



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Civil Air Patrol Newsletter for March 2021

*Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force
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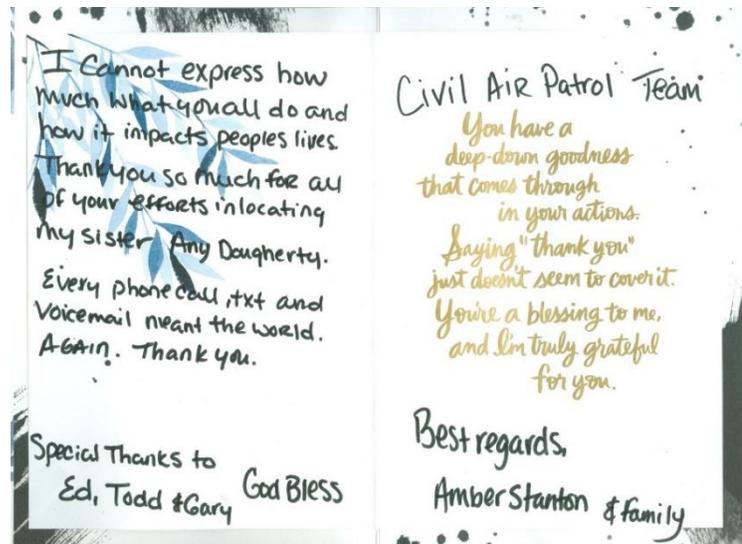
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WING TIPS

DOUGHERTY FAMILY THANKS SDWG

The family of Amy Dougherty has thanked South Dakota Wing members for their efforts to find her. Dougherty disappeared after she left for work, driving in blizzard conditions from Andover to Bristol. Her body was found on January 29 by divers in a lake bordering the road Dougherty drove to work.

“The family has been extremely grateful for the efforts of CAP over the past five weeks,” said Lt. Col. Gary Rae, SDWG chaplain, “and asked me to distribute this via Facebook or our monthly newsletter. She knew many people were involved that go unnamed, and so it is really addressed to the entire Wing. Your responding to every call or missing person has a profound and lasting gratitude from family members that cannot be expressed in words.”



South Dakota Wing flew search sorties over the area and CAP's national cell phone forensics team also provided a probability area for further searching.

"I think what we did on this mission (and what we do) exemplifies our core values," said Lt. Col. Todd Epp, incident commander for the sorties. "Respect. Volunteer Service. Excellence. Integrity. I had no problems as IC getting people--over the Christmas holiday--to volunteer to help on Amy's search. That speaks volumes to me. We are a force for good."

LEGISLATIVE DAY TELLS SDWG's STORY

Several leaders of South Dakota Wing gathered in Pierre on February 17th for the wing's annual legislative day. In an ordinary year, the legislative day sees a show of force by SDWG, with as many members present as possible. Due to the COVID pandemic, the event was scaled back this year.

"The goal for the day was to meet with all the agencies CAP works with and remind everyone of our capabilities and what our volunteer organization can do to help," said Col. Gengler, SDWG commander.

The day included a meeting with the SD Department of Health, for which SDWG has flown high-profile COVID vaccine distribution flights, as well as the Governor's office, all four legislative caucuses (House and Senate, both parties), and the secretaries or directors of Education, Public Safety, Emergency Management, Game Fish and Parks, and Military and Veteran's Affairs.

"We were able to showcase our successes and reiterate continued support for the Civil Air Patrol across the state," Gengler added.

The SDWG legislative day was part of an intensive national effort in which CAP leaders make contact with elected representatives and agencies.

In addition to the commander, Col. Mike Beason, Lt. Col Myra Christensen, Lt. Col. Howard Steiner, Lt. Loyd Tracy, and Maj. Karla West participated. An impressive 82 members of the South Dakota Legislature are members of the SDWG legislative Squadron.



SD Department of Health meeting (l-r) Tim Heath, immunization program manager for SDDOH; Justin Williams, general counsel for SDDOH; Lt. Loyd Tracy; Kim Malsam Rysdon, secretary of SDDOH; Maj. Karla West, & Lt. Col. Myra Christensen

GROUND TEAM ACADEMY PROVIDES HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Nine cadets and nine senior members took part in South Dakota Wing's East River Ground Team Academy on February 13th. The training included both classroom instruction and hands-on outdoor experience.

