



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for SEPTEMBER 2019

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

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### WING TIPS

#### **REDCAP – MISSING PERSON SEARCH (MISSION 19-M-0588A & 19-C-6026)**

On 24 September, at the request of Custer County Search and Rescue the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Fla., directed South Dakota Wing to join the search effort underway to locate a male hiker missing since 21 September in the vicinity of Little Devils Tower in Custer County. The very rugged terrain was treacherous for walking and hiking making an aerial search more effective than ground search. Nearly 30 people, dog teams, and fixed and rotary wing aircraft from several agencies searched from both the ground and the air beginning Tuesday near the Little Devil's Tower Trailhead in Custer, near Sylvan Lake. In addition, an infra-red sensing aircraft from the North Dakota Wing made several passes over the target area. On 25 September Custer County Emergency Management reported that the body of missing South Dakota School of Mines student was found, the victim of an apparent fall.

At the present time Air Force approved CAP missions do not allow the use of drones (sUAS in CAP parlance) for search and rescue effort. On its own initiative South Dakota Wing using corporate funds launched its own drone-specific search and rescue mission. On 24 September two SDWG sUAS flight teams deployed to the target area to conduct operations. On 25 September three SDWG sUAS flight teams were operating near Little Devils Tower. This was the first use of sUAS (drones or UAVs) by our Wing to look for a missing person. Four CAP sUAS mission pilots were involved in flying sUAS with both infrared and zoom capabilities. For the first time the FAA granted SDWG a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) over the area and granted CAP exemptions to allow flight beyond visual range and night flights.

sUAS Mission Pilots Col. Mike Beason, Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard Rezac and Capt. Don Weiland and their crews did a great job and sUAS proved extremely useful in searching the very rugged terrain in Custer State Park.

This search and rescue mission was the first for CAP in the entire nation. We received compliments from the program manager at NHQ for doing the job right. The NHQ sUAS Program Manager confirmed that 19-C-6026 was the very first true SAR mission where UAVs were used by CAP in a corporate status. The AFRCC has awarded a "find" for all who participated in this mission.



LEFT – MAP OF SEARCH AND RESCUE TARGET AREA  
CENTER – SDWG OPERATIONS CENTER AT THE TRAILHEAD  
RIGHT – SDWG DRONE FLYING OVER SOME REALLY RUGGED TERRAIN

### **REDCAP – MISSING PERSON SEARCH (MISSION 19-M-0576A)**



On 10 September, at the request of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Fla., alerted the South Dakota Wing to participate in the search for a missing person. The missing person was last seen on the Highway 73 going north from Bison, SD. The Harding County Sheriff's Office requested an aerial search for a vehicle going north from Bison. SDWG sent two aircraft, one from Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City and one from Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish, and a communications support vehicle to Bison, SD to

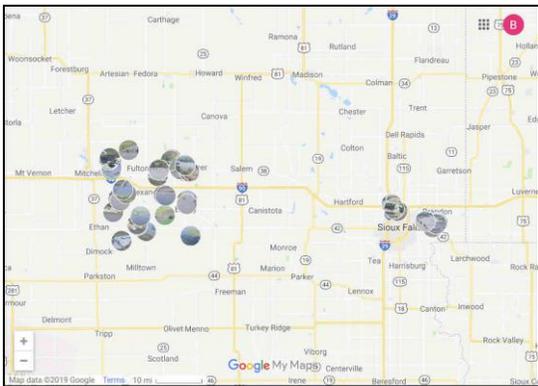
meet with the Harding County sheriff. With clues obtained by the sheriffs in both Harding County and Hettinger County in North Dakota, the search area moved into Hettinger County North Dakota area during the day. In all SDWG aircraft flew six search sorties. Later that day the missing woman was located alive approximately a quarter mile to the west of a farm near Mott, ND where she had last been seen.

### **ALMOST REDCAP – DOWNED AIRCRAFT (MISSION 19-M-0552)**

Many of you may not know that SDWG was tasked with searching for a missing aircraft in Todd County in southcentral South Dakota early on Monday, 9 September. Although several SDWG flight crews had been organized, weather prevented SDWG aircraft from taking off at first light. In addition SDWG ground search teams were also organized. A Nebraska Wing CAP flight crew from Valentine, NE was ready to go but also unable to launch due to bad weather. Before the CAP aircraft could take off a civilian pilot found the missing aircraft. It was reported that a downed plane was located east of Saint Francis in Todd County. A Lakeview area

father and son were both pronounced dead at the scene according to Todd County Sheriff's office. This mission went very much as our training goes; conflicting witness statements, weak Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) signals and some help with cell phone forensics.

