



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for NOVEMBER 2019

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

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WING TIPS



INCIDENT COMMAND STAFF

- **NOVEMBER SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE:**
On Friday, 8 November, in preparation for the Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) the staff of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) positioned aircraft, vehicles and personnel at staging areas near the exercise area in the Black Hills. In the wee hours on 9 November the staging areas support staff began working to ensure that everyone had a hot breakfast before heading out into the chilly, windy weather while others worked to ensure the aircraft and vehicles were ready and that all personnel were appropriately dressed and equipped.

At 0845 (MT) on the 9th a series of operational briefings were held to ensure everyone was aware of what was going to take place. Foremost among those briefings was one on safety. The South Dakota Wing takes the safety and security of its personnel and equipment very seriously, especially when operating in field conditions. The planning sections then went to work and assigned search areas for four CAP aircraft which then departed from their staging areas and flew into the exercise area. Three ground teams were also briefed and dispatched to their target areas within the overall exercise area. Radio communications were established between the operational elements so information can be passed back and forth.

By 1:00PM (MT) the training objectives for the first half of the day had been successfully completed. All aircraft, vehicles and personnel had returned to their staging areas for lunch and an opportunity to go over some lessons learned for the morning. The afternoon objectives had to be adjusted due to heavy snow conditions in

the planned search area. The snow depth varied to between 6 and 30 inches, and the CAP vans were not able to deploy the ground teams to the planned areas. Also, windy conditions threatened the air-operations for the rest of the day, so the decision was made to send the aircraft back to home station before the ice-storm hit on Sunday morning. The ground teams were able to get in more training in searching for simulated aircraft emergency beacons in the afternoon, and finally got to enjoy a well-earned supper and camaraderie before heading home earlier than planned, so they could beat the coming winter storm.



GROUND TEAM MEMBERS



ASSEMBLING EQUIPMENT



MOVING OUT



FLIGHT CREW READY TO GO



SEARCH AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF

- **COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN:** Did you know you can give to Civil Air Patrol through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)? Lt. Col. Paul Cianciolo will be facilitating a webinar on the ins and outs of registering your unit with the Combined Federal Campaign. If your unit is interested in participating in the CFC campaign, join the how-to webinar Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ 7 p.m. Central time. If you have questions regarding CFC go to cfc@gocivilairpatrol.org.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew seven aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over four days in November 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 16.0 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 4.3 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 20.3 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, four sorties; and Maj. E.W. Filler, three 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

- **HOME SCHOOL OUTREACH:** The SDWG just completed participation in an eight-week home school co-op program in the northern Black Hills. Two classes, about 10 Middle School-aged students and 15 High School-aged youth were exposed to all aspects of the Civil Air Patrol. Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese taught two sessions about airline pilot experiences and about basic flight and military aviation. 2nd Lt. Malisa and C/SSgt Banion Niles of Rushmore Composite Squadron conducted a STEM session where students enthusiastically, and messily, launched "fizzy fliers". 2nd Lt. Michael Engelhart of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (LMCS) lent his expertise of the Black Hills National Forest and introduced search and rescue concepts. Capt. Sylvia Small, also of LMCS educated students on the importance of ethics and character development. Lt. Col. Gary Hewett of Rushmore Composite Squadron closed the series with an exciting program on gliders and soaring. Col. Small conducted the introduction class. It looks like we will gain at least 2-3 cadets and perhaps more out of this outreach. As thanks the Black Hills Homeschool Co-Op donated \$200 to the wing.



- **THANK YOU NOTE:** SDWG received a thank you note from the parents of the School of Mines student who we searched for a few weeks back. I can only imagine how hard it would be to write a thank you note to those who searched for a dead son.



- **FIRST FLIGHT:** On 14 November, after more than 28 years of CAP membership, the new SD Wing Command Chaplain, Lt. Col. Frezil Westerlund, got her first ride in a CAP aircraft. She accompanied Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese (pilot) and Col. Small who flew to Brookings from Rapid City to attend the Big Sioux Composite Squadron's change of command ceremony. In the photo Lt. Col. Westerlund (left) poses with Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese who was the pilot-in-command.

