



South Dakota *Wing Roundup*



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COVER PHOTO BACKGROUND: Lt. Vincent Brown takes mission photos of areas of damage for emergency management authorities. Inset photos: LEFT: Flooding along the Big Sioux River; CENTER: Black Hills tornado near Silver City; RIGHT: Damage caused by the Wessington Springs tornado.

Aerospace Education / Emergency Services Workshop



*By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP, Wing PAO
Maj. David Small, Jr., CAP, Wing Chief of Staff
Lt. Col. Bill Collister, CAP, Wing Aerospace Education Officer*

Twenty eight SDWG members took part in a joint Aerospace Education (AE) – Emergency Services (ES) workshop held in Pierre from Thursday, 7 August, to Saturday, 9 August.

Maj. David Small supervised nine cadets in CAP's Model Rocketry Program at the Pierre airport. Four cadets, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Austin Rauscher, Cadet Airman Nick Kochutin, Cadet 2nd Lt. Jared Doyle and Cadet Master Sgt. Josiah Huntington, completed all three phases of the model rocketry program to earn the coveted CAP rocketry badge. Rockets were launched near the airport on Saturday with a single stage rocket constructed and flown by Cadet Master Sgt. Josiah Huntington reaching a measured altitude of 383.98 feet.



A model rocket launches into the sky during hands-on aerospace education.



Winners of the CAP Model Rocketry Badge (L-R) Cadet Master Sgt. Josiah Huntington, Cadet 2nd Lt. Jared Doyle, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Austin Rauscher, Cadet Airman Nick Kochutin.

Cadet 1st Lt. Sullivan Busch, under the supervision of Wing Director of Operations Maj. Nick Gengler, led 16 Cadets and one Senior Member in a field training exercise focused on the skills employed by CAP ground search and rescue teams. Search and rescue teams were formed and

deployed for realistic training scenarios.

We had special guests fly in from the North Dakota Wing in a FLIR-equipped CAP Cessna-182. The Forward Looking Infrared Radar is excellent for locating the heat signature of individuals at night or in heavy cover. NDWG pilots Capt. Dan Villas and Lt. Graham Frost and FLIR operator



The balsa wood and glider aviation crew with guest.



North Dakota Wing FLIR operator Capt. Daryl Billick explains operation of the sensor to cadets.

Capt. Daryl Billick set up a static display of the FLIR Cessna-182 at the Pierre airport and several cadets got to operate the sensors.

On Friday and Saturday Capt. Gary Dettman taught the intricacies of flight fundamentals and control to a group of eight cadets. Utilizing STEM kits sent by CAP National HQ the group built rubber band powered balsa wood aircraft and tested changing various aspects of flight dynamics and flight configurations. Capt. Dettman also supervised the cadets as they assembled and, after training on a remote control aircraft simulator, flew a remote controlled powered glider with a six foot wingspan. The model operated at a range of nearly a quarter mile and performed loops and other acrobatic maneuvers.

Also on Friday, cadets and seniors toured the South Dakota National Guard Museum where Wing Historian Maj. Todd Epp had just opened



Lt. Col. Collister musters the troops for some close order drill.



A ground search team takes a break between training scenarios.

the new SDWG exhibit. The opening of the exhibit was further highlighted as Wing Aerospace Education Officer Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, with the assistance of other SDWG members, manned tables for airplane building, model rocketry and parachuting to entertain and educate three groups of Pierre Boys and Girls Club members from K-4th Grade and their parents and teachers, approximately 60 people. Maj. Epp thrilled the crowd with demonstration flights of his quadcopter.

The children loved making straw rockets, parachutes and paper airplanes. Lt. Col. DeWeese answered many aerospace questions from children and adults. The highlight, however, may have been when Lt. Col. DeWeese put a group of Boys and Girls Club kids through close order drills and marched them around the museum while they were dressed in military garb. The children loved it. Lt. Col. DeWeese had them whipped into shape in short order.



Visiting “troops” render a hand salute.



Commander's Corner

*By Lt. Col. Rick Larson
South Dakota Wing Vice Commander*




“This has to be a record!” I said to South Dakota Wing Commander Col. John Seten. “In my many years of CAP involvement, I’ve never seen this level of commitment from so many members in such a few months”. The boss agreed. If you can’t believe it, just review the latest issues of our monthly Skychaser electronic newsletter. During the past several months, SDWG CAP members provided critical situational awareness and assisted other response agencies as tornados and flooding hit the region. Another June tasking aided a missing person search in Butte County. SDCAP supported major USAF missions such as air defense intercept, flown thousands of miles in seven different states during low-level route surveys, and conducted two search and rescue training missions. Our aircrews continue to support state wildlife tracking efforts with regular missions, the latest in tracking bobcat and elk. We patrolled the skies high above the largest Christian music festival in the nation, assisting local authorities. The Big Sioux cyber-security team in Brookings earned top CAP team honors in the annual CyberPatriot competition. Cadets proudly marched in several community parades, attended the Joint Dakota Encampment at Camp Grafton, ND; Our Color Guards presented Old Glory at many events. Several Cadets attended flight academies and those at National Blue Beret activity earned the coveted St. Albans pin for wear on their distinctive berets.

Other events such as supporting the 114th Fighter Wing Family Day “Wings and Wheels” show and the recent attack response exercise

go far towards cementing the “One Force” team. Our crews represented CAP at Ellsworth AFB’s Open House, showing AF members and their families CAP aircraft and capabilities, and at the Rapid City Regional Airport Open House supporting the Hayward Air Rally. Aerospace Education was busy too, with glider operations and a record amount of powered orientation flying statewide. We handcrafted and launched model rockets during the Aerospace Weekend in Pierre. Maj. Todd Epp worked with the state National Guard Museum in Pierre to develop and present the first ever CAP display!