- **FLOODING HANSON, MCCOOK AND MINNEHAHA COUNTIES:** The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron flew an airborne photography sortie in its' Cessna-182/G1000 on 14 September over Hanson County and over portions of McCook and Minnehaha Counties to capture images of flooding and damage. The photos were made available to county emergency management officials and to the local media.



- **FLOODING IN RENNER:** The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron flew an airborne photography sortie using one of its drones (in CAP Lingo a Small Unattended Aerial System (sUAS)) on 15 September over the unincorporated community of Renner in Minnehaha County to capture still images and video of flooding and the damage caused. The "flight team" included sUAV trainees Lt. Col. Todd Epp, Lt. Col. (Chap.) Gary Rae and sUAV pilot Capt. Kurt Johnson. The photos were made available to county emergency management officials and the local media





- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew seven aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over six days in September 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 16.6 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 4.2 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 20.8 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, six sorties; and Capt. Neil Schmid, 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

- **NEW WING STAFFER:** Please join me in welcoming SSgt Shawn Bawden as the SD Wing Command NCO. Shawn is the first member to fill that position in the wing and his first assignment is to define how this wing command position will assist the Wing CC in running the wing. Shawn will be reaching out to the squadrons, to CAP NCOs and those with military NCO experience. Please welcome and help him in this role.

- **NEW SQUADRON CC:** Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Denise Clement on appointment as the new commander of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron in Tea. The Lobos were previously commanded from its inception by Maj. Jerry Foy whose many services for the wing are gratefully acknowledged.

- **NEW CAP-USAF LIAISON:** Please join me in welcoming Golda Eldridge as the new CAP-USAF Liaison for the North Central Region. His official title is Regional Operations Directorate "ROD" but the function is largely the same. We can expect Golda to visit from time to time. I am confident that he will be an asset to the Wing and region. *Eldridge Bio:* I want to introduce myself and let you know a little of what my job entails. I've pretty much been living and breathing Air Force from the day I was born growing up as an Air Force brat and then serving 24 years active duty myself. The basics of my job are to find ways to help you improve processes, procedures, training and operations so you can accomplish you mission in the most efficient, effective way possible. I help out with staff assistance visits, inspections, exercises and any other activities where an Air Force presence is required. We are resource for you and I hope you will take advantage of the broad range of expertise our active duty, civilians and reservists bring to the table. I am happy to discuss anything with anyone, just call or send me an e-mail. I can be reached at 817-739-1825 or [nclrado@gmail.com](mailto:nclrado@gmail.com). I look forward to meeting you and seeing you in the field.

- **NEWEST SUAS CHECK PILOT:** Capt. Kurt Johnson, Capt. Joe Oye and Lt. Col. Justin Johnson of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron has been approved as an sUAS Mission Pilots (SUASMP) and sUAS Check Pilots! They will work with East River members to get them checked out as SUASMP and SUAS Trainers.

- **SAFTEY SATURDAYS:** Please check out the new Safety Management System in e-services. A summary of the new program has also been out on the Wing Facebook page. In addition: A Safety Management System (SMS) is a systematic approach to managing safety, including the necessary organizational structures,

accountabilities, policies and procedures. Four “pillars” provide the framework for CAP’s new SMS. Read about the new program and regulations at <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/cap-national-hq/safety>.

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## **WING RECRUITING AND RETENTION OFFICER**

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

- I encourage you all to find ways to go out and recruit new members in your communities. There are many opportunities to do so whether it be a booth at a fair, a fly-in, open house, etc... Please make sure that you get all the information you need to contact prospective members: phone numbers, emails, addresses so you can get back to them and encourage them to look over the program. This is vitally important if you want to see growth in your unit. Also make sure that if the prospective member is not from your immediate area you still get this information because it can then be forwarded to the unit closest to where that prospective member may live. If you should get information on prospective members outside your area, please forward it to 1Lt Richard Rezac at [richard.rezac@sdwg.cap.gov](mailto:richard.rezac@sdwg.cap.gov) and he will handle it from there! Thank you for doing your part to bring in new membership and retain the awesome members we already have!

- Officers, here is a reminder of the professional development opportunities being offered in our wing during the last quarter of 2019.

