



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for February 2019

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

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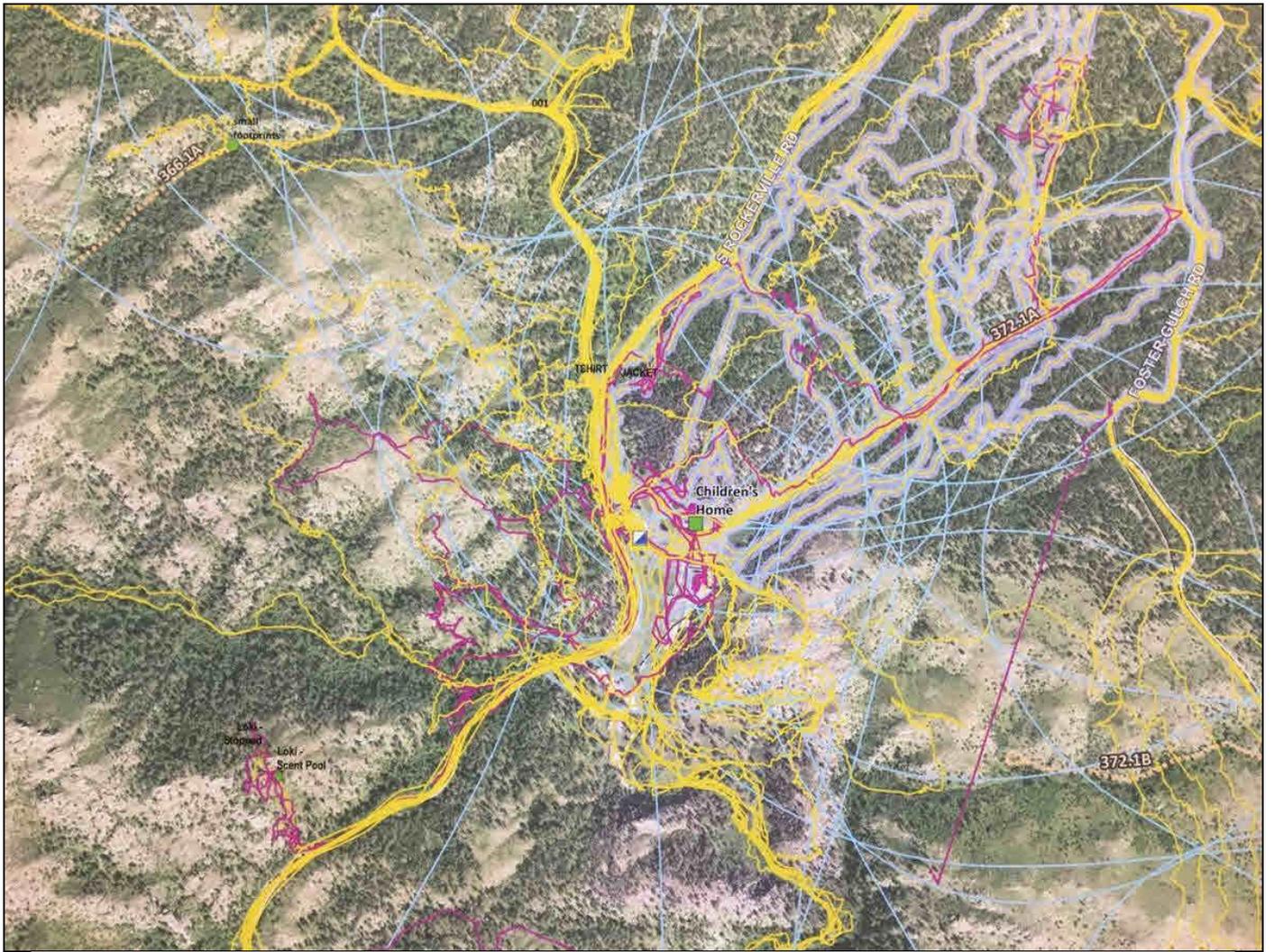
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### WING TIPS

