



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for June 2015

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

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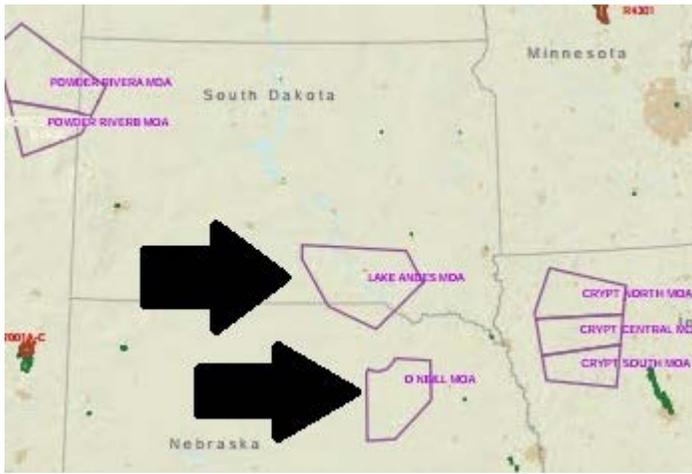
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WING TIPS

- **CGM PRESENTATION CEREMONY:** On 29 June, South Dakota U.S. Senator Mike Rounds presented a CAP Congressional Gold Medal to the family of the late Vernon Jeffries of Rapid City who was a pilot for the Civil Air Patrol during WWII. After the presentation Dave Jeffries, Vernon’s son, commented, "For many years, the CAP pilots of WWII, the whole air crew, the whole operation of WWII, was kind of buried in history. When it was happening, many people knew about it. After the war, many people forgot." Vernon Jeffries flew small single-engine, fabric covered aircraft off the coast of New Jersey during the war, trying to spot German U-Boats. They were civilian volunteers flying dangerous missions with the CAP. Also in attendance were the South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel John Seten and Vice Commander Lt. Col. Richard Larson as well as many other SD Wing members.



SENATOR ROUNDS (RIGHT) PRESENTS THE CGM TO DAVE JEFFRIES (LEFT), SON OF THE LATE WWII CAP VETERAN VERNON JEFFRIES



- **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEYS:** Each year the South Dakota Air National Guard requests SDWG carry out low-level route surveys (LLRS) of selected military aerial training routes and of aerial Military Operations Areas (MOA). These military air training routes cover southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska leading to and from the O'Neill and Lake Andes MOAs. The purpose of these sorties is to search for uncharted hazards such as antenna towers, changes to charted towers, and noise sensitive areas - stock pens/feedlots; areas to be avoided by low-flying military pilots. There are a vast number of them between Sioux City and Omaha.

Over the course of three days in June, SDWG flew six sorties for a total of 19 flight hours. A marathon LLRS was flown covering the Lake Andes MOA. The mission lasted eight hours and two new targets were observed. The aircrew consisted of Col. Greg Lair (Mission Pilot), C/Maj Brandon West (Mission Observer), and Capt. Karla West (Mission Scanner/Photographer). Wing Commander Col. John Seten (Mission Pilot), Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson (Mission Observer) and SM Kevin Kayser (Mission Scanner photographer) also flew a route that went from Iowa into Nebraska. When landing for fuel the aircrew was able to visit the powered flight academy that was taking place in Fremont, Ne.

When SDWG flies a LLRS, a command post is set up for C³ support for the aircraft. SDWG Capt. Neil Schmid serves as Incident Commander. Sioux Falls Composite Squadron's Lt. Jerry Hayden is this year's Operations Section Chief and Capt. Matt Meert is the Planning Coordinator.



PILOT CAPT. NEIL SCHMID (RIGHT), OBSERVER MAJ. E.W. FILLER (LEFT), AND SCANNER TRAINEE LT. MANY STEELE (CENTER) ON A LLRS MISSION ON A FLIGHT ROUTE IN NORTHEASTERN NEBRASKA DISCOVERED A MESSAGE, POSSIBLY FOR UFOS.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew nine aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over seven days in June 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 28.4 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. Two of the sorties were flown by Col. Mike Beason, three by Capt. Albert Trumble and four by Maj. Craig Goodrich. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

