



September 2020 Issue

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

Publishers: Wing Commander Col. Nick Gengler and Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich

Editor: Lt. Col. Todd Epp, Wing Chief of Staff/Outreach, todd.epp@sdwg.cap.gov, (m) 605.351.5021

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SDWingCAP](https://www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP) and Like us on Twitter at [@SDWingCAP](https://twitter.com/SDWingCAP)

WING TIPS

Maj. Karla West awarded National Historian of the Year



Editor's note: The following is the writeup in the 2020 National Meeting Program for Karla's award.

Major Karla K. West began serving as the Wing Historian in January 2019, setting a new standard of excellence through countless hours sorting, reviewing, preserving, and publishing Wing history.

She traveled extensively collecting squadron photos and documents to establish a trove of history maintained at Wing Headquarters, including photographs of current and former Wing Commanders, and also interviewed older members to preserve their memories.

She used her own time and resources to locate previously lost photographs and copy, print, and display them at Wing Headquarters and to replicate old photographs to preserve originals too delicate to handle or display. Major West also spent countless hours sorting and reviewing the Wing's documentary history and initiated fun programs such as the "Name that Senior Member" photo contest on the Wing Facebook page.

She also posted Wing newsletters from 1950 and photos of old vehicles. These programs and actions have entertained and engaged Wing members. An accomplished photographer and documentarian, she has organized and compiled the last 20 years of Wing history, and she even tracks and records current Squadron events within the Wing.

CONGRATULATIONS, KARLA! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

Col. Mike Beason deploys for FEMA to Texas for Hurricane Laura response

Former Wing Commander and current assistant director of operations (among several jobs he has) Col. Mike Beason deployed to Austin, Texas 26 August 2020 to help FEMA with its response to Hurricane Laura.

Mike will be the air operations branch director in Austin.

This is one of several FEMA disaster deployments Mike has been on as a FEMA reservist. We wish Mike well!

EVENTS

WEST RIVER AEROSPACE EDUCATION DAY SAT. 5 SEPT. 2020 IN PHILIP

Because of the coronavirus, the Wing cannot do overnight activities yet. However, we are splitting the AE Weekend into West River and East River AE Days. There will be O-Flights, glider flights, and rocketry at the Philip Airport Saturday 5 September 2020. There is no cost, but you will need to bring your own food as there is nowhere to eat in Philip. We are also making some modifications to accommodate the increase coronavirus cases in the state.

MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP FOR THE CORRECT EVENT BASED ON YOUR UNIT'S LOCATION! **Click here to sign up:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdwg-west-river-aerospace-education-weekend-in-philip-tickets-116341676085>

EAST RIVER AEROSPACE EDUCATION DAY SAT. 19 SEPT. 2020 IN SIOUX FALLS

And for the same reasons, there will be an AE Day in Sioux Falls on Saturday 19 September 2020. There will be O-Flights, drones, rocketry, and a discussion with former and current military and airline pilots on the profession of flying. If you are a LCCS, SFCS, MCS, or BSCS AE Officer, please contact Lt. Col. Todd Epp on how you can help at todd.epp@sdwg.cap.gov.

Click here to sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/east-river-aerospace-education-day-sat-19-sept-2020-sioux-falls-tickets-117340345131>

NRA QUALIFICATION EVENT IN FORT PIERRE

Civil Air Patrol cadets can wear marksmanship badges earned through the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program. Cadets will be earning the most basic (Pro-Marksman) pistol badge. Cadets will be shooting .22 revolvers.

Who – Any South Dakota CAP cadet.

When – Saturday, September 26, 2020. 0900 – 1700.

Where - Lower Oahe Downstream Archery and Shooting Complex – Ft Pierre SD

Cost - \$25 per cadet – This covers ammunition, NRA badge and certificate, and protective gear. Fuel costs for CAP vehicles will be covered by the Wing.

Click here to sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nra-qualification-event-tickets-110432807500>

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

The New Education and Training program is live! Get with your PD Officer in your Squadron to start understanding what you need to move forward in your Duty Assignments and Specialty Tracks. Feel free to reach out to Col Mary Donley if you have questions. I want to make sure you have everything you need to continue to progress in the Senior Member Program.

