



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Civil Air Patrol Newsletter for October 2020

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

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## WING TIPS

### **CAP members attend 2020 SDEMA conference** by Capt Richard Rezac

Despite COVID-19, the South Dakota Emergency Management Association (SDEMA) held its annual conference in Spearfish from Sept 14 – 17. SDEMA is the group of local emergency managers (EMs) who respond to natural disasters and other emergencies by leading the response during and after these events. They are the ones who coordinate with public safety officials, elected officials, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations like CAP. Col Mike Beason and Capt Richard Rezac attended the conference to represent CAP. They showed off SDWG's our sUAS units to the participants and visited with EMs about Civil Air Patrol. They also gave a presentation to the conference on what CAP is and what the organization does.



There was one very heart-warming story from one of the participants. The Lincoln County Emergency Manager asked if we were going to mention cell phone forensics in our presentation. When I said yes, he was pleased. He used CAP's cell phone team on a missing-person search. They found him within 50 yards of where CAP pegged his cell phone. He sang our praises in front of the entire group. It was wonderful to hear others appreciate what we do.

Even with the lower-than-normal turnout due to COVID-19, the conference was a great success. CAP was able to share our capabilities with those on the front lines, the local EMs who ask us to help. Attending this conference was valuable in establishing relationships with these local emergency managers. When they know who we are and what we do, they're more likely to call us when they can utilize our abilities. Building these bridges is crucial in assuring that when missions occur, Civil Air Patrol is asked to assist.

### **2021 Joint Dakota Encampment Update**

by Capt Richard Rezac, 2021 Joint Dakota Encampment Commander

Hello all. Now that we have a date set for next year's encampment (9 – 18 July 2021), it's time to start planning. Here's what I'd like from you.

1) Planning Committee – One thing that made the 2019 encampment such a success was the formation of a Planning Committee at the beginning of the process. This ensured that tasks were assigned evenly. It also made sure that decisions were made with enough lead time to make changes as needed. Any senior member is invited to serve on this committee. Serving on the Planning Committee doesn't lock you into a senior staff position for encampment. It will allow you to give your input and help make key decisions that will help guarantee a successful encampment. You would be required to participate in a few planning meetings (probably once a month) as well as perform any logistical or administrative tasks that are assigned. Let me know if you're interested in serving.

2) Commandant of Cadets – This is one of the two key positions that serve the encampment. They supervise the overall encampment curriculum, as well as the cadet training. They also provide leadership and discipline of the cadet corps. They supervise the cadet cadre and are the principal mentor for the cadet executive cadre. The Commandant of Cadets also supervises and mentors the training officers, as well as helps develop cadet standard operating procedures and standards. If this sounds like an opportunity you can't pass up, send me an email.

3) Deputy Commander for Support (DCS) – While the Commandant of Cadets may lead all of the line staff who interact with the students, the DCS makes sure we have everything we need to make an encampment happen. They are the "person behind the curtain". The DCS is responsible for the logistical, financial, public affairs, and administrative needs of the encampment. They supervise all of the encampment support staff. Let me know if you'd like to serve in this position.

It may seem like this is all far in the future. But the thing is, time is never on our side for this. The sooner we fill key positions and start strategic planning and developing our schedule, the more flexibility we will have to deal with contingencies and unforeseen events. In this day and age, this early planning is more crucial than ever.

## Wing Holds Aerospace Education Days

South Dakota Wing held two Aerospace Education days in September. During the West River AE day at Philip, cadets received 12 orientation rides over two days. The East River day in Sioux Falls included 16 orientation flights. Both events served as starting points for CAP's model rocketry program in SDWG.

"We hope cadets continue to move forward with the rocketry program in their own Squadron," said Col Gengler.



Dimensions Module 4: Rockets, and introduces cadets to the hobby and science of model rocketry.



CAP's Model Rocketry program is an achievement program for cadets interested in the science, technology, and flight of model rockets. The guide builds on the foundation of Aerospace

## SD Wing Holds NRA Marksmanship Day



Members of the South Dakota wing hosted an NRA Qualification Event on September 26th. Held at the Lower Oahe Shooting Range in Ft Pierre, 37 cadets from 7 different squadrons across the wing qualified in different pistol ratings. Cadets used .22 revolvers to hit paper plates at various distances.

