



South Dakota Wing Roundup



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**SOUTH DAKOTA WING ADAPTS TO NEW NORMAL
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Commander's Corner

*By Col. Nicholas Gengler, CAP
South Dakota Wing Commander*

Greetings SD Wing! I am thrilled to be your new Wing Commander. I have been excited for some time now about the position. I get to work with so many of you and our Wing is filled with great, hard working members. A lot of you know me but some of you don't. I have been in the Civil Air Patrol for nearly 20 years. I started off as a cadet at the age of 13. I went through the Cadet Program and achieved a grade of Captain, obtaining the Amelia Earhart award. After turning 21, I transitioned to the Senior Member side and started off at a sprint's pace. I was just as excited then as I am now. I was the Squadron Commander for the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings for 4 years. After that I transitioned over to the Wing Director of Operations for several years and have been the Wing Chief of Staff for the last 4 years. That's enough about me, let's talk about the Wing. How are we doing as a Wing? Col Small has left the Wing in great shape. We have added three new Squadrons in the last year. Our membership is high and our recruiting percentage is one of the highest in the Region. We

are a healthy Wing!

So what do I do as Wing Commander? Well, I see my job as helping the Squadrons with their needs. If a Squadron is lacking Emergency Services training for example, I will work with our Director of Operations to ensure that Squadron has the resources needed. If a Squadron needs a new van, I will work with NHQ and our Logistics Chief to request one. I see my job as a facilitator and a mentor; guiding those in the Wing on the best decisions to be made.

The goals I have for the Wing is to focus on Recruiting and Retention, strengthen our Emergency Services Training, and advance our members in Professional Development. We are strong with recruiting new people and I want to keep that momentum going. I want to make sure our Squadrons are developed to handle influxes of new members and we are providing the best environments for our members. There are several STEM outreach activities we can provide that would help our recruiting efforts. I also want to work on upgrading our training in Emergency Services. I want to better align our training



with the National Emergency Services Academy hosted by NHQ. I also want us to look at the corporate emergency services training and see where we can apply their training to our own. Our professional development program is also being upgraded this year. There will be more virtual classes. I want to make sure our members are working towards their own professional development.

The next 4 years are going to be an adventure for us all. As I write this article we are dealing with the COVID-19 virus outbreak. New directives and precautions are being published daily. We need to continue to be flexible. We need to adapt and overcome. I have already seen our great members develop remote meetings in fast order. I have seen our SAREX's evolve into more remote training. We have shown we can adapt to the situation and still develop our members and train for emergencies. I look forward to working with all of our members and continue to grow our Wing in all aspects of Civil Air Patrol.

VIRTUAL WING CONFERENCE 2020 - CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

*By Col. Nick Gengler, CAP
Commander, South Dakota Wing*

When it comes to Wing Conferences, we usually start planning about nine months ahead of time. We talk with hotels, look at venues, balance costs and locations. We talk to instructors, ensure we have the right equipment, select menu items, and the list just keeps going. It was a challenge then when in March CAP National Headquarters issued a “no meeting” order. We had several conversations about whether the order would be lifted for a Wing Conference or not. Our initial reaction was to just move the Wing Conference date past the end date of the travel restrictions.

However, as the time got closer and closer, we realized we are going to be facing the COVID-19 situation longer than anyone expected. We finally decided to push the Wing Conference to a virtual experience. We weren't entirely sure what that would look like, but we knew that in order to continue to offer our members training, updates, and a bit of socializing, we needed to continue on.

By mid-April we had decided to move the conference back to its original date, 9 May. We had an online registration page set up, breakout sessions were scheduled and instructors lined up. We decided on using Microsoft Teams as the virtual platform. It seemed like everything would fall into place.

Then I started to think more about the social aspect of a conference. How were you going to be able to walk around and meet new people, talk about new ideas and really connect with members across the Wing? How that could happen with a Virtual Conference? One day I came across an article about a new type of video conferencing



Colonel Gengler greets participants during the opening of the 2020 South Dakota Virtual Wing Conference

called Online Towns. One that allowed you to use an avatar on screen to move around and talk to different people. As your avatar got closer to other avatars, you could start to see their webcams and hear their conversations. Then as you moved away, their sound and video faded as well. I realized this was about as good as it could get. The same conference experience, but virtually. I opted to go with it. We did a few test runs with several members and it worked for the most part. It had its short comings, but it was also an experimental platform that didn't exist six months ago. I ended up having a video conference with one of the programmers of the platform, and it was great to hear about how they got started and where the company was heading. We got around to talking about costs. Right now the platform is free but they are looking to raise revenue. I told them who CAP is and that non-profits of the world exist and would appreciate discounted pricing. We discussed new ideas and limits of the platform. Overall, it was a good meeting and I wish them the best of luck.

As the day to the virtual wing conference got closer and closer registrations kept going up and up. We usually have about 80 to 100 people attended a South Dakota Wing Conference. At two weeks before the conference we were at 200 signups spread across 25 Wings. How do we manage that? I had nearly daily discussions with our Director of IT, Capt Tyler Gross. He has an excellent background in using Microsoft Teams as that is just one of the things he manages in his day job. Microsoft Teams has a limit of 250 people per meeting session. Capt Gross suggested we move to a live event with Teams which allows for 10,000 people to tune in. It turns the experience into a one-sided video conference where the presenter just speaks and the audience doesn't have webcam or voice chat capabilities. We thought that would work best for the opening session and the awards in the evening. We decided to keep the Microsoft Teams platform for the rest of the sessions as they are more interactive. We wanted the conference to be an interactive experience in our current social distancing lives.