COVID-19 Cases are continuing to rise in the state of SD. I ask members continue to practice good hygiene, practice social distancing, washing hands, and wearing masks where appropriate. We just had our first known case of a SD Wing member getting COVID-19. Schools have started and cases will continue to rise in the short term. I ask everyone to continue to look for remote training to help slow the spread of the virus.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication during this time.

- Lt. Col. Mike Marek, who is attached to the North Central Region, has been brought on as a Wing assistant public affairs officer. He also just retired as a faculty member at Wayne State University in Nebraska.
- Lt. Col. Bruce Kipp's has stepped aside a for a little longer from assistant PAO.
- Capt. Richard Rezac has been appointed the 2021 Joint Dakota Cadet Encampment commander. Read more below in Capt. Rezac's report.
- 2nd Lt. Travis Robinson has been assigned as an assistant wing logistics officer.
- We need more Wing Staff Members!



WING CHIEF OF STAFF/OUTREACH

Lt. Col. Todd Epp, CAP

Since Diversity falls into my portfolio as Chief of Staff/Outreach, I figured I should see where the Wing stands vis-a-via the state of South Dakota.

Here is U.S. Census information regarding age and gender in S.D.:

Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent	6.9%
Persons under 18 years, percent	24.5%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	17.2%
Female persons, percent	49.5%

Here is U.S. Census information regarding race in S.D.:

Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	84.6%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	2.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	9.0%
Asian alone, percent (a)	1.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	0.1%
Two or More Races, percent	2.5%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	4.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	81.5%

Here is the latest summary of the SDWG by gender:

WING	ADULT	79	24.92%	238	75.08%	317	69.52%
	CADET	38	27.34%	101	72.66%	139	30.48%
	Total	117	25.66%	339	74.34%	456	100.00%

Here is the latest summary of the SDWG by race:

		Whites		Non-Whites		
Wing	ADULT	178	97.80%	4	2.20%	182
	CADET	113	91.13%	11	8.87%	124
	Total	291	95.10%	15	4.90%	306

A few observations:

- Our Wing's gender balance compared to the state at large is 75% male, 25% female. We do slightly better with gender balance with our cadets than with our senior members. The state breakdown according to the Census Bureau is 51% male, 49% female. Our gender balance is out of proportion.
- Our Wing's racial balance is 95% White, 5% non-White. Again, we do better in the cadet program than the senior program. The Census Bureau is 85% White, 15% non-White.
- This is just a gut feeling, but I think we may be under reporting non-White members by some amount.
- Our White/Non-White balance is closer to the state's makeup but still significantly under-represents Non-Whites. It looks like we have no members who identify as Native American, which is 9% of the state's population.

I have no recommendations on how to address these imbalances yet. I bring it to your attention as something we should think about in our recruiting and retention activities.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF/SUPPORT

Capt. Richard Rezac, CAP

I know everyone was disappointed when we had to cancel encampment for this year. Many of you are already wondering about encampment for next year. After discussions with the North Dakota leadership, it has been decided that the 2021 Joint Dakota Encampment (barring any issues with COVID-19) will be hosted by the South Dakota Wing.

We are already working with Camp Rapid to set a date for next summer. While we do not know much yet, please let me know if you have any questions, contact me at richard.rezac@sdwg.cap.gov



WING DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

Senior members we are now into the new Education and Training program as of August 4th.

I will be reaching out to all Squadrons and members soon to help you navigate the new program! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have. I know a few of you are working on finishing a Level from the earlier program because of the grandfather time they are allotting.

In the meantime, be sure to look at the new CAPR 40-1 Education and Training regulation that replaces the old CAPR 50-17. My goal is to make it to a meeting at each squadron in the next couple of months to go over the new program and answer any questions I can!

Call or email me at: mary.donley@sdwg.cap.gov 605-321-8056. Thank you all for being open to the new program! We can do this!



WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Maj. Tim Modde, CAP

See the sign-up information above for the West River Aerospace Education Day on Saturday 5 September 2020 in Philip and the East River Aerospace Education Day on Saturday 19 September 2020 in Sioux Falls.



