



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for November 2017

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

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WING TIPS

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE**: On 4 November the Wing held a state-wide Search and Rescue training exercise (SAREX). The Incident Command Post was at the headquarters of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. The mission base staff was under the able leadership of Capt. Neil Schmid. A Staging Area under the leadership of 2nd Lt. Tricia Weathers was set up at Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish at Clyde Ice Field. Poor weather conditions across the state hampered flight activities. Afternoon sorties were flown Pierre and Sioux Falls. Ground Teams, one in Sioux Falls and one in Spearfish, focused on training in individual tasks for new ground team members and honing skills for the more experienced. In addition, a Communications Exercise (COMEX) was held using long-range, high-frequency (HF) radio. Contact was established with the Spearfish Staging Area, and with the North Dakota Wing and Missouri Wing net control stations. Media representatives from Sioux Falls stations KDLT and KSFY came by to shoot some video of our operations and interview some of our personnel. Their very positive reportage aired that same night.



INCIDENT COMMAND STAFF



AIRCREW FLIGHT PREPARATION



GROUND TEAM HUNTS FOR AN EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTER (ELT)

- **COMMAND COORDINATION:**

- Wing Commander, Col. David Small, and Wing Director of Operations, Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, met with the South Dakota Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, on 1 November for a command coordination briefing. MG Reisch is very supportive of CAP.

- On 7 November, Col. Small and 2nd Lt. Tricia Weathers met with Col. John Edwards, the new commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, at Ellsworth AFB. Col. Edwards was a CAP cadet in Hawaii. When briefed on SDWG's CyberPatriot activities he was very interested and will receive a briefing at a later date specifically about CyberPatriot by C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman. Col. Edwards wants to talk about CyberPatriot opportunities for the USAF. It will be a good opportunity to deepen SDWG's relationship with the Air Force.

- **SDWG ON SD TV:** Andrew Shipotofsky, a reporter with NewsCenter1 television in Rapid City, produced a three-part series on the Civil Air Patrol's three primary missions which was aired over the course of a couple of nights. The three segments can be viewed at: www.newscenter1.tv/story/36832792/civil-air-patrol

- **NCR CADET HONOR ACADEMY:** From 3-5 November, approximately 50 cadets from Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, and Wisconsin gathered at Camp Ripley, a Minnesota Army National Guard base, to participate in the first North Central Region Cadet Honor Academy.

The goal of the Cadet Honor Academy program was to prepare cadets to serve on Color Guards and Honor Guards while simultaneously furthering their individual character development. It imparts timeless values of patriotism, community service, ethical leadership, and personal honor. Cadets were trained on the finer points of Air Force-style drill and ceremonies.

One of the topics cadets learned was how to perform the outdoor flag-raising ceremony. This includes marching to and from the flagpole, raising and lowering the flag and folding the flag. Other courses taught were: manual of arms, marching, innovative drill, and indoor presentation of the colors.

Not only did cadets learn Color Guard, they got the opportunity to learn a little about Honor Guard. 1st Lt Samuel Huntington from the Rushmore Composite Squadron, a former Honor Guard Academy attendee, demonstrated the various rifle skills he had learned at the Academy. He was able to share his experience and give some insight on the different aspects of Honor Guard.

The weekend concluded with the graduation ceremony recognizing the cadets' hard work. Congratulations to C/Amn Novia Pelz from the Red Wing Composite Squadron, on the 'Most Improved' award, C/CMSgt Joshua Brown from the Lees Summit Composite Squadron, for the 'Distinguished Graduate' award, C/SrA Benjamin

Wachtel from the Mankato Composite Squadron, on the ‘Esprit De Corps’ award, and C/1st Lt Emily Zimmer from the 130th Composite Squadron, on receiving the ‘Outstanding Cadet Staff’ award.

Cadets were encouraged to share what they have learned with their own squadron, giving them the quality instruction needed to help create their squadron’s Color Guard and Honor Guard program. Special thanks to activity director, Lt Col Bonnie Braun, NCR Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator, and to the cadet activity director, C/Lt Col Boaz Fink, NCR Cadet Activities Officer, for putting on a successful activity.