Another issue we faced with so many signups

is that we were only offering two different "rooms" for the day for the Senior Members. That meant we would have over 100 people per room for each session. Not ideal for interaction. I asked the Wing Staff if there were more classes that could be offered. The staff stepped up to the challenge - within three days we had five more classes. We can now offer more "rooms" for people to spread out and have a better interaction experience.

A few weeks out we realized we were going to need moderators for each room to help keep the day moving. We didn't want each instructor to worry about recordings, troubleshooting attendees trying to log in, or any other issues that might arise. So we asked several members to moderate each room. Having moderators was great. The instructor could focus on the class while the moderators recorded the session and addressed any issues that came up. They definitely added to the day's success.

We also hosted a test session for all the instructors a few weeks before the event. This allowed the instructors to test their setups, their presentation, and ask any questions that might have. This was

Continued . . .



Virtual Wing Conference 2020

Continued . . .

critical to the conference! We tried to eliminate as many possible issues with the instructors presenting ahead of time.

One week before the conference we were up to 300 registrations. International CAP members are signing up from Japan, England, and Germany. Our virtual conference offered them a unique opportunity to connect with fellow CAP members here in the States. At the beginning of planning for the South Dakota Virtual Wing Conference I had no idea how far and wide we would reach. I didn't realize by making the conference virtual, we opened the door to a new experience connecting members across the nation and the world.

The week leading up to the conference we hosted several test sessions. Every night we hosted a Teams meeting room for anyone that signed up to attend. This was to ensure the members could access the Teams software and work out any issues. It was a good idea to offer these test sessions to ensure no one had problems the day of the conference. It also allowed some dialog between CAP members from across the Nation. We got to talk about how everyone is coping with the COVID-19 situation and how meetings and training are progressing from Wing to Wing. It was a great unintended benefit of the test sessions.

The night before the conference signups surpassed 440 registrations representing more than 35 Wings, Overseas Squadrons, and National Headquarters Staff. At this point Capt Gross and I were talking every few hours. We ran through various scenarios; what could go wrong and how to fix it. My stress level was high. Everyone I talked to reassured me things would be fine. The staff was great. Everyone that I asked to help stepped up without a second thought.

Friday night we had a South Dakota Wing member's only class on Office 365: How-To class to review our SharePoint site and document structure. It was the first test of the weekend. It went great. No major issues. Next we tried the Online Towns platform social hour for the night. It had some glitches but overall it worked well. It turned out to be a big hit for people being able to socialize

in this social distancing time.

Saturday, the big day, we got the opening session started on time. We ended up recording a lot of the events for the opening session. This helped alleviate any technical issues that could happen at the last minute. We did run into some technical issues. Apparently when hosting a Teams Live Event, you have to be very specific with the email address you use for the presenters. We ran into the issue with Col Aye and Lt Col Meyers. They both have separate emails they used to run Microsoft Teams, but we invited them as a presenter using different emails. Once the Live event starts, there's no changing it. After a half hour on the phone with each of them, we figure out ways around it. Col Aye is able to log in without issue. Lt Col Meyers has to call in with the phone while Capt Gross shows his power point. He presented and it looked great. The first two hours of the day were done and we were only a few minutes behind schedule. Not a bad start.

The rest of the day went well. Everyone broke off into their breakout class sessions. There were plenty of Q&A opportunities and each instructor was able to present their material without much issue. The day ended with an Awards ceremony that we presented on the Teams Live platform, which went a lot better using it a second time.

Overall the South Dakota Virtual Wing Conference was a huge success. We received numerous compliments and positive feedback about the event. We were able to record each session and post them for those that wanted to watch but weren't able to attend that day.

Huge thanks to Capt. Tyler Gross, our Wing Director of Information Technology, who made the conference possible. Also huge thanks all the conference staff, the breakout session instructors, moderators and attendees. It was a great experience; albeit one that I don't necessarily want to repeat if we get past the social distancing directives. But if we had to do it again, we could definitely build upon our lessons learned and provide another great experience. 🍷

SOUTH DAKOTA WING 2020 CONFERENCE AWARDS

It is traditional that each annual Wing Conference ends with an awards banquet where units and individuals who have distinguished themselves by exceptional service during the previous year are recognized. Due to concerns about member safety and restrictions on face-to-face meetings the 2020 Wing Conference was held virtually. Below is the list of awardees.

MEDALS

Small Jr., David G Distinguished Service Award

“OF THE YEAR” AWARD PLAQUES

Bass, Thomas L	Director of Finance of the Year
Clement, Kyle D	Cadet Officer of the Year
Crowser, Alec J	Cadet NCO the Year
Goodrich, Craig D	Ed Lewis Incident Staff Member of the Year
Klosterman, Annabelle	Cadet of the Year
Klosterman, Maria	Senior Member of the Year
Niles, Malisa L	Jack Sorenson Cadet Programs Officer of the Year
Skaggs, Ryon J	Communicator of the Year
Waldman, Rhea	Brewer Award
West, Karla K	Lt Col T. Keith Riddle Aircrew Member of the Year
West, Karla K	Col Lester E Hopper CAP Wing Historian of the Year