For some of the cadets, this was a continuation of the NRA program that they started last year at the Joint Dakota

Encampment. For others, this was the first time they had handled a firearm.

Regardless, our cadets did very well, with all of them earning either their initial qualification or a higher award in the NRA Marksmanship Program.

We had some pretty tight groupings on some of their targets. Our wing has some good shooters! Most importantly, a safe and fun time was had by all.

A special thank you to 1st Lt Pandy Rezac and C/CMSgt Chancey Hall of the Miller Flight for helping to put this on. Very few wings host this type of opportunity for their cadets. We hope to have more of these events in the future!

## Logistics Inventory Begins 1 October

With the beginning of the new federal fiscal year, CAP nationally begins its annual physical inventory, confirming the condition and location of each property item listed in CAP's inventory management system, ORMS. The inventory begins 1 October. Region headquarters wants the inventory completed by 14 October, to leave time for resolving issues. All details must be complete by 31 December 2020.

"The wing has done a great job on invent in recent years," said 1st Lt. Ryon Skaggs, SDWG director of communications. "Our logistics and communication officers are on top of it, but it is important to do the work, make sure we have the equipment, and make sure it is working properly."

The annual inventory is how Civil Air Patrol demonstrates to the Air Force that it is properly using and accounting for all property and is a wise steward of property funded by the Air Force and the government. The CAP regulations require a 100% "eyes on" inventory of all communications and other non-expendable property. The inventory identifies any equipment that is missing or in need of repair.

## STAFF NOTES



### **Wing Commander**

Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

- Capt. Kurt Johnson will be stepping down as the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Commander in October. We are working on finding a replacement commander.
- Travis Robinson has been assigned as an assistant to Wing Logistics
- We need Wing Staff Members! PAO, R&R, Personnel, Cadet Programs, Professional Development, and more. Send an email to Col. Nick Gengler at [nick.gengler@sdwg.cap.gov](mailto:nick.gengler@sdwg.cap.gov) if you are interested.



### **Wing Chief of Staff (Outreach)**

Lt. Col. Todd Epp, CAP

It is my pleasure to reintroduce Lt. Col. Michael Marek to the South Dakota Wing. Mike is a long-time CAP member who has been on the NHQ staff and the NCR staff in several capacities, including communications and public affairs. He's currently attached to the NCR in communications but now also holds an appointment as one of our assistant public affairs officers for the SDWG.

Mike is an experienced broadcast journalist. In the late 1980s, we worked together at South Dakota Public Broadcasting in Brookings. He has run radio stations as well. He earned an Ed.D. from USD then went on to a nearly two-decade

career as a professor of communications at Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska.

In the CAP, he's been a wing and region PAO and a PIO. A lot of what I know about being a PAO and PIO I learned from Mike.

He is taking over the *Skychaser*, our monthly wing electronic newsletter. (We sound like a baseball double play: From Kipp to Epp to Marek!) He'll also assist with the mentoring of our unit PAOs.

Mike is a tremendous re-addition to the SDWG. He will be in touch with you about articles, photos, and deadlines for the upcoming *Skychasers*. His contact information is [mmarek@cap.gov](mailto:mmarek@cap.gov), 605.624.2332.

Please welcome Mike back to the SDWG fold!



## **Public Affairs**

Lt. Col. Michael Marek, CAP, assistant wing PAO

Thank you to Lt. Col. Epp for his kind introduction above.

When Col. Gengler invited me back to SDWG to serve on the Public Affairs team, one of his top priorities was mentoring the Public Affairs staff in our units across the state. This is important because “telling our story” is vitally important to our success as an organization.

Have you heard it said that “CAP is the best-kept secret”? It’s the mission of Public Affairs to make sure this is not really true, and that means both internal information, like this newsletter, and external information. Part of that external information mission is done via social media, but it also means contact with local/area journalists and news media and working hand-in-hand with governmental relations officers and others who perform outreach from CAP.