**REDCAP (Missing Child)** Late on 3 February, at the request of the Pennington County Sheriff’s Office the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Tyndall, Air Force Base, Florida, activated South Dakota Wing (SDWG) to assist in the search for a 9-year-old girl missing in the Black Hills between Rockerville and Keystone. A mission of this type in CAP parlance is called a “REDCAP”. At first light on 4 February a CAP aircraft from Rapid City flew to the scene and searched for several hours before returning to base for fuel. It was replaced by a CAP aircraft from Spearfish which continued the search until deteriorating weather conditions required it to return to base. While the air search was underway some 90 personnel, including nearly 10 SDWG personnel, conducted ground searches in the area. Morning wind chills were as cold as -28 degrees with 1-2 inches of snowfall in the Rockerville area. The ground search resumed at first light on Tuesday, 5 February. Poor weather conditions prevented CAP aircraft from flying. About 30 SDWG personnel participated in the ground search. Temperatures hovered near zero all day. The ground search was suspended around 1630 hours local. No further ground searches were planned as local authorities reassessed the situation. Later, the Pennington County Sheriff’s Office announced they are moving from a search mode to a recovery mode. "If Serenity was outside, it’s unlikely she survived," the sheriff’s office said in a prepared statement.

AFRCC confirmed they received the same info from South Dakota State Office of Emergency Management. As such, the USAF will no longer fund CAP's participation thus ending the mission for SDWG.

Wing Commander Colonel David Small expresses his sincere thanks to the pilots, aircrew and ground search personnel who at a moment’s notice dropped what they were doing to take part in this effort under very trying weather conditions and in difficult terrain. He also thanks the members of the incident command staff who provided critical support functions to our personnel in the field. “This is what we do. This is why we constantly train and equip ourselves to be able to carry out this type of activity”, he said.



**THE YELLOW LINES SHOW THE AREAS SEARCHED BY GROUND TEAMS, THE PINK LINES SHOW THE AREAS SEARCHED BY K-9 TEAMS AND, ALTHOUGH BARELY VISIBLE, THE BLUE LINES SHOW THE AREAS COVERED BY THE SDWG AIRCRAFT. MAP CREDIT – ARIELLE ZIONTS, RAPID CITY JOURNAL STAFF.**



**SDWG GROUND PERSONNEL AWAITING SEARCH AREA ASSIGNMENTS. PHOTO CREDIT – COL. DAVID SMALL**

- LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL:** February 7 in Pierre dawned cold and snowy. Below Zero temperatures and blizzard conditions did not stop 25 hardy CAP Officers and Cadets from attending the annual South Dakota Legislative Day at the State Capitol. The famous CAP logoed cupcakes and finger food were delivered to both the House and Senate lobbies. Many of the 41 state legislative members stopped by to partake of the food and ask questions about the Civil Air Patrol. CAP members thanked legislators for the support and the funding provided by the state to CAP. Neither the house nor the senate was in session so CAP members were unable to observe deliberations. At 13:00 promptly Governor Kristi Noem posed with members on the rotunda staircase for a group picture. After the picture she invited all CAP members into the private governor’s conference room where she asked every member to introduce themselves and say where they were from. She spent half an hour talking with CAP members about their concerns and CAP contributions to our state. Overall it was a productive and valuable day for CAP and legislators alike.



LEFT – GOVERNOR NOEM POSES WITH THE SDWG CONTINGENT ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

RIGHT – GOVERNOR NOEM MEETS CHATS WITH THE SDWG CONTINGENT IN HER PRIVATE CONFERENCE ROOM



- CYBERPATRIOT UPDATE:** A team of cadet cyber-sleuths from Big Sioux Composite Squadron (Brookings) won an all-expenses-paid trip to the national finals of the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program which will be held 8-10 April in Baltimore, MD. Team Big Sioux consists of Cadet Major Annabelle Klosterman of Brandon, Cadet First Lieutenant Austen King of Volga, Cadet First Lieutenant Isaiah Klosterman of Brandon, and Cadet Airman First Class Jeremiah Jorenby of Brookings. The team is coached by Captain Tyler Gross of Volga. In the finals the team will defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The finalists will also face-off in the Cisco Networking Challenge. Thirteen teams compete in the All Service Division finals; two each from Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force JROTC, the Sea Cadets, CAP and one wildcard team. Team Big Sioux placed in the top two out of 530 registered CAP teams.





Congratulations to the Joint Sioux Falls Composite Squadron/Big Sioux Composite Squadron Middle School-level CyberPatriot team, the Hawks, who took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in South Dakota in the State Round of competition. Team members were - C/CMSgt Daniel Willison, C/CMSgt Lydia Klosterman, C/SrA Gabriel Healy and C/A1C Malachi Smith.

