



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for March 2019

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

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### WING TIPS

**MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE:** Wing Commander David Small sends “During the evening of 4 April 2019 the South Dakota Wing reached 400 total members, including officers, cadets and legislative members. It has been many years since we were above 400 members. This milestone is a direct result of your achievements, successes and public exposure through community service, emergency services, and aerospace education activities. Congratulations to every one of you. Now, let’s not rest on our laurels, let’s keep growing.”

- **BSA AVIATION BADGE:** On 2 March Lt. Col. Gary Hewett met Scout Masters Mark Funk and Larry Reimann and Boy Scouts Curtis Reimann, Cristopf Atkinson, Hamilton Merchant, and Michael Matthesen at Rapid City Regional Airport. The group linked up at Westjet office and then went to Hangar 3. There the Scouts were introduced to Civil Air Patrol missions, airport operations, preflight, and safety considerations. The aircraft specific activity consisted of a preflight inspection walk around and a question and answer session with the aircraft running on ground power. The purpose of the get-together was to qualify the Scouts for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Aviation Merit Badge.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew six aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five 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 a total of 18.1 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.1 hours flying over eastern South Dakota. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, five sorties; and Capt.

Matt Meert, one sortie. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot was accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P.

- **MID-ATLANTIC REGION:** CAP’s Middle East Region is now the Mid-Atlantic Region, thanks to a re-designation plan approved by national leadership. “We are excited to be transitioning to the Mid-Atlantic Region, as this change will better reflect who we are as a region,” said Col. Bruce Heinlein, region commander. One of eight CAP regions nationwide, the Mid-Atlantic Region consists of seven wings – Delaware, Maryland, National Capital, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia and Virginia. Leaders say the name change will reduce confusion in interactions with the military, media, government and academia.

## STAFF NOTES



### **WING COMMANDER**

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- **WING CONFERENCE:** Follow the link below to sign up for South Dakota Wing Conference 26-28 April in Brookings: [www.eventbrite.com/e/south-dakota-civil-air-patrol-wing-conference-tickets-58596497702](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/south-dakota-civil-air-patrol-wing-conference-tickets-58596497702)

- **WING STAFF UPDATE:** Please join me in welcoming Lt. Col. Myra Christensen as Wing Diversity Officer. The Wing Diversity Officer is the subject matter expert for diversity in their respective wing. The Wing Diversity Officer advises the Wing Commander and staff on the impact of diversity on mission effectiveness and recruiting/retention, organizational progress, and actions to promote diversity.

- **FUNDING:** I’ve received confirmation that the state has: Allocated \$11,244 for a UAV purchase - this is a one-time appropriation and is immediately available; our annual budget allowance from the state has been increased to \$47,124 beginning July 2019. This is \$8,000 higher than in the past and the higher amount will continue in the future. Thank our legislative Members and Manny Steele for their work as well as MG Reisch for initiating and sponsoring this.

- **ONLINE COMPLAINT SUBMISSION:** The new online complaint form is now live on the South Dakota Wing website. You will find it under Administration. Pull down list and click on Inspector General. The form is available for any SDWG member to use.



### **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, CAP

- **OPERATIONS UPDATE:** SD Wing, we’re starting to get busy. There have been a lot of missions recently and there will be more. Remember that it’s critical for you to manage risk in all of our endeavors instead of cutting corners and taking short cuts. Here’s some of what’s coming up in the next couple of months:

- April 6 – SAREX in Pierre, SD. This is a one-day SAREX for the entire wing.

- That SAREX mission will stay open to the end of the month, so that squadrons can use remaining funds for SAR training. Be sure to coordinate with the IC, as this is a supervised mission, and not just a pot of training money to spend.
- The SD Corporate mission for Flooding will continue to be open until May 16<sup>th</sup>. April is traditionally the month of the most flooding, so stay prepared.
- At the wing conference in Brookings (26-28 April), Ops briefings will include Stan Eval, Aircraft Maintenance, SD Wing UAV Program Update, and there will also be a Post-Conference Part 107 Test Prep Class on Sunday, for those who wish to get their commercial UAV certificate.
- Starting 1 May, we start flying low-level route surveys for the 114<sup>th</sup> FW.
- May 3 to 5, we have a Tow Pilot and Glider Pilot proficiency clinic at Spearfish. I'd like to encourage all Glider Pilots and Tow Pilots to plan on coming.
- May 17 to 19 – We have a split SAREX in Sioux Falls and Spearfish.
- May 31 to June 2 we have a big SAREX in Custer.

