



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for November 2014

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

Publishers: Wing Commander Colonel John Seten / Wing Vice Commander Lieutenant Colonel Richard Larson
Editor: Major Bruce Kipp • Wing Public Affairs Officer • (605) 261-4507 • paa.sdwg@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP and Like us on Twitter at [@SDWingCAP](https://twitter.com/SDWingCAP)

WING TIPS

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION: The Speaker of the U.S. House, the Hon. John Boehner, announced that the presentation ceremony for the CAP Congressional Gold Medal will be on 10 December at 3:00 pm in the Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol. During the bipartisan, bicameral ceremony presided over by Speaker Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Reid, Senate Republican Leader McConnell, and House Democratic Leader Pelosi, the Civil Air Patrol will be presented with a Congressional Gold Medal to collectively honor CAP's founding members, whose valor and dedication during World War II helped thwart the enemy and save lives. There will be a gala dinner celebration that evening for veterans, family members, CAP members and distinguished guests at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in nearby Crystal City. A bronze replica medal will be presented to each CAP WWII veteran or to a member of the family if the veteran is deceased, during the dinner. South Dakota has three individuals who will receive the bronze replica medal posthumously.

REDCAP ON 30 NOVEMBER 2014: Late in the evening of 29 November the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida notified the South Dakota Wing and the Wyoming Wing of the Civil Air Patrol that an aircraft was overdue to return to Spearfish, SD. Poor weather conditions prevented the launch of an immediate search that night. Around 6:00am on Sunday a ground search team was dispatched from CAP's Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish) to Colony, WY which cell phone forensics indicated as a possible search site. Later that morning three aircraft; two from South Dakota Wing and one from Wyoming Wing, were launched to conduct an aerial search for the missing aircraft's emergency beacon (ELT). Using special onboard sensors the CAP aircraft began picking up the ELT signal and worked to refine the location. About one hour later, using aerial triangulation, a Wyoming Wing aircraft sighted the missing aircraft on the ground in a snow-covered high desert area near the tiny town of Alzada, MT. The ground search team was re-directed from Colony to Alzada where they linked up with officers from the Carter County Sheriff's Office. While the ground team was en route, WYWG and SDWG aircraft took turns orbiting the crash site to direct the ground team to the location. Once Carter County Sheriff Office personnel were at the crash site the

SDWG ground team and both wing's aircraft returned to their bases. The outstanding support for the REDCAP was provided by personnel from Rushmore Composite Squadron, Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and Wing Staff members throughout the state.



IN THE PHOTOS THE CAP GROUND SEARCH TEAM WORKS TO SECURE THE CRASH SITE. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CARTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on 5 days in November in support of the Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveyed deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveyed elk and bobcats. The result was 15.7 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. CAP pilot for the flights was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by either Mr. Brandon Tycz from SDSU (6 flying hours) or by Ms. Lauren Wiechman from GF&P (9.7 flying hours).

- **UPCOMING SPLIT SAREX**: SDWG Director of Operations Maj. Nicholas Gengler advises that 23-25 January there will be another Split SAREX across the Wing. Not sure on exact locations yet.

- **NCR AEROSPACE EDUCATION WEEKEND**: On the weekend of 22-23 November, the North Dakota Wing's 119th Air National Guard Cadet Squadron in Fargo hosted a North Central Region Aerospace Education



Weekend. Cadets and senior members from NDWG, SDWG and MNWG participated. The weekend went fairly well and the cadets had a great time. NDWG provided presentations by NDSU students in Aerospace fields. Among the highlights were a tour to the Aerospace Museum in Fargo and the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site. The cadets also had the opportunity to try out flight simulators. O-rides also took place although there were some delays due to icing and flat tires. Most cadets got to go up but, unfortunately not everyone. The eight SDWG cadets got one o-ride each. Many thanks to Maj. Gengler for heading up the SDWG contingent. In the photo provided by Lt. Col. Larson a museum docent briefs the cadets of the WWII-era P-51 Mustang fighter aircraft.