How we do this varies across our different units. Small town weekly newspapers will often print a well-written relevant news release verbatim. Daily newspapers are more likely to shorten news releases way down, not use them at all, or if we are lucky, assign a reporter to do the newspaper’s own story.

Part of my job, beyond *Skychaser* itself, is to help our PAOs “tell the story” about their units and about activities involving multiple units or the entire wing. That includes “telling the story” before, during, and after the event, and making this promotion part of the overall plan from the beginning.

It also means planning ahead for good photography and, as appropriate, video. It means presenting things to our internal and external audiences in ways that support the “brand” of CAP, which is search and rescue, emergency services, and homeland security; playing a leading role in aerospace education, using national academic standards-based aviation/STEM education; and serving as outstanding mentors to the young in CAP’s cadet program.

I’m ready to work with the PA staff to make these things happen. If you want advice, contact me. If you need help writing a release or newsletter article, contact me. Not sure what to say when you talk to your local media? Contact me. In turn, I’ll be engaging with the PA staff going forward.

## SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

### **MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)**

The Miller Flight is going through some big changes! We've brought on 2 new cadets in the last month, and we've also had a current senior member transfer in from another unit. We are also planning other outreaches in the community as COVID-19 allows.

We've also moved our meeting location. With our growth in the Faulkton area, we have decided to move our meetings from Miller to Faulkton. The American Legion Foncannon Post 102 has graciously opened its doors to us. Having one of our members transfer their Legion membership to Post 102 obviously helps. We're looking forward to working with Post 102 on ways we can support and help each other serve our community.

With our continued growth, we will re-charter as a squadron soon. Once that happens, we hope to be a squadron in the wing with a "legacy" (a squadron name and identity based on a local hero). The unit will work through that process (there is a process for that, per CAPR 20-3(I)), and hopefully we will carry the name of a WWII Naval Aviation legend. Stay tuned!

## PROMOTIONS

Editor's note: To make sure we are caught up, promotions listed are July to date. Listings based on National records. In some cases, the awards may not yet have been presented, or the promotion ceremonies not yet held.

### **Senior Member Officer Promotions**



Promotion to Major:

- Jonathan Owen of SD0031 of Rushmore Composite Squadron
- John Spangler of SD0031 of Rushmore Composite Squadron



Promotion to Captain:

- Benjamin Kallas of SD058 of Big Sioux Composite Squadron



Promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt:

- Matthew Healy of SD025 of Mitchell Composite Squadon
- Alfred Heinrich of SD031 of Rushmore Composite Squadron
- Pandy Rezac of SD033 Miller Flight



Promotion to Second Lieutenant (2d Lt) – Congratulations to:

- John Brosius of Lincoln County Composite Squadron

### **Senior Member NCO Promotions**



Promotion to Chief Master Sergeant (CMSGT) – Congratulations to:

- Crystal Trevino – of Rushmore Composite Squadron

### **Cadet Member Promotions**

#### **Cadet Officer Promotions**



Billy Mitchell Award & promotion to Cadet Second Lieutenant (C/2d Lt) - Congratulations to:

- Kade Ryan Vandusseldorp of Rushmore Composite Squadron

#### **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Charles Lindbergh Achievement and promotion to Cadet Master Sergeant (C/CSgt) – Congratulation to:

- Jonathan Abram Hotz of Lincoln County Composite Squadron
- Ryan Andrew Schultz of Lincoln County Composite Squadron
- Jordan Larae Weiland of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron



Wright Brothers Achievement & promotion to Cadet Staff Sergeant - Congratulations to:

- Samuel Isaac McClary of Lincoln County Composite Squadron!

#### **Cadet Airman Promotions**



General H. H. "Hap" Arnold Achievement & promotion to Airman First Class (C/A1C) – Congratulations to:

- Isaiah Micah Lasseter of Rushmore Composite Squadron

Cadet Airman Basic (C/AB) (Achievement 1)

- Emma J Arp of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron
- Kelsey Lynn Scotting of Big Sioux Composite Squadron