



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for December 2015

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

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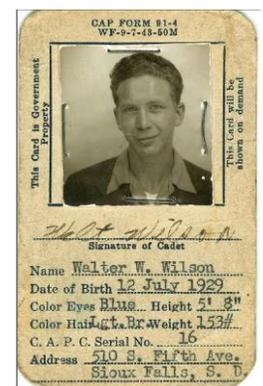
WING TIPS



CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL: South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune led a ceremony to honor a lifelong Sioux Falls resident who was awarded a Civil Air Patrol Congressional Gold Medal posthumously for service during World War II. The event on 21 December honored Walter Wilson. His widow, Shirley Wilson, accepted the medal on her husband's behalf.

Wilson was a CAP cadet in training when World War II ended. He was trained in recognizing aircraft, the dynamics of flight and Morse code, in addition to other skills. Shirley Wilson said while her husband didn't speak much about his time in the

Civil Air Patrol. "He'd be very pleased." Wilson's sister, son and daughter in-law, along with representatives from the Civil Air Patrol, looked on during the ceremony.



LEFT – CADET WALTER WILSON (IN RED BOX), CENTER AND RIGHT WALTER WILSON’S WWII-ERA CAP ID CARD

- **IMPORTANT - ACTION REQUIRED: FAA UAS REGISTRATION**: As many of you are aware, in the last few days the FAA has released requirements to register recreational/hobby UASes that weigh more than .55 pounds (approx.. 9 oz.) starting next week. These requirements apply to our CAP resources including the model airplanes and copters provided through the STEM program as well as any UAS that our CAP units have received or procured through other means. CAP NHQ will accomplish this registration for all CAP owned resources. **DO NOT INDIVIDUALLY REGISTER THEM YOURSELVES**. If you have already done so, please contact me via email immediately. Below is our path forward:

First, we must register all of the units we have fielded for educational purposes. Dr. Jeff Montgomery is providing my staff the information on the STEM kit UASes fielded by his office. If your unit owns a model airplane, copter or other system that could be considered a UAS (see <http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/faqs/>) that was NOT provided as part of a STEM kit that you are using for educational purposes, please have your unit POCs email my administrative assistant, LaShonda Frazier (lfrazier@capnhq.gov) with the make and model of the system, the unit charter number it is assigned to, and the email address and CAPID of the POC for the system by COB on 21 Dec; we will gladly accept emails from one wing POC if you have someone already coordinating these issues, but because of the short time frame if individual units need to send answers direct, that is ok. Once we have accomplished our bulk registration next week, we will email the certificate to the POCs collected above, CAP units that have received STEM kits, commanders and key staff personnel, and also make it available online for future use and download. After 20 Dec, the FAA is requiring that we mark each educational UAS with our unique bulk registration number before we operate the units outdoors, and when flying these UAS outdoors the operators must be able to present the certificate in either print or electronic format if asked for proof of registration.

Second, we must individually register UASes that will be used for operational mission purposes like imagery collection for disaster relief, search and rescue, etc and expect we will also have to provide details to our insurance carrier as well. We do not have any approved UASes for operational mission use yet, but I know some of you have either already received units from your state counterparts or other means with that intention, will soon, or would like to dual purpose the STEM kits above. The online process for us to register UASes for this purpose with the FAA is expected to be available sometime after the new year, and my office will register those units as well. We will need more information in order to register those units and will put out more detailed guidance on that after the new year. Until otherwise registered and approved, do not fly UASes for operational mission purposes on behalf of CAP. If any of your units have a UAS already or are expected to receive one any time soon that they intend to use for operational missions, please also have the unit's UAS POC contact LaShonda via email (see above) so that we can work together to chart a path ahead. I intend to host a conference call or webinar that we will announce the first week of January. For now, do not plan to re-purpose STEM kits for operational mission use immediately; NHQ will develop guidance for how we can do so legally and effectively in the coming months.