- **SDWG OUTSTANDING RED CROSS VOLUNTEER**: On 12 November, Wing staff member Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney was called out by the Red Cross to support shelter operations for victims of a hotel fire in Pierre. Some 35 families and individuals lost their homes, their belongings, and some their jobs. Leaving behind everything but what they were wearing they ran out into 10 degree weather and blowing wind. The Red Cross opened a warming center at a local middle school. When it was decided that the event was going to require longer term care a shelter was set up at the First United Methodist Church of Pierre. Over the next several days the Red Cross worked with several agencies and found everyone an apartment. The shelter closed the following

Saturday. She commented, "We returned home Saturday tired but happy with what we accomplished." On 23 November, she was again called out by the Red Cross, this time to go to Buffalo, in upstate New York in the aftermath of the monster snow storm and, as the temperatures warmed up, with possible flooding. Her job was to keep track of all the shelters to make sure they had everything needed like cots, blankets, food and staff.



McKenney said. "When you go into a disaster, you never know when you get there what you are going to have left standing." Over the weekend, 65 people spent the night at the shelter. She originally expected to be there for 2 to 3 weeks with the possibility of a longer stay. However, by the 28th the news was great. Everyone was back in their homes or in a hotel and the flooding had not materialized to the extent that the people would need sheltering. The Red Cross continues to help the families but her job was done so she came home. She commented, "I was glad to go to help but glad to be home."

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. John Seten, CAP

- SDWG has signed up for a survey/poll web service. Question Pro is at www.questionpro.com/. Once there you can log in with the credentials that have been disseminated. Thanks to Lt. Col. Miles for suggesting this website. As a non-profit we received a free upgrade to the pro version. Please put this to use as this is a great way to obtain feedback from our members and help us to improve our wing.
- On 17 November, Col. Seten gave a presentation on the Civil Air Patrol to the Sioux Falls Rotary Club. He was accompanied by Lt. Col. Rick Larson, Capt. Jason Erickson and Capt. Neil Schmid who helped answer questions following the presentation. Later that day Col. Seten and Lt. Col. Larson met with members of the Sioux Falls chapter of the American Red Cross.
- I'm pleased to announce Wing Historian Maj. Todd Epp has agreed to take on the added responsibility as the Wing's Government Relations Advisor.
- I'm also pleased to announce that Maj. Bruce Kipp has been appointed Assistant Wing Historian.



WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Lt. Col. Rodney "Buck" DeWeese, CAP

- Attention all pilots, Aerospace Education Officers and squadron commanders! The Teacher Orientation Program (TOP), formerly the "Fly-a-Teacher Program," is alive and well with new funding for FY 2015. TOP provides the opportunity for teachers to experience orientation flights in CAP aircraft. Teachers can receive these orientation flights following optional workshops at local area airports and can then share their experiences with their students. Sign them up as an Aerospace Education Member (AEM) and they get one free hour of flying. This is a great recruiting tool as well for Middle School teachers and their students.



WING DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Capt. Jerry Gabert, CAP

- For those of you that do not know me allow me to introduce myself. I am Captain Jerry Gabert and have recently taken over as the SDWG Director of Communications. I have been a member of CAP since August of 2011. I have been in the radio communications industry for 34 years with 22 of that being with the State of SD.

My goals for the SDWG communications program are to improve it wherever we can. In recent months and years we have replaced antennas and made repairs on CAP repeaters at Sioux Falls, Turkey Ridge and White. We are working on replacing the antenna for the Pierre CAP repeater. I want to continue this work where needed in other parts of the state as time permits. I also would like to see every squadron have at least one VHF base radio and preferably two.

