"THE SKYCHASER"

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for DECEMBER 2019

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

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WING TIPS

- ***SDWG CADET LEADERSHIP ACADEMY – RESCHEDULED.*** The SDWG Cadet Leadership Academy has been rescheduled to January 31st - February 2nd. This is a weekend course that is held in Sioux Falls and designed to help cadets advance their leadership and team-building skills. The academy will be a mix of classroom and hands-on activities created and instructed by experienced cadets and senior members. There will be some classes specifically for Airman and some for the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs). https://www.eventbrite.com/e/south-dakota-wing-cadet-leadership-academy-new-date-tickets-87967654623

- ***U.S. SPACE FORCE ESTABLISHED***: President Donald Trump on 20 December established the U.S. Space Force as America's sixth military service, one of the most significant changes in Air Force history and a milestone in America's exploration and militarization of the cosmos. The Space Force is the Pentagon's first branch of the military solely dedicated to organizing, training, and equipping personnel to operate and protect military space assets. It is within the Air Force (the same as the Marine Corps is within the Navy) and draws on much of the service's existing bureaucracy, while aiming to create its own culture and structure to prioritize and tackle space in new ways

- ***AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS***: SDWG flew five aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five days in December 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 16.7 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.2 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 19.9

flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, four sorties; and Lt. Col. Duncan Keirnes, 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

- ***YEAR-END STATS***: Thanks to your hard work the SD Wing ended 2019 with the highest membership this century! (450 total members, 137 cadets and 313 officers) We have 9 active units, up 50% from 2018. State funding is up 20% and we have excellent relationships with key government leaders. Overall, we are a healthy, active wing.

- ***WING STAFF***: Here are three important SD Wing Staff changes:

Lt. Col. Todd Epp has volunteered to be the Wing Director of Public Affairs, taking over from 1st Lt. Mimi Klosterman. Todd is an old hand at public affairs, both from prior wing experience as well as his profession. I welcome Todd's expertise in this important area. Thank you Mimi for your service and for agreeing to remain as an Assistant Public Affairs Officer.

1st Lt. Ruth Carley has been appointed commander of the Pierre Composite Squadron. Ruth has been a member of CAP since her cadet days and has most recently run the growing Pierre cadet program. Ruth brings lots of experience and excellent judgement to the unit. Thank you Ruth for being willing to step up and thank you 1st Lt. Matt Tennant for your service as prior squadron CC. We are glad that you are staying within our wing when you move to the Sioux Falls area and I'm sure that your talents will continue to be appreciated by our members.

1st Lt Matt Tennant has been appointed as the Wing Cadet Orientation Flight Program Officer. The WOFPO will be the Point of Contact for Squadrons/Squadron Orientation Flight Coordinators (SOFC) to send their requests for orientation flights. This will allow the WOFPO to see what the need is and where, as well as establish the priority for squadrons/cadets needing flights as they are available. The WOFPO will then schedule a date and line up pilots for the flights.

- ***AWARD NOMINATIONS***: Only a few award nominations have trickled in on e-services. We have a lot of members who deserve recognition for their hard work this past year. Squadron Commanders, please encourage your members and squadron leadership to submit award nominations, everything from ** of the year, to achievement awards can be done in e-services. Anyone, officer or cadet, can nominate someone for an award.

WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Lt. Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

- ***NATIONAL CADET SPECIAL ACTIVITIES***: NCSA applications are open! Great activities are happening throughout the Nation. Check out Flight Academies, National Blue Beret, Cyber Defense Camps,

Engineering Camps, Robotics Camps, AF Para-Rescue School, National Emergency Services Academies, etc. Deadline is 15 January. Apply via eServices or www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/activities/national-cadet-special-activities

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WING DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Lt. Col. Tom Bass, CAP

- ***WEX CARDS***: The Wing Admin is currently working on getting new WEX – Vehicle – Non-AF cards out to the squadrons. One of the real challenges she has is determining who is paying the WEX charges, i.e., squadron or wing.

All Squadron CC are receiving new WEX – Vehicle – Non-AF cards. Please remember:

1. Only use the WEX card on Non-AF missions
2. Replace the expired one in each vehicle binder
3. Let Rachel know who is paying for each use (put it in WMIRS notes)

- ***ANIMAL TRACKING SHEETS***: We have new procedures for getting the animal tracking sheets to the wing. Pilots: If you fly an animal tracking mission you need to e-mail the animal tracking sheet to rkuecker@capnhq.gov AND tom.bass@sdwg.cap.gov.

- ***SQUADRON DEPOSITS***: When a squadron makes a deposit into their bank account, The Wing Admin needs a copy of both the check and deposit slip and a SDWG-173. If she has to request a copy of the check from Wells Fargo, we will be charged for that copy. Going forward if the wing is charged for the copy, the squadron will be billed for the cost of the copy.

