



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for March 2015

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

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WING TIPS

HOT NEWS: A ceremony will be held to present a posthumous CAP Congressional Gold medal to the family of Earl Wilkenson. The ceremony will be at 9:00am on Wednesday, 8 April in the Dorr Room in the Surbeck Center on the SD School of Mines campus in Rapid City. U.S. Rep Kristi Noem will make the presentation to the family. There will be a reception afterwards.

HOT NEWS: The 2015 South Dakota Wing Conference is set for 17-19 April in Pierre. The host hotel is the Clubhouse Inn and Suites. The guest speaker for the banquet is U.S. representative Kristi Noem. In addition, she will present a posthumous CAP Congressional Gold medal to the family of John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr., father of Wing Chaplain Rae. You can register for the conference on Eventbrite or you can send a check to the Wing Administrator. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/south-dakota-cap-wing-conference-2015-tickets-15818974980>

- **CAP’S TEAM BIG SIOUX WINS SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL CYBERPATRIOT-VII:** The cadet cyber-security team of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron won second place in the national finals of the Air Force Association’s seventh annual CyberPatriot Competition held in Washington, D.C. from 11-15 March. In addition, they were the top Civil Air Patrol team in the competition.

The team from Brookings competed in the “All Service Division” national finals for the fourth year in a row against teams from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Junior ROTC programs, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Civil Air Patrol. In CyberPatriot-VII 1,007 teams competed in the All Services Division, 400 teams from CAP units. Only the top two teams from each organization in the All Services Division got to go to the national finals. “We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Big Sioux squadron in their pursuit of being the top team in the competition. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into preparation for this competition and to be the top Civil Air Patrol team in the nation is no easy feat.” Said Colonel John Seten, the Wing Commander of the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol.

In the national finals 28 teams, 13 from the All Service Division, competed to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The national finalists also faced off in four additional competition components: the Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge from the Digital Forensic Consortium, the Cisco Networking Challenge, the Leidos Digital Forensics Challenge and a Mobile Application Challenge hosted by AT&T. The teams were scored on how quickly and effectively they established and maintained secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen and C/TSgt Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN, who is the Big Sioux Composite Squadron commander as well as the South Dakota Wing's Director of Information Technology and Web Security Administrator and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

CyberPatriot VII began last October with more than 2,100 teams from all 50 states, Canada and Department of Defense dependent schools in Europe and the Pacific. After two months of rigorous online challenges, the Open Division and All Service Division teams were divided into three tiers: Platinum, Gold and Silver. Team Big Sioux was placed in the Platinum Tier. The teams continued to compete within their tiers for state awards and advancement to the regional/category round. Only teams in the top Platinum tier were eligible to advance to national finals competition.



TEAM BIG SIOUX AT CYBERPATRIOT-VII COMPETITION AWARDS CEREMONY (L-R) COL. LARRY RAGLAND, NHQ CHIEF OF STAFF, C/MAJ JOSHUA KLOSTERMAN, C/CMSGT JADEN PETERSEN, C/LT LAURA RUDNIK, C/LT CHRIS DINNEL, C/TSGT NATHANIEL FLEET

- **PIERRE SAREX**: SDWG conducted a Search and Rescue Exercise in Pierre 20-22 March. It focused on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staff to react to an emergency services situation. It tested their ability to plan, coordinate and conduct missions based on realistic training scenarios that mirror the CAP's real-world activity. Four of the Wing's aircraft, several vehicles and some 40 officers and cadets took part. A Mission Base was set up at the Mustang Aviation Facility at Pierre Regional Airport. The aircraft flew sorties

searching for a simulated crashed aircraft crash (ELT search) and carried out a photo survey of ice jams on the Missouri River south of Pierre. Three Ground Search Teams conducted similar training exercises.

SAREXs such as this give participants the opportunity to work with other SDWG units that don't often have the chance to train together with massed assets. For the Pierre SAREX there were participants from five squadrons present. In addition, there were two observers present from the CAP-USAF North Central Liaison Region, Lt. Col. Jeff Meyers and Mr. Greg Meyer, the Director and Assistant Director of Operations respectively. Lt. Col. Meyers complimented everyone for their training, communication and ability to self-critique at the after action review. The principal benefit of training such as this is teamwork; the coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was accomplished.