SQUADRON OF MERIT

Rushmore Composite Squadron

CERTIFICATES

Bawden, Francis	Commanders Commendation	Klosterman, Mariel	Commander’s Commendation
Buechler, Linda K	Commander’s Commendation	McKenney, Nancy C	Achievement Award
Clement, Denise M	Achievement Award	Niles, Malisa L	Commander’s Commendation
Engelhart, Michael	Commanders Commendation	Parke, Blake	Commander’s Commendation
Epp, Todd	Commander’s Commendation	Parke, Blake	Commander’s Commendation
Epp, Todd	Commanders Commendation	Petersen, Jaden B	Commander’s Commendation
Filler, Elliott W	Achievement Award	Rezac, Pandy L	Achievement Award
Fleet, Nathaniel J	Achievement Award	Rezac, Richard	Commander’s Commendation
Gengler, Nicholas J	Commander’s Commendation	Rezac, Richard	Commander’s Commendation
Gross, Tyler D	Commander’s Commendation	Roth, Jacob	Commander’s Commendation
Healy, Matthew	Commander’s Commendation	Sarchet, Randall S	Achievement Award
Healy, Matthew	Achievement Award	Stockinger, David	Achievement Award
Jeffries, David R	Achievement Award	Strandell, William J	Commander’s Commendation
Jeffries, Joyce E	Achievement Award	Tennant, Matthew A	Achievement Award
Johnson, Michael	Commanders Commendation	Trias, Rudy	Commander’s Commendation
Kipp, Bruce E	Commander’s Commendation	Tracy, Lloyd H	Achievement Award
Klosterman, Annabelle	Commander’s Commendation	Williams, Jodi A	Achievement Award
Klosterman, Maria S	Commander’s Commendation		



CAP / AFA PARTNERSHIP



*By SM Ron Mielke, CAP, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
President, South Dakota Air Force association*

The Air Force Association (AFA) and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) have a long-standing alliance of mutually beneficial programs. Since 1996, AFA and CAP's Aerospace Education have worked to create an enduring program wherein the two organizations have joined hands to collaborate, join each other's organization, leverage resources, and work toward the goal of preparing to defend our nation with the strength of air, space and cyber power. Specifically, each organization brings unique alliance contributions.

What AFA does for CAP! AFA has recognized the significant aerospace and science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) contributions of CAP to our nation. To demonstrate the esteem AFA holds for the work CAP volunteer members accomplish throughout our country, AFA provides Aerospace Education grants and awards for CAP's units and cadet/youth members. An explanation of each partnership program is explained in the bold link for each area below:

AFA'S NATIONAL CAP AEROSPACE EDUCATION CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD

AFA'S CAP UNIT OUTSTANDING CADET OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

AFA'S CAP UNIT AE GRANT AFA has provided CAP, since 1996, with over \$475,000 in grant funding which, historically, was divided between CAP Units and CAP educator members. In 2019, the grants to CAP educator members were discontinued to avoid duplication of AFA funding, as AFA also has a grant program for educators. All grant funds were then moved to support CAP Units. Additionally, included in the grant funds, AFA continues to provide grants to a National CAP Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program awardees each year.

AFA'S CYBERPATRIOT PROGRAM for CAP squadron participation

AFA'S STELLARXPLORERS PROGRAM for CAP squadron participation

What CAP Does for AFA! CAP adult, educator, and cadet members are encouraged to join their local AFA Chapter. CAP members can go to local **AFA chapter locator** (scroll down the page and enter your state) to find chapters near you and find out about **AFA's membership information**. CAP members can join as an eMember with a free 2-year CAP e-Membership option.

AFA's Aerospace Education (AE) mission mirrors that of CAP. Both organizations promote aerospace/STEM education to the general public to prepare for future national security of America. To assist AFA in fulfilling its AE mission, and in deep appreciation to the AFA for all the support given to CAP members, CAP provides free programs for AFA chapters to promote STEM Ed in their communities.

FREE CAP STEM Programs for AFA Chapters that involve the chapter being able to provide a free CAP AE membership for a couple local educators near each chapter each year. Additionally, since AFA is a sponsor of the CAP Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program, AFA chapters are given guidance (just as CAP squadrons are provided) to support local ACE classrooms.

CAP also promotes the AFA's **CyberPatriot** and **StellarXplorers** STEM programs. This year, for the 2020 national competitions of these two programs, CAP teams earned 2nd place national slots. In CyberPatriot, **a Florida CAP squadron placed 2nd nationally in the All Service Division**.

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CYBERPATRIOT-XII – THE NATIONAL FINALS



*By Capt. Tyler Gross, CAP
Big Sioux Composite Squadron*

Of all the CAP events that have had to be canceled or held “virtually” this year, the annual national cybersecurity competition has probably been the best suited—if not slightly ironic—event so far.

The annual national cyber-defense competition, this year CyberPatriot-XII, began in October 2019 with 6,760 registered teams in two divisions, Open and All Service. Civil Air Patrol teams compete in the All Service Division, along with the Army, Marine, Navy, and Air Force JROTCs and the

Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The South Dakota Wing fielded three teams, two from Big Sioux Composite Squadron and one from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

After two initial rounds of rigorous online challenges in October and November, the teams were divided into three tiers: Platinum, Gold, and Silver. In December, the teams then competed within their tiers for state awards and advancement to the Semifinal Round. Only teams in the top Platinum tier were eligible to advance to the

National Finals competition.