I want to give a special thanks to Col. Mike Beason, Lt. Col. Todd Epp, Lt. Col. Bill Strandell, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matt Tennant for helping manage the flooding mission prep and training or sitting at the State Emergency Operations Center, and to the crews who flew flooding missions or proficiency missions for Airborne Photography so we would be ready. Thirteen proficiency sorties and two corporate flood photo sorties were flown in March.

Thanks to the SD legislature and governor, the state has increased our funding this year for the purpose of getting UAV's for search and rescue. The SD Wing is in the process of purchasing a few DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise drones. A couple will be equipped with a thermal imagery camera! In order to use the drones for Search and Rescue, you'll need a FAA Part 107 License, so be sure to sign up for the test prep class held on Sunday, 28 April in Brookings.

## SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **ROCKETRY**: On 25 March members of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron taught rocketry to a class of middle school students from FOCHEs, a homeschool co-op based in Brookings. The students learned the history of rocketry and principles of rocket aerodynamics, design and propulsion. They were then able to put theory into practice by building and launching their own air-powered pop-bottle rockets, a couple of which achieved more than 100 feet. Thanks to C/Lt Col Annabelle Klosterman and C/SrA Abigail Williams for helping put smiles on participant's faces through the magic of aerospace and spreading the word about CAP to our community! We plan to work more with FOCHEs in the future and were able to talk about CAP and the Aerospace Education resources available to them and to invite several potential members to our meetings.



- **CYBER ACTIVITY:** On 29-30 March members of the Big Sioux and Sioux Falls CyberPatriot teams jointly competed as an exhibition team in the 2019 North Central Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) against seven other college teams, included Dakota State University. The high school and middle school CyberPatriot competitions were originally based on CCDC, so it provided them with a similar, albeit much more challenging experience. The competition scenario entailed them taking over as the IT operations team for a cryptocurrency exchange called "Mt. CCDC", which their customers used to exchange DakotaCoin. While the standings outside of the top three teams were not released, unofficial scoring showed them to be around 6th place. This competition provided a great practice experience for the Big Sioux team as they leave for the CyberPatriot National Finals competition in Baltimore, 7-11 April to compete against 12 other teams.



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

- **PUBLIC OUTREACH:** On 2 March several cadets and senior members participated in the Annual Custer Trade Show. Members served as greeters for the event and provided information to the visiting public.
- **NCSA SELECTEE:** C/SSgt Alexander Heinrich was accepted to the NCR Joint Glider & Powered Academy in Mankato, MN. He was one of 60 Cadets accepted to this Cadet Special Activities event.
- **ENCAMPMENT STAFF SELECTEES:** C/SMSGt Hunter Rice and C/SSgt Preston Drew have been selected to serve in leadership roles during the 2019 Joint Dakota Encampment. Cadet Rice will serve in the role of First Sergeant while Cadet Drew will be serving as the Flight Sergeant for Bravo Flight.



- **FUNDRAISING:** On 22 March squadron members assisted at American Legion Post 71 Bingo Night. This event is a significant fundraiser for our Wreaths Across America program for Hot Springs National Cemetery in Hot Springs. Unit members assisted the Legion staff in collecting money from the sale of bingo cards and by calling out winning numbers at the end of each round. To date the squadron has helped raise \$300 for wreaths for the Hot Springs National Cemetery. Pictured from left to right are C/Amn Kyleeann Dvorak, C/SrA Jordan Weiland, C/Amn Garrett Weiland, C/AB Nathaniel Benjamin, C/Amn Dominic Dvorak and C/SSgt Amelia Weiland.

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

- **UNIT UPDATE:** The Lincoln County 007 “Lobos” are in full swing and growing every week. In a short time they are up to 16 members with several more submitting applications. Commanders Capt. Jerry Foy and Lt. Denise Clement have put in a tremendous amount of work to help this new flight take off by bringing back inactive and former members. The Aerospace Education program is starting off strong with former member Blaise Fogarty heading it up. Cadet Programs has some tremendous leaders ready to focus on the core values of the program to develop strong cadet leaders. Financier extraordinaire Capt. Robert Hinkhouse has the unit’s bank in great shape. The command staff is working on getting all the bases covered to move into their new location very soon. Let’s all welcome the 007 Lobos and help them to make SD Wing stronger.

- **WE’RE MOBILE:** Thanks to the efforts of Col. Small and Maj. Foy the Lobos now have our first vehicle for unit transportation – a brand new van, designation CAP40033.

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

- **OUTREACH:** On 12 March the Miller Flight made a presentation to the Hand County Commission in Miller. They were excited to learn how CAP can benefit the local area. Given that they were planning for Winter Storm Ulmer during their meeting, they were particularly interested in our Emergency Services functions. These meetings are proving very useful in building bridges between our new unit and the community.

