



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for MARCH 2020

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

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WING TIPS

BIG SIOUX CYBERPATRIOT TEAM GOING TO THE NATIONAL FINALS

The South Dakota Wing’s Big Sioux Composite Squadron will return to the national stage for the sixth time. A team of cadet cyber-defenders in Brookings will be competing in the national finals of CyberPatriot-XII (The National Cyber Youth Education Program) to be held in Bethesda, MD. The National Finals competition runs from 20-22 March 2020.

This year, Team Big Sioux consists of Cadet Captain Austen King of Volga, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Annabelle Klosterman, Cadet Captain Isaiah Klosterman, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Lydia Klosterman, all from Brandon, and Cadet Senior Airman Jeremiah Jorenby of Brookings. The team is coached by Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

In recognition of their success, Team Big Sioux earned an all-expenses-paid trip to the national finals. In the finals, the only in-person round, the team will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The finalists will also face-off in additional competition components. These extra challenges broaden the cybersecurity experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them. The team will be scored on how quickly and effectively they establish and maintain secure networks.

CAP competes in the All Service Division of CyberPatriot, which includes junior ROTC teams for each of the military services as well as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. CAP accounted for 476 of the 1,885 All Service teams competing in this year’s CyberPatriot XII.



LEFT-TO-RIGHT: C/CAPT AUSTEN KING, C/CMSGT LYDIA KLOSTERMAN, C/CAPT ISIAIAH KLOSTERMAN, C/LTCOL ANNABELLE KLOSTERMAN AND C/SRA JEREMIAH JORENBY

- **WING CADET LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:** The South Dakota Wing's Cadet Leadership Academy was held on 31 January through 2 February 2020 at the Army National Guard's Regional Training Institute in Sioux Falls. Over 40 cadets participated from the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, Lincoln County Composite Squadron, Miller Flight, Mitchell Composite Squadron, Rushmore Composite Squadron and Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Participants attended classes covering topics such as professionalism, time management, drill and ceremonies, the planning process, communications, team dynamics, effective leadership styles, helping cadets learn the basics and command voice. Other classes added to the schedule were uniform inspections, dining etiquette and Pass-In-Review ceremony. A few new senior members who are volunteering in the Cadet Programs also attended the event to learn more about what the cadets are being taught.

The cadets received a Certificate of Completion and a navy blue t-shirt with the CLA logo as a souvenir that they can wear at their squadron.

The cadet staff consisted of C/Lt Col Annabelle Klosterman as the cadet commander with C/Capt Isiah Klosterman and C/CMSGt Mercy Healy as course leaders, C/Capt Julia Lair, C/2d Lt Thomas Dillon, C/CMSGt Hunter Rice as Line staff and C/CMSGt Kaleb Sarchet and C/CMSGt Anthony Dillon as Logistics staff. Thank you to the officers on staff who assisted 1st Lt. Mimi Klosterman; 2nd Lt. Jodi Williams, Capt. Richard Rezac and 2nd Lt. Pandy Rezac. SM Rudy Trias was the Public Affairs Officer. Many thanks to class instructors: Lt. Col. Nick Gengler, Capt. Tyler Gross, Capt. Richard Rezac, 2nd Lt. Matt Healy, CMSgt Blake Parke and C/SMSGt Brayden Parke.



- **SOUTH DAKOTA WING CADET COMPETITION**: The South Dakota Wing's Cadet Competition was held at the Community Bible Church in Pierre February 21-22, 2020. The church graciously offered its facilities for our use through coordination with Capt. Jon Becker. Participating cadets were:

Pierre Composite Squadron (Pierre): C/1st Lt Alec Crowser, C/CMSgt Kade Vandussedorp, C/SrA Joshua Vermundsen and C/SrA Darion Osterkamp

Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City): C/CMSgt Devin Griffin, C/TSgt Amber Kelly, C/SrA Phoebe Kellar, C/SSgt Banion Niles; CSrA Ka,es Ragaoms and C/Amn Hunter Rickard

Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (Sioux Falls): C/CMSgt Kaleb Sarchet, C/CMSgt Keon denHoed, C/SMSgt Brayden Parke, C/TSgt Grace Ingebretsen, C/SSgt Austin denHoed and C/SrA Ethan denHoed

The Teams were judged on their performance in Impromptu Speech, Mile Run, Leadership Problems, Spot Inspections, Indoor Color Guard presentation and Outdoor Color Guard presentation. The final results of competition were: First Place – Rushmore Composite Squadron, Second Place – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, Third Place – Pierre Composite Squadron. Col. David Small, SD Wing Commander along with Lt. Col. Linda Buechler handed out the certificates and awards to cadets and squadrons.

