



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for MAY 2019

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

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WING TIPS

- **FLOODING SUPPORT MISSION:** SDWG began flying in early March at the request of state emergency management officials, tagging photos of potential flooding in western South Dakota on the Cheyenne River. The Wing also maintained a constant presence at the state’s Emergency Operations Center (OEM), taking part in briefings and planning. In addition, Wing aircrews took hundreds of photos of flooding at the request of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security from Sioux City, Iowa, to Omaha, Nebraska. Cadets and senior members coordinated missions in Sioux Falls and in the Black Hills. April sorties gathered about 1,000 images of power grid damage. A ground team filled sandbags around Sioux Falls. SDWG statistics sent to the state OEM: Sioux Falls ground operations – 497 hours (stand up and operate Mission Base: 365 hours, logistics assistance to include sand bag ops: 54 hours, photo sorties and post Mission Base support: 78 Hours). Overall flying in South Dakota – the Wing logged 324 total hours (288 hours of ground time for the aircrews and 36 hours of flight time (six sorties as proficiency and training for flooding photography. Most sorties were flown over known flooding so we could pass on photos of the flooding to OEM. Each of the six sorties had three people on the plane). Lt. Col. Myra Christensen personally put in 29 hours as Incident Commander and as Liaison Officer to the SD OEM. Other individuals put in many hours in operations support at the state EOC.

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE:** On 18 May the South Dakota Wing conducted Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX). This was a split SAREX in that the Incident Command Post was located at the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport with a staging area and SAREX operations also conducted out of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron at the airport in Spearfish. Unfortunately, unlovely weather severely hampered flight operations at both locations. As a result the SAREX focused heavily on Ground Team training, principally executing a search for a missing person, radio-direction-finding for locating emergency locator beacons and practicing drone operations and develop procedures and techniques for using sUAS (small unmanned aerial systems) for Search and Rescue.



- **OPERATION FALCON/KEYNOTE:** South Dakota Wing (SDWG) in its capacity as a member of the Air Force “Total Force” participated in Homeland Defense Exercise “Felix Keynote” for air defense intercept training with the South Dakota Air National Guard (SDANG) on 1-5 May. Two SDWG Cessna-182/G1000 aircraft; one from Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings and

one from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls, flew a total of nine sorties for a total of 17 flying hours acting as slow moving intercept targets for F-16 fighter aircraft of the SDANG’s 114th Fighter Wing. The activity took place over the O’Neill Military Training Area (MOA) in northeastern Nebraska. SDWG Aircrew on 2 May were Capt. Joe Oye, C/CMSgt Jacob Roth and Maj. Karla West, on 3 May were Maj. E.W. Filler and Maj. Karla West, on 4 May were Capt. Kurt Johnson and Lt. Col. Todd Epp, and, on 5 May were Lt. Col. Jeremy Langrock, 2nd Lt. Matthew Healy and Capt. Matt Meert. Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich was SDWG Incident Commander during the activity. In the photo a SDANG F-16 “flies dirty” (with gear down) to slow down enough to match speed with our aircraft to check it out. This photo is approved for internal CAP release only by Capt. Paul Mulder, 114th Fighter Wing, SDANG.

- **WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE:** On 8 May the Rushmore and Lookout Mountain Composite Squadrons participated in the Black Hills State University's Women in Science Conference with over 400 area middle school girls and their teachers in attendance. Lookout Mountain Commander Lt. Col. Russell Limke guided the middle school "pilots" on simulator flights landing at area airports. 2nd Lt. Malisa Niles from the Rushmore Squadron taught three 40-minute breakout sessions teaching 91 middle school girls about Civil Air Patrol, the parts of an airplane and having them fly balsa wood gliders. Rushmore Cadet Senior Airman Banion Niles hosted an informative exhibit on Civil Air Patrol. She explained about the different roles in CAP, the life of a cadet and where the squadrons are located.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH: On 21 May the future Mitchell Flight held an open house at the Dakota Flight Center in Mitchell. The open house marked the beginning of Matt Healy's quest to establish a squadron in Mitchell. Two of Healy’s children are members of the Sioux Falls squadron. "It's a really interesting organization to be a part of, and we are trying to get a presence here in Mitchell, which we hope will help us get a squadron here," Healy said. "I feel there are enough kids within a 30-mile radius for us to have a Mitchell squadron, so the demand is there," Healy said. There was a good showing of people who were interested in CAP and wanted to hear what it was all about. We also had one younger recruit who wanted to join that night but is still too young. A support group from the Sioux Falls and Big Sioux Composite Squadrons helped answer visitors’ questions and showed them some of the STEM activities that Cadets work with. It was a packed house and a lot of fun for all who were there. A flight simulator was also popular with those on hand at the event.