WING DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

- ***TRANING***: There will be a Squadron Leadership School Saturday, January 25 and Corporate Learning Course Sunday, January 26. These classes will be held at the Tea Airport in the EAA Building. Both days will begin at 8 AM and end around 6 PM. Contact Capt. Richard Rezac --richard.rezac@sdwg.cap.gov or Col. Mary Donley -- mary.donley@sdwg.cap.gov to enroll or if you have questions!! Hope to see many people there!!

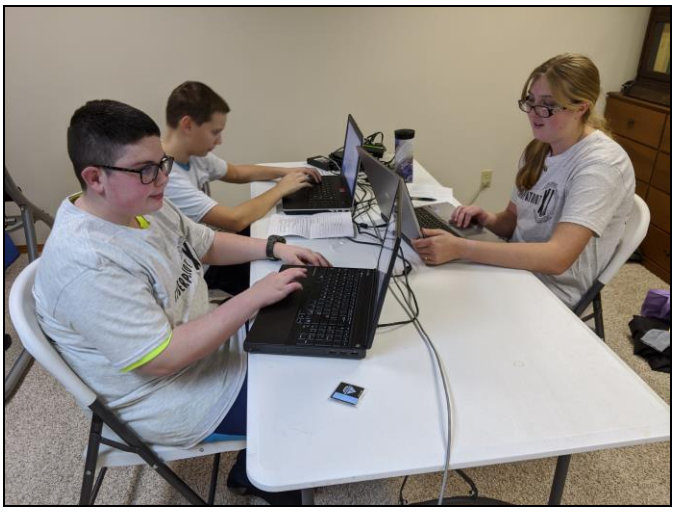
- ***AWARDS***: Squadrons don't forget to get your award nominations in NLT January 15!! Check out CAPR 39-3 and CAPP 39-3 for information on submitting nominations. Contact Col. Mary Donley with any questions (mary.donley@sdwg.cap.gov)!

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058 – BROOKINGS)

- ***CYBERPATRIOT XII - ROUND 3***: CyberPatriot Round 3 (the State Round), third of four remote online rounds, was held over the weekend of 6-8 December. The Big Sioux Composite 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 3rd for CAP teams and was 10th out of 1885 teams in the All Services Division. They will be advancing to the Semifinal Round. The second team of C/SrA Abigail Williams, C/A1C Mitchell Trias, and C/AB Gabriel Risty placed 724th out of 1885 teams in the All Service Division and will not be advancing to the Semifinal Round.

CYBERPATRIOT TEAM-1



CYBERPATRIOT TEAM-2

- ***EVENT CENTER CLEANUP***: On 21 December, cadets and senior members cleaned up an event center following a local concert. Members try to do this throughout the year in order to fundraise for their squadron.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-68 – CUSTER)

- ***WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA***: Members of the Squadron participated in placing 134 wreathes at the Custer City Cemetery on 14 December for Wreaths Across America. Assisting in this event were members of American Legion Post 46, VFW post 3442, Daughters of the American Revolution and various members of the Custer community.

- ***FUNDRAISERS***: The Squadron was involved in Bingo Night and Steak Nights at VFW Post 3442. Both monthly events are fundraising opportunities to raise awareness of CAP within our community and as a fundraiser for Wreaths Across America.

- ***CAP XMAS TREE***: The squadron entered a Christmas Tree in the Custer State Park Festival of Trees. Our tree had unique Civil Air Patrol ornaments made by members of the squadron.

- ***SQUADRON ALUMI PAYS VISIT***: Former Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Cadet, Marine Private First Class Ethan Updike payed a surprise visit to the squadron during our annual Christmas Party. Ethan achieved the Cadet grade of Second Lieutenant just prior to departing for boot camp this last summer.

LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-07 – TEA)

- ***XMAS PARTY***: Fellowship, Fun and Food were enjoyed by many who attended the Christmas Holiday Party at the Lincoln County Composite Squadron.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-63 – SPEARFISH)

- ***OPEN HOUSE***: Our squadron had a lot to be thankful during November and December, starting with the Open House held on 9 November. The event, led by 2nd Lt. Michael Engelhart, attracted 18 guests including a reporter from the *Black Hills Pioneer* newspaper. For more information, see https://tinyurl.com/umgmrbm.

- ***COMMUNITY SUPPORT***: We are also grateful for the two financial contributions we received from the local community to support our squadron. The American Legion Riders, Post 164, donated $500. We also received a $3,600 grant from Black Hills Energy.

MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)

- ***SERVICE PROJECT***: As our service project this month, the Miller Flight put together a care package for "A" Battery, 1/147 Field Artillery and the 147th Forward Support Company. They are National Guard units with members in Miller. These units are currently deployed overseas. We made over 100 dozen cookies, along with fudge, candy, Chex Mix and other goodies. Well over 100 pounds of homemade treats are on their way to make their holiday away from home a little easier.