Recently we've had a welcome increase of SDWG members involved in the CAP HF radio program. Until recently Lt. Col. David Jefferies (Callsign: Grasslands-44) was our only active HF station. Lt. Col. Jefferies travels south in the winter but still participates from his mobile HF radio when he can. On a recent National CAP HF Net we had five SDWG stations involved. Those involved were Captain Collister (Callsign: Grasslands-631) of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, Lt. Col. Jefferies (Grasslands-44), and Major Craig Goodrich (Callsign: Grasslands-311) of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, Lt. Dravland (Callsign: Grasslands-386) of the Pierre Composite Squadron and myself Callsign: Grasslands-4 from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the future. I have set up a new and hopefully easy to remember email address for wing communications, it is sdwingcomm@gmail.com.

Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058, BROOKINGS)

(Item by Lt. Hofer and Maj. Gengler)

- **CYBERPATRIOT-VII ROUND TWO**: Team "Big Sioux" made it through Round Two and into the State Round and Platinum Tier. All CyberPatriot teams participate in the State Round but only the Platinum Tier can advance to the national finals. After talking with other team's coaches we agreed that this year's Round Two was more difficult than the previous year's Round Three (the round that used to get you into the national finals). Only the top third of teams move into the Platinum Tier. The top six teams move from the State Round to the Regional Round and from there only the top two teams in each category (CAP/ROTC) go to the national finals. We had our hands full and forgot to get pictures again. The State Round runs 5-7 December.



- **VETERAN'S DAY**: On 11 November, the Big Sioux Color Guard presented Flags representing each branch of service for the Veteran's Day Ceremony put on by the Brookings VFW and the American Legion at the Swiftel Center. Those involved are C/Maj Joshua Klosterman, C/Capt Tyler Gross, C/Lt Chris Dinnel, C/SrA Nathaniel Fleet, C/MSgt Jaden Petersen, and C/SrA Graham Dinnel.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items and photos by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- **CADET THESPIAN HITS THE BOARDS:** C/CMSgt Jason Parry performed in Custer High School's play "The Beatles Slept Here" in the role of Detective Johnny B. Goode. The squadron attended the play to support our cadet thespian and do some recruiting. We were in the audience wearing gray CAP tee-shirts and cheering on our Cadet Commander!
- **WELCOME ABOARD:** We are pleased to welcome our Hunter Rice as our newest cadet! We are pleased that you have joined Civil Air Patrol and proud you are a member of our squadron.
- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** Our squadron has been active around Custer and Hot Springs selling sponsorships for the Wreaths Across America program.
- **SQUADRON OUTREACH:** Lt. Kris Bierwirth did a presentation about CAP for the Zonta International Group in Custer.



- **WINTER SURVIVAL TRAINING:** Our cadets worked on their winter survival skills during our recent snow storm and made pine branch snow shoes and built a fire to keep warm. In the photo Cadet Airman Anthony Dillon wears field expedient snowshoes he constructed.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Item by Maj D. Small)

- See the Wing Tips item above on the squadron's ground search team participation in the REDCAP on 30 November. Our ground search team was first at the crash site arriving ahead of the members of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. We are very proud of the dedication and the professionalism displayed by the members of this eight-man team operating under very trying weather conditions in very rugged terrain.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38, PIERRE)

(Item and photos by Lt. Col. Gatje)

- **CHRISTMAS AT THE CAPITOL:** Members of the squadron met at the state capitol building on Saturday, 22 November to decorate a Civil Air Patrol Christmas tree for the "Christmas at the Capitol" display held each year in the South Dakota Capitol Building. This year's theme commemorates the 125th Anniversary of statehood for South Dakota. Although the number of trees is limited, this year's display includes over 90 trees decorated by individuals and organizations from across the state. The Grand Lighting Ceremony took place on 25 November after a welcome, introduction and Christmas wishes from Governor Dennis Daugaard and First Lady Linda Daugaard. It is prestigious to be allowed to place a tree in the capitol and the display will be visited by thousands of people during the open house dates. This year the public can view the trees daily from 26 November through 27 December between from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. This is the 34th Annual Christmas at the Capitol. Admission is free. It is handicap accessible. Members helping to decorate the tree included Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, Capt. Richard Helton, Maj. Lee Vaughan, Lt. Roberta Vaughan, Lt. Ruth Carley, Lt. Jonathan



Becker and C/Amn Margot Pearson. The Pierre Composite Squadron invites all members and families and friends to tour Christmas at the Capitol and see the squadron tree. It is toward the west end on the second floor.