Source: The Daily Republic, article by Sam Fosness, 23 May 2019.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew four aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over three days in May to support 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 15.2 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.1 hours flying over the eastern part of the state for a total of 18.3 total flying hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 3 sorties; and Capt. Matt Meert, 1 sortie.

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

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- On 30 May I attended the change of command ceremony for the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB). Col John Edwards relinquished command to Col. David Doss. The 28th Bomb Wing is under the command of Maj. Gen. James Dawkins, Commander of the 8th Air Force. The Rushmore Composite Squadron is on base and we have enjoyed very good relations with EAFB under the command of Col Edwards - in fact, his oldest daughter, Anna-Claire is a cadet as he was in Hawaii years ago. I had a chance to say Hi to the incoming commander and am optimistic that we will continue good relations.



WING VICE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

- **GLIDER OPS:** Glider 7 is not well. It has one main wheel and a small tailwheel. The main wheel is the only one with a strut and is retractable. The strut is like a shock absorber on a car. That is the part that is not well....and there are no replacements. We have now cancelled two glider weekends due to maintenance failure

of this strut. And we have now cancelled a third. National has no fix, Blanik, the manufacturer, has no fix. We are looking for a suitable alternative but several other CAP Wings with L-23 Blaniks are fighting the same battle. I hate to sound negative, but the Glider Program in South Dakota Wing is in a steep dive (pun intended). We will do everything we can to a) fix the glider, b) find a replacement/loaner glider, and c) I don't know but am open to suggestions for a another option. We will still continue with Aerospace Education weekends and Powered Orientation Rides, but regrettably and regrettably Glider Ops are terminated until further notice.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Lt. Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

- **SDWG CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL VISIT:** In May, the South Dakota Wing Cadet Advisory Council Chair, C/Lt Col Annabelle Klosterman, Vice Chair, C/Capt Austen King, and Senior Advisor, Lt. Col. Nicholas Gengler, were able to visit the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron and the Rushmore Composite Squadron. They met, talked, and shared with members about what the South Dakota Wing Cadet Advisory Council has been up to including upcoming events and how to get involved. Upcoming South Dakota Wing events for cadets are Aerospace Education Weekend (21-23 June), Encampment (6-14 July), Ground Team School (2-4 August), and a Cadet Leadership Academy (tentatively planned for the end of December, during Christmas break.) Any cadet who would be interested in assisting with or planning any of the events can contact their unit's Cadet Advisory Council representative. In the photos CAC members address officers and cadets of Custer Composite Squadron.



- **2019 ENCAMPMENT:** The Joint Dakota Encampment is July 6-14 at Camp Rapid. Sign up now. We have a great cadet staff lead by C/Capt Jaden Petersen. They are hard at work preparing the schedule ahead of Encampment. We have plenty of activities planned for Encampment including the marksmanship qualification for the advanced flight, Ellsworth AFB tours, Air & Space Museum tours plus more. Don't forget to review the packing list and check out our Facebook page for more updates.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/joint-dakota-encampment-2019-tickets-54223243180>

<https://www.facebook.com/CAPJDE/>



DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

- **SLS / CLC:** Rushmore Composite Squadron will be hosting a Squadron Leadership School (SLS) and Corporate Learning Course (CLC) on Saturday, 21 September. Please think about attending if you have

completed Level I and have not completed them. These courses are necessary for future promotions and awards. We are working on a date this fall to do an SLS in Miller, We will keep you posted on the date once we have worked out the details!

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEVEL:** If you have any questions about what level you are in, how to get promoted, what training you might need to move forward do not hesitate to call or email me! I am available to help with these questions the month of June. I will be unavailable quite a bit of July and August but will always do what I can to ensure that you get the answers you need.

- **SPECIALTY TRACK:** Do you know what your Specialty Track is? Do you know how to get the ratings in your Specialty Track? Call or email me if this is something you need help with! Specialty Tracks are the main thing that holds up promotions and awards!! Talk to me if you need help!

mary.donley@sdwg.cap.gov 605-321-8056



WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

- **SOUTH DAKOTA WING CADET COMPETITION:** The SD Wing Cadet Competition is set for the weekend of September 20-22, 2019. This is for the 2020 competition year and will afford the winning team(s) the chance to fully prepare for the NCR Cadet Competition. Squadrons start preparing for the written exam, indoor and outdoor presentations, team leadership problem, cadet physical fitness test, uniform inspection, and more - see CAPP 52-4 - guidelines for the competition. Location to be determined. Questions, contact Lt. Col. Linda Buechler (linda.buechler@sdwg.cap.gov).

