



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for January 2016

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

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WING TIPS

SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE - 23 JANUARY: The South Dakota Wing conducted a search and rescue training exercise (SAREX) on Saturday, 23 January. The focus was on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staff personnel through realistic search and rescue scenarios that mirror CAP’s real-world activity. Wing aircraft, vehicles, officers and cadets took part in the training exercise.

At Ellsworth Air Force Base, a Staging Area was set up at the headquarters of the Rushmore Composite Squadron. CAP aircraft flew search and rescue sorties from the Rapid City Regional airport. In addition, a ground search team conducted independent but similar training exercises and communicated with the aircraft by radio and signal mirrors. Adding a bit of fun to the training, after a rare (simulated) winter tornado devastated the town of Wall passersby reported a large green Brontosaurus had escaped and was roaming near the eastbound I-90 exit for Wall.

At Sioux Falls, an Incident Command Post was set up at the headquarters of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron at the Sioux Falls Airport. They were joined by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings. Under the overall control of Incident Commander Col. John Seten, the CAP ground teams conducted training exercises similar to those in the West River area while the aircrews conducted classroom training on new technologies as the weather kept them on the ground all day.

Wing Chief of Staff Maj. David Small explains, “This SAREX incorporated two new programs; first it was run with Rapid City as a "Staging Area" with me as Staging Area Manager. The Mission Base staff including the Incident Command, Planning, and Air and Ground Operations was in Sioux Falls. The Mission Base staff directed the overall mission while the Staging Area Manager ensured resources were available at the Staging Area, communications between the two sites worked and overall operations ran smoothly. The second new

program focused on aerial photography, specifically new tools available to CAP including the Nikon D-7100 camera and the Garmin Virb, which has an aircraft mounted camera controlled from inside the aircraft by the aircrew, and the GIIEP video camera and laptop.”

Adding to the excitement, Col. Seten received a telephone call late in the morning from the CAP National Operations Center in Montgomery, Alabama, that an Emergency Locator beacon (ELT) was reported by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida as being active from a CAP aircraft at Rapid City. This was a real call, not a SAREX simulation. Upon examination, the crew of the aircraft determined the ELT was not currently transmitting and that no damage had occurred. They then proceeded on their mission. It was never determined how the ELT was triggered.

One aircrew, viewing simulated tornado damage near Wall, saw a house fully engulfed in flames. Coordinates were radioed to the Staging Area communications crew who made a 911 call. It was quickly determined that this was a "controlled" burn of a structure. Though it turned out not to be a real-world emergency it provided great impromptu training and experience for air crews and ground support staff.

The Split SAREX was a chance to work with Wing units that don't often have the opportunity to train together with massed assets. The benefit from 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 also accomplished.

South Dakota Wing Commander Col. John Seten observed, "Large-scale exercises of this kind are an excellent way for us to train with our new high tech search and rescue gear and to hone individual and team skills."



WEST RIVER: GREEN BRONTOSAURUS ON THE LOOSE FOLLOWING WINTER TORNADO DESTRUCTION IN WALL



WEST RIVER GROUND TEAM TRAINING



WEST RIVER STAGING AREA STAFF BRIEFING



EAST RIVER GROUND SEARCH TEAM PREPARING FOR DEPARTURE AND IN THE FIELD ON AN ELT HUNT



EAST RIVER INCIDENT COMMAND STAFF MEMBER ALERT AND READY

• **SAFE IS BETTER THAN SORRY.** SDWG held a Safety Day on 21 January. By regulation an annual Safety Day is to be held in all active units sometime during the months of January, February or March to focus on improving safety knowledge and attitudes. This required day is focused entirely on safety subjects applicable to the unit. This year’s theme was a review of Operational Risk Management (ORM) from the Federal Aviation Administration Safety Handbook. In the left photo members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron talk about the importance of safety in everything we do. In the right photo, hungry cadets of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron safely devour massive quantities of chow after the safety briefings.