The top two teams will be headed towards the North Central Region Cadet Competition scheduled for 24-26 April at Camp Dodge in Johnston, IA. Lt. Col. Buechler urges all squadrons in the Wing to work towards competing in the 2021 Cadet Competition.

A special thanks to all the personnel who helped make this competition such a great success.

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE (SAREX)**: The February Wing SAREX was held in Custer from 14-15 February. We had an excellent turnout with 41 wing members present representing six squadrons. 12 camped out Friday night in shelters or small tents (10 cadets, 2 seniors). All survived just fine, no mishaps. In addition to personnel we had four aircraft and three vehicles present. First Tasking involved use of old and new CAP grid systems. Unfamiliarity of the new system caused some stress and confusion for the better part of an hour. Ground-to-air and air-to-ground tests of various methods including use of radio, signal mirrors, ground signals and aircraft signals to ground proved quite effective. The ground team was able to get aircraft to send a message to mission base using ground signals. 2nd Lt. Malisa Niles was "Molly Brown", "witness" to highway landing of an aircraft as she communicated to ground team leaders in witness interview. She was highly effective in role. Lessons learned included that though witness interviews can be very effective source of information they can also include false or misleading statements so treat witnesses as useful data point but not a the only source of tasking input. Second task was to take aerial photos and upload them to a FEMA website.

- **JOINT DAKOTA EMERGENCY SERVICES ACADEMY**: We are excited to announce the first Joint Dakota Emergency Services Academy (JDESA). Many of us remember when the Joint Dakota Encampment had an Emergency Services focus every other year. We're bringing the opportunity back for our wings to train together. This will be a week-long school, based on NESAs curriculum, requirements and schedule. It is our goal to develop this program into a NESAs-level course, hopefully getting the JD ESA approved as a National Cadet Special Activity. Other possible areas of growth would be to offer Aircrew, Communications, Incident Command Staff and other schools.

Where and When: June 26-July 3 at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, SD. The cost will be \$120 for the week-long course. That includes food, t-shirts, and a week of great training. We are also offering scholarships! If you would like to apply for a scholarship simply send Capt. Rezac an email with a letter requesting a scholarship. We plan on offering 2 courses. Basic GSAR (GTM3) and Advanced GSAR (GTM1). These courses are an intensive combination of classroom and field training that provides students with the opportunity to complete all

requirements for these ratings. More info is on the signup page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-joint-dakota-emergency-services-academy-tickets-94180657883>. We also have a FB page set up for the event. Go over and like our page to keep up-to-date: <https://www.facebook.com/jointdakotaesa/>.

We are still looking to fill some of our staff positions. If you would like to help, just let us know. We will definitely find a job for you! Please contact the Activity Director Capt. Richard Rezac if you are interested in helping richard.rezac@sdwg.cap.gov. Many of you will have questions. Please feel free to ask Capt. Rezac. We are looking forward to building an Emergency Services training program that will rival any other school in Civil Air Patrol! More information will be posted on the signup page so keep an eye on it in the future. Hope to see you there!