FLIGHT / SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58 – BROOKINGS)



- **CYBERPATRIOT NATIONALS:** On the 7th to the 11th of April, the Big Sioux Composite Squadron team competed in the national finals of the CyberPatriot held in Baltimore, MD. The team consisted of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Annabelle Klosterman of Brandon, Cadet Captain Austen King of Volga, Cadet First Lieutenant Isaiah Klosterman of Brandon, and Cadet First Lieutenant Jeremiah Jorenby of Brookings. The team was coached by Captain Tyler Gross of Volga. The team defended computers against professional penetration testers (Professional Hackers). The finalists also faced-off in the Cisco Networking Challenge. Thirteen teams competed 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.

- **EASTER SAREX:** On 20 April, members of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron participated in an Easter Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX). They worked on their Urban Direction Finding qualifications and radio

communications skills, locating several practice beacons (similar to those from a downed aircraft), including one near an airport.



- **INFRAGARD**: On 25 April, at the Sioux Falls University Center. Members of Big Sioux Composite Squadron's CyberPatriot team taught a seminar on how to secure virtual computers and local networks. The cadets involved included Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Annabelle Klosterman of Brandon, Cadet Captain Austen King of Volga, Cadet First Lieutenant Isaiah Klosterman of Brandon, and Cadet First Lieutenant Jeremiah Jorenby of Brookings. The team is coached by Captain Tyler Gross of Brookings.



- **CHANGE OF COMMAND**: On 26 May, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Annabelle Klosterman symbolically transferred command of the squadron's cadet corps to Cadet Captain Austen King. We welcome Cadet Captain Austen King as the new Cadet Commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron!

- **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB VISIT**: On 29 April, members from Big Sioux Composite Squadron participated in teaching kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Brookings how to make the foam rubber band rocket. Members who helped were C/Lt Col Klosterman, C/1st Lt Klosterman, C/CMSgt Klosterman, C/SrA Williams, 1st Lt Klosterman and Capt Gross.



- **HYDRAULICS STEM**: Cadets from Big Sioux Composite Squadron finished the Hydraulics STEM kit provided by the National HQ. The STEM kit included the supplies for creating and operating a claw and a lift.



- **MEMORIAL DAY**: On 27 May, for Memorial Day our squadron's Color Guard presented the colors for the elderly at Brookview and Stoney Brook retirement homes in Brookings. There was a great turnout and the ceremony was a great success. As always our Color Guard looked sharp and performed flawlessly. Many favorable comments were overheard. Presenting the colors are C/SrA Emily Williams, Capt Tyler Gross, C/SrA Abigail Williams and C/SrA Jeremiah Jorenby.

LINCOLN COUNTY FLIGHT (SD-07 – TEA)

- **SAREX 'N PANCAKES**: On 18 May as part of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron's portion of the Split SAREX, the Lincoln County Flight had a great turnout in their new home at the EAA Hangar at the Tea Airport. Close to 50 CAP members and EAA members attended the event that included an EAA pancake feed followed by SAREX information presentations by CAP Senior members and cadets. There was great interest in having the EAA members and their guests work with CAP in their three missions. Thanks to the Sioux Falls for setting up the day-long SAREX and providing many cadets.



- **OPEN HOUSE**: On 28 May the newly formed Lincoln County Flight, the “Lobos”, held an open house at our new home, the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) facility at the Tea Airport, also known as the Marv Skie - Lincoln County Airport. Wing Commander Col. David Small met with flight members just prior to throwing open our doors to the public. While there Col. Small presented the unit charter to them and a Commanders Commendation to Kyle Clement for coming to the aid of a cadet in distress in a swimming pool.

MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)



- **GROUND TEAM DAY**: On 4 May the Miller Flight conducted an Emergency Services Ground Team Day at Lake Louise Recreational Area in Miller. New members were introduced to basic Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) tasks and began practicing them in a field environment. Our new members are eager to build their expertise. They look forward to more training opportunities so as to be able to help the Wing fulfill its search-and-rescue mission. In the photo C/Amn Remington McGeorge reviews a pamphlet on search techniques.

- **OUTREACH**: On 29 May members of Miller Flight made a presentation to the United Way Heartland Region in Huron. This was part of our process to secure a grant. Several of the board members remember funding the Huron squadron when it was active. New board members were excited to learn more about CAP. They expressed interest in supporting the Miller Flight, and also on how we may work together to get a CAP unit going again in Huron."