• **SDWG ADOPTS VIRB:** SDWG aircraft have been equipped with the Garmin VIRB, a new tool for aerial photography. The VIRB, a wing-mounted camera, provides fast delivery of geo-tagged photos and video with sufficient detail for rapid disaster damage assessment. The VIRB is mounted in a weather tight compartment on the right wingtip. The camera is controlled in flight via a wireless link to the aircrew photographer’s handheld

tablet. The VIRB is an ideal platform to take aerial photographs of wide areas of the state; over 100 square miles can be imaged per flight hour. The photos and video can be delivered electronically to FEMA or other governmental agencies who have requested the coverage making Civil Air Patrol aircraft a very cost effective tool available for use by South Dakota state authorities and by the counties and municipalities.



- **SD CAP LICENSE PLATES:** Since 2016 is the year we have to replace our old license plates with brand new ones—consider replacing them with Organizational Plates so you can have the CAP Seal on them. This is a subtle but easy recruiting tool. When you go to get your new plates ask for the Organizational Plates, there is no extra charge! Then, a form is on the Wing website under Administration, then subcategory Forms. Fill it out and send it to Rachel at the Wing Office with \$10 to get your CAP seals to adhere to your plates! It's that simple!!! A great way to show your pride in this great organization! The revised form to apply for the CAP license plate decals has been attached as the last page of this newsletter. If you have any questions on how to order them contact Ms. Kuecker. A big thanks to Maj. Collister, Maj. Small and Ms. Kuecker for getting this program rolling again.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew five aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five days in January 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 17 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilots were Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt, two sorties, and 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 COMMANDER

Col. John Seten, CAP

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2015 Wreaths Across America program. It was a great opportunity to honor our fallen veterans, and fund-raise for our squadrons. The qualifier for the Wing-sponsored

contest required squadrons to sell at least 100 wreaths and the one that sold the most over 100 receives a \$500 reward. The next highest over 100 wreaths would receive \$300 then \$250 and the remaining squadrons would each receive \$100 rewards. The winner of the 2015 contest was the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron with 220 wreaths. Rushmore sold 77 wreaths and Sioux Falls sold 36 wreaths. The Crazy Horse Squadron will receive \$500 for their great efforts. Now is the time to start on the 2016 WAA fundraiser. I'm sure Crazy Horse would be happy to share with others the secrets to their success.

- Lt. Col. Shelly Metzger has been appointed the new SDWG Director of Recruiting and Retention. She joins us from MTWG where she was a squadron commander. She brings a lot of experience with her and we look forward to working with her in the future. She can be contacted at shelly.metzger@sdcap.us. Her son also transferred with her and is a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Col. Donley has shifted position to Assistant Director of Recruiting and Retention.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. David Small, CAP

- From the Wing Conference Committee: The lineup of classes, seminars, activities, and outings is almost set for the 2016 Wing Conference. If you have any input as to what you would like to see presented or activities we should do, please send your ideas to Maj. Goodrich ASAP, at craig.goodrich@sdcap.us. The Eventbrite Signup will be available soon. Be sure to put this weekend on your calendar, and clear your work, school, volunteering schedule, and especially talk to your parents or spouse to keep June 3 to 5 open. See you in Pierre.

- NDWG Lt. Col. Dean Reiter, commander of the 2016 Joint Dakotas Encampment, has announced the selection of C/Lt. Devon Brown of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron as Cadet Commander for the encampment. Congratulations Devon, we know you will be an outstanding Cadet Commander!



WING ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Rachel Kuecker

I just want to give a huge shout of thanks to the entire Wing who has helped me scan, file, pay bills, etc. On a more personal note, my sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to those who sent me cards, prayed, and who have assisted me in this journey. My last chemo treatment is 11 February.



WING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

Squadron Leadership School (SLS) and Corporate Learning Course (CLC) at Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Headquarters on Saturday, 20 February, from 0800-1800. All senior members (and cadet officers) that would

like to attend please contact me at: mary.donley@sdcap.us so I can plan for your attendance. Please consider attending to continue your professional development in the program. These courses are necessary for your promotions and awards!



