



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for December 2018

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

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WING TIPS

- **WEST RIVER/EAST RIVER SAREX**: On 8 December SDWG held two simultaneous Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX), one in West River based at Custer and one in East River based in Sioux Falls. The focus of the West River SAREX was three-fold: the training of ground teams for winter search operations, the training of aircrew members in radio-direction-finding, and the training of command staff. One highlight of the West River SAREX was a demo of the use of a drone (UAV) in ground search operations. Training for the East River SAREX focused on the same areas; ground teams, aircrew, and command staff. Some 45 SDWG personnel across the state took part as did CAP aircraft which provided air-to-ground-to-air communications training.



THESE TWO PHOTOS ILLUSTRATE THE DIFFICULTY IN LOCATING A HUMAN BEING ON THE GROUND USING A DRONE. IN THE PHOTO AT LEFT THE INDIVIDUAL WAS STANDING IN A RELATIVELY OPEN AREA. IN THE PHOTO AT RIGHT THE INDIVIDUAL WAS LYING PRONE BETWEEN TWO LARGE ROCKS



IN THE PHOTO AT LEFT THE WEST RIVER GROUND TEAM PREPARES FOR FIELD DEPLOYMENT AS THE DRONE (YELLOW CIRCLE) RISES FROM ITS LAUNCH PAD. IN THE PHOTO AT RIGHT THE WEST RIVER GROUND TEAM IS FIELD DEPLOYED (RED CIRCLE) AS SEEN FROM THE DRONE



- CYBERPATRIOT ROUND 2:** Big Sioux Composite Squadron reports: Our first High School team, the emoticon “(°□°) 丿 (—|—)”, placed 7th out of 1,152 teams in the All Service Division. Our second high school team, the “Elementary School”, placed 563rd out of the 1,152 teams. The Joint Sioux Falls/Brookings Middle School team, the “Hawks”, placed 346th out of 840 teams in the Middle School Division. Sioux Falls Composite Squadron reports: Our first High School team, “Team 10-13”, placed 264th out of the 1,152 teams. Our second High School team, the “Mockingjays” placed 249th out of the 1152 teams in the All Services Division. The SDWG teams will compete in Round 3, the State Round, on 11-13 January.

- AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew twelve aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over seven days in December 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 a total of 22.9 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 4.2 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 27.1 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 1 sortie; Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, 1 sortie; Lt. Col. Duncan Keirnes, 1 sortie; and Lt. Col. Russell Limke, 9 sorties. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot was accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- WING ADMINISTRATOR:** South Dakota Wing Administrator Rachel Kuecker has a new official email address. Her new email address rkuecker@capnhq.gov is for official CAP business. This will be checked during office hours, Monday-Friday from 0900-1400.

- **2019 ENCAMPMENT:** Planning has kicked off for the 2019 Joint Dakota Encampment. Lt. Col. Nick Gengler, the Encampment Commander, is starting to look for volunteers who want to help out at Encampment. Anywhere from Tac Officers to Deputy Commander for Cadets to Public Affairs; you all have something to add and he can definitely use your help. The dates are 5-14 July 2019. The encampment is at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, SD. Please let him know if you can help out.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Lt. Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

- Did you know applications are open for National Cadet Special Activities (NCSAs). If you have already been to an Encampment, you can apply! Check out this year's assortment of activities. Some example activities are National Blue Beret, Pararescue and Survival Orientation Course, several Flight Academies (get your solo!), Engineering Academies, and International Air Cadet Exchange Program. Each of these activities needs Senior Member support as well so it's not just for the cadets. Check out the link below and keep an eye on it after the first of the year as more activities become available. Applications are due Jan 15.

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/activities/national-cadet-special-activities/page/2?orderby=title&dir=asc>

- **AWARDS:** It's the time of year to start writing award nominations. It would be great to see Cadet of the Year or Senior of the Year award nominations from each squadron. Don't be shy about submitting your squadron for Squadron of the Year. There are plenty of awards and I know we have members deserving of an award. Anyone can submit an award, cadet or senior member. Almost all the awards can be submitted in eServices. If you have any questions regarding awards please let me know.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068 – CUSTER)

(Item and photos submitted by Capt. Weiland)

- **WREATHS:** On 15 December nine Cadets and three Senior Members participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Hot Springs National Cemetery. The Squadron has the honor of assisting Veterans and other members of the community in placing 200 wreaths at the site.



LEFT: CADETS PREPARE TO PRESENT THE WREATHS
RIGHT: C/MSGT HUNTER RICE BLOWS TAPS

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031 – RAPID CITY)

(Item and photos submitted by 2nd Lt. Malisa Niles)

• **WREATHS**: On 15 December members of the Squadron helped lay wreaths at Black Hills National Cemetery to remember and honor our Veterans. The Cadets sponsored 21 wreaths via the Wreaths Across America web site and sold an additional 55 wreaths at various events. Nine cadets along with three senior members participated in this time honored tradition.



IN THE PHOTO AT RIGHT CADET AIRMAN FIRST CLASS BANION JO NILES SALUTES HER GREAT GRANDFATHER

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotions



Congratulations to Tyler Gross of Volga, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Captain!



Congratulations to Michael Engelhart of Spearfish, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

Cadet Officer Promotion



Congratulations to David Willison of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Micah Healy of Mitchell and to Daniel Willison of Sioux Falls, both members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!





Congratulations to Alex Crowser of Philip, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to John Preston of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, and to Ethan McCormick of Rapid City and Matthew Tracy of Summerset, both members of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Abigail Williams and to Emily Williams, both of Egan and both members of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Austin den Hoed of Boyden, IA, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Noah Hovland and Patience Hovland, both of Edgemont and both members of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, and to Banion Jo Niles of Hot Springs, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, and Hannah Decker of Parker, Gabriel Healy of Mitchell, Mercy Healy of Mitchell, Mesha Horsa of Sioux Falls and Brayden Parke of Sioux Falls, all members of the Sioux Falls Composite squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Jayda Boxley of Pierre, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Cade Beckman and Joshua Rodgers, of Sioux Falls and both members of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to 1st Lt Richard Rezac of the Pierre Composite Squadron who completed requirements for award of the “Technician” level in the Civil Air Patrol Senior Member Professional Development Program’s Public Affairs Specialty Track and Recruiting and Retention Specialty track! In recognition thereof he is entitled to wear the badges shown at left on his uniform.



Congratulations to C/CMSgt Jacob Roth who has been appointed to the position of Acting Emergency Services Officer for the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron!



Congratulations to Capt. John Spangler of Rushmore Composite Squadron who has been appointed to the Wing Staff as Assistant Director of Aerospace Education!

★ ★ MAJOR MARLIN MCKENNEY ★ ★



Major Marlin McKenney a resident of Onida and member of the Pierre Composite Squadron passed away on 1 December at the age of 82. Funeral services were held on 7 December at the Onida United Methodist Church. Marlin's wife, Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney thanks the members of SDWG for their prayers and condolences. She especially thanks the members of SDWG who attended the funeral and the four cadets of Pierre Composite Squadron who formed the Honor Guard. Inurnment will take place at the Onida Cemetery in the spring.