Last, because of the above registration issues and the insurance and liability associated with them, we will need to track all model aircraft, copters, and other types of UASes that CAP owns across the country. Expect more guidance on this after the New Year once tools have been put in place to do so.

Sent by: John W. Desmarais, Sr., HQ CAP Dir. of Ops, (O) 877.227.9142 ext. 301, (O) 334.953.7748 ext. 301, (DSN) 493.7748 ext. 301

FOR THOSE WHO OWN A PERSONAL UAV:

The FAA has put new regulations in place effective 21 December 2015; anyone owning a small unmanned aircraft (model airplane, model helicopter, or drone) is required to register with the FAA. Failure to register could result in civil and criminal penalties. Go to <http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration> to register.

The owner must be:

- 13 years of age or older. If the owner is less than 13 years of age, a person 13 years of age or older must register the UAS.
- A U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Owners must register their USA (model aircraft, model helicopters, drones) online if it weighs more than 0.55 pounds (250 grams/about 9 ounces) and less than 55 pounds.

Registration takes about 5 minutes. You will receive a registration number which must be written on the aircraft either with a marker or a label. You will also receive a certificate with your name and registration number on it. There is no limit to the number of aircraft you can have under your registration number. So, even if you do not own a UAS now, you can still register and save your registration number for later.

If you register before 20 January 2016, the FAA will refund your \$5 registration fee. Registrations are valid for 3 years. After three years you will have to re-register and pay the 45 fee.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew eight aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over eight days in December 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 26 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilots for the sorties were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt, three sorties; Maj. Craig Goodrich, one sortie; Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, one sortie; Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, three sorties. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

STAFF NOTES



WING HISTORIAN

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

- For those interested in the history of the CAP Cadet Program since its inception in October 1942 here is an interesting, unofficial website on that topic. It has information, photos and research on CAP uniforms through the years: <http://caphistoryproject.org/Home.php>



WING DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming our new Wing Emergency Services Officer, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen. Myra has over 30 years of CAP experience and has accomplished several ES qualifications from Ground Team Leader to Mission Pilot. As ES Officer she will be working closely with the squadrons on their ES training and the SAREXs. Welcome aboard!



WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

The timeline for National Cadet Special Activities has been pushed back 2-3 weeks. This is the new timeline.

1. **NCSA Announcement** - Applications for National Cadet Special Activities have traditionally opened on 15 December. This year that timeline is being adjusted slightly. All NCSAs will be announced on www.ncsas.com by Saturday 9 January.

2. **Application Window** - Cadets and senior staff will have from 9 January (or earlier) through 31 January to apply for “primary” status. As always, the application process remains open through summer, but latecomers who apply after 31 January will be applying for “alternate” status.

3. **Approvals Window** - Traditionally, wings have had until mid-February to “green light,” approve, or “red line” their applicants. That deadline is being extended to 1 March.

4. **Slotting Deadline** - NHQ will slot cadets into the activities by 1 April, roughly two weeks later than the traditional timeline.

For more information go to: <http://capmembers.bmetrack.com/c/v?e=886B64&c=2B380&t=0&l=D66EE60&email=iYWCh9yX8mfxetT8ynj9v%2Bqx5UA1qha>

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

(Item submitted by Lt. Hartelt)



- **CYBERPATRIOT-VIII**: The squadron is participating in CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. We are competing in CyberPatriot-VIII's All-Services Division against 1,280 teams, 447 of them CAP teams. The All-Services Division consists of teams from the Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC.

CyberPatriot teams compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find and fix security vulnerabilities in a variety of simulated networks. This year's Round Two took place on 6 December. Teams race against the clock - those who successfully finish with the fastest time advance to the next Round. Round 3, the state round, will take place on 31 January 2016. Team Big Sioux's members are: C/Lt. Jaden Petersen (Brookings) (Team Captain), C/CMSgt. Graham Dinnel (Lake Benton, MN), C/MSgt. Andrew Toft (Elkton), C/A1C Andrew Sweebe (Brookings) and C/Amn Peter Engels (Minneota, MN).