- **MARKSMANSHIP**: South Dakota Wing's National Rifle Association Marksmanship Event is set for 25 April in Ft Pierre. We already have 17 of our 32 slots filled. Please coordinate with your unit commanders on transportation, and to make sure slots aren't over-booked. Register on our Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sd-wing-cap-marksmanship-weekend-tickets-90393133295>. Any questions can go to Capt Richard Rezac at richard.rezac@sdwg.cap.gov.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew four aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over four days in February 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 12.5 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 2.6 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 15.1 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, three sorties; 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

- **JOINT NORTH CENTRAL REGION/KANSAS WING CONFERENCE**: The Joint North Central Region/Kansas Wing Conference will be held 22-24 May 2020 at the Marriott Kansas City Airport. Registration includes admission to all conference sessions, Friday evening hospitality both Cadet and Senior, and buffet style for Breakfast, Lunch and the Dinner Banquet. Early Registration closes midnight Friday, 1 May 2020: Cadets – Registration and Banquet \$50, Seniors – Registration and Banquet \$80, Banquet Only \$45. Registration Closes at Midnight 15 May. Questions - contact Lt Col Bonnie Braun bonnieb67@aol.com or Lt Col Anna-Marie Bistodeau anna-marie.bistodeau@redcross.org

- **SOUTH DAKOTA WING CONFERENCE**: Sign up for the South Dakota Wing Conference to be held 8-10 May in Spearfish. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cap-south-dakota-wing-conference-2020-tickets-73175015441>



WING HEALTH OFFICER

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

- **COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS**: The virus produces fever, cough, and difficulty breathing and can be spread from those who are infected through close contact (within 2 meters) with respiratory droplets that infect a person's mouth, nose, and possibly eyes. CAP members should frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20-seconds (or use hand sanitizer when soap and water is unavailable), avoid close contact with the sick, cough into their elbows, use facial tissues, avoid commonly touched surfaces, clean commonly touched surfaces, do not shake hands and call a healthcare provider if you develop a fever (temperature >100.4 Fahrenheit without anti-fever medications), cough or shortness of breath. If you are ill, stay home and do not participate in-person at CAP meetings or activities until you are fever and cough/ sneeze free without medications for at least 24-hours. Commanders should consider working with their staff to identify plans for telework meetings or alternate work sites that minimizes human contact.
- **FLU SHOT**: It's not too late to get your flu vaccine!! While it won't prevent COVID-19, it can help protect from seasonal flu.
- **HEALTH CRISIS PREPAREDNESS**: Store a two-week supply of water and food. Assure you have your regular prescription drugs at home. Have nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins. Have cash on hand. Keep gas tanks full.
- **LIFESTYLE**: healthy lifestyle habits strengthen immune systems: a healthy diet that includes fruits and vegetables, regular exercise, drink recommended amounts of water, get good restorative sleep, reduce stress, limit or avoid alcohol. Don't Smoke. Avoid overuse of energy drinks, caffeine.



WING DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - CHANGE IS COMING!!!: National Headquarters has just sent out to Professional Development Officers the NEW Professional Development Program, and it is different. I am not going to go into now but please look for an email from me or your squadron commander in a few weeks. I am taking this time to become familiar with the new program so I can present it to you in a way that makes sense and is workable. It is designed to go into effect this coming August 2020!

In the meantime - check and see where you are in the Level System. Go to CAPR 50-17 and find the chart in the attachments that explains what you need to complete the level you are on. For example--the majority of senior members are in Level II or Level III. What do you need to complete your Level?

Level II--You need to have completed the Squadron Leadership School (SLS), Have or get a Technician Rating in one of your Specialty Track and complete the Officer Basic Course (OBC). You can still sign up for the online versions of LSLS and OBC but they must be completed by August. Sign up now if you need to!! If all those are done you have completed Level II.

Level III--You need to have completed the Corporate Learning Course (CLC), have or get a Senior Rating in your Specialty Track, attend at least 2 wing, region or national conferences, serve in a staff position for 1 year, and earn the Yeager Aerospace Award. You can still sign up for the online CLC and take the Yeager test as long as they are finished by August 2020. You can attend our wing conference May 8 and Region Conference later in May. So there are ways to complete your Level! If all this is done you have completed Level III.

If you are short just one or two things in your level you have until August 2020 to complete this level. If you have any questions about where you are now please contact me at: mary.donley@sdqg.cap.gov or call me at 605-321-8056! I will help each of you that ask for help! I want this transition to go as smoothly as possible.

That brings me to another point - I am going to need help when this new program is implemented. Please consider stepping up to help with this transition and with the Professional Development Program. It is a very rewarding position and no - you don't need to be a teacher! You just need to want to see people succeed!

