



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for June 2017

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

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WING TIPS

- **REMOTE BASE SAREX:** The Air Force requested that South Dakota Wing (SDWG) conduct a remote base Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) on the premise that real life emergencies never happen when and where they are expected. A remote base exercise is one where we train at a location where we don't normally operate and therefore must bring all our assets and equipment with us. On 3 June, nine aircraft, several vans, over 30 personnel and a plethora of command, control and communications equipment were brought to the regional airport at Watertown. Airco Aviation, the hosting Fixed Base Operator, couldn't have been more accommodating and generous in giving us full run of their new facility.

Ironically, the week before the SAREX, SDWG successfully conducted air and ground REDCAP searches for two aircraft emergency beacons that were active near Watertown. Fortunately, this real-world event ended with no loss of life or damaged aircraft as the two beacons had activated due to maintenance issues.

The night prior to the SAREX thunderstorms in western South Dakota threatened to reduce participation by SDWG aircraft but by Saturday morning the weather was perfect and all six of our aircraft made it to Watertown along with three aircraft from North Dakota Wing. The nine aircraft, a record in South Dakota, participated in a very busy exercise.

During the SAREX the Incident Commander, Col. Mike Beason, had his hands full responding to scenario after scenario proposed by the USAF observer team that required the safe launching of multiple aircraft and crews. Air Operations Branch Director trainee, Lt. Col. Shelly Metzger, was challenged in keeping all the aircraft active and keeping them out of each other's airspace.

After helping set up the Incident Command Center's radios Maj. Bill Collister led the ground team on a very high mission tempo conducting ground searches for a variety of targets encompassing simulated missing persons, missing vehicles, and aircraft emergency locator transmitters.

Thanks to pre-exercise publicity in Watertown a steady trickle of media and community members turned out at the airport to watch our activity. Capt. Josh Hall enthralled nine scout troop members by showing them the features of one of our Cessna-182 aircraft. KDLT-TV out of Sioux Falls sent a reporter who produced an excellent report on CAP activities for the Saturday evening news. Mr. Don Egert of Watertown radio station KXLG-FM provided local coverage of the event. The South Dakota Highway Patrol and a local Search and Rescue group also sent observers.

The SAREX concluded around 1700 and everyone was ready to head home after a long and productive day of exercises. New emergency services training scenarios were mastered and not a single mishap marred the event.



CIVIL AIR PATROL AIRCRAFT LINE THE TARMAC OUTSIDE THE AIRCO AVIATION HANGAR AT WATERTOWN REGIONAL AIRPORT



LEFT: STAFF MEMBERS UPDATE ANALOG AND DIGITAL MISSION STATUS BOARDS AT THE INCIDENT COMMAND POST



RIGHT: GROUND TEAM MEMBERS CONDUCT A PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING FOR THE NEXT GROUND SEARCH MISSION

- **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEYS:** Each year the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing requests SDWG carry out low-level route surveys (LLRS) of selected military aerial training routes and of aerial Military Operations Areas. These military aerial training routes encompass southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska and lead to and from the O'Neill MOA. The task is to search for and photograph uncharted hazards to low-flying, fast-moving military aircraft such as antenna towers, changes to charted towers, and noise sensitive areas - stock pens/feedlots of which there are a vast number between Sioux City and Omaha. SDWG began flying the 2017 LLRS mission with two sorties on 27 March. The sortie

tempo will pick up in June and July and conclude at the end of August. When SDWG flies a LLRS, an Incident Command Post (ICP) is set up for command, control and communications support for the aircraft. This year Nebraska Wing aircraft will chart the O'Neill MOA under the command and control of the South Dakota Wing ICP. As in years past Capt. Neil Schmid is SDWG's 2017 LLRS Incident Commander. He is assisted by 1st Lt. Jerry Hayden and Lt. Col. Duncan Keirnes. The photo shows a cell phone tower near the edge of an agricultural field, a potential hazard to low-flying, fast-moving military aircraft.