SDWG thanks Mustang Aviation of Pierre for use of their state of the art facility for the SAREX.



SAREX MISSION BASE STAFF



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on 5 days in March in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 21.7 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for one of the flights was Maj. Craig Goodrich, the rest were flown by Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied either by representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

- **COMMAND LIAISON:** On 5 March, Col. Seten, Lt. Col. Larson and Lt. Manny Steele flew to Pierre to meet senior state officials. They spoke with Mr. Todd Dravland, Chief Engineer of the SD State Radio System on the status of radio repeaters and to express SDWG's appreciation for the support we get from the state's Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. They also met with Ms. Tina Titze, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, to discuss ways CAP could help with the upcoming motorcycle rally in Sturgis and other ways SDWG. Finally, they spoke with the Trudy Wastweet, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, on how SDWG may be able to assist them with wildland fire spotting and other possible missions.

On 30 March, Col. Seten and Lt. Col. Larson returned to Pierre to meet Mr. Kelly Hepler, the new Secretary of Game, Fish and Parks and Mr. Lucas Lentsch, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.



COL. SETEN, LT. COL. LARSON AND MR. DRAVLAND



COL. SETEN, LT. STEELE AND MS. TITZE

- **CORSON OUT-OF-CONTROL BURN:** On 26 March, Col. Seten learned that what was supposed to have been a controlled burn of lumber from a dismantled grain elevator had gotten out of control and spread. Having decided to take photos of the fire from the air that SDWG would share with local responders he went to our hangar at the Sioux Falls airport and took one of the Wing's aircraft aloft. On landing he uploaded the photos and made them available to the local media. In addition, he sent the photos to all of the fire chiefs in Minnehaha County along with a note about the services SDWG can provide and how to task us in the event of need. Check out KELO's report: <http://kelo.com/news/articles/2015/mar/26/corson-grain-elevator-fire-close-highway-11/>



- **BOY SCOUT AVIATION MERIT BADGE EVENT:** On 7 March, Scott Wurzbarger, Aviation Merit Badge Counselor, brought five Boy Scouts from Wyoming and South Dakota with two leaders to Rapid City Regional Airport in conjunction with visiting Ellsworth AFB. The Scouts were present to work on their Aviation Merit Badge. SDWG's Lt. Col. Gary Hewett showed the group through the flight planning facilities at Westjet Air Center, described and demonstrated the preflight checks of a CAP Cessna-182T aircraft, and escorted them through the aircraft maintenance facility at L&D Aero. He also spoke about the origin of CAP and our missions. The scouts were also going to visit the Rapid City Regional Airport control tower. This merit badge event is held every year in early March so it is likely the Boy Scouts will want to coordinate this with us again.





BOY SCOUT AVIATION MERIT BADGE CANDIDATES AND THE THREE SCOUT LEADERS (IN UNIFORM, STRIPED SHIRT AND KNEELING)

- SDWG ON SDPB-TV:** 29 March was a special day for SDWG. That afternoon several members of the wing were interviewed on camera by a crew from South Dakota Public Broadcasting for the television program “*Dakota Life*”. Paul Ebsen, an associate producer from SDPB is very enthusiastic about CAP and interested in our Wing’s history. Wing Commander Col. John Seten addressed CAP’s aviation, missions, funding, and history. Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Rae, dressed in WWII-era CAP uniform, addressed CAP’s WWII history and current cadet programs. He also built a large scale replica of a J-3 that CAP used during its wartime sub-chasing missions that he brought to display. In addition, Chaplain Rae spoke about his dad, John "Jack" Rae, who was a WWII era CAP member in Pennsylvania and who will posthumously receive a Congressional Gold Medal from Rep. Kristi Noem at the wing conference in April. Capt. Neil Schmid, of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron also addressed aviation and CAP operations. Wing Historian and Government Relations Advisor Maj. Todd Epp who arranged and coordinated the event also spoke about the history of the CAP and of the South Dakota Wing. The Sioux Falls based Cessna-172 and “glass cockpit” Cessna-182 were in the hangar for filming. Later Maj. Todd Epp commented, “This is a great opportunity for the Wing to get some excellent exposure and celebrate what we have done and what we do.” The segment SDPB shot in Sioux Falls is scheduled to air on *Dakota Life* at 8 p.m. CT Thursday on SDPB-1. It will also be available online at sdpb.org.



