



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for July 2015

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

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WING TIPS



- **CAP CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONIES:**

Governor Dennis Daugaard will present World War II era CAP members Pauline Brehe and Lois Schmidt their Congressional Gold Medals at 1330 on Monday, 24 August, at the governor's office at the Capitol in Pierre. Lois and Pauline were founding members of the Pierre Composite Squadron and among the first women in not just South Dakota but the United States to become CAP members. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Maj. Todd Epp (todd.epp@sdcap.us) by 1700 CT, 20 August. Maj.

Epp needs to let the Governor's staff know how many will be in attendance. There will be a news crew from Pierre station KGFX covering the event.



- The 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment was held from 10-19 July at Camp Rapid, SD. This year's encampment logo bears the motto "*Omnia Vincit Animus*" (Courage Conquers All). The theme for the encampment was "Cadet Leadership". Under the supervision of Encampment Commander Maj. Nick Gengler and his staff of senior members, the cadet staff, from Cadet Commander down to the Flight Sergeants and supernumeraries, planned and conducted the encampment. Cadets leading and teaching cadets. Military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, physical fitness, small arms marksmanship, night field training maneuvers, obstacle course and leadership confidence course, and training on the skills and techniques of leadership were just some of the activities at the encampment. Attendance at an encampment qualifies cadets to participate in more advanced summer opportunities such as flight academies. Of

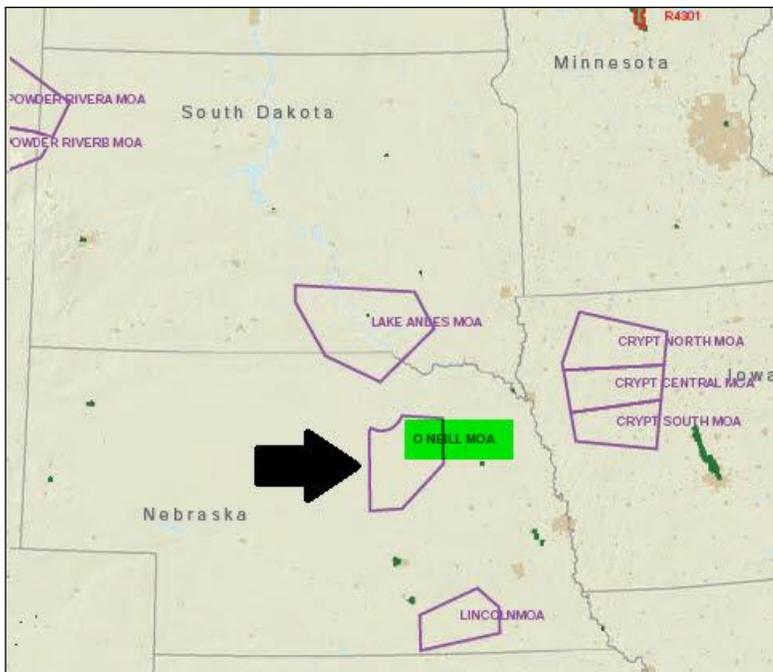
course, this year's general encampment attendees will have the opportunity to return next year, this time as cadet staff/instructors.

Maj. Gengler reports 81 members attended the encampment: 22 Senior Members (3 NDWG and 19 SDWG), and 59 cadets (16 NDWG, 1 each from MOWG, IDWG, MNWG, and 40 SDWG). Two of the highlights of the encampment was the tour of the SDANG Helicopters at the Army Aviation Support Facility at the Rapid City Regional Airport and the Air and Space Museum outside Ellsworth AFB. The cadets did some great team building exercises at the Leadership Reaction Courses at Camp Rapid West. We also got to see live training of the Officer Basic Course going on at Camp Rapid West for NCOs that the Army National Guard selected to train as Officers. To wrap it all up we had a big banquet at the end at Ellsworth AFB. We had 20 guests show up to view the graduation of cadets. Overall it was a successful Encampment and everyone had a great time.

Wing Commander Col. John Seten and Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Richard Larson travelled to Camp Rapid for a briefing on Encampment operations and to meet and speak with the staff and participants.



COL. SETEN SPEAKS WITH STAFF (LEFT), LT. COL. LARSON SPEAKS WITH ATTENDEES (RIGHT)



- **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 MOA. The task is to search for uncharted hazards to low-flying military pilots such as antenna towers, changes to charted towers, and to locate noise sensitive areas - stock pens/feedlots of which there are a vast number between Sioux City and Omaha.

Over six days in July, SDWG aircrews flew fourteen sorties for a total of 41.4 flight hours.

On 29 July, a crew of Capt. Neil Schmid (Mission Pilot), SM Kevin Kayser (Mission Scanner), and Capt. Jerry Zurovski (Mission Observer) flew the final two LLRS sorties for this year. The initial 3.5 hour sortie was flying over the south half of the O’Neill MOA. The crew landed for fuel and a much needed rest stop at the airport in Norfolk, Nebraska.