WING HISTORIAN

Maj. Karla West, CAP

A Look Back at Our History. . .

In the late summer of 1966, the S.D. Wing Charter Presentation Team consisting of Col. Charley Doughy and Lt. Col. Harold Lindseth, flew to Sisseton to present them with their CAP charter. The squadron commander at the time is unknown. Greeting them at the Sisseton Airport were the Sisseton American Legion Honor Guard wearing exact replicas of the 7th Cavalry uniforms.





WING COMMAND NCO

TSgt Shawn Bawden, CAP

CMSgt Robert Dandridge, CAP's National Command Chief, shared ten recommendations earlier this summer and although his comments were directed to our NCO Corps, they can (and should!) resonate with all our members.

Chief Dandridge's Top Ten

1. Emphasize our core values.
2. Mentor leaders.
3. Engage cadets and senior members.
4. Work on your professional development.
5. Visit another unit.
6. Follow Gen Smith's guidance concerning COVID.
7. Check-in with CAP members and friends/family.
8. Stay fit (exercise).
9. Read at home and take a break from digital distractions.
10. Thank you, NCOs!

Chief Dandridge's recommendations are a call to action in all facets of our CAP lives. Many of them are in the DNA of NCOs, such as living by our core values, mentoring leaders (i.e. leading down *and* up), taking care of your wingman, professional development, and staying fit. All of them speak to an imperative which should always be on our minds: **Mission Readiness**.

Chief Dandridge's last item could be first on the list. In an all-volunteer organization like CAP, we must show gratitude to our members for their dedication and service, both formally and informally. Thank you for giving your time, energy, and personal resources. Your selfless service is appreciated! *Semper Vigilans!*

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-07 – TEA)



(L to R) 1st Lt. Denise Clement, Squadron Commander; C/SrA Rebekah McClary; C/Lt. Col. Kyle Clement, Cadet Commander; Capt. Joe Oye, Deputy Commander of Cadets. Because of her enthusiasm, leadership, and accomplishments as a first-year cadet, Lincoln County Composite Squadron was proud to present C/SrA Rebekah McClary with the AFA Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year Award.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)

An Unexpected Visitor!



Sunday afternoon while Lee Vaughan was mowing at the Philip airport a lone plane landed and taxied to the fuel tank. Lee shut down his mowing to learn who this pilot was.

Philip was not the intended landing spot for Jeff Thornhill from Cameron Park, CA. He left his airpark home that morning heading to Minneapolis to get his fuel tanks relined. He was making good time in his 1966 Mooney M20C retractable gear aircraft when about 70 miles from Philip he began losing first a GPS, then the radio and another GPS so he landed to see if he could figure out what to do.

Lee tried to locate folks that may be able to help and in desperation he called Bill Sumpter. Did he have an O Meter to check out the electrical? Bill and I grabbed his testers and off we went to Philip. After hooking several things up it was decided the battery was the problem, even jumpers would not bring it to life.

We put him in touch with Mustang Aviation in Pierre and he was waiting for a mechanic to come to his rescue. Lee did find out that the airpark Jeff lives in is home to Pilot Julia Clark, a woman that became the only woman out of 110 pilots flying for Golden West in 1977. Five months later she switched over to Hughes Airwest and was promoted to first officer, the first of 21 women to be hired in the U.S. for a major airline. In 1984 she was the first woman promoted to captain for an airline. Clark is flying the same Beechcraft T-34 Mentor that she bought, sight unseen, in 1977 for \$18,000 at a government surplus auction in Anchorage, Alaska.

She flew the airplane 2,900 miles to her home in California, where she restored it herself, painstakingly polishing the aluminum surfaces and dubbing it Free Spirit. During her more than 40 years as a solo aerobatic pilot, Julie Clark's exceptionally well-choreographed and patriotic routine has touched millions. 2019 marks her fiftieth year as a pilot; the retired Northwest Airlines captain has logged more than 34,000 flight hours. In October 2019 she performed in her final air show, ending a career in the sky that spanned more than five decades.