I’m sure I’ve missed other equally impressive events and accomplishments!

The take always? For the second time in three years SDWG received the North Central Region’s award for excellence in Search and Rescue and Disaster Response. A first ever “highly effective” rating from the U.S. Air Force for our search and rescue teams, and despite our small size earning “top-ten” status in the nation for aircraft utilization! I challenge any other CAP member from any other Wing to have that much to brag about in ten years.... and SDWG did all that in six months. Wow!

Our Wing members exemplify excellence in all that they do, putting service before self and integrity first. South Dakotans to the core. Your continuing efforts and successes make South Dakota Wing the best of the best! Col. Seten and I are humbled to have the opportunity to lead such outstanding Americans! Keep CAPing! 

Tops in CAP Cyber-Security

*By Capt. Shannon Hofer, CAP
Commander, Big Sioux Composite Squadron*

The evening of 26 June brought a special honor to the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings. We were pleased to have two guests present representing the Air Force Association; Mr. Ron Mielke, President of the Air Force Association in South Dakota, and Mr. Ed Revell, President of AFA's Sioux Falls "Dacotah Chapter" visit us. They came to present the "Civil Air Patrol Champion Award" to the squadron's Cyber-Security Team. The team earned this significant honor by coming in first of the 320 CAP teams that took part in CyberPatriot-VI.

CyberPatriot-VI, the annual Air Force Association's national cyber-defense competition that challenges high-school students to resolve real-life cyber-security situations began in mid-November 2013.



(L-R) Mr. Revell, Cadet Senior Airman Zebadiah Nelson, Cadet Capt. Joshua Klosterman, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Chris Dinnel, Coach Cadet 2nd Lt. Tyler Gross, Mr. Mielke

During two online qualification rounds the Big Sioux team faced realistic computer network threats at their home location seeking out weaknesses in simulated online networks and working to defend those networks from threat scenarios. A Cisco networking challenge was also a part of the competition. The team was scored according to how quickly and effectively they established and maintained the secure networks. The Big Sioux team was one of only 44 teams to advance to the semifinals held in January 2014. In the semifinals they faced similar but more complex and




Members of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron Cyber-Security Team were (L-R) Cadet Amn Zebadiah Nelson, Cadet Capt. Joshua Klosterman, Cadet Master Sgt. Chris Dinnel, Cadet Master Sgt. Laura Rudnik and team coach the then Cadet 2nd Lt. Tyler Gross. Not shown are team member Cadet Airman Josiah Jorenby and team mentor the then Lt. Shannon Hofer.

sophisticated computer network threats. After an exceptional performance in the semifinals, the Big Sioux Composite Squadron team was named one of 14 All Service Division national finalists and received an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Finals competition in Maryland.

For the third year in a row, Big Sioux's Cyber-Security Team returned to Washington, D.C. in March 2014, to compete in the national championship round. At the National Finals, the only in-person round, the Big Sioux team competed to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The National Finalists also faced-off in three additional competition components: the Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge and the Cisco Networking Challenge, both of which returned from previous seasons, and the Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cyber-security experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them.

Within CyberPatriot-VI's All Services Division the squadron's Cyber-Security team placed seventh out of the 864 teams in the division.

The Air Force Association (AFA), the sponsoring organization, is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association. Its mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. AFA has 200 chapters nationally and internationally representing more than 100,000 members. 

Aircraft “SAVE” at Spearfish

*By Lt. Col. Rodney “Buck” DeWeese, CAP
Wing Director of Aerospace Education*

Hurricanes don’t happen too often in the Black Hills. However, on Thursday evening, 26 June 2014, in Spearfish, weather conditions rivaled the storms usually seen at lower latitudes. A line of severe thunderstorms produced peak winds of 69 mph at the Spearfish airport; with sustained gusts not much less than that. Winds were clocked at 80 mph west of town in the same weather event.


The Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish was in the midst of its regular meeting while the howling winds rattled the squadron building. At one point Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Connor Caneva stepped out onto the small porch to peer at the angry skies. He noticed that a big, twin-engine Cessna-421 had come adrift and was rolling backwards across the ramp toward a row of parked cars. The aircraft had been parked across the direction of the wind. The force of the wind weather-vented the plane, putting the nose into the wind, and caused it to jump the wooden wheel chocks. The Cessna then began to be blown backwards. The forecast had apparently under-predicted the storm’s intensity and the plane wasn’t tied down.

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Rosby joined Cadet Caneva in running over to the scene. Their combined efforts managed to bring the aircraft to a halt just short of the parked cars. They re-chocked the aircraft’s wheels so it would not move, then the cadets took some clothesline type cord and braided it into a strong tie-down ropes to help secure the aircraft from the high wind. As a result the very expensive aircraft and some pricy automobiles were not damaged. After the aircraft had been secured the airport manager was called and the information passed along.

Though the Cessna-421 “rescue” was unex-



The aircraft CAP “saved” at Spearfish.

pected and was not associated with a specific mission as such, the CAP members were happy to participate in this “save,” that prevented airplane and automobile owners from untold inconvenience and expense. 

Big Sioux River Flooding Survey Mission


*By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing PAO*

A week of severe weather in mid-June included torrential rain that produced wide-spread flooding in the East River area. The state Office of Emergency Management requested the Civil Air Patrol's South Dakota Wing conduct an aerial photographic survey on 19 June along the Big Sioux River from Sioux Falls to where it meets the Missouri River. Later in the day the Federal Emergency Management Agency requested that the photos of the flooding also be sent to them. What began as state tasking changed into a federal disaster relief mission.