LEFT: MAJ. LEE VAUGHAN AND LT. COL. MYRA CHRISTENSEN MAKE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS TO DECORATIONS ON THE CAP TREE
RIGHT: A HALLWAY IN THE CAPITOL BUILDING WITH TEAMS STILL DECORATING THEIR TREES, THE CAP TREE IS AT FAR LEFT

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item by Maj. Goodrich & Lt. Kuecker)



- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** Our big fundraiser for this year is off to a good start. A big thanks to Cadets Noah Misslet, Nick Kochutin, Jonathan Busch, and Jamie Nowlin for making it to Cabela's on the 8th. We sold 41 wreaths, took orders online for another 5 and received several cash donations. We hope to have several more wreath sales before the end of November. On the 22nd we sold 40 wreaths at Scheels. Thanks to Col. Mike Beason, SM Andy Weathers and his wife Trish (she sold six on the phone while making copies of order forms) and to Cadets Errol Kelly, Jonathan Busch, Dalton Mann, Samuel Lawrence, and Noah Misselt. On the 29th we had about 10 people show up to sell wreath sponsorships at Black Hills Bagels, West Side Family Thrift Center, and Boyd's Drug in Rapid City. On 13 December we will lay the wreaths at the Black Hills National Cemetery.



PHOTO-1: SM ROY WELLER AND C/AMN CALEB WELLER

PHOTO-2: C/AMN MALIA GOODRICH, C/AMN CALEB WELLER

PHOTO-3: C/AMN ISAAK WELLER AND C/CMSGT LEVI WOODARD

PHOTO-4: C/AMN ISAAK WELLER, C/CMSGT LEVI AND SM TRAVIS WOODARD

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

(Items and photos by Capt. Erickson)

- **SCOUTS VISIT THE SQUADRON:** Cub Scouts from Dell Rapids had an aerospace adventure in Sioux Falls the evening of 24 November. Some 13 boys and their parents made the trip to the Sioux Falls airport in the cold and dark where Capt. Jason Erickson showed the scouts and their parents the squadron's Cessna-182

aircraft. Fortunately they had a well-lit, heated hangar to learn about CAP. Capt. Erickson powered up the G1000 avionics suite before the group arrived and programmed a search pattern over Dell Rapids on the aircraft display. After giving a brief demonstration of how the control surfaces of an aircraft work and what they do, the real fun began. The scouts got to take turns in the “driver seat” inside the aircraft. With so many, and an airplane that only seats four, they had to work in shifts. Although not entirely orderly at times, Capt. Erickson managed to herd all of them through and explain how that search pattern may look over top of their hometown. The parents asked a lot of great questions about the aircraft and CAP. While these scouts were all 6 to 8 years old, Capt. Erickson didn’t miss the opportunity to plant the “future member” seed with all present. Hopefully he stirred the aviation bug in some of them and we look forward to their joining CAP when they turn 12!



- **AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER TOUR:** On 15 November, the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron took part in a unique Aerospace Education outing. Over 30 cadets and seniors toured the Sioux Falls Air Traffic Control facility. This was great opportunity to see “behind the curtain”. The morning of the tour Sioux Falls experienced its first significant snow of the season; ceilings were low, visibility short, and both our beloved CAP vans needed a jumpstart. Who said we don’t overcome adversity? Vans jumpstarted, heaters ablaze, we piled in for three shifts, the top of each hour starting at 0900.



