



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Civil Air Patrol Newsletter for February 2021

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

Publishers: Wing Commander Colonel Nick Gengler / Wing Vice Commander Lieutenant Colonel Craig Goodrich
Editor: Lt. Col. Michael Marek



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WING TIPS

WING MOVES TO PHASE II RESTRICTIONS

South Dakota Wing transitions to Phase II pandemic restrictions on February 1. In-person squadron and activity meetings of up to 50 people are allowed, as long as masks are worn, including outdoors if 6-foot social distancing is not possible. Additional limitations and prerequisites have been sent to unit commanders by SDWG/CC Col. Nick Gengler. In some cases, meetings and training may still be conducted via video.

“Congratulations SD Wing on making it from Phase I to Phase II right away this month,” said Col. Nick Gengler, SDWG/CC. “I know it has been stressful while we couldn’t meet. Thank you for your patience. Please do work within your unit on what meetings will look like moving forward. I ask that everyone just takes it slow and stay safe.”

The remobilization phases are specified and approved by the CAP National *COVID-19 Planning Team* and are largely based on state-level statistics. CAP nationally has chosen to take a conservative approach to remobilizing Wings and Wings are expected to follow the more restrictive between their State’s or CAP’s guidelines.

COVID-19 REMOBILIZATION

As SDWG opens up, be sure to send pictures of events and unit meetings to Maj. Karla West for social media and historical records.

SD WING Delivers Second Round of Vaccines to Hospitals



South Dakota Wing performed an additional series of COVID-19 vaccine delivery flights January 5 at the request of the South Dakota Department of Health.

“We delivered this shipment of Pfizer vaccines to Prairie Lakes Hospital in Watertown and Mobridge Regional Hospital and Clinics,” said Col. Mike Beason, CAP’s incident commander for the mission. Beason made the point in the mission news release that other than reimbursement for aircraft fuel and maintenance, Civil Air Patrol does not charge state and local government for missions like this.

“These South Dakota Wing members exemplify the community-minded spirit and professional-level preparedness of all Civil Air Patrol volunteers,” said Brig. Gen. Ed Phelka, CAP’s national vice commander.

“This vaccine transport mission is yet another example of how CAP members step up to serve their communities, their states, and the nation,” Phelka added.

South Dakota was one of the first wings to transport COVID vaccines for states. The wing stands ready if additional vaccine transport missions are requested.



Brig. Gen. Ed Phelka

WING SUPPORTS DAY COUNTY SEARCH

South Dakota Wing joined the search for a woman missing in Day County, flying sorties December 26 and 28. Amy Dougherty was last seen when she left for work, driving in blizzard conditions from Andover to Bristol. She was driving a black Chevy Trailblazer. CAP involvement was requested by the Day County Sheriff’s Department via the South Dakota Department of Emergency Management.

“Our Civil Air Patrol aircraft flew route and grid searches and concentrated

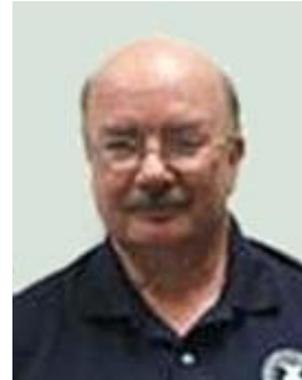


on areas that previous searchers from the roads may not have been able to see,” said Lt. Col. Todd Epp, CAP’s incident commander for the first day of searching. Epp noted that the search sorties were in specific areas coordinated with the Day County Sheriff’s Department, which had overall authority over the missing person search. CAP’s Cell Phone Forensics unit also assisted in providing a last known position. Dougherty’s body was found by divers January 29 in a slough bordering the road she was driving.

CAPT. WENDELL DeGEUS DIES of COVID-19

South Dakota Wing is mourning Capt. Wendell DeGeus, who died December 28, 2020, from complications related to COVID-19.

Wendell joined CAP in January 2006 and was a valuable member of the team. He focused his time working in the Communications area and was there to help with many activities in the squadron. He also served as Safety Officer and gave many pertinent Safety Briefings through the years. He was an EMT and a member of the Sioux Falls Emergency Response Team for many years. Most importantly Wendell was a kind, giving, humble man who will be greatly missed!



Wendell’s family requests that memorial gifts be designated for the Rescue Squad, of which he was a member.