Prior to receipt of the official mission tasking, Wing Commander Col. John Seten and Capt. Neil Schmid of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron flew a training flight over the Big Sioux and Rock Rivers in South Dakota, Minnesota

and Iowa to assess the scope and parameters of the official mission.

Once official tasking had been received a Cessna-182T from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron was assigned the mission. The aircraft departed Sioux Falls Regional Airport at approximately 9:00am for the two hour sortie. The CAP aircrew consisted of Capt. Matt Meert (Mission Pilot), Capt. Karla West (Mission Scanner) and Lt. Robert Hinkhouse (Mission Observer). Capt. Neil Schmid served as the SDWG Incident Commander for the mission.

Over 250 photos were taken showing the flow, the spread of the flood waters and the damage caused. The photos were uploaded for federal and state emergency management officials' analysis and assessment. Photo used with permission of FEMA. 



View of a flooded area along the Big Sioux River near Sioux Falls.

Pierre Cadet Attends CAP Flight Academy in Mankato, MN

*By Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, CAP
Pierre Composite Squadron*

Cadet Technical Sergeant Hannah Becker of Pierre, a member of the South Dakota Wing's Pierre Composite Squadron, attended the North Central Region Joint Flight Academy held near Mankato, MN from 11-19 July. She was one of a number of CAP cadets from the South Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, California and Florida Wings who participated.

The flight academy consisted of two schools, one for powered flight and one for gliding. Both schools provided students an excellent start to becoming pilots licensed by the FAA.

Cadet Becker attended the powered flight school. During the school the cadets experienced two sessions of flying each day and two sessions of ground school. Both are requirements to successfully complete the FAA's written and flying tests. Volunteer certified flight instructors taught the knowledge and skills the cadets will need. In addition, the instructors provided assistance in obtaining a FAA Type 3 Medical Certificate.

Cadet Becker commented that the high points of the academy were (especially) the flying and talking to other cadets about flying and "other


*Cadet Tech. Sgt.
Hannah Becker at
the controls during
flight training at the
joint flight academy.*



stuff". On the low end she thought the weather delays were the worst - having to hurry up and wait for good weather. Each of the ten cadets in the powered flight school successfully completed their supervised solo.

Cadets flying in the glider school received up to 25 flights and 25 hours of ground school instruction. They also completed their supervised gliding solo and two cadets completed their regular gliding solo.

When not actively flying or attending ground school, the cadets received a briefing and tour by one of the pilots of Mayo Clinic's "Mayo One" emergency medical helicopter who described their day-to-day operation. They also had the opportunity to tour two French Dassault Aviation business jets, a Falcon-20 and a Falcon-50, that are operated by North Star Aviation in Mankato.

The flight academy participants stayed in the dormitories of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. Meal service was provided by the college's cafeteria. 



Cadet Becker relaxes with some of her fellow cadet student pilots.

WWII CAP Congressional Gold Medal Update

*By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing PAO*

On 30 May, President Obama signed Senate Bill 309 into law. The bill awards a Congressional Gold Medal to Civil Air Patrol for its service during World War II. This marks the first major recognition that CAP's members have received for their WWII service. The legislation recognizes the volunteer service of more than 120,000 men, women and teenagers who joined CAP immediately before and during the war. Fewer than 100 of these early members are believed to be alive today.

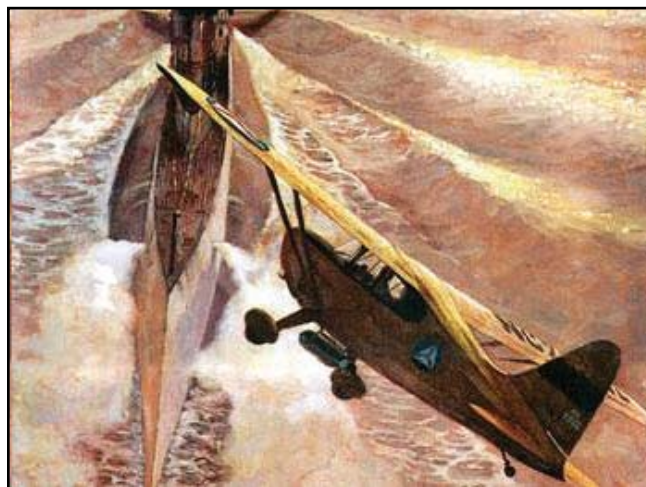
CAP was founded December 1, 1941, a week before the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the United States' entry into WWII. Within three months CAP organizations formed along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts to carry out anti-submarine patrols to help protect the nation by warding off German U-boat attacks on American oil tankers bound for Allied nations. 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 CAP's Congressional Gold Medal website at: www.capgoldmedal.com.

A Congressional Gold Medal is to be awarded collectively to CAP members in recognition of their service and exemplary record during the



A CAP Aircraft closes in on a German submarine off the U.S. coast during World War II.

WWII. After presentation the gold medal will go to the Smithsonian Institution where it will be available for display and research.

- The U.S. Mint, with CAP's assistance, is working on several designs. Once these are complete the best design will be selected. After that, the gold CGM medal and bronze replicas will be struck.
- Congress, the White House and CAP will agree on an award ceremony date. A formal CGM award ceremony is envisioned for early 2015 in Washington, in the Rotunda of the Capitol with a special presentation ceremony later that day for veterans/families receiving the bronze replica medals. Veterans/families of veterans (who have already passed) not able to travel to Washington can receive replica medals in their home state at a later date.

