



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for March 2018

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

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WING TIPS

- **DANDRIDGE NAMED NEW CAP NATIONAL COMMAND CHIEF:** Chief Master Sergeant Robert M. Dandridge of the Missouri Wing will be Civil Air Patrol’s new national command chief. Maj. Gen. Mark Smith, CAP’s national commander announced the appointment. As national command chief, Dandridge will head CAP’s noncommissioned officer corps.



In his new post, he’ll serve as a representative to the national commander, participating in the decision making process on technical, operational and organizational issues. He will be responsible for reviewing Air Force, CAP-USAF and CAP wing instructions and policies and providing input and recommending changes for those instructions and policies affecting CAP members.

Dandridge retired from the Air Force in 2008 as a command chief master sergeant, following three decades of distinguished service, much of it abroad including service as command chief to multiple installations throughout the United Kingdom and Norway, combatant command first sergeant to the U.S. Transportation Command and inspector expertise to a major command. He joined CAP in 2004. His assignments have included serving as the command chief for both the Illinois and Missouri wings. Previously, he served as the Illinois Wing’s chief master sergeant, handling a variety of assignments from 2012-2016.

“With the inherent diversity of Civil Air Patrol and military, I have developed excellent managerial and human resources techniques with which to best deal with a diverse volunteer workforce,” said Dandridge. “The subjects of employee and volunteer satisfaction and developing a positive workplace climate are two of my strongest suits, as well as exhibiting and living the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary core values.”

- **CYBERPATRIOT**: CAP NHQ is considering creation of a CyberPatriot badge and CyberPatriot award ribbon. The proposal will be presented to NHQ staff next month. At present it looks like the badge/award will be retroactive. For info on the badge: www.cap-cyber.org/index.php/initiatives/cadet-cyber-badge. For info on the ribbon: www.cap-cyber.org/index.php/initiatives/cyber-competition-ribbon. Keep in mind this is a proposal and may or may not be adopted.

- **SIoux FALLS WOMEN IN SCIENCE**: On 7 March, members from the Big Sioux and Sioux Falls Composite Squadrons promoted the different opportunities Civil Air Patrol has to offer at the “Women In Science” event in Sioux Falls. Over 700 girls attended this event held at Southeast Technical Institute. The goal of the event is to stimulate the interest in STEM careers by connecting the girls with local women already working in these professions. By providing contacts with potential mentors, we encouraged the young women to explore the possibilities available to them and to continue taking the math and science classes’ necessary to prepare them for careers in STEM fields. - By C/1st Lt Annabelle Klosterman, Cadet Public Affairs Officer, Big Sioux Composite Squadron



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew nine aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over six days in March 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 21.6 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.2 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 24.8 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, 4 sorties; Col. Mike Beason, 4 sorties; and Maj. E.W. Filler, 1 sortie. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot is accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P. The photo shows a mountain lion cub, one of the critters tracked by GF&P and SDSU researchers.

- **ELLSWORTH BONES IN QATAR:** B-1B Lancers on March 31 returned to the Middle East, replacing B-52s that had been flying bomber missions in both the anti-ISIS and Afghanistan fights since 2016. B-1s returned home in 2016 for much-needed upgrades, and are now back in the fight as combat against the Taliban in Afghanistan is increasing. Two B-1B Lancers from Ellsworth AFB, S.D., arrive at Al Udeid AB, Qatar, March 31, 2018. Air Forces Central Command Twitter photo. Source; Air Force Magazine, Daily Report for Tuesday, April 3, 2018.



STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

Overall Membership Numbers

59,674 Mar 2018

59,280 Feb 2018

56,792 Mar 2017

Monthly Growth: +0.66% increase

Annual Growth: +5.07% increase

Cadet Membership

25,426 Mar 2018

25,232 Feb 2018

23,927 Mar 2017

Monthly Growth: +0.77% increase

Annual Growth: +6.26% increase

Adult Membership

34,248 Mar 2018

34,048 Feb 2018

32,865 Mar 2017

Monthly Growth: +0.59% increase

Annual Growth: +4.21% increase



WING VICE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

- **BOY SCOUT AVIATION:** I had an interesting opportunity to support the Rapid City Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge program on 3 March. This is an annual event set up by Lt. Col. Gary Hewett who was not able to attend so I volunteered since it is an obvious Aerospace Education and recruiting opportunity. I was joined by Lt. Col. Jerry Densmore for the Boy Scout tour and walk-around training. I always learn something new from Jerry, as he is not just a pilot, but an airframe/powerplant mechanic working on our aircraft at L&D Aero, in Rapid City. Thank you Jerry for your emergency response to my critical need and providing professional insight into Aviation-101 for the Boy Scouts and for teaching me the difference between a “fastener” and a “screw”.