South Dakota Wing cadets attending the activity were: C/TSgt Sydnie Cloutier, C/2d Lt Annabelle Klosterman, C/CMSgt Isaiah Klosterman, C/A1C Lydia Klosterman, C/2d Lt Mariel Klosterman, C/2d Lt Jaden Roblewsky, C/Amn Kaleb Sarchet, C/A1C Daniel Willison, C/CMSgt David Willison and C/SMSgt Peter Willison. Officers attending were: Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Assistant DDR Instructor, 1st Lt Samuel Huntington, Honor Academy Advisor/Instructor, and 2nd Lt Mimi Klosterman, Escort

Submitted by: C/2nd Lt. Annabelle Klosterman, Cadet Public Affairs Officer, 2017 NCR Cadet Honor Academy



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew 16 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over 9 days in November 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 37.5 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 10.1 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 47.6 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 11 sorties; Col. Mike Beason, 3 sorties; Capt. Matt Meert, 1 sortie and Capt. Jason Erickson, 1 sortie. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot was accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P. The photo shows a bobcat, one of the critters tracked by GF&P and SDSU researchers.



HANGAR TALK

- **N397CA TO BE RE-ENGINEED:** South Dakota Wing's Cessna-182T/G1000, tail number N397CA, is getting a new engine. Actually, the engine is a factory rebuild, meaning that it was rebuilt to factory new condition. By regulation, after 2,000 hours of operation an engine needs to be replaced. The installation work will be done by L&D Aero Services at the Rapid City Regional Airport. The left photo shows N397CA's new engine in its shipping crate. The right photo shows N397CA being refueled after a mission sortie.



STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- **PROFESSIONALISM (PART II):** As CAP members we are privileged to be part of an organization of professional volunteers. What sets us apart from many other volunteer organizations is that the professionalism of our members is often counted on to save lives. That is quite a responsibility. So what are the components of professionalism that set a high bar for CAP members? Major General Mark Smith, the new CAP National Commander, has set professionalism as one of his hallmark objectives. General Smith points out that there are five “pillars” of CAP professionalism. In this issue of the Skychaser I’ll address the second and third pillars; Compliance and Aircrew Professionalism.

COMPLIANCE: Many people view compliance as a burden imposed by bureaucrats. The truth, at least as far as CAP and even the Air Force is concerned, is that compliance is documentation of distilled wisdom gleaned over the years. When you comply with a regulation you are leveraging the lessons learned by those who have gone over the same path before. We are part of a professional team. If we wish to remain part of that team we will play by its rulebook which is compliance with regulations.

AIRCREW PROFESSIONALISM: As a young boy I was enthralled at the airport watching flight crews passing through. Their sharp uniforms and professional bearing was impressive. Visiting air bases and seeing

fighter pilots climb out of their rides in their g-suits and helmets was awe inspiring. I know that I am not the only one who watches air crews. Whenever we fly in CAP aircraft, we, the crew is noticed. We are noticed by wide-eyed children who dream of flying someday. We are noticed by airline pilots. We are noticed by firemen, controllers in the tower and even the high school student who refuels the airplane. Every encounter that we have with another person leaves a positive or negative impression – there is no such thing as neutral. It is therefore imperative that we comport ourselves with professional bearing every time we get in the CAP uniform. How we dress, how we walk, how courteous we are, even how we talk on the radio is noticed. No matter how tired, harried or hurried we are, we are professionals and we need to impart that image to the watching public.



WING VICE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

• **GLIDER OPERATIONS:** Look! Up in the sky – it’s a Super Blanik L-13! After last summer’s very successful Aerospace Education Week SDWG started looking for our own Glider. We accepted North Central Region’s offer to transfer a bright yellow Super Blanik L-13, two-person, all aluminum glider from Minnesota Wing to us. Over Thanksgiving weekend Lt. Col. Bill Strandell and myself travelled to Stanton, MN where we accepted transfer of the glider’s paperwork, the aircraft and its travel trailer. On 25 November, Strandell towed the glider in its trailer to Sioux Falls for the first leg of the journey to its new home. It will complete its journey on or about 4 December to its permanent home in Spearfish. Why Spearfish, you ask? Many reasons:

- The uplift off the prairie winds on to the upslope of the Black Hills is ideal for sustained operations.
- Spearfish has minimal IFR/commercial/VFR traffic which must yield to airborne gliders. So minimal interference.
- We already have three rated Glider Pilots and Tow Pilots in Spearfish and Rapid City.
- Spearfish offers free hangar space for the glider by one of our own members, fully assembled or in the trailer.
- The Clyde Ice Field Airport manager and Airport has given their blessing for full support of the Glider Operation.
- We have two other nearby airports (Belle Fourche and Sturgis) for landing out.
- The Black Hills offer the ideal thermal lift conditions for Glider Operations.