WING HISTORIAN

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

Capt. Karla West is delving into the extensive history of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron by going through boxes of old papers and other accumulated “stuff” sitting in nooks and crannies of the squadron’s headquarters. She has created an album on the squadron’s Facebook page with numerous photos of her “finds”. Her favorite find so far was an official CAP letter written by her father in the 1960's.



WING DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

The South Dakota National Guard has invited SDWG to a joint training exercise on Saturday, 5 March at Fort Meade in Sturgis. This will be a modified biathlon type event with snowshoeing and paintball target shooting (all within CAP regulations). An Eventbrite signup list will be out soon. We are planning to have billeting at Fort Meade on Friday and Saturday night for this event. The entire wing is invited. More information later.



COMMANDER, 2016 JOINT DAKOTAS ENCAMPMENT

Lt. Col. David Reiter, CAP

North/South Dakota Wing Cadets,

The time has come to open up the applications for cadet staff of the Joint Dakotas Wing Encampment. Please read the following to ensure the process is followed properly.

This year's encampment will be held at Camp Grafton, ND from 25 June to 02 July 2016. Any cadet that is ready to expand their leadership skills, confidence, and have a great time is encouraged to apply.

The following encampment cadet staff positions are available:

- Cadet Executive Officer
- Information Tech Officer (Internet Tech IE IT officer)
- Cadet Logistic Officer
- Cadet PAO Officer
- Cadet Admin Officer
- Cadet Squadron Commander
- Cadet Command Chief
- Flight Commanders

Flight Sergeants

To apply:

1. Submit a **CAP resume** to dc@ndcap.us or mail to PO Box 608 Bismarck ND 58502-0608 (MS Word or PDF format).
2. Submit a Letter of Intent to dc@ndcap.us or mail to PO Box 608 Bismarck ND 58502-06 (MS Word or PDF format). The CAP Official Memorandum Style Letter format is encouraged. Include:
 - a. The staff positions you are applying for
 - b. Why you are the best pick for the position
 - c. What you can bring to the encampment
3. Any other information you find relevant to your application

All applications must be received by 04 Mar 16 No late applications will be accepted

Cadets arrive on June 25 and leave on 02 July.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

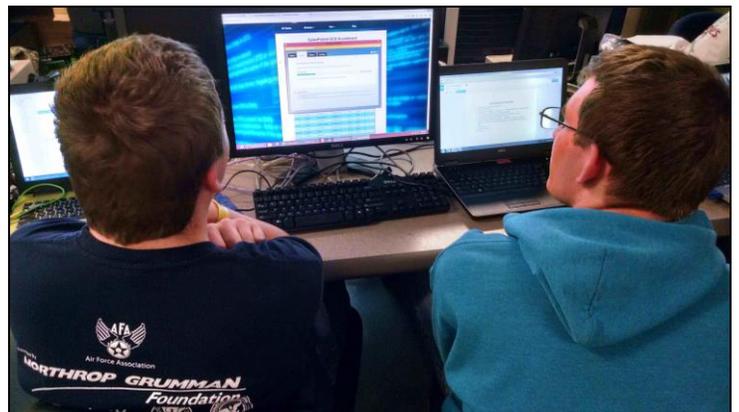
(Items submitted by Lt. Hartelt)



- **CYBERPATRIOT-VII UPDATE:** We are participating in CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. We compete in the All-Services Division against 1,280 teams, 447 of them CAP teams. The All-Services Division consists of teams from the CAP, 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 Three took place on 31 December.

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). 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.

