



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for JULY 2019

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

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### WING TIPS

- **2019 ENCAMPMENT:** From 5 to 14 July the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Camp Rapid near Rapid City was inundated by over 64 cadets. First time encampment participants were registered in the Basic Leadership Course (BLC) while repeat participants were registered in the Advanced Leadership Course. In addition to the participants there were 29 cadet cadre members and over 30 senior members at the Encampment.

Eight Civil Air Patrol Wings sent participants; California, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Texas. The Encampment Commander was Lieutenant Colonel Nick Gengler and the Cadet Commander was Cadet Captain Jaden Peterson, both from South Dakota Wing.

Mornings started early with physical training followed by breakfast and close order drill. Afternoons during the week encompassed activities such as drug demand reduction, practical field exercises, uniform and barracks inspection, military customs and courtesies, public speaking, aerospace education, and various team leadership exercises. One of the most popular events for cadets and officers was the firearms training simulator. At day’s ends the cadet flights competed in friendly games of Ultimate Frisbee.

One special activity was a tour of several Air Force organizations stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base. The cadets were able to meet a B-1B bomber flight crew and climb up into a B-1B cockpit. They met with the base’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and were able to dress up in their protective gear and operate the bomb retrieval robots. The cadets sat in the base’s flight line emergency services firetrucks and sprayed tremendous jets of water. During lunch, the visitors watched the Air Force Honor Guard practice their moves. The afternoon concluded with tour of the South Dakota Air and Space Museum. The Advanced Leadership Course cadets had the opportunity to fly the museum’s flight simulator. All the cadets enjoyed the aerospace displays and the concession shop.

Another special activity was at West Camp Rapid where the cadets and their cadre spent several hours putting their leadership and critical thinking skills to test on the Leadership Reaction Course and the Challenge. Cadets and cadre were given tasks to complete with only the materials available. They build bridges, climbed walls and transported “casualties.”

The traditional Pass-in-Review Ceremony was held Saturday at Camp Rapid formally ending the 2019 JDE. An encampment banquet was held shortly thereafter at the Dakota Club on Ellsworth AFB during which a number of awards were presented. Bravo Flight was awarded the distinction of Honor Flight of the Encampment. BLC Cadet Airman of the Encampment was Cadet A1C Joshua Skelton of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. BLC Cadet of Encampment was Cadet TSgt Gabriel Healy of the Mitchell Flight. Cadet MSgt Devin Griffin of Rushmore Composite Squadron was the ALC Outstanding Cadet of Encampment. Outstanding Training Officer was awarded to North Dakota Wing’s Maj. John Hoeck. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cody Helm, also of North Dakota Wing, was awarded the Outstanding Line Cadre and Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt David Willison of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron received Outstanding Line Cadre. The Carlson Jebediah Lassiter Award was given to Cadet MSgt Keon de Hoed of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. The Burton Gus Custer Award was presented to Cadet SMSgt Matthew Tracy of Rushmore Composite Squadron. Cadet CMSgt Hunter Rice of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron was awarded the Shawn SpenStar Award. The entire Advanced Leadership Flight was awarded the National Rifle Association Marksmanship badge. Members of the ALC also served as the JDE Color Guard and were responsible for the POW/MIA Honor Table.

The 2019 Joint Dakota Encampment was a huge success due to the dedication of its members and supporters. Camp Rapid served as excellent hosts. Many thanks to the excellent culinary crew from the North Dakota Air National Guard out of Fargo ND to feed all of the 124+ encampment attendees three times a day. CAP Senior Members volunteered countless hours in support of the JDE’s cadre and cadet participants. Everyone helped make a difference for each cadet attending. Please visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CAPJDE/](http://www.facebook.com/CAPJDE/) to see more pictures and event coverage.





- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew nine aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five days in July 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 18.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 4.7 hours flying over the eastern part of the state for a total of 23.5 flying hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, five sorties; and Maj. E W Filler, four 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

- **NOTE OF THANKS:** SDWG has received a note of thanks from the Pennington County Sheriff for our participation in the initial and follow-on search efforts for Serenity Dennard. The note is attached as the last page of this Skychaser.
- **UPCOMING SAREX:** Plan to take part in the Split SAREX on 24 August. The Search and Rescue activity will be split between Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer and Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings.