Big Sioux Composite Squadron’s first team, self-named as (♫◦□◦) ♪ ~ └└└ (spoken as Team Table-Flip), competed in the Platinum Tier and took first place in the state competition. The team from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and Big Sioux’s second team competed in the Gold Tier and took second and third places in the state, respectively. Unfortunately for our Gold Tier teams, they did not place within the requisite top twenty-five percent of the tier to qualify for



Photo of Big Sioux Composite Squadron’s Team 1 competing in the CyberPatriot-XII national finals: (clockwise from upper right): Cadet Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Jorenby, Cadet Lt. Col. Annabelle Klosterman, Cadet Capt. Austen King, Cadet Capt. Isaiah Klosterman and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Lydia Klosterman

the semifinals.

In January, Big Sioux's Team 1 competed in the Platinum Tier Semifinals round, placing ninth overall and second out of all the 262 CAP teams. That finish qualified them, along with a CAP team from Florida, for the CyberPatriot XII National Finals Competition, an all-expenses-paid event scheduled for March 20th–22nd in Bethesda, Maryland. The other finalists represented schools and youth organizations from California, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Manitoba (Canada).

This was the ninth year that Big Sioux teams competed in CyberPatriot and the sixth year qualifying for the National Finals. They previously qualified in CyberPatriot IV, V, VI, VII, and XI; taking second place overall in CyberPatriot-VII.

On March 12th, the CyberPatriot Program Office announced that they found it impossible to move forward with an in-person event, due to travel restrictions issued by many local and state governments that forced some of the finalist teams to cancel their travel to the National Finals Competition. They also announced a transition to a virtual national finals event, although unsure of exactly what the competition was going to look like.

Initially, they planned for all teams in all divisions to compete concurrently as a team from their home locations—much like all the previous online rounds—but with the addition of

a third-party on-site proctor to ensure competition integrity and to certify results. Unfortunately, for certain finalist teams, shelter-in-place orders proved even this format untenable and by March 20th, the plans for the National Finals Competition had to be re-evaluated yet again.

During weekly coaches' meetings, CyberPatriot staff explained the latest changes to their plans and solicited questions and comments to help them adjust the competition to work within all the imposed limitations. The competition was adjusted to allow competitors to participate simultaneously from the safety of their homes. On April 8th, it was announced the CyberPatriot-XII Virtual National Finals Competition would be held on May 2nd.

The resulting competition ended up being a mix between the previous online rounds and a typical in-person competition. The Network Security Master challenge was almost identical to previous National Finals, except competitors accessed the systems they were securing via VPN (virtual private network) connections to CyberPatriot servers instead of directly accessing them. The Cisco Networking Challenge was closer to the online rounds, using network simulation software instead of real physical hardware.

Unlike an in-person National Finals, team members could collaborate with voice and text communication software, as well as utilize pre-gathered reference material in a digital format, since many team members did not

have access to printers. Many of the classic aspects of the in-person finals still existed though, including a red team—a professional aggressor team—actively attacking the teams' systems. As is typical for a National Finals, the teams had a larger number of systems and less allowed competition time compared to previous online rounds.

CyberPatriot staff also tried to preserve as many of the ancillary elements as possible from past in-person events. Many, such as the TCP/IP (The Career Portal Industry Perspectives), the Opening Ceremony and the Awards Ceremony were replaced with live streams on YouTube. Regrettably, but understandably, the touring and sightseeing elements of being in the nation's capital city couldn't be replicated.

Following the competition, only the top three places in each division are announced officially. Teams are, however, debriefed the following week and are given their placing relative to other teams. Big Sioux took seventh place out of the thirteen All Service division teams that competed in the National Finals.

This achievement is the result of dedication to team training events and countless hours of self-study. Members of Big Sioux's Team 1 have continually demonstrated both the highly technical skills and team leadership abilities required to compete on a finalist level.

For those that unaware, CyberPatriot, the nation's larg-


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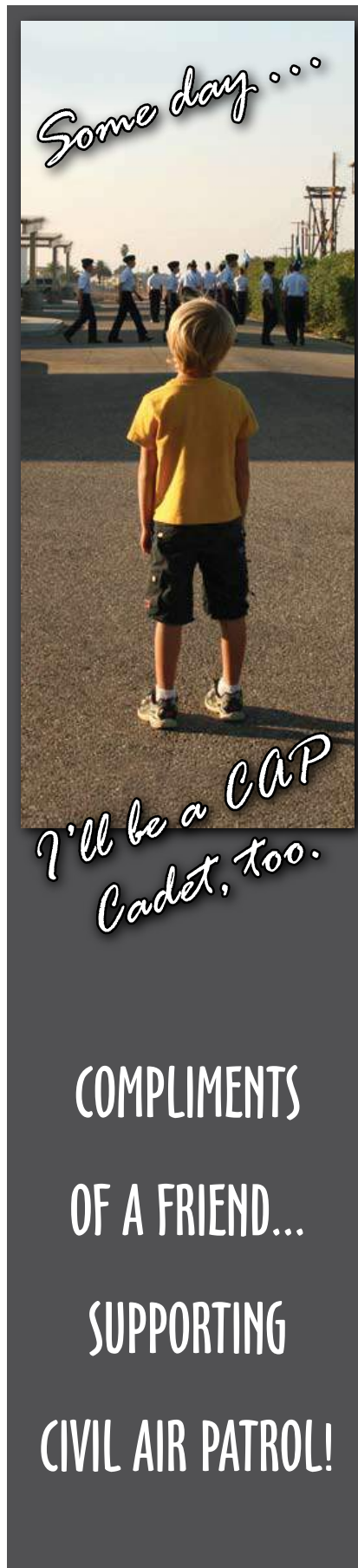
CyberPatriot-XII

Continued from page 15 . . .

est and fastest-growing youth cyber education program, is the Air Force Association's (AFA) flagship science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program dedicated to strengthening cyber skills among students. The program features the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition for high school and middle school students, AFA CyberCamps, an Elementary School Cyber Education Initiative, the CyberPatriot Literature Series, and CyberGenerations, a program promoting senior citizen cyber awareness.