The L-13 is a glider, not a sailplane. The L-13 has a 23-1 glide ratio whereas most modern sailplanes have a 50-1 or higher greater ratio. Sailplanes are designed to sail on the winds aloft taking advantage of thermals and updrafts. The winds blowing off the prairie hit the west and north upslopes of the Black Hills for a tremendous mechanical advantage. While the L-13 is capable of taking advantage of this its much lower glide ratio basically allows it to glide to the nearest airport for a landing. Also, since CAPR 60-1, WMIRS and CAPR60-1G refers to this aircraft as a glider, we shall do likewise.



The CAP National Fleet consists of 46 two-place gliders. As a Wing, we are expected to conduct at least 200 aircraft sorties (flights) per year. Having a glider will give us 200 additional aircraft sorties per year since we will use our Cessna- 182T (N832CP) as the tow plane to launch the glider. It already has a tow-hook installed on it, one of only a handful in CAP’s inventory. We expect 50 to 100 sorties training and requalifying SDWG pilots as tow pilots and glider pilots. The three we have on staff now needs to at least

double, hopefully before June 1, 2018. So consider this a callout to all former and interested pilots to get their

glider rating and tow pilot qualification. The entire Glider/Tow Pilot qualification course can be found online and in WMIRS under Operations/CAP Stan Eval and click on the Glider Photos or go to CAPR60-1G. Contact Lt. Col. DeWeese (605-641-2362, Buck.DeWeese@sdcap.us) for more info.

We will be busy developing training programs, time lines and scheduling initial and re-qualification training so we can start Glider Orientation Rides next summer. Each cadet is entitled to 5 glider rides just as in powered aircraft. We hope to offer at least one weekend per month to accommodate that along with the annual Aerospace Education Weekend.

Exciting times are ahead! Cadets – you can earn their Glider Solo Wings. We hope that having an active Glider Training Program for both cadets and officers in SDWG will enhance recruiting, retention and everyone’s overall experience in Civil Air Patrol.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

- **2018 ENCAMPMENT NEWS:** Maj. Trevor McDowell, NDWG Director of Cadet Programs sends: I am pleased to announce that Capt. Travis Partin of the Magic City Composite Squadron (Minot, ND) has been selected as the Commander for the 2018 Joint Dakota Encampment. Over the years Capt. Partin has graduated from 6 different Encampments from around the country. He is a former cadet, where he earned his Eaker Award and attend Cadet Officer School. Capt. Partin is also an active duty USAF Master Sergeant with over 14 years of service as a Crew Chief. He has demonstrated strong leadership skills with his duties in both CAP and the USAF. With his leadership skills, knowledge, and commitment to CAP, he will ensure that the 2018 Encampment is a success. Encampment is tentatively scheduled at Camp Grafton from 23 June-1 July 2018. Further announcements and information about applying for executive Senior and Cadet Staff positions will follow over the next month. Congratulations Capt. Partin!

- **REGION CADET LEADERSHIP SCHOOL:** The SD Wing is hosting a Region Cadet Leadership School at the end of December in Sioux Falls, SD. With the location so close to home, this is a great opportunity to learn new leadership skills and knowledge to bring back to your local Squadron and Wing. As this is a Region activity, the 8 Wings will be invited to participate. The week will be filled with classroom instruction, guest speakers, group leadership problems, and fun filled activities. Come learn from the experienced leaders throughout our Region from CAP members and military personnel. A RCLS is required for any cadet to achieve Phase IV, the Eaker Award. Information about cost, location, minimum requirements, packing lists, and more can be found at the signup link here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/region-cadet-leadership-academy-tickets-36610547132>. The link is also posted on the www.sdcap.us homepage.

- **WING CADET LEADERSHIP SCHOOL:** Are you a Cadet Airman or NCO? Then get ready to learn what it takes to be a great leader in today's world. The SD Wing is hosting a Cadet Leadership School December 29-31, 2017. Today's cadets are tomorrow's aerospace leaders. CAP introduces youth to Air Force perspectives on leadership through self-paced study, classroom instruction and hands-on opportunities to apply leadership principles to real-world challenges. As cadets advance through the program in-residence leadership schools give them a space to explore increasingly complex concepts and skills associated with leading others. Cadets working with cadets to develop leadership skills. The CLS is intended for cadet Airmen and NCOs. Join South Dakota cadets at this annual event in Sioux Falls, SD. Held at Army National Guard Base. This event is free for

all. Food is covered all day Saturday. Register now at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sd-wing-cadet-leadership-school-2017-tickets-39615436838>.



