Service Center workers and clients in determining the need for financial assistance. Maj. Moad views her new responsibilities as an opportunity with honor and pride to represent South Dakota and Civil Air Patrol.

★ ★ **CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL UPDATE** ★ ★

October 9, 2014. By Michael Zielinski [Edited]: At a recent meeting the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for the Congressional Gold Medal to be issued honoring the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol and provided their recommendations. The United States Mint provided a total of 16 different obverse design candidates and 15 different reverse design candidates for the medal.



From the candidates, the CFA recommended obverse design alternative #15 as the most elegant composition and most illustrative of the range of duties and people involved in the Civil Air Patrol. The design features the CAP roundel at center, dividing the space into three equal segments which represent the pilots, the support crews, and the CAP mission itself. At the left are two CAP pilots in profile. To the right, a ground support crew prepares a plane for its mission. At the bottom is a depiction of one of the many important missions undertaken by the CAP.



For the reverse, the CFA recommended design alternative #4, which contains a laurel wreath representing honor and service, surrounding CAP insignias. The inscriptions read “Honor Civilian Volunteers Who Flew Combat & Humanitarian Missions” and “Act of Congress 2014”. The CFA suggested careful consideration of typefaces so the pairing of the obverse and reverse result in a well-composed medal.

At a separate meeting, the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) was also given the opportunity to review the same slate of design candidates for the WWII CAP CGM. The CCAC had recommended design alternative #14 for the obverse, which depicts two CAP pilots with the CAP roundel shown above. At the base of the design, an armed single-engine CAP aircraft is shown lifting off from the runway. For the reverse, the CCAC recommended alternative #3, which features the CAP insignia with inscriptions ‘Eyes of the Home Skies’ and “Act of Congress 2014”.



The responsibility to select the final designs for the medal rests with the Secretary of the Treasury.  
 Source: <http://news.coinupdate.com/cfa-recommends-designs-for-wwii-civil-air-patrol-congressional-gold-medal-4511/>, accessed 9 October 2014

