



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for June 2016

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

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### WING TIPS

**HOT NEWS REDCAP – MISSION 16-M-0337A:** On 5 June, SDWG joined the search for an autistic teenager reported missing in the Rapid City Area. The Pennington County Sheriff’s Office and Pennington County Office of Emergency Management in consultation with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center requested Wing air and ground assets be activated to assist in the search. The Wing assigned aircraft and a ground team to search the area around Norris Peak. The teen was found just before Noon MST. Following an evaluation by paramedics the uninjured but very tired youth was released to his family.

As soon as the call came in the annual Wing Conference underway in Pierre was curtailed in order to respond to the REDCAP. Maj. Craig Goodrich was appointed Incident Commander and he and several officers flew to Rapid City where they set up a mission base at Wing Headquarters. A SDWG Cessna-182, piloted by Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese with Lt. Andy Weathers as Mission Observer and SM Tricia Weathers as Mission Scanner, flew a search sortie. A ground search team headed by Maj. Bill Collister with cadets from the West River squadrons was dispatched to the Norris Peak area. In addition, a North Dakota Wing Predator Ball aircraft equipped with forward-looking infra-red radar (FLIR) was alerted and on standby to assist if needed.

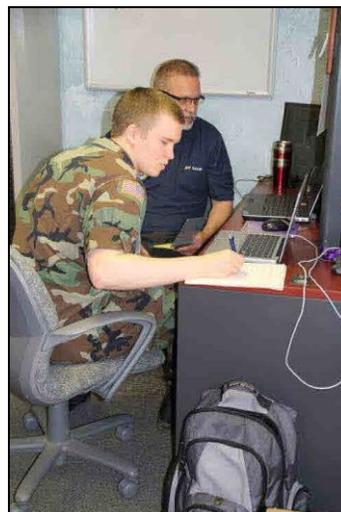
Also participating in the search for the missing teen were two dog teams, two people on horseback, a helicopter from Black Hills Lifeflight, Search and Rescue teams from Pennington, Custer and Lawrence counties and a number of individuals on ATVs and UTVs.

The AFRCC closed Mission 16-M-0337A and credited SDWG with both a Find and a Save. According to CAPR 39-3 those who participated in the REDCAP are eligible for an award. Further information on this will be forthcoming.

- **SAREVAL “HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL”**: Every two years the U.S. Air Force sends a team to evaluate the effectiveness of each Wing’s emergency services competency. This month it was South Dakota Wing’s turn. On Saturday, 18 June, under the control of Incident Commander Col. John Seten over 50 SDWG members, officers and cadets formed a mission base staff, two ground search teams and several aircrews. The air and ground teams successfully located two training beacons that simulated a downed aircraft’s emergency locator transmitter and a simulated missing Alzheimer patient in record time. “Wing members from across South Dakota worked together efficiently to achieve all of the objectives set for us”, said Wing Commander Col. David Small. The eight-member CAP/USAF Evaluation Team awarded our wing a "Highly Successful" grade in the Evaluated Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREVAL), one of the highest grades that can be awarded. Col. Small went on to say that “Our grade of Highly Successful is a direct result of the training and actual mission participation of all our members. Good job South Dakota Wing!” Photos by Lt. Melanie Schuppan.



SM TRICIA WEATHERS, MISSION STAFF ASSISTANT, ASSISTS INCIDENT COMMANDER COL. JOHN SETEN



LEFT: A USAF INSPECTOR OVERLOOKS CADETS CONDUCTING A PRE-MISSION CHECK OF A VAN  
RIGHT: SM TYLER GROSS, FOREGROUND, ASSISTS LT. JEFF SCHAWD WITH COMMUNICATIONS

- **2016 WING CONFERENCE**: The South Dakota Wing Conference was held at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre from 3-5 June 2016. About 80 wing members plus guests attended. It was quite an event. The conference kicked off on Friday, 3 June. The officers program began with a noon meeting of the Wing’s pilots followed by an afternoon training exercise on airborne photography for aircrew and emergency services mission staff. The cadet program began with orientation flights. Seven cadets had to opportunity to sit at the controls of a CAP aircraft and fly it around the Pierre area. Later that afternoon the cadets took part in an “ultimate football” match at the soccer fields in Hilger’s Gulch.