- **NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION:** Ninety-six cadets from across America gathered at Maxwell AFB in Alabama from 30 December to 2 January for the 2015 National Cadet Competition (NCC), an annual event that began in 1947. The competition was held in front of guests that included senior USAF and CAP personnel.

The team of cadets from the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings consisted of: Cadet Lieutenant Christopher Dinnel and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Graham Dinnel from Lake Benton, MN; Cadet Lieutenant Jaden Petersen and Cadet Airman First Class Andrew Sweebe from Brookings; and Cadet Master Sgt. Andrew Toft of Elkton, SD. They are joined by Cadet Lieutenant Jaden Roblewsky from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls. They were supervised by Lieutenant Josh Hartelt of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron and Maj Nicholas Gengler of Beresford, of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

The cadets, in six-member teams, demonstrated skills that included indoor and outdoor color guard challenges, a written test of leadership and aerospace knowledge, a Jeopardy!-style CAP knowledge game, physical fitness test, an obstacle course-like fitness challenge, public speaking, model rocketry, team leadership problems (group problem solving challenges) and a uniform inspection.

The winning cadet team took home the Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Award Trophy. Second- and third-place team trophies were also presented, as were individual awards for cadets competing in several categories, including top written score and fastest mile-run time.



- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The squadron's Wreaths Across America ceremony took place at the Brookings Greenwood Cemetery with members from the Brookings VFW George Dokken Post #2118 present and participating in the ceremonial wreath laying. Cadet Major Gross presented the speech while our color guard presented the colors. The ceremony was done very professionally. Brookings community members who attended complimented our cadets and assisted in laying some of the wreaths. Photos by Ms. Wanda Mix, VFW.



CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)



- **PARADE OF LIGHTS:** The squadron entered a float in the 24th Annual Custer Christmas Parade on 5 December. This annual parade of lights signals the kick-off of the holiday season in the Southern Black Hills. After the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus appeared at Way Park for the Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron's float represented a Civil Air Patrol plane conducting a simulated search and rescue mission. Our eco-friendly aircraft was made of recycled white coolers.



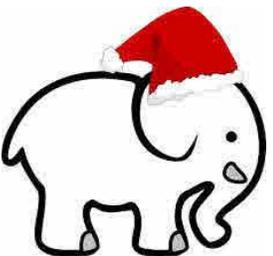
- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron along with the Battle Mountain American Legion Post #71 from Hot Springs conducted the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Hot Springs National Cemetery at Hot Springs, SD.



C/AC HUNTER RICE, C/AMN ETHAN UPDIKE, C/SRA ANTHONY DILLON, C/TSGT KYLE STIFFARM, LT. COL. DENNIS CORNELL, C/LT JASON PARRY, C/CMSGT THOMAS DILLON



- **GUEST SPEAKER**: We had a guest speaker. Author J.E. "Scotty" Terrall, who writes western short stories and novels, romance novels and mystery/suspense/thriller series and is currently writing his 26th book, spoke to us about the importance of writing skills. He emphasized that the two most important books you need are a good quality dictionary and a thesaurus. He told us that when writing an email we should read and re-read what we have written at least three times. He also suggested we read the email out loud before we press "send"! He warned us not to rely solely on spell check as a word may be spelled correctly but the automatic system does not differentiate between homonyms such as "wear" and "where." It was very interesting and informative talk.



