



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for September 2017

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

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WING TIPS

- **NEW CAP LEADERSHIP:** Major General Mark Smith and Brigadier General Edward Phelka began their three-year term as National Commander and National Vice Commander respectively with their assumption of command on 2 September at CAP’s 2017 National Conference. Their biographies are the last two pages of this edition of the Skychaser. A bit of military trivia – what is the significance of the blue flag on the right background in both photos? The first person to answer correctly will win eternal glory.



MAJ. GEN. MARK SMITH



BRIG. GEN. EDWARD PHELKA

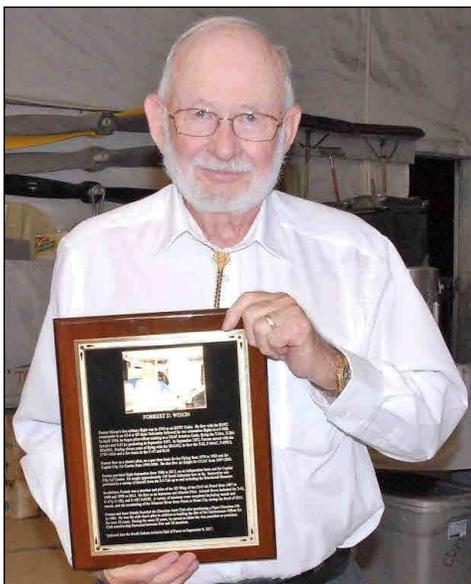
- **SD AVIATION HALL OF FAME:** The South Dakota Wing was privileged to have two of its alumni honored at the South Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame 26th Annual Induction Ceremony held on 9 September. Black Hills Aero, an aviation services company at the Black Hills Airport-Clyde Ice Field in Spearfish, generously provided their hangar for the event. 105 people were in attendance. The ceremony began with the posting of the colors. The four-person Color Guard was made up of C/2nd Lt Thomas Dillon and C/SMSGt Hunter Rice from Custer Composite Squadron and C/SSgt Thomas Friedrich and C/A1C James Crenshaw from Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron. It was very much appreciated by the crowd who commented that it added much dignity and honor to the occasion. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Crazy Horse Cadet Rihanna Jones and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Rae sang the National Anthem.

Two SDWG alumni were inducted into SD Aviation Hall of Fame; Thomas Roberts, Jr. and Forrest Wixon.



- **THOMAS ROBERTS, JR.:** He left a legacy of leadership and service to his nation and his community through aviation. It continues to bear fruit today from his contributions to the early days of South Dakota aviation and the birth of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. His passion for flying began after World War One as an owner of several aircraft, but his aviation vision and organizational skills earned him leadership as the first chairman of the State Aeronautics Commission in 1935. As chair of the Aeronautics Commission, he enabled the establishment of airports and air service across the state. He was instrumental in getting the first municipal airport in Pierre. Among his many aviation accomplishments, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Roberts, Jr. was the organizer and first commander of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. He commanded the Wing from December 1, 1941, when Congress authorized formation of CAP, throughout World War Two until October 1945. He created, organized and built up the Wing to train pilots and cadets to enter active military service. He posthumously received the Civil Air Patrol Congressional Gold Medal for service

during World War Two in December 2016 from U.S. Senator John Thune and was inducted into the South Dakota Wing Hall of Fame in April, 2017. LTC Roberts was represented at the ceremony by his family who accepted the award on his behalf. The photo shows LTC Roberts in his WWII CAP uniform.



- **FORREST WIXON:** His first military flight was in 1954 as an ROTC Cadet. In April 1956, he began pilot/officer training as a USAF Aviation Cadet and graduated in September 1957. He was pinned with his silver wings and gold bars on Friday the 13th of September 1957 when he joined the South Dakota Air National Guard for an eleven-year career flying several different aircraft. Forrest flew as a charter pilot on a part-time basis for Ice Flying from 1976-1983 and for Capital City Air Carrier from 1995 to 2006. He provided flight instruction from 1986 to 2017 and taught some 130 South Dakotans how to fly. Over the years he earned civilian certificates for commercial pilot and instrument and multiengine ratings. He added an instructor certificate to that impressive list in 1986 and, in 1996, an instrument instructor rating. Forrest flew with Civil Air Patrol from 1987 to 1989 and then rejoined the Pierre Composite Squadron in 1998 and flew with CAP until 2013. During his time in CAP he served as mission pilot and instructor and also as the Pierre Composite Squadron's Operations Officer, Deputy Commander

and Squadron Commander during his tour with CAP He served as an FAA Safety Counselor for several years and is an FAA Safety Team (FAAST) member for the Pierre area. He still flies regularly. He belongs to several aviation related organizations. Mr. Wixon was present to receive his membership plaque.