Saturday, 4 June, was the main conference activity. This year the general assembly was a special one as there was a change in Wing command. Just prior to the change of command the North Central Region commander, Colonel Regena Aye, promoted David Small to full colonel. Col. Small then appointed new commanders for the Brookings, Pierre and Sioux Falls squadrons. That afternoon the officers attended a series of informational and training sessions. The cadet program focused on team building, instruction in the art of leadership, a historical overview of CAP, and drug and alcohol education. The highlight of the afternoon cadet program was a question and answer session with CAP National Vice Commander Brigadier General Larry Myrick. The evening concluded with a banquet and the presentation of awards. See the next to the last page of this newsletter for a list of those who were recognized for their successes and achievements. The banquet wrapped up with a “Wing in Review” PowerPoint presentation by Col. Seten.

Sunday, 5 June, the officer and cadet programs began with a demonstration by the Big Sioux Composite Squadron’s cyber-security team called “Hacked & Hackers Hacking”. New Wing Commander, Col. Small, held his first “Commander’s Call” for his new Wing staff and Squadron Commanders. See the last page of this newsletter for a list of the Wing staff and Squadron Commanders.

Activity for the officers later in the morning was to have been more information sessions. However, early that morning a call was received from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center that the Pennington County Sheriff’s Office had requested South Dakota Wing’s assistance in the search for an autistic child who had wandered away from his home in Rapid City the previous day. Col. Small’s Commander’s Call was cut short as several officers, vehicles and aircraft quickly left Pierre for Rapid City to join in the search. The officers remaining carried on as best they could until the official end of the conference at Noon. On the cadet program the late morning consisted of a drill-down marching competition and an aerospace education session for a drone fly-off competition. Some of the cadets who specialized in ground searches left with the officers to go to Rapid City. Thankfully, the missing Rapid City youth was found alive and well later that afternoon and was reunited with his family.

The South Dakota Wing expresses its grateful appreciation to the management and staff of the Ramkota Hotel for their assistance in helping make the 2016 Wing Conference a memorable one.



**COLONEL DAVID SMALL JR ACCEPTS COMMAND OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA WING FROM NORTH CENTRAL REGION COMMANDER COL. REGENA AYE, AS OUTGOING WING COMMANDER COL. JOHN SETEN LOOKS ON**

- **WING CONFERENCE ORIENTATION FLIGHTS:** On the first day of the Wing Conference, Friday, 3 June, seven cadets got to fly the friendly skies over Pierre. Lt. Andy Weathers was pilot-in-command (PIC) for o-rides by C/A1C Ethan Updike and C/SSgt Hunter Rice. Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese was PIC for o-rides by C/CMSgt Thomas Dillon, C/Amn Robert Hewitt and C/A1C Jon Larcher. Lt. Col. Matt Martin was PIC for o-rides by C/Amn Eric Allen and C/SSgt Anthony Dillon. All the cadets are with Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer except for C/Amn Allen who is with the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City.



LT WEATHERS AND O-RIDERS



LT COL DEWEESE AND O-RIDERS



LT COL MARTIN AND O-RIDERS



- **JOINT DAKOTA'S ENCAMPMENT:** The 2016 Joint Dakotas Cadet Leadership Encampment began on Saturday, 25 June. This year's encampment is being held at scenic Camp Grafton, the main Army National Guard installation located near Devil's Lake in northeastern North Dakota. The encampment will run through 2 July. This year nine officers and 57 cadets from five Wings (North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Nebraska) are taking part.

- **POWDER RIVER MOA:** SDWG aircrews flew near Devil's Tower in Wyoming two weeks ago while conducting low-level route surveys of the vastly expanded Powder River Military Operating Area (MOA). The aircrews were looking for antenna towers and livestock operations that Ellsworth AFB's B-1 bombers and other aircraft need to avoid while conducting low level flight operations in the airspace.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew 12 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over 7 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 26.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.5 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 30.3 flight hours. The CAP pilots were Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt, seven sorties, and Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, one sortie, Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, three sorties and Capt. Neil Schmid, one sortie. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P.

- The latest issue of “CAP Vector”, a quarterly news and information tool to get the out" about CAP initiatives, events, programs is at [www.capmembers.com/cap\\_national\\_hq/cap\\_vector\\_staff\\_updates/](http://www.capmembers.com/cap_national_hq/cap_vector_staff_updates/). Also, the digital version of the July-September 2016 issue of the *Civil Air Patrol Volunteer* is now available at [www.capvolunteernow.com/cap\\_volunteer/](http://www.capvolunteernow.com/cap_volunteer/). Just click on the new *Volunteer's* front cover.