WING DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, CAP

2018 WING CONFERENCE: **When:** 13, 14, and 15 April 2018, **Where:** Deadwood, SD, **Who:** SD Wing has been selected to host the Region Conference this year. So, this conference will be the combined Wing and Region Conference. We don't have a keynote speaker yet. If you know of the perfect person, please send Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich or Capt. Jason Erickson an email. **What's Special:** We'll be doing a lot of training before and after the regular conference day, such as: Squadron Leadership School (SLS), UAV certification school for non-pilots, Scanner Academic Training, and G-1000 Training on Friday, 13 April; and Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC), Airborne Photographer Training, Observer Training, and Funded Glider Training for Glider Pilots, Commercial Aircraft Pilots, and Tow Pilots on Sunday, 14 April. **Why:** We're giving you notice now, so you can take vacation from work and plan to be a part of this tremendous training opportunity. Please save some of your Christmas cash and plan to attend next year's conference.



WING DIRECTOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

- **REGION STAFF COLLEGE:** Attention all senior members who are in Level III and IV of the senior program!! The 2018 North Central Region Staff College dates and place have been set! Mark your calendars now!! June 12-17, 2018 in Sioux Falls at the Army Regional Training Institute (RTI). Billeting is available. Bays are available at no cost. If you want semi-private rooms they are available for \$31 per night! I promise to have all fathers home in time for celebrations on Father's Day!

Region Staff College is a course that is tailored to build up a member's leadership and management skills as they progress through the ranks. Please consider attending if you have reached that level in your membership. I will be putting out more specific details as time gets closer but please those who need this for progression--it won't be closer than this and I promise to make it worth your while!!

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

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

- **VETERAN'S DAY COLOR GUARD:** On 12 November, our squadron's Color Guard performed a Veteran's Day ceremony in Brookings. The ceremony was held at a local retirement home to honor and remember the veterans who served our country. This event was also in cooperation with the Brookings VFW

Post 2118. Overall, it was a great turnout and the ceremony was a great success. From left to right, C/2d Lt Mariel Klosterman, C/1st Lt Jaden Petersen, C/CMSgt Isaiah Klosterman, and C/MSgt Luke Thompson.



CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)

- **VETERANS DAY**: On 9 November the 23rd Annual Veterans Day Program was held at the Custer City Armory, honoring the sacrifices of veterans with patriotic songs performed by the Custer High School Band and Choir, as well as elementary students. The event is produced entirely by Custer students as a show of their appreciation for veterans' service. Numerous organizations gathered to honor veterans, including our Color Guard which posted and retired the colors. Custer Cub Scouts greeted every veteran in attendance, and Custer Girl Scouts led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The annual program aims to educate and inform younger generations about the importance of America's men and women in uniform.

- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: We have been working hard selling Wreaths Across America wreaths and have sold 494 to date.

- **WELCOME ABOARD:** Our squadron welcomed four new members in November. They are: SM Donald Weiland and Cadets Preston Drew, Dominic Dvorak and Kyleeann Dvorak. We are pleased they decided to join CAP and proud to have them in our squadron.

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

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

- **PARADE OF LIGHTS:** Members of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and Worthington Composite Squadron provided support to Sioux Falls' 26th Annual "Parade of Lights" on 24 November. Dazzling lighted holiday floats, marchers and music flooded historic Phillips Avenue where some 40,000 people gathered to watch the parade that marked the official start to the downtown holiday season. The hardy CAP crew placed street barriers, assisted with traffic and crowd control in addition to safety along the parade route. We were personally thanked by Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether, and we were able to take a group photo with him.



**SIoux FALLS MAYOR MIKE HUETHER (CENTER REAR IN CIVVIES)
POSES WITH THE CIVIL AIR PATROL SUPPORT CREW AT THE CITY'S 2017 PARADE OF LIGHTS**

- **VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAMS:** Our Color Guard was busy with Veteran's Day programs around Sioux Falls. As we had multiple events that weekend, we were able to have different cadets participate in at least two of the programs.