- **YOUTH AVIATION INITIATIVE (YAI) PANEL MEMBER:** Applications will be accepted until Friday, 13 December 2019. Description: Assist the National Cadet Team in administering the CAP Youth Aviation Initiative (YAI) flight programs to include reviewing cadet candidates for enrollment into the program and helping staff it through identifying possible instructor pilots. Program elements include Cadet Wings, Cadet Lift, and Take Off Program-TOP Cadet. See Volunteer National Staff Vacancy page for more information. How to Apply: Senior members interested in serving in this open volunteer position should complete the National Staff Application Form and return it to HQ CAP/DP at National Headquarters, HQCAPDP@capnhq.gov. A two-page maximum resume may also be submitted with the application form. Please note the resume can be submitted in place of the application form if it contains all the information listed in the application. Volunteer positions will be filled on an additional duty basis so units in the field continue to enjoy the benefit of using members' knowledge and skills at the local level. This is not a paid position. We have 2 open vacancies; please ensure this information receives the widest possible dissemination so that anyone interested in serving in this position has an opportunity to apply.



WING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Col. Mary Donley, Lt. Col. Linda Buechler and Capt. Richard Rezac CAP

- **TRAINING LEADERS OF CADETS (TLC):** TLC Basic and Intermediate courses were held Nov 2 and 3 at the Wing HQ. Instructors were Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Director, Col. Mary Donley, and Capt. Richard Rezac. Director of Cadet Programs, Lt. Col. Buechler stated that nine officers attended the TLC-Basic course and six officers attended the TLC-Intermediate course. Those attending TLC-Basic were: Loyd Tracy, Ruth Carley, Jody Weiland, Tim Modde, Howard Steiner, Frezil Westerlund, Alfred Heinrich, Linda Buechler, and Mary Donley. Those attending TLC-Intermediate were: Pandy Rezac, Donald Weiland, Douglas Westerlund, Malisa Niles, Loyd Tracy and Mary Donley. TLC is the premiere venue for Cadet Programs Officers to learn how to become better mentors of cadets and more efficient managers of cadet squadrons.

- **TRAINING LEADERS OF CADETS:** A Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) will be held January 18, 2020, at a to be determined location in Sioux Falls. Both TLC Basic and Intermediate will be offered. Those adults wanting to attend should contact Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, SDWG Director of Cadet Programs, at 605-212-7032 or email her at linda.buechler@sdwg.cap.gov.

- **OFFICER BASIC COURSE:** Capt. Richard Rezac reports, "In looking at our professional development reports, we have over 100 members that haven't finished Officer's Basic Course (OBC). OBC (or an equivalent) is required to finish your Level II and earn your Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Award. There are probably several reasons why you haven't gotten it done. "I can get it done tomorrow". "It's too long". "I didn't even know I needed to do it". That's understandable. But it's not as hard as you might think. There are a lot of online modules to OBC (39 in all) about 20 - 30 minutes each. We all probably have that much time in a day (or a few days a week) that members could devote to this. If you did one segment a day (about the average length of a sitcom), you could be done in a month or two. You'd be that much closer to completing Level II, learn a lot about our organization that you may not yet know, and hopefully become a better CAP member on the journey."

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058 – BROOKINGS)

- **NEW COMMANDER:** Capt. Tyler Gross is the new commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings. Tyler has been a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron for over eight years and has progressed from a cadet to an officer leader. Tyler has led the unit to several national CyberPatriot final competitions and is the Wing IT director. He is also very active in emergency services and the new SUAS program. Though Capt. Gross may be the youngest squadron commander in Wing history (not verified) he is more than qualified and has shown sound leadership. Thank you to Maj E.W. Filler for his four years of service as squadron commander. EW turned over a sound, well balanced squadron as testament to his leadership.