## STAFF NOTES



### **WING COMMANDER**

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- **NPR INTERVIEW:** On 8 June, I gave a phone interview to a reporter for National Public Radio. He was interested in our emergency services; the when, where and how we are used. I cited examples like the search for the missing young man in Rapid City, Winter Storm Atlas, Missouri River flooding, wildfire missions, etc. He asked what I would change and I said that my predecessor had left the wing in excellent condition. Since I have two sons who were cadets I would probably focus more on cadet programs. Then I gave a brief recruiting pitch.
- **NEW MISHAP REPORTING PROCEDURE:** In accordance with CAPR 62-2 the South Dakota Wing is issuing a regulations supplement detailing our wing's mishap reporting procedures. Please become acquainted with the information before a mishap occurs. Squadron Commanders are requested to review this new procedure with your members, post the supplement prominently in the squadron and replace the old supplement in the vehicle binders and aircraft with the updated version.



### **WING CHIEF OF STAFF**

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

- **CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL:** The Wing's Cadet Advisory Council is working with their squadrons to get sizes for the new ABUs. After the sizes have been turned in, the uniforms will be distributed. After the cadets get the uniforms, there will be ABUs available to Senior Members.



### **WING OPERATIONS OFFICER**

Maj. Craig Goodrich, CAP

Hey SD wing! As the newly appointed Wing Operations Officer I want to say thanks for the confidence that you and our new wing commander have placed in me to manage the operations in our wing.

- **NEW CALL SIGN LIST:** out for SDWG. It complies with the new CAPR 100-3. It is posted on the Wing Website at <http://sdcap.us/communication/>

- **HF NET COMING**: More about this is coming soon, but SDWG will be starting up an HF net.
- **UAV'S**: SDWG has been selected by CAP/NHQ as a test program for the use of drones for Search and Rescue. We currently have one small quad-copter assigned to the Rushmore Squadron, and we should have a large hex-copter assigned to us soon. Some of the Rushmore members are working through a training program, which includes a computer simulator and we hope to soon provide training to everyone who wants to be involved in the program.



## **WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP

- The final Wing Roundup magazine for 2016 is going to be dedicated to SDWG's and CAP's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I am now seeking ideas for topics for articles. Any officer or cadet can submit an idea for an article. I am also seeking officers and cadets to volunteer to write articles and/or to submit photos for articles. The deadline for submission of articles and photos to me is 19 October.

## **SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

### **CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**

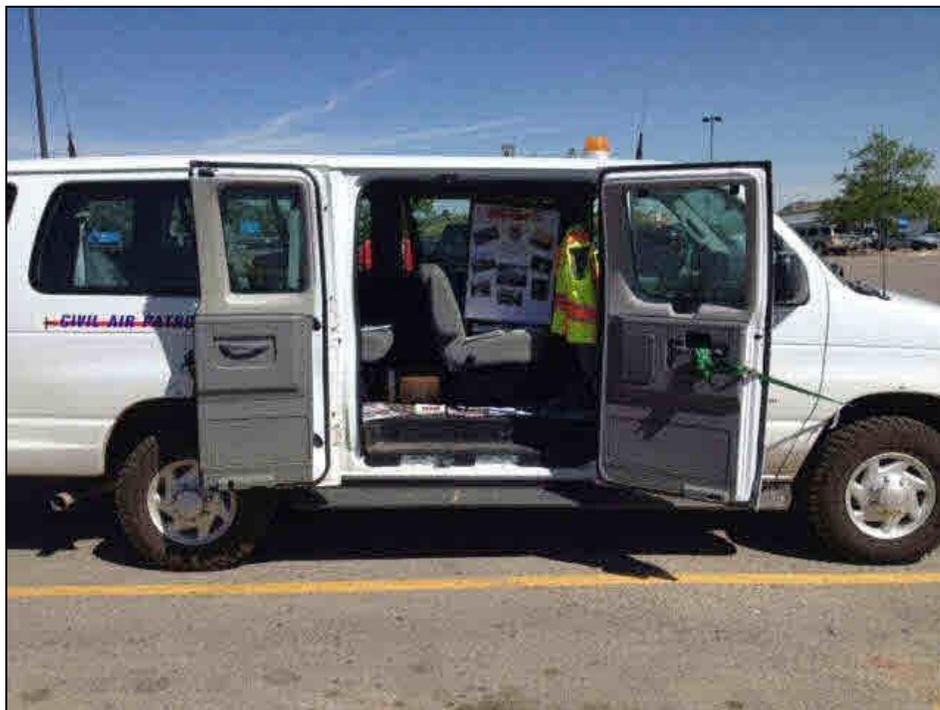
- **WING CONFERENCE**: On 11 June, Eleven of our members attended the Wing Conference from where our cadets performed the Color Guard duties for the banquet on 4 June. Capt. Richard Geeting, Capt. James Dillon and Lt. Tim Modde received Certificates of Appreciation for their hard work and dedication to CAP. Capt. Victoria Bierwirth received the Aerospace Officer of the Year award. Capt. Kris Bierwirth received the Public Affair Officer of the Year award and the Senior Member of the Year Award. Several of our members were dispatched to the REDCAP in Rapid City cutting our activities short.
- **SDPA MEETING**: Officers Tim Modde and Richard and Diane Geeting along with Cadets Thomas, Dillon, Anthony Dillon, and Robert Hewitt attended the South Dakota Pilots Association (SDPA) meeting and listened to guest speaker Lt. Col. Chuck Childs. He spoke about his experiences with the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49. Afterwards our members toured the South Dakota Air & Space museum just outside Ellsworth AFB.
- **ENCAMPMENT FOLKS**: C/SSgt. Anthony Dillon, C/SSgt. Hunter Rice, C/A1C Ethan Updike and C/Amn Robert Hewitt are attending the Joint Dakota Encampment this year. Maj. Richard Geeting and Lt. Tim Modde were the transport ferry drivers.
- **AMERICAN LEGION DONATION**: Capt. Kris Bierwirth was invited by the American Legion Battle Mountain Post 71 to help sell wreaths for Wreaths Across America at the Sam's Club in Rapid City on 26 June. 65 wreaths were sold and the fund raising portion of the wreath sales were donated to the squadron.
- **WELCOME ABOARD**: Our newest cadet, Alexander Heinrich, has joined our squadron! We are pleased you decided to join CAP and proud to have you in our unit.