- **NOTE TO PILOTS:** I don't possess a Rapid City Airport badge, so I used the Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge visit as an opportunity to get one. Word to the wise: give yourself plenty of time. It is not just fill out an application and wait. There is an open book test, on site video training, and an appointment schedule that does not match the one printed on the application. Needless to say, I did not get my pass in time for the Boy Scout tour. Nor did I realize you had to ask for the "E" stamp to give you ESCORT privileges. Any and all crewmembers that may be using the Rushmore Squadron aircraft parked at Rapid City should have this badge with "E" privileges so you can escort your fellow crewmembers on to and off the Non-Movement Areas of Rapid City Regional Airport. Pretty much like Sioux Falls does now. So take my advice. Give yourself plenty of lead time (2 weeks suggested) before you really need it. Otherwise you will be like me, calling everybody you know in the Black Hills area to find someone with "E" privileges.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

- **WING CONFERENCE:** It isn't too late to sign up for the Wing Conference which is at Cadillac Jack's in Deadwood, 13-15 April. Sign up at: <http://events.eventzilla.net/e/2018-south-dakota-wing-and-north-central-region-conference--2138941677>
- **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** First time encampment attendees remember to sign up for the Cadet Encampment Assistance Program. The info is at: www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/newcadet/ceap/



WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

- **CADET PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR THIS YEAR:** Cadets/seniors put these dates on your calendar. Plan to attend - leadership, learning, fun, team activities at these activities. More information to follow as plans develop for each activity. Squadron Commanders, senior officers – lets' get the cadets to these activities!!!

April 13-15	SD/NCR Conferences. SD Wing CAC is planning cadet portion of conference.
April 13-15	Sioux Falls team heading to NCR Color Guard competition.
May 18-20	Tentative plans for a Cyber Patriot weekend - information to follow.
June 23-July 01	ND/SD Cadet Leadership Encampment - Camp Grafton Army NG camp, Devils Lake
August 3-5	Ground Team School - Farm Island - Pierre. Camping. Bring Tents.
Sept TBD	National Character Development Weekend - plans for attending Feigan Fighters WWII museum in Granite Falls, MN.
Oct 23-31	Red Ribbon week - squadrons do a DDR activity. Possible weekend lock-in TBD If a squadron is interested in hosting the lock-in, please let me know. Youth in the surrounding areas could also attend (during daytime only).
Oct Date TBD	NCR Honor Academy - Sioux Falls.

- **WING CADET COMPETITION:** By Cadet First Lieutenant Annabelle Klosterman, Cadet Public Affairs Officer, 2018 South Dakota Wing Cadet Competition: The 2018 South Dakota Wing Cadet Competition was held in Pierre from 9 to 10 March. The competition was organized and led by Lt. Col. Linda Buechler and C/1st Lt Mariel Klosterman. The cadets competed in several events; indoor and outdoor presentation of the colors, a team leadership problem, public speaking, a Jeopardy!-style CAP knowledge test, written CAP knowledge test, a physical fitness test, and a uniform inspection. The goal was to select the best Cadet Competition team to represent South Dakota Wing at the upcoming region competition. The winning team at this year's competition was the joint team from the Sioux Falls and Big Sioux Composite Squadrons. The team was made up of C/TSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/SMSGT Peter Willison, and C/SrA Daniel Willison of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron; C/SMSGT Caleb Hofer and C/SSgt Lydia Klosterman of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron. Their team will compete in the Region Cadet Competition at Camp Ashland, Nebraska on 13-15 April.



INDOOR PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS



UNIFORM INSPECTION



DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

- A Squadron Leadership School (SLS) will be held on Friday, April 13 from 8 AM-5 PM in Deadwood. It is one of the pre-conference courses offered. Please register through the link sent out for the conference registration or contact me directly at mary.donley@sdcap.us This course is needed for completion of Level II. We have room for more!!

- Region is working on an online registration process for NCR Staff College. They hope to have it up and running very soon! Region Staff College is a weeklong in-residence course that will be held in Sioux Falls this summer, 12-16 June at the Army Regional Training Institute near the Airport. I am looking for a great turnout! You need this for completion of Level IV and promotion to Lieutenant Colonel! Those in Level III may also apply. Please keep those dates in mind and consider joining us! I hope to open registration very soon!!

- I am also looking for instructors and seminar advisors for Region Staff College. Those who have already completed this or the equivalent please contact me if you are interested in helping out! It is a very rewarding experience!

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068 – CUSTER)

(Items and photos submitted by Capt Bierwirth)



- **OUTREACH:** We attended the Custer Chamber of Commerce’s 6th Annual Trade Show on 3 March. More than 60 vendors and non-profit organizations ranging from financial businesses to make-up and home improvement were there. This is a fundraiser for our squadron and we get a lot of exposure. As usual we had a prominent presence at the show’s entrance where we said hello to over 400 people who came to the event. Many were impressed by the new CAP posters and stopped to ask us more about CAP.