- **CYBERPATRIOT XII:** CyberPatriot Round 2, the second of four remote online rounds, was held over the weekend of 15-17 November. The Squadron has two high school teams in the All Services division. The first team consists of C/SrA Jeremiah Jorenby, C/Capt Austen King, C/Lt Col Annabelle Klosterman, C/Capt Isaiah Klosterman, and C/CMSgt Lydia Klosterman. They placed 13th out of 1885 teams in the All Services Division. The second team consists of C/SrA Abigail Williams and C/Amn Mitchell Trias. They placed 612th out of 1885 teams in the All Service Division.



- **VETERAN'S DAY COLOR GUARD:** On 11 November, for Veteran's 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. Presenting the colors are C/Capt Austen King, C/SrA Abigail Williams, and C/SrA Jeremiah Jorenby.

LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-007 – TEA)



BIG SMILES ON THE FACES OF CADETS REBAKAH MCCLARY AND LYDIA MCCLARY. THEY ARE PICTURED WITH THEIR PILOT FIRST LT. JERRY HAYDEN



CADETS ZECHARIAH HLAVKA AND JONATHAN HOTZ RECEIVED THEIR FIRST ORIENTATION FLIGHT FROM PILOT LT. COL. JUSTIN JOHNSON. BOTH THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE FLIGHT AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT ONE.

- **SQUADRON VISIT**: A few weeks ago, Captain Galloway and Lieutenant Foy were able to visit the Lincoln County "Lobos". Capt. Galloway is a fighter pilot, and Lt. Foy is an Air Battle Manager, both of whom spent time in CAP. Lt. Foy is a native to South Dakota, and spent nine years in the SDWG cadet program which she says has helped her in her career. Lt. Foy also attended NDSU AFROTC and was a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Both are welcome to inquiries into their professional careers with contact via Maj. Foy.



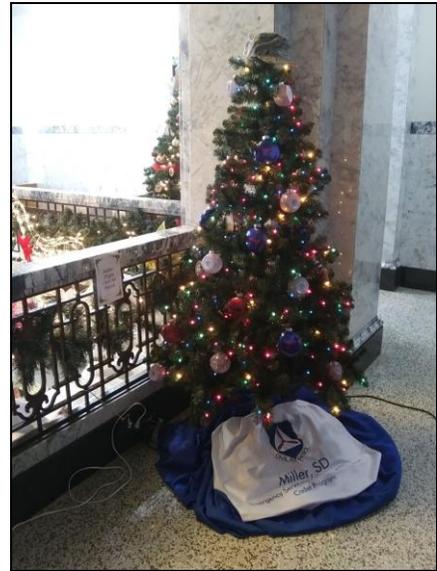
CAPT. GALLOWAY (LEFT) AND LT. FOY (RIGHT)

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-63 – SPEARFISH)

- **OPEN HOUSE**: The Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron hosted an Open House 9 November where community members were able to learn about the programs the organization offers. The Open House was to showcase what the Civil Air Patrol is all about for everybody here in the Northern Black Hills.

MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)

- **HOLIDAY SPIRIT**: Members of the Miller Flight donated and decorated a holiday tree at the Miller courthouse. This is just another way we're getting the "CAP message" out to the community



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

- **VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAMS**: Our Color Guard teams were busy for Veterans Day. They honored approximately 60 veterans total at Avantara Norton, Good Samaritan Society and St Katharine Drexel School. On 8 November one of our Color Guard teams presented the colors at the Avantara Norton nursing facility. The cadets who participated were C/CMSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/TSgt Andrew Smith, Cadet Charles Scotting and Cadet Ethan Scotting. As we have done in previous years, another one of our Color Guard teams posted and retrieved the colors for St. Katharine Drexel School during their Veteran's Day program on 11 November. The cadets who participated were C/MSgt Malachi Smith, C/TSgt Andrew Smith and C/Amn Benjamin Barr. The last event was on 12 November at the Good Samaritan Society. The cadets who participated were C/CMSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/SSgt Clara Giddings, C/SrA Hannah Decker, and C/Amn Zephyr Tolliver.