SD CAP WIND TUNNEL BOOSTS AE



Over the last several months, Maj. John Spangler, AEO Rushmore Squadron, in concert with Maj. Tim Modde, SD Wing AEO, and new member Tom Fritz, retired Lt. Col USAF, have constructed a wind tunnel in support of SD Wing Aerospace Education activities.

The tunnel is 9 feet long, 2 and ½ feet high, and 14 inches wide. Ten interchangeable airfoil sections can be used to explore changing aerodynamic function under variable conditions of airspeed and angle of attack. Lt. Col. Fritz designed and manufactured a smoke generating system and “smoke rake” to demonstrate airflow patterns and to explore the stall characteristics of each airfoil.

Donations of about \$1,000 were used to fund the project and there was no cost to the Civil Air Patrol. Approximately 200 man-hours were necessary to produce this teaching aid. Maj. Modde has made a video illustrating setup and usage for each squadron.

The wind tunnel equipment is portable and will be available to all squadrons to broaden exposure to aerodynamics. When COVID restrictions allow, the creators of the wing tunnel hope to take it on tour of CAP units across South Dakota.

Wind Tunnel Project video -> https://youtu.be/Ege_wKiUrK0
Wing builder/load tester video -> <https://youtu.be/lav-hYxTxLY>

FORMER SDWG CADET IN USAF VIDEO

Former SDWG cadet Elizabeth (Foy) Galloway played a role in the 2020 Joint Forces Demonstration video "Operation COVID Strike!" The video demonstrates Alaska's Air Force and Army capabilities in a simulated combat environment.

1Lt. Galloway, USAF, is on active duty at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, AK. Her duty assignment is as an Air Weapons Officer for airborne command and control, including controlling F22s and protecting against Russian aircraft near their area. Most of the time she does her job in an airborne command post. In the video, Galloway is the “command and control voice” directing the aircraft.

“When we originally started COVID mitigation, we were broken up into several teams,” she said, “and one of the senior officers on my team was in charge of the entire video. He knew after working with me for a few months that I was competent and that I had a good voice.”



1Lt. Elizabeth Galloway, USAF



Originally the joint base was scheduled to hold an airshow, Galloway said, but it was canceled due to the pandemic. Demonstration teams from other bases had already been scheduled to be on hand, so professional videographers were brought in to capture the demonstrations on video.

Galloway said she initially wanted to be a fighter pilot, but an ROTC advisor suggested her current career path. After graduating from NDSU in December 2017 Galloway entered active duty in February 2018, arriving in Alaska in Nov 2019. She has been primary

controller for major exercises and serves as assistant chief of tactics and training for the department of weapons at the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron. The former South Dakota Wing cadet said with pride that she was controlling millions of dollars of aircraft as early as age 23. Here air control platform is the E-3 AWACS.

“Whether or not you love Civil Air Patrol and its three programs, the fundamental skills taught during your tenure in the program and the friendships built will last a lifetime,” Galloway told *Skychaser*. “I loved my years as a cadet – not only for all of the adventures across the United States, but also for the challenges presented. I learned to truly listen to my teammates, take ownership for my mistakes, and to give credence to the difficulty I was facing and keep pressing.

“I am fortunate to be able to live my dream as an Air Battle Manager in the USAF, even though that wasn’t what I thought my future held for me initially. If you truly want to accomplish something great, be that with the military or otherwise, control what you can control and master what you are able to.

“Reach out through the grapevine the CAP has created and find someone who can mentor you, study, and relentlessly pursue your goals. But don’t forget to enjoy your time at the next SAREX, encampment, or squadron meeting. Those memories, lessons, and connections is what life is truly about.”

Galloway says she is always available to talk to any senior member or cadet who has questions about the military, USAF, Alaska, Air Battle Management, or ROTC. She notes that due to pandemic restrictions, she is not currently a CAP member, but plans to rejoin when the restrictions are relaxed. The opinions stated above are that of Elizabeth Galloway, not those of the Department of Defense or any of its organizations.

The full video can be seen at: <https://youtu.be/6j4KxIVr254>



NEW/MOVED VANS SUPPORT UNITS

Pierre Composite Squadron was the happy recipient of a new Ford Transit van replacing the aging van it had for a number of years.

This communications-equipped vehicle has HF and VHF communications equipment professionally installed by a commercial radio shop in Rapid City.

The new van in Pierre is a 2020 Ford 350 Transit SL AWD passenger van so it can also double as a personnel transporter or be used for cadet activities when not needed for communications.