- **NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION:** The Big Sioux Composition Squadron is heading to the National Cadet Competition 29 June through 3 July in Dayton, Ohio. The Big Sioux Composite Squadron won the Wing Competition in March this year and was one of two teams selected in the North Central Region to head to NCC. Sixteen cadet teams from all across the US compete in a variety of events including Presentation of the Colors, Written Exam, Physical Fitness, CAP Jeopardy, and Public Speaking. The team consists of members from the Big Sioux Composite Squadron: C/TSgt Caleb Hofer, C/CMSgt Annabelle Klosterman and C/CMSgt Mariel Klosterman and from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron: C/SMSgt David Willison, C/TSgt Peter Willison and C/TSgt Isaiah Klosterman. The team is chaperoned by 1st Lt. Tyler Gross of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron and 2nd Lt. Maria Klosterman of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. This is the 2nd year in a row that cadets from Big Sioux and Sioux Falls Composite Squadron are representing the SD Wing at NCC. We wish them the best of luck. Also, C/Lt. Col. Joshua Klosterman of Big Sioux is one of the NCC judges! Check out the Flickr webpage for pictures of the competition: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/cadetcomp/>.

- **FORMER NATIONAL COMMANDER DIES:** Maj. Gen. Dwight Wheless, Civil Air Patrol national commander from 2004-2005 and most recently the chief of the legal officer corps, passed away on Friday, June 30. He was 76. Wheless belonged to CAP for 36 years. Before his term as national commander, he held positions as national vice commander from 2001-2004, national legal officer from 1993-1996 and North Carolina Wing commander from 1989-1994. He also served as National Appeal Board chairman, Membership Action Review Panel (MARP) chairman and member, and Constitution and Bylaws Committee member. For

his service, Wheless was awarded multiple Distinguished Service medals, Exceptional Service awards, Meritorious Service awards and Commanders Commendations. He joined CAP in March 1981 when the Coastal Senior Squadron was reactivated in Manteo, North Carolina.



- **PLANE SWAP:** Did you know that after every 100 hours of flight time SDWG aircraft undergo a FAA-mandated inspection? On 28 June, a Sioux Falls-based Cessna-182/G1000 (933CP) was flown to Pierre with C/Maj Brandon West and Maj. Karla west on board. The same day a Rapid City-based Cessna-182/G1000 (397CA) also flew to Pierre with Col. David Small and Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich on board. 933CP was due for its inspection so the two crews swapped aircraft. Brandon and Karla flew 397CA to Sioux Falls and Craig and David flew 933CP back to Rapid City where it will undergo inspection there at L&D Aero Services. At some time in the future the two aircraft will be swapped back to their original squadrons.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew 23 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over 10 days in June in support of the state's Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P) and South Dakota State University (SDSU).



Both organizations have continually ongoing research projects surveying mountain lions, bobcats, swift foxes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. The result was 47.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 4.3 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 52.1 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 15 sorties; Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, 4 sorties; Capt. Neil Schmid, 1 sortie; Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, 3 sorties. Depending on whom the sortie supports the pilot is accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P. The photo shows a radio-collar tagged mountain lion.

- **SPACE CORPS:** The U.S. House Armed Services Committee's markup of the Fiscal 2018 National Defense Authorization Act establishes a separate Space Corps within the Air Force to be led by a four-star Chief of Staff who would be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. [Note: This is just a proposal at this point]

- **USAF GOAT BRIGADE:** Malmstrom AFB in Montana will bring in hundreds of goats for weed control. 900 goats will spend the summer gobbling up invasive weeds that have taken over large sections of the base. Over the course of six weeks, the goats are expected to work through as much as 1,000 acres. A smaller herd was at Malmstrom for a few days last summer to demonstrate the project's potential, answer questions, and address concerns about having goats graze around nuclear operations. The project was approved not long after.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- SDWG Emergency Services Officer, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and SDWG Director of Operations, Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, and I met with Mr. Jason Bauder, Deputy Director, South Dakota Office of Emergency

Management (SDOEM) and Mr. Tim Schall, Natural Resources Engineering Specialist on 28 June. The objective of the meeting was to deepen our relationship with the SDOEM and determine how we can expand SDWG's role when the state deals with emergencies including missing persons, flooding, fires, etc.