COLONEL SETEN



CHAPLAIN (LIEUTENANT COLONEL) RAE



CAPTAIN SCHMID

- **NEW OVERSEAS CAP SQUADRON:** In March a new CAP squadron was activated at the U.S. Air Base at RAF Mildenhall in England. SMSgt Sharreen Taylor, of USAF'S 100th Operations Support Squadron, was appointed to the grade of CAP First Lieutenant and assumed command of the unit. "The focus for our cadets is aerospace education, along with leadership, character building and physical training," Taylor said. "We will also provide some training on ground search and rescue qualifications for the cadets, so that when they go back to the states and join whatever unit they go to they will already be trained and qualified in some of those things."

- **24TH AIR FORCE BOSS CITES VALUE OF CYBERPATRIOT:** [Edited] Maj. Gen. Burke Wilson, the commander of 24th Air Force, extolled the value of the Air force Association's CyberPatriot program during testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on 4 March, saying the program helps students develop skills needed to become part of the future cyber security force. He highlighted the CyberPatriot-VII National Finals competition as an example. The event, sponsored by the AFA and supported by several industry partners, "as well as cyber professionals from the Air Force," seeks "to encourage students to pursue cybersecurity and other STEM careers," said Burke. This year's competition involved over 2,100 teams with more than 10,000 students from the US, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Defense Department schools overseas.

Article by Otto Kreisher. Source: Air Force Magazine Daily Report for Friday, 6 March 2015.

- **POWDER RIVER AIR TRAINING COMPLEX EXPANSION APPROVED:** The FAA approved USAF's plan to expand the Powder River Training Complex to create the continental US' largest training airspace by year's end. "After nearly nine years working with the Air Force on this important expansion project, we're not only going to see savings to the tune of \$23 million a year at Ellsworth [AFB, S.D.], but we're also going to offer better training opportunities to our airmen," said Sen. Jon Thune (S.D.), who pushed the project. Powder River will expand to 35,000 square miles—nearly four times its current size—spanning the Dakotas, Montana, and Wyoming. The expanded range will give B-1s from Ellsworth and B-52s from Minot AFB, N.D., training venues close to home, saving time, fuel, and wear and tear on aircraft commuting to and from distant ranges. Powder River will be divided into high, medium, and low-altitude sectors, with provision for 10 days of large-force exercise annually.

Source: Air Force Magazine Daily Report for Friday, 27 March 2015.

STAFF NOTES



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. David Small, Jr., CAP

- Many of you may not be aware that the South Dakota Wing has a YouTube channel. Col. Seten has put a short video on how to put fuel receipts into WMIRS. More useful clips will be added on other CAP Wing topics. If you subscribe to the channel you will automatically notified of new material. Please put it on your watch list: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ-80IRIhiOThw4IYBo89Q>

You are going miss out on valuable wing info if you do not subscribe to the wing Twitter and Facebook page. When new videos are put on YouTube it will be announced on Facebook and Twitter, not by email.

Facebook Public: <http://www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP>

Facebook Members Only: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/269415949470/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SDWingCAP>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ-80IRIhiOThw4IYBo89Q>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/102270464@N02/sets>



WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Lt. Col. Rodney "Buck" DeWeese, CAP

- **OPERATION "JOINT EFFORT"**: Calling all Team Builders! Let's stop talking about FLYING airplanes. Let's actually BUILD one for a change! That's right. A plastic model Cessna 172 or 182 has been delivered to each squadron for a "JOINT EFFORT" between Senior Members and Cadets to see who can build the best of the best. The finished aircraft must be delivered to Wing Conference on Saturday, 18 April for judging by Wing Staff and a "SPECIAL" guest judge who shall remain nameless at this point. There no losers in this competition because each unit gets to proudly display their "teamwork" in their home Squadron. The top 3 finishers get to choose from a Remote Piloted Vehicle with camera, a Remote Controlled Aircraft, and a Rocket with launcher. So let's get out your utility tools, glue and paint brushes get started. Show us what you can do together as a team. Deadline is only 3 weeks away!