The van was ferried to Pierre by Lt. Col. Bill Collister and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese. Capt. Jon Becker and Lt. Col. Tam Gatje received the vehicle.

The old van had become unreliable and needed to be replaced. It is headed for the salvage yard. The smaller van in Pierre was transferred to the Miller Composite Squadron.

Online Training Leaders of Cadets to be Offered

All senior members are invited by North Dakota Wing to attend the TLC Intermediate Course. The Training Leaders of Cadets Intermediate Course is for Senior members who work with cadets and any senior member who may at some time be around the cadets. You need to have completed the TLC Basic course prior to attending this virtual training. If you are unsure if you need or have completed this course contact LtCol Linda Buechler. Both Lt. Col. Buechler and Col. Mary Donley will be instructors for portions of this course.

On behalf of the ND Wing Cadet Programs Staff and with much assistance from SD Wing Staff I would like to announce that we are hosting a Training Leaders of Cadets Intermediate Course. This course follows and builds on the Training Leaders of Cadets Basic Course. As such, registration is only open to those who have previously completed the Training Leaders of Cadets Basic Course.

The course will be held virtually on Saturday, February 27th, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. I have posted the registration site below, with the registration closing on Friday, February 19th, 2021 at 11:59 PM. More information on what platform we are using and how to access it will be emailed to those that register for the course in the coming weeks.

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tlc-intermediate-course-tickets-136989201389>

If you have any additional questions, please email Course Director, Major Justin McDowell (justin.mcdowell@ndcap.us) or ND Wing Director of Cadet Programs, Lt. Col. Trevor McDowell (trevor.mcdowell@ndcap.us).

STAFF NOTES



Wing Commander

Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

- Congratulations SD Wing on making it from Phase I to Phase II right away this month," said Col. Nick Gengler, SDWG/CC. "I know it has been stressful while we couldn't meet. Thank you for your patience. Please do work within your unit on what meetings will look like moving forward. I ask that everyone just takes it slow and stay safe.
- We are still planning on having a Wing Conference. Date is still the 10th of April. Look for an Eventbrite signup page in the near future.
- TSgt Shawn Bawden will be leaving South Dakota this month. He has been with us for nearly three years now. TSgt Bawden accepted a position as an archivist, GS-11, with the Air Force Historical Research Center at Maxwell AFB. TSgt Bawden was the first Command NCO of the SD Wing. I wish TSgt Bawden the best of luck and wish him well on his next adventure! He will be missed.
- A big thank you to the Wing Staff that continue to work on our coming Compliance Inspection. We still have more to do but I am confident we will get there.



Wing Chief of Staff (Operations)

Capt. Richard Rezac, CAP

Inland SAR School to be held in Rapid City

Registration is now open for the Inland SAR School. This is a 5-day, comprehensive "graduate-level" look at search theory and its application to land and air searches. It is being brought to Rapid City from 17 - 21 May 2021. This course emphasizes the planning necessary for effective area-type searching during an extended period. Taught by experts from the Air Force and the Coast Guard, they cover pre-plan development, legal aspects, and federal SAR roles and responsibilities. Students are taught how to conduct effective area-type searching during an extended search using Probability of Success (POS) to allocate limited resources to their best effect. In essence, what to do after the rapid (hasty) search and specialty resources have not found the search object.

The Inland SAR Course is one of the courses that can be used for qualification for the Senior and Master ratings in Emergency Services. It is offered to SAR leaders in federal, state, and local emergency services and law enforcement, as well as CAP and other volunteer SAR agencies. With such a wide variety of participants, students have a great experience sharing and learning from other SAR personnel.

Registration for the Inland SAR Course is extremely easy. Just log into eServices and click on the "Inland SAR School Registration" text at the bottom. Fill in the Registration form. Once you are accepted, you will receive instructions on attendance, location, materials, etc. directly from the course directors. The course is free to all participants.

Having attended this course last year, I can say that this is a very valuable opportunity for anyone who wants to serve in a SAR management position. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me at richard.rezac@sdwg.cap.gov."



2021 Joint Dakota Encampment Update

10 – 18 July, 2021 -- Camp Rapid SD

Hello all. It may be cold outside, but spring and summer are just around the corner. And so is the 2021 Joint Dakota Encampment. If you haven't already, go and like the encampment FB page. This is where we will post regular updates and any changes.