To receive a replica medal a CAP veteran (or families of those who've passed) must be listed and validated as having been in CAP during WWII. List new names at http://capmembers.com/cap_national_hq/goldmedal/ on the link "Add Gold Medal Candidate". All entries must contain current contact information for either the veteran member or their family. 🇺🇸

CAP Supports 114th Fighter Wing Exercise

*By SDANG SMSgt Richard Larson, 114th Fighter Wing Emergency Manager,
(CAP Lt. Col., South Dakota Wing Vice Commander)*

In keeping with one of CAP's core missions, support of the USAF, six members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron recently played a critical role in a way that benefitted both CAP and the airmen of the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls.

Playing the part of injured airmen, the CAP members were made up as "mouflage" victims, simulating injuries sustained as participants in the Guard's attack response exercise. Led by CAP Captain Jerry Foy, himself an ANG veteran, the CAP crew underwent an extreme makeover by ANG medics from the 114th Medical Group. ANG Lieutenant Colonel Larry DeBuhr and his staff had a mission to assess 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 moulaged 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



Four CAP "casualties" in mouflage for the exercise.

the injuries. In CAP's emergency services role, the members also benefited from experiencing the responses, which can also be valuable in day-to-day life. The CAP "victims" were treated by ANG members who learned hands-on procedures. Fortunately, after expert treatment, everyone survived the exercise!



Cadet Christopher Schuppan has rather gruesome mouflage applied prior to the exercise.



Six Sioux Falls Composite Squadron members in the Fighter Wing's Emergency Operation Center prior to the exercise. In the photo (L-R) CAP Lt. Melanie Schuppan, Cadet Airman 1st Class Kyle Clement, Cadet Airman Christopher Schuppan, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Austin Cole, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Nash, CAP Capt. Jerry Foy, USANG SMSgt (CAP Lt. Col.) Rick Larson, EOC Manager, and USANG Maj. Kevin Miller, EOC Director.

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 dedication and professionalism of the CAP members aided greatly in the exercise evaluation, and thanked each member for their involvement. 🇺🇸

Exercise Falcon Keynote 2014


By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP, Wing PAO

SDWG continues to support the South Dakota Air National Guard by participating on three occasions as a target aircraft in SDANG Exercise Falcon Keynote 2014. The purpose of the exercises was to provide Sioux Falls' 114th Fighter Wing's alert aircrews training in aerospace control alert intercept procedures, a function of its Homeland Security mission.

A CAP Cessna-172P aircraft, based in Sioux Falls, acted as the target aircraft. The objective for the pilots of the F-16s of the 175th Fighter Squadron was to hone their skills in being able to quickly and safely intercept and evaluate a slow moving aircraft that could pose a security risk or



The “hare” and the “hound.” SDANG F-16 pilots will practice intercepting the CAP target aircraft.

that may have inadvertently strayed into restricted airspace. SDWG is pleased and proud to provide this cost effective support to SDANG by providing target aircraft for them to practice air intercept techniques. CAP partners with the USAF helping to provide a total force approach to readiness and enhanced national security. 

Pierre Cadets are All Wet


*By Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, CAP
Pierre Composite Squadron*

Several cadets and senior members of the Pierre Composite Squadron and a couple of guests participated in a six-hour raft trip down the Niobrara River in July. Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Jon Becker, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Hannah Becker, Cadet Airman Brant Malfero, Cadet Margot Pearson, the parent of one of the cadets and two former cadets floated down the river from Berry Bridge to Stan's Landing.



(L-R) Cadets Hannah Becker, Brant Malfero and Margot Pearson cool off under a waterfall on the Niobrara River raft trip.

All was not just fun and frolic. The trip was also used to practice CAP related training. For example, before leaving Pierre everyone received a safety briefing on the possible hazards of the trip. This included water hazards while on the river, over exposure to the sun, the signs of heat exhaustion/stroke, the techniques of hot weather first aid and the constant need for good hydration. While en route to the river the cadets practiced map reading using an “old fashioned” paper map and plotting their current location using the vehicle's onboard GPS navigation system.

All the “floaters” reported that the trip was great fun and they want to do it again in the future. It was very relaxing without email or cell phones to worry about. 

Garmin G400W Aircraft Navigation System

*By Maj. Craig Goodrich, CAP, Rushmore Composite Squadron and
Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP, Wing PAO*

To date South Dakota Wing (SDWG) of the Civil Air Patrol has equipped two of its three Cessna-172 aircraft with the Garmin Company's G400W aircraft navigation system. Our third Cessna-172 will leave soon for a complete refurbishment to include a complete Garmin G500 digital flight system.

The G400W is the least expensive entry into the use of Wide Area Augmentation (WAAS) Global Positioning System (GPS) operation. While the G400W lacks some of the functionality, bells and whistles of more expensive Garmin systems, it offers significantly improved capability over older aircraft navigation systems. For example, the G400W offers faster position calculations and screen updates (5x per second), improved annunciation, dead reckoning (backup if the GPS signal is lost) and more informative status pages. With the G400W, a terrain database is standard (for improved awareness and safety), and it provides this information with greater resolution and precision.

So why is all this important to CAP? Well, WAAS is a fundamental improvement to GPS



A Civil Air Patrol Cessna-172.



Wide angle view of the aircraft instrument panel showing the placement of the G400W.



Close-up of the G400W panel and display.

accuracy. By adding a series of ground stations and geostationary satellites, WAAS GPS is typically five times more accurate than "regular" GPS. This means it is now possible to fly from point to point with greater accuracy, to more precisely conduct CAP search and rescue grid patterns, it makes instrument flying in low visibility safer, and it allows an approach into an airport with no local ground-based navigation aids; an important aspect to consider in sparsely settled South Dakota with less sophisticated airports, airfields and airstrips. The bottom line is that the Garmin G400W allows CAP pilots to fly with greater precision and greater safety as we carry out our emergency services missions.