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

(See item in Promotions Section under Cadet Officer Promotion)

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items and photos by Lt. K. Bierwirth)



- **CUSTER TRADE SHOW**: Squadron members served as welcoming/greeters at the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Trade Show on 7 March at Custer High School. The show hosted a variety of exhibitors ranging from financial services and building materials to jewelry and artwork. Some of the visitors were interested in learning more about CAP and others congratulated us for great efforts that they read about in the paper. In the photo are C/Lt. Jason Parry and Capt. Richard Geeting.

- **DEVIL'S GULCH**: C/Lt Jason Parry was involved in the Custer Area Arts Council dinner theater "The Legend of Devil's Gulch" in the role of Cowboy Rick. Many squadron members were in attendance. Jason has had substantial experience on the stage in a variety of roles.

- **DESTINATION IMAGINATION**: Cadet Hunter Rice travelled to Huron to compete in the Destination Imagination (DI) competition. If his team wins they will compete in the Global Finals in Tennessee. DI is an educational non-profit organization that teaches 21st century skills and STEM principles to students through creative and collaborative problem solving challenges. Teams work to develop a solution to one of seven open-ended challenges and present their solutions at tournaments. At a tournament teams solve two types of Challenges: Team and Instant. Teams perform their challenge solutions to a group of Appraisers. DI teams that advance past tournaments are invited to the Global Finals, the culminating event of the DI season - the world's largest celebration of creativity. Good luck Cadet Rice!

- **NEW MEMBER**: Welcome aboard to Jon Larcher our newest cadet! We are pleased you decided to join CAP and proud that you are in our squadron.



CPR CLASS: On 12 March the squadron hosted a CPR class for the community. Eight squadron members and one civilian certified in the technique. Aaron Bostel from Regional Health taught the class.

In the photo Cadet Hunter Rice (left) and C/A1C Anthony Dillon (right) practice their newly learned skill on a training device.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Items by Lt. Col. Hopewell, photos by Capt. Collister)

- **COLOR GUARD PERFORMANCE:** A cadet Color Guard helped kick off the annual convention of the Fraternal Services National Mutual Benefit. On 28 February, Spearfish cadets posted and guarded the colors at The Lodge in Deadwood where NMB held its gathering. C/CMSgt Justin Harris, C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/MSgt Austin Rauscher and C/SSgt Peter Iverson made up the Color Guard while C/CMSgt Connor Caneva added his expertise in inspection and coaching of the posting party. Senior Members Capt. Bill Collister and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese added to CAP's presence. This was a repeat performance for the Color Guard as they have performed for the group at their conferences in the past. The professionalism of the Color Guard in the past was in the minds of the organizers as they planned this meeting.



brochures. The display attracted a number of inquiries about CAP from adult guests, many accompanied by cadet-age-eligible relatives.

- **CAP BOOTH AT SPEARFISH HOME SHOW:** On the weekend of 7/8 March the Optimist Club-sponsored Home Show and Health Fair was held at Black Hills State University in Spearfish. In the huge Young Center Field House, flanked by trade representatives and vendors, and civic groups, the squadron staffed an information booth for the erudition of the thousands of attendees. Spearheading the undertaking was Capt. Bill Collister with Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and Lt. Col. Jim Hopewell furnishing support and adjunct staffing. Multimedia displays, model rockets and aircraft, and static displays of R/C UAV's bedecked the booth, along with printed informational

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38, PIERRE)

(Item and photo by Lt. Col. Gatje)



- **OPERATION JOINT EFFORT:** Cadets and seniors began work on "Operation Joint Effort", the Wing's model aircraft building competition. The team worked on the model during a meeting and will continue to do so at meetings and outside of them. The glue, paint, paint brushes and other tools were collected from members to get the project under way. Judging of each squadron's aircraft will be at the Wing Conference. Everyone is hopeful of building the winning entry and winning one of the cool prizes.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item submitted by Maj. Goodrich)



- **KIWANIS PANCAKE FUNDRAISER:** Members of the squadron provided support to the local chapter of the Kiwanis International at their pancake breakfast fundraising event Sunday, 15 March. We helped with general duties, served juice, bussed tables and helped with clean up at the VFW facility in downtown Rapid City. The Kiwanis has traditionally been a great supporter of CAP programs. Squadron Commander Maj. Goodrich commented, “We just wanted to show our gratitude to the Kiwanis Club for all their support to us in the past.”