Team Advisor Lt. Josh Hartelt reports, “The competition was tough, the best of the best were competing for the title of 2015 NCC champions. Our cadets had been training for months in preparation for indoor and outdoor color guard, physical training, leadership training, and so on. During the competition several cadets from Big Sioux showcased their physical ability by breaking pushup records. Competing in the indoor color guard presentation was a challenge as our cadets were given a scenario they had never faced before. Similarly, our cadets had not been able to perform outdoor presentation of the colors due to our bitter winter weather. In other areas of the competition we performed exceptionally, in advanced rocketry their rocket flew the fastest upwards of 780+ mph. Our cadets handled themselves professionally and were supportive of fellow competitors; our team was practically inseparable from Minnesota Wing’s Viking Composite Squadron. Each cadet was proud to have earned the chance to go to nationals and appreciate what it takes to win at a national level.” Each member of Team SDWG has been presented the National Cadet Competition ribbon for participating.”



THE SOUTH DAKOTA WING TEAM AT THE NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION



NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION RIBBON FOR CADETS AND SENIOR

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(Items submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)

- **PIERRE AVIATION DAY:** Squadron members participated in “Aviation Day” held at the Discovery Center in Pierre. This is the third annual Aviation Day sponsored by the Pierre Elks Lodge. Several groups participated in the event including Balsa Bugs Radio Control Club, B-1B pilots from Ellsworth Air Force Base, Great Lakes Aviation and Mustang Aviation. Our members had great time interacting with all the youngsters and helping them to build and fly their pencil rockets and even helping some repair their glider. Those members were Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Col. Lois Schmidt, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, Maj. Lee Vaughan, 1st Lt. Jonathan Becker and C/SMSGt Hannah Becker.

Upon entering the building school children from the area were given a balsa glider kit to build and were then able to fly them off the balcony of the Discovery Center. We provided the materials to build “pencil rockets” which were launched from locations all over the Discovery Center. We also helped rebuild some damaged aircraft. This is the largest event held at the Discovery Center with 580 total people in attendance counting all the children, adults and volunteers together according to an event organizer from the Elks Lodge. The children attending the event were too young to join CAP at this time but were made aware of the CAP program.



YOUNGSTERS GETTING INSTRUCTION ON ASSEMBLING AND FLYING THEIR PENCIL ROCKETS

- **PIERRE SQUADRON PARTAKES IN SAREX:** There was good news and bad news for Pierre Squadron members that wanted to join in the recent SD Wing SAREX. The good news was in Rapid City where members Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Lt. Col. Tam Gatje drove to Ellsworth AFB for training held on and near the base. The weather was near perfect. Lt. Col. Christensen gave ground team training to a number of cadets that attended. Lt. Col. Gatje took aerial photography training held at Ellsworth and later flew for observer training in

the afternoon. The bad news was the weather did not cooperate in sending the Pierre aircraft to Sioux Falls. Maj. Jonathan Becker and C/SMSGT Caleb Gregory were weathered out and prevented from flying until it was too late to do anything in Sioux Falls. They will be looking forward to the next mission.



LT. COL. CHRISTENSEN TEACHES A CADET GROUND TEAM CLASS AT THE RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON HQ

- **PIERRE PILOTS ATTENDED AN FAA WINGS SEMINAR**: Three members and one previous member of the Pierre Composite Squadron attended the FAA Wings seminar held in Rapid City on 30 January. Attending were Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Maj. Lee Vaughan and Capt. Richard Helton along with previous member Forrest Wixon. The topic of the seminar was “Best Glide Speed and Distance.” The Wings Program is designed to reduce general aviation accidents by improving currency and proficiency in flight basics.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations Shannon Hofer of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings on his promotion to the rank of Major!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Andrew Toft of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Noah Misselt 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 Promotions



Congratulations to Andrew Sweebe of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Hunter Peters of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Aaron Passananti, Nathaniel Peterson and Wyatt Trohkimoinen, all of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to Capt. Karla West of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron for earning the “Technician” level in the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program Specialty Track – Public Affairs Officer!



Congratulations to Capt. David Galluzzo of Rushmore Composite Squadron on completion of the tasks required for certification as a Mission Scanner for CAP Emergency Services missions.



Congratulations to Denise Clement of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on changing her membership status from sponsor to senior member!



Congratulations to Capt. Jason Erickson of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who is now a Skills Evaluator (SET) for Emergency Services’ ICS Air Branch Director!