2014 Joint Dakota Cadet Leadership Encampment



By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP, Wing PAO

Each year the South and North Dakota Wings hold a joint summer encampment for their cadets. This year the North Dakota Wing hosted the encampment from 12-20 July at Camp Grafton at Devil's Lake, ND about 90 miles west of Grand Forks.

At the encampment, senior ranking cadets brought the skills learned at squadron, wing, regional, and national level activities to teach the younger cadets how to be better leaders. While the senior member staff present generally let the cadets run things, they were there as administrators, tutors and mentors.



Camp Grafton, ND. Site of the 2014 Joint Dakota Cadet Leadership Encampment.



Ground search team training in tracking aircraft emergency locator beacons.

Each annual encampment has a theme; for 2014 the theme was the Joint Dakota Cadet Leadership Encampment (JDCLE). This encampment taught the techniques of leadership and teamwork and instilled the spirit of honor, courage, and determination in the attendees. In keeping with CAP's status as official auxiliary of the Air Force the cadets also learned military customs and courtesies and drill and ceremonies. In addition, the cadets got a taste of military life by living in open bay



North Dakota and South Dakota Wings' participants at the 2014 JDCLE.

barracks and eating in a military dining facility. There were obstacle courses to run, repelling towers to traverse, leadership classes, physical fitness, and moral leadership guidance. The encampment ended with “the crucible” – a final test of endurance, and leadership.

Some of the highlights of the encampment were the cadets flying in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter courtesy of the North Dakota Army Guard, and the use of the Guard’s high-tech small arms marksmanship simulator and Humvee operational trainer.

Lt. David Stockinger, of South Dakota Wing’s Sioux Falls Composite Squadron said, “It was amazing to watch cadets and senior members from different parts of the Dakotas come together with the same purpose to achieve a common objective”. Cadet Col. William Small, of SDWG’s Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, the Cadet Commander of this year’s JDCLE, said, “It was a great occasion for new cadets to learn leadership and discipline.”



Attendees try out the ND National Guard’s high-tech small arms marksmanship simulator.



Attendees negotiate the rappelling tower on the obstacle course.



Cadets maneuver on the obstacle course in a teamwork/problem solving exercise.



Cadet descending the rappelling tower.



JDCLE attendees ride in a North Dakota Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.



JDCLE attendees ride in a North Dakota Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.



Cadets practice egress from the ND National Guard’s Humvee operational trainer.



JDCLE attendees ride in a North Dakota Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.



Cadets negotiate the rope slide on the obstacle course.



Cadets negotiate the rope crawl on the obstacle course.



Physical training/group jog.



Night maneuvers during the "the crucible".



Physical training/volleyball.



Uniform inspection.



Barracks room inspection.



Camp Grafton dining facility, a favorite place for hungry teenagers.



ND Air Guard dining facility crew kept JDCLE participants well fed.



JDCLE graduation pass-in-review ceremony.



Barracks room inspection.

National Blue Beret

*By Capt. Karla West, CAP
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron*

Imagine an aviation event with over 500,000 visitors and over 10,000 aircraft. This is the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) annual "AirVenture" airshow held in Oshkosh, WI. Through a partnership with the EAA the Civil Air Patrol provides a large contingent of cadets and officers to help the EAA manage the airshow. This contingent is called the "National Blue Beret" (NBB), a two week long experience like no other. CAP members are competitively selected from wings across the nation to participate in this prestigious event. As a result of their participation the cadets are authorized to wear the coveted blue beret with its prized St. Alban's pin.

This year, South Dakota Wing had four cadets receive the honor of representing our state at NBB. First time NBB Cadets were Capt. Nicole Schneider (Sioux Falls Composite Squadron), and 1st Lt. Sullivan Busch and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Dinnel, both of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, and returning Blue Beret Maj. Brandon West (Sioux Falls Composite Squadron).

The first and most important mission of the NBB program is to assist the EAA with flight line marshaling operations. Cadets are posted along taxiways during the operational hours of the air show to direct pilots to their parking destinations. Cadets also staff two station towers to observe aircraft landing on each runway to help keep track of which aircraft are on the ground. The second mission is crowd control at the ultra-light and military aircraft areas. This includes one flight of cadets dedicated to standing guard around the clock for the aircraft of the "Thunderbirds", the USAF precision flying team. Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Dinnel excitedly commented, "Marshaling the Thunderbirds was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had." The third mission is emergency services. This entails locating any lost or overdue aircraft by tracking its emergency locator beacon (ELT).

NBB Operations are based out of "the compound," as it is called. This compound includes a hangar for sleeping, an open field for formations,



2014 Civil Air Patrol National Blue Beret contingent.

a communications building and, most important to every teenage cadet, a mess hall. The compound is run entirely by CAP personnel. Daily responsibilities include everything from kitchen duty to cleaning bathrooms and doing laundry for the 140 cadets and 42 senior members. With the number of cadets at NBB, you would think that it would be hard to get to know that many cadets, but at the end of the two weeks, they have all become one family.

“I felt like, by the end of National Blue Beret, all of my fellow berets and I became a close knit family. It was great working with such an awesome group of people”, said Capt. Nicole Schneider. 1st Lt. Sullivan Busch echoed the sentiment, “At NBB, you don’t make friends with the people in your flight, you make family. After graduating the two week activity, I found that I had twelve new brothers and sisters, and I didn’t want to leave them to go home.”



NBB's coveted blue beret with St. Alban's pin.