- **USAF ESSAY CONTEST:** In honor of Black History Month the Air Force Recruiting Service (AFRS) held an essay contest on the theme “How do the Tuskegee Airmen still influence the Air Force today?” Cadets across the country submitted essays to their squadron which selected the best one and sent it to AFRS where a grand prize winner will be selected from all the entries. Essays written by SDWG members C/SrA Chancey Hall of the Miller Flight and C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Peter Willison of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron were selected by their units and sent to AFRS. The contest ended 22 February and the winner will soon be announced.
- **ANOTHER USAF ESSAY CONTEST:** March is Women's History Month. The AFRS is holding another essay contest, this time on the theme “How have the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) inspired you and why?” Please see the attached flyer for more information. The deadline for submission is March 15 to your squadron commander.
- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew six aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five days in February in support of the state’s Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P) and South Dakota State University (SDSU). The result was a total of 18.9 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.7 hours flying over the East River area for a total of 22.6 flying hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, five sorties; and Maj. E.W. Filler, one sortie. 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

- **MISHAP ANALYSIS** - Vehicle Inspection: The SD wing just had an "interesting" mishap where it was found that a van was slightly damaged at an activity. The damage wasn't done during driving and wasn't noticeable from a distance so no one caught it until the next vehicle inspection at a later date. This leads to the suggestion that prior to every time a driver gets in the van do a quick walk-around looking for damage that might have occurred while the van was parked but not otherwise noticed. This would also catch any flat tires or other problems.
- **GLIDING SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Michael Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund provides scholarships every year to young student pilots who have a love for soaring. The Michael Wallace Memorial Scholarship This year, the grant is \$1,000.00, to be paid directly to a flight school or club for the benefit of the recipient of the scholarship. Applications for the grant are due by March 15, 2019. Grants will be awarded by April 30, 2019. Students 14 to 22 years of age are eligible to apply and the requirements are fairly easy. Download an application from [www.cypresssoaring.org](http://www.cypresssoaring.org). Click on the “Scholarship” button.
- **AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Aircraft Owners and Pilots association (AOPA) has several flight training scholarship opportunities available to its members, totaling over \$1,000,000. Not a member? AOPA offers free [AV8RS memberships](#) to high school students, free [six-month memberships](#) to student pilots, as

well as other [membership options](#). For information and an application form go to [www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/students/flight-training-scholarships](http://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/students/flight-training-scholarships). The deadline to submit scholarship application materials, including recommendation letters and transcripts, is April 2, 2019, 11:59 p.m. EDT.

### **AOPA High School Flight Training Scholarships**

80 exceptional high school students, ages 15 to 18, each will receive a \$10,000 scholarship to pursue a private, sport, or recreational pilot certificate. These awards are a major membership benefit, offering our high school members the opportunity to advance into the aviation and aerospace careers they've always dreamed about.

### **AOPA Primary Flight Training Scholarships**

Current AOPA members, including AOPA AV8RS, who are at least 16 years of age on April 2, 2019, are eligible to apply for a primary flight training scholarship, ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500, to be applied to training for a private pilot, sport pilot, or recreational pilot certificate.

### **AOPA Advanced Flight Training Scholarships**

Current paid members with aviation career aspirations are encouraged to apply for an advanced flight training scholarship, ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000, to pursue one of the following ratings or certificates:

- Instrument (includes the Dare to Fly with AOPA scholarship award up to \$5,000)
- Commercial
- CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor)
- CFII (Certificated Flight Instructor – Instrument)
- MEI (Multi-Engine – Instructor)

• ***JOINT NCR/MOWG COFERENCE***: The Joint North Central Region/Missouri Wing Conference will be held 22-24 March at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Jefferson City, Missouri. Register at [www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-missouri-wing-and-north-central-region-conference-awards-banquets-tickets-52980657573](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-missouri-wing-and-north-central-region-conference-awards-banquets-tickets-52980657573). Book your room by February 20, 2019 to receive the conference group rate of \$99 per night. Book by phone at 1-800-338-8088 or online at <https://reservations.travelclick.com/13414?groupID=2287928>. If you have questions contact MOWG Event Organizer SMSgt Charline O'Neill at [charline.oneill@mowgcap.org](mailto:charline.oneill@mowgcap.org) or NCR Counterpart Lt. Col. Anna-Marie Bistodeau at [anna-marie.bistodeau@redcross.org](mailto:anna-marie.bistodeau@redcross.org)