### **WING VICE COMMANDER**

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeesse, CAP

- **GLIDER OPERATIONS:** Glider Operations are back on the calendar. We even scheduled an extra weekend 3-4 August at Brookings to get some East River participation. We’ll base the glider out of Brookings with Flandreau as our target operating base due to traffic in both Sioux Falls and Brookings. It’s a simple air-tow from Brookings to Flandreau. We have a guest instructor from Worthington MN, Lt. Col. Carl Hallum who is willing to drive or fly to Flandreau to provide instruction for Officers and Cadets alike in the glider. I hope to get at least one Certified Flight Instructor - Glider in the East River to take the burden off Lt. Col. Gary Hewett in Rapid City. If we don’t get more participation, we will lose the glider. We need at least 200 sorties per year, half of them cadet orientation rides. Granted, the glider was grounded April through June with a landing gear strut problem. Parts are hard to find since it went out of production in Czechoslovakia over 10 years ago. But we did get 50 sorties at the National Glider Academy in New Ulm, MN on 11-20 July. I towed it out there for repairs and then stayed on as a Tow Pilot. We had five gliders, three Tow Planes, and enough pilots/instructors to keep 12 cadets airborne. Each cadet got 30 launches. Five cadets even soloed! Our own Cadet Alexander Heinrich from Custer was there and will solo out of Spearfish later this fall once the glider returns.

Our plans for the glider are as follows:

1. Flandreau – 3 and 4 Aug.
2. Sioux Falls Air Show 16 -18 Aug.

3. Return to Brookings/Flandreau for operations/training 24-31 August
4. Trailer back to Spearfish to finish out the summer with tows 7, 14, and 28 September.

Depending on weather, operations could continue into October before we disassemble the glider for winter hibernation. If anyone is interested in getting a glider rating, now is the time. USE IT or LOSE IT.

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## **DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

- **ICS-300 / ICS-400**: Dustin Hight, State Training Officer, SD Office of Emergency Management has advised that on 1 October the ICS-300 and ICS-400 class format will change to a 3-day course unlike the 2-day course now. If you need these courses now would be the time to get them done before the format change. The link to find SDOEM training courses is <https://sdoem.eventsmart.com/>
  - **SLS / CLC**: Seniors in need of Squadron Leadership School or Corporate Learning Course there are upcoming dates to keep in mind. There will be an SLS/CLC held in Rapid City on Saturday, September 21. More specific times and places will be announced soon. There will also be a SLS ONLY held in Miller on Saturday, October 26. More information about each of these events will be sent out soon! Please keep these dates in mind if you are a newer senior member and in need of the SLS or a member in Level III in need of the CLC!! Questions?? Contact Col Mary Donley at: [mary.donley@sdwg.cap.gov](mailto:mary.donley@sdwg.cap.gov)
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## **WING DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

Lt. Col. Tom Bass, CAP

- The Wing will no longer be able to accept online credit payment. Unfortunately at the beginning of this year, CAP implemented a new bank charge structure for this service which makes it cost prohibitive to continue accepting online credit card payments. Going forward our members will need to pay by check.
- During the last few months, we experienced several reimbursement requests outside the 60 day CAP requirement. CAPR 173-1 states “all personal reimbursement requests must be submitted within 60 days of incurring an expense or receiving an invoice. After 60 days, the request will not be honored.
- We are now in the final two months of FY 2019. The Wing will need to each squadron/unit to prepare their FY 2020 budget and submit new CAPF 172 and submit them to the Wing prior to September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

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

- **INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE**: Members of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron were busy in July. The majority of the unit participated in the Independence Day Parade in Custer. Cadets served as Color Guard while other members marched in the parade handing out swag.

- **NCAS FLIGHT ACADEMY:** C/TSgt Alexander Heinrich attended the Glider Academy in Mankato, MN.
- **FUNDRAISING:** Unit members have been involved in multiple fundraising activities for our trip to the US Air Force Academy in August and Wreaths Across America in December.