South Dakota Wing cadets at the 2014 NBB (L-R) Schneider, West, Dinell, Busch.



LEFT: Aircraft crowd the taxiway at AirVenture 2014.

NEW TOP 3 IN CAP

*By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing PAO*

Civil Air Patrol has a new national commander – Major General Joseph Vazquez, who was sworn in on Friday, 15 August at the organization’s 2014 National Conference in Las Vegas. “It will be my privilege to lead the team of national staff, wing and region commanders who make CAP simply the best nonprofit corporation in the country today,” he said minutes after taking the guidon as national commander in a time honored change of command ceremony. Gen. Vazquez, who previously served as CAP’s national vice commander for three years, succeeds Major General Charles Carr.

As CAP’s 23rd national commander, Gen. Vazquez will lead the organization’s 60,000 volunteers across the nation, in US territories and at military bases overseas in fulfilling its three congressionally chartered missions – emergency services, cadet programs and aerospace education.

Brigadier General Larry Myrick, a past commander of CAP’s Pacific Region, was sworn in as national vice commander during the same change of command ceremony as was Colonel Larry Ragland, the new national chief of staff.

Continued . . .

SDWG Wins North Central Region Search and Rescue Missions Award

*By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing PAO*

South Dakota’s Civil Air Patrol Wing was notified on 27 July by CAP’s National Headquarters that it was selected to receive the North Central Region’s Search and Rescue Missions Award. This marks the second time in three years that South Dakota Wing has received this high honor. North Central Region commander, Col. Robert Todd, stated that the award is well merited as the South Dakota Wing has been both aggressive and innovative in finding new missions for our aircraft and personnel. Despite its small size the South Dakota Wing ranks 10th in the nation (each state is a Wing) in aircraft utilization.


In addition, the South Dakota Wing received the rarely awarded grade of “Highly Successful” in its U.S. Air Force graded operational evaluation in May of this year. Finally, Col. Todd noted that the South Dakota Wing has been a good steward in managing its portion of the U.S. Air Force training funds assigned to them by the North Central Region and by National Headquarters.

The NCR Search and Rescue Missions Award was presented to South Dakota Wing Commander



Col. Seten holds the NCR SAR Missions Award. He is flanked on the left by former CAP National Commander Major General Charles Carr and on the right by new CAP National Commander Major General Joseph Vazquez.

Col. John Seten at CAP’s National Conference held in Las Vegas on 14-16 August 2014.

CAP’s North Central Region consists of the Wings in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. 



BIOGRAPHY

Major General Joseph R. Vazquez

Joseph R. "Joe" Vazquez is the National Commander of Civil Air Patrol. His primary duty is leading CAP's 60,000 volunteers in fulfillment of the nonprofit organization's three congressionally chartered missions of Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education, as well as its steadily increasing role in America's Homeland Security.

As CAP's National Commander, he serves as a Major General (two-star), the highest ranking CAP Officer. He also serves as CAP's Chief Executive Officer and as an Advisor to the CAP Board of Governors (BoG), the organization's governing body. In addition, he leads the CAP Command Council (CCC), whose members serve as his advisors, and the CAP Senior Advisory Group (CSAG).

Maj Gen Vazquez was appointed to a three-year term as National Commander/CEO on April 4, 2014. As part of CAP's new governance structure, his selection was made by the BoG – for the first time in the organization's 73-year history. He assumed command Aug. 15, 2014, at CAP's 2014 National Conference.



Before his selection as National Commander/CEO, Maj Gen Vazquez served as National Vice Commander, assuming command on Aug. 18, 2011. Previously, he commanded the more than 7,000 members of CAP's Middle East Region – a seven-state area on the East Coast from Delaware to South Carolina. He was appointed Middle East Region Commander in 2008. He served as CAP's National Operations Advisor prior to that appointment, during which time he restructured CAP's core flying regulation, CAPR 60-1.

Maj Gen Vazquez joined as a Georgia Wing cadet in 1975 and rose to the rank of Cadet Major before transitioning to the senior member program in 1978. He qualified as a CAP Ground Team Leader while still a cadet, and as a senior member became a Mission Pilot in 1986. He subsequently qualified as a Flight Instructor and Check Pilot, and in 1992 became an Incident Commander, the highest search and rescue rating in CAP. He is currently a qualified Check Pilot Examiner in airplanes and gliders, with 3,525 flying hours and 490 glider flights.

Starting in 1989, Maj Gen Vazquez served in increasing areas of responsibility with CAP. He was appointed as Commander of Group 2 within South Carolina Wing in 1989, and from 1990 to 1992 was Commander of the Wicomico Composite Squadron in Salisbury, Maryland. He was appointed Group 1 Commander with Maryland Wing in 1993 and Group 4 commander with Virginia Wing in 1994. He held multiple Wing staff assignments in Virginia and was appointed Virginia Wing Vice Commander in 1997 and Wing Commander in 2001. In 2003, he became Vice Commander of CAP's Middle East Region and later the National Operations Advisor in 2007.

A Savannah, Georgia, native and a graduate of Warner Robins High School, Maj Gen Vazquez attended the University of Georgia, earning a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in psychology and computer science. He began his career as a software engineer with E.I. DuPont at the Savannah River Plant in Aiken, South Carolina. He transferred to Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) in 1997 and retired in 2010 as an Operations Manager with CSC's North American Service Restoration Team. He is also a 32nd degree Mason and past master of Temple Lodge #9, Virginia Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.

A resident of Henrico, Virginia, Maj Gen Vazquez is married to another CAP member, Lt Col Leslie Vazquez, who most recently served as the organization's National Standardization/Evaluation Advisor.