- **REDCAP – SORT OF:** There was a quick search and rescue mission that SDWG was part the afternoon of 23 September. It was a search for a missing Mitsubishi MU-2 which left Ainsworth, NE at 10:30 central time headed for Bottineau, ND. Aircraft was reported overdue later afternoon and AFRCC opened mission 17-M-0754 and called SDWG, NDWG and NEWG. Because the weather was clear in North Dakota and not flyable in Nebraska or most of South Dakota, Col John Steiner took the lead from NDWG and prepared three aircraft and crews, from Jamestown, Minot and Bismarck. The weather in South Dakota south of Mobridge was rain, low ceilings, icing at 8,000 feet and thunderstorms. The weather in northern Nebraska was similar.

Capt. Patrick Nowlin in Rapid City served as SDWG Air Operations Branch Director and Col. David Small was Incident Commander for SDWG operating under NDWG Col. Steiner as overall IC. SDWG had an aircraft and crew identified that could launch from Rapid City should there be a demand and weather cooperated. Ground teams were planned should they be necessary out of Rapid City and Pierre. At approximately 18:00 central time, a deputy law enforcement official found the missing aircraft not far from the end of the runway in Nebraska. AFRCC officially ended the mission at 19:30 central time.



- **DEPLOYED:** Maj. Sharon Moad, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, has been activated by the Red Cross and sent to Florida for disaster relief efforts there in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Sharon, a shelter operations specialist, was originally sent to Orlando for initial orientation. From there she has been deployed to Sugarloaf Key to work at a shelter for 1,000 people, the first ever in the U.S. set up and run by the Danish Red Cross. Never in the history of the American Red Cross has the United States needed the assistance of our international partners until now.

- **RETURNED:** Lieutenant Colonels David and Joyce Jeffries of Rushmore Composite Squadron reported on 17 September that they are home safe and sound. They were mobilized on 25 August to deploy to the Gulf Coast to provide Red Cross support services in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.



- **ALSO RETURNED:** Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney returned home safe and sound from a Red Cross assignment in Kamloops, Canada. She had deployed there on 22 August to assist in shelter operations for evacuees from over 100 wildfires raging throughout the province of British Columbia. She stands at extreme left in the photo of her shelter crew.

- **HURRICANE HARVEY FINAL UPDATE:** Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk, Incident Commander for the Texas Wing Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response team reports that the CAP mission wound down with the last photo sorties on 13 September. During the response mission 13 Wings provided support with 33 aircraft, numerous vehicles and some 250 personnel. Around 375,000 photos were taken of the disaster are that required about 745 hours of flying. The SDWG aircraft and aircrew that was there returned home on 14 September.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew 17 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over nine days in September 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 38.1

hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 4.0 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 42.1 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 13 sorties; Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, three sorties; and Capt. Neil Schmid, one sortie. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot was accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P. The photo shows a sage grouse with a radio-tracking collar.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- **NATIONAL CONFERENCE**: Summer has sped by and nights are getting cooler. That coincides with the annual CAP National Conference held in San Antonio, Texas, 31 August – 2 September. Over 800 CAP members attended the event making it the largest CAP conference ever!

Featured at the event was the National Change of Command. Major General Mark E. Smith was sworn in as the new National Commander assisted by Brigadier General Ed Phelka as his Vice Commander. Both Smith and Phelka have come up through the ranks of CAP, with Phelka having been a Spaatz cadet in Michigan. An emphasis on professionalism is one of the top priorities of our new commander. CAP volunteers, working with their Air Force brethren, project a presence to all of our communities. Following the CAP core value of Excellence, we need to be professional in all that we say and do. A culture of safety and compliance is one aspect of professionalism. Servant leadership is another high priority for Gen Smith. All levels of CAP leadership should be dedicated to developing and growing the organization. Every cadet and every officer needs a mentor and that is our job. Gen. Smith listed his biggest "turn offs" as being lied to and being "blown off" or ignored. I am confident that neither of these bad traits are part of the South Dakota wing culture. Honesty and integrity are the most basic expectations of all of our members. More notes on our new leaders' philosophy will follow in future Skychasers.