AVANTARA NORTON



ST.KATHARINE DREXEL SCHOOL



GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY

- **CYBERPATRIOT**: Our team participated in Round 2 of the CyberPatriot Competition on 17 November 2019. It was a tough round for our team. The team placed 1262nd out of 1950 All Service teams and is eligible to compete in the Gold Tier at State Round during the weekend of 7-8 December.

- **CADET EXHIBITION**: The Squadron held their first-ever Cadet Exhibition at the South Dakota Air National Guard on Saturday, 16 November. The goal was to give cadets experience in some of the events that are part of the National Cadet Competition. The competition team would first demonstrate and then break up into individual teams to also help their cadet colleagues learn the basics. There was also a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard to help with judging the teams. Family members were also invited to come and watch. The cadets had a full day of events that covered uniform preparation (including ironing and polishing boots), panel quiz which tested them on leadership and aerospace questions, maneuvering the sUAS through an obstacle course, and the color guard events like the standard drill, element drill and indoor posting of the colors.



- **PARADE OF LIGHTS**: Members of the Squadron assisted with Sioux Falls' 28th Annual "Parade of Lights" on 29 November. Thousands of people gathered to watch the parade that marked the official start to the downtown holiday season. The hardy CAP crew placed street barriers, assisted with traffic and crowd control in addition to safety along the parade route. "Thank you for your service and assistance every year during the Parade of Lights! We couldn't do it without you!" - Downtown Sioux Falls, Inc. (Parade Committee).

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Noncommissioned Officer



Congratulations to Mercy Healy and Gabriel Healy, of Mitchell and both members of the Mitchell Flight, on promotion to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Devin Griffin of Black Hawk, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, on his promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Emily Williams of Egan, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Banion Niles of Hot Springs, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, and to Clara Giddings and Joshua Skelton, both of Sioux Falls and both members of 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 Sibi Manian of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Daniel Oye of Tea, a member of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron, and to Benjamin Barr of Brandon, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Samuel McClary and Lydia McClary, both of Parker and both members of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron, and to Ryan Schultz of Sioux Falls and Charles Scotting and Ethan Scotting, both of Dell Rapid and all three members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Pandy Rezac of the Miller Flight who achieved “Technician” rating in the specialty track “Cadet Programs” of the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program.



Congratulations to Maj. Nick Gengler (Wing Staff) and Capt. Richard Rezac (Miller Flight) who completed the eight-week online Unit Commanders Course. As an online course, there won't be a graduation ceremony but we can still share the good news!



Congratulations to C/SrA Joshua Vermundson of Pierre Composite Squadron with a winning entry to the NCR October Safety Contest! The theme was “Operation Wingman.”

★ ★ IN MEMORIAM ★ ★



Wing Commander Colonel David Small sends: I am saddened to announce the passing of one of our South Dakota Wing family. Lt. Col. Don Barbalace, a long term member of the South Dakota Wing family and a 50 year CAP member passed away on 26 November. Don had been challenged by health issues for the past couple of years and we are saddened by his passing and will miss his wisdom and dry wit. His death is a great loss to the Wing, the North Central Region and Civil Air Patrol.

The South Dakota Wing was well represented at Don’s funeral service. The following members participated:

Color Guard: C/MSgt Brayden Parke, C/Capt Isaiah Klosterman, and C/CMSgt Lydia Klosterman. Very capably lead by 1st Lt. Mimi Klosterman and CMSgt Blake Parke, USAF

Pall Bearers: Maj. Jerome Foy (Represented in USAF Uniform and grade), CMSgt. Blake Parke (USAF Uniform and grade), Lt. Col. Nicholas Gengler, Lt. Col. Justin Johnson, Lt. Col. Gary King and C/Maj. Kyle Clement.

Also Present: Col. Mary Donley, Lt. Col. Gary Rae, 1st Lt. Denise Clement, and 1st Lt. Ruthe King