BIOGRAPHY

Brigadier General Larry F. Myrick

Larry F. Myrick is the National Vice Commander of Civil Air Patrol. His primary duty is to assist CAP National Commander and CEO Major General Joseph R. Vazquez in leading CAP's 60,000 volunteers in fulfillment of the nonprofit organization's three congressionally chartered missions of Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education, as well as its steadily increasing role in America's Homeland Security.

As CAP's National Vice Commander, Myrick serves as a Brigadier General (one-star). He is also a member of the CAP Command Council (CCC), which serves as advisors to the national commander, and the CAP Senior Advisory Group (CSAG).

Brig Gen Myrick was named National Vice Commander on June 23, 2014, and assumed command Aug. 15 at CAP's 2014 National Conference. As part of CAP's new governance structure that took effect October 2012, Maj Gen Vazquez selected Brig Gen Myrick as National Vice Commander, and he was confirmed by CAP's Board of Governors. The selection marked the first time in CAP's 73-year history that the organization's National Commander/CEO selected the Vice Commander.



Before his selection as National Vice Commander, Brig Gen Myrick served as an advisor to National Commander/CEO Maj Gen Charles L. Carr, Jr., Maj Gen Vazquez's predecessor. As an advisor to Maj Gen Carr since August 2013, Brig Gen Myrick was responsible for special projects and duties as determined by the Commander.

A resident of San Luis Obispo, California, Col Myrick previously commanded at CAP's squadron, group, wing and region levels. He was Commander of Bob Beevers Composite Squadron 103 from 1989 to 1993 and he was appointed as Commander Group 11 from 1993 to 1998. He was the California Wing Vice Commander for a short three months in 1999 until he was appointed California Wing Commander from 1999 to 2003. Brig Gen Myrick was the Pacific Region Vice Commander from 2005 to 2009 except for a three-month stint as temporary California Wing Commander in 2007 and Pacific Region Commander from 2009 to 2013.

Active in CAP since he joined in 1987, Brig Gen Myrick is a rated instrument pilot and was operationally qualified as an Incident Commander and Master Observer. He has participated in over 100 emergency services missions.

He has been on the teaching staffs of the Pacific Region Staff College since 2000 and the National Staff College since 2005, where he gives presentations on leadership and the changing environment of today's CAP. He is also an adjunct professor at his alma mater, California Polytechnic State University. Brig Gen Myrick earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering technology. He now teaches a senior-level mechanical engineering design course.

Brig Gen Myrick currently works for the firm Integrated Commissioning & Energy (owned by Peggy Myrick), where he consults with architects and engineering firms on the design of mechanical systems and commissioning of commercial buildings. In January 2014, he sold his consulting mechanical engineering business, which he owned for 26 years.

His wife, Lt Col Peggy Myrick, is also a CAP member.



BIOGRAPHY

Colonel Larry J. Ragland

Colonel Larry J. Ragland of Sanford, North Carolina, is Executive Officer for Civil Air Patrol National Commander and CEO Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Vazquez.

Appointed to head the national staff in June 2014, Col Ragland officially became Executive Officer on Aug. 15 when Maj Gen Vazquez assumed command.

Col Ragland, a 38-year member of CAP, previously served as Middle East Region Commander. He was appointed Middle East Region Commander on November 4, 2011, after serving as Interim Region Commander for four months. He was the Region Vice Commander from September 2009 to August 2011, serving under Vazquez when he was the Middle East Commander. Prior to that, he served a four-year term as North Carolina Wing Commander (2005-2008).

Col Ragland's service to Civil Air Patrol began in 1976 and has included Deputy Squadron Commander for Seniors, Squadron Commander, Deputy Group Commander, Group Commander, and North Carolina Wing Vice Commander.

He is an active Mission Pilot with 2,100 flying hours, Incident Commander, and qualified Air Branch Director with the North Carolina Wing. He is also a qualified Cadet Orientation Pilot.

When not performing CAP duty assignments, Col Ragland practices Landscape Architecture in Raleigh, North Carolina. His award-winning design firm does a wide range of site design projects, including schools, parks, subdivisions, housing projects, and shopping centers. The Governor of North Carolina appointed him to the state's Board of Registration for Landscape Architects for two four-year terms, and he has participated as an exam writer and exam grader for the National Landscape Architect Registration Exam (LARE). In 1996, he was the recipient of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects President's Council Award for "significant and sustained contributions to the profession of Landscape Architecture" in his home state.

Col Ragland is married to Ethel A. Ragland and they have two children – a son, Evan Allen Ragland of Sanford and a daughter, Ginger Alicia Miller of Redondo Beach, CA. He is the proud grandfather of Elan and Cohen Miller.



South Dakota Wing Exhibit at State National Guard Museum

*By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP, Wing PAO and
Maj. Todd Epp, CAP, Wing Historian*

The South Dakota Wing (SDWG) of the Civil Air Patrol opened an exhibit at the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG) Museum in Pierre on Friday, 8 August 2014. The joint SDWG/SDNG exhibit, which runs into October, celebrated the two organizations' assistance to each other in accomplishing their missions.

The exhibit featured current and former CAP uniforms, insignia, patches, awards and copies of the South Dakota Wing magazine. It also included current and past equipment such as an aircraft radio, a ground radio, a global positioning system and a pilot's kneeboard. There was a PowerPoint slideshow with photos of South Dakota Wing and South Dakota National Guard members and activities. All the items are identified with descriptions, with the history of the CAP, cooperation between the SDWG and the SDNG and other notable and interesting facts about the SDWG and SDNG on placards. The SDWG exhibit items are in two large cases, three mannequins, and two easels.