SLS/CLC - These two courses are being offered in the Black Hills (location TBD) on October 19th and 20th. SLS will be on the 19th and CLC will be on the 20th. You must have completed SLS in order to attend CLC.

SLS - This will be offered in Miller, at the Miller Community Center on Oct 26th.

TLC Basic and Intermediate - These two courses will be offered in the Black Hills (location TBD) on Nov 2nd and 3rd. TLC Basic will be on the 2nd and TLC Intermediate will be on the 3rd. You must have completed TLC Basic in order to attend TLC Intermediate.

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## **WING COMMAND NCO**

SSgt Shawn Bawden, CAP

Last month Col. Small asked me to be our Wing’s first Command Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), an opportunity I gratefully accepted. The Wing Command NCO is an advisor to the Wing Commander on issues like mission effectiveness, professional development, and training. Col. Small and I have also been discussing how to recruit and utilize former NCOs in order to build mission capacity within our Squadrons. CAP created the NCO Corps in 2013 to provide CAP commanders access to the professional military skills, training, and experience of former NCOs. They can also train and advise non-prior service members in the methods and procedures of military organization, leadership, and management. As a former NCO and paratrooper, I'll be able to leverage my experience and training to build on the great work that is done in our Wing every day. I served in the U.S. Army from 1996 to 2004 with overseas deployments to Haiti, Kosovo, and Iraq. During that time I completed assignments with the 10th Mountain Division and the 82nd Airborne Division. I was attached to the 10th Special Forces Group ([Task Force Viking](#)) during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. I look forward to meeting

more of you in the coming weeks and discussing how NCOs can benefit your units. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [shawn.bawden@sdwg.cap.gov](mailto:shawn.bawden@sdwg.cap.gov).

## SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

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



- **SIOUX FALLS MARATHON:** On 8 September members of the squadron provided support to the 2019 Sioux Falls Marathon. We helped out by operating the water, PowerAde, and gel stops along the route, as well as encouraging the runners. We have assisted them the past two years and once again enjoyed it. We hope to do it again next year.

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



- **JADEN’S BACK:** U.S. Air Force Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Jaden Roblewsky graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Roblewsky earned distinction as an honor graduate. He trained in Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems and will be based at the SDANG in Sioux Falls. [Editor’s Note: Jaden’s advanced promotion to the USAF rank of Airman First Class (pay grade E3) was due to his having earned CAP’s Billy Mitchell Award as a cadet.]



- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** The Lincoln County Composite Squadron stepped forward to volunteer at the 2019 Health Connect Fair held at the Arena in Sioux Falls. Duties on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning started with helping vendors unload their vehicles and transport their merchandise to their booths. Once the fair started, they helped at the CAP recruiting booth, loaded donations on the donation truck and helped serve lunch. There was an emergency evacuation of the Arena when a smoke alarm went off. They again stepped forward by assisting mothers with young children and strollers and the elderly with walkers exit the building. Once the "all clear" was given by our wonderful firefighters, they held doors open for the people to reenter the fair. Lobos who participated at the event were Cadet Samuel McClary, Cadet Lydia McClary, Cadet Rebekah McClary, C/Maj Kyle Clement and 1Lt. Denise Clement

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

- **HAPPENINGS:** There was a lot happening in Spearfish during September. Cadet Alexandra Sukstorf, who joined the Squadron in August, was promoted to C/Amn. She also participated in two orientation flights thanks to Lt Col Buck DeWeese. We also welcomed SM Jerry Baldwin of Sturgis, the newest member of our team. Four members of the Squadron, Lt Col DeWeese, Maj Bill Collister, SSgt Shawn Bawden, and SM Andrew Pisciotta aided in the two-day search for a missing hiker in Custer State Park. We are also planning an Open House for Saturday, November 9th.

## **MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)**



1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard Rezac, Wing Assistant Director of Emergency Services, completed the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) Inland SAR Planning Course from Sept 16 - 20 in Cedar Rapids IA. This is a comprehensive, "graduate-level" look at search theory and its application to land and air searches for missing persons and aircraft. The course is directed toward SAR leaders in federal, state, and local emergency services and law enforcement, as well as CAP, international, and volunteer SAR agencies. Aiming to "find the objective fast," the course centers on tools to help decision makers determine where to search, how to divide an area between limited search resources, and how to craft the overall search effort to gain the best increases in likelihood of success at each step. The tools are mathematically based and not for the faint of heart; they help quantify the uncertainties of the search problem to allow consistent application throughout a mission. Representatives from five different states, including CAP members from three different wings, attended the course. Personnel from law-enforcement agencies, county emergency managers, fire departments and EMS agencies, as well as community SAR agencies were there. Everyone's strengths were recognized, and everyone learned things from each other that we would never have known in our own "bubbles". Working with other agencies, at this level, was a tremendous testament to the cooperation and teamwork we should all strive for in this work.