Training included direction finding (DF) radio equipment, used to find emergency locator transmitters of aircraft in distress, including a new model of DF recently purchased by SDWG, as well as the model that has served the wing well for years. The curriculum also included land navigation and compass use, pictured, radio operations and requirements for “24-hour packs” used when a ground team needs to remain in the field rather than returning to base.



MISSION STAFF ASSISTANT TRAINING HELD

Members of South Dakota Wing gathered online for Mission Staff Assistant (MSA) training on January 26. The training was provided by Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, SDWG vice commander. The class was offered during the regular Pierre Composite Squadron meeting time, but was also open to others in the wing. The presentation was also recorded for others to watch later.

Goodrich reviewed the requirements and typical jobs performed by the MSA position, then had trainees perform a series of online tasks, including locating

online resources and using CAP’s online mission management system WMIRS. There are five specific skills MSA trainees need to demonstrate, plus prerequisites and mission or exercise participation. A dozen members participated in the live class.

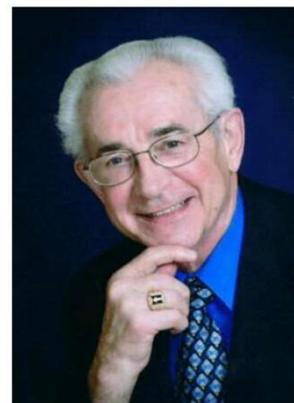
Types of SAREX's in SD Wing

- All-Come – One Mission Staff / One Mission Base
- Distributed – One Mission Staff / Several Staging Areas
 - Requires a SAM at each location
- Split – One WMIRS Mission, two (or more) Mission Staffs, each with their own IC.
 - Never Combine Distributed with Split.
- Disbursed – A new COVID-Friendly way to operate.
 - No “Mission Base” Aircraft operate out of their home base.
 - Radio Operators at their own home or in a CAP vehicle.
 - Mission Staff members working out of their own home, coordinating on-line.

MAJ. HYLE ANDERSON DIES OF LUNG DISEASE

CAP Maj. Hyle Anderson, 72, died in late January after a long bout of Interstitial Lung Disease related to rheumatoid arthritis. Rev. Anderson served Lutheran churches in Minnesota and South Dakota until his retirement in 2015. He had most recently served as Senior Pastor at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Aberdeen.

Hyle was a chaplain for Civil Air Patrol from 1998 until 2016, achieving the rating of Senior Chaplain. In Minnesota Wing before 2007 he served as chaplain and character development officer. In South Dakota, he served as wing chaplain in 2013 and 2014 and two stints as squadron chaplain for Aberdeen Composite Squadron. He was most recently attached to the Pierre Composite Squadron charter.



Maj. Hyle Anderson



South Dakota Civil
Air Patrol Winners

Sioux Falls Composite
Squadron: 1st Place
State Award, 1st Place
Tier Award, Gold Tier

Big Sioux Composite
Squadron: 2nd Place
State Award, 2nd Place
Tier Award, Gold Tier

SDWG TEAMS EXCEL IN CYBERPATRIOT

The South Dakota Wing Cyberpatriot XIII teams performed admirably in their final rounds of competition. CyberPatriot is a national youth cyber education program created by the Air Force Association to help direct students

toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines and features the annual National Youth Cyber Defense Competition which challenges teams of high school and middle school students to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems. Using a proprietary competition system, teams are scored on how secure they make the system. See the squadron reports below for details.

STAFF NOTES



Wing Commander

Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

- Congrats to Richard Rezac for Level 4 completion.
- Congrats to Matt Tennant on his Level 3 completion and his promotion to Capt.
- Congrats to Denise Clement for her promotion to Capt.
- A huge thank to you, John Spangler, on helping set up the flight simulator systems for some of our Squadrons.
- On Feb 17th several SD Wing members met at the SD Capital building to meet with State Congress Caucuses, the Governor's office, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health, Game Fish and Parks, Public Safety, and the Department of the Military (see story above).
- We are still looking for Phase 3 Remobilization. We are reviewing the downward trend cases and will hopefully submit for Phase 3 soon.
- Wing Conference is still being planned. Check out the Eventbrite page to signup: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-sd-wing-civil-air-patrol-conference-tickets-142527925863>
- Most of the 2020 Awards have been submitted. But that doesn't mean there can't be some more Commander's Commendations or the like submitted. If you feel someone is deserving of an award and want to see them recognized, please feel free to submit an award for them.



Public Affairs

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

Last month, we announced a survey about how South Dakota Wing members receive internal information about the wing, and how they prefer to receive it.