ATC Tower Director Mr. Robert Huggins and his crew were awesome tour guides. We were briefed on the main floor of the facility about many air traffic control workings within the building. In addition to the control tower “cab” up top, our facility in Sioux Falls contains a radar room, called a TRACON, and many offices for FAA staff that work in our area. Next stop on the tour the climb to the top to see the controllers in action. It was a great day to tour because we got to see all facets of their job with the snow and low visibility: directing snow plowing equipment, handling ground ops for departing and arriving planes, dealing with IFR spacing for incoming and outgoing traffic, and keeping track of overfly traffic at the flight levels. It can get very busy, very quickly for the controllers especially when the weather is rough. Our thanks to the gracious crew at the Sioux Falls Air Traffic Control Facility for their time on a Saturday. We look forward to doing it again in a few years with a new group of cadets.

- **ORIENTATION FLIGHT:** The cold weather on 22 November finally took a break, which turned out to be a great day for an o-ride piloted by Capt. Neil Schmid. This day was the first flight in any kind of airplane for C/AB Eric Ortega (left) and he enjoyed every minute of the one hour flight from Sioux Falls to Yankton. After a rest stop in Yankton, C/A1C Chris Schuppan (right) flew the Cessna-172 from Yankton airport to the Gavin’s



Point Dam and around the lake. There were hundreds of geese floating in the lake, enjoying the warm sunshine. On the return leg to Sioux Falls, Chris flew the advanced flight maneuvers described in syllabus 8/3rd powered orientation flight. These maneuvers demonstrated slow flight, steep turns, s-turns, and search patterns used in SAR. There was a discussion of stalls, steep spirals, spins and load factors affecting the aircraft.

- **PARADE OF LIGHTS:** On 28 November, 22 members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and the Big Sioux Composite Squadron jointly supported the annual holiday Parade of Lights held in downtown Sioux Falls. They emplaced and recovered do-not-park signs along the nine-block parade route, provided control and assistance at the disabled/handicapped parking lot, manned a warm room where disabled/handicapped were able to view the parade, provided crowd control along the parade route, and helped clean up afterwards.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotions



Congratulations to James Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Captain! He is active in the squadron as the Deputy Commander for Seniors, IT Officer, Recruiting and Retention Officer, Testing Officer, Assistant AE Officer and Assistant Communications Officer.

Cadet Officer Promotion



Congratulations to Tyler Gross of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Captain and receipt of the milestone Amelia Earhart Award!



Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Blake Hayden of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Graham Dinnel of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Christopher Schuppan of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Anthony Dillon, Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, to Jonathan Busch and Samuel Lawrence, Rushmore Composite Squadron, and Robert Boecker and Kristin Lerdal of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!

★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to Maj. Sharon Moad of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on earning “Senior” level rating in the Specialty Track – Public Affairs!



Congratulations to Capt. Richard Geeting of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on earning Technician level in specialty track - Finance in the Senior Member Professional Development Program!



Congratulations to SM Travis Woodard on completing Level-1 of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and on his assignment as Information technology Officer for the Rushmore Composite Squadron!