- **EM-101**: On 20 May Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and 1st Lt. Richard Rezac attended the state Office of Emergency Management’s "EM-101" class in Mitchell. This class is for new county Emergency Managers to introduce them to their duties and responsibilities. This was a great opportunity to learn more about what they do, as well as expose them to CAP and what we do. The presenter had nothing but positive things to say about CAP. I would suggest every squadron CC or ES officer attend one of these sessions: it puts CAP out in front of new county EM's that probably don't know a lot about us; it gives us an idea of what county EM's deal with. It helps us build bridges at the local level. You can find these events on the state OEM training calendar. They are listed as "EM101". <https://sdoem.eventsmart.com/>

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)

- **WOMEN IN SCIENCE EXPO**: Members of the squadron attended the 2019 Women in Science exhibit held at the Pierre Ramkota Conference Center on May Day. Attending and exhibiting were Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Capt. Rhea Waldman and C/CMSgt Alec Crowser.



Christensen and Crowser staffed the booth and talked with many of the 200+ attendees about CAP and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), how it relates to CAP and life and careers in general. (Dr.) Capt. Waldman is the Education Director at the South Dakota Discovery Center in Pierre and a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron. She and members of the squadron and wing have met with students and others in various areas of the state to promote science education and Civil Air Patrol. In the photo Lt. Col. Christensen and Cadet Crowser talk to several of the participants.



- **MEMORIAL DAY:** The Pierre Composite Squadron was invited to lay a wreath in honor of veterans during a community wide Memorial Day celebration held at the Riggs Theater in Pierre. Lt. Col. Lois Schmidt and Lt. Col. Tam Gatje represented Civil Air Patrol during the memorial. Pierre Squadron members have done a similar presentation each year for a number of years. Seventeen veterans-related organizations came together to honor all veterans. The program consisted of speakers and music by the Capitol City Band.

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



- **ORIENTATION FLIGHTS.** After months of flights cancelled due to weather, we finally completed some cadet o-rides on 2 May. Capt. Kurt Johnson flew with C/Amn Ethan den Hoed and C/SSgt Austin den Hoed. Capt. Matt Meert flew with C/A1C Hannah Decker and C/Amn Clara Giddings. These were first orientation flights for cadets Decker, Giddings and E. den Hoed.

In addition to the cadets, Capt. Meert also had several students from the Boys and Girls Club of the Sioux Empire present during the educational portion.

- **FUN NIGHT WITH UAVS:** For aerospace education night on 2 May, the cadets traveled to a park in Brandon to fly different types of unmanned aerial vehicles. Everyone had fun, even the senior members.



- **2019 CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:** The two-day event of the 2019 Christian Homeschool Conference of South Dakota was held on 10-11 May at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. We had members from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, Big Sioux Composite Squadron, Rushmore Composite Squadron and the Miller Flight that helped educate the families about Civil Air Patrol and the Aerospace Education membership. The flight simulator and Sphero ball were some of the STEM Kits there for students to try out.

- **CHANGE OF CADET COMMANDER:** On 16 May 2019, SFCS held their Change of Command ceremony for our outgoing Cadet Commander C/2dLt Julia Lair and incoming Cadet Commander C/1Lt David Willison. We want to thank C/2dLt Lair for her leadership and dedication to the cadet program and look forward to what C/1Lt Willison has in store for our cadets.

In the photo Cadet Lair stands at far right, Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Todd Epp at far right and, at center, the new Cadet Commander, C/1stLt Willison.



- **MEMORIAL DAY**: The squadron had quite a few Memorial Day activities. On Thursday, 23 May, the squadron participated in the placing of 600+ flags on veterans' graves at the Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls. After our Color Guard presented the colors during the ceremony, the members split up into groups to cover our assigned areas at the cemetery. Later the Color Guard performed at the VA Hospital. The color guard consisted of C/CMSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/TSgt Andrew Smith, C/SrA Brayden Parke and C/SrA Malachi Smith.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Officer Promotion



Congratulations to Pandy Rezac of Highmore, a member of the Miller Flight, on her promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

Cadet Officer Promotion



Congratulations to Ethan Updike of Oelrichs, a member of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Keon den Hoed of Boyden, IA, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Mercy Healy and Gabriel Healy, both of Mitchell and both members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Trey Stroup of Fort Pierre and Kade Vandusseldorp of Pierre, both members of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Emily Williams of Eagan, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Timothy Daene, Mesha Horsa and Brayden Parke, all of Sioux Falls, to Malachi Smith of Mission Hill, all four members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Jeremiah Jorenby of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Joshua Skelton of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Sibi Manian of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Anah Barthle of Sioux Falls, Kendall Fogarty of Hartford and Daniel Oye of Tea, all members of the Miller Flight, and to Kaden Schafer, Phoebe Kellar and Parker Marcy, all of Rapid

City and all members of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Jonathen Knudsen of Pierre, a member of Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Gillian Shelton and Alexander Shelton, both of Custer and both members of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to Maj. William Collister of Sturgis, member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, who by virtue of his attendance at the recent CAP National Staff College has completed Level V of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. In recognition thereof he is now entitled to wear the Gill Robb Wilson Award!