Participants overwhelmingly listed email as their first preference for information. The second preference was more evenly divided including unit, staff, or commander's call meetings (28.2%); Skychaser & Roundup (28.2%); and social media (23.1%).

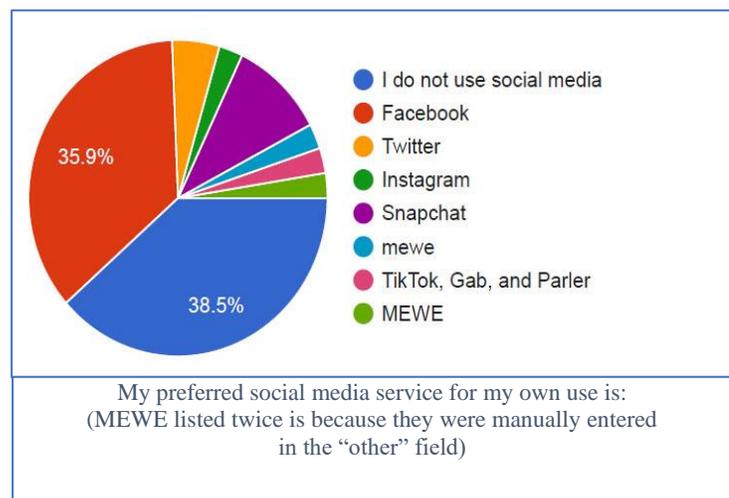
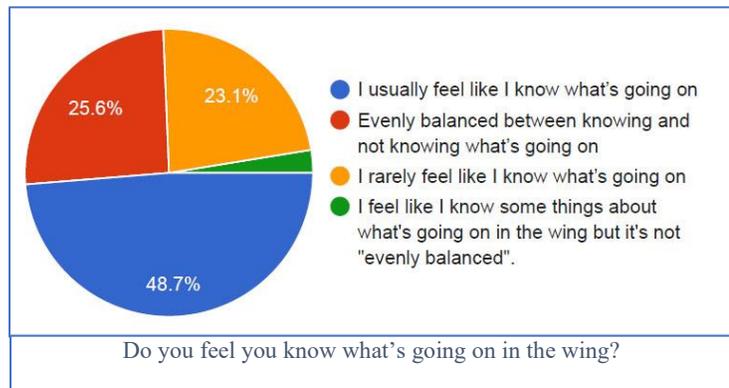
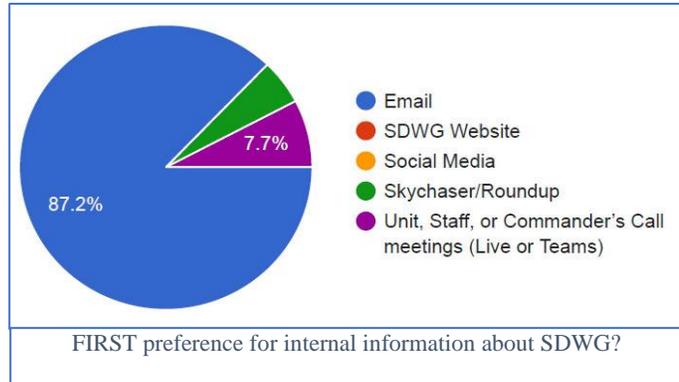
Slightly less than half of those completing the survey said they usually know what's going on in the wing. Almost a quarter of the respondents said they rarely feel like they know what's going on in the wing.

Some may be surprised that over a third (38.5%) of the respondents said that they do not use social media for their own use, or follow the wing on social media.

The results of these and other questions have provided information on which the wing can plan future Public Affairs Program efforts.

Wing Commander Col. Nick Gengler arranged that participants in the survey would be eligible for a random drawing for two \$25 gift certificates for Vanguard, if they left their email addresses in the survey.

The winners are **Pandy Rezac** and **Cary Buhler**, who may contact Wing Administrator Rachel Kuecker to receive the certificates.



SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)

Nelsina Apley of the Miller Flight was promoted to 1st Lt.

1st Lt. Pandy Rezac, Miller Flight Commander and Capt. Richard Rezac, SD Wing Chief of Staff are expecting a baby. The new future cadet has a due date sometime in October. Lt. Rezac, Capt. Rezac, C/Chief Master Sgt. Hall and the rest of the Miller Flight are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their newest "member".

LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-07 – TEA)

Cadet Levi Dubs promoted to C/Amn on Dec 10, 2020
Capt. Brad Lofland completed Level II to earn the Benjamin O. Davis Award on Dec 17, 2020
1st Lt. Matt Tennant completed Level III to earn the Grove C. Loening Award on 1 Feb
1st Lt. Denise Clement promoted to Captain on 1 Feb
1st Lt. Matt Tennant promoted to Captain on 10 Feb



LCCS resumed in-person meetings on Jan 26, 2021 upon entering into Phase 1 Remobilization. PT Testing and Activities were held that night



After being a cadet in Cadet Programs for 7 years, at the end of January 2021, C/Lt Col Kyle Clement became a Senior Member with the Lincoln County Composite Squadron. We welcome all the knowledge, skills and training he brings with him to "The Dark Side"



Annual Safety Risk Management Day presentation was presented to the squadron by Capt. Brad Lofland and 1Lt Samuel Huntington at their meeting on Feb 9, 2021

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-31 – RAPID CITY)



Cadets have been going to the EAFB Pride Hangar to test for PT, flying on the flight simulator and building hot air balloons. Boy Scout Webelos visited the squadron on Feb 18 taking part in drill, building a hot air balloon and having a tour of the squad

Rushmore has been busy getting back into the swing of meeting in-person, when the weather cooperates.

Congratulations to C/Senior Master Sgt. Alexander Heinrich for his acceptance into the CAP Cadet Wings program! The goal of Cadet Wings is to assist cadets in obtaining their Private Pilot Certificate, recognized by industry as the first milestone for those who have a serious desire to pursue a flying career.

Congratulations to C/Airman Aaron Johnson, C/Senior Airman Kaden Anderson-Schafer and C/2nd Lt. Devin Griffin on your recent promotions. Excellent work.

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058 – BROOKINGS)

Weekly Thursday Meetings/Cadet Programs

South Dakota Wing entered Phase 2 at the beginning of February, so we have been holding our weekly meetings in-person since we had our annual Safety Night (a virtual meeting this year) on January 28th. We had great participation in our virtual meetings and we have been transitioning well into just having in-person meetings. In January, we welcomed a new member, and we have welcomed another new cadet in February! We are hoping that we will see a lot of new cadets now that we will be meeting in-person throughout the coming months. Our meetings this month have been well attended and we have been planning on bringing guest speakers and creating new, fun opportunities for our cadets for future meetings.

Since last month's Skychaser, we have had four meetings with our cadets – our annual Safety Night (as mentioned above), our monthly Physical Training night, our monthly Emergency Services night, and our monthly Character Development night. At our annual Safety Night, we reviewed common aircraft, vehicle, and bodily mishaps and what we can do to avoid them, with help from several of our senior members. We also discussed other safety topics, including operational risk management. Our monthly Physical Training Night was on February 4th - our cadets completed Physical Training tests and other activities at the SDSU Wellness Center. Also on February 4th, 2nd Lt. Jodi Williams, one of our senior members, was recognized in an in-person ceremony for her achievement of the Grover C. Loening Award. Congratulations 2nd Lt. Jodi Williams on completing the requirements for this award! On February 11th, we held our monthly Emergency Services Night. Capt Bethany Gross, an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies at SDSU and an Active Duty Captain in the United States Air Force, came and talked to our cadets. We also recognized two cadets in promotion ceremonies – just one week after becoming a member, C/Airman Levi Murray earned his first promotion! C/Chief Master Sgt. Abigail Williams was also honored for her hard work. C/Chief Master

Sgt. Abigail Williams set goals while we were in Phase 0 and has been putting in a lot of effort to achieve those goals. Congratulations C/Airman Levi Murray and C/Chief Master Sgt. Abigail Williams! At our February 18th meeting, our cadets learned about what excellence is and also learned about the importance of healthy, effective teamwork in an organization.

Here are pictures from our weekly cadet meetings since the last Skychaser:



Our cadets completed Physical Training tests at the SDSU Wellness Center during our February 4th



Capt Bethany Gross was a guest speaker at our February 11th meeting. We have not had guest speakers at in-person meetings since 2020.



At our February 18th meeting, our cadets answered questions related to excellence during a Character Development lesson taught by our Squadron Commander, Capt Tyler Gross.

Here are pictures of 2d Lt Jodi Williams, C/CMSgt Abigail Williams, and C/Amn Levi Murray being honored for their outstanding achievements:



2d Lt Jodi Williams was honored for achieving the Grover C. Loening Award at our meeting on February 4th.