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

(Items Capt. Erickson, Capt. West, photos by SDANG/PAO)

- **KINGSWOOD FUNDRAISER:** On Saturday, the 14th of March, in a fund-raising event, members of the squadron caravanned to the west side of Sioux Falls to deliver Kingswood Rummage Sale packets. On arrival we picked up 1,800 packets and distributed them to each door in the assigned neighborhoods within a four hour period. The Kingswood Rummage Sale is the largest organized rummage sale in South Dakota. Each year this four-day event is held in April. Some 300-350 rummage sales are held in Kingswood area homes in this event. The squadron receives a donation from the Kingswood Rummage Committee for delivering the packets



- **AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE TOUR:** On 19 March, the squadron arranged a special tour of Joe Foss Field, the SD Air National Guard Base, the F16s and to view the fighters taking off on night sorties. As no personal vehicles are allowed on-base we drove over in CAP vans.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Cadet Officer Promotion



Congratulations to Joshua Klosterman of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and receipt of the milestone Ira Eaker award! The Eaker Award marks the final level of Phase IV – The Executive Phase of the Cadet Program. It takes a tremendous amount of time, energy, enthusiasm and dedication to reach this milestone.



Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Blake Hayden of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Julia Lair of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to Graham Dinnel of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Kyle Clement of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Dylan Purkapile of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to Johnathan Busch of Rushmore Composite Squadron on their promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★

- C/Lt Jason Parry of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron was presented with the Air Force Association Award for Outstanding Cadet by USAF 1st Sgt Scott Marsich (Ret.). C/Lt Parry was also presented the Air Force Sergeants Award for Outstanding Cadet by USAF MSgt Christina McCormick.



C/LT PARRY AND FIRST SERGEANT MARSICH



C/LT PARRY AND MSGT MCCORMICK



C/LT PARRY, MOM AND DAD



Congratulations to Lt. Lisa Swanson of the Rushmore Composite Squadron for completion of Level II of CAP's Senior Member Professional Development Program! In recognition thereof she has received the Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Award!



- On 20 March, C/Maj Brandon West, supervised by Lt. Col. Greg Lair, successfully completed his initial check ride in a CAP Cessna-172. According to CAPR 60-1, *CAP Flight Management*, para 3-1, a successfully completed Flight Evaluation denotes qualification to fly a particular model of CAP aircraft. The check ride consists of ground and flight evaluations. Brandon is now qualified to fly a CAP Cessna-172 alone or take up senior members. Further laurels - he successfully checked out in a CAP Cessna-182 about eight months ago.



LT. COL. LAIR CONGRATULATES C/MAJ WEST FOLLOWING HIS CHECK RIDE IN A CAP CESSNA-172

★ ★ AVIATION MILESTONE ★ ★

CIVIL AIR PATROL PILOT HITS AVIATION MILESTONE:

CAP pilot Lt. Col. Greg Lair, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, achieved a significant aviation milestone. In his day job, he is USAF Col. Lair, Operations Group Commander of the 114th Fighter Wing of the SDANG.

On 11 March he and USAF Lt. Col. Eric Knutson, completed 3,000 career flight hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon when they landed after a training sortie at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. Upon landing they were met by family members, friends and SDANG colleagues who congratulated them. Firefighters from the 114th Fighter Wing gave the pilots a traditional “wetting down” by spraying them with water from their fire trucks.

According to the Public Affairs Office of the 114th Fighter Wing, so far only 260 military pilots have reached 3,000 flying hours in the F-16 fighter jet. In addition to Col. Lair and Lt. Col. Knutson, the commander of the 175th Fighter Squadron, Lt. Col. Todd Sheridan, is the only other current member of the SDANG to have reached this milestone.

“The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is honored to have Lt. Col. Lair as a member. His experience as an Air Force pilot is of great value to our organization.” said Colonel John Seten the Wing Commander for the SD Civil Air Patrol.

When not on duty with the South Dakota Air National Guard or flying for the Civil Air Patrol, Greg Lair is a pilot for United Airlines. USAF Lt. Col. Eric Knutson is Chief of Safety at the SDANG 114th Fighter Wing.



USAF LT. COL. ERIC KNUTSON (LEFT) AND USAF COL. (CAP LT. COL.) GREG LAIR (RIGHT) CONGRATULATE EACH OTHER AFTER LANDING