WING VICE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

- **AEROSPACE EDUCATION**: Lots of news in the world of Aerospace Education (AE). Summer has only started, and here we are planning for a late August AE Extravaganza. AE Week(end) is scheduled for 19 and 20 August, with a slight variation. We are planning to have a split event, East River and West River. Everyone is welcome to attend either one, or both. The Black Hills Soaring Club would prefer we do glider orientation rides during the week, so West River will start on Wednesday the 16th in Hot Springs. Then, a weekend Air Show will take place at the Custer Airport supported by Crazy Horse Composite Squadron and anyone else who cares to participate. The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron will host the East River AE Event at Sioux Falls Airport. Aircraft will shuttle cadets to glider orientation rides in New Ulm MN. Just like the West River Event, those awaiting their shuttle will be kept busy with rocketry, robotics, radio-controlled aircraft and static displays provided by the Experimental Aircraft Association and the National Guard. There may also be tours. So, pick an AE Event that fits your schedule...or go to both!

- **NEW WING DAE**: 1st Lt. Tim Modde of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer will be taking the reins as SDWG Director of Aerospace Education. I have served two terms in that capacity and feel it's time for new, fresh ideas. When you see Tim, congratulate him for stepping up and give him your full support.

- **AEX**: The suspense date for the Aerospace Excellence program looms near. Get your projects completed and submitted for the AE Excellence Award. Have fun while learning. Remember, AE happens all around you, all the time. There are lots of exciting things happening this summer. Get out and enjoy them!



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

- **ENCAMPMENT**: On the 8th of July over 80 CAP members will converge at Camp Rapid Army National Guard Base in Rapid City for the annual Joint Dakota Cadet Leadership Encampment led by Encampment Commander, Capt. Mike Johnson, and Cadet Commander, C/Capt Anika Bohmer. Encampment is a great environment for cadets to develop leadership skills, learn about aerospace sciences and related careers, commit to a habit of regular exercise, and solidify their moral character. Encampment is required for cadets that wish to promote to cadet officer and for eligibility to attend a National Cadet Special Activity. We have members from five Wings signed up (SD, ND, MN, NE, and MT). Encampment will end with an Awards Banquet on the 15th of July at 1800 awarding everyone for their hard work throughout the week and completing the challenges presented. Family and friends are invited to attend. Please sign-up on the Eventbrite website. A reminder that packing lists are also posted on the Eventbrite site. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/joint-dakota-encampment-2017-tickets-31603041548> The Encampment Facebook webpage will be updated daily with pictures and events happening throughout the week at <https://www.facebook.com/CAPJDE/>

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

(Item and photo submitted photo submitted by C/SMSGt A. Klosterman)



- **RELAY FOR LIFE COLOR GUARD:** On 24 June our squadron's Color Guard presented the colors for the 2017 Annual Relay for Life event in Brookings. The event raises money for the American Cancer Society, raises awareness about cancer and celebrates those who have survived. Overall, there was a great turnout and the ceremony was a great success. As always our Color Guard looked sharp and performed flawlessly. Many favorable comments were overheard. Presenting the colors from left to right are C/MSgt Andrew Sweebe, C/MSgt Mariel Klosterman, C/MSgt Annabelle Klosterman, and C/TSgt Caleb Hofer.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Item and photo submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)



- **GROWLER VISIT:** On 21 June squadron members took advantage of the opportunity arranged by Capt. Mike Johnson of Rushmore Composite Squadron to meet the pilots and tour the aircraft of the U.S. Navy F-18 Growler squadron visiting Rapid City. Officers Maj. Richard Geeting and 1st Lt. Timothy Modde were accompanied by C/MSgt Hunter Rice, C/MSgt Anthony Dillon, C/Amn Dalton Streff, C/Amn Alexander Heinrich, C/AB Justin Doyle and C/2d Lt Thomas Dillon. In their after-action reports the cadets wrote that they most enjoyed meeting the pilots, touring the aircraft and watching the Growlers take off and land.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item and photo submitted by Capt. Johnson)

- **GROWLER VISIT:** A U.S. Navy F-18 Growler squadron visited Ellsworth AFB and I was able to set up a meet and greet and aircraft tour on 20 and 21 June. The male and female Naval aviators let our cadets shadow them as they went through mission planning, mission briefing and then the cadets were able to tour the carrier-based EA-18G electronic warfare aircraft. The F-18s will be here again from 7-19 August so there is the opportunity for more cadets and senior member escorts to get the briefing and tour.