As we have done in previous years, the SFCS Color Guard posted and retrieved the colors for St. Katharine Drexel School during their Veteran's Day program on 10 November. The cadets who participated were C/CMSgt David Willison, C/CMSgt Isaiah Klosterman, C/SSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/A1C Lydia Klosterman, and C/A1C Andrew Smith.

- **CYBERPATRIOT ROUND 1:** This is the first year our squadron has two teams entered in the All Services Division of the CyberPatriot Competition. We have team of one high school age cadets and one team of middle school age cadets. Our High School level CyberPatriot team (default team name - Sioux Falls Composite Squadron) consists of C/CMSgt Chris Schuppan, C/CMSgt David Willison, C/Amn Noah Healy, and C/Amn Micah Healy. Our Middle School level CyberPatriot team (team name PLIKD Security) consists of C/CMSgt

Isaiah Klosterman, C/SMSgt Peter Willison, C/SSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/A1C Lydia Klosterman, C/A1C Daniel Willison, and C/Amn Storm King. Round 1 of the competition took place on-line on 5 November and the teams placed as follows: our upper level team placed 156th of 1,035 teams, our lower level team placed 180th out of 697 teams. Competition Round 2, also on-line, is scheduled for the weekend of December 9-10.



- **SIoux FALLS' FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE ASSOCIATE:** On 28 November, at the monthly meeting of the Fraternal Order of Police Associate in Sioux Falls, two of our cadets, C/CMSgt Chris Schuppan (left) and C/CMSgt David Willison (right) briefed the organization about our cadet participation in the annual CyberPatriot program. Their members had heard about Civil Air Patrol but didn't know the three main missions of CAP and they were not aware that cybersecurity was another facet of CAP's Cadet Programs.



Later that evening, a new Veteran's Day program this year for us was presenting the colors at the Sioux Falls Stampede Hockey game against the Sioux City Musketeers to a crowd of over 5700 people. The cadets who participated were C/CMSgt David Willison, C/CMSgt Isaiah Klosterman, C/SMSgt Peter Willison, and C/SSgt Kaleb Sarchet.

On 11 November, the Sioux Falls Hy-Vee on 57th and Cliff Avenue served a free breakfast to all veterans. This year, they decided to have the SFCS Color Guard present the colors. The cadets who participated were C/CMSgt David Willison, C/CMSgt Isaiah Klosterman, C/SMSgt Peter Willison, C/A1C Lydia Klosterman, and C/A1C Andrew Smith.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Austin King of Volga, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on his promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!





Congratulations to Luke Thompson of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Daniel Willison of Sioux Falls, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Devin Griffin of Black Hawk, Josiah Kilburn of Box Elder and Matthew Tracy of Summerset, all members of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, and to David Volk of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General John F. Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to C/2nd Lt Julia Lair of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who, on 25 November, successfully completed her first solo flight in her quest to earn a private pilot's license! The 25th was especially special as it was Julia's sixteenth birthday, the first day she could legally fly by herself.

When asked by a KDLT reporter "How long have you been waiting for this day?" she replied "Basically my whole life." Looking on from the ground was her flight instructor, her father Greg Lair, an F-16 fighter pilot and Vice Commander of the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard as well as a pilot for United Airlines. Col. Lair has been teaching Julia how to fly since last spring, cheering her on from the co-pilot's seat. Flying out of the airport in Tea, Julia successfully completed four touch-and-goes where she takes off and lands four times. To commemorate this special event after she landed, in a time honored ritual her instructor pilot cut off the tail of Julia's t-shirt to symbolize her achievement.



Congratulations to C/CMSgt Brandon Spence of Rushmore Composite Squadron who, on 25 November, successfully completed his first solo flight in his quest to earn a private pilot's license!

Looking on from the ground was his flight instructor, Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, a very experienced pilot as well

as the Director of Operations of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol and a pilot for FedEx. He has been teaching Brandon how to fly since last May. They had completed 11 flights with him in the co-pilot's seat. Flying out of the Rapid City airport, Brandon successfully completed four touch-and-goes where he takes off and lands four times. To commemorate this special event after he landed, in a time honored ritual her flight instructor cut off the tail of Brandon's t-shirt to symbolize his achievement.