She has lived in Cameron Airpark Estates for 36 years and at age 71 is embarking on a new mission, transporting animals that need relocating to new places, A Cause for Paws. I wonder what tales Jeff could have told us about his love of flying and what drew him to the airpark.

When asked if he needed anything, he said his wife had packed a good lunch and he still had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, but he ate all the Oreos! He was gone the next morning, so all must have been fixed.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-31 – RAPID CITY)



Seniors and Cadets strike a pose after an exhausting PT Saturday.



Commander Tracy takes a few minutes during the SAREX to promote Cadet Kellar to C/SMSgt.

SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-50 – SIoux FALLS)

NRA Marksmanship



On Saturday August 1, SFCS had 15 cadets receive their NRA Pro-Marksmanship medal.

With the guidance of NRA Certified Instructors, the cadets learned gun safety, and successfully met the requirements to earn their badge. This involved a firearms safety class and hitting all ten targets using a .22 pistol five times from a benchrest position at 15 feet. The cadets cleaned the range in exchange for using the facility from Garretson Sportsmen's Club.

Thank you to the instructors for their ability and time teaching our cadets. They were Bill Thorson, Maj. Jim Stalzer and Lt. Col. Ron Evenson.

Orientation Flights



Cadet Orientation Flights reconvened after being grounded for several months due to Covid-19. On Saturday August 15, C/SSgt Madison Stroud took to the air to experience this amazing opportunity.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-63 – SPEARFISH)

This summer quickly filled-up with events despite COVID restrictions. One of the first highlights was the SAREX (20-T-5201) on June 20. To reduce the possibilities of contamination between other SDWG units, our aircrew and ground team staged out of the Black Hills Airport (KSPF) in Spearfish.

This was the first opportunity for some of our new members to get out in the field and helped our more experienced members continue to hone their skills. In all, ten members from our squadron attended the exercise.



There was plenty of action in July too, starting with Orientation Flights (O-Flights) on July 9. Our squadron commander, Lt. Col. DeWeese, took advantage of some favorable conditions and organized the impromptu event. Three cadets, C/SrA Joshua Stomprud, C/SrA Kaira Stomprud, and C/Amn Elly Sulcer, were able to get in the air. A fourth cadet, C/SrA Elijah Stomprud, who recently turned 18 years old and is no longer eligible for O-Flights, was also able to get off the ground. He joined Lt. Col. DeWeese on a pilot proficiency ride and received an introduction to stalls, falls, steep turns, and slow flight!



And if that was not enough, the day ended with a tour of a Sikorsky S-61 helicopter from Siller Helicopters. This aircraft is used for aerial firefighting and was temporarily based in Spearfish. “We will have another day of O-Flights soon,” promised Lt. Col. DeWeese.

The long-awaited Subordinate Unit Inspection took place two days later July 11. Members of the SDWG Inspector General (IG) staff came to Spearfish to help our squadron prepare for an upcoming Air Force IG inspection. “Needless to say, with our recent change in leadership, followership, and cadets, we found some room for improvement,” explained Lt. Col. DeWeese. “And that's what it is all about. We are working diligently to make the corrections so we can shine when the Air Force comes to town.”

A trip to the South Dakota Air & Space Museum was on the agenda for July 23. Three senior members and five cadets spent the afternoon touring the museum which was followed by a visit with our teammates at the Rushmore Composite Squadron on Ellsworth AFB. The excursion was a great success, and we appreciate the opportunity to work with our friends and colleagues in the Rapid City area.

More recently, a SAREX (20-T-5515) was held in the southern Black Hills on August 22. Lt. Col. DeWeese and C/A1C Stephen Kroetch flew to-and-from the exercise which was based out of the Custer County Airport (KCUT). Once on the ground in Custer, C/A1C Kroetch linked up with our ground team which was being led by TSgt Shawn Bawden (Ground Team Leader trainee) and included SM Jenn Stomprud, C/SrA Joshua Stomprud, and C/SrA Kaira Stomprud. Maj Bill Collister was also there, working as the Planning Section Chief trainee for the exercise. As always, squadron members quickly integrated with our teammates from the Crazy Horse and Rushmore Composite Squadrons.

