



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for April 2016

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

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WING TIPS

The SDWG Conference is 3-5 June in Pierre. Sign up at: www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-wing-conference-pierre-sd-tickets-22188799296

SDWG's USAF-evaluated SAREX is on 18 June from 09:00-16:00 at the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Sign up: www.eventbrite.com/e/south-dakota-wing-usaf-evaluated-exercise-tickets-25232113932

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE/DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING EXERCISE**: On Saturday, 23 April, over 70 members from all six squadrons gathered in Sioux Falls Saturday to conduct a search and rescue/disaster relief training exercise (SAREX). Operations included flying search missions, aerial photo reconnaissance missions, and ground team searches. The exercise focused on training aircrews, ground teams, and command staff through realistic scenarios that mirror our real-world activities. Saturday's SAREX was a dress rehearsal for the USAF evaluated search and rescue exercise in June where they will evaluate our readiness and effectiveness in conducting search and rescue and disaster relief missions. Two local stations (KDLT and KSFY) sent a camera crew to film the activity and interview personnel. Several media outlets carried reports of our SAREX.





• **SDWG CADET COMPETITION:** By C/Lt. Col. Joshua Klosterman. On 9 April, the South Dakota Wing Cadet Competition took place in Sioux Falls. Most of the competition was held at the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron's headquarters. However, the outdoor Color Guard competition was held at ABN Army Surplus Corp. to take advantage of their flagpole. The graded activities included indoor and outdoor Color Guard presentation, a team leadership problem, a written exam on CAP knowledge, a physical fitness test, a uniform inspection, an impromptu public speaking segment, and the exciting CAP Jeopardy!. I was the Chief Judge and was assisted by C/Capt. Nicholas Nash and C/Lt. Anika Bohmer. Maj. Nicholas Gengler was the Senior Member in charge of the event. The squadrons competed to advance to the regional competition, with the winner earning the National Cadet Competition Ribbon. At the end of the day, Big Sioux Composite Squadron (Brookings) emerged victorious! They will be advancing to the North Central Region competition this fall where they will compete against teams from seven other wings! Thanks to all of our competitors this year, we'll see you again next year! The Wing thanks ABN Army Surplus for use of their facility and for their support of CAP.





- **COMEX CONSTANT WATCH-16:** On 28 April, the Wing took part in the annual CAP national communications exercise "Constant Watch-16". The principal mode of communications was by long-range high frequency (HF) radio. Fixed and mobile HF stations across SD linked up on a network that in turn linked up with networks at the region and national level. Message traffic was passed between the stations to test the efficiency of the networks. Unfortunately, Mother Nature did not play nice. Poor weather conditions severely hampered the HF communications; they also caused Exercise Director Capt. Neil Schmid to scrub the highbird radio-relay aircraft sorties. Safety concerns due to the poor weather also precluded the deployment of mobile communications assets. Nevertheless, SDWG fixed stations were able to take a limited part within the overall framework of the exercise. SDWG thanks all the officers and cadets who participated in the COMEX. In the photo, SDWG Director of Communications, Capt. Jerry Gabert, works the radio at Lt. Jeff Shawd's station in Valley springs.



- **POWER ON THE PRAIRIE AIRSHOW:** The "Power on the Prairie Airshow" will be held 23-24 July in Sioux Falls. Lt. Col. Gary Rae is the POC from SDWG and the Commemorative Air Force (CAF). He is on the Air Show Committee and working with the SD Air National Guard to present a great air show featuring, among many others, the Blue Angels.

This year, CAP is celebrating our 75th Anniversary, the SD Guard is 70 years old, and the 114th Fighter Wing is 70! We are also planning on honoring Joe Foss because he was the first Commander of the Guard 70 years ago. It will be a BIG event, and your help is needed working the show.