LEFT: FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR LT. COL. CRAIG GOODRICH PRESENTS C/MSGT BRANDEN SPENCE WITH HIS SOLO CERTIFICATE
 RIGHT: C/MSGT BRANDEN SPENCE WITH THE TAIL OF HIS T-SHIRT INSCRIBED WITH HIS ACHIEVEMENT

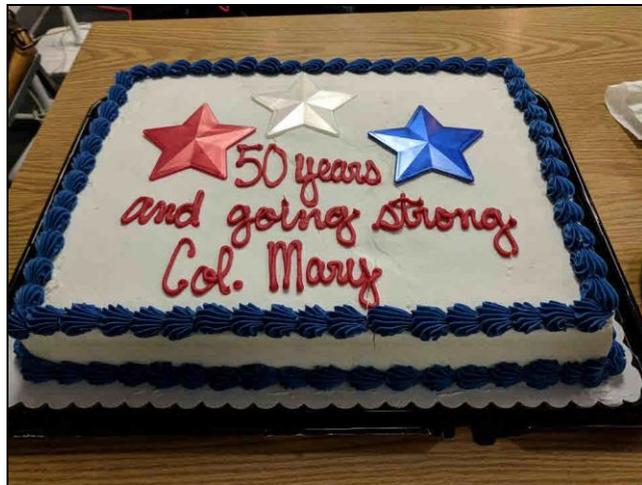


Congratulations to Maj. E. W. Filler of Volga, commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings on becoming an FAA Certified Flight Instructor!



Congratulations to Colonel Mary Donley who completed 50 years of CAP membership in November. On her Facebook page she wrote "Had a great day at our SAREX training today! Took a little time to celebrate the fact I joined Civil Air Patrol 50 years ago this month!! How can that be!!! But it's been great and according to my membership card, my membership expires in the year 2999!"

Col. Donley began her CAP service when she joined as a cadet in the mid-1960s. Since that time she has held an astonishing number of cadet and senior member staff positions at squadron and wing level culminating in her commanding South Dakota Wing from April 2001 to April 2005. If that wasn't enough, Col. Donley currently serves as Wing Assistant Chief of Staff, Wing Director of Personnel Development, Wing Director of Recruiting and Retention, Wing Personnel Officer, and Wing Testing Officer.



★ ★ NATIONAL COMMANDER ALOFT ★ ★



Maj. Gen. Mark Smith became the first Civil Air Patrol national commander to ride in New Mexico Wing's new hot-air balloon, "Integrity", at the 46th Annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in October at Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque. Smith, a former New Mexico Wing and Southwest Region commander, participated in the opening mass ascension the first day of the Fiesta, accompanied by the balloon's flight crew and C/Col. Jodie Gawthorp of the Indiana Wing. "I was pleased to fly with the New Mexico Wing's hot air balloon team," he said. "The opportunity to fly during the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta during its morning Mass Ascension of 600-plus balloons was exciting. "However, even better than the beauty of the flight was the professionalism of the New Mexico Wing's crew," Smith added. "Led by pilots Lt. Col. (William) Fitzpatrick and Maj. (Jessica) Makin, several cadets and senior members ensured the launch, flight and recovery of the hot air balloon Integrity was conducted in a flawless manner. Well done!"

Source: www.cap.news/natl-commander-takes-inaugural-ride-in-n-mexico-wing-hot-air-balloon/

★ ★ INTELLIGENCE GATHERING TECHNOLOGY ★ ★

Few military requirements are as enduring as the need for timely, accurate information. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Advanced Plant Technologies (APT) program, a synthetic biology program, looks to plants as the next generation of intelligence gatherers. The goal is to modify multiple and complex traits to give plants new capabilities that enable them to sense and report on numerous stimuli. DARPA's vision for APT is to harness plants' natural mechanisms for sensing and responding to environmental stimuli and extend them to detect the presence of certain chemicals, pathogens, radiation, and even electromagnetic signals. If the program is successful, it will deliver a new sensing platform that is energy independent, robust, stealthy, and easily distributed. Emerging molecular modeling techniques may make it possible to reprogram these detection and reporting capabilities for a wide range of stimuli, which would not only open up new intelligence streams, but also reduce the personnel risks and costs associated with traditional sensors. APT will rely on existing ground-, air-, and space-based technology to remotely monitor plant reporting. Such systems are already capable of measuring plants' temperature, chemical composition, reflectance, and body plan, among other qualities, from a standoff distance.

Source: www.darpa.mil/news-events/2017-11-17