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

(Items and photos submitted by Maj. Epp, Maj. Karla West and 1st Lt. M. Klosterman)

- **WELCOME ABOARD:** It is my great pleasure to welcome the Dickens family from Lynchburg, Virginia to our squadron! In the coming weeks we will gain five members from the Lynchburg Composite Squadron: 1st Lt. Lacie Dickens, 2nd Lt. Derick Dickens, C/1st Lt. Acadia Dickens, C/2nd Lt. Elianna Dickens and C/Amn Liberty Dickens. They are extremely active at their Virginia squadron and want to be active in our squadron as

well. Derick has already transferred into our squadron. The rest of the family will join him this summer and transfer in, as they have some responsibilities they need to finish up with their current squadron. Please give them a hearty welcome when they arrive and make them feel that this is their squadron home. Also, my thanks to Capt. Pete Strubhar of the Lynchburg Composite Squadron for assisting in making this a smooth transition for all concerned.



- **MEET AND GREET:** Senior members met with the Minnehaha County Emergency Management Dive Team on 8 June. The purpose of the meeting was an inter-agency introduction of who we are and what our respective groups do. The Minnehaha County Emergency Management Dive Team consists of twelve certified divers who train monthly to stay proficient for quick response needed for river and lake rescue. They work very closely and train in special maneuvers with the Minnehaha County Rescue Squad.

- **SFCS QUADCOPTER CORPS:** Mike Klarenbeek of Aerial Horizons brought some of his high-end drones to the 24 June meeting of the SFCS Quadcopter Corps. We finished building the STEM kit sUAV and, after finding a suitable location, test flew it as well as some other sUAVs.



- **AIRCREW TRAINING:** On 17 June, Capt. Jason Erickson, assisted by Capt. Kurt Johnson and Capt. Jeremy Langrock, held hands-on mission observer training for emergency services aircrew members. Attending the training were Maj. Karla West, 2nd Lt. Manny Steele, 2nd Lt. Kevin Kayser, SM Travis Robinson, Lt. Col. William Strandell and 2nd Lt. Tom Redlin.

- **BRANDON LOYALTY DAY PARADE:** The Brandon Loyalty Day Parade was held on 7 May. It was the first parade of the summer for the squadron's Color Guard and cadets. The Color Guard consisted of C/2dLt Josiah Huntington, C/SMSgt Kyle Kreger, C/SMSgt Ivan Kreger, C/SMSgt David Willison, and C/TSgt Isaiah Klosterman. C/SMSgt Chris Schuppan and C/TSgt Peter Willison marched in the parade with the squadron banner. The officers that assisted were Capt. Karen Terry, 2nd Lt. Lucinda Helmes, 2nd Lt. Mimi Klosterman and SM Amy Willison.



- **MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS:** The squadron was busy during the run-up to and weekend of Memorial Day. On 25 May we gathered at the Hills of Rest Cemetery to present the colors. After the ceremony we were served a meal and then assisted in placing flags on veterans' graves. The Color Guard consisted of C/2dLt Josiah Huntington, C/2dLt Jaden Roblewsky, C/SMSGt Kyle Kreger, and C/SMSGt Ivan Kreger. On 29 May our Color Guard pulled double duty by presenting the colors at the Hills of Rest Cemetery at 1100 and then at the VA Hospital at 1330. The Color Guard consisted of C/2dLt Josiah Huntington, C/2dLt Jaden Roblewsky, and C/SMSGt Kyle Kreger with Capt. Karen Terry assisting.



- **HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE:** We were pleased to have had a recruiting opportunity at the Sioux Empire Christian Home Educators conference held 12-13 May. We had a table at the conference to promote Civil Air Patrol. One of our newest cadets came out of this conference and is hoping to go to encampment this year. The following members helped out at this event: 1st Lt. Sam Huntington, SM Charlene Huntington, 2nd Lt. Mimi Klosterman, C/TSgt Isayah Klosterman, SM Randy Sarchet and C/AB Kaleb Sarchet.

- **CYBERPATRIOT:** The squadron is participating in the 2017-2018 CyberPatriot competition. We have registered one high school and one middle school team. Cyber-security practice sessions have started and we have completed Exhibition Round 1. Some of new team members have just joined CAP so they're already jumping into one of the many fun and exciting programs CAP has to offer.