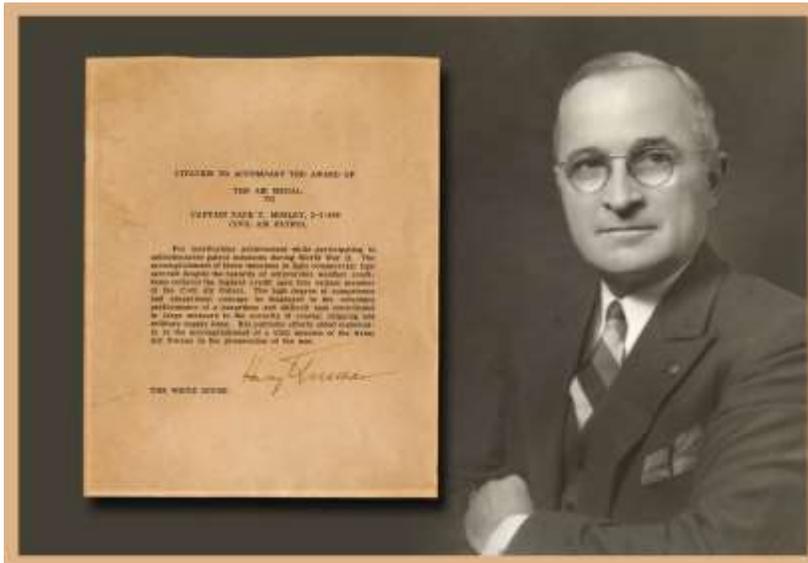
Congratulations to SM Tim Shannon on completing Level-1 of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and on his assignment as Aerospace Education Officer for the Rushmore Composite Squadron!



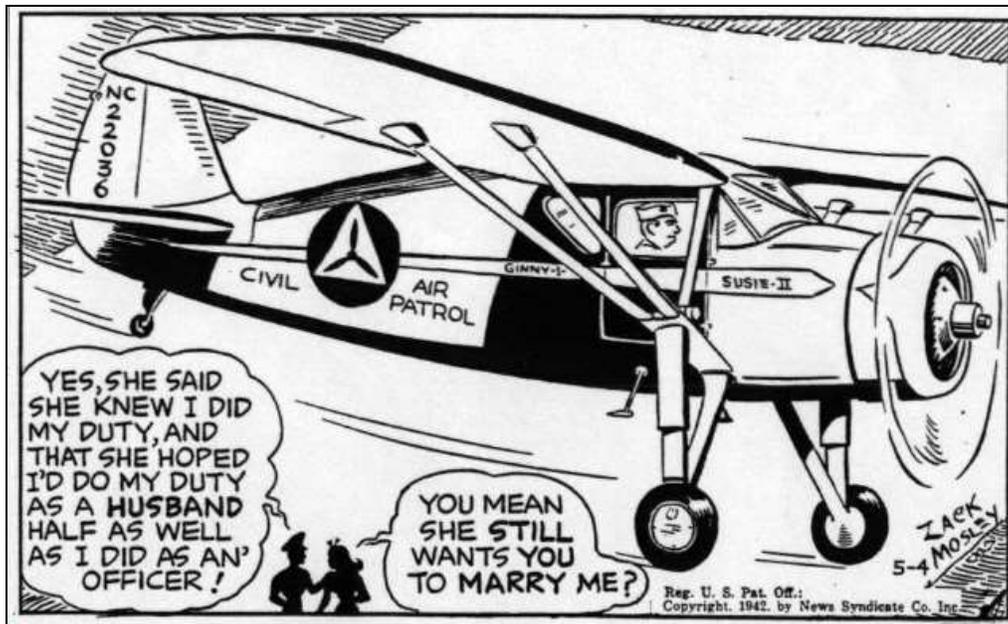
Congratulations to SM Roy Weller on completing Level-1 of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and on his assignment as assistant Deputy Commander for Cadets for the Rushmore Composite Squadron!

★ ★ WWII-ERA CAP CAPTAIN ZACK MOSLEY ★ ★

Zack Mosley (1906-1993) was an American comic strip artist best known for the aviation adventures in his long-running *The adventures of Smilin' Jack* which ran in more than 300 newspapers from 1933 to 1973. But, did you know Zack Mosley was also one of the founding members of the Civil Air Patrol, a highly decorated one as well? He was one of the heroic pilots who flew anti-submarine patrols on the U.S. east coast.



CITATION FOR THE AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL PRESENTED CAPTAIN ZACK MOSLEY BY PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN



ONE OF SEVERAL COMICS ZACK MOSLEY DREW WITH A CAP THEME