## **DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Col. Mary Donley, CAP



• ***SLS/CLC***: On Saturday, 9 February several senior members from across the Wing came to Sioux Falls to attend the annual Professional Development weekend. Both the Squadron Leadership School (SLS) and Corporate learning Course (CLC) were held. Those attending SLS were: SM Blake Parke, SM Tom Simmons, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Randy Sarchet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kevin Kayser, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Meta Langrock, Lt. Col. William Strandell and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matt Tennant. SLS introduces ideas to prepare senior members to be a contributing member to their squadron. Due to weather and illness we had just one member attend the Corporate Learning Course which gives members a broader view of CAP at the wing, region

and national level. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryon Skaggs of Pierre Composite Squadron completed the CLC. Instructors for the day were Col. Mary Donley, Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Lt. Col. Chaplain Gary Rae, and Lt. Col. Gary King. I am hoping to hold another SLS/CLC in the spring somewhere in the central or western parts of the Wing.

## **SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058 – BROOKINGS)**

- Nothing Significant to Report.

### **CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068 – CUSTER)**

- Nothing Significant to Report.

### **LINCOLN COUNTY FLIGHT “LOBOS” (SD-007 – TEA)**

- ***WE’RE CHARTERED!*** We have been notified that CAP NHQ has issued us a charter. We are officially the Lincoln County Flight “Lobos” with the unit code of NCR-SD-007. We look forward to quickly integrating ourselves into all the Wing’s activities.

### **LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-63 – SPEARFISH)**

- Nothing Significant to Report.

### **MILLER FLIGHT (SD-033 – MILLER)**

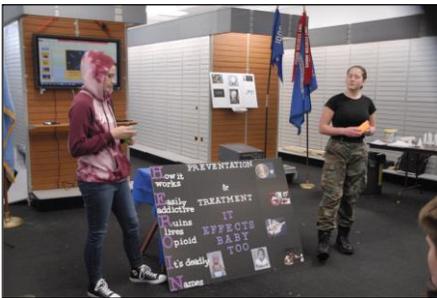


- ***WHO WE ARE:*** On 20 February members of the Miller Flight appeared at the Miller City Council meeting. They gave a presentation on what CAP is, what we do, and how the Miller Flight will serve our community. The city council members had some great questions, and they were excited about having a CAP unit in their area. The Hand County Emergency Manager was there (on another matter) but also mentioned CAP's assistance in the search of an elderly man there several years ago. The council was surprised they could connect CAP to something that involved one of their neighbors. Building these types of bridges will help our unit continue to grow and serve our community.

### **PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038 – PIERRE)**

- ***AVIATION DAY AT DISCOVERY CENTER:*** The Pierre Elks Club again sponsored the 6<sup>th</sup> Aviation Day on 23 January at the South Dakota Discovery Center in Pierre. Well over 100 kids from various after school programs, kids from Daycares and kids with parents/grandparents participated. The kids were given gliders to build, fly, and take home. They also had the chance to fly drone software, fly an airplane simulator, make and shoot plastic straw rockets, make parachutes and fly them in a wind tunnel, and talk to military aviation groups. There was lots of activity and flying objects in the air including at least one remote controlled airplane. In addition to CAP, those assisting the Elks this year included Lake Area Tech from Watertown, the SD Army

National Guard, SDSU, and a local Remote Controlled Aircraft group. This was the sixth year that Civil Air Patrol has participated. Our booths this year included landing a model airplane, making parachutes to fly in the wind tunnel, and making and shooting plastic straw rockets. Squadron members included Lt. Col. Lois Schmidt, Pierre Commander 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matt Tennant, Capt. Jon Becker, Maj. Lee Vaughan, and Lt. Col. Myra Christensen.



- **OPIOD PRESENTATION:** C/MSgt Alec Crowser and her non-CAP member friend, Shana, gave a presentation to the squadron on 15 January on heroin; how it affects society, how it affects people, especially pregnant women, and the dangers of using it. Shana has been affected by opioids. Her mother used heroin laced with meth when she was pregnant with her. As a result Shanna now has health issues such as severe allergies, damaged lungs, and when she was younger, her organs collapsed and she had to have surgery.

## **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031 – RAPID CITY)**

- Nothing Significant to Report.