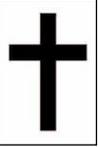
Congratulations to SM Tricia Weathers and SM Steven Helgeland of Rushmore Composite Squadron on completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. In recognition thereof they were presented with the Membership Ribbon!





Former South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel Merlin R. Vander Maten passed away 30 December in Park Rapids, MN. He was 86. He lived in Corson, SD for most of his adult life. Merlin was a very dedicated man to Civil Air Patrol from the late 1960's through 2000. He was jestingly referred to as "Mr. C.A.P." and he kept SDWG running long before we had Rachel to do all those day to day tasks.

He held every possible squadron and wing position including Wing Commander from 1982-1986. A memorial service was held in Park Rapids but the family is planning a Celebration of Life in Brandon on 7 February at the Community Room, 108 N. Heritage Road.



USAF (Ret.) Colonel Joe E. Casler, longtime member of the CAP and amateur radio enthusiast, died Thursday, 21 January. He was 66. Mr. Casler, born in Chester, South Dakota, devoted most of his life to the United States Air Force. After graduating from college, he spent four and a half years in the Air Force. Then he was in the Air Force Reserve for 23 years. He retired as a Colonel. He worked for the Federal Aviation Administration as a Flight Service Specialist and was active in Civil Air Patrol.

While in CAP, Mr. Casler linked his love for the Air Force and amateur radio by participating in Emergency Services. He took part in tornado relief aid, missing person searches and assistance to flood victims. He served in several CAP leadership positions and received multiple honors. He retired again in December 2015 after 45 years of CAP service. Mr. Casler was buried with full military honors at Franklin Cemetery in Chester, SD. To pay our respects to this long-time CAP member, Wing Commander Col. John Seten flew a Sioux Falls based Cessna-182 to Chester, SD where he performed an honor fly-by of the graveside service. In addition, Col. Mary Donley and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Rae were present with the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron's van with the large CAP mural on the side to further show SDWG's respect for Col. Casler.



★ ★ WING CALENDAR ★ ★

Below are the Wing Calendars for February and March as of the date this Skychaser was published. Check the Wing website for the latest information as the calendars are frequently updated.

FEB 5 Fri	all-day CAPF-73 Due
	all-day Vehicle Reports Due to Wing VMO ...
FEB 13 Sat	7:00 pm SDPA Meeting
FEB 17 Wed	12:15 pm Legislative Day at the State Cap...
	7:30 pm SD Wing Legislative Day
FEB 26 Fri	all-day Cadet Leadership School
MAR 5 Sat	all-day CAPF-73 Due
	all-day SD National Guard Training Exercise
	all-day Vehicle Reports Due to Wing VMO ...



South Dakota Specialty Licence Plate CAP Decal Request

VALIDATION INFORMATION

CAPID: _____ RANK: _____ CAPID EXP (mm/yy): _____

Squadron Commander's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
(last) (first) (M.I.)

Physical Address: _____
(street number) (city) (zip)

Ship to Address: _____
(street number) (city) (zip)

Phone number: () - Work Number: () -

VEHICLE INFORMATION

1. Vehicle Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

Color: _____ Registration Exp. (mm/yy): _____

2. Vehicle Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

Color: _____ Registration Exp. (mm/yy): _____

3. Vehicle Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

Color: _____ Registration Exp. (mm/yy): _____

SIGNATURE FIELD

I _____ Have read the regulations pertaining to the use of the CAP decal on a POV (privately owned vehicle) and by placing my signature below abide by all CAP and South Dakota State rules, regulations and laws governing the use of the decal and plates.

Signature _____ Date (mm/dd/yy): _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Decals (2) for each vehicle costs \$10. Make checks payable to: SDWG Civil Air Patrol. In the MEMO section write: SD License Decal No CASH.

EXAMPLE: 3 vehicles @\$10.00 = \$ 30.00

vehicles @ \$10.00 =

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Fill out this form completely and return to:
SD Wing HQ, 4275 Airport Road, Suite A, Rapid City, SD 57703