Pictured here, the three aircrew members stand next to the airport's courtesy car for use by visitors. Fortunately for us, in the building is an excellent restaurant with an unbelievable \$9.00 hamburger, so driving off-airport wasn't necessary. Following lunch the intrepid SDWG air crew completed the final three-hour LLRS sortie of the year without any weather issues, which is rare at this time of the year.

When SDWG flew a LLRS, a command post is set up for C³ support for the aircraft. SDWG Capt. Neil Schmid served as Incident Commander. Sioux Falls Composite Squadron's Lt. Jerry Hayden

was this year's Operations Section Chief and Capt. Matt Meert was the Planning Coordinator.

Wing Commander Col. John Seten commended all of people involved, "The annual Low-Level Route Survey Mission is a very important one for the safety of military pilots training in the area. We are pleased and proud that the South Dakota Air National Guard entrusts this critical mission to us. All of our volunteer CAP aircrew members are to be commended for their dedication and professionalism in carrying out this mission."



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew nine aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over seven days in July 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 32.6 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for three of the sorties was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett; two sorties were flown by Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, and four sorties by Lt. Col. Albert Trumble. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks. The photo shows a mountain lion with a radio-telemetry collar.

- **LT. COL. MCKENNEY DEPLOYS TO PEORIA**: SDWG's Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney deployed to Peoria, IL, on 20 July to assist the Red Cross. "They had a little bit of everything; flooding, tornadoes and more rain," she said. The bad weather, tornadoes, torrential rain, flooding, started in June and has been ongoing. In Peoria she'll handle government liaison work with the Red Cross. Previously, she has handled "mass care" - making sure the various Red Cross shelters have enough personnel, supplies and equipment. She had just left the 2015 Joint Dakotas Encampment when the Red Cross called asking her if she would be willing to deploy. Lt. Col. McKenney is frequently called on to deploy for weeks at a time when disaster strikes. Earlier this year, she was sent to Corpus Christi, Texas, for three weeks when flooding hit the state. [**Update**: Lt. Col. McKenney is back home safe and sound.]

Source: The Capitol Journal. Posted: Monday, July 20, 2015 10:25 pm/Updated: 10:31 pm, Mon Jul 20, 2015.

http://www.capjournal.com/news/pierre-volunteer-assists-with-disaster-efforts-in-illinois/article_312fed66-2f58-11e5-bb3c-b70044e321.html

- **ELLSWORTH AIRMEN DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN**: 350 airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base are deploying to southwest Asia to provide support to forces in Afghanistan. A portion of the 28th Bomb Wing's B-1 bomber fleet shipped out from the base in western South Dakota on 24 July. The airmen are going to provide air support and presence over Afghanistan. Officials say they'll also conduct a variety of tasks to provide critical battlefield support and long-range strike capabilities. The deployment is expected to last six months.

Source: Argus Leader, Sunday, 26 July 2015, Page 3A.

STAFF NOTES



WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND

TUBING DOWN THE NIOBRARA RIVER 11-13 SEPTEMBER 2015

Squadrons - please send names of all seniors and cadets planning to attend this activity to Lt. Col. Linda Buechler no later than August 28, 2015. We need a list of names for tube reservations. There is a \$30.00 tube rental per person. Either make payment via Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/niobrara-rafting-tickets-17975232404> (there is a service fee for Eventbrite) or send the \$30.00 to SD Wing HQ, 4275 Airport Road, Suite A, Rapid City, SD 57703. **Deadline for fee and names of persons attending is August 28, 2015. No additions after this date.**

Please bring enough coolers for your squadron to hold water for your members to prevent dehydration, or, tube coolers rent for \$10 each at the activity. Payment for coolers rented must also be remitted by the August 28 deadline. NO SODA ALLOWED ON THE TUBING ACTIVITY itself. Wing will be providing the meals for Saturday.

We will be bivouacking at Stormy's in downtown (Main Street) Winner. It is suggested squadrons arrive on Friday evening (even late in the evening). There are no showers available at this facility. Bring sleeping bags, etc. as you would for a SAREX. We will leave early Saturday morning - it is a 1 hour drive to the site. From our pickup site, they will transport us by bus to the drop off point where they will have all the requested tubes waiting. **Very Important - There Are No Last Minute Adds For Additional Tubes.** This will be a six-seven hour tubing experience. Life jackets are provided with the tube. We will be stopping throughout the activity for lunch, waterfall, etc.

Suggested wear for Saturday is either black or blue shorts and black t-shirts. Bring sunscreen, bug repellent, towel (optional), water camera, etc. Please wear footwear - suggested is water shoes or water sandals, **no flip flops footwear.**

We have food from encampment for meals - hamburgers, etc., available on Friday evening. You will need to pay for your own breakfast on Sunday morning as you leave for home. Planning is to provide meals for Saturday - more on this later. There is no cost for the meals at this event except Sunday breakfast.