## **MITCHELL FLIGHT (SD-69 – MITCHELL)**

- **CHARTERED**: The Mitchell Flight is now an officially chartered unit of the Civil Air Patrol. We received our unit charter in September. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Col. Small presented us with our unit charter making us a fully-fledged part of the South Dakota Wing. WooHoo!

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

- **SHIOUX FALLS SIDEWALK ARTS FESTIVAL**: Early at 0345 on Saturday, 7 September, members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron assisted Downtown Sioux Falls in preparing for their annual Sidewalk Arts Festival. This free outdoor event with over 300 vendor booths featured the region's best fine art, folk art and craft artisans and was one of the largest annual fundraisers for the Visual Arts Center at the Washington Pavilion, the region's premier cultural, educational and entertainment facility. SFCS was tasked to distribute trash containers and set up booths with a canopy, tables, and numerous cases of pop.

- **GIRL SCOUT BADGE**: Over a couple weeks in September, Lt. Col. Duncan Keirnes and C/1Lt Julia Lair along with the Commemorative Air Force Joe Foss Squadron educated the girls from the Girl Scouts - Dakota Horizons on the principles of flight and careers in aviation.



- **POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**: This event is held each year on the third Friday of September to pay special recognition to all those U.S. men and women who have been held as prisoners of war and especially those who remain unaccounted for. At the Sioux Falls Veterans' Memorial Park, our color guard presented the colors and the Big Sioux Composite Squadron cadets performed the POW/MIA ceremony in the program. The SFCS Color Guard cadets who participated were: C/TSgt Brayden Parke, C/TSgt Andrew Smith, C/SSgt Timothy Daene, and C/Amn Benjamin Barr and the BSCS cadets who performed the POW/MIA ceremony were C/Lt Col Annabelle Klosterman and C/CMSgt Lydia Klosterman.



- **TRUCK CONVOY/SPECIAL OLYMPICS:** On 21 September, the SFCS color guard presented the colors at the 2019 Truck Convoy at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. This event is a celebration of the trucking industry and its support for Special Olympics. During the event, auctions are held for valuable items as well as for the prestigious title of Lead Truck. The Convoy solicits corporate sponsors and engages community partners to contribute financially to this great fundraising event for a great cause! The cadets who participated were: C/TSgt Brayden Parke, C/TSgt Andrew Smith, C/SrA Clara Giddings, and C/Amn Benjamin Barr.



**★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★**

**Cadet Officer Promotion**



Congratulations to Kyle Clement of Sioux Falls, a member of Lincoln County Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Major!

**Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Kyle Vandusseldorp of Philip, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Mercy Healy and Gabriel Healy, both of Mitchell and both members of the Mitchell Flight, on their promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Timothy Daene of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



## **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Phoebe Kellar of Rapid City, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Jacob Hadden of Porcupine and Rylan Schinzel of Rapid City, both members of the Rushmore Composite Squadron; to Brayden Yackley of Onida, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron; to Mitchell Trias of Estelline, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron; and to Alexandra Sukstorf of Deadwood, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



## ★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to CMSgt Blake Parke of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who was recently certified as SDWG's newest sUAS Technician!



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 of Highmore, commander of the Miller Flight, and to Lt. Col. Ron Evenson of Brandon, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, who have completed Level III (Management) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. In recognition thereof they are now entitled to wear the Grover C. Loening Award!



Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard Rezac of Highmore, commander of the Miller Flight, who has completed requirements for award of the "Senior" rating in the specialty track "Cadet Programs!"



Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael Engelhart of Spearfish, SM Jess Santee of Deadwood, and SM Andrew Pisciotta of Lead, all members of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, who were qualified as Mission Scanners!



Congratulations to Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney, a frequent volunteer for Red Cross activities across the nation! At the "Celebrating the Mission" luncheon on 26 September Nancy was presented with the Disaster Services Volunteer Hero of the Year Award. Handing Nancy her award was her Executive Director Richard Smith on the Right..