SFCS MIDDLE SCHOOL CYBERPATRIOT TEAM MEMBERS



SFCS CYBERPATRIOT TEAM IN EXHIBITION ROUND 1

- **MARION PARADE:** The squadron's Color Guard and other cadets participated in the 15th Annual Marion Parade & Rumble on the Route on 17 June. The Color Guard consisted of C/2dLt Jaden Roblewsky, C/2dLt Josiah Huntington, C/SMSGt Kyle Kreger, C/TSgt Isayah Klosterman and C/Amn Kaleb Sarchet. C/SMSGt Chris Schuppan and C/AB Thomas Swier marched in the parade with the squadron banner. The officers that assisted were Capt. Justin Johnson, 1st Lt. Melanie Schuppan and 2nd Lt. Mimi Klosterman.



- **AVIATION TRAINING:** C/CMSgt Julia Lair is training to earn her private pilot's license. Her instructor is none other than her Dad, Greg, who just happens to be USAF Colonel Lair, Operations Group Commander of the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard. While not everyone is privileged to have a fighter pilot for a Dad, every SDWG officer and cadet has the opportunity for assistance with their private pilot training program and perhaps even a scholarship to help offset the cost.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations to Todd Epp of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to David Willison of Sioux Falls, a member 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 Andrew Sweebe of Brookings, a member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Caleb Hofer of Hendricks, MN, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Thomas Friedrich of Spearfish, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Max Krier of Spearfish, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on his promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Matthew Schwarz of Brandon, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and Brady Hedrick of Sioux Falls and Gracy Rohl of Brookings, both of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General John F. Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to Maj. Shannon Hofer of Big Sioux Composite Squadron who on 24 June passed his first Form 91 check ride and became a Search and Rescue/Disaster Response Mission Pilot!

★ ★ ENCAMPMENT EUROPEAN STYLE ★ ★

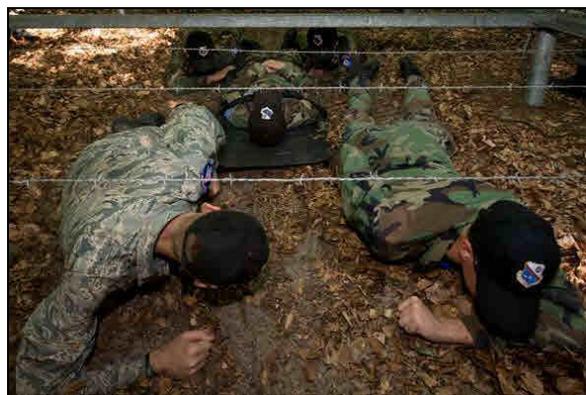
Did you know CAP has squadrons in Europe? There are three cadet squadrons; one in England at Royal Air Force Mildenhall and two in Germany at Ramstein Air Base and Spangdahlem Air Base. The squadrons are made up of cadets whose parents are in the military, employed by the military, or affiliated with the Department of Defense or US government. The cadets participate in a range of CAP activities, one of which is encampment.

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -- In the heat of a German summer afternoon, 28 young people make their way through the forest. They are mostly too young to be Airmen, yet they wear similar uniforms as they carry fellow members on stretchers, over walls and under barbed wire, following the orders of their cadre.

Instead of sleeping in and enjoying a lazy week of summer, these cadets spent more than a week living in deployment tents on Ramstein, carrying out physical and mental tasks in a manner somewhat similar to Air Force Basic Training. The cadets begin every day with stretches, formation and breakfast before diving in to a variety of classes and activities. The classes focused on leadership, life skills and aerospace knowledge, while daily sports, drill and ceremony practice provided challenges of strength and discipline. The cadets faced the many challenges that come with figuring out how to communicate and operate as a team.



WOODLAND CASUALTY EVACUATION EXERCISE



CASUALTY EVACUATION OBSTACLE COURSE



FLAG DETAIL (NOTE THE CAP SHOULDER PATCH)



FIELD DINING FACILITY (THAT'S SOME TENT!)

Source: Ramstein Air Base (www.ramstein.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1226676/cap-cadets-tackle-week-of-challenges/)

CAP also has cadet squadrons in Asia at Osan Air Base in South Korea, on the Japanese island of Okinawa and in Japan at Yokota Air Base and Misawa Air Base. Closer to home CAP has squadrons in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands.