- **WHITE ELEPHANT**: The squadron held Christmas pot luck where family and friends gathered for a wonderful meal. Holiday spirits were high, smiles and laughter were everywhere. We then held a "white elephant" gift swap with many interesting and unusual items exchanged.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(Item submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)



- **CADET RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP**: C/SMSGt Hannah Becker of Pierre has received the Distinguished Young Women of South Dakota scholarship for next year. She is a senior at Pierre's Riggs High School. She will advance to the national program in Mobile, Alabama where they give a total of \$150,000 in cash tuition scholarships. The program is part of a national scholarship program that promotes and rewards scholarship, leadership and talent in young women. The program is open only to seniors in high school. In the photo C/SMSGt Becker is at the controls of a CAP aircraft while taking part in the Mankato Flight Academy held last July.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item submitted by Maj. Goodrich, photos by Maj. Goodrich)



- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: Seniors and cadets from the squadron participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, SD. In the left photo the squadron contingent. In the right photo a cadet honoring a veteran



- **WELCOME ABOARD**: Welcome to new members to the Rushmore Composite Squadron. We welcome Cadet Erik Allen, and to SM Zachary J Erickson (a student at the School of Mines), SM Blake Griffin (Cadet Blake Griffin's dad who has decided to become more involved and help out), and SM Steven V Helgeland (Cadet Mason Helgeland's dad who has decided to become more involved and help out). We are pleased to have you as members of our squadron.

- **WELCOME BACK**: Lt Michel Johnson will be coming back to the Rushmore Squadron! This is exciting news for us. He brings a level of excitement and leadership upon which our cadets will thrive. Lt Johnson is an active duty USAF NCO at Ellsworth AFB.

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

(Items and photo submitted by Capt. West)

- **NEW SQUADRON AE OFFICER**: We would like to introduce our new Aerospace Education (AE) officer, 1st Lt. Andrew Moline. Andrew and his son, Max, joined our squadron a few months ago from the Northeast Missouri squadron. The Moline family moved from Missouri to Sioux Center, Iowa in August, and now travel three hours round trip to attend meetings with Sioux Falls on Thursday nights.



Andrew comes to us with a great deal of experience in safety, Drug Demand Reduction, cadet programs, and training. When asked how he became interested in the AE program Andrew stated, "It didn't take long after joining CAP before I became aware of the proud history of aerospace education CAP has to offer young people. While perusing an old rocketry package with my son, my background in engineering and personal interest in 20th century history was piqued."

Andrew took the rocketry program to the limits in his former squadron. The cadets there earned their rocketry badges, he got the STEM program going, and he traveled with cadets to wing activities to help facilitate their AE experience. Andrew's goal, along with that of the cadet AE leadership, is to take Sioux Falls to the same place in the AE program. They hope to start the cadets off with rockets, then move on to radio controlled aircraft. SFCS is very lucky to have new members willing to offer not only their expertise, but also their time in order to provide cadets with the opportunity to learn, lead, and pursue excellence. Welcome 1st Lt. Andrew Moline and C/MSgt. Max Moline.



- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: Seniors and cadets from the squadron participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park in Sioux Falls on 12 December. Lt. Col. Tim Steppan acted as Master of Ceremonies and later blew taps. The squadron Color Guard performed and senior members represented the uniformed services in the ceremony honoring all service members. Later assistance was provided to organizations laying wreaths on veterans' graves.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotions

Congratulations Samuel Huntington of Rushmore Composite Squadron! By virtue of earning the Earhart Award as a Cadet he has been promoted directly from Senior Member to First Lieutenant.

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



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



Congratulations to Taylor Umland-Moyer of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Tyler Eberle of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Cadet Airman Promotion



Congratulations to Hunter Rice of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



★ ★ WING CALENDAR JANUARY-FEBRUARY ★ ★

JAN 21 Thu	SDWG Safety Day Jan 21 <small>all-day</small>
JAN 22 Fri	SAREX Jan 22 – Jan 24 <small>all-day</small>
FEB 5 Fri	CAPF-73 Due Feb 5 <small>all-day</small>
	Vehicle Reports Due to Wing VMO and ORMS Entries Due Feb 5 <small>all-day</small>
FEB 17 Wed	Legislative Day at the State Capitol Feb 17 @ 12:15 pm – 4:30 pm
FEB 26 Fri	Cadet Leadership School Feb 26 – Feb 28 <small>all-day</small>

Be sure to check the calendar on the Wing Website for any changes and updates.