Ms. Sonja Johnson, Director of the S.D. National Guard Museum, poses in front of the museum.

Wing Historian Maj. Todd Epp spent a great deal of time and effort gathering and preparing materials and organizing the exhibit. The South Dakota wing owes a debt of gratitude to SDNG Museum Director Sonja Johnson, herself a sergeant in the South Dakota Army Guard, who made the exhibit possible through her enthusiasm, hard work and support.

Though it may not be on the usual tour of South Dakota's Capital City, the S.D. National Guard Museum just east of downtown Pierre is full of the stuff of South Dakota's military history. The museum features the history of the South Dakota Army Guard since its formation in 1862 and the South Dakota Air National Guard since its founding by Medal of Honor winner Joe Foss in 1946. The museum is free and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Maj. Epp's next project will be creating a Civil Air Patrol/South Dakota Wing exhibit at the South Dakota Air and Space Museum at Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City.



South Dakota Wing Historian Maj. Todd Epp and South Dakota National Guard director Ms. Sonja Johnson pose before the newly opened SDWG exhibit at the museum.

TORNADO DAMAGE SURVEY MISSIONS

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP, Wing PAO

Black Hills Tornado Damage Survey Mission

The Pennington County Office of Emergency Management requested South Dakota Wing conduct a time-sensitive mission to photograph 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 photographs with embedded geographic coordinates of the extent of the tornado's damage path.



Black Hills tornado near Silver City.

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.

Wessington Springs Tornado Damage Survey Mission

Photos used with permission of FEMA.

On 19 June, the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management and FEMA tasked the South Dakota Wing to fly a photographic survey mission over the path of the EF-2 tornado (127 mph winds) that struck Wessington Springs in Jerauld County on the 18th. Both organizations requested photos showing the entire town



Mission Observer Lt. Rob Hinkhouse and Mission Pilot Capt. Neil Schmidt enter coordinates in the aircraft's navigation system prior to takeoff.



Path of the tornado through Wessington Springs (yellow box added by Maj. Kipp).

to see the path of destruction and close-up photos of the damage.


A Cessna-182T from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron was assigned the mission. The aircraft departed Sioux Falls Regional Airport in mid-afternoon for a sortie lasting about 2.5 hours. Special care and coordination had to be taken during the flight as South Dakota National Guard aircraft were also active in the area.

Wing Commander Col. Seten served as the SDWG point-of-contact for the mission. The CAP aircrew consisted of Capt. Neil Schmid (Mission Pilot), Maj. Todd Epp (Mission Scanner) and 1st Lt. Robert Hinkhouse (Mission Observer). The mis-



Close-up of the damage caused by the Wessington Springs tornado.

sion photos were uploaded for federal and state emergency

management officials' analysis and assessment. 

Wing Changes of Command and Staff Appointments

By Col. John Seten, CAP, Wing Commander, and Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP, Wing PAO

2014 has been a year of changes for South Dakota Wing. As is typical for an organization such as ours there are what is in effect term limits on command positions. This is to provide opportunities for junior Wing officers to rise through the various command positions as they gain experience and grow in rank and seniority. The South Dakota Wing currently has six squadrons. Three of these squadrons changed commanders in 2014. In addition, in our mobile society there is a lot of coming and going in any given year. As a result some of the Wing Staff positions have been reassigned and some new officers appointed.

Changes In Squadron Command

•On 4 March, the then First Lieutenant (now Captain) Shannon Hofer assumed the top spot in the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings. He succeeds Capt. Travis Rup who successfully led the squadron for nearly two years before moving out of the area. Capt. Hofer is an amazing officer. In addition to his duties as the commander he also serves as the unit's Aerospace Education Officer, IT Officer, Logistics, Maintenance, Supply, Transportation and Safety Officer. He is also the Wing Director of Information Technology. This multi-talented administrator has even found the time to mentor the squadron's award winning cyber-security team that has so successfully competed in the annual national CyberPatriot computer security competitions. There is no doubt the Big Sioux Composite Squadron will continue to grow and prosper under Capt. Hofer's leadership.



Capt. Shannon Hofer, the new commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings.

•On 3 April, First Lieutenant Kris Bierwirth became the new commander of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer. She assumed the position from the then Capt. (now Maj.) Sharon Moad who we all know has led the squadron with dedication and distinction. In addition to her duties as the commander this talented officer also serves as the unit's Assistant Activities Officer, Administrative Officer, Alerting Officer, Personnel Officer, Public Affairs Officer and Assistant Information Technologies Officer. As such Kris brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new position. I'm confident that she will do a great job as the new squadron commander.



Outgoing squadron commander, Capt. (now Maj.) Sharon Moad (L), presents the squadron guidon to new squadron commander Lt. Kris Bierwirth (R).

•On 28 June, over 30 CAP members and family attended the "Change of Command Party" where the then Capt. (now Maj.) David Small, Jr. passed the reigns of leadership of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish to Capt. William Collister. Members from Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, Rushmore Composite Squadron, Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and the Air Force Reserve were present. The squadron in Spearfish is one of our most active and participates in a broad variety of activities. It has received several well-deserved awards in the past four few years under Maj. Small. I expect many more good things to come in the future for the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron.



Capt. Bill Collister, new commander of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, trains on an HF radio.

Wing Staff Appointments

In addition to the changes in squadron command I am also pleased to report that for the year to date the following appointments to the Wing Staff have been made.

Col. Mike Beason – Wing Inspector General; Capt. Jerry Gabert - Wing Director of Communications
Capt. Collister - Wing Assistant Director of Communications; Capt. Sylvia Small - Wing Finance Officer;
Lt. David Stockinger – Wing Assistant Public Affairs Officer