While Lt. Col. DeWeese was busy in the air, the teams on the ground got to work. First up was an orientation to working with a canine (K9) search team hosted by Pennington County Search and Rescue. This organization is considered the “gold standard” of SAR teams in the area and their professionalism and expertise did not disappoint! Since the aircrews were having a challenging time finding one of the targets (a white SUV), the ground and K9 teams began a hasty search by vehicle of parking lots and trailheads in Custer State Park. After several sightings from the air of white SUVs which turned out to not be the target, the ground team was split in two: one was dispatched to find a training beacon simulating a downed aircraft, and the other continued looking for the white SUV. Members of our squadron took part in both searches and gained valuable experience in SAR operations.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-68 – CUSTER)

The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron had a busy month with regular face to face meetings and fundraising activities for Wreaths Across America.

Regular meetings included training and presentations in Character Development, Physical fitness training, Drug Demand Reduction and Emergency Services. Outside of regular meetings our Cadets have been working on toward their next promotions. In the next month we are anticipating four Cadet Promotions.

On the fundraising front, members bagged groceries for tips on Saturday, August 1, at Lynn's Dakotamart and on Saturday, August 15, members participated in the Custer Citywide Rummage Sale on August 15. The combined total from both events resulting in a net gain of 59 wreaths for the Custer City Cemetery.

To conclude, four members of the Squadron participated in the SAREX on August 22.

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58 BROOKINGS)



August 13 Ground Handling Class. (L-R) Instructors are Capt. Tyler Gross and 2d Lt. Rudi Trias, C/A1C Gabe Risty, and C/BA Michael Culpeper. (Photo by SM Destiny Jorenby.)



August 20 Family night/promotion night. This is our Class A night and we invite the cadet family members to towards the end of the night to pin their cadets. We had 5 promotions that night: Dead Rank C/Capt. Isaiah Klosterman, C/Amn Tysen King, C/TSgt Mitchell Trias, C/MSgt Abigail Ann Williams, and C/CMSgt Emily Williams. (Photo by SM Emily Trias.)



Also, officially SM Alex Trias is now a member of the Big Sioux Senior Staff. He is the older brother of C/TSgt M. Trias and oldest son to 2d Lt. Trias and SM Emily Trias. He has trained in his Senior year of high school to become a Drone Pilot and wants to pursue that in CAPS. This Sept he will be attending the University of Wisconsin for pharmaceutical science.

August 29, we held an all-day Great Start program for our new and existing cadets and NCO's.

This month we have increased another three members in Big Sioux with two cadets and one senior member.

PROMOTIONS

CADET PROMOTIONS

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON

- Aydin Wesley Hoefler to C/Amn
- Phoebe Ann Kellar to C/SMSgt

SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON

- Hunter Bernard Gerdes to C/A1C
- Clara Viola Giddings to C/MSgt
- Madison Louise Stroud to C/SSgt
- Zephaniah John Tolliver to C/MSgt

LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON

- Thomas Schmeichel to C/Amn
- Joshua Renner to C/Amn
- Timothy Renner to C/Amn

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON

- Stephen T Kroetch to C/A1C
- Alexandria Rose Sukstorf to C/SrA

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON

- Tysen King to C/Amn
- Kelsey Lynn Scotting to C/Amn
- Mitchell Rudil Trias to C/TSgt
- Abigail Ann Williams to C/MSgt

MILLER FLIGHT

- Charlotte Laverne Currington to C/SrA

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON

- Blaise J Arp to C/Amn
- Emma J Arp C/Amn
- Jordan Larae Weiland to C/MSgt

MITCHELL COMPOSITE SQUADRON

- Isabella Lanie Pollman to C/SMSgt

KUDOS

- ★ 1st Lt. Sam Huntington, Lincoln County Composite Squadron, completed Level II and received the Benjamin Davis Award.
- ★ Senior Member Jenn Stomprud, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, who earned the Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award.
- ★ Congratulations to Senior Members Jay and Jenn Stomprud, members of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, who celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary in July!