C/CMSgt Abigail Williams had the honor of being "pinned" by her mother 2d Lt Jodi Williams with her new ranks at our February 11th meeting.



After one week of being a Civil Air Patrol member, C/Amn Levi Murray had already completed all the requirements for his first promotion.

Proficiency Flight

Along with our starting to provide our cadets with opportunities to complete O-Rides in January, 2nd Lt. Jodi Williams, one of our senior members, completed a proficiency flight with Major E. W. Filler on January 27th. Many of our senior members are active in aircrew training and exercises in South Dakota Wing, but they are not given the opportunity to complete Prophecy Flights as often.

Here's a photo of 2nd Lt. Jodi Williams and Major E. W. Filler from 2nd Lt. Jodi Williams' Prophecy Flight on January 27th.



East River Ground Team Training

On February 13th, cadets and senior members from the Big Sioux Composite Squadron traveled to Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in order to participate in the East River Ground Team Training event. The event mostly focused on providing GTM3, UDF, MRO, and ICUT training. For our cadets and senior members, this was a great day in which they were able to learn new skills – our brand-new cadet C/Airman Levi Murray attended – and review skills that they'd previously learned at other training and SAREXs.

CyberPatriot – Big Sioux Composite Squadron

On Saturday, January 23rd, our middle school team and our high school team competed in the third and final qualifying round before the National Championship in April. The scores from all three qualifying rounds were used in determining if the teams would be competing at the National Championship. Our high school team, comprised of C/Capt. Isaiah Klosterman, C/2nd Lt. Lydia Klosterman, C/Chief Master Sgt. Abigail Williams, C/Chief Master Sgt. Emily Williams and C/Tech Sgt. Sibi Manian, placed 34th out of 276 Gold Tier teams in the All Service division (14th out of 93 CAP teams) after the three qualifying rounds.

Our middle school team, comprised of C/Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell Trias and C/Airman Tysen King, placed 287th out of 361 Middle School division teams. Our high school team did not qualify for the National Championship, but many of our cadets (C/2nd Lt. Lydia Klosterman, C/Chief Master Sgt. Emily Williams, and C/Airman Tysen King) will come back next year and have more experience going into the next season of CyberPatriot.

Our high school team ended up winning the Second Place Tier Award in the Gold Tier (just South Dakota teams) and the 2nd Place State Award for the state of South Dakota. Our cadets put in a lot of effort and we are thankful to have hard-working cadets! It is exciting to see our cadets set goals and try their best to achieve them!



C/Tech Sgt. Sibi Manian, C/Chief Master Sgt. Abigail Williams, and C/Chief Master Sgt. Emily Williams all competed on Big Sioux Composite Squadron's high school team and are pictured here hard at work in the third round of CyberPatriot XIII.



C/Senior Master Sgt. Mitchell Trias and C/Airman Tysen King competed together as Big Sioux Composite Squadron's middle school team. We are hoping that they both will compete in the next season, CyberPatriot XIV!

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)

Pierre Updates Internet Equipment

Civil Air Patrol, and perhaps the world, has moved more online in the past year. COVID-19 has been the main reason as most know. CAP has been at various phases of response to this pandemic. This has restricted some members from in-person meetings and limited contact by social distancing.

In an effort to make virtual meetings better, Pierre upgraded its internet service and equipment. Lt. Col. Myra Christensen contacted the squadron internet provider and they upgraded their equipment to better provide video conferencing to the building. The provider serves the squadron wirelessly so this included changing the antenna on the building. The squadron then purchased a new, faster and more reliable wi-fi router to serve the meeting space. This enables any squadron member who wishes to join the meeting via Microsoft Teams to do so. In addition, this will enhance internet service when statewide activities are held in Pierre.

The squadron meetings are now being run in a hybrid fashion with people attending both in person at the headquarters building on the airport and on-line. This can be varied as the circumstances dictate.

Pierre Looks Forward to Resuming Outdoor Activities

Squadron members are looking forward to a weather change toward the warmer side so we can do outdoor Aerospace Education and Emergency Service activities. Recent weather has made it uncomfortable if not dangerous to do outside activities, especially in the evening when it is colder. Our recently acquired van will be put into action as part of the training. We are told that the exercises will have a "surprise" at the end for all participants.