- **O-RIDES:** The Miller Flight took to the skies on 16 March with our first orientation flights. A special thank you to Maj. E. W. Filler from Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings for getting our cadets up in the air. As we all know, this is just a taste of all the fantastic things they will get to experience as CAP cadets.



CADETS RECEIVE A PRE-FLIGHT BRIEFING FROM PILOT MAJ. FILLER BEFORE TAKING TO THE AIR



- **DISASTER RELIEF:** Starting on 22 March members of the Miller Flight began assisting Hand County Emergency Management officials in flood control efforts. Members have spent several days filling sandbags alongside our friends and neighbors.

In addition, one of our members who is part of a South Dakota Wing aircrew has been taking aerial video of flood-damaged areas.

Although we are a new unit in the South Dakota Wing our members bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the Civil Air Patrol’s Emergency Services missions of Search and Rescue, Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Assistance.

## **PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)**



- **HIGHWAY PATROL AIRCRAFT TOUR:** Trooper Sarah Schumacher, a pilot with the South Dakota Highway Patrol, gave cadets and seniors a tour of the state Highway Patrol aircraft. It includes FLIR (Forward Looking Infra-Red) capabilities, alcohol weeping wing anti-icing capabilities and live video streaming to the ground. The aircraft can be used for traffic control and monitoring, search and rescue, missing person search and has many other capabilities. The aircraft was in the hangar for an inspection with the cowling and inspection plates removed so we could see interior parts of the aircraft. The aircraft with a pilot and sometimes a tactical flight officer can be

used to find people in the dark with its FLIR equipment. Advanced communications equipment allows it to contact many ground resources as it works with other agencies. In the photo members listen as Trooper Schumacher shows pictures and videos showing the use of the aircraft for the state

- **STATE EOC OPERATIONS:** Three members of the squadron spent a number of days in the State of South Dakota's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at the Mickelson Criminal Justice Center in Pierre. Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matt Tennant represented SDWG during the time the flood emergency was occurring. They were present in the EOC whenever it was open. The EOC itself is a large tiered room where representatives of state agencies and others involved with the response to an emergency met to track events and plan responses to them. At the beginning of the response the EOC was open and operating eleven-hour days. In the final few days the hours were reduced as the flooding began to recede.

- **CADETS FILL SANDBAGS FOR BLUNT:** As a result of snowstorms and rapid snowmelt, floodwaters threatened the town of Blunt, east of Pierre. The Hughes County Emergency Manager sought people to fill sandbags to help reduce flood damage to the city. From 28-31 March 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matt Tennant accompanied by cadets C/SSgt Trey Stroup, C/Amn Adrianna Osterkamp, C/Amn Darion Osterkamp and C/Amn Karissa Osterkamp helped in the effort to reduce damages in town. The flood waters there have since lowered.

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

- **SANDBAGGING:** In anticipation of upcoming flooding in the Sioux Falls area, about 20 members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron assembled at Sherman Park on 23 March to help the city and other volunteers fill numerous bags with sand. There were three crews to cover a whole day's worth of work.





- **STEM ACTIVITIES:** On 26 March, cadets from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, Big Sioux Composite Squadron and the Lincoln County Flight helped with different activities for the kids at the Boys and Girls Club in Sioux Falls. The STEM kits that the kids were able to operate were the flight simulators, drones, and the sphero-ball along with other fun activities. With the help of Thrivent Financial and Lt. Col. Bill Strandell, the club was gifted with an aerospace education membership. The flight simulator is always a big hit with kids. Three girls take turns flying the simulator at the STEM activity.

**★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★**

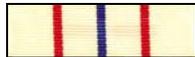
**Cadet Officer Promotion**



Congratulations to Annabelle Klosterman of Brandon, a member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and receipt of the milestone Ira Eaker award! The Eaker Award marks the final level of Phase IV – The Executive Phase of the Cadet Program. With her promotion Cadet Klosterman becomes the highest ranking cadet in South Dakota Wing and the first female cadet promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 10 years!



Congratulations to Austin King of Volga, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Captain and receipt of the milestone Amelia Earhart Award!



**Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Keon Den Hoed of Boyden, Ia., a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Mercy Healy and Gabriel Healy, both of Mitchell and both members of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Trey Stroup of Ft. Pierre and Kade Veandusseldorp of Pierre, both members of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



**Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Clara Giddings, Zeb Mendel and Joshua Skelton, all three of Sioux Falls and all three members of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron as well as to Bridger Janvrin and Aidan McCarty, both of Spearfish and both members of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron. All five were promoted to the rank of Cadet Airman and received the Curry Award!