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-68 – CUSTER)

- **CADET LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**: From 1-2 February the Wing held a Cadet Leadership Academy. C/SMSGt Preston Drew, C/SSgt Amelia Weiland, C/SSgt Jordan Weiland, C/A1C Garrett Weiland, C/A1C Mason Kieborz and C/Amn Terasa Dillon graduated from the SD Wing Cadet Leadership Academy. C/2nd Lt Thomas Dillon, C/CMSgt Anthony Dillon and C/CMSgt Hunter Rice participated in the weekend event as staff members and cadre.

- **SAREX**: As part of the Search and Rescue Exercise held on 14-15 February in Custer, C/CMSgt Hunter Rice and C/SMSGt Preston Drew camped out overnight in the field near the Custer airport along with the Wing Commander and twelve other Wing Cadets and Senior Members on Friday Night. All the overnight campers were awarded a Wing Commander's Challenge Coin.

- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: the squadron assisted Custer VFW Post 3442 with their monthly Bingo Night on 14 February. This is a monthly fundraising event for Wreaths Across America for the Custer City Cemetery. Unit members help distribute bingo cards and dabbers for the event. Members participating were 1st Lt. Jody Weiland, 2nd Lt. Karen Kieborz, C/SSgt Amelia Weiland, C/SSgt Jordan Weiland, C/A1C Mason Kieborz, C/Amn Terasa Dillon, C/AB Blaise Arp and C/AB Emma Arp.

- **VFW STEAK NIGHT**: The squadron assisted Custer VFW Post 3442 with their monthly Steak Night on 20 February. Unit members helped bus tables and wash dishes along with members of the VFW. We often assist the VFW on Steak Night when they are short staffed as a public service event. Members participating were Capt. Donald Weiland, 1st Lt. Jody Weiland, C/SSgt Jordan Weiland and C/A1C Garrett Weiland.

- **CUSTER TRADE SHOW**: On 29 February several members of the squadron assisted in the annual Custer Trade Show. They served as greeters for the event that was hosted by the Custer Chamber of Commerce. They also staffed a CAP information/recruiting booth at the show. After the event, several of the cadets and officers stayed on to help vendors break down tables and stack chairs. Those participating were: Maj. Tim Modde, Capt. Donald Weiland, 1st Lt. Jody Weiland, C/MSgt Preston Drew, C/SSgt Amelia Weiland, C/SSgt Jordan Weiland, C/A1C Mason Kieborz, C/A1C Garrett Weiland, C/AB Emma Arp and C/AB Blaise Arp.

LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-07 – TEA)

- **TOWER TOUR:** Several members of the squadron toured the Sioux Falls Air Traffic Control Tower on Aerospace Education night.



LEFT: CAPT. JOE OYE, C/A1C DANIEL OYE, C/A1C KENDALL FOGARTY, C/A1C JONATHAN HOTZ, C/MAJ KYLE CLEMENT & 1ST LT. DENISE CLEMENT.
RIGHT: 1ST LT. MATT TENNANT, C/A1C SAMUEL MCCLARY, C/A1C REBEKAH MCCLARY, C/A1C LYDIA MCCLARY, CADET THOMAS SCHMEICHEL & SM DEAN SCHMEICHEL.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-63 – SPEARFISH)

- **CHANGE OF COMMAND:** Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese assumed command of the squadron on 24 February, replacing Lt. Col. Russ Limke who has been very busy with his job as an air ambulance pilot. Over the next few months Lt. Col. Gengler, wing commander select, will work with Lt. Col. DeWeese to identify the ideal candidate to be the next squadron commander. Lt. Col. DeWeese will remain as Wing Vice Commander until his term of duty is up May. The entire Squadron thanks Lt. Col. Limke for his service, and we look forward to seeing him again when he is in town.