Every member of SDWG should attend the airshow and help make it a success. As in the past, we will be helping with on base parking, child registration, helping the Vets and handicapped, staffing along the bus routes to provide safety for 60-70 thousand visitors each day. In addition to that we will be staffing our own tent with recruitment materials, historic displays, DDR information, and more. We will also have a CAP plane on static display, sitting next to the CAF Stinson L-5, once used as a CAP plane by NY Wing. We need you to help and tell our history, our story!

Free billeting will be at Augustana University; air conditioned rooms in singles and doubles for officers and cadets. The wing will provide most of your meals for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. To plan properly for meals

and housing needs we need to have projected numbers from you as soon as possible. Event registration is at www.eventbrite.com/e/july-airshow-and-hangar-dance-at-joe-foss-field-tickets-24692504947

This is a great AE opportunity. Would you please work through your Squadron Commanders and contact me as soon as possible with your interest, thoughts, questions and commitment? Contact me at gary.rae@sdcap.us



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew six aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five days in April in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, deer and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 16 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 2.2 hours flying over eastern South Dakota, a total of 18.2 flying hours. The West River sorties were flown by Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt. The East river sortie was flown by Capt. Neil Schmid. 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

- Capt. Jason Erickson has stepped down as Commander of the Sioux Falls Squadron. Capt. Kurt Johnson will be the interim Commander. After assuming office the new Wing Commander will appoint the next Squadron Commander in Sioux Falls. I sincerely appreciate Jason stepping up and leading the Squadron for the past three years. He plans to continue being involved with CAP as time allows. Kurt is a fine officer and will do an excellent job leading the squadron until a new commander is appointed.

- SDWG has been chosen as a test wing for CAP's new Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV) Program. Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City will soon be getting the equipment and begin training on it. Maj. Craig Goodrich has been designated as Wing Point-of-Contact (POC) for the RPV Program. Lt. Col. Chuck Trumble is the RPV Program POC for Rushmore Composite Squadron.



WING HISTORIAN

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

The Wing Historical Staff is creating a "Library of SDWG Logos". The purpose of the library is to keep a record of the logos that have been used for SDWG events and activities; for example encampments, academies, survival weekends, etc. Once more logos have been acquired the Library of Logos will be added to the Heraldry category of the Wing History section on the Wing Website where it will be available for everyone to view. Currently we have logos from the 2012-2015 encampments, the 2014 CyberPatriot Team, and the 2016 Cadet Leadership Academy. If anyone has logos for other SDWG events and activities please contact Maj. Kipp at bruce.kipp@sdcap.us and send him an example either of the artwork or of the logo itself on a piece of clothing, such as a t-shirt.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Item submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)

- **COOKIES FOR THE TROOPS**: On 4 April, Capt. Kris Bierwirth visited the meeting of Custer's Girl Scout Troop 71140. She spoke to them about Civil Air Patrol and answered questions about us and SDWG. She also thanked them for supporting our troops by sending Girl Scout cookies to the military that are deployed.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item submitted by Maj. Goodrich)

- **NEW SENIOR MEMBER**: Welcome aboard to new Senior Member Marcus Na. We are pleased you decided to join Civil Air Patrol and proud to have you in our unit.

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

(Items and photos submitted by Capt. Erickson, Lt. Col. Rae and Maj. West)

- **BRANDON LOYALTY DAY PARADE**: Thousands gathered in Brandon on 1 May for the 50th Annual Brandon Loyalty Day Parade. KDLT-TV reports that this is the largest Loyalty Day parade in South Dakota, and the third largest in the country. Loyalty Day is celebrated nationwide where every branch of the military comes together with the community to celebrate American patriotism. It was first recognized by congress in 1955, and soon became a recurring holiday. The Brandon community has held the parade ever since. Sunday's three-hour parade was led by the Color Guard of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.