## **LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-007 – TEA)**

- **ADIOS:** Cake and ice cream was served at our 2 July meeting in honor of C/2dLt Jaden Roblewsky. This will be Jaden’s last meeting for a few months as he leaves for Basic Training for the Air National Guard.



- **ENCAMPMENT:** Our unit looks to benefit from newly acquired knowledge, insights, skills and experiences gained by our first group of cadets to attend an encampment. We expect they will have some interesting stories to tell and can help other cadets prepare for future encampments. The three cadets are pictured with 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Denise Clement.

- **THUNDERBIRDS MEET/GREET:** Maj. Karla West and two squadron members travelled to the Fargo, ND Air National Guard Base on the morning of Friday, 19 July where they participated in the North Dakota Wing’s meet and greet with the famous Thunderbirds, the U.S. Air Force’s precision flying team.



- **FIFTH TUESDAY:** The Lincoln County Lobos spent the 5th Tuesday in July by having CAP members, family, friends and prospects share food and BBQ at the home of Capt. Joe Oye. It was an excellent evening with about 35 guests attended for the evening.

## **MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)**

- **ROCKETRY:** The Miller Flight was all about rockets! Our cadets have been working hard learning about and building model rockets. And on 27 July they got to shoot them off. Their hard work paid off with successful launches and in doing so they had a great time. Its lots of fun to punch holes in the sky!



- **FOUNDATION GRANT:** In July the Flight was awarded a grant from the Miller Area Foundation. As a component of the South Dakota Community Foundation, they are committed to supporting local causes. We thank the Foundation for its support of the Miller Flight.

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



- **AE OUTREACH:** Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Capt. Richard Helton held an Aerospace Education Outreach for the St Joseph Indian School in Chamberlain recently. Nine students, two assistants, and one teacher participated in the event. They taught various aspects of the aircraft, allowed the students to sit in the aircraft, and answered lots of questions for the students. Christensen and Helton explained rockets, types of fuel and other factors and assisted them with building a foam rocket that they could launch and take with them. All the students wanted to watch the aircraft fly, so the group waited on the ground as Lt. Col. Christensen departed with the aircraft. The school's

residential coordinator later wrote a thank you to the CAP members for talking to the kids and reported that they all enjoyed the presentation. In the photo Lt. Col. Christensen answers the students' questions.

## ★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

### **Cadet Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Isaiah Klosterman of Brandon, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Captain and receipt of the milestone Amelia Earhart Award!





Congratulations to Micah Healy of Mitchell, a member of the Mitchell Flight, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



### **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Josiah Kilburn of Box Elder, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Kade Vandusseldorp of Pierre, a member of Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Mercy Healy and Gabriel Healy, both of Mitchell and both members of the Mitchell Flight, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Emily Williams of Eagan, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Jordan Weiland of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



### **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Joseph Lasseter of New Underwood, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, and Joshua Skelton of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Benjamin Barr of Brandon, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Mason Kieborz of Custer, a member of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matt Tennant of Pierre Composite Squadron who completed the online Unit Commanders Course!



Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard Rezac and Lt. Col. Ron Evenson who completed Level III (Management) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program and have received Grover C. Loening Award!





# Pennington County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff

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July 2, 2019

Civil Air Patrol  
4275 Airport Road Suite A  
Rapid City SD 57703

RE: Serenity Dennard Search

Dear Civil Air Patrol Team,

I want to extend my appreciation for your assistance in the search for Serenity Dennard.

On the afternoon of February 3, 2019, 9 year old Serenity went missing in the Rockerville area. At that time an extensive investigative and ground search effort were launched. The ground searched consisted of rugged Black Hills terrain, covering a large geographic region. This much area and the length of time required to physically search is very time consuming and difficult for one agency to complete.

When we put out a call for assistance, you and your organization stepped up and answered the call. Your commitment and professionalism are to be commended. You have been an incredible partner to our agency and I am thankful to work with such high caliber individuals and organizations. Thank you again for your cooperation and encouragement.

Best regards,

  
Kevin Thom  
Sheriff