- **AFA CHAPTER MEETING:** On 25 June, Maj. Todd Epp attended the meeting of the Sioux Falls Chapter of the Air Force Association held at the Air National Guard base at Joe Foss Field. Keynote speaker was Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison, South Dakota Assistant Adjutant General for Air. He spoke about upgrades to the F-16 aircraft currently flown by the SDANG and about the possible posting of the new F-35 aircraft in Sioux Falls. The Sioux Falls AFA Chapter is looking to become more active. They are assisting with the 2016 Sioux Falls Air Show. Brig. Gen. Ron Mielke, one of the leaders of the AFA in Sioux Falls, has been a great friend to the

Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to SDWG. The meeting was attended by staff from all three congress-people, representatives of the air show, and a number of officers and enlisted members of the SDANG. Maj. Epp will try to get out a notice for the AFA Chapter's next meeting.

- **AOPA FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Foundation would like to inform you of two flight training scholarship opportunities:

1. Flight Training Scholarships: In an effort to support outstanding student pilots, the AOPA Foundation will award 25 scholarships, ranging from \$2,500 to \$12,000, in 2015. These scholarships are meant for student pilots that have not yet completed their FAA checkride and do not hold a pilot certificate of any type. Scholarships are available for student pilots at least 16 years old. Applications are due 9 August and winners will be announced on 2 October. Scholarship details/online application - <http://flighttraining.aopa.org/ftscholarship.html>. A printable flyer to post or hand out - http://download.aopa.org/images/benefits/2015_FT_scholarship_flyer.pdf.

2. Grants to nonprofits that fund flight training scholarships: Nonprofit organizations seeking to offer flight training scholarships to aspiring aviators can receive funding for the scholarships through AOPA Foundation's new grant program. The deadline to apply for one of two \$5,000 grants is 24 July. Eligibility requirements and instructions for applying can be found online at <http://flighttraining.aopa.org/ftscholarship.html>

If you have any questions about the flight training scholarships or the grants for nonprofits please email FTscholarship@aopa.org or call Kristi Stilen-Lare at 301.695.2037.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. John Seten, CAP

Please join me in congratulating Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, SDWG's Director of Cadet Programs, Drug Demand Reduction Administrator, and Health Programs Officer, who has been selected as the 2015 Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year!



Lt. Col. Buechler

In his congratulatory letter to her National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez wrote: Congratulations! I am happy to inform you of your selection as 2015 Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year. As the Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year you will be honored by CAP at the upcoming National Conference in Orlando, Florida, August 27-29, 2015. I am confident you will continue to provide outstanding service to Civil Air Patrol and to the United States of America.



WING SAFETY OFFICER

Lt. Col. Mark Huntington, CAP

Some significant changes are being made to CAP's safety policy. In a nutshell: **monthly safety education is still mandatory for all members of the Civil Air Patrol.** However, effective 26 June all references to safety

“currency” were removed from CAPR 62-1, *CAP Safety Responsibilities and Procedures*. "Currency" will no longer be checked and will not prevent participation in missions. Several changes will also go into effect in eServices, primarily removing the checks for safety “currency” and the barriers to mission participation for those previously considered “noncurrent.”



WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

- **NATIONAL CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND**: National Character Development Weekend is September, 2015. Commanders please check with your cadets and seniors - possible dates would be September 11-13 or September 25-27. One possible location is Pierre at the Community Bible Church but I'm open to other suggestions. I will need to procure the location so the sooner the better in knowing date and location.
 - **RED RIBBON WEEK**: Don't forget Red Ribbon week in October. Squadrons, this is a great time to hold an open house as some churches and organizations are doing "Trick or Treat". If you need any materials or help, please do not hesitate to let me know.
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WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. David Small, Jr., CAP

The 2015 Wing Cadet Advisory Council is reaching the end of its term and the new 2016 CAC is being formed. The current term ends at the end of July and the new CAC is effective on 1 August.

First off I'd like to thank the outgoing CAC for its participation during the past year. The CAC planned and executed a Cadet Leadership School in Pierre in February and a color guard training activity in Sioux Falls in June. The CAC met regularly and discussed many cadet-related topics.

The 2015 CAC was chaired by C/Capt Nicole Schneider. Other primary members were Cadets Jaden Petersen, Jason Parry, Hannah Becker, Errol Kelly, Nicholas Nash and Jared Doyle. Assistants were Cadets Chris Dinnel, Thomas Dillon, Silas Busch, Steven Diaconu and Justin Harris. The South Dakota Wing was represented at the North Central Region by Cadet Joshua Klosterman, assisted by Cadet Silas Busch.