- **DISASTER RELIEF**: Maj. Sharon Moad assisted the American Red Cross as a disaster relief worker in the Hermosa, SD area where an F2 category tornado touched down 13 June. She worked aboard the ARC's emergency response vehicle that provided meals to local residents and clean-up crews on Saturday, 18 June.

## **LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)**

- **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR**: The Lawrence County Office of Emergency Management held an Emergency Preparedness Fair in the Walmart parking lot on 11 June. First responders and other emergency services organizations, including ourselves, displayed their equipment and demonstrated their capabilities.



- **FIREFIGHTING FLIGHTLINE VISIT**: While some of our cadets are away at Encampment others came to a Character Development (CD) class on 30 June. What then happened is an interesting turn of events: Many in the area and across the Wing are aware that there is a forest fire 4 miles outside Spearfish to the West. Due to the nature of this fire many assets have been brought in to fight this wildfire. Spearfish Regional Airport is the temporary home to a number of different helicopters that were brought in to assist efforts. Maj. Collister offered the use of the squadron headquarters to these firefighters and in return they offered to show their various helicopters to the cadets. The cadets took a break from the CD class to visit the various helicopters and equipment on the Spearfish flightline. This was done between sorties, when the crewmen probably should have been resting. It was not clear whether the crews or the cadets were more excited at this opportunity, but the whole process was enjoyed by all. After being shown the Sikorsky S-64 "Skycrane" and Boeing-Vertol CH-107 up close, and the "Bambi Bucket" and how it works, the cadets had explanations given to them for three other

helicopters on the ramp as well. When the aircraft show and tell was finished, the cadets returned to finish their CD class to complete the meeting night. So, not only was there a program set up toward rank advancement, a very interesting, if impromptu, Aerospace Education lesson was also accomplished.



LEFT: SKYCRANE HELICOPTER N718HT  
 CENTER C/LT DOYLE IN THE SKYCRANE  
 RIGHT: C/AMN PETERSON AND C/LT BLANSETT IN THE SKYCRANE



LEFT: C/AMN RABER IN THE SKYCRANE  
 CENTER: CADETS IN THE SKYCRANE CABIN  
 RIGHT: BAMBI BUCKET DROPPING WATER ON A WILDFIRE

## **SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIoux FALLS)**

- **FESTIVAL OF CULTURES**: Our squadron's Color Guard performed at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Cultures held at Falls Park on 11 June. The Festival of Cultures, organized by the Sioux Falls Multi-Cultural Center, celebrates diversity in the community through entertainment, food and information booths.