<https://www.facebook.com/CAPJDE>

Cadets and seniors who are interested in attending in any capacity (First Year student, Advanced student, cadet staff or senior staff), make sure you're signed up on Eventbrite. Many of your questions can be answered there.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-joint-dakota-encampment-tickets-133176922761>

I especially urge cadets who have attended encampment before, and have not applied to serve as staff, to attend our Advanced program. This program is NOT what you went through as a First-Year student. We will be offering an NRA course, a Model Rocketry event, in-depth leadership classes, hands-on sessions to hone your skills and much more that's not part of the standard encampment curriculum. This program will definitely prepare you to serve as encampment staff, as well as other CAP leadership positions in the future.

Remember, financial assistance is available for cadets under the Cadet Encampment Assistance Program (CEAP). Applications for CEAP will be accepted starting March 1st. Here is the link that talks more about this.

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/newcadet/ceap>.

As we can all imagine, this year will be unique in CAP as far as encampments are concerned. Some wings have already stated that they "missed the boat" in planning an encampment this year. National Headquarters has also stated that encampment availability will be limited this summer. So, we are expecting a larger-than-normal turnout. Please sign up on Eventbrite as soon as possible.

We are still looking for Seniors to help. Though we'll find a job for anybody, we're in particular need of a Safety Officer, Chaplain, Public Affairs Officer and Training Officers. Let me know if you're interested.

Semper Vigilans
Capt Richard Rezac
SD Wing Chief of Staff
2021 Joint Dakota Encampment Commander



Director of Operations

Lt. Col. Jeremy Langrock, CAP

We have a SARex that goes from January 15 to February 15. The plan is to use it for SAR training/preparation and in turn Wing Inspection prep.

We are planning Mission Staff, Pilot, Aircraft Maintenance Officer training, and I believe some Ground training. We do need to review some documentation and make sure everything is up to date but I hope to keep that as painless as I can. The thought is to look at what we've done and see what we've done well and what we can improve on.

There will be time dedicated with Aircraft Maintenance Officers to go over what the aircraft AIF, equipment, etc. should look like. The AMO training will be followed up with flights to Sioux Falls to make sure the aircraft are where they need to be. I would like the AMO and anyone else involved in maintaining the aircraft to make the trip also, if possible, to make sure we are all on the same page. For those flights, we will need to get with each crew to coordinate when. I'd like to see 2 aircraft in Sioux Falls at a time to make it more efficient but yet not overwhelming to go through the aircraft.

Following this later in February/March we would like to start doing more regular pilot training and eventually aircrew (MO, MS, AP) training. The plan is to keep it fun and keep our head in the game. Some of us just don't fly enough to stay very proficient. Speaking of that, there is Proficiency money, fly! If you aren't sure what Profile you can use give EW or me a call and we'll help you out. CAPS 71-4 is the guide for that.

If you have inputs on what you'd like to see trained, would like to teach, or have an idea to keep it entertaining please let us know!



Wing Command NCO

TSgt Shawn Bawden, CAP

Who can be a CAP NCO?

Here are a few key messages about our NCO Corps:

- CAP NCOs are all veterans, having earned their initial CAP rank in the Air Force, Space Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserves, or National Guard. Others are welcome to join Civil Air Patrol as Senior Members and may elect to begin training for CAP officer grades.

- NCOs can do any job in CAP, including pilot if qualified, with the single exception of command.
- Senior NCOs – Master Sergeant, Senior Master Sergeant, Chief Master Sergeant – may be in charge of units designated as a flight if there are no CAP officers assigned (CAPR 30-1, paragraph 8.3).
- CAP members who are military or former military NCOs may be initially appointed to a CAP NCO grade. The CAP initial grade granted will be equivalent to the grade held in the active-duty military, Reserve, or National Guard (CAPR 35-5, paragraph 6.2).
- Current or former military members holding the grade E-4 that wish to hold a CAP NCO grade will be appointed to the grade of Staff Sergeant after completion of Level I (CAPR 35-5, paragraph 6.2).
- Existing CAP members who hold an officer grade and previously held a military NCO grade may choose to transition to a CAP NCO grade. The member may choose: 1) the current/last military NCO grade; or, 2) the highest NCO grade they qualify for that considers years of CAP service, current CAP officer grade, and current Professional Development qualifications (CAPR 35-5, paragraph 6.5).

Please email me if you have any questions: shawn.bawden@sdwg.cap.gov.

Semper Vigilans!