I would like to see every unit in South Dakota Wing participating in CyberPatriot XIII. CyberPatriot provides an excellent close-to-real-world environment that gives competitors a place to practice their cyber skills and the competition aspect serves to increase their excitement and motivation to learn. It's a great program, serving to both increase participants' general cyber knowledge and hopefully spark the interest of future cybersecurity experts. Regardless of their career aspirations, the education and experience the team members receive will serve them well.

To learn more about CyberPatriot, please visit www.uscyberpatriot.org. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or if you'd like assistance starting a team in your unit. 



CAP / AFA


Continued from page 11 . . .

In StellarXplorers, **an Oregon CAP squadron placed 2nd nationally in the overall competition.**

Find the **closest CAP Volunteer AE Leaders/Officer** to assist the AFA Chapter in STEM-related events.

South Dakota has two AFA chapters with approximately 400 Members total. The Rushmore Chapter is in Rapid City and the Dacotah Chapter is in Sioux Falls. Their goal is to carry out the AFA Mission to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense, to honor and support our Airmen and families, and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

To accomplish this, we: educate the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure national security; advocate for aerospace power, and promote aerospace and STEM education and professional development; support Airmen and readiness of the Total Air and Space Forces including regular forces, National Guard, Reserve, civilian personnel and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

If you would like more information about AFA or need assistance in becoming an eMember please e-mail me at mielkerw@teamtsp.com. 

GREAT AUNT NORMA – A HERO RE-DISCOVERED

*By Capt. Richard Rezac, CAP
Commander, Miller Flight*

The morning of April 25, 2020, was like any other Saturday. My family got up, ate breakfast and prepared for daily chores and other projects around the farm for the day. But this day would turn out to be the start of an adventure that led me down a branch of my family tree that I had not researched. And it helped me make a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) connection to a relative I had never met, and for whom I now have new-found respect and admiration.

My niece, Rebecca, is a genealogy addict. She has traced the lineage for part of our family back to the 17th century. She messaged me a note



NORMA ADAMS

General

Norma Adams likes to fly
And to an airplane clings:
And if by chance her plane
should crash,
She'll get some angel wings.



that Saturday from a lady genealogist who, while walking a cemetery in Adams Nebraska, found a gravestone with an addition – a CAP grave marker, similar to the grave markers placed by the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The marker was for “Lieutenant Norma Adams, CAP”. Somehow this lady had found that Norma was connected to Rebecca, and sent her a photo of the grave’s headstone. When Rebecca forwarded the photo to me it brought back an old memory of my mother taking me out to see this grave many years ago. I realized that we had found something very special. Norma was my great-aunt, my grandmother’s sister. She was killed in a plane crash in 1943 while test-flying an aircraft that had undergone a recent repair. The mechanic who had made the repair was with her and was also lost in the crash. Both were CAP members.

I started asking people on social media about my Great-Aunt Norma. The response was overwhelming. They were able to find her obituary, articles about her in CAP’s Nebraska Wing newsletter of the time and pictures of her from her high school yearbook, one with a photo of one of the planes she flew. CAP members who work with the Morse Center (CAP’s national history archive) were able to determine that she is eligible to receive a Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) for her service during WWII. In 2014, Congress awarded CAP a CGM on behalf of its members

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Thank You, Fremont

The Nebraska wing of the Civil Air Patrol is deeply indebted to Fremont for the cooperation which made possible the success that attended the State's first mobilization a success.

Everything was done to make the CAP visit pleasant. The Fremont Squadron under Lt. Arthur Baldwin, went to great effort and pains in arranging details. The Chamber of Commerce, through its efficient secretary-manager, C. W. Motter, cooperated in every way. The Red Cross and USO and Pathfinder hotel served excellent meals.

Also appreciated were the cooperation of the Fremont police and the Nebraska highway safety patrol in handling the parade.

From Mr. Motter the wing has received this very pleasant letter.

"We want you to know that we appreciated your attendance at the first statewide mobilization of the Civil Air Patrol September 6th and 7th.

"It was a real inspiration for all of us here to have an opportunity to look in on your splendid program and observe the grand manner in which the Civil Air Patrol does things.

"The goodfellowship which prevailed made a very deep impression upon our Chamber of Commerce and City Officials who took time out to enjoy the program and maneuvers at the port. It gave them an opportunity to meet and know a fine group of men in the C.A.P. who are making a real sacrifice in the interests of aviation in Nebraska.

"We of the Chamber of Commerce



On September 15-16, Maj. H. B. Sidles, commander of the Nebraska courier base and Capt. Vic Schroeder, wing operations officer, met with Col. Earle L. Johnson, CAP national commander, and CAP commanders from most of the western states, at Denver. There they discussed courier operations and were told of some proposed changes—but none affecting Nebraska. The group is shown in the picture above.