At this time, transportation will be paid for corporate vehicles.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

(See Cadet Officer Promotions Section)

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items submitted by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- **SUBORDINATE UNIT INSPECTION:** The squadron is in a frenzy preparing for our SUI which will take place in early September. We are diligently working to ensure everything is ready and everyone is standing tall.
- **NEW CADET:** Welcome to our newest cadet, Ethan Updike. We are pleased that you have joined CAP and proud that you are a member of our squadron!

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

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

- **SPEARFISH INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE:** The squadron participated in a big way in the Spearfish 4th of July parade. A color guard consisting of the C/Lt Justin Harris, C/SMSgt Ryan Harris and C/CMSgt Connor Caneva lead the squadron van while BDU clad cadets C/Lt Doyle, C/AB Anderson and C/Col William Small followed the van demonstrating L-PER radio-direction-finding gear. After the parade a recruiting table was set up in Spearfish Park. Cadet Doyle, who inexplicably had brought along his trombone, spontaneously joined the 7th Cavalry Drum & Bugle Corp out of Rapid City in performing patriotic songs in Spearfish Park. We had some distinguished guests as World's Junior Teen Miss South Dakota Tourism 2015 and World's Teen Miss Sturgis Tourism 2015 requested that their pictures be taken with our group. Senior member participants were: Lt. Col. Jim Hopewell, Capt. Sylvia Small, Lt. David Small III and Maj. David Small. After all events were completed the CAP contingent retreated to Culver's to cool off with ice cream treats.



PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(See Cadet Airman Promotions Section)

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item submitted by Lt. Black)

- **ELLSWORTH AFB AIRSHOW:** The squadron will be participating in the Ellsworth Air Force Base Air Show 15-16 August. We will set up and staff a recruiting booth. There will be two CAP aircraft on static display, our Cessna-182 and a Cessna-172 from Pierre Composite Squadron. In addition, personnel from Crazy Horse, Lookout Mountain, and Pierre Composite Squadrons will be supporting this event.

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

(Items by Capt. Erickson, Capt. West, Lt. Col. Larson, photos by Capt. West)

- **HORACE MANN STUDENTS VISIT:** On 21 July, the squadron was visited by students and teachers from Horace Mann Elementary School in Sioux Falls. The students had read a book on wilderness flying and wanted to get a better understanding of what they had read. Their teacher, Mr. Todd Peterson, contacted Lt. Col. Larson for assistance. Lt. Col. Larson arranged for the squadron to set up flight simulators and had cadets on hand to assist and answer questions. Then the group trooped over to the hanger where they received a briefing and got to examine the squadron's aircraft. The students gained an elementary understanding of how a plane works, what it takes to fly a plane and experienced sitting in the pilot seat. Participants were Members that assisted the visit were Lt. Col. Larson, Maj. Todd Epp, Capt. Jerry Zurovski, C/ Lt Nash, and C/CMSgts Hayden and Roblewski. We will host several more students soon and hope to get Mr. Peterson a "fly a teacher" flight.



- **EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING:** On 23 July, several cadets trained on ground-to-air signals. The cadets laid out the various colored panels used to communicate information from a ground search team to a CAP aircraft overhead. In the left photo are C/SrA Taylor Moyer, C/SrA Catherine Foy, C/SSgt Robert Boecker and C/SrA Christopher Schuppan. In the right photo are C/SrA Moyer and C/SSgt Boecker.



- **CADET ATTENDS CAP'S NATIONAL OFFICERS SCHOOL:** Cadet Major Nicole Schneider attended CAP's prestigious National Cadet Officers School from 19-29 July. The NCOS is an academically challenging program designed to develop cadets' broader understanding of leadership as a discipline. She joined 120 cadet colleagues from 36 states at NHQ at Maxwell Air Force Base for the 10-day, college-level course.

- **CADET ATTENDS NATIONAL BLUE BERET:** C/Lt Devon Brown attended this year's National Cadet Special Activity "Blue Beret" at the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual airshow "AirVenture 2015" held at Wittman Regional Airport at Oshkosh, WI.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Cadet Officer Promotions

 Although not a promotion *per se*, congratulations to Nicole Schneider of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her appointment as Cadet Operations Officer (Phase IV – Executive/Achievement 14), the first ghost rank before rising to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel!

 Congratulations to Blake Hayden of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, to Jaden Petersen of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Justin Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions

 Congratulations to Tyler Eberle of the Rushmore Composite Squadron and to John Hall of the Pierre Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



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





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



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Rae has been appointed as an Assistant Wing Historian for his outstanding skills in locating and helping verify the eligibility of South Dakota World War II CAP veterans for the award of the CAP Congressional Gold Medal!



Congratulations to 2nd Lt. James Meert of the Rushmore Composite Squadron who completed the CAP Officer Basic Course!