Postscript: As some of you have heard, I've accepted a job as an archivist with the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as our wing's first command NCO! It was a steep learning curve to try to quickly integrate into the team, but I truly believe in finding opportunities in challenges. I'd especially like to thank Col. Small and Col. Gengler for their support as well as my outstanding teammates at the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron.



Public Affairs

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

Our two high-profile missions over the last month – the COVID vaccine transport and Day County search missions – have given SDWG a lot of good attention. The wing's regular and mission Facebook posts resulted in about 22,000 impressions, 4,900 engagements (likes, shares, comments), and 566 actual views of our Facebook page. The number of people following the page increased from 1,147 to 1,376 during this period. Our Twitter posts in the December/January period received almost 10,000 impressionism, 887 profile visits and 191 new followers, for 605 total. That is a huge amount of beneficial attention.

But these missions also revealed some things we need to address.

1. We need more mission Public Information Officers in the wing. This is actually a fun mission job. Aside from being on the sorties themselves, being PIO is one of the best ways to have high "situational awareness" of what is going on with a mission. Since many of our missions are of modest size, the PIO function is often

done from home. Don't worry about being a trainee if something really big comes up. We have highly-experienced PIOs in the wing you can work with.

2. Questions have also come up about the structure we use for internal and external wing information. Candidly, is the monthly Skychaser the best way to tell YOU what's going on in the wing?

To help answer these questions, I am inviting every member to take a short online survey about SDWG internal information. It won't likely take you more than 3-4 minutes and it will provide some valuable feedback as we consider what the best course is for keeping the SDWG membership informed. The survey is at:

<https://forms.gle/wzKFdyAhiLxTiSmS8>

We hope all members, including cadets and seniors, will join this effort.

Two people completing the survey will be chosen at random to receive a \$25 Vanguard gift certificate for CAP uniform and other items.

I can't tell you how many times over the years I have heard CAP called the "best-kept secret." My response to this for many years has been "if it's a secret, it's only because we kept it that way." The CAP Public Affairs Program, including mission Public Information Officers, are how we tell the story of CAP's service and leadership. Please join in.



Wing Director of Education and Training

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

Seniors:

Some of you still have time to grandfather into Level 3, 4, and 5 in the old system. Level 3 you need to do this by February 28, 2021. For Level 3 you need to have completed the SLS, passed the Yeager Test, and have a Senior Rating in a Specialty Track. If you need a mentor to get you through the Specialty Track you are working on please let me know.

Those in Level 4 and 5 you have until May 31, 2021 to finish your Levels. I believe I have been in contact with any members that fall into these categories but if you are not sure please contact me. You also need

Master Ratings in Specialty Tracks and a few other things. I will want to see your checklist for the Master rating signed by your mentor before I can submit your award for that Level. If you need help finding mentors for your Specialty Track please contact me.

Squadron Commanders and Squadron Professional Development Officers please note the changes for enrolling new senior members into Level I. Contact me if you need help!



Wing Director of Finance

Lt. Col. Thomas Bass, CAP

Thanks to our anonymous donors, SD Wing has received a \$4000.00 donation to be used for cadet training/AE supplies (to be discussed in detail at a later date). In addition, we received a donation from Black Hills Pediatrics, L.L.P for \$250.00 as well as numerous other donations thru out the year. We are blessed to have these donors as the Wing does not fundraise like the Squadrons and this helps us continue to train and be better prepared.

As we move forward into phase 1 and 2 soon, please be sure to ask questions about vehicle credit card usage. WEX vehicle card is for Squadron or Wing funded events only and the AF card is for all vehicle maintenance and AF funded missions.

Due to COVID - Rachel Kuecker, our Wing Administrator has been working from home, but will be back in the office effective the first week of February - Mon - Friday. The office will still follow CDC guidelines and expect masks to be worn while in the office.

SD Wing HQ Office Safety Rules

One of CAP's top priorities is the safety of our staff members. For that reason, NHQ has implemented this policy to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among CAP employees:

1. All CAP employees, volunteers, and visitors to the building are required to wear a face mask at all times when in the building and be respectful of others by following social distancing guidelines.
2. All CAP employees will follow CDC recommended guidelines to mitigate spread of COVID-19. For more information, please go to [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov). As minimum, anyone showing signs of illness, such as fever, coughing, etc. are *not* to enter CAP facilities.
3. Mission Essential employees who are required to physically work in the NHQ buildings and feel unsafe or uncomfortable doing so should coordinate approval for telework options with their supervisor. Employees can also reach out to HR to determine the type of leave options available.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-31 – RAPID CITY)



Rushmore Squadron pilots, Col. Mike Beason (I) and Lt. Col. Howard Steiner spent three hours on a beautiful winter day washing the local Cessna 182 for the upcoming wing Compliance Inspection.