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

SFCS takes First in the State for CyberPatriot

The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cyber Patriot team won first place in the state. They competed in their final third round on January 23rd from 7:30-3:00 in-person at the squadron. The team consists of team captain C/Master Sgt. Zephyr Tolliver, C/Chief Master Sgt. Kaleb Sarchet, C/Tech Sgt. Madison Stroud, C/Chief Master Sgt. Grace Ingebretsen, and C/Staff Sgt. Leif Ingebretsen. The team's coach was Capt. Mimi Klosterman.

“Being part of the SFCS Cyber Patriot team has meant a lot to me. My favorite part about Cyber Patriot was definitely how everyone worked together to help each other learn more about Cyber Patriot,” said C/Staff Sgt. Leif Ingebretsen. “The virtual competitions made it harder for us to help each other and I feel like it was always less enjoyable because it was virtual. Having the last competition in person was very different though.”

This was the squadron's last competition of the year, and they competed in the second-highest tier, the Gold Tier. Out of the two high school teams in the state of South Dakota, SFCS placed first by .37 points and it's the first time SFCS held the title of “First in State”. The team scored 90.37 points in total. The team thought they did so well and reached their goal by working together in person for their final round. This is the last year the Capt. Klosterman is coaching the SFCS team and they send their gratitude for doing so much to better the team's learning experience.

“I echo the thanks to Capt. Klosterman,” said C/Chief Master Sgt. Sarchet. “You have done an outstanding job of shaping and growing our teams over the last few years.”



SFCS Cyberpatriot Team, Back Row: C/Master Sgt. Zephyr Tolliver, C/Staff Sgt. Leif Ingebretsen, C/Chief Master Sgt. Kaleb Sarchet. Front Row: C/Tech Sgt. Madison Stroud, C/Chief Master Sgt. Grace Ingebretsen.

Picture by Capt Mimi Klosterman

SFCS Cadets Aim to Promote Participation

The SFCS cadets came up with new and fun ways to get their cadets to participate in more activities. The cadet commander, C/1st Lt. Keon denHoed, implemented a cadet competition with the help of the line staff and senior members. The competition started at the beginning of February and primarily relied on the individual elements. The prize for the winning element at the end of the four weeks is to plan the next fun night for the squadron.

“After going from online and slowly transitioning back to in-person meetings, I think the cadet competition is doing a great job to get cadets to participate more,” said C/1st Lt. denHoed. “I’m really excited for the winning element and hope we can do pictures and certificates along with them planning the next fun night.”

There are currently five elements at the SFCS squadron with three to four cadets in each element plus their element leader. The goal of the competition is to have the most points at the end of the month. To get points, the element leaders need to call their cadets on time and attend the weekly staff meeting. The element as a whole can earn multiple points for attending the weekly squadron meeting, promoting, attending an event, and doing well on their weekly inspection.

“The competition is going great, [it] keeps me on my toes waiting for the results,” one of the element leaders, C/Senior Airman Wyatt Henning, said, He continued by talking about the element leader perspective, “It’s fun. I think that the element leaders that are taking part [in the competition] are good opponents because they are good at what they do. This competition gives you another reason to do what you are expected to do, and it makes good practice. It gives me a sense of accomplishment.”



Photos of first in-person meeting February 4, 2021. It was PT testing night, therefore cadets were in civies.
Photos taken by 2nd Lt. Aaron Giddings.

PROMOTIONS

Based on NHQ reports and may not always be current with units

Senior Member Promotions



Promotion to Captain:

- Denise Clement of Lincoln County Composite Squadron
- Matthew Tennant of Lincoln County Composite Squadron



Promotion to 1st Lt:

- Nelsina Apley of Miller Flight
- Jon Raevsky of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron



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

- Jacob Roth of Rushmore Composite Squadron
- Troy Dobyns of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron

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
- Preston Drew of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron

Cadet NCO Promotions



Robert Goddard Achievement (#7) & promotion to Cadet Chief Master
Sergeant (C/CMSgt) – congratulations to:

- Ryan Schultz of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron



Charles Lindberg Achievement (#5) & promotion to Cadet Master Sergeant
(C/CMSgt) – Congratulation to:

- Jonathan Abram Hotz of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron



Mary Feik Achievement (#3) & promotion to Senior Airman (C/SrA) -
Congratulations to:

- Kaden Schafer of Rushmore Composite Squadron
- Wyatt Henning of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

Cadet Airman Promotions



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

- Luke Giddings of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
- Levi Murray of Big Sioux Composite Squadron

Skychaser

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