- **ADIOS:** We said goodbye to SM Jerry Baldwin who moved back to California to be closer to his family.
- **NEW CADET:** Our cadet ranks continue to grow with the addition of new Cadet Elly Sulcer of Sturgis. We are pleased that she decided to join CAP and proud to have her in our unit. Welcome Aboard!
- **CUSTER SAREX:** Lt. Col. DeWeese and SSgt Bawden participated in the Winter SAREX held at Custer last month. Great training and camaraderie!
- **DUTY POSITIONS:** Under Lt. Col. DeWeese's guidance, the Squadron reviewed and updated duty assignments. Thanks to all the members who volunteered to accept new positions or are continuing to fill these important roles.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-31 – RAPID CITY)

- **NEW COMMANDER:** 2nd Lt. Loyd Tracy of Summerset has been selected as the next commander of the Rushmore Composite Squadron. On his selection Wing Commander Col. Small commented, "It is exciting to

see the squadron grow and thrive. Lt. Col. Gengler and I are confident that 2nd Lt. Tracy will continue that trajectory.” The formal change of command ceremony will occur at the Wing Conference on Saturday, 9 May.

- **MARTIAL ARTS**: On 9 January Instructors from the Rushmore Jukite Ju-Jitsu dojo visited the Squadron and taught 22 Cadets the fundamentals of martial arts self-defense.

- **SAREX**: On 12 January 18 cadets attended a Search and Rescue Exercise in Piedmont SD. There they learned old-fashioned map reading and received detailed instructions and practice on using the DF equipment.



- **OUTING**: On 21 January five cadets and two Senior Members practiced their Archery skills at the Ellsworth AFB indoor Archery Range. This special activity was attended by cadets who were recognized for their fundraising activities.

- **ROAD TRIP**: For the second year in a row, Rushmore Squadron was forced to turn back from attending Legislative Day in Pierre due to blizzard road conditions on 28 January. Upon the return trip 10 Cadets stopped at the National Historic Minuteman Missile Site, and a second stop at the famous Wall Drugs in Wall. The cadets were well received by the public and brushed up on their public relations skills.



- **MILITARY BALL**: Six Cadets from the squadron attended the ROTC Military Ball held on Ellsworth AFB

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

- **SKYZONE CADET FUN-NIGHT**: On Tuesday, 18 February Sioux Falls Composite Squadron cadets had a Fun-Night/Social at Sky Zone, a trampoline park including foam pits, dodgeball, and basketball dunking. Thank you to C/SMSgt Malachi Smith for organizing this event!

- **CADET COMPETITION**: The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron sent one team to the South Dakota Wing Cadet Competition in Pierre, SD. The team placed first in the Team Leadership Problem, Uniform Prep, and the Written Exam. C/CMSgt Keon den Hoed was awarded the Best Male Score for the Written Exam and C/MSgt Grace Ingebretsen was awarded the Female Fleet Foot Award for the fastest mile run time. Our squadron team placed 2nd overall.

- **ORIENTATION FLIGHTS**: We had eight cadets who were given orientation flights in February - C/TSgt Clara Giddings, C/SSgt Joshua Skelton, C/A1C Leif Ingebretsen, C/A1C Charles Scotting, C/A1C Ethan

Scotting, C/A1C Jonathon Sjaarda, C/Amn Michael Peterson and C/AB Jacobi Decker. For most of these cadets, it was their first orientation flight. Thank you to Lt. Col. Keirnes and Capt. Jon Becker for volunteering to fly our cadets!

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

SENIOR MEMBER PROMOTIONS



Congratulations to Blaise Fogarty and Jayne Fogarty, both of Hartford, members of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron, who have received advanced promotion to the rank of Captain based on mission related skills! Also congratulations to Bradley Lofland of Canton on promotion to Captain!



Congratulations to Jody Weiland, Stephen Giraud, and Erin Dundas, all three of Custer and all three members of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant!



Congratulations to Karen Kieborz of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, and to Steve Stratmeyer of Lennox, a member of Lincoln County Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

CADET PROMOTIONS

Cadet Officers



Congratulations to Alec Crowser of Philip, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant!



Congratulations to Noah Misselt of Box Elder, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



Noncommissioned Officer



Congratulations to Kade Vandusseldorp of Philip, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Brayden Parke of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Grace Ingebretsen of Luverne, MN, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!