SFCS COLOR GUARD LEADING THE BRANDON LOYALTY DAY PARADE: AMERICAN FLAG – C/LT JADEN ROBLEWSKY, STATE FLAG – C/CMSGT JOSIAH HUNTINGTON, LEFT RIFLE – C/SMSGT IVAN KREGER, RIGHT RIFLE – C/SMSGT KYLE KREGER

- **L-5 HISTORY NIGHT**: On 21 April, the Joe Foss Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) gave an Aerospace Education historical presentation to our members on the World War II era Stinson L-5 "Sentinel". The L-5 was a liaison aircraft used by all branches of the U.S. military and by the British Royal Air Force. Brian Neeves taxied the aircraft to the squadron that Thursday evening from the CAF hangar at Maverick

Air. CAF Historian Joe Dondelinger gave a 30-minute presentation on the aircraft's history. This L-5 is one of the few survivors with a well-documented history of its service in Europe during WWII and then it came home to serve in CAP's New York Wing in 1952. The Sentinel was one of the primary aircraft used by CAP during WWII for anti-submarine, forest, and border patrol and courier services. The CAF L-5 will be on static display near the present day CAP Cessna-182 during the Sioux Falls airshow 23-24 July. In the photo at right, C/CMSgt Kyle Clement stands next to the aircraft dressed in a WWII-era CAP uniform and flying gear.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations to Karla West the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her well-deserved promotion to the grade of Major!



Congratulations to Travis Woodard, to Kenton McKeehan and to Cheryl Dimitt, all of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City on their promotion to the grade of Second Lieutenant!

Cadet Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Blake Hayden of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to Bradley Blansett of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish on their promotion to the grade of Cadet First Lieutenant and appointment as their squadron's Cadet Administrative officer!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Travis Tenold of Rapid City, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City), and to Taylor Umland-Moyer of Sioux Falls, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Tyler Eberle of Rapid City, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City) on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!





Congratulations to Kyle Stiffarm of Custer, a member of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron (Custer), on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Brandon Spence and to Logan Wallace, both of Rapid City, both members of the Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City), on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Lucas Dimitt of Sturgis, Amelia Jensen of Rapid City, Jacob Lawrence of Ellsworth AFB, and Noah Moore of Rapid City, all members of Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City), and to Samuel Moser IX of Sioux Falls, Hunter Peters of Lennox, Peter and David Willison of Sioux Falls, all members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Isaiah Klosterman of Brandon, a member the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Mariel and Annabelle Klosterman, both of Brandon, both members of Big Sky Composite Squadron (Brookings), and to Thomas Friedrich of Spearfish, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish), on their promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the General Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Julia Lair of Sioux Falls and a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron received the Air Force Sergeants Association Outstanding Cadet NCO Award. The award was presented on 21 April by Maj. Nick Gengler, the squadron's Deputy Commander for Cadets.



Congratulations to SM Bernard Strough of Rushmore Composite Squadron on completing Level I of the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program! In recognition thereof he has received the Membership Ribbon.





Congratulations to Lt. Samuel Huntington of the Rushmore Composite Squadron who earned “Technician” Level in Specialty Track - Cadet Programs in the Senior Member Professional Development Program.



Congratulations to C/CMSgt Thomas Dillon of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, on receiving the Air Force Association’s “Outstanding Cadet of the Year” Award! The award was presented to Cadet Dillon by Custer County Veterans Service Officer Mr. Ken Irwin.

★ ★ WING CALENDAR ★ ★

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

Wing Calendar

MAY 5 Thu	all-day CAPF-73 Due
	all-day Vehicle Reports Due to Wing VMO ...
MAY 7 Sat	all-day Custer Aviation Day
MAY 13 Fri	all-day SDWG Survival Weekend – RESCHEDULED

JUN 3 Fri	all-day SD Wing Conference
JUN 5 Sun	all-day CAPF-73 Due all-day Vehicle Reports Due to Wing VMO ...
JUN 17 Fri	all-day SAREVAL
JUN 25 Sat	all-day Encampment – JDCLE
JUN 30 Thu	all-day CAPF 34s Due for Chaplains and C...