## **SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050 – SIOUX FALLS)**

- **CYBERPATRIOT RESULTS:** The two Sioux Falls Composite Squadron High School-level CyberPatriot Teams took 2nd and 3rd place in the State Round. The 2nd Place Team, Mockingjays, consisted of C/CMSgt Chris Schuppan, C/CMSgt Micah Healy, C/SrA Mercy Healy, C/A1C Hannah Decker and C/Amn Ava Bleyenberg. The 3rd Place Team, Team 10-13, consisted of C/2d Lt David Willison, C/2d Lt Peter Willison, C/CMSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/A1C Conner Herren and C/Amn Joshua Rodgers.

## ★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

### **Senior Member Promotion**



John Hall of the Miller Flight has successfully completed Level I of the Civil Air Patrol Professional Development Program and in recognition thereof is promoted to the rank of Flight Officer

## **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Micah Healy of Mitchell, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Alec Crowser of Philip, a member of Pierre Composite Squadron on promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Josiah Kilburn of Box Elder, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Walter Tracy of Summerset, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Chancey Hall of Highmore, a member of the Miller Flight, and to Noah Healy of Mitchell, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



## **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Amber Kelly of Piedmont, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Malachi Smith of Mission Hill, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Remington McGeorge, Rose McGeorge and Christopher Ward, all of Miller and all members of the Miller Flight, on their promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to SM Judith Apley, SM Nel Apley, SM Tonia McGeorge and SM Pandy Rezac of the Miller Flight have completed Level I of the Civil Air Patrol's Senior Member Professional Development Program and, in recognition thereof, have earned the Membership Ribbon!



Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matthew Tennant of Pierre Composite Squadron who completed Level II of Civil Air Patrol's Senior Member Professional Development Program and, in recognition thereof, has earned the Leadership Ribbon!

## ★ ★ SPACE TOURISM A STEP CLOSER ★ ★

Virgin Galactic spaceplane reaches space with first passenger on board. Virgin Galactic sent its spaceplane into space for the second time on 22 February qualifying all three people on the flight for their commercial astronaut wings. One of the riders was Virgin Galactic's first test passenger, Beth Moses, the chief astronaut instructor at Virgin Galactic, who flew with the vehicle's two pilots. She's also Virgin Galactic's first female flyer.

Virgin Galactic's spaceplane, the VSS Unity, is designed to take passengers to the edge of space where they can experience weightlessness. Last December Virgin Galactic made history by sending VSS Unity to a height of 51.4 miles, an altitude many consider to be the start of space. It was the first time people had launched to space from the US since 2011. The spacecraft's two pilots received commercial astronaut wings from the FAA.

On 22 February the VSS Unity was lofted to an initial altitude of around 45,000 feet by its huge carrier aircraft, White Knight Two, and then was released into the air. The two pilots ignited the spaceplane's engine and climbed to an altitude of 55.85 miles, the highest the vehicle has gone yet. During the test the vehicle reached a speed of three times the speed of sound before gliding back to Earth to land on a runway.

This was the first time VSS Unity carried three people, instead of just the two pilots, to space. Moses rode along in the cabin of the spacecraft and got out of her seat, in order to get a better understanding of the "customer cabin and spaceflight environment from the perspective of people in the back," according to the company. Moses will be responsible for preparing future passengers for flights, and today's flight will provide valuable input for that. Her trip also makes her the first woman to fly to space onboard a commercial vehicle.

Source: By Loren Grush, Feb. 22, 2019, 12:31 EST, <https://www.theverge.com/2019/2/22/18232354/virgin-galactic-vss-unity-spaceplane-test-spaceflight-passenger-beth-moses>  
Photo Credit: Virgin Galactic



VSS UNITY DURING ITS FIRST SPACEFLIGHT



**THE THREE CREW MEMBERS DURING THE FLIGHT TEST**



**UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL ASTRONAUT WINGS**





## Women's History Month Essay Contest

### Prompt

*How have the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) inspired you and why?*

### Rules

1. Must answer the prompt
2. Maximum 500 words
3. No copyrighted material
4. Submit to squadron commander
5. Submit with title:  
WHM FirstNameLastName
6. Squadron commander submits best response by 22 Mar 19 NLT 1600.

*No late submissions will be accepted.*

Email submissions to AFRS Det 1

Subject: WHM FirstName.LastName

### Grand Prize

"Pilot for a Day" trip including:  
Meeting Air Force Pilots  
Orientation Flight  
Flight Logbook  
Air Force Gear



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