A presentation that particularly impacted me was astronaut Eric Boe's talk where he showed himself as a 12 or 13 year old CAP cadet in 1981 examining a model of the space shuttle. The next picture was of Boe in the Space Shuttle in space. Cadets, you can achieve anything and CAP helps you get there!

Updates on all major program areas of CAP were given at the conference. We will be seeing some changes to regulations but they shouldn't present major challenges to us and will help improve the organization. More information will follow.

All the while the convention was occurring a second major operation was taking place in the Texas Wing. CAP was and is very active in the evaluation and recovery phase of Hurricane Harvey. Six South Dakota Wing members and two of our aircraft have already helped out in this mission. We are sending an additional airplane and crew down later. Thank you to all these members. The Texas Wing and Southwest Region of CAP expressed their profound thanks for our help.

- **CAP BOG VACANCY**: The following was sent on behalf of Mr. John Salvador, Chief Operating Officer. CAPR 35-9, *Board of Governors, Wing and Region Commander Selection Procedures*, states that when a vacancy exists in the CAP member-at-large position on the Board of Governors the vacancy will be announced and a letter sent to each Command Council member requesting dissemination to each subordinate command.

Attached is a copy of the letter to all senior members announcing the vacancy, listing the minimum requirements, and identifying the closing date for nominations as **11 October 2017**. Please ensure this letter receives the widest dissemination possible. It has been posted on the CAP website and in eServices News. Individuals currently serving as: a commander, vice commander, or chief of staff at national, region or wing level; a member of the National Commander's staff; or a corporate employee may apply, but if selected, must resign their position prior to accepting the Board of Governors position. Additionally, former National Commanders with less than six years since conclusion of their term as National Commander are not eligible to apply. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

- **NEW WING STAFF OFFICER**: Please join with me in welcoming SM Tom Bass as the new South Dakota Wing Director of Finance (FM). Tom has a well-qualified resume with an Air Force career followed by another as finance accounting for a local private company. Tom has recently retired and volunteered for this position. Tom lives in Piedmont and is a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron. A big thank you to Mike Beason for serving as Wing FM for the past year and a half. Mike will continue as Assistant FM.

- **HURRICANE ASSISTANCE**: I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the eight South Dakota Wing members who spent time in Texas helping with the Houston flooding mission: Capt. Jon Becker, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Capt. Jason Erickson, Capt. Scott Giles, Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, Capt. Patrick Nowlin, Capt. Joe Oye and 2nd Lt. Tom Redlin. From everything that I hear, our members performed essential duties critical to the success of the mission and often worked 20 hour days (not flight hours - all regulations were followed!). The Texas wing commander, Col Sean Crandall, expressed his sincere thanks for our help.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

- The National Staff has uploaded all the presentations from the last National Conference. I invite you all to look over some of the ones that interest you or might affect your position. With all the regulation changes, new National Commander, and additions to several programs, there is something for everyone to review. Here is the link: https://www.capmembers.com/events/national_conference/ Let me know if you have any questions with any of them. If I don't know the answer, I will find someone with an answer.



AEROSPACE EDUCATION

By Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

- The Aerospace Education weekend was a tremendous success. Our thanks to Lt. Col. Todd Epp, Cadet 2nd Lt Julia Lair, and all members of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron for their tremendous support. We flew 19 Glider O-Ride sorties, 8 Powered O-Rides transporting cadets to Worthington MN, built and launched model rockets, and toured the SD Air National Guard Facilities with a personal overview by Lt. Col. Greg Lair (Cadet Lair's Father). What a great, event filled weekend. Unfortunately, the West River version was cancelled due to lack of cadet signup, but those who did sign up were transported to Sioux Falls. Next year's AE weekend will need to be scheduled earlier to avoid conflicts with funding from the Fiscal Year Financial Calendar. So look for a June or July event. Be looking for it with sign-up on Event-Brite.

- The SDWG Finance Committee authorized \$1500.00 for Cadet Flying Scholarships. The Scholarship Award Committee has agreed to review and award scholarships in September and April. I am sad to say that no one applied for the September 2017 Cadet Flying Scholarship. Does that mean we have no cadets taking flying lessons? Does it mean that the cadets who are taking flying lessons are not aware of the \$500.00 scholarships? Does it mean those eligible simply forgot to apply? I hope it is the latter. Criteria for applying can be found on the Wing Website (sdwingcap.gov) under Administration, then scholarships. Don't let this money go unused.



WING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. Bruce Kipp, CAP

- If you did not receive the hardcopy Summer 2017 issue of the South Dakota Wing Roundup magazine, a e-copy has been posted on the Wing website on the Public Affairs page.