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

The cadets of Sioux Falls Composite squadron held their first in-person fun night since the wing went into phase 1. Not all cadets were able to attend, but those who did had a blast at Great Bear Ski Valley in Sioux Falls. The cadets went during their usual meeting time on Thursday, January 22nd from 6:30 to 8:00. "I think it was awesome, I really missed CAP activities," said C/Amn Abigail Mungunkhet, one of the cadets who attended. "We picked up right where we left off like there were no gaps in time of actually seeing each other. It was a really great experience."



Photo by C/TSgt Madison Stroud

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-68 – CUSTER)

On Saturday, December 19th, members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Daughters of the American Revolution and members of the Custer Community participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Custer City Cemetery. During 2020, the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron was the driving force in fundraising and community awareness activities that contributed to the success of this most honorable endeavor. Those efforts resulting in a total of 240 wreaths purchased for the ceremony.

The squadron has been conducting weekly meetings online in aerospace education, emergency services and Cadet programs arenas with a high degree of member participation. However, members are excited about moving into Phase 1 meetings.

Capt. Donald D. Weiland, CAP
Squadron Commander
Crazy Horse Composite Squadron

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058 – BROOKINGS)

In the second half of January, South Dakota Wing entered Phase 1. Big Sioux Composite Squadron decided to hold the January 21st meeting with some members attending in-person and some members attending virtually and then decided to make the January 28th meeting virtual. As in the last couple of months, we have continued to have well-attended virtual meetings with lessons/presentations focused on Emergency Services, Leadership Development, Physical Training, Drill, and Safety. We have been grateful to still have members from Mitchell Composite Squadron joining us weekly (Thank you for joining us!). We will miss having these members from Mitchell Composite Squadron attending our meetings when we begin holding in-person meetings - these members are always welcome to visit our squadron once we begin having in-person meetings with all of our cadets attending.

At the January 21st meeting, members attended in-person and virtually as we are restricted across South Dakota Wing to having no more than ten people in a room at any time. Despite having our cadets attending in two different ways, the meeting was still successful and full of learning and fun. During the meeting, three of our members that had promoted while we were in Phase 0 were honored in promotion ceremonies. C/LtCol Glen Glaser, C/SMSgt Mitchell Trias, and C/TSgt Sibi Manian were honored for their achievements in virtual ceremonies earlier, but we wanted to give them the opportunity to be honored in-person with their fellow cadets around them. These cadets worked hard for their promotions and we applaud their successes and determination!

Here are photos from Big Sioux Composite Squadron's meeting on January 21st:



On January 21st, Big Sioux Composite Squadron held their first "in-person" meeting in 2021. Some members attended virtually while some members social-distanced at the squadron.



C/LtCol Glen Glaser was honored for his monumental achievement from October at Big Sioux Composite Squadron's January 21st meeting.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)

Pierre Squadron Helps Complete Communications Mission

Pierre Composite Squadron received a request to participate in a short notice air message relay communication training shortly before Christmas. An aircraft was launched with Capt. Jon Becker as Pilot and Lt. Col. Myra Christensen as Airborne Photographer. A message was to start in Colorado and work its way through several states with a return message to its point of origin. This could possibly include Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota as well as Colorado. This would test communications while not using internet or commercial communications resources that may be unavailable during an emergency.

A high-bird aircraft was to be used in Nebraska, to relay the message, if needed, to South Dakota who would then transfer the message on to North Dakota. In the end, the North Dakota plane was unavailable to transfer the message further north so the message was transferred to the Mission Base station in Pierre where Lt. Col. Tam Gatje forwarded the message to the South Dakota representative Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich who forwarded it to its final destination, the Colorado wing.

PROMOTIONS

Based on NHQ and unit reports

Cadet Member Promotions

Cadet Officer Promotions



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

- Devin Griffin of Rushmore Composite Squadron

Cadet NCO Promotions



Cadet Chief Master Sergeant (C/CMSgt) – congratulations to:

- Clara Giddings of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

Cadet Airman Promotions



Cadet Airman (C/Amn) (Achievement 1) – Congratulations to:

- Aaron Johnson of Rushmore Composite Squadron
- Carter Stahl of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

Skychaser

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