The incoming, 2016 CAC is chaired by C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman. The vice chair is C/CMSgt Blake Hayden. Representing Brookings is C/CMSgt Matias Kowang assisted by C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen. Custer is represented by C/SMSgt Thomas Dillon assisted by C/Lt Jason Parry. From Pierre is C/MSgt Hannah Becker. Rushmore nominated C/SrA Nicholas Kochutin and C/A1C Tyler Eberle. Sioux Falls is represented by C/Lt Nicholas Nash and C/CMSgt Steven Diaconu. Spearfish is represented by C/TSgt Peter Iverson and C/MSgt Austin Rauscher.

C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman, assisted by C/CMSgt Blake Hayden, will represent the South Dakota Wing on the NCR CAC. Klosterman has also been named as assistant NCR representative to the National CAC.

The South Dakota Wing can expect great input from this group of very talented and energetic cadets.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

(Item and photos submitted by Maj. Filler)

- **ELKTON HARVEST FESTIVAL**: On 16 June, the squadron's Color Guard marched in the Elkton Harvest Festival. The event consisted of a parade, a carnival and the Miss Elkton pageant. The cadets looked sharp and performed flawlessly. Many favorable comments were overheard about our presence at the event.



CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items by Lt. K. Bierwirth, photos by Kathy Dill)

- **ANNIVERSARY**: As of June 2015, Crazy Horse Composite Squadron has been serving the southern Black Hills area for 20 years. Squadron members paused to pose for a photo of this historic occasion. The squadron received its charter on 6 June 1995.



BACK ROW C/MSGT THOMAS DILLON, SM TIM MODDE, C/AMN JON LARCHER, CAPT. JAMES DILLON. FRONT ROW: CAPT. VICKI BIERWIRTH, LT. KRIS BIERWIRTH, C/SRA ANTHONY DILLON, C/AMN HUNTER RICE, C/LT JASON PARRY

- **FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY**: Our squadron assisted the Custer VFW with a flag folding ceremony on Custer's main street. The flag was taken down as the flag pole is being moved from the middle of the street to a new Veteran's Memorial currently under construction.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Items and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Hopewell and Capt. Collister)

- **MICKELSON TRAIL MARATHON:** The annual Black Hills marathon, run along the Mickelson Trail, was held on 7 June. Once again cadets and seniors from the squadron attended to the runners by distributing water, sports drinks and fruit and, to some, Vaseline to treat underarm chafing. Four runners were transported with minor maladies back to the race finish line. Mother Nature provided beautiful weather for the marathon. At mile marker 20 (of the 26.2 mile marathon) the members of LMCS earned the appreciation of the over 3,000 participants and thanks from the sponsors of the race. Cadets having a hand in the community service enterprise were C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/CMSgt Connor Caneva, C/MSgt Keyvin Rauscher, C/SSgt Peter Iverson, CB Jerry Fahrenbruck and CB George Fahrenbruck. Seniors participating were Capt. Bill Collister, Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and Capt. Brandon Caneva.



PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

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

- **ST. JOSEPH INDIAN SCHOOL VISIT:** Squadron members Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Capt. Richard Helton met with students at the St. Joseph Indian School (SJIS) in Chamberlain in June. SJIS occasionally holds a Field Day, this time it was at the Chamberlain airport. Students visited the mechanics' shop with some aircraft being serviced. Then they visited hangers with larger aircraft so they could get a wider perspective. A CAP Cessna-172 was flown to Chamberlain and displayed on the tarmac. Students tried on the headset, asked about portions of the instrument panel, about antennas on the outside of the aircraft, and other items of interest to them. Eleven students attended the presentation along with three adult helpers. Materials were provided for each of them to make a pencil rocket to demonstrate aerodynamic principles explained by Lt. Col. Christensen and Capt. Helton. This was an excellent meet and greet with the students and staff of SJIS. CAP was promoted to the students, staff and some area residents. The students reported having a great time looking at the airplanes and learning a bit about them.



RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Items by Maj. Goodrich and Lt. Kuecker, photos by Lt. Kuecker)

- **NEW MEETING NIGHT**: Effective 2 July, the new squadron weekly meeting night is on Thursdays. We invite everyone who would like to visit us to come by on our new meeting night.
- **G1000 TRAINING**: Maj. Craig Goodrich provided two days of G1000 training at the Wing HQ building on the 18th and 19th of July. Five pilots attended.
- **FAMILY FUN NIGHT**: Our family fun night was on 29 June at Sheridan Lake. We were pleased to have had special guests attend – Col. Seten, Lt. Col. Larson, Maj. David Small, Capt. Sylvia Small, and Lt. Manny Steele. The cadets were brave enough to jump into the cold water from SM Doug Robbins’ boat, while the wimpy parents watched. We got to practice waterborne rescue skills as Maj. Goodrich had a boat full of cadets on the lake when his motor went out. The cadets were making progress with paddles, but then Lt. Kuecker and her husband cruised by on their jetski. Rapidly assessing the situation (with ORM of course!) they decided to be nice and towed the boat to shore. Rescue done! It was a great evening out with food, fun and sun.
- **OPEN HOUSE AT KRAP**: On, June 20, Rapid City Regional Airport had an Open House. The squadron worked hard along with other members from Custer and Spearfish to provide crowd control and parking detail for the day. We also helped set up/take down the event barricades. Although busy, we still managed to recruit two new members and share CAP with many others. Lt. Jack Jensen and SM Jordan Tremblay had our aircraft on static display. Our squadron provided nine members participating, Crazy Horse had five, and Lookout Mountain had two. It was a great team effort.



PROMOTIONS

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations to Jeffrey Dill of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his permanent appointment as a CAP Lieutenant Colonel! His retired USAF rank has been accepted by the North Central Region.

Cadet Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Tyler Gross of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Major! In addition, C/Maj Gross has been appointed to his squadron’s cadet staff as Operations Officer.



Congratulations to Nicholas Nash of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant! In addition, C/Lt Nash has been appointed to his squadron's cadet staff as Administrative Officer.



Congratulations to Levi Woodard of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Steven Diaconu 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 Nathaniel Fleet of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Julia Lair of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Kyle Clement of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, to Andrew Toft of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Peter Iverson of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Robert Boecker of 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 Christopher Schuppan and Taylor Umland-Moyer, both of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



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



Congratulations to Mark Sweebe of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!



KUDOS



Congratulations to Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron who has completed Level V of the Senior Member Professional Development Program!



Congratulations to C/Maj Brandon West of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, the Wing's newest Transport Mission Pilot (TMP)! To become a TMP, Cadet West had to accrue 100 hours as Pilot-in-Command and 50 cross country flight hours. As a TMP, he will be able to transport senior members to conferences, meetings, and SAREX's and be able to fly the airborne repeater missions.



Congratulations to SM Carl Lustywallis of Rushmore Composite Squadron on completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program! In addition, he has been appointed the squadron's Assistant Aerospace Education Officer.



Congratulations to Capt. Jordan Tremblay of Rushmore Composite Squadron who has been appointed as the squadron's Vehicle Officer.

TAPS

The cadets of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron derive pleasure and pride in their interactions with various community activities. Less often, but significantly, they have been called upon to participate in more solemn roles. Such was the case with the internment of CAP Lt. Col. Keith Collins at the Black Hills National Cemetery.

Lt. Col. Keith Collins was one of the key figures in the founding of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in the West River area in 1987. He served the squadron for many years and, while not the very first, was one of the early squadron commanders there. Civil Air Patrol and LMCS was a very important part of his life.

After Keith passed away several months ago his wife, Lorraine, in planning the memorial service for internment of his ashes, specifically requested LMCS cadets present a flag line in his honor at the ceremony. As Keith was a veteran, military honors would have been accorded him at the Black Hills Cemetery. However, as CAP was such a large part of his life Lorraine asked that only a CAP Honor Guard be posted at the internment service.

The cadets were honored to fulfill her request on Monday, 8 June. Two impressive flag lines of four cadets each greeted the guests at the entrance to the chapel at the Black Hills National Cemetery. After all were gathered, they marched inside to flank the assembly during the service. They preceded the guests out and flanked them as they exited the chapel.

The cadets comprising the CAP entourage were Cadet Commander C/Lt Bradley Blansett, C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/CMSgt Justin Harris, C/CMSgt Connor Caneva, C/SMSgt Ryan Harris, C/MSgt Austin Raucher, C/MSgt Keyvin Raucher, and C/SSgt Peter Iverson. Anchoring each of the flag lines were Capt. Bill Collister, and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese.