Reading from left to right, first row: Maj. Philip Hinkley, liaison officer in Second Air Force, Maj. Buck Steers, New York City, Col. Earle L. Johnson, National Commander, N. Y., Maj. Harold R. Smethills, Denver, Colo., Maj. Harry Sidles. Second row: Maj. Leverett Davis, Idaho, Capt. Clayton N. Wulff, Minnesota, Maj. Moss Patterson, Oklahoma, Maj. Bertrand Rine, California, Capt. Chas. Summers, Kansas. Third row: Maj. Leo Devaney, Oregon, Maj. F. W. Beer, Arizona, Maj. D. C. Johnston, Iowa, Maj. Herman Henrikson, Montana, Capt. Vic Schroeder, Maj. Howard Wilcox, Kansas. Fourth row: Capt. A. B. Gill, Colorado Springs, Capt. John Moodie, South Dakota, T. B. Roberts, South Dakota, Maj. W. E. VanWalker, North Dakota, Capt. P. J. King, Wyoming, Maj. Joe Bergin, Utah.

sincerely hope we will be privileged to again entertain the Nebraska Wing of the C.A.P.

"The latch string hangs out and we in Fremont will count it a pleasure to have you look in on us at any time you are in this part of the state."

Thanks, Mr. Motter, but the pleasure and privilege were all ours!

SALUTE TO LT. PATRICK

The Nebraska wing joins other groups in saluting one of its own members, Lt. Phillip K. Patrick of Omaha squadron No. 1 for the patriotic service he rendered his country recently by providing the government with the evidence which resulted in breaking up a fraud ring among war contractors and officials at the quartermaster depot in Philadelphia.

One of the crooks proposed that Lt. Patrick, himself a contractor, participate in the conspiracy. On his own initiative, Lt. Patrick went all the way to Philadelphia to get the evidence which he turned over to the FBI. A dozen people have been indicted, and many others are likely to be included.

Patrick was in the balloon corps during World War No. 1. He offered his services to the war department the day after Pearl Harbor. He has been a tireless CAP worker, and recently was placed in charge of cadets in No. 1 squadron.

CAP MOURNS NORMA ADAMS
 The Nebraska wing mourns the loss of an

other enthusiastic and hard-working member Miss Norma Adams, 19, Adams, Neb., a member of the Crete squadron, and Frank Spinar, Jr., 18, apprentice mechanic, were killed in a crash October 7, when a light plane they were checking, following mechanical adjustments, crashed on a farm owned by Spinar's father.

The wreckage was located from the air the following day by two Crete squadron members, Dr. M. H. Mack and Carl Baumgardner.

Miss Adams had been one of the star members of the Crete squadron. She was one of the pilots when the CAP sent out aerial caravans to assist in recruiting air cadets last summer.

CLAIR WOLFE APPOINTED

New (and original) business manager of the Cornhusker CAP News is Clair M. Wolfe of WOW. He has been a newspaper editor, and public relations director at Nebraska Ordnance plant. Formerly he was a reserve officer.

IN APPRECIATION

This issue of the Cornhusker CAP News is made possible by the Central States Broadcasting company's three stations.

KOIL - - - Omaha
 KFAB - - - Lincoln
 KFOR - - - Lincoln



In 2014 Congress awarded the Civil Air Patrol a Congressional Gold Medal honoring the World War II service of CAP veterans. When the paperwork is completed a facsimile of this medal will be presented to Norma Adams' family.

who served during the war in 2014.

I also learned a lot more about Great Aunt Nora. She had lived a short but amazing life. By the time she was 19 she was a Lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol and had already earned her instructor pilot rating. She traveled the state of Nebraska for CAP, talking to young people about the aviation program and flying. One story I heard from my Uncle Clarence (Norma's nephew) was about a time in Crete, Nebraska when Norma was told not to fly upside down. When she asked why, they never gave her a reason -- just don't fly upside down. When she got up in the air, she turned the plane upside down and the seat came loose from the floor. She apparently pushed the seat out the door, got the plane right side up, and landed the plane at Crete sitting on her knees! She was definitely a trail-blazer in her time!

Over 200,000 Americans served in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II. Many of our readers may have a long-lost relative who served our nation on the home-front. I would ask you to please do a little research. You too may find a connection to a unique and honorable piece of your family's history. 🇺🇸



TWO HATS - From Wing to Oakleaf, from Bar to Star

*By Lt. Col. Gregory Lair, CAP
(Brigadier General, SDANG)*

QUESTION: When is a Lieutenant Colonel a General? He can be if he is Gregory Lair, a resident of Sioux Falls and a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. He is a man who truly wears two hats.

FIRST HAT: Gregory Lair began his service with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) when he joined Colorado Wing (COWG) as a wide-eyed, 13-year-old cadet seeking adventure. In COWG he received an aviation solo scholarship that began his flying career. He finished his service with the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel. He let his membership lapse in 1991 while undergoing USAF pilot training. He rejoined CAP as a Senior Member in 2013 when his daughter joined as a cadet. In December of 2013 he received the rank of Lieutenant Colonel based on his prior military service and experience as a pilot. Over the years since he joined Lt. Col. Lair has become a fully qualified CAP Check Pilot, Instructor Pilot, Mission Pilot, Orientation Pilot, Tow Pilot, and Transport Pilot. In fact, flying is Lt. Col. Lair's chief contribution to CAP. He flies Emergency Services missions, principally Search and Rescue, and supports his Squadron's and the Wing's Cadet Programs by flying cadets on their powered aircraft orientation flights. As an Instructor Pilot he assisted Cadet Julia Lair, his daughter, to earn her private pilot's license and has helped train three other cadets to earn their licenses as well. He hopes to train more CAP cadets in the future. It's his way of giving back to the program that launched him on his aviation career.