- **AFA AWARD:** C/Amn Preston Drew was presented with the Air Force Association’s Award for Outstanding Cadet of the Year. The award, which consists of a certificate, a silver medal and an award ribbon, was presented to him by U.S. Air Force Veteran Ken Irwin.



PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(Item and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Tam Gatje)

- **JOINT PIERRE/BROOKINGS/SIOUX FALLS MEETING:** Cadets and seniors from Pierre, Brookings and Sioux Falls Composite Squadrons met in Pierre for joint training and to help Pierre Composite Squadron in its rebuilding process. Excellent weather helped cadets in drill and ceremonies practice in a parking lot adjacent to the building. Officers observed the training and learned more about the cadet drill program. Later in the meeting everyone participated in Aerospace training provided by Maj. Lee Vaughan on the subjects of atmospheric science and rocketry. He brought a perspective on those subjects to which all attendees could relate.



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

(Item submitted by 2LT M. Klosterman)

- **CYBERPATRIOT**: The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron CyberPatriot teams concluded an exceptional season of competition in the tenth year of CyberPatriot. This year is the first time the squadron fielded two teams. The middle school team earned the State 1st Place Award and competed in the Semifinal Round while the high school team won the State 2nd Place Award. The middle school team consisted of C/CMSgt Isaiah Klosterman, C/CMSgt Peter Willison, C/SSgt Lydia Klosterman, C/TSgt Kaleb Sarchet, and C/SrA Daniel Willison. The high school team consisted of C/2dLt David Willison, C/CMSgt Chris Schuppan (Team Captain), C/A1C Micah Healy, and C/A1C Noah Healy. Led by Coach 2nd Lt. Mimi Klosterman and Mentor 1st Lt. Michael Klosterman, the teams excelled in CyberPatriot-X, demonstrating teamwork, critical thinking skills, and technical knowledge, key to a successful career in cybersecurity.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Cadet Officer Promotion



Congratulations to David Willison of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Peter Willison of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Austin King of Volga, a member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on his promotion to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Lydia Klosterman of Brandon, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Nolan Rohl of Bruce, a member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Alec Crowser of Philip, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Allen Rudd of Volga, a member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General John F. Curry Award!



★ ★ MIDSHIPMAN BLAKE HAYDEN ★ ★

By Blake Hayden

By Midshipman Blake Hayden, U.S. Naval Academy, recently a cadet of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

-- As a freshman (in academy slang called a Plebe), we wake up at 0530 for plebe workouts that will usually last 45 minutes to an hour. After that, we get ready for morning formation with breakfast immediately following. From 0745 to 1520 are classes with a short break for noon meal formation and lunch. Immediately following class is a period reserved for sports, either personal workouts or team practices, depending on what we are involved in. That usually wraps up around 1800, after which we go to dinner. After dinner we are given time to ourselves to do homework and study until lights out which is at 2300.

Academics at the Academy are tough. To do well you need to develop good study habits and time management skills while still in high school. You need to understand how to manage and prioritize your commitments to complete tasks. Academics is what hurts a lot of people, so any edge will help. It's also important to develop a strong internal drive to foster independence. Midshipmen who are able to take care of themselves do well and are able to help others around them to develop comradery and leadership skills with their classmates. Those unable to motivate themselves to work hard ultimately begin falling behind.

In extracurricular activity I'm currently a member of the offshore sailing team. At the academy, offshore sailing is a varsity sport that competes against other schools/yacht clubs in races. For my summer blocks, I will be sailing from Annapolis to Bermuda and back with the sailing team and doing a surface ship cruise.

The Civil Air Patrol's biggest contribution for me was teaching me how to handle responsibility. Throughout my various cadet staff positions, I was given responsibility over different areas within the program and learning how to balance those duties along with other interests and commitments enabled me to develop healthy habits that have helped me while at the academy.



MR MIDSHIPMAN BLAKE HAYDEN



CREWMAN HAYDEN WITH THE OFFSHORE SAILING TEAM

★ ★ **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FLIGHT EVENT** ★ ★



ELLSWORTH AFB – A B-1 “Lancer” bomber taxied on the flight line at Ellsworth Air Force Base, preparing to takeoff. What made this flight unique was that the entire aircrew was comprised of four female aviators from the 34th Bomb Squadron. The flight was in honor of Women’s History Month. Women have been making great strides in the recent past. In 2016, former Defense Secretary Ash Carter minimized the division between genders by opening all military occupations in the U.S. armed services to women. With new doors opening up to female service members, there will be many more “firsts” for females in the military who are taking up the challenge to serve alongside their male counterparts. Those Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and Sailors will be the ones who set the example for future generations and continue breaking barriers for women, just like their predecessors did for them. “We hope – the four of us – that

we can be an inspiration for the younger generation. We hope that we can inspire younger women to join the Air Force and be part of the fight, just like we are”, one of the pilots said. **[Editor’s Note:** For operational security reasons I have omitted the names of the flight crew.]

Text and photo by Staff Sergeant Jette Carr, 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs, published 22 March 2018