- **NEW ADJUTANT**: Capt. Tyler Cavin has been appointed Squadron Adjutant. His formal duty position in eServices position will be Assistant Administrative Officer, however, he will report directly to the squadron commander and deputy squadron commander. He will process squadron members' needs during Officer meeting nights. Capt. Cavin will also continue as Squadron Leadership Officer and Assistant Communications Officer. Please welcome and congratulate him in his new position.

- **WELCOME ABOARD #1**: Please welcome Lt. Col. Duncan Keirnes (USAF ret.) as a new member of the Civil Air Patrol and the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Duncan, a USAF Academy graduate, is an experienced military and civilian pilot who has also been instructing other pilots how to fly the Boeing 787 in a flight simulator. He has also been active in the Boy Scouts.

- **WELCOME ABOARD #2**: Please welcome our newest cadet, Matthew Schwarz. We are pleased that you have decided to join CAP and are proud to have you in our squadron.

- **CADET COMAND CHANGE**: On 16 June, after a year of service as Cadet Commander C/Capt. Nicholas Nash handed over command of the squadron's cadet corps to C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Blake Hayden.



- **MARION SUMMER CELEBRATION**: Our Cadet Color Guard led the Summer Celebration parade in Marion. This annual 3-Day small town event included a lots of fun activities for young and old.



- **MISSION PILOT TRAINING**: C/Maj. Brandon West has begun training to become a Mission Pilot for the South Dakota Wing. Under the instruction and supervision of Capt. Matt Meert, Brandon took off for a few hours flying the sunny skies over the southeast corner of the state. They were accompanied by Maj. Karla West.



CAPT. MEERT (LEFT) AND C/MAJ WEST (RIGHT) PLAN THEIR FLIGHT

## ★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

### **Senior Member Promotions**



Congratulations to Richard Geeting of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Major!



Congratulations to Jon Becker of the Pierre Composite Squadron and to Michael Johnson of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Captain!

### **Cadet Officer Promotion**



Congratulations to Devon Brown of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Captain and receipt of the milestone Amelia Earhart Award!



### **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotion**



Congratulations to Logan Wallace of the Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City) on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



### **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Michael Anderson of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish) on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Mariel Klosterman and Annabelle Klosterman, both of Brandon, and members of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron (Brookings) on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!





Congratulations to Hunter Zimmerman of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to Maj. Bruce Kipp, Assistant Historian on the Wing Staff, for completing the requirements for award of “Master” level in the Civil Air Patrol Specialty Track – Historian.



Congratulations to Maj. Richard Geeting of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who completed Level III of CAP’s Senior Member Development Program. In recognition thereof he received the Grover C. Loening Award!



★ ★ **PASSING OF A CAP LEGEND** ★ ★



On 10 June 2016, Civil Air Patrol lost Col. Mary S. Feik, a noted aviation engineer, pilot and aircraft restorer. She died at her home in Annapolis, Maryland. She was 92.

Feik, born on March 9, 1924, in Cleveland, Ohio, was known as the first woman aviation engineer and an expert on military aircraft. During World War II she was a maintenance instructor for the Army Air Corps, and later became the first woman engineer in R&D for the USAF Air Technical Service Command. Feik flew more than 6,000 hours in fighter, attack, bomber, cargo and training aircraft.

She was the first woman to receive the FAA’s Taylor Master Mechanic Award, a recipient of the Katharine Wright Trophy, an inductee into the Paul E. Garber First Flight Shrine and the Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame.

Feik was a member of the restoration team at the National Air and Space Museum’s Paul E. Garber Restoration Facility, and taught the restoration of antique and classic aircraft.

Feik held colonel’s rank in the Civil Air Patrol, in which more than 10,000 cadets have received a personally signed “Mary Feik Achievement Award”. The award that was created in her name in 2003 was her “ultimate honor,” she told the Civil Air Patrol.

★ ★ **WING CALENDAR** ★ ★

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

JUL <b>5</b> Tue	all-day CAPF-73 Due
	all-day Vehicle Reports Due to Wing VMO ...
JUL <b>15</b> Fri	all-day NCR Flight Academy
JUL <b>23</b> Sat	all-day Sioux Falls Air Show – CAP 75th ...
JUL <b>30</b> Sat	all-day Lookout Mountain SUI
	all-day Rushmore Squadron SUI Due
JUL <b>31</b> Sun	all-day Lookout Mountain SUI Due
AUG <b>11</b> Thu	all-day CAP National Conference – Nashville
AUG <b>19</b> Fri	all-day SAREX – Spearfish