Col. Lair proudly poses with Cadet Julia Lair, his daughter, after she successfully completed her solo flight on the path to earning her private pilot's license.



Col. Lair (center left) proudly poses with daughter Julia (in uniform) as she is awarded CAP's prestigious Amelia Earhart Award.

SECOND HAT: Brigadier General Gregory Lair is the Chief of Staff, South Dakota Air National Guard. In this role he serves as the senior ranking officer for the Headquarters Air Staff developing and coordinating programs, policies and plans. He is also the principal advisor to the assistant Adjutant General for Air to provide mission-ready forces to support worldwide national defense missions and emergency response, relief, and recovery operations throughout the state of South Dakota.

General Lair joined the Air National Guard in 1983 as an A-7D avionics technician. He earned

his commission through Academy of Military Science and then completed pilot training at Vance AFB, Oklahoma. In his civilian capacity, the General is a Boeing 777 pilot with a major airline. General Lair is a command pilot with over 3,400 military flying hours. He has over 262 combat hours flying 71 missions in support of Operation Provide Comfort II, Southern & Northern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle. Previously, he held positions at the flight, squadron and group level, and served two tours as the Air National Guard Readiness Center Aerospace Control Alert Officer. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Director of Operations, Headquarters, South Dakota Air National Guard

ASSIGNMENTS

1. February 1990 – September 1990, Pilot Trainee, Joe Foss Field, S.D.
2. September 1990 – October 1991, Student Pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance Air Force Base, Okla.
3. November 1991 – December 1991, Student Pilot, Lead-In Fighter Training, Holloman AFB, N.M.
4. January 1992 – September 1992, Student Pilot, F-16C Training, Mac Dill AFB, Fla.
5. September 1992 – October 1994, Pilot, Joe Foss Field, S.D. (November 1993 – January 1994, Pilot, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey)
6. October 1994 – October 1995, Current Operations Officer, Joe Foss Field, S.D.
7. October 1995 – May 1997, Chief Current Operations, Joe Foss Field, S.D. (January 1996 – Feb 1996, Pilot, Incirlik AB, Turkey)
8. May 1997 – December 1998, OIC Weapons and Tactics, Joe Foss Field, S.D. (February 1998 – March 1998, Pilot, Al Jaber AFB, Kuwait)
9. December 1998 – January 2000, OIC Current Operations, Joe Foss Field, S.D.
10. January 2000 – July 2000, Pilot, Joe Foss Field, S.D. (April 2000 – May 2000, Pilot, Curacao International Airport, Curacao)
11. July 2000 – July 2010, Assistant C Flight Commander, Joe Foss Field, S.D. (November 2002 – December 2002, Pilot, Netvam AB, Israel), (October 2006 – December 2006, Pilot, Balad AB, Iraq), (July 2008 – September 2008, Pilot, Balad AB)
12. July 2010 – December 2010, B Flight Commander, Joe Foss Field, S.D.
13. December 2010 – April 2012, Operations Support Flight Commander, Joe Foss Field, S.D.
14. April 2012 – September 2014, Fighter Squadron Commander, Joe Foss Field, S.D. (June 2013 – September 2013, Commander, Azraq AB, Jordan)
15. September 2014 – April 2016, Operations Group Commander, Joe Foss Field, S.D.
16. May 2016 – December 2017, Wing Vice Commander, Joe Foss Field, S.D. (August 2016 – September 2016, Commander, █ask AB, Poland)
17. December 2017 – February 2020, Director of Operations, Headquarters, Joe Foss Field, S.D.
18. February 2020 – Present, Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Joe Foss Field, S.D.



Then Colonel Lair being congratulated after landing having completed 3,000 career flight hours in an F-16 fighting Falcon.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 3400

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, AT-38B, F-16

On 15 March 2015 Greg Lair completed 3,000 career flight hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon when he landed after a training sortie at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. Upon landing he was met by family members, friends and SDANG colleagues who congratulated him. Firefighters from the 114th Fighter Wing gave the pilots a traditional “wetting down” by spraying them with water from their fire trucks. According to the Public Affairs Office of the 114th Fighter Wing, so far only 260 military pilots have reached 3,000 flying hours in the F-16 fighter jet.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with oak leaf cluster

Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with nine oak leaf clusters

Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with bronze star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star

Iraq Campaign Medal with two bronze stars

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border and two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Longevity Service with seven oak leaf clusters

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with three ‘M’ devices

Basic Military Training Honor Graduate

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol)

Air Force Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster



EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Brigadier General Feb. 26, 2020

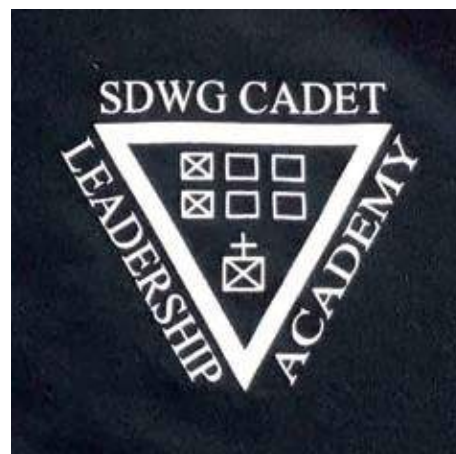


LIBRARY OF SDWG LOGOS

Heraldry of the

2020 SOUTH DAKOTA WING CADET LEADERSHIP ACADEMY LOGO

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.



Close-up of the 2020 South Dakota Wing Cadet Leadership Academy logo.