- ***WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA***: Members of the Miller Flight participated in Wreaths Across America program on 14 December. Holiday wreaths were placed on veterans' graves at the Catholic cemetery as well as at the Hand County Veterans Memorial, both in Miller.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY: 1st Lt. Ruth Carley was installed as the new Pierre Squadron Commander by Col. David Small. Lt. Carley has been a long time Civil Air Patrol member originally from Philip South Dakota. In attendance from SD Wing Staff were Wing commander Colonel David G. Small, Jr, SD Vice Commander Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and Command NCO SSgt Shawn Bawden. "We welcome Lt. Carley to this new command post and look forward to her leadership," said SD Wing Commander Col. David Small. The Pierre change of command ceremony was held Tuesday, December 17 on the regular meeting night. It took place at the Izaac Walton club building in Pierre with most of the squadron members attending. This offered a large floor area that could be used for drill and ceremonies. Lt. Carley has served the most recently as Administrative Officer, Deputy Commander for Cadets and Personnel Officer before becoming Commander.

- ***WREATH CEREMONY***: Captain Jon Becker representing the squadron participated in the 9 December Wreath Laying Ceremony at the South Dakota Flaming Fountain Memorial in Pierre. Capt. Becker played taps as one of two trumpets in an echo duet as the final salute to veterans. This followed a 21-gun salute of seven rifles firing in three volleys. The wreath laying is to honor all veterans, past and present. The featured speaker was Brigadier General Michael J. Oster, Assistant Adjutant General of the South Dakota Army National Guard. This presentation is part of the Wreaths Across America program.

- ***CADET AWARDS***: Four cadets, C/SMSgt Kade VanDuseldorp, C/Amn Jonathen Knudsen, C/SrA Joshua Vermundson and C/A1C Darion Osterkamp won awards that were presented preceding the change of command in Pierre. They included the Outstanding CAP Squadron Cadet Award from the Air Force Association for VanDuseldorp presented by Col David Small, squadron awards of a PCS Rising Star for Knudsen, a PCS Award for Outstanding Achievement for Joshua Vermundson, and a PCS element Leader of the Year for Darion Osterkamp. In the photo C/SMSgt VanDuseldorp is presented his award by Wing Commander Col. Small.

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

- ***CYBERPATRIOT STATE ROUND***: Our team competed in the Gold tier of the CyberPatriot State Round Competition on Sunday, 8 December. As the rounds progress, the competition gets more difficult and our team did the best they could. Even though the team didn't advance to the Semifinals, they took second place among the teams in the All Services Division in the state of South Dakota. "CyberPatriot was a great experience. I learned a whole bunch of important skills on how to keep your computer safe. It also taught me many other things about computers, things that I had no idea even existed. Being part of the team was really fun. I would highly recommend this if you are interested in learning more about computers. I gained skills that I know I will use for the rest of my life." - C/TSgt Grace Ingebretsen, first year competitor. The team consisted of C/CMSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/SMSgt Brayden Parke, C/TSgt Grace Ingebretsen, C/A1C Zephyr Tolliver, and C/AB Noah Daene.

- ***WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA***: On 14 December at the Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls, the squadron participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony that is held simultaneously across the nation. Along with our members and the public, Congressman Dusty Johnson also attended the ceremony to present the POW/MIA wreath. The color guard team that presented the colors consisted of C/SMSgt Brayden Parke, C/TSgt Andrew Smith, C/TSgt Grace Ingebretsen and C/Amn Ryan Schultz.

- ***CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY***: Immediately after the Wreaths Across America ceremony, the squadron held their Christmas/Holiday party at the Celebrate Community Church. There was so much good food! Everyone had fun playing games like relay races, Christmas Jeopardy and a White Elephant gift exchange. Thank you to the element leaders who were responsible for planning the event and the activities. They did a great job!

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

SENIOR MEMBER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to SM Jon Raevsky of Spearfish and to SM Jessica Pisciotta and SM Andrew Pisciotta, both of Deadwood, all members of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant.

CADET PROMOTIONS

Cadet Officer Promotion

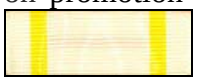
Congratulations to Julia Lair of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Captain and receipt of the milestone Amelia Earhart Award!

Noncommissioned Officer

Congratulations to Josiah Kilburn of Box Elder, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!

Congratulations to Alexander Heinrich of Custer, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, and to Brayden Parke of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, Preston Drew of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, and Malachi Smith of Mission Hill, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!

Congratulations to Grace Ingebretsen of Luverne, MN, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Isabella Pollman of Bridgewater, a member of the Mitchell Flight, on 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, and to Ethan Den Hoed of Boyden, IA, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to James Ragains of Rapid City, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!

Congratulations to Rebekah McClary of Parker, a member of Lincoln County Composite Squadron, and to Connor Taylor and Zephaniah Tolliver, both of Sioux Falls and both Members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and Mitchell Trias of Estelline, 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 Colby Southern of Rapid City, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, and Gabriel Antonsen of Hartford, Noah Deane of Kenneth, MN, Hunter Gerdes of Sioux Falls, Gavin Houtsma of Brandon, all members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Terasa Dillon of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on their promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!

★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★

Congratulations to Captain Matt Meert of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, the Wing's newest CAP aircraft G1000 Instructor!

Congratulations to Capt. Richard Rezac of the Miller Flight who has earned the "Senior" rating in the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program Specialty Track – Emergency Services!