Congratulations to Clara Giddings of Sioux Falls, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on her promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Zephaniah Tolliver of Lennox, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Darion Osterkamp of Oneida, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron on promotion to Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to the following cadets on their promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!

Gavin Houtsma of Brandon, SD	Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
Leif Ingebretsen of Luverne, MN	Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
Samuel McClary of Parker, SD	Lincoln County Composite Squadron
Charles Scotting of Dell Rapids, SD	Lincoln County Composite Squadron
Ethan Scotting of Dell Rapids, SD	Lincoln County Composite Squadron



Congratulations to Wyatt Henning of Brandon and to Madison Stroud of Salem, both members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to Maj. E.W. Filler of Big Sioux Composite Squadron who has been approved to receive the Command Specialty Track at the “Technician” skill rating!



Congratulations to 1st Lt. Denise Clement of Lincoln County Composite Squadron who has been approved to receive the Logistics Specialty Track at the “Technician” skill rating!



Congratulations to 1st Lt. Denise Clement of Lincoln County Composite Squadron who has achieved Level III (Management) in the Civil Air Patrol Senior Member Professional Development Program. In recognition there she has been awarded the Grover C. Loening Award!



Lt. Col. Gary Hewett was the seventh most active pilot in all of CAP for Fiscal Year 2019. He flew over 210 hours for CAP. He is currently on course to meet or exceed that number in Fiscal Year 2020. Thanks Gary, your flight time keeps that sixth aircraft in our Wing!



Congratulations to Capt. Richard Rezac of the Miller Flight who has been approved to receive the Command Specialty Track at the “Technician” skill rating!



Congratulations to 1st Lt. Jody Weiland of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who completed the CAP Officer Basic Course!



Congratulations to Capt. Donald Weiland of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who has achieved Level III (Management) in the Civil Air Patrol Senior Member Professional Development Program. In recognition there he has been awarded the Grover C. Loening Award!



Congratulations to C/A1C Rebekah McClary of Parker, a member of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron, who received her Certificate of Completion of the CAP Cadet Orientation Flight Program.



★ ★ **U.S. NAVY ADMITS UFOS ARE REAL** ★ ★

On Dec. 16, 2017, the *New York Times* ran a front-page story revealing the existence of a congressionally mandated program to study unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The article was accompanied by two recently declassified DoD videos obtained by F-18 fighter pilots. On both occasions, the UFOs were seen in broad daylight by numerous Navy personnel, the reports were independently corroborated by sophisticated military sensor systems, and the unidentified aircraft demonstrated revolutionary aeronautical capabilities. For example, some of the craft were observed descending from altitudes above 80,000 feet, then hovering as low as 50 feet above the ocean before accelerating to hypersonic speeds from a dead stop.

As more information emerged, including the release of another official DoD video, a handful of senators and representatives on the national security oversight committees sought briefings. At this point, the Navy and DoD could no longer conceal the truth. Joseph Gradisher, a spokesman for the deputy chief of naval operations, admitted that the vehicles in the declassified Navy videos are neither a hoax nor secret U.S. test aircraft: “The Navy designates the objects contained in these videos as unidentified aerial phenomena,” or UAP. In other words they might be Russian, Chinese, or even alien spacecraft. Whatever they are, they are real, they aren’t ours, and they continue to violate U.S. airspace with impunity.

With that short statement, the Navy upended the conclusions of every prior U.S. government examination of the UFO phenomenon, from Project Sign in 1948 to Project Blue Book, which was terminated in 1969. Written when the Cold War was in full swing, these reports were designed to debunk UFO sightings and discredit civilian UFO researchers in order to reassure, rather than inform the public.

Later in the article the author writes about the famous “Gimbal” video posted by the *New York Times*, in which one of the pilots is heard to exclaim, “There’s a whole fleet of them out there!” He was referring to a V-shaped formation of smaller craft approaching the fighters as they observed a larger “mothership” in the video. At close range, these bizarre craft appear to be black cubes, the corners of which are touching the inside of transparent spheres a mere six feet in diameter. There are no discernable air inlets, exhaust, wings, or means of lift or propulsion, yet they have been tracked at supersonic speeds and seem able to remain aloft indefinitely.

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