Tee shirt with logo on the left breast.

The 2020 South Dakota Wing Cadet Leadership Academy logo on a navy blue tee-shirt is composed of a downward pointing equilateral triangle with a thick white border. Horizontally across the top of the triangle are the words "SDWG Cadet". At a downward slant on the left side of the triangle is the word "Leadership". At an upward slant on the right side of the triangle is the word "Academy". All words are in capital letters in white. The interior field of the triangle is navy blue. The design consists of a flight formation, in white, depicted using military symbols. At bottom center is a symbol representing a Flight Sergeant (box with x inside topped with a cross). Above it, on two equal ranks are, at the left, symbols representing two Element Leaders (box with x inside) followed by two boxes each representing an individual airman (box without an x inside). The flight is the basic building block of the Civil Air Patrol. The logo was worn on the left upper chest of the tee-shirt. The symbols can be found in CAP Pamphlet (CAPP) 60-33, page 58, figure 5.¹

The logo was designed by 1st Lt. Mimi Klosterman of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and Cadet Lt. Col. Annabelle Klosterman of Big Sioux Composite Squadron just prior to the event in 2020. It was approved for wear by Wing Director of Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Wing Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Nick Gengler and Wing Commander Col. David Small.

¹https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP6020_5_AUG_16_07A0C6200BA4C.pdf

U.S. RESUMES MANNED SPACE LAUNCHES

*By Lt. Col. Bruce Kipp, CAP
SDWG Assistant Wing Historian*

If all goes as planned, at 04:32 p.m. EDT on 27 May, America will resume astronaut launches from the US! Astronauts haven't launched into orbit from the U.S. since NASA's last space shuttle flight in 2011, nine years ago. Astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken will blast off in a Space X Dragon crew capsule atop a Space X Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Pad 39A, the same Kennedy Space Center launch pad used by shuttle Atlantis in 2011 and the Apollo moonshots a half century ago. They will fly to the International Space Station (ISS) to spend weeks, possibly months helping maintain the orbiting facility.

SpaceX is one of two commercial companies selected by NASA to send astronauts to



In this October 10, 2019, photo, NASA astronauts Bob Behnken, right, and Doug Hurley talk to the media in front of the Crew Dragon spacecraft at SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California. (AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

the International Space Station. The other company is Boeing, which is developing its own manned spacecraft, designated Starliner. Boeing's first test

flight of an unmanned capsule last December did not reach the ISS. Boeing plans to fly a second manned test flight for NASA before launching astronauts.



Spacecraft and booster on the transporter on the way to the Launchpad.

MY FIRST CIVIL AIR PATROL ORIENTATION FLIGHT

*By Cadet Staff Sgt. Ryan Schultz, CAP
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron*

On December 7, 2019, I had the opportunity to take my first powered aircraft orientation flight with the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol's South Dakota Wing. Upon arriving at the hangar, I met the pilot, Capt. Matt Meert, along with another cadet from my squadron who was also getting an orientation flight. We were going to be flying in a CAP owned single engine Cessna-

172 Skyhawk. I had flown on commercial airplanes before, so I wasn't nervous. I was very excited to learn!

Capt. Meert explained how the orientation flight would go and he did the pre-flight safety checks and procedures on the plane before each flight. The plane was rolled out of the hangar at Sioux Falls Regional Airport and we climbed on board. Capt. Meert explained the evacuation

and safety procedures, demonstrated how to use the earphones and explained about the various cockpit instruments. We were told to always be aware and alert of our surroundings while taxiing to the runway. He was in constant communication with the airport's air traffic control personnel. Our flight plan was to fly from Sioux Falls to Yankton, and back. Each of us cadets got time in the co-pilot's seat. The



Cadet Airman Henry Rashid (left), Cadet Staff Sgt. Ryan Schultz (center) and Capt. Matt Meert (right)

other cadet, Henry Rashid flew as co-pilot from Sioux Falls to Yankton where we landed. Henry and I changed seats and I flew back to Sioux Falls as the co-pilot.

Being in the plane is loud without the headsets, but we were able to communicate with each other through them. Once we were cleared for takeoff, we were in the air! We could see all of Sioux Falls. The plane leveled off and was going around 180 mph. We made it to Yankton in about 30 minutes. After landing, Capt. Meert turned off the propeller so I could get in the co-pilot seat. Yankton's airport is much smaller than Sioux Falls, so there is no taxiing, or air traffic control. But, we still said everything we were doing.

Capt. Meert explained to me how to take off and how to turn. As part of the flight syllabus I was allowed to take the controls on the flight back to Sioux Falls! It was amazing to be in control, and to



Cadet Staff Sgt. Ryan Schultz on the flight from Sioux Falls to Yankton.



Cadet Staff Sgt. Ryan Schultz's home in Sioux Falls as seen from the air.

learn all it takes to maneuver a plane. Capt. Meert told Sioux Falls Air Traffic Control that we were going to do a fly around of Sioux Falls. I directed him to my house and school. I was able to take video and pictures while in the plane, and I had a perfect view of my house from above. Capt. Meert also taught me how to land the plane although he was the one who actually landed it. We then taxied the aircraft back to the hangar.

My first powered aircraft orientation flight was an amazing experience that I won't forget. It has increased my interest in the Aerospace Education element of the Civil Air Patrol. I am grateful to Capt. Meert for all he taught me. The motto of the Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Orientation Flight Program is "Safe. Fun. Educational." My orientation flight met and exceeded the motto! 🇺🇸