WING DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, CAP

- NEW RADIOS:** Civil Air Patrol has signed a contract for our next generation of land mobile VHF radios. The contract for Motorola equipment will allow the phased replacement of CAP's aging radios currently in service, the oldest of which are past their design lifetime. The contract will allow purchase of thousands of Motorola portables, control (base) station and remote mount (mobile) stations over the next several years. CAP currently has more than 9,700 VHF portable, mobile and base radios operating.

- TRAINING PLAN FOR FY-2018:** Please write these dates down on your calendar, and do everything you can to participate in every SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise) during the next fiscal year, which started October 1. Please coordinate this schedule with your employer and family so we can count on you being qualified to perform when your community needs your emergency services expertise.

DATE	EVENT	NOTES	Location
Oct 6 to 8	SAREX	Camping	Black Hills / Aircraft - Rapid City
Nov 4	SAREX	Split	ICP - Sioux Falls / Staging Area: Spearfish
Jan 5 to 7	SAREX	Split / Incident Staff Training	ICP - Pierre / Staging areas: Brookings and EAFB
Feb 17 to 19	SAREX	Winter / Snowshoes	Custer
Apr 13 to 15	Wing and Region Conference	With IFR Flight Clinic on Sunday	Deadwood
May 4 to 6	SAREX	Camping	Pierre
Jun 8 to 10	SAREX	Remote Base	Chamberlain
Aug 10 to 12	Aerospace Education	Glider Day	Watertown
Aug 17 to 18	SAREVAL	USAF Evaluated SAREX	Sioux Falls
Sep 14 to 16	Flight Clinic - G-1000	Mountain Fury instead?	Rapid City (or Custer?)

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

(Item and photo submitted by C/2nd Lt A. Klosterman)



- **SIOUX FALLS MARATHON:** On 10 September, members of our squadron assisted with the 2017 Sioux Falls Marathon. The event began Sunday at the Denny Sanford Premier Center. 2,607 runners from six different countries, 40 states and over 600 cities crossed the finish line. We helped out by operating the final water and powerade stops along the route, as well as shouting words of encouragement. Everyone had fun helping out and we hope to do it again next year.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items and photo submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)

- **SAFETY DOWN DAY:** Our squadron simulated a distracted driving course, where the cadets had to drive the cart through a driving course, while opening a bottle of water, eating a snack or having a passenger who kept talking or bothering them while driving. The results... running over cones, crossing the center line and almost taking out the bystanders. After the course we watched a couple of videos on distracted driving. The helmets were used to protect the cadets and to also resemble blind spots in a car.



LEFT C/MSGT HUNTER RICE (PUSHING), C/LT THOMAS DILLON (DISTURBING PASSENGER), C/MSGT ETHAN UPDIKE (DRIVER)
 RIGHT: C/AB RHIANNA JONES (DRIVER, TASKED WITH OPENING A BAG OF SNACKS), C/LT THOMAS DILLON (PUSHING)

- **WELCOME ABOARD:** We have a new Senior Member, Mr. Eric Jones, who resides in nearby Hill City. We are glad you decided to join CAP and pleased to have you in our squadron!

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item and photos submitted by 2nd Lt. Weathers)

- **SAFETY DOWN DAY:** The squadron's Safety Down Day on X September was a success. For the event 1st Lt. Andrew Weathers prepared two videos depicting different scenarios; an aircraft mechanical malfunction resulting in a fire and a rescue gone wrong. During the presentations he paused the videos to examine the issues and discuss how decisions can affect things long term and not be short sighted. He ended the presentations with an interactive quiz. After the presentations the cadets completed two hands-on exercises. The first was an aircraft setup where they walked through a scenario that resulted in a fire. They then put the fire out (silly string), landed and exited the aircraft and made the decision whether or not to go back for the emergency kit. They thoroughly enjoyed this and most got into the role playing. The second exercise was a demonstration of

spatial disorientation. The cadets were spun in chairs then abruptly stopped while their eyes were closed to see how the ears can affect awareness when there are sudden changes. The activities were an excellent experience in aerospace education, aeronautical decision making, mission decision making, avoiding mission tunnel vision, and perhaps most importantly the moral courage to stand up and say no when they feel something is not right.

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

(Items and photo submitted by Lt. Col. Epp and Maj. Karla West)

• Lt. Col. Epp sends: “It is my sad duty to inform you that 2nd Lt. Tina Johnson, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, has died. Tina was one of the most positive people I've ever known. Her enthusiasm and energy were infectious. She was a hard working member of our squadron. More importantly, she was simply a wonderful person. Please pray and think positive thoughts for her and her family and friends in this dark time.”

• **SIDEWALK ARTS FESTIVAL:** As early as 0345 on Saturday, 9 September, about 15 members of the squadron assisted Downtown Sioux Falls in preparing for their annual Sidewalk Arts Festival. This was a free outdoor event with over 300 vendor booths featuring the region’s best fine art, folk art and craft artisans. The festival is also and one of the largest annual fundraisers for the Visual Arts Center at the Washington Pavilion, the region’s premier cultural, educational and entertainment facility. Before the event started at 0800, we were tasked to distribute garbage containers and help set up the booths with a canopy, tables, and stock them with numerous cases of soda pop. Ms. Kaia Hedrick, Special Projects Coordinator, Washington Pavilion commented, “We LOVE having the Civil Air Patrol at the Sidewalk Arts Festival each year. This group is prompt, efficient, and always eager to help. Even when they’re asked to arrive at 4:15 a.m., they come with enthusiasm, great attitudes, and a willingness to assist wherever needed. They stay until the job is done, and their work consistently exceeds expectations! CAP is an invaluable part of our event – we couldn’t do it without them!”



• **BRANDON VALLEY MINISTERIAL PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Last month, we had some cadets represent the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in serving breakfast and cleaning up at the Brandon Valley Ministerial Prayer Breakfast which was held at the Brandon Valley High School. They also requested our presence during their Pledge of Allegiance and presentation. Thank you to the following cadets for their help: C/CMSgt David Willison, C/MSgt Isaiah Klosterman, C/TSgt Peter Willison, C/AB Daniel Willison, C/Amn Kaleb Sarchet, C/Amn Matthew Schwarz, C/Amn Tyler Langman and C/CMSgt Annabelle Klosterman.

• **TRUCK CONVOY / SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUNDRAISER:** On Saturday, 23 September, the Color Guard presented the colors at the 2017 Truck Convoy at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. This event is a celebration of the trucking industry and its support for the Special Olympics. What started as a local event in Florida in 2001,

the event has evolved into an international movement with Convoys in over 24 states and 4 provinces annually. During the event, auctions are held for valuable items as well as for the prestigious title of Lead Truck. The Convoy solicits corporate sponsors and engages community partners to contribute financially to this great fundraising event for a great cause. The cadets who participated are: C/SMSgt Isaiah Klosterman, C/SrA Kaleb Sarchet, C/Amn Gabe Eager and C/CMSgt Annabelle Klosterman.

TOP GUN: Don't mess with Lt. Col. Ron Evenson. He just won his second "Top Gun for Rifle" title in a statewide police/military marksman competition held on 25-26 September in Humboldt, SD. He also shot in the pistol competition and was tied for first place when his weapon malfunctioned taking him out of the running. The second annual "South Dakota Salutes" event raises money for families of South Dakota first responders who have died in the line of duty, as well as to show support for those who serve and protect our citizens.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Jacob Roth of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Austin King of Volga, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Luke Thompson of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on his promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Samuel Moser IX of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



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





Congratulations to Micah Healy of Sioux Falls and to Lydia Klosterman of Brandon, both members of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



★ ★ **DREAM CHASER SPACECRAFT** ★ ★

The Sierra Nevada Corporation is under contract to NASA to develop a civilian commercial manned spacecraft to deliver personnel and supplies to the International Space Station. Their manned, reusable spacecraft is getting closer to flight after testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The “Dream Chaser” spacecraft underwent a captive carry test, wherein a helicopter carried the craft over Edwards for about an hour to test it at altitude and in flight conditions it would experience before being released on a free flight test. The Dream Chaser arrived at the Armstrong Flight Research Center at Edwards in January under a developmental agreement with NASA's Commercial Crew Program. The 30 August test was one of two planned for this year. Sierra Nevada is planning for the Dream Chaser to deliver cargo to the International Space Station under a NASA contract beginning in 2019, and will fly at least six missions by 2024.

Source: Air Force Magazine, Daily Report, Tuesday, September 5, 2017, by Brian Everstine



★ ★ **NATIONAL CONFERENCE TRIP REPORTS** ★ ★

COL. MARY DONLEY: I felt slightly bad for not being involved in the Operations for Hurricane Harvey but felt comfortable that the trained people were out there helping. I am so proud of the way so many stepped up to the plate and gave of their time and talents.

On the conference side: I have attended many National Conferences as a Wing Commander and as an active member. It is always exciting to be there when it involves a change of command for our auxiliary. Maj. Gen. Vasquez and his team did a great job leading us and I have great confidence in our new leadership with Maj. Gen. Smith at the helm!

As the wing Recruiting and Retention Officer I decided to put my major emphasis on the sessions that dealt with that topic. One of the sessions focused on how to assist the local units in their recruiting and retention efforts. Another was all about the first 180 days of membership because this is where we see the most loss of membership happening! Members are not getting the help needed to navigate the system! The other session I

attended was all on using Social Media and local community resources to target the members you need and want! You'll be hearing from me in the near future on these topics!

I also attended a session outlining the changes to the Unit Commander Course and it has definitely changed! More to come on that topic! I took the time to also attend the Awards and Promotions Session so I can better help in that capacity and you WILL be hearing from me on that topic!

It is always fun to see the sights of San Antonio—the Alamo (love that history stuff), the Riverwalk and local cuisine as well as a trek to the Market Square to really take in the local culture! I highly recommend everyone at some time take in a National Conference to get a feel of the awesome programs and people that make up this organization that we have chosen to be members of!

- **MAJ. NICK GENGLER:** I had an excellent time at the National Conference. I took several courses that pertained to Cadet Programs and all the changes coming. The courses included the new Fitness Officer & Fitness Program, Cyber Programs, and Cadet Program Updates. Between October and December this year, the new regulations will be published with all the new changes. I have set up a conference call with all the Squadron Commanders and their Cadet Programs staff to debrief on the changes coming so they are prepared. I was able to personally discuss concerns and issues with the National Cadet Programs Staff which was a great experience. The National Staff is very understanding that every Squadron is unique and there needs to be flexibility and they hope to provide that. I also took the new TLC Intermediate Course. It was a very detailed course and did a great job showing what's all involved with the Cadet Program, what it takes to be successful with it, and how to mentor cadets properly. I highly encourage all commanders and any staff involved with the Cadet Program to take the new TLC Advanced Course. We will be offering several in the future for SD Wing. The National Conference is a unique CAP experience as it offers you the ability to talk directly with those writing the regulations. You get to meet people from all over the Nation that deal with the exact same obstacles that we face in SD. You get to make life long CAP friends and exchange ideas. I highly recommend everyone go to at least one National Conference in their CAP career.

- **LT. COL. CRAIG GOODRICH:** I drove down to San Antonio with my family to attend the Conference. As it turns out, with Hurricane Irma zeroing in on the Texas coast, I decided I would be most helpful to go into “mission mode” and come prepared for anything.

Upon arrival to the conference, I checked into the Hurricane Support Mission and got to work. I only actually went to part of one conference – the North Central Region Commander’s Call. The rest of the time, I worked on the mission. I flew transportation sorties for VIP’s and FEMA personnel in and out of Houston on Wednesday, after arrival in San Antonio the day prior. On Thursday I transported an airplane to the San Marcos staging base, then shuttled crews and provided marshaling, fueling, and parking assistance on the flight line. Friday, I remained in San Antonio at the Incident Command Post working for the IC as an MSA, and Saturday, I worked as Air Operations Branch Director at the San Marcos staging base. Sunday, I went to work, and flew for FedEx to Jacksonville, FL, then on my days off, on Monday and Tuesday, I continued to help out as an MSA to the FASC working on personnel issues for the mission from 850 Miles away.

“It was rewarding to be a part of something, so big. Taking a part in getting food and water to a group of 300 people who were running out was very special. Yes, it was fun, but it was really more frustrating than fun, since we had such limited resources: So few vans, so few mission staff, and too many targets for our aircrews to get done quickly”

CAP is taking zoomed in photos of an area coving approximately 15,000 square miles. Each photo mission is takes between 1000 and 2000 photos. The total number of CAP photography, relocation, and transportation sorties as of Monday afternoon was about 340 sorties.

A year's worth of rain fell in just four days in Harris County (fourth most populated area in the USA) that caused an amazing amount of devastation. "What was amazing to me, was the hundreds of helicopters involved, that were plucking people off of roof tops for days, and the incredible amount of resources that the Federal Government is pouring into the area including assets from Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, Army, Customs, Drug Enforcement Agency, US Marshals, Bureau of Land Management, National Weather Service